

TRACKING ...

NEWS

Installation affirms
pledge to families

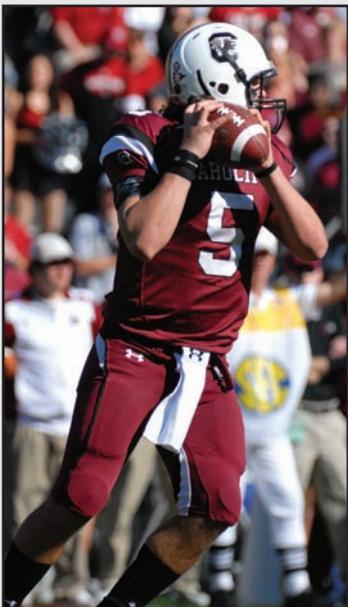
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ACES perseveres
during lean times

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honor military

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The Fort Jackson *Leader*

Tuesday, November 23, 2010

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Turkey time



Photo by ROBERT COOK, Installation Food Service Office

Shana Howell, an attendant with the Drill Sergeant School dining facility, serves Soldiers during a Thanksgiving feast Wednesday at the facility. This year's Thanksgiving theme for the DFAC was "Thanksgiving Past and Present."

DFACs compete in holiday contest

By KRIS GONZALEZ
Fort Jackson Leader

As Soldiers entered the Drill Sergeant School dining facility Wednesday, it seemed as if they were taking a trip back in time.

As they walked into the facility's main entrance, they were greeted by a pilgrim, a wooden house, an outhouse, a wooden table and bench and other items reminiscent of long ago.

The vintage items and antique replicas were all part of a display designed to demonstrate "Thanksgivings of the past and

present" — the dining facility's theme for this year's Thanksgiving feast.

"Today's generation doesn't understand how people lived in the past," said Linda Watson, DSS dining facility manager, who came up with the theme. "People should know how our ancestors used to live. They didn't have running water; they got their water from wells. They grew and picked their own vegetables. They caught chickens and cooked them in wash pots. And they celebrated Thanksgiving regardless of what they had or didn't have. They weren't just thankful for what they had; they were thankful to be

alive. Maybe this display will make people appreciate what we have now."

The DSS dining facility is one of 11 post dining facilities competing in Fort Jackson's annual Thanksgiving Day meal competition.

Each dining facility is judged based on its Thanksgiving theme, decorations, culinary displays and overall displays.

The winning dining facilities win not only trophies, but also bragging rights.

"This is their time to shine," said Beverly Sowell, food service specialist supervisor,

See **COMPETITION:** Page 12

Remember Soldiers this Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is a special holiday, a time in the year when family members across America, when possible, reunite and realize how fortunate they are, despite all of life's challenges. Unfortunately, not all of us can be home for Thanksgiving.

With that in mind, I ask you to spend some time this Thanksgiving to reflect on our deployed comrades who currently find themselves far away from home and their families during this holiday season. As Soldiers we are taught to be tough, to be resilient and to know how to perform as a team during difficult times. Personally, I am thankful the Army has taught me these things and that I have the opportunity to serve our country as a Soldier.

Is there any other career choice, occupational field, company or corporation that offers a stronger family tie than the one we share?

Becoming a member of the Army family is what makes Soldiering special. No other profession compares; it's what makes the Army unique.

As Soldiers, we share a sense of pride that goes beyond the mission. We protect each other in peace and in war. We embrace the tremendous responsibilities entrusted to us. Despite our diverse backgrounds and individual

MAJ. GEN. JAMES M. MILANO
Fort Jackson
Commanding
General



differences, we accomplish our mission as a unit and as a family.

The bond we share goes beyond geographical borders. Members of our military family who find themselves deployed today feel this bond, as well. They know that they are in our thoughts and prayers and that we are concerned about their safety and well-being.

It takes courage, sacrifice and selfless service to be on the front line, protecting those things we cherish and our way of life. The knowledge that they are in other family members' hearts goes a long way in making each day a little bit brighter. Deployments are always difficult, but

they are necessary for the foreseeable future if we are to continue to enjoy the many things that make this country great.

In defending the American way of life, we find ourselves in an extended conflict. Many Soldiers will not have the opportunity to be home and eat a holiday meal. As history would have it, Thanksgiving became a national holiday some 150 years ago during a time of war. The holiday began as a day when Soldiers in the field could enjoy some of the comforts of home.

You should take comfort in knowing that our deployed Soldiers are finding a way to mark this holiday in the most fitting way possible — Soldiers make the best of all situations. Soldiers are strong and understand that their sacrifices are not in vain, as they defend the privileges and unparalleled freedoms that all Americans enjoy.

On a personal note, I thank each and every one of you who make Fort Jackson a great place to serve our Army. The effort, hard work and commitment to excellence that I see every day do not go unnoticed. We could not sustain excellence the way we do if it were not for your selfless service and dedication to duty.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fort Jackson talks back:

Leader editor Crystal Lewis Brown asks members of the community: 'What are your plans for Thanksgiving?'



Ronald Friend
Navy retiree

"Big turkey, get the family together and give thanks for being here."



Staff Sgt. Natasha Williams
MEDDAC

"I am going home to visit my mother and family in Georgia."



Marvin Thomas
Contractor

"Right now, I'll probably just hang out with my girlfriend and her family."



Sylvia Gutman
AAFES concessionaire

"Be together with good friends and have a good meal. And in between, I will work. I love to work for the Soldiers."



Sgt. Tremayne Pressley
MEDDAC

"I'm going home to see my family in Tampa, Fla."



1st Sgt. Chris Craig
Columbia Recruiting Battalion

"My plans this year are to go to my mother-in-law's (house) with my wife and kids (and) do a little hunting and do a little eating."

The Fort Jackson Leader

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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Commanding General.....Maj. Gen. James M. Milano
Garrison Commander.....Col. James J. Love
Public Affairs Officer.....Karen Soule
Command Information Officer.....Joseph Monchecourt
Editor.....Crystal Lewis Brown
News editor/Staff writer.....Susanne Kappler
Online editor/video.....Mike A. Glasch
Staff writer.....Kris Gonzalez
Staff writer.....Chris Rasmussen

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Post leaders reaffirm commitment

Army Family Covenant re-signed at ceremony

By KRIS GONZALEZ
Fort Jackson Leader

Just as Army Soldiers swear to defend our nation, our citizens and our rights, Fort Jackson's leaders pledge to take care of Soldiers and their families.

They reaffirmed this commitment by re-signing the Army Family Covenant Monday at the Solomon Center.

"The Army Family Covenant is the Army's commitment to provide Soldiers and their families a quality of life that acknowledges their service, sacrifices and dedication to our nation," said Col. James Love, garrison commander. "Here at Fort Jackson, we have accomplished much and are very proud of all we have done. We are committed to furnishing the best care, support and services for Soldiers, civilians and families. The Army Family Covenant is our most visible and meaningful initiative."

Love, Maj. Gen. James Milano, Fort Jackson's commanding general, Post Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Stall and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Culbertson signed the covenant, which promises the Army's support will be commensurate to the sacrifices Soldiers and their families make in their service to the nation.

"Leadership at all levels recognizes that military service is a family commitment and our families, as well as our Soldiers, contribute immeasurably to the readiness and strength of our military," said Carla Atkinson, director of Fort Jackson's Army Community Services. "The AFC is about the challenges and sacrifices our Army has faced from being a nation at war and helping families build resiliency and balance so they can cope with the tremendous stresses they face in our Army today."

Fort Jackson officials first signed the Army Family Covenant, Nov. 19, 2007. Since then, family programs have received increased funding to expand and create more services for families who live and work on post.

For example, the Fort Jackson ACS budget has doubled, resulting in significant improvements in standardizing family programs and offering increased support in helping spouses find employment and identifying their educational needs and resources, Atkinson said.

ACS improved its partnership with Family Readiness Groups by physically co-locating with the installation Family Readiness Support Assistant.



Leader file photo

Aleah Ball helps son Kaleb, then 3, put together a puzzle during playgroup, which is sponsored by the New Parent Support Program. Programs like the playgroup are possible because of the Army Family Covenant.

The AFC has provided funding to add staff to Fort Jackson's Exceptional Family Member Program, allowing the program to be more accessible to special needs families and to increase awareness of services available to them on post and throughout the community.

Through the AFC, registration fees were eliminated for all eligible users of Child, Youth and School Services, saving Fort Jackson families

\$48,600 during the past year. Nearly 30 families are receiving regular respite care totaling \$80,000 through AFC funding. Child care fees were reduced for families of deployed Soldiers. Service hours of post child care facilities were increased. Three buses were purchased through AFC funding, increasing the availability of after school care for families who reside off post. Two child care facilities under construction are due to open in 2011.

New programs created include a new parent support program; the Strong Begin-

nings pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds; a teen apprentice program for youth 15-18; the EDGE! program that offers after school activities for middle-schoolers; a wounded warrior sports program; a spouse sponsorship program for newly arriving drill sergeants' wives; Survivor Outreach Services for families of fallen Soldiers; and more.

AFC funding has helped increase accessibility and quality of health care, including increasing the number of behavioral health providers at Moncrief Army Community Hospital.

"From health care to child care, and libraries to fitness centers, improvements in the quality of life for Soldiers and their families can be seen throughout Fort Jackson," said Theresa O'Hagan, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing specialist. "It's the agencies across Fort Jackson working together that really makes (the Army Family Covenant) work."

Kris.Gonzalez1@yahoo.com

“From health care to child care, and libraries to fitness centers, improvements in the quality of life for Soldiers and their families can be seen throughout Fort Jackson.”

— Theresa O'Hagan
FMWR

Army Family Covenant

We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our families are making every day.

We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their families.

We are committed to providing Soldiers and families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service.

We are committed to providing our families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.

We are committed to building a partnership with Army families that enhances their strength and resilience.

We are committed to improving family readiness by:

- Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services
- Increasing accessibility and quality of healthcare
- Improving Soldier and Family housing
- Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services, and child care
- Expanding education and employment opportunities for family members



Follow the Leader on Twitter at www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao for breaking news and updates.

Housing Happenings

COMMUNITY UPDATES

❑ Housing and Balfour Beatty Communities offices will be closed Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving.

❑ It is possible to save money and energy by turning off devices, such as computers and monitors, when not in use. Dimming monitor brightness conserves energy as well. Another way to save energy is by unplugging chargers after electronic devices have been fully charged.

❑ Residents should return trash receptacles and recycle bins to the home after each pickup.

❑ Residents are encouraged to review the pet policy in the resident guide before adding a pet. Restrictions on exotic animals and some dog breeds apply. There is a two pet limit per household.

❑ Balfour Beatty Communities is now on Facebook. Search for Fort Jackson Family Housing and click "like" to stay up to date on housing happenings.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

❑ To date, 211 homes have been completed.

❑ To date, 243 units have been demolished in the Phase II area for junior noncommissioned officers.

CMS Corner

The Customer Management System at Fort Jackson is a three-tiered feedback system established to determine the satisfaction of those who work, train, live and play on the installation.

CMS includes the Interactive Customer Evaluation system, Community FIRST/AFAP and Customer Service Assessments. This feedback enables the garrison to focus on specific actions aimed at improving customers' experiences of post services.

A complete list of Community FIRST issues can be found at <http://www.jackson.army.mil/WellBeing/wellbeing.htm>. New issues may be submitted on the site as well, by clicking on "Submit an Issue or Recommendation" or on the Community FIRST/AFAP logo.

Become a friend of CMS on Facebook by logging on to www.facebook.com. Search for CMS Fort Jackson.

"Let your voice be heard!"

LEADER INFORMATION

To contact the Leader about story ideas or announcements, e-mail FJLeader@conus.army.mil.

Safety: Don't be 'that guy'

By **CHRIS RASMUSSEN**
Fort Jackson Leader

Everyone has seen "that guy." The one who talks too loudly after drinking one too many beers or spills his drink on the person sitting next to him.

As the holiday season approaches, Fort Jackson leaders are stressing that Soldiers, civilians and family members make sure they are not "that guy."

Each year, Soldiers and Army civilians are bombarded with the "Loaded 45" campaign in an attempt to prevent deadly traffic accidents caused by drinking and driving and other unsafe driving habits.

"Loaded 45" stands for the 45 days from Thanksgiving to New Years," said Sean O'Brian, the installation's safety director. "In that time frame, there is increased travel on the part of (Basic Combat Training) Soldiers and permanent party, and when you throw in parties where alcohol might be served, we all know what can happen. Drinking and driving frequently equals death."

This year the installation is stressing the "That Guy" message, which is a humorous multi-media campaign that uses online and offline communication with the goal of reducing excessive drinking among young service members.

"We are focusing on a vastly different approach than normal," O'Brian said. "We are focusing on binge drinking and the younger audience. The "That Guy" campaign uses humor to deliver a serious message for young Soldiers to reject binge drinking because it takes away from the things they care about such as family, friends, money and reputation."

The binge drinking rate among 18



www.thatguy.com graphic

Cartoons that depict the negative consequences of drinking are part of the 'That Guy' campaign.

to 25-year-old active duty personnel in 2005 was 56-percent, a 54-percent increase from 2002, according to DoD surveys. Visit www.thatguy.com for more information.

While Soldiers and civilians depart the installation for block leave, law enforcement officials on post will be stepping up traffic safety enforcement.

"We are going to continue to enforce the traffic laws and regulations on Fort Jackson," said Col. Ronald Taylor, provost marshal. "We are also going to do random government and POV vehicle inspections and have safety checkpoints throughout the holiday season."

DES will also place a mangled vehicle and motorcycle on display along Strom Thurmond Boulevard to remind passer-bys that drinking and driving

kills.

"If you drink, don't drive," Taylor said. "If you are on this installation and need assistance, call the MP desk and we will help you get where you need to go. If it is off-post we will arrange a taxi."

Those who drink at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities on post who think they have had too much to drink can also get a free ride home.

The consequences of drinking and driving are real. On Thursday, a Soldier who was assigned to Fort Jackson, pleaded guilty in circuit court to driving drunk and killing two college students last year. Jabari Harding, a former staff sergeant, was leaving a bar in the Vista when he collided with the student's car.

Soldiers who travel outside a 100-mile radius of Fort Jackson must complete the Travel Risk Planning System before departing. The program allows Soldiers and Army civilians to complete a POV risk assessment about their trip. TRiPS can be accessed through the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center website at www.safety.army.mil

BCT and Advanced Individual Training Soldiers must also sign a POV safety contract with their platoon or drill sergeant before departing for block leave. In addition, leaders are mandated to make sure no Soldier or civilian employee leaves for the holiday period without a safety awareness briefing.

O'Brian offered some simple tips to keep Soldiers and civilians safe this holiday season.

"Wear your seatbelt. Drive well rested. Don't drive distracted with cell phones or other electronic devices. And drive defensively," he said.

Chris.Rasmussen@us.army.mil

Leader deadlines

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.

For example, an article for the Dec. 16 Leader must be submitted by Dec. 2.

Announcement submissions are due one

week before publication.

For example, an announcement for the Dec. 16 Leader must be submitted by Dec. 9.

Send submissions to FJLeader@conus.army.mil.

For more information,

call 751-7045.



Education center works through shortfalls

Programs continue despite budget cuts

By **CHRIS RASMUSSEN**
Fort Jackson Leader

Despite budget shortfalls and a shrinking staff, those who operate Army Continuing Education Services are continuing to meet the needs of Soldiers and family members.

Half of the center's already thin staff were cut earlier this year leaving them with one full-time and three part-time contractors. Those positions include instructors, counselors and a test examiner. The center also has one Army civilian employee.

"We are now literally operating on a skeleton crew, but IMCOM is working diligently to bring us back up," said Mary Armstead, acting Education Services Officer. "We adapt and adjust because our goal is to serve Soldiers. We are staying busy trying to accommodate everyone."

ACES programs at all IMCOM garrisons have been affected due to funding deficits for ACES contract employees.

"We have been able to move things around so we can accommodate everyone," Armstead said. "Overall it has worked well. But it has been a high-tempo environment. We meet weekly to discuss where we are and what holes are in the program."

The ACES learning center offers a vari-



Photo by **CHRIS RASMUSSEN**

Instructor Lynette Leventis conducts a Basic Skills Education Program class Thursday at the Fort Jackson Army Continuing Education Services Center. Despite funding issues, the center still offers a variety of services.

ety of educational courses Soldiers can use for self-improvement. Through the Basic Skills Education Program, which emphasizes math and English, Soldiers can improve job performance, GT scores, as well as retention and reenlistment options.

Soldiers can also prepare for schools such as Primary Leadership Development

Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course and the Sergeants Major Academy.

Soldiers and family members can also earn a college degree, license or professional certificate at the learning center.

While no education programs have been

cut, the center has had to limit its offerings and has temporarily stopped its testing services for Soldiers who are taking online college courses and need help with testing.

"We haven't had to cut any programs, just curtail some of them," Armstead said. "Everybody here wears a variety of hats so we can stay afloat. Some Soldiers get frustrated, but for the most part, they understand we are trying to help them."

Unit briefings on the resources and opportunities available at ACES have been cut back, as well. In-processing and drill sergeant briefings, however, will continue.

Counseling services have also felt the impact and staff is encouraging students to call for assistance instead of coming to the center for an appointment.

"We have had to not see Soldiers face-to-face but take care of them over the phone," education counselor Sally Maybin said. "We enjoyed our Soldiers being able to walk in and see a counselor, but we can handle it over the phone."

Tuition assistance for Soldiers and spouses is not affected by the funding shortfall.

As IMCOM works out the funding issue, garrison is looking at ways to help ACES continue its mission.

"The installation is looking at ways to help augment personnel," Armstead said. "They are very aware of what we are going through and they are working at helping us."

Chris.Rasmussen@us.army.mil

Name change



Photo by **JAMES ARROWOOD**, Command photographer

The National Center for Credibility Assessment officially changed its name at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 18. From left, Brig. Gen. Robert Carr, director, Defense Counterintelligence and Human Intelligence Center, Maj. Gen. James Milano, Fort Jackson's commanding general, William Norris, chief, National Center for Credibility Assessment, Donald Weinstein, chief, Continuing Education Branch, NCCA and Jamie Banko, student.

News and Notes

TRADOC HONORS SAFETY EFFORT

The Army Training Center and Fort Jackson were selected by TRADOC for being nominated for the DA Exceptional Organization Safety Award, division level. The ATC received a certificate of achievement in safety for its efforts.

CIVILIANS ENCOURAGED TO GET FIT

The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation civilian employee wellness program is partnering with the President's Challenge for Physical Fitness. This self-paced online program encourages the FMWR civilian employee community to commit to fitness. To enroll, visit www.presidentschallenge.net/login/register_individual.aspx. For more information, e-mail Pamela.Greene1@us.army.mil.

EXCHANGE OFFERS SHOPPING DEALS

The Fort Jackson Exchange will open 4 a.m., Friday for Black Friday shopping. The first 200 shoppers to visit the Exchange Friday and Saturday will receive scratch-off cards for a chance at additional price cuts.



Nov. 24 — 4 p.m. Secretariat	PG
Nov. 26 — 7 p.m. The Social Network	PG-13
Nov. 28 — 7 p.m. Life As We Know It	PG-13
Nov. 29 — 7 p.m. The Social Network	PG-13
Dec. 2 — 7 p.m. The Social Network	PG-13
Dec. 4 — 7 p.m. Red	PG-13
Dec. 5 — 7 p.m. Jack*** 3D	R
Dec. 6 — 4 p.m. Hereafter	PG-13
Dec. 6 — 7 p.m. Red	PG-13
Fort Jackson Reel Time Theater (803) 751-7488	
Ticket admission Adults: \$4.50 Children (12 and younger) \$2.25 Visit www.aafes.com for listings.	

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Native American heritage celebrated



Photo by JAMES ARROWOOD, Command photographer

Above, Marcy Hayden, Native American affairs coordinator with the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs, speaks during the Native American heritage luncheon Thursday at the Officers' Club. Right, David Little, a Mohican also known as Cloud Walker, performs a traditional warrior dance during the luncheon. Little and fellow members of the Circle of Native Americans entertained and educated Fort Jackson community members by re-enacting rituals and describing the heritage and cultures of different Native American Indian tribes.

Photo by KRIS GONZALEZ



Extended car warranties may not be worth the ride

Many consumers have seen an advertisement online, gotten a flyer in the mail, or even received a telephone call urging them to purchase a service plan for auto repairs.

Sometimes called "extended warranties," these service plans claim to provide coverage for costly automobile work. Think of these plans as insurance for car repairs.

It sounds like a good idea; but is it really? These service plans have gotten a lot of attention nationwide lately, mainly for their aggressive and misleading advertising. There is usually no connection between the company selling the service plan and the car manufacturer and yet a third company would provide the repairs.

In essence, the company marketing the plans is a middleman. Unfortunately, the consumer typically doesn't find out there's no relationship with the car manufacturer until after a payment has been made.

And when the time comes to submit a claim, coverage is denied or excluded because of some disclaimer in fine print. The Better Business Bureau reports that a

FINANCIAL ADVICE

By MARTHA PHILLIPS
Army Community Service

common complaint against these companies is the refusal to provide consumers with copies of coverage contracts before purchase.

What can consumers do to protect themselves? Be familiar with the terms of any manufacturer's warranty that is currently in place.

Those who have older cars or no warranty protection at all, should be sure they have adequate savings to cover automobile repairs.

It is all but a guarantee that a car is going to need repair work or maintenance at some point. So if the money is not saved, start saving today.

For those who really believe they need an extended warranty service plans, the Better Business Bureau advises consumers to contact the car dealer or manufacturer directly to make sure they are not

buying coverage for something already covered under a dealer warranty. And never pay any money for an extended service plan without first seeing in writing what is and is not covered and how to file a claim.

The BBB has free Reliability Reports online at www.bbb.org that can be used to find trustworthy automobile warranty companies.

If a consumer is contacted by one of these companies selling extended warranty service plans, he or she should never give out personal information such as a bank account number, Social Security number or credit card number.

Consumers can also have their phone numbers registered with the Federal Do Not Call List at www.donotcall.gov. If the consumer already has his or her number registered but continues to receive telemarketing calls, this website can also be used to report those calls to the Federal Trade Commission.

For more information regarding this subject, please contact the Army Community Services Financial Readiness program at 751-5256.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



“My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is visiting our dining facilities, wherever I’ve been, to see the extra effort by our food service personnel on behalf of our Soldiers and families ... and to have a great meal! Our DFACs invariably, year after year, go above and beyond and put their best foot forward. I’m very proud of what they do.”

— **Maj. Gen. James Milano**
*Commanding General
Army Training Center and Fort Jackson*



“I love the whole Thanksgiving tradition — food, family, friends and football. Growing up, we would have about 25 people over to the house, which wasn’t big, but we all crammed in. I loved sitting at the kids’ table with my sisters and cousins. It was so much fun. Even today, I look at the children enjoying the day and just smile.”

— **Brig. Gen. Mark McAlister**
*Commanding General
Soldier Support Institute*



“Between me and my two sisters, there are now 11 grandchildren. Our favorite tradition is the post-meal football game where the adults and kids all play a competitive and fun game of touch football. My brother-in-law has been trying to beat me for 10 years now — with no success. They are traveling to Fort Jackson this year to spend Thanksgiving with us, and I hope to extend that streak to 11!”

— **Col. James Love**
Garrison Commander



“My favorite tradition is family gatherings where we reflect on how far we have come as a family. Being one of 12 children presented challenges for my parents in regards to basic needs, such as clothing, food and shelter. All 12 of us are still living and are more than able to provide those things to our children. We are thankful.”

— **Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King**
*Commandant
Drill Sergeant School*



“My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is getting the family together. When we do our prayer, we go around the table and everyone says what he or she is thankful for. Then we go to the movies, depending on what’s playing.”

— **Command Sgt. Maj. Marylena McCrimmon**
*U.S. Army Chaplain
Center and School*



Making new traditions part of Army life

Growing up, I always loved Thanksgiving. Every year, we would have a turkey (in later years, my mom would order a fried one from a caterer friend), collard greens, two types of pecan pie (a regular one my mom made, and a coconut one my aunt would bring by) and the piece de resistance, my mom's cornbread dressing.

I would watch as she crumbled up a perfectly good batch of homemade cornbread and cut up a chicken set aside specifically for the dressing. She would add some chicken broth and a bevy of other ingredients until it was time for it to bake. I knew there was no rushing it; when we ran out — Mom would deliver plates to family and friends — I would have to wait as the entire process started all over again.

My husband has his own stories of Thanksgiving past, where he, along with his mother and sister, gathered at his grandparents' house each year along with aunts, uncles and cousins.

As members of this military family, we often find ourselves hundreds of miles away from home. We may be on the other side of the country from our families, or even on another continent. And sometimes, it seems a chore to try pulling off the holidays when those Thanksgiving traditions that are so dear to us seem impossible to recreate.

The days we remember from our childhoods —

CRYSTAL CLEAR

By Crystal Lewis Brown
Fort Jackson Leader



lounging around watching football until Thanksgiving dinner is ready — are replaced by quick meals squeezed in before we, or our spouses, have to head back to work.

Throughout my husband's military career, our holidays have varied; one year, we hosted dinner in our German apartment for friends kind enough to turn a blind eye when the bag of giblets was discovered still inside of the perfectly fried turkey. Another year, my sister-in-law drove in from Virginia to share the holiday with us.

This year, the *Leader* is for the second time asking senior leaders on post to share with us their favorite holiday traditions. The answers last year were dramatically different, ranging from taking a 5-mile run before indulging in the feast, to taking time to show the gate guards some appreciation.

This year's answers are even more varied. But read-

ing those traditions helped me to better understand that no matter where you are stationed, or who joins you, the Army is a great place to start making your own traditions.

Now that we have a child of our own, my husband and I are trying to forge our own holiday traditions. And though it tends to vary, I realized that we do, in fact, have a bit of a tradition.

Each year, save for one, we have gone to one of the post dining facilities to participate in the lunch before heading home to eat our own meal. Eating on post allows us the opportunity to see the hard work the dining facility staff has put into decorating and cooking for the Soldiers and families.

Last year, I was blown away by the sheer elaborateness of the decorations, which included a colored ice sculpture surrounded by an array of fresh fruit and another that served as a serving dish for shrimp cocktail. And, of course, the food was delicious. Afterward, we headed home to relax and put the finishing touches on our own Thanksgiving meal, which we ate later that evening.

I think having the opportunity to share one of my favorite holidays with those who have pledged to fight for our country is, in itself, a tradition.

And for that, I'm thankful. Happy Thanksgiving.

Editor's note: Crystal Lewis Brown is editor of the Leader and an army spouse of five years.

Family Happenings

JUMPING JACKS

Jumping Jacks child care is available in the Solomon Center's Marion Room for parents to use while they work out at Andy's Fitness Center.

Jumping Jacks is available 9 to 11 a.m. and 3:45 to 7:45 p.m., Monday and Tuesday; and 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday. Child care services and scheduled activities for school-age children (through high school) are available. For more information on registration and eligibility, call the Child, Youth and School Services Parent Central Services at 751-4865/4824.

GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts registration is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m., Friday and 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday at 5957-B Parker Lane. Girls kindergarten to 12th grade are invited to join in a year of adventure as the Fort Jackson Girl Scouts explore the new Journeys program. Call 736-5875 for information.

PLAYGROUP

Join other parents and their children, at Playgroup, 10 to 11:45 a.m., every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 5615 Hood St., Room 8. An evening playgroup for Soldiers and their children is 5 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday.

A world of books



Photo by KRIS GONZALEZ

Staff Sgt. Gary Allender, a drill sergeant with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, reads a story to his son Xavier, 2, during C.C. Pinckney Elementary School's book fair family night Thursday.

Competition earns DFACs bragging rights

Continued from Page 1

who, along with quality assurance evaluators, judges the competition.

“Thanksgiving is the opportune time for the dining facilities to put on their best show,” Sowell said. “This is when people come together, they are thankful they’re here to enjoy a traditional meal and they love to see what the (dining facility workers) have done. And the workers are proud of their work.”

Staff at each facility began preparing for the competition weeks ago; ordering food and crafting decorations and setting up a little bit here and there in between serving regularly scheduled meals.

“This whole dining room will be changed,” said Patricia Brown, manager of the 120th Adjutant General dining facility. “You won’t even recognize this as the same dining room once you come in for Thanksgiving; that’s how much things will have changed.”

“A Salute to America” is this year’s theme for the 120th AG dining facility, which will be adorned with patriotic red, white and blue decorations and the stars and stripes.

The 120th AG dining facility is one of five dining facilities that will be serving Thanksgiving Day. Four will serve their meals on Wednesday and one will serve a

Thanksgiving feast today.

The DSS dining facility celebrated Thanksgiving more than a week early because Wednesday’s meal was the last for the Soldiers of the Drill Sergeant School’s cycle.

Each dining facility is reserved for their respective units’ Soldiers and their family members. The 120th AG dining facility is the only facility open to retirees and their family members.

Brown said she is expecting her staff will serve more than 1,300 Soldiers, retirees and their guests Thursday.

Her workers will begin preparing the food Wednesday night. The cooks will begin to arrive at 3 a.m. to overlap eight-hour shifts. Dining facility attendants will also come in early to ensure the facility is clean and orderly.

And even though the dining facility workers are excited about competing against other dining facilities, Brown said her staff members are more excited about seeing the Soldiers’ reactions when they walk through the dining facility doors.

“When you see the Soldiers’ faces, you know that they appreciate it,” Brown said. “It’s all for the Soldiers. We do it for them. We’re thankful for what they give, so this is our way to show them thanks.

Kris.Gonzalez1@us.army.mil



Photos by ROBERT COOK, Installation Food Service Office

An ice sculpture of a Native American chief is exhibited Wednesday during a Thanksgiving meal at the Drill Sergeant School dining facility.

IN THE KNOW

Quantities of the main items on menu being served:

- Assorted Turkeys: 4,205 pounds
- Ham: 2,981 pounds
- Shrimp: 1,220 pounds
- Beef: 2,920 pounds
- Duck: 621 pounds
- Dinner rolls: 33,408
- Assorted pies: 1,338
- Cakes: 626
- Eggnog: 768 containers

More than 14,000 Soldiers, family members, Army retirees, Army civilian employees, family members and guests will enjoy their Thanksgiving meal at one of the post’s dining facilities.

Thanksgiving menu items include:

Cranberry juice cocktail; shrimp cocktail; spicy vegetable soup; crackers; roast turkey with turkey gravy; carved ham with raisin sauce; baked seasoned cod loins; prime rib au jus with horseradish sauce; creamy mashed potatoes; baked sweet potatoes with cinnamon-sugar topping on the side; corn bread dressing; savory bread dressing; parsley; carrots; sesame glazed green beans; steamed broccoli spears; salad bar with assorted salad dressings and condiments; cranberry sauce; mixed fresh fruit wedges; warm butterflake rolls with butter pats; dessert bar with pumpkin, apple and pecan pies; hermits bar and lemon drop cookies; decorated Thanksgiving cake; mixed nuts and hard candy; assorted beverages.



A wooden house and garden, handmade by Linda Watson, dining facility manager, stands on display in the front entrance of the Drill Sergeant School DFAC Wednesday. The facility was decorated in accordance with the theme of “Thanksgiving Past and Present.”

Divine chili



Photo by JULIA SIMPKINS, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Leon Kircher, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School, stirs the pot during the organization's chili cook-off.

School Thanksgiving



Photo by KRIS GONZALEZ

Contessa Bob and her daughter, Syriah, 5, enjoy food and fun during an annual holiday lunch at Pierce Terrace Elementary School. Parents were invited to join their children for the festive meal.

Setting up shop



Photo by CHRIS RASMUSSEN

Chris Edwards, left, and Damon South of 4 DC Farms put up a tent Monday to cover Christmas trees. The Christmas tree lot is located along Strom Thurmond Boulevard. The lot will open Friday and will operate from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Vista lights

Performance artist Dark Dolly is part of the entertainment during the Vista Lights festival Friday in Columbia. A Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation group took the trip downtown to participate in the festivities.

Photo by THERESA O'HAGAN, FMWR



Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle's honorees

DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE



Staff Sgt. Joshua Swink
Company D
3rd Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Ballesteros Noberto Jr.

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Montgomery Wayne

HIGH BRM

Pfc. Josten Smith

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pvt. Christopher Painter



Staff Sgt. Charita Mixon
Company E
3rd Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE

Spc. Craig Mattoon

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Spc. Daniel Graziano

HIGH BRM

Spc. Craig Mattoon

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pvt. Delfino Garica-Pina



Sgt. 1st Class Bryant Thomas
Company F
3rd Battalion,
34th Infantry Regiment

SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE

Spc. Briana Hicke

SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE

Pvt. Lynn Niles

HIGH BRM

Pvt. Santiago Ramos

HIGH APFT SCORE

Pvt. Mario Torres

SUPPORT AWARDS OF THE CYCLE

TRAINING SUPPORT

Jacqueline Leath

SERVICE SUPPORT

Onita Brown

DFAC SUPPORT

Ruth Brown

FAMILY SUPPORT

Carmen Jones

STAFF SUPPORT

Sgt. Bertha Flores
Cpl. Ismael Enriquez

Last-minute push

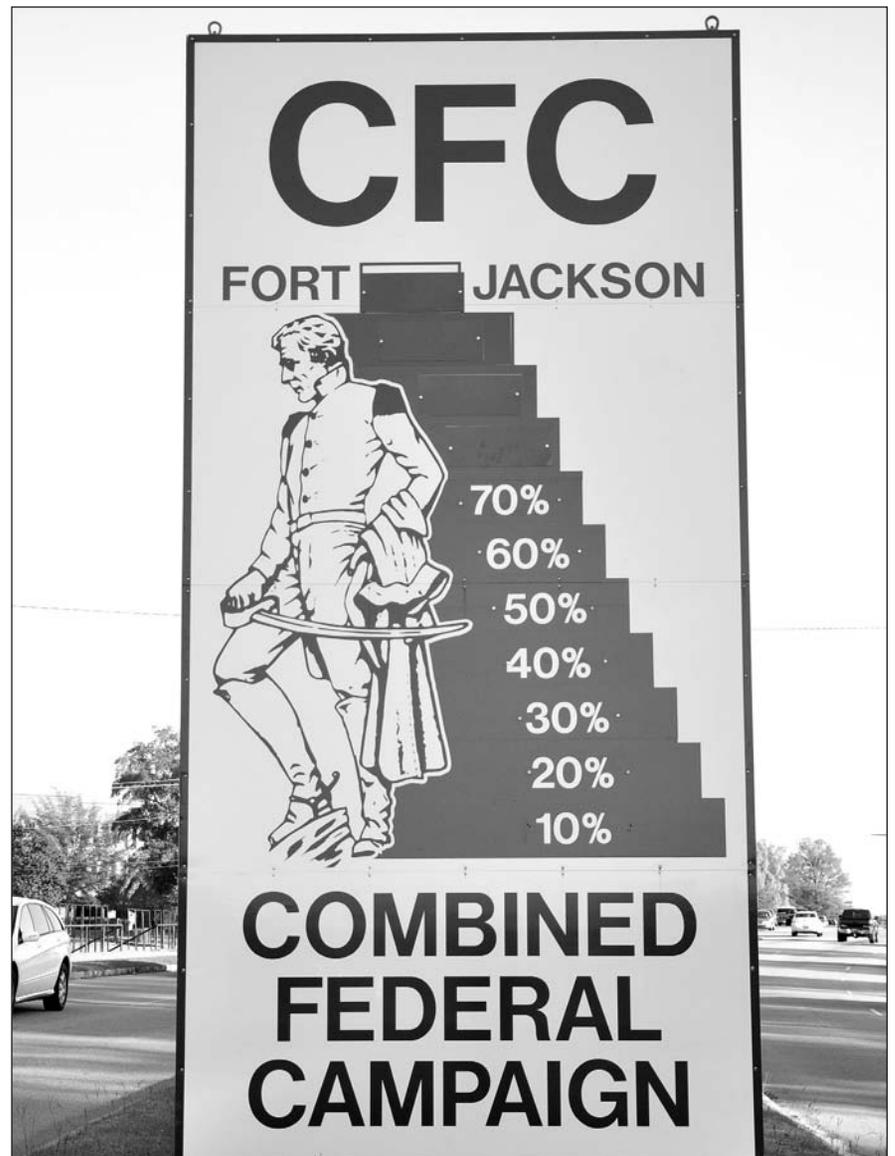


Photo by CRYSTAL LEWIS BROWN

Combined Federal Campaign officials are still accepting donations through the campaign, which allows Soldiers and civilians to donate to hundreds of charities. The signs throughout post show the percentage of those contacted about the campaign. The post deadline is Dec. 6.

ACS Calendar of Events — December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
		1	2	3	4/5
	<p>Did you know?</p> <p>Free self-paced computer training classes for Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access and Outlook are available on request. Call ACS to schedule a class.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Job search strategies — 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newcomers Orientation/Re-entry brief — 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Post Conference Room</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NPSF play group — 10 to 11:30 a.m.; call for location (every Wednesday except holidays)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lunch and learn; welding careers in 10 weeks — noon to 1 p.m., Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child abuse awareness update class — noon to 1 p.m.; Main Post Chapel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child abuse awareness class (new staff) — noon to 2 p.m.; Main Post Chapel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Phase II LEVY brief — 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 213</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Army Family Action Plan Conference</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AER commander's referral training — 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Family Readiness Center</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> English as a second language conversational — 12:30 to 2 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; call 751-1124 to register</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EFMP Bouncerific — 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.; 921 Longtown Road; call 751-5256 to RSVP</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Army Family Action Plan Conference</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> How MilitaryOneSource can help you — 9 to 10 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EFMP night at the movies — time to be determined, Village at Sandhills</p>	
6	7	8	9	10	11
<p><input type="checkbox"/> English as a second language class — 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; call 751-1124 to register</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship seminar for military family members — 1 to 2 p.m., Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EFMP family night out — 5 p.m.; Chick-fil-A, Decker Boulevard</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Steps to federal employment — 9 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NPSF play group — 10 to 11:30 a.m.; call for location (every Wednesday except holidays)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Phase II LEVY brief — 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 213</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer training — 9 to 11 a.m.; Family Readiness Center</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> English as a second language conversational — 12:30 to 2 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; call 751-1124 to register</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> How MilitaryOneSource can help you — 9 to 10 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> FRG social/AFTB birthday celebration — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Family Readiness Center</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EFMP support group (holiday party) — 5 to 7 p.m.; Solomon Center</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Foreign born spouse support group holiday party — 6 to 8:30 p.m.; Family Readiness Center</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> SOS holiday event — noon to 4 p.m.; call 751-4667 to RSVP</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>
13	14	15	16	17	18/19
<p><input type="checkbox"/> English as a second language class — 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; call 751-1124 to register</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AFAP steering committee meeting — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Post Conference Room</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship seminar for military family members — 9 to 10 a.m., Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NPSF family night at EdVenture Children's Museum — 5 p.m., 211 Gervais St., \$1 entrance fee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EFMP family night at EdVenture Children's Museum — 5 p.m., 211 Gervais St., \$1 entrance fee</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Job searching strategies — 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personal financial readiness for first-term Soldiers — 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Family Readiness Center</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child abuse awareness update class — noon to 1 p.m.; Main Post Chapel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Child abuse awareness class (new staff) — noon to 2 p.m.; Main Post Chapel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Resume writing for beginners — 1 to 2 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Phase II LEVY brief — 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 213</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Financial/relocation planning for initial PCS move — 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Family Readiness Center</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> English as a second language conversational — 12:30 to 2 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; call 751-1124 to register</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> How MilitaryOneSource can help you — 2 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> ACS closed — 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hearts Apart holiday party — 6 to 8 p.m.; Family Readiness Center</p>	
20	21	22	23	24	25/26
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Teen job fair — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Main Post Chapel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SOS support group — 1 to 3:30 p.m.; call for location</p>				
27	28	29	30	31	
		<p><input type="checkbox"/> NPSF play group — 10 to 11:30 a.m.; call for location (every Wednesday except holidays)</p>			

All ACS classes require registration and are subject to change. For more information and to register, call 751-5256/4862/6325.

The Family Readiness Center is located at 3499 Daniel Circle.

The Community Center is located at 520 Brown Ave.

Calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Education and employment fair

9 to 10:30 a.m. (WTU Soldiers only) and 10:30 a.m. to noon (open to all Soldiers); Dozier Hall. The theme is "Supporting Soldiers and Strengthening Families."

Retirement Review

10 a.m., Post Headquarters

Holiday tree lighting

5 p.m., Post Headquarters

Friday, Dec. 3

First Friday tournament

1 p.m., Fort Jackson Golf Club

Friday, Dec. 3

Garrison holiday gala

6 p.m., Solomon Center
Tickets cost \$12. Contact your committee representative for tickets.

Saturday, Dec. 4

Jingle Bell Jog and Reindeer Games

8 to 11 a.m., Youth Sports Complex
For more information, call 751-3773

Sunday, Dec. 5

282nd Army Band holiday concert

6:30 p.m., Solomon Center

Saturday, Dec. 11

Sergeants Major Association

Christmas party

6 p.m., Officers' Club
Tickets cost \$25. For tickets, call 381-2939 or (815) 621-4180.

Monday, Dec. 13

Workshop — GI Bill comparison: Which one is right for you?

9 to 10 a.m., SFAC multi-purpose room
For more information, call 751-3360

Tuesday, Dec. 14

School board meeting

4 p.m., C.C. Pinckney Elementary School

Housing events

Today

Festive fall yard decoration contest

The residents with the most beautiful and festive yard will win a gift card.

Wednesday

Gobble gobble art contest

Children can color a turkey coloring sheet. The art will be on display in the Community Center. The coloring sheet is available at the Community Center or online at www.ftjacksonfamilyhousing.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 1

Holiday decorating contest begins

Homes will be judged 3 p.m., Dec. 21.

Friday, Dec. 3

Sugar cookie decoration extravaganza

3 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8

American Red Cross blood drive

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Please call Alana Youngblood to set up a donation time.

Friday, Dec. 10

Crock-Pot recipe exchange

A slow cooker station will be set up in the Community Center. Cards featuring each recipe will be available. Tasting will begin at 3 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 16

National Chocolate Covered Anything Day

3 p.m.
Enjoy chocolate fondue at the Community Center.

All events are held in the Community Center, 520 Brown Ave., unless otherwise specified. Call 738-8275 for information.

Announcements

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

The Thrift Shop will be closed today through Thursday and Dec. 28 through Jan. 6. Before Christmas, Wednesday shoppers will have a chance to win a Christmas basket every hour from noon to 5 p.m. Organizations that want to request funds, should submit a welfare request form. The form should list the reason, number of people involved and what other sources for funding have been explored.

ACS CLOSURE

Army Community Service offices will be closed Friday. An ACS Army Emergency Relief case worker will be

THANKSGIVING AT THE DINING FACILITY

The 120th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) will serve Thanksgiving meals to retirees and guests of military ID card holders from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Thursday. Meals cost \$7 (standard rate) and \$5.95 (discount rate). The discount rate is for dependents of enlisted personnel grades E-1 through E-4. For more information, call 751-5556/7274.

available. In case of an emergency, call 751-5256 or (800) 337-3445 for AER assistance.

COMMISSARY CLOSURE

The Commissary will be closed Thursday.

WEDNESDAY GRADUATION

The graduation ceremony for Companies D, E and F of 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment is scheduled for 10 a.m., Wednesday.

DRILL SERGEANTS NEEDED

The Drill Sergeant School is accepting applications from drill sergeants with more than one year of experience on the trail to become drill sergeant leaders. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class John McHaney at 751-3355 or e-mail John.P.McHaney@conus.army.mil.

ACS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Army Community Service now has a Facebook page and Twitter feed. Follow FtJacksonACS on Twitter or friend Ft Jackson ACS on Facebook.

MONEY MATTERS CLASS

Money Matters, a Boys and Girls Club program for 14-18 year olds, meets 7:30

p.m. Wednesdays and 4 p.m. Saturdays at the Youth Services Center. The classes focus on budgeting, saving and planning for college. For more information, call 751-7706.

VA CASH BENEFITS

Pension-eligible veterans who require home care, assisted living or nursing home care may be eligible for VA Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefit benefits. Both programs provide cash to eligible veterans. For more information, visit www.vb.va.gov/bln/21/pension/vetpen.htm#7 or e-mail va@oepp.sc.gov.

AAFES ESSAY CONTEST

AAFES is awarding a \$2,000 shopping spree to the winner of its 300-word "My Hero" essay contest. The contest is open to all military ID card holders, 18 and older. Essays may be submitted in one of six categories: community crusader, young wonder, family champion, peacemaker, earth keeper or animal wonder. Entries will be accepted through Friday and should be submitted to PatriotFamily@aafes.com.

Visit the community calendar at www.jackson.army.mil for a full listing of calendar events.

LEADER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community announcements should be typed and no more than 45 words. All submissions may be edited to comply with *Leader* style and Public Affairs regulations. Send all submissions to FJLeader@conus.army.mil.

For information about classified advertising, contact Camden Media Co. at 432-6157. Classified ads may also be faxed to 432-7609.



Aye, Aye, Captain!

Malayka Robinson, 5, a student at Pierce Terrace Elementary School takes a bite out of a SpongeBob Square Pants frozen treat Thursday during a holiday lunch in the school's cafeteria.

Photo by KRIS GONZALEZ

SKIES the limit for kids

Program offering classes despite renovations

By **CHRIS RASMUSSEN**
Fort Jackson Leader

Cursha Pierce-Lunderman, a military spouse, said that her now 4-year-old daughter, Sydnee, still recalls fondly her days in Preschool Spanish. During her stint in the Bright SKIES class, Sydnee would often come home and teach her brother, and sometimes her parents, what she learned in class.

"It was fabulous. I loved it, she loved it," Pierce-Lunderman said about the experience. "Her Spanish comprehension was great; her Spanish speaking was good. It just really gave her a good experience."

Though renovations have halted Bright SKIES classes, such as the preschool Spanish, program administrator Jeanette Dempsey is reassuring parents that the other SKIES offerings are still available.

"Right now, we are going through renovations with our facilities and unfortunately there isn't much space for our programs," Dempsey said. "But we are still having a variety of classes for kids."

Renovations on a new building for SKIESUnlimited are underway and organizers are holding classes at locations across Fort Jackson. SKIES, which stands for Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills, is an Army program that offers a variety of instructional classes for children. Bright SKIES is for children 3 to 5. SKIES varies in age group by class, though many are open to children as young as 6.

The preschool Spanish class, for children, 3 to 5, is just one of the classes that falls underneath the umbrella of the SKIESUnlimited program.

SKIES is moving into the former Child and Youth Ser-

vices building located next to C.C. Pinckney Elementary School at 5899 Chesnut Road. CYS is moving into a new facility being constructed behind their former building.

Due to construction and renovations in the area, many parents said they think classes are not currently available.

"A lot of people think we are not offering classes, but we are," Dempsey said. "We are just trying to get the word out to parents on Fort Jackson that they can still sign their children up."

Classes during the renovations are being held at Knight Pool, Scales Child Development Center, Fort Jackson Library and the Joe E. Mann Center. A date for completion of renovation on the SKIES facility has not been set.

"We pick the children up and take them there so parents don't have to worry about transportation," Dempsey said.

SKIES is divided into four schools: School of Academic Skills, Mentoring and Intervention; School of Arts, Recreation and Leisure; School of Life Skills, Citizenship and Leadership; and School of Sports, Fitness and Health. Classes are taught by volunteers and contract employees.

Classes offered include karate, gymnastics, ballet, cooking, arts and crafts, beginner Spanish and German and more. Fees range from free to \$45 per month and ages for classes range from 2 months old to 18. SKIES was established in 2004 by MWR to provide extracurricular activities for military children and teens. The Fort Jackson program opened in 2005.

"It provides kids with something to do and keeps them out of trouble," Dempsey said. "A lot of who don't have extracurricular activities tend to get into trouble."

Parents can sign up their children online at www.webtrac.mrw.army.mil/webtrac/jacksoncym.html or call 751-7540 for more information. A class brochure is also available at http://fortjacksonmwr.com/skies/pdf/fall10_brochure.pdf

Chris.Rasmussen@us.army.mil

Editor's note: Crystal Lewis Brown contributed to this report.

CURRENT EDGE! CLASSES

All **EDGE!** classes canceled on 10-18.
Thanksgiving Day.

❑ **In the swing golf** — 3:30 to 5 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, Fort Jackson Golf Course. Learn to golf like the pros. Today is an introduction to the golf swing and Monday is practice makes perfect. For ages 9-18.

❑ **Cook your own Thanksgiving** — 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 5955-D Parker Lane. Make all the things you need for Thanksgiving. Create corn on the cob cake from candy, and make a Pilgrim hat from ice cream cones. For ages

❑ **Camp EDGE!** — 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Meet for transportation to Weston Lake at 5955 Parker Lane. Pitch

tents, build fires, fish for food and learn other outdoor survival skills. For ages 11-18. **No class until Nov. 30.**

❑ **Tricky Video** — 3:30 to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5933 Parker Lane. Learn simple tricks to make people disappear, stage fight scenes,

etc., all with a home video camera. For 11-18 year olds.

❑ **Thanksgiving on Thursday (Magic Tree House)** — 3 to 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Post Library. Climb into the Magic Tree House and learn about the first Thanksgiving. For ages 6-10.

School-age children who register with Child, Youth and School Services qualify for four hours of open recreation, which can be used toward any EDGE! program.

The EDGE! offers free classes as part of the Army Middle School and Teen Initiative for those 11 years and older. For children 9 and 10, classes are \$5 per hour.



FMWR calendar

TODAY

❑ Free family bingo at the NCO Club, 4 to 7 p.m. Families can win DVDs, family game, a scooter, \$5 to \$100 in FMWR bucks and more. Free pizza and a Thanksgiving buffet will be available.

THURSDAY

❑ Visit **Century Lanes** for food, fun and bowling.
❑ Century Lanes and Magruder's Pub and Club is closed for the holiday.
❑ **Victory Bingo**, 2 to 11 p.m.

FRIDAY

❑ Visit the **Officers' Club**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the Blue Plate Specials.
❑ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 2 p.m.
❑ Dance to a variety of music provided by DJ Randall at **Magruder's Club**, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Magruder's Club is located in the back of Magruder's Pub. Cover charge is \$5 for civilians and \$3 for military. Be early for happy hour, 4:30 to 7 p.m. Appetizers are available, while supply lasts.

SATURDAY

❑ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 1 p.m.
❑ Step Team practice, 2 p.m., dance room at the **Youth Services Center**.
❑ Classic Soul Saturday, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., Excalibur Room at the **NCO Club**. Cover charge is \$5 for civilians and \$3 for military.
❑ Buy one wing, get one free at **Magruder's Club and Pub**.
❑ **Century Lanes** Colored Pin Bowling, 6-9 pm. Get a strike when the colored pin is in your lane and win great prizes.

SUNDAY

❑ **Victory Bingo**, starts at 10 a.m.
❑ Visit the **Officers' Club**, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for Sunday brunch. Coat and tie are not required. Call 751-4906 or 782-8761.
❑ **Century Lanes** Colored Pin Bowling, 1-8 pm. Get a strike when the colored pin is in your lane and win great prizes.

MONDAY

❑ TRX Outdoors group fitness classes at the **Perez Tennis Court**. Call 751-5768 for more information.

For a complete calendar, visit www.fortjacksonmwr.com.

ONGOING OFFERS

❑ The NCO Club breakfast is served 6 to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$3.75 for children 4 to 10 years old.
❑ The Officers' Club is open for lunch Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
❑ Victory Travel has special offers for dinner shows and other attractions. For more information, visit Victory Travel in the Solomon Center.
❑ The Officers' Club is hosting special events. The club specializes in wedding receptions, anniversaries, promotions and other special occasions. For more information, call 782-8761.

Leader deadlines

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.

For example, an article for the Dec. 16 Leader

must be submitted by Dec. 2.

Announcement submissions are due one week before publication.

For example, an announcement for the Dec. 16 Leader must be submitted by Dec. 9.



FIRST RESPONDER

The following are incidents compiled from reports, complaints or information received from the Fort Jackson Provost Marshal Office.

The incidents reflected are not an adjudication attesting to the guilt or innocence of any person and are provided for informational and reflective purposes only.

Col. Ronald F. Taylor

Director,

Emergency Services/Provost Marshal

Sgt. Maj. Glen W. Wellman III

Provost Sergeant Major

Billy Forrester

Fire Chief



that the civilian left an infant unsupervised in her on-post home, MPs said.

Three civilians were permanently barred from post after attempting to enter with invalid documentation, MPs said. The driver was also cited with trespassing, driving without a driver's license and failure to surrender suspended license plates, MPs said. The passengers were charged with criminal trespassing. The vehicle was towed from the installation and the civilians were escorted off post.

crimestoppers
1-888-559-TIPS
www.midlandscrimestoppers.com

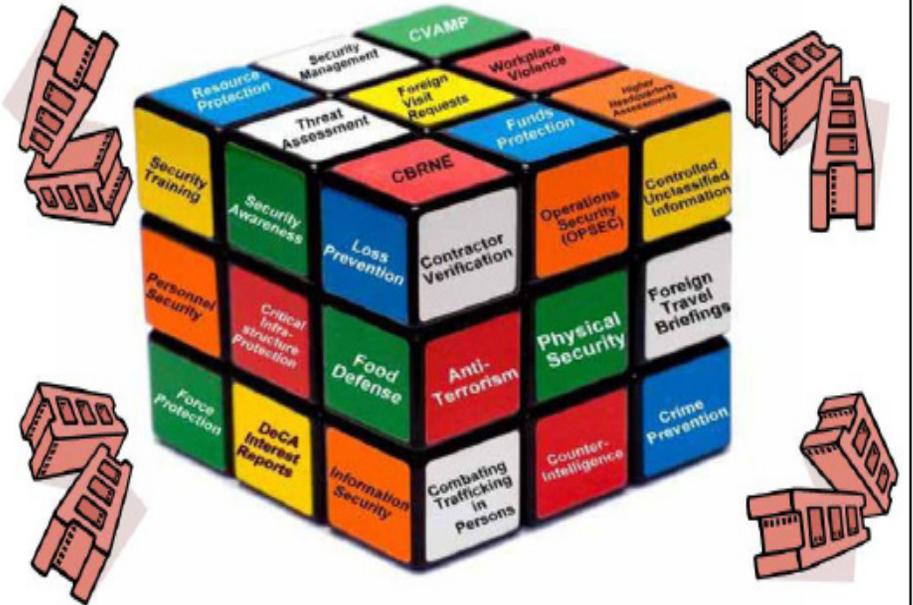
CASES OF THE WEEK

A civilian was denied access to the post after attempting to enter with an unregistered handgun, Military Police said. All weapons coming onto post must be registered with the Directorate of Emergency Services.

A civilian was charged with violating the post's supervision of children policy after MPs responded to a report

FORCE PROTECTION THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

The Building Blocks of Force Protection



Stay safe this holiday, don't drink and drive

From the Army Substance Abuse Program

The holiday season is supposed to be a time for family, friends and festive celebrations, but it is unfortunately also a time when there is a tragic jump in the number of alcohol-related highway fatalities each year between Thanksgiving and New Year's.

Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. According to a 2008 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study, 11,773 people were killed in alcohol-impaired crashes, accounting for nearly one-third (32 percent) of all traffic-related deaths in the United States.

With all of the office and holiday parties this holiday season, this is a critically important time of year to make sure you always designate a sober driver or "Battle Buddy" before the parties begin and to always remember that "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk."

Since 1982, Army installations have supported what is referred to as National

3D Prevention Month in December. The month of December and, in particular, New Year's Eve holiday are also often highlighted by significant increases in state and local law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving such as the use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

As part of the annual nationwide public information campaign against impaired driving during the holiday season, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers these reminders for a safer holiday season:

Don't even think about getting behind the wheel of your vehicle if you have been out drinking;

If you are impaired, call a taxi — use

mass transit — or get a sober friend or family member to come and get you;

Or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober;

And remember — *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think he or she is about to drive while impaired.

For those who are hosting parties this holiday season, remind guests to plan ahead, always offer alcohol-free beverages during the event and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only does an impaired driver risk killing him or herself or someone else, but

the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant.

As a community, we have a moral obligation to take care of people with whom we come in contact; when people drink, the ability they have to make rational decisions is lessened, as well as their reflexes.

Editor's Note: Part of the information in this article was retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If you have any questions regarding this article or other issues of substance abuse you may contact the ASAP at 751-5007. The Army Substance Abuse Program provides prevention/education to the community on topics pertaining to alcohol and other drug usage.

The Army Substance Abuse Program maintains a wide selection of pamphlets and videos that can be used to get a further understanding of the dynamics of substance abuse and use. The staff of the ASAP is available to give presentations on the subjects of alcohol and drug abuse upon request.



Treatments available for reflux disease

By **WAYNE COMBS, Ph.D.**

U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)

Gastroesophageal reflux disease, also called GERD, is a common condition that often occurs after meals. In some people, the reflux is related to a problem with the lower esophageal sphincter, a band of muscle fibers that usually closes off the esophagus from the stomach.

If this sphincter doesn't close properly, food and liquid can move backward into the esophagus and may cause the symptoms. The risk factors for reflux include hiatal hernia, pregnancy, and scleroderma, a chronic connective tissue disease characterized by hardening of the skin.

SYMPTOMS

Heartburn—involves a burning pain in the chest (under the breastbone); the pain may be increased by bending, stooping, lying down or eating; it is relieved by ant-

acids; it may be more frequent or worse at night.

- Belching
- Regurgitation of food
- Nausea and vomiting
- Vomiting blood
- Hoarseness or change in voice
- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Coughing or wheezing

TREATMENT

General measures include:

- Weight reduction
- Avoiding lying down after meals



- Sleeping with the head of the bed elevated
- Taking medication with plenty of water
- Avoiding dietary fat, chocolate, caffeine, peppermint (they may cause lower esophageal pressure)
- Avoiding alcohol and tobacco
- Over-the-counter antacids

OTHER MEDICAL OPTIONS

- Prescription medications
- Anti-reflux operations, however the majority of people respond to nonsurgical measures with behavioral modification and medications.

PREVENTION

Avoid foods and activities that worsen symptoms. Maintain a healthy weight. If you, a buddy, or a family member exhibit the symptoms of GERD that do not respond to the general treatment measures listed above, contact your health care provider as soon as possible.

Warrior Care Month nears end

From the Warrior Transition Command

The Army has designated November as "Warrior Care Month" to highlight the contributions and sacrifices of wounded warriors and their families, and the Army's determination to provide all medical treatment and support needed as they recover and transition back to duty or to civilian life.

The month's theme is "Army Strong — Family Strong: Caring for warriors by supporting Army families."

"Warrior Care Month is an opportunity to highlight recent Warrior Care and Transition program initiatives that have been developed and are being developed to improve Warrior Care, especially those dealing with the transition of Soldiers beyond warrior transition unit assignment into the next phase of their lives," said Col. Darryl Williams, commander of the Warrior Transition Command. "WCM 2010 will em-

phasize the support and assistance of Families and caregivers as a critical element of the healing and recovery process for every wounded, ill and injured Soldier."

During Warrior Care Month, WTC, through MEDCOM's regional medical commands, will be working with WTUs, community based warrior transition units and the Army Wounded Warrior Program to conduct outreach events and engagements to inform and educate warriors in transition, AW2 Soldiers, veterans, their families and caregivers, local community members and the wider Army family about Army programs and initiatives to improve outpatient care and transition services.

To support the families and caregivers in their new role, services are expanding to support Families and caregivers in such areas as medical record access, social services and counseling, resiliency and transition planning.

"We get it," said Williams. "The Army

is actively seeking innovative ways to include families and caregivers in warrior care programs and processes. For example, Soldier Family Assistance Centers work with WTUs as a one-stop shop for warriors in transition and their Families to find information and assist with personal needs ranging from housing and transportation to childcare and assistance from Veterans Benefits Administration representatives to apply for and set up services so there will be no delay in receiving disability benefits and services when Soldiers leave the Army."

To highlight these and many other Soldier-Family centric issues during Warrior Care Month, the Army will be hosting education and outreach events at the WTU/CBWTU/installation level to increase visibility for warrior care programs that inform, support, and include the families and caregivers of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers.

MACH updates

ONLINE BOOKING FOR MINORS

TRICARE Online now offers authorized family members to schedule, view and cancel appointments on behalf of themselves, other adult family members (who have granted access) and children younger than 18 through the TRICARE online booking appointments for minors feature. Access TBAM by logging onto www.tricareonline.com using DoD self-service logon or a Common Access Card. Call 800-600-9332 for 24-hour customer service support.

MACH RETIREE ENROLLMENT

Retirees and their family members who are TRICARE Prime eligible can now enroll at Moncrief Army Community Hospital. Active-duty family members, retirees and retiree family members who want to enroll at MACH can visit the TRICARE Service Center on the 10th floor at MACH. For more information, call the Patient Services Office at 751-2425/0471/2778 or e-mail machptservices@amedd.army.mil.

OUTPROCESSING PROCEDURE

Soldiers must clear the Department of Behavioral Health prior to leaving the installation. Outprocessing hours are 2 to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at MACH Room 10-71 or 10-103. For more information, call 751-2235.

APPOINTMENT CANCELLATIONS

Call 751-CARE (2273) or 877-273-5584 to cancel appointments.

SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION INFORMATION

Seasonal flu shots are available to all eligible beneficiaries, 4 and older, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, in Room 6-27, Moncrief Army Community Hospital.

No vaccinations will be given Dec. 24, 25, 27 or 31.



Children, newborns to 36 months, can receive vaccinations on a walk-in or appointment basis at the Family Health Clinic. Call 751-2210 for more information. Other sites are as follows:

Commissary vaccinations: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Nov. 29; and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 3, 7, 10, 14 and 17.

Solomon Center: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Dec. 6, 13 and 20; and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 4 and 18.

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Send your submissions to FJLeader@conus.army.mil.



Regulation guides separated Soldiers

By **CAPT. HERBERT BUNTON**
Legal Assistance Office

Whether a Soldier is contemplating divorce or separated from his or her spouse for logistical reasons, AR 608-99 is the guiding regulation (absent any court ordered support) in how to make sure a service member's dependents are cared for properly.

AR 608-99 states that a Soldier's dependents will be provided with a minimum amount of support if they are separated from the Soldier. This amount is prescribed as the BAH Type II with dependents rate that coincides with the Soldier's rank. If the dependents are in military housing, they do not qualify under AR 608-99. Further, if spouses are dual military, they do not qualify, but if they have children, then the children will still qualify.

If a Soldier with children is separated or divorced from his or her spouse, a court order from a family court judge may have been issued. The court order can detail how custody is to be arranged, whether sole or joint, and how child support is to be paid.

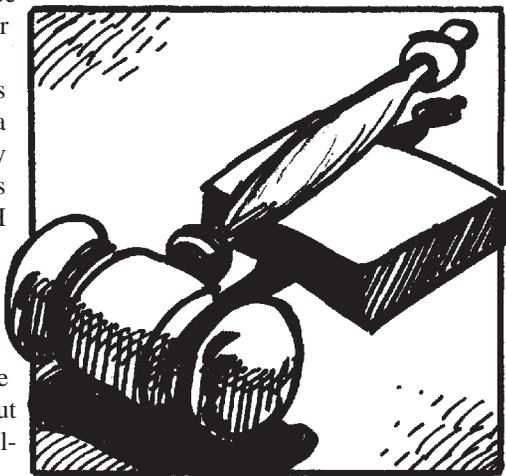
Employers, as well as agencies of state and federal government, all work together with the Child Support Enforcement Office for each state to locate parents and en-

sure child support obligations are met. If a parent fails to pay child support in accordance with a court order, many civilian legal consequences can follow, including having to pay back child support or a garnishment of wages.

If there has not been a court order issued and the parties have not reached an agreement as to the support of the children, then AR 608-99 is triggered and requires the Soldier to support his or her dependents. Child support is a major responsibility for the Soldier parent, and the Army requires those Soldiers to be responsible for supporting their dependents. Failure to comply with this regulation can result in punitive action under Article 92 of the UCMJ. Such repercussions can include Article 15 proceedings and courts martial.

Even though AR 608-99 is applicable, Soldiers do not always comply. The best course of action for a dependent is always to start simple and remind the Soldier of his or her obligations and make a direct request for support.

If a dependent wishes to seek enforcement of AR 608-99, he or she can begin by contacting the Soldier's commander. The dependent can also contact the Inspector General at the local office. Last, if there are any further questions or concerns, the dependent can always contact the Legal Assistance Office.



The Fort Jackson JAG office can provide further information regarding AR 608-99 support. The Fort Jackson JAG Legal Assistance attorneys cannot represent you in a South Carolina Family Court. The Fort Jackson JAG Legal Assistance can provide advice and information concerning divorce/support/custody issues in South Carolina and Army regulations. The Fort Jackson JAG Legal Assistance can also refer you to civilian attorneys to represent you in any divorce/support action. If you would like to talk about divorce or support or custody, please call the Legal Assistance Office at 751-4287 to schedule and appointment with an attorney. The Legal Assistance Office is located at 9475 Kershaw Road on the corner of Kemper and Kershaw.

Fort Jackson Legal Office

The Fort Jackson Legal Office provides legal services — including powers of attorney, living wills and health care powers of attorney — to eligible people.

These services are available through an appointment with a legal assistance attorney 9 to 11:30 a.m. all week, or on a walk-in basis on Thursday.

Power of attorney, living will and health care power of attorney walk-in clients are seen 1:30 to 4 p.m., Tuesdays. Customers who need a will fixed must make an appointment.

Call 751-4287 to make an appointment.

The Legal Assistance Office is located at 9475 Kershaw Road on the corner of Kemper Street and Kershaw Road.

Celebrate dependence day

By **CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) COLT RANDLES**
1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment

“Winning the lottery isn’t always what it’s cracked up to be,” goes the oft-quoted Evelyn Adams, a two-time lottery winner who gambled away her riches. After winning the New Jersey State Lottery back-to-back in 1985 and 1986 to the tune of \$5.4 million one might assume life became easy for her. According to a USA Today article, by 2001, she was broke and living in a trailer after slot machines, the outstretched hands of family and friends and other poor choices claimed her fortune.

Proverbs 30:8b-9 records this wise plea, “... give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.”

A 2006 national statistic showed nearly one-third of winners ultimately file for bankruptcy. Not many have the innate willpower to handle a rapid transition to wealth.

It is no wonder that the God who knows us more intimately than we ourselves understands that a balanced portion of “daily bread” is best suited to satisfy our needs.

A beautiful conversation with my father, late-comer to faith, a few years back left me in wonder at the beauty of the basics of faith. His question was on prayer and particularly on the hesitancy he felt to pray the Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:11); after all, isn’t it wrong to demand God to give

us anything?

My reply was a change of emphasis. Instead of “give us,” consider the “daily” nature of the request. Asking for a daily portion and not a lump sum is to assume a relationship of trust where one believes in the goodness of the giver and that he can be trusted for additional generosity tomorrow.

Working with Basic Combat Training Soldiers provides a continual reminder of this principle. Their vision is limited. They may not know what lies around the bend in the road or even what training event awaits them with the next wake-up call. The chaplain reminds them often that similar to this military experience, their journey of faith may not always be spelled out for them.

However, like a good drill sergeant, God knows exactly what direction they are going and his training plans are never subject to hasty FRAGOs (Job 42:2).

The idiom, “A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,” encourages us to be thankful for what we have rather than losing it in the attempt to gain more. The fact is, the bush is in a cage and the keeper understands our nourishment requirement. There is no need to clutch the manna which will rot tomorrow. There will be more waiting on the other side of needed rest, which is also a gift (Deut. 8:3).

Dependency may not be the preferred or most comfortable position, but it is the blessed position. Call upon the one who stands ready with your portion. Declare your dependence today.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

A Thanksgiving service is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Wednesday at the Main Post Chapel. Refreshments will be served following the service. For more information, call 751-6469.

Thanksgiving Mass is scheduled for 9 a.m., Thursday at the Main Post Chapel. Wine and bread for your Thanksgiving meal will be blessed following the service for those who wish to bring some. For more information, 751-6681/6469.



PROTESTANT

- Sunday
- 9 a.m. McCrady Chapel (SCARNG), McCrady Training Center
- 9 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel Gospel service, Post Theater
- 9:30 a.m. Hispanic, Solomon Center
- 9:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday school, Main Post Chapel
- 11 a.m. Magruder Chapel
- 11 a.m. Memorial Chapel
- 11 a.m. Chapel Next, Bayonet Chapel
- 6 p.m. Transitions Christian service, Anderson Street Chapel
- Wednesday
- 6 p.m. Prayer service, Magruder Chapel

Protestant Bible Study

- Monday
- 7 p.m. Women’s Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
- Tuesday
- 9:30 a.m. to noon Women’s Bible study (PWOC), Main Post Chapel
- Wednesday

- 6 p.m. Gospel prayer service, Magruder Chapel
- 7 p.m. Gospel Bible study, Magruder Chapel
- 7 p.m. LDS scripture study, Anderson Street Chapel
- Saturday
- 8 a.m. Men’s prayer breakfast (PMOC), Main Post Chapel (every second Saturday of the month in the activity room)

Protestant Youth of the Chapel

- Sunday
- 5 to 6:30 p.m. Club Beyond youth group, Main Post Chapel
- Saturday
- 11 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel youth group, Dorn VA Hospital (first Saturday of each month)

CATHOLIC

- Monday through Friday
- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Main Post Chapel
- Sunday
- 9:30 a.m. CCD (September through May), Education Center
- 9:30 a.m. Religious ed class for adults (September through May), Main Post Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Religious ed class for children (September through May), Main Post Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Reconciliation (after Mass or by appointment), Main Post Chapel
- 11 a.m. Mass (Main Post Chapel)
- 12:30 a.m. Catholic youth ministry, Main Post Chapel
- 7 p.m. Women’s scripture study, Main Post Chapel

- 8 p.m. Mass, McCrady Chapel (SCARNG), McCrady Training Center
- Wednesday
- 7 p.m. Rosary, Main Post Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. RCIA/Adult inquiry (September through May), Main Post Chapel
- Friday
- 11:30 a.m. Ladies of the parish, Main Post Chapel (first Friday of each month)

ANGLICAN/LITURGICAL

- Sunday
- 8 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

ISLAMIC

- Sunday
- 8 to 10 a.m. Islamic studies, Main Post Chapel
- Friday
- 1 to 2 p.m. Jumah services, Main Post Chapel

JEWISH

- Sunday
- 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Worship service, Memorial Chapel
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Jewish book study, Post Conference Room

CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Sunday
- 11:30 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel

LATTER DAY SAINTS

- Sunday
- 9:30 to 11 a.m. Anderson Street Chapel
- Thursday
- 7 to 8 p.m. LDS scripture study, Anderson Street Chapel

ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS

- Anderson Street Chapel**
2335 Anderson St., corner of Jackson Boulevard, 751-7032
- Bayonet Chapel**
9476 Kemper St., 751-6322/4542
- Daniel Circle Chapel**
3359 Daniel Circle, corner of Jackson Boulevard, 751-1297/4478
- Education Center**
4581 Scales Ave.
- Family Life Chapel**
4580 Scales Ave, corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard (inside of Main Post Chapel), 751-5780
- Magruder Chapel**
4360 Magruder Ave., 751-3883
- Main Post Chapel**
4580 Scales Ave, corner of Strom Thurmond Boulevard, 751-6469/6681
- McCrady Chapel (SCARNG)**
3820 McCrady Road (located at McCrady Training Center)
- Memorial Chapel**
4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324
- Warrior Chapel (120th AG Bn.)**
1895 Washington St., 751-5086/7427
- Installation’s Chaplain’s Office**
4475 Gregg St., 751-3121/6318

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For more information, call 751-7045.



USC salutes troops

Leader staff report

The University of South Carolina football team capped off its annual military appreciation day with a big win over Troy.

Service members from all branches, including Fort Jackson Soldiers, were at hand to participate in the halftime festivities and witness the Gamecocks' 69-24 victory.

The USC marching band was joined by

the 282nd Army Band during the halftime show to provide a patriotic soundtrack while service members took the field to loud cheers from the fans.

Five veterans were honored during the activities and received game balls from USC president Harris Pastides and athletic director Eric Hyman.

The finale of the celebration was a fly-over by four military jets, which prompted chants of, "USA, USA," from the crowd.



Photos by SUSANNE KAPPLER

Above, service members from all branches were in the stands for the Gamecocks' final home game of the season, a 69-24 victory over the Troy Trojans. Right, Master Sgt. Peter Lara, the Army Times 2009 Soldier of the Year, prepares to shake hands with World War II veteran Byron "Gene" Burns. They were among the five veterans honored during halftime.



USC running back Marcus Lattimore finds an opening late in the second quarter of the Gamecocks' final home game of the season Saturday at Williams-Brice Stadium. Lattimore scored three touchdowns and ran for 102 yards, propelling him to 1,066 yards rushing for the season. The Gamecocks dominated the game from the beginning, taking a 56-7 lead on their way to a 69-24 victory.