

Mountaineer

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Nov. 21, 2003

Deadline nears to send holiday mail to Soldiers

by Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Christmas is a month away, but individuals have only half that time to get their packages to deployed troops in time for the holidays.

The deadline to get packages to the Central Command area in time for Christmas is Dec. 4 by First Class or Priority Mail, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

The key to getting packages to deployed troops on time is not only meeting the deadline, officials said, but also making sure everything is spelled correctly, to include the recipient's full name, unit and address.

The best packages to mail are smaller ones, the size of a large shoebox, that weigh one to 20 pounds, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Lomax, the chief of Plans and Policy with the Military Postal Service Agency. Other rules to remember are that troops serving in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom cannot receive pork products, alcohol beverages, pornographic material or religious items against the Islamic faith, Lomax said.

The Department of Defense urges the general public not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to servicemembers deployed unless they are a family member, loved one or personal friend.

There are some well-intentioned and patriotic groups that are trying to continue to support some form of the anonymous mail programs "Any Servicemember" and "Operation Dear Abby," but their actions could pose potential danger to the troops they wish to support, states the DOD's troop support mail policy.

See Holiday mail, Page 4



Photo courtesy Sgt. Jack Morse

Bombs away ...

Staff Sgt. Derrick Gwin helps remove a bomb left over from Iraq's army at Samarra Southeast Airfield in Iraq. Thousands of bombs were left at the airfield after the war. Gwin is assigned to the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

DECAM to install radon system at child-care center

by Susan Galentine-Ketchum
Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management

The Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management recently tested for radon gas at the West Child Care Center, building 6060, and found that the levels sampled, while below Environmental Protection Agency action levels, warranted radon systems being put in to address any potential future health concerns.

The radon system installation at the West Child Care Center begins Dec. 1 and is expected to take one

to two weeks to complete. The work will be done at night when the center is closed and will not disrupt normal operations.

Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas, which comes from the natural breakdown of radium, a decay product of uranium. Uranium and radium are both common elements found naturally in certain types of soil, and are especially common in mountainous areas such as the Pikes Peak Region. Radon gas is not a problem in every building. It can get trapped in some buildings in the lowest living area, most commonly in the basement, due to its density compared to

surrounding air.

The radioactivity of radon gas has the potential to cause long-term health concerns, the exact effects of which are still being debated. According to the EPA, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in this country, resulting in about 14,000 lung cancer deaths every year. The potential cancer health risk is largely determined by the length of continuous exposure over time, which typically is many years.

Fort Carson currently uses radon systems designed

See DECAM, Page 11

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Feature



Carson Middle School's production of "We Shook the Family Tree," was in Patriot's theater.

Page 16 and 17.

Happenings



The new El Pueblo Museum in Pueblo is one of several attractions worth a visit.

See Page 25.

What's new

There will be no *Mountaineer* published next week. The next issue of the *Mountaineer* will be published Dec. 5. Deadline for submissions is close of business Nov. 28.

Gate 4 reopens
Gate 4 reopens to outbound traffic today.

Fallen Soldier's ultimate sacrifice provides lesson in selfless service

by Lt. Col. John Kem
 Army News Service

GERMANY — There are very few events more poignant than a memorial service for a fallen Soldier.

The service finishes with a final roll call by the company first sergeant of the Soldier's squad members. Each Soldier in turn responds, "Here, first sergeant." Then, three times in a row, the first sergeant calls out the dead Soldier's name. Finally, after the third silent pause, waiting for a response that will never come, a lone bugler sounds "Taps".

This evening (Nov. 4) I went to a memorial service for Pvt. Jonathan I. Falaniko. Jonathan was killed Oct. 27 in Baghdad by a rocket-propelled grenade attack. As you would expect, the memorial service was sad, but it was also a profound lesson of faith, selfless service and a family's love. Jonathan's unit, the 70th Engineer Battalion, is part of the Army's 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade. The senior enlisted soldier in the brigade is Jonathan's father, Command Sgt. Maj. Ioakimo Falaniko.

After the company commander and a few of Jonathan's friends spoke at the memorial service, the command sergeant major stepped forward and spoke. He spoke about Jonathan as both a soldier and a son, and his words were truly inspirational. I cannot fully capture in words the profound lessons of faith and selfless service revealed in the life of Jonathan and the tribute by his father, but I think it is important to pass on a small part of it.

Falaniko read from a few of Jonathan's recent letters. For a point of reference, Jonathan was a new soldier, who had been in the Army less than six months. He attended basic training in May and deployed to Iraq in August. His letters capture his thoughts and dreams from the last couple of months. A few things Jonathan wrote really stood out and illustrated the man he was:

"Dad, I push myself hard because I know the drill sergeants expect a lot out of me.

"Dad, when I first got to basic training, I didn't like getting smoked in physical training. But, now I like to get smoked ... I think it is good for me.

"Dad, I love being in the Army and I love serving my country.

"Dad, this is where I belong and this is where I need to be with you and the other Iron (1st Armored Division) soldiers.

"Dad, this place (Iraq) is a mess and I am glad we are here to fix it."

Falaniko finished by sharing with his heart, talking about his son as part of a close family. The kind of kid that always lends a hand to anyone. The kind of kid that loved his sisters and sent them money on every payday just to let them know he was thinking about them. The kind of kid from a

strong Christian family that demonstrates his faith by his actions every day. He concluded by saying to the hundreds of Soldiers present, from three-star general to private:

"What our country brings to Iraq is a chance for freedom and democracy ... making a difference every day. My son died for a good cause ... he answered the nation's call. Just like a typical American Soldier, Jonathan was accomplishing his mission, doing what he was supposed to be doing. He had a big heart and he was proud to be a

Soldier."

Then 1st Sgt. Allen called, "Private Falaniko" There was silence. Again, he called, "Private Jonathan Falaniko." There was again silence. And finally, "Private Jonathan Ioakimo Falaniko." It was still silent.

Jonathan Falaniko was a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice. He and his father are examples of what makes our Army and country great. The

Army and our nation mourn his death. He represents the best of America: strong family, strong faith, strong community and a willingness to serve and help others. Rest in peace Jonathan ... mission accomplished.

Editor's note: Pvt. Jonathan Falaniko was buried in Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 7.

What our country brings to Iraq is a chance for freedom and democracy ... making a difference. My son died for a good cause. He answered the nation's call.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ioakimo Falaniko
 70th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored
 Division Engineer Brigade

Thanksgiving: Celebrating American Indians' contributions to our nation

by Sgt. 1st Class Vickie L. Cooper
 Equal Opportunity Advisor

The strength of our nation comes from its people. As the early inhabitants of this great land, the native peoples of North America played a unique role in shaping our nation's history and culture and continue to do so.

During this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving, we especially celebrate the contributions of American Indian and Alaskan Native people to this nation and their heritage.

American Indian cultures have made remarkable contributions to our national identity. Their unique spiritual, artistic and literary contributions, together with their vibrant customs and celebrations, enliven and enrich our land. American Indians and Alaska Natives play a vital role in maintaining our nation's strength and prosperity.

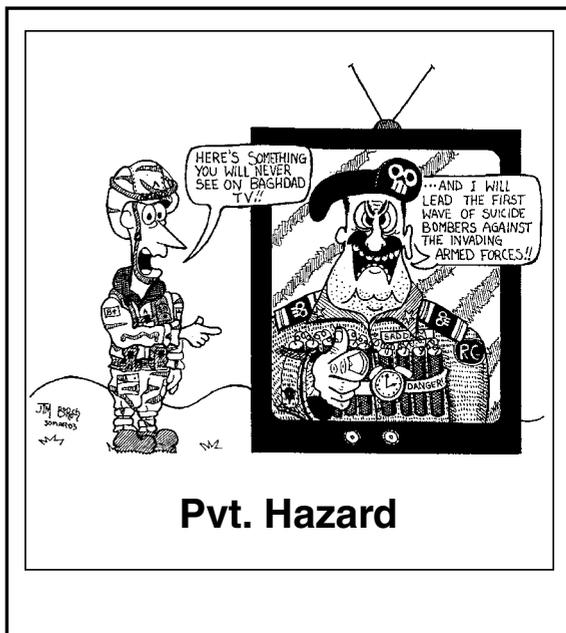
Almost half of America's Native American tribal leaders have served in the U.S. armed forces, following in the foot-

steps of their forebears who distinguished themselves during the World Wars and the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

Their patriotism again appeared after the Sept. 11 attacks, as American Indian law enforcement officers volunteered to serve in air marshal programs.

On the local level, American Indians and Alaska Natives are strengthening their communities through education and business development, opening the doors to opportunity, and contributing to a brighter future for all.

During National American Indian Heritage Month, I encourage all Fort Carson soldiers, family members and civilians to learn more about the history and heritage of the native peoples of this great land. Such action reaffirms our appreciation and respect for their traditions and way of life and can help to preserve an important part of our culture for generations yet to come.



Pvt. Hazard

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News

Tax Relief Act aids servicemembers, families

by K.L. Vantran

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Legislation signed by President Bush on Veterans Day increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000 and provides that the full payment is tax-free.

That portion of the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 is retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001, to provide for servicemembers who died in the terrorist attacks the following day and in the ongoing global war on terror, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, director, Armed Forces Tax Council.

“If you are killed on active duty, regardless of whether you’re in theater, in a training accident or die from disease, your family receives \$12,000 death gratuity that is not taxed,” she added. “And that’s a big change. In addition any future increases to the death gratuity will remain tax free.”

The death gratuity has been \$6,000 since 1991, with half of it being taxed, said the director. “It just didn’t seem to be fair for the military family who was left grieving for their servicemember to get hit with a tax bill,” she added.

Capital gain exclusion for home sales is one of the most common areas people were looking for tax relief in, said Fenton. “This act will allow members to suspend the period of time which they have to sell their

home and take the tax exclusion so they won’t have to pay that capital gains,” said Fenton. “It’s retroactive to 1997 so military members who have sold their homes since 1997 have one year from Nov. 11, 2003, to request a refund for any tax they did pay.”

Since 1997, when the law was previously changed, if servicemembers who owned a home got reassigned more than 50 miles from that home or were ordered to move on post, they were no longer able to roll over the gain from that sale to the next home they purchased.

Also since 1997 individuals could exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couples) of gain from the sale of a home if they resided in the home for two of the five years preceding the sale. Under this act, military and Foreign Service personnel can suspend (for up to 10 years) the time transferred away from home on official extended duty for purposes of applying the five-year portion of the two-out-of-five-year rule.

The 2003 act also includes above-the-line deduction for overnight travel expenses of military reservists and National Guardsmen who have to travel more than 100 miles to attend drills or meetings.

“The act allows for an above-the-line, which means you don’t have to itemize your taxes to take advantage of this deduction,” said Fenton. She added that servicemembers will “be able to deduct unreim-

bursed travel expenses such as lodging, 50 percent of meals and any transportation costs.” This part of the act is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2003.

When the tax code changed in 1986, it said any military benefit existing in September 1986 would remain tax-free, said Fenton. However, it was always unclear whether military child-care was included in that, she added. “This act merely makes it clear that those provisions of child-care were intended to be tax-free to military members.”

The tax act also provides for extra tax-filing time for troops serving in contingency operations. The internal revenue code allows servicemembers who are serving in combat zones or hazardous duty areas to have an extension of time — usually 180 days from the time the person leaves the combat zone — to file taxes.

“A lot of military operations don’t rise to the level of being declared by the president as ‘combat,’” said Fenton. “But there are several contingency operations where servicemembers are outside the continental United States.”

The act also includes modifying eligibility criteria of tax-exempt veterans organizations; tax-free treatment of homeowners’ assistance program payments; suspension of tax-exempt status for designated terrorist organizations; and extension of victims’ tax relief to astronauts who die on space missions.

Holiday mail

From Page 1

After the anthrax attacks in October 2001, the "Any Servicemember" mail programs were suspended. However, several installations have received donations, and are passing the public's gratitude on to troops by sending packages through official military mail.

An Army Reserve chaplain has mailed 300 donated packages to Iraq for Soldiers in the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, and plans to keep forwarding them as long as donations come in.

Lt. Col. DeWayne Brewer, the 4th Inf. Div. Rear

Detachment chaplain, heads Operation Peace and Joy, a program that gives the public an opportunity to show its kindness toward servicemembers while still protecting the privacy of Soldiers.

"I kept getting inquiries from people in the community on how they could send items to Soldiers. So I e-mailed a two-page letter to a few people explaining that we are prohibited from giving out individual Soldier names and addresses due to privacy reasons, but they could send donations to my office" said Brewer, a Kentucky native.

"Now I'm overwhelmed with the gifts that I've

received. We go through the contents as a safety precaution, and my office has turned into a mailroom," Brewer said. "This outpour reminds me of when Jesus fed multitudes with only fives loaves of bread and two fish."

Donations have poured into Texas from as far away as Washington and Maine. Brewer sends the boxes, which contain enough gifts for two people, to chaplains in Iraq, who then distribute the gifts to their troops.

At Fort Carson, Co., the Directorate of Community Activities is accepting donations from outside the post's gates, but it doesn't take on the responsibility of mailing the packages.

"When we get in donations, we call units and ask if they want to accept them, then they come pick up the items and distribute how they see fit," said an official from Fort Carson's DCA.

Gifts worth more than \$200,000 have been provided by the surrounding communities, said Netty Eastlake, the DCA deputy.

"It just touches my heart everyday to see the unsolicited support our Soldiers are receiving," Eastlake said. "One company donated 100,000 Christmas cards so that Soldiers could send something back to their family members."

"I know that it frustrates some who can't directly

mail packages to Soldiers, but the military is providing wonderful support to take care of its own," Brewer said. "My idea wasn't original. I piggybacked off another chaplain who was doing something similar in his unit."

Lomax also recommends that people look for local organizations that support the family members of deployed troops.

"I remember when I spent several months away, I worried about my wife finding time for herself because we have three small children," Lomax said. "It would have been a great relief knowing that she had someone who would watch the kids while she had an opportunity to go shopping or get her hair done.

"It would be a gift to rake a family member's leaves, shovel her snow or volunteer to help maintain her yard," said Lomax.

There are also several other programs to help people support and acknowledge servicemembers and their families. Log on to the following Web sites to show support, to include virtual thank-you cards and calling-card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones:

http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.htm

<http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>

<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>.

Military

Kit Carson's descendant visits Post

by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger
Mountaineer staff

Kit Carson was a trapper, scout, Indian agent, soldier and authentic legend of the West. In 1842 Carson met John C. Fremont, who hired him as a guide. Over the next several years, Carson helped guide Fremont to the Oregon Territory, California and through much of the Central Rocky Mountains and the Great Basin. His service with Fremont made Kit Carson a national hero, presented in popular fiction as a rugged mountain man capable of superhuman feats.

"Not only is he the post namesake, but Kit Carson was also a frontiersman, an early scout and explorer, who helped open up the West," said Paul D. Martin, director of the office of historical programs, 3rd Cavalry Museum. "He was also a second lieutenant in the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen in 1847, which later became the 3rd U.S. Cavalry and today is the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment."

The 3rd Cavalry Museum is doing its part to preserve Kit Carson's legacy along with help from Kit Carson's great grandson, John M. Carson, who works on his family ranch south of La Junta and is a fountain of information concerning his great grandfather.

"We have contracted for a custom-made, life-like

mannequin of Kit Carson circa 1847," said Martin. "Mr. (John) Carson has offered to come and assist us in defining what type of clothing he would have worn at that time. Also, he is supposed to be the spitting image of Kit, so we want to do some facial studies of him to help the sculptors produce the mannequin.

"We have some images of Kit Carson from the time period we are trying to recreate," said Martin. "We will photograph John Carson and use comparisons to assist in making a realistic mannequin of Kit Carson."

The mannequin is being sculpted by Dorfman Museum Figures out of Baltimore, Md., and Martin expects it to be completed in a couple months.

After a revamping of the current display, the mannequin will be a realistic centerpiece for the Kit Carson display in the 3rd Cavalry Museum. The Kit Carson display will also contain facsimiles of Kit Carson's Army commission papers signed by President James K. Polk, his last will and testimony, and a plethora of other Carson related documents and items.

"I'm excited to see how it turns out," said Carson. "It's exciting to see folks shine a new light on Kit's life."



Photo by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger

Paul D. Martin, right, director of the office of historical programs, 3rd Cavalry Museum, shows John M. Carson, great grandson of Kit Carson, the adjutant's log of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen that documents the regiment's activities from 1846 to 1862.

Military Briefs

Misc.

West Point — The U.S. Military Academy at West Point is looking for branch-qualified company grade officers and noncommissioned officers in the rank of sergeant first class interested in an assignment to the USMA. NCOs should have drill sergeant or platoon sergeant experience with 12 to 15 years of service to be assigned to the staff and faculty as instructors and Company Tactical NCOs. Selected officers will normally attend advanced civil schooling for up to two years followed by a three-year tour at West Point. For application information, go to <http://www.usma.army.mil/adjutant-general> or write to Management Operations Branch, AG Division, West Point, N.Y. 10996-1926.

Go Warrant Officer — The Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties if you qualify. Soldiers with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the Warrant Officer Recruiting Team at www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or DSN 536-0484/0458/0488/0478/1860/0271.

CIF Hours

Central Issue Facility hours of operation:

Regular business hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30

to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

Initial/partial issues

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Direct exchange

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Partial turn-ins

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Full turn-ins

Appointments are scheduled Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Call 524-2006 or 526-2729.

Effective immediately:

Replacement will be scheduled Mondays, Thursdays and Friday mornings.

Demobilized units tentatively have Tuesdays and Wednesdays to schedule out processing.

Mobilization units will schedule unit direct exchange by appointment. Unit supply sergeants will collect Soldiers' DX items and schedule CIF appointments. A CIF employee will work one-on-one with supply sergeant versus having bus loads of Soldiers arrive at CIF to exchange one or two items.

Active-duty units — PCS/ETS/chapters/retirees will make an initial out processing appointment (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays) for turn-in. All follow-on appointments (14 OCIE items or less) will be scheduled if needed.

Bulk issue and turn-ins — by appointment only.

Appointments can be made with Connie Thompson at 526-4057 or 524-2006. POC for this information is Mark A. Rudd Sr., CIF supervisor at 526-6477.

Briefings

eArmyU — eArmyU program briefings are conducted at the Mountain Post Training and Education Center, building 1117, Tuesdays at 9 and 11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

The Army Career and Alumni Center briefing is required for all departing servicemembers. The current ACAP policy is to register personnel ETSing one year out and retirees two years out. Briefings are held Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Call 526-1002 or 526-0640 to schedule a briefing.

Are you ETSing? If you're within 120 days of end of time in service, you must immediately call 526-2607 or 526-2599 to make your appointment for your mandatory Reserve Component Briefing.

The Commanding General's Newcomers' Brief is the third Wednesday of each month, 1 to 3 p.m. at McMahon Theater.

Laundry Service

Post Laundry Service — The post laundry service provides free laundry and dry cleaning service to Soldiers for government-owned property only. Items issued by the Central Issue Facility should be cleaned at the Post Laundry prior to turn in. Soldiers are reminded to allow extra time for items to return from the cleaners. It is not recommended to pick up your equipment on the same day as the scheduled CIF appointment. The turn around for the service is 72 hours. No appointment is necessary. The Post Laundry will not clean personal items like BDUs, boots, tent pegs, canteens, entrenching tools or wet-weather gear. Material TA-50 items that can be washed

include: sleeping bag assembly, chemical suits, Gortex, ruck sacks, coveralls, CVC jackets and most web equipment.

Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3:45 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays. For more information, call 526-8806 or 526-8804.

Hours of operation

The Mountain Post Training and Education Center's hours for certain programs and services will change Monday.

Hours are:

eArmyU Testing center, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Army Learning Center and Basic Skills Classes, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Counselor Support Center, Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Claims Division hours — The Claims Division office hours are now Monday through Thursday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. The office is closed Fridays.

Personnel Claims hours:

Mandatory briefing: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Submit DD 1840/1840R

Receive documents for filing:

Submitting completed Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Claims: 1 to 4 p.m. Closed on Friday.

If there is an emergency personnel claims issue on Friday, call Tina Kolb at 526-1352 to see if it warrants an appointment.

Editor's note: The deadline for submitting "briefs" to the Mountaineer is 5 p.m. Friday before publication.

Dining Schedule

Nov. 22 to 30

Exceptions

- Butts Army Airfield dining facility is closed until further notice.
- CAV House and 43rd ASG are closed Nov. 22 and 23, and Nov. 27-30.
- Mountaineer Inn is closed until further notice.
- Strikers Cafe is closed Nov. 27-30.



Weekday Dining Facilities

43rd ASG Cheyenne Mtn. Inn (building 1040)
3rd ACR CAV House (building 2461)
3rd ACR Patton House (building 2161)
10th SFG (A) (building 7481)
3rd BCT Strikers Cafe (building 2061)

Weekday Meal Hours

Breakfast 6 to 9 a.m. (All facilities)
6:30 to 8:30 a.m. (Cheyenne Mtn. Inn)
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and Training Holiday Dining Facilities

3rd ACR Cav. House. (building 2461)
43rd ASG (building 1040)
3rd ACR Patton House (building 2161)
3rd BCT Strikers Cafe (building 2061)

Saturday, Sunday and Training Holiday Meal Hours

Breakfast 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
3 to 5 p.m. (Cheyenne Mtn. Inn)

Thanksgiving Day Menu

Thanksgiving Day Menu

Shrimp cocktail
Roast turkey
Baked ham
Steamship round
Mashed potatoes
Sweet potatoes
Salads
Breads
Beverages
Seasoned vegetables
Savory bread dressing
Cornbread dressing
Giblet gravy
Apple, Pecan and Pumpkin pies

Cost

• All active duty members receiving Basic Allowance for Subsistence will pay \$5.25.

• Retirees, guests and family members of all active duty sergeants and above will pay \$5.25.

• Family members of corporals or specialists and below pay \$4.55.

Dining Facilities

Nontraditional Holiday Meal

Served Nov. 26

43rd ASG Cheyenne Mtn. Inn (building 1040)
3rd BCT Iron Bde. (building 2061)
3rd ACR CAV House (building 2461)
3rd ACR Patton House (building 2161)

Traditional Holiday Meal

Served Nov. 27

10th Special Forces Group (building 7481)

Hours of Operation

Breakfast 6 to 8:30 a.m.
Thanksgiving Meal 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Dinner 4 to 5:30 p.m.



Photos by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger

A mournful goodbye ...

Sgt. Urbon Thompson, Headquarters Support Company, 52nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 43rd Area Support Group, plays "Taps" during a memorial service held for Spc. James R. Wolf, HSC, 52nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 43rd ASG. Wolf's awards include an Army Achievement Medal, a National Defense Service Ribbon, and a Good Conduct Medal. Wolf, who served in the Army for a little over three years, has also been posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.



Special Reaction Team ...

Trained for any crisis on Carson

Courtesy Provost Marshal Office

The Fort Carson's Military Police Special Reaction Team is specially trained to respond to any potential crisis situation that may arise on post. These members are trained to respond to high-risk situations. The SRT is deployed in the event a situation develops that is beyond the capabilities of the regular MP units assigned to the installation. The primary goal is to preserve human life and restore normal activity on the installation. The members of the SRT are chosen from the ranks of experienced military police. These Soldiers

Traffic Roll Up for Oct. 30 to Nov. 12

During this two-week period, there were 73 total citations:

- Four for speeding
- Eight for running a stop sign or red traffic light
- Five for having expired plates
- Five for not wearing a seat-belt

- 24 for improper parking
- 27 for other violations (e.g.: malfunctioning equipment, passing on shoulder, lack of insurance or registration, etc.)

have to undergo tryouts which are extremely demanding, both physically and mentally. After the rigorous tryouts, the remainder of the MPs who have managed to pass must attend a two-week course at the Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The course focuses on SRT tactics, specialized police operations, counterterrorism operations, negotiation and instinctive firearm training.

The Army's SRT can be compared to a Special Weapons and Tactics team in the civilian police force. These elite Soldiers train in order to respond to difficult and dangerous situations.

On Oct. 24, Col. Joseph E. Orr, Lt. Col. Byron A. Freeman and distinguished guests from the Federal Bureau of Prisons were on hand to witness a vehicle assault demonstration performed by the Fort Carson Special Reaction Team. As the SRT stormed out of its vehicle, a diversionary device was thrown. This device distracted the "suspect" in the vehicle and startled the crowd with a loud bang and a cloud of smoke. The distraction gave the team the exact diversion needed in order to surprise and shock the suspect.

In less than a minute, the suspect



Photo courtesy Provost Marshal Office

Soldiers react during a vehicle assault demonstration. The Army's Special Reaction Team can be compared to a Special Weapons and Tactics team in the civilian police force. These elite Soldiers train in order to respond to difficult and dangerous situations.

was apprehended and being removed from the scene by the SRT members, who each have a specific, well rehearsed position and responsibility.

Vehicle assaults are just one element of the Fort Carson SRT's mission.

These dedicated and vigilant warriors are always on standby, ready to answer the call of a potential crisis situa-

tion. They continually strive to be the best trained, best equipped and most qualified Soldiers to react to any situation that may occur. Through their rigorous training program, strong liaison with local law enforcement agencies and dedication to the mission, rest assured, the Fort Carson SRT stands ready to answer that call.

Greenback

Answers to deployment tax questions

Courtesy 1st Lt. Theodore Stutz
4th Finance Battalion

The Internal Revenue Service has provided a new section on its Web site containing important information to help servicemembers and family members of the armed forces receive all of the tax benefits available to them. The new information is available by clicking on the "Armed Forces Tax Benefits" link on the bottom right side of the front page of www.irs.gov.

The new section highlights several special tax provisions that apply to soldiers who have or are currently serving in combat zones. The provisions include extensions for filing tax returns, paying taxes and tax exclusions of some military pay.

IRS Web site highlights:

- Questions and answers about exclusions, extensions and other tax benefits available to members of the armed forces serving in a combat zone.
- IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide, which covers the special tax situations of active members of the armed forces.
- Several recent news releases and notices, including Tax Tip 2003-41 — For Reservists, New Enlistees May Get Deferral for Back Taxes; News Release
- IR-2002-18 — Tax Relief for Troops in Afghanistan Combat Zone; Notice
- 2002-17 — Tax Relief for those Involved in Operation Enduring Freedom.
- A special e-mail address for members of the armed forces, their spouses, authorized agents or representa-

tives, which can be used to notify the IRS about someone serving in a combat zone.

Summary of special tax provisions

Generally, grades E-1 through most of the warrant officer ranks exclude all their military pay received for military service in a combat zone. For commissioned officers, the monthly earnings that are tax exempt are capped at the highest enlisted member's monthly pay (command sergeant major of the Army), plus any hostile fire or imminent danger pay received. For 2003, the monthly limit that is not subject to federal income tax is \$5,882.70.

Summary of Special Tax Extensions

The IRS automatically extends the deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes, filing claims for refunds and taking other actions related to federal income tax for U.S. Armed Forces personnel serving in a combat zone. The IRS also extends the deadline for those deployed overseas away from their permanent duty station, in support of operations in a qualified hazardous duty area, but who are outside that area.

The deadline for filing returns, making payments or taking any other action with the IRS is extended for at least 180 days after:

- The last day of qualified combat zone service, or
- The last day of any continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from the combat zone.

What you need to do

Taxpayers qualifying for such combat zone relief should notify the IRS directly of their status through a special e-mail address: combatzone@irs.gov. Calls can also be made to the main IRS help line at (800) 829-1040. They should provide name, stateside address, date of birth and date of deployment to the combat zone. They should not include any Social Security numbers if using e-mail. This notification may be made by the taxpayer, spouse or authorized agent or representative. Qualified personnel should also mark "Combat Zone" at the top of the form, along with the date of deployment, when filing returns.

If a notice from the IRS inadvertently goes to an individual serving in a combat zone or his or her spouse, the notice can be deferred by following the e-mail steps or by sending the notice back to the IRS marked with the words "Combat Zone" and the date of deployment. The IRS plans to take additional steps to provide additional guidance on issues involving military personnel and combat zones. This new information will also be posted to the armed forces page of www.irs.gov.

Fort Carson finance announcements

We would like to retract our previous announcement concerning our Native American appreciation day planned for Nov. 17. We have cancelled it this year in order to allow full participation in the 7th Infantry Division Native American appreciation day Nov. 20.

Finance customer service will be closed Dec. 12 for a battalion training holiday.

Lending a hand ...

Community helps on home front, abroad

by Pfc. Aimee J. Felix
Mountaineer staff

Toys, free haircuts, towing expenses, sunglasses, pumpkins, sports tickets and a free day at the zoo are just a few of things the local community has pulled together to offer our Soldiers and those they've left behind.

Inspired by her brother's deployment to Iraq, Michele Helwig, a Denver at-home mom, has spearheaded a drive to collect sunglasses for troops overseas. "I had a Fort Carson Soldier, who was over there for eight months, tell me that he went through about seven pairs of glasses because of the sand," said Helwig. To date, she has collected \$40,000 worth of sunglasses. Her latest shipment, sent Nov. 13, will make it right on time for the holidays.

Even corporations have felt the burden. Walter Drake Incorporated, a local mail order catalog company, has donated 150,000 Christmas cards to troops overseas so they would have cards to send to their families and friends.

On the home front, the Fort Carson and Colorado Springs communities have taken it upon themselves, more so in this holiday season, to take care of military families.

The Army Community Service has a food basket program, which offers a free

turkey or ham for Thanksgiving. Families that think they can benefit from this program should go to their command financial noncommissioned officer for a voucher. The prerequisites are being a servicemember or servicemember's spouse and having children. The turkey or ham can be picked up at the commissary with the voucher by Saturday. The program will also be available for Christmas.

ACS also gives away new and donated baby clothes for newborns. "We have more than enough to offer," said Master Sgt. Rebecca Corley, command financial noncommissioned officer in charge for ACS.

Toys, the classic holiday donation, are also available to all. Project Santa offers gift certificates to specific toy store locations. "This way parents can pick what they know their children will enjoy, as opposed to getting some randomly donated toy," said Corley. For the gift certificate, parents should go to their command financial NCO, and fill out a form for it.

Now, in the winter, car trouble is on the rise and the Auto Craft Center on post and Phil Long are both offering free towing for military spouses and up to \$100 in free car repair.

For more information on donations and charities call Corley at 536-4590.

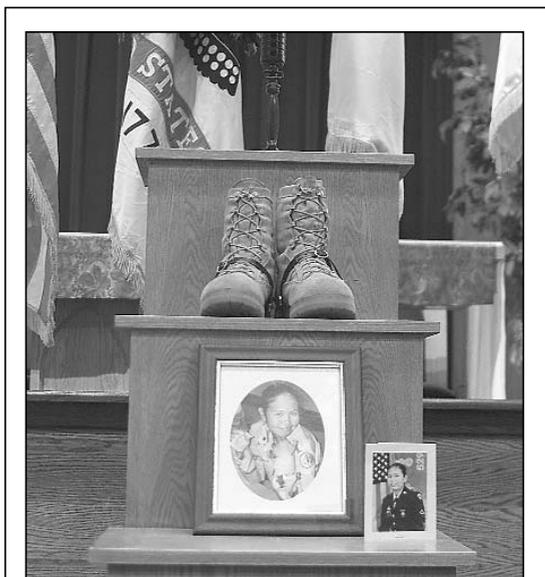


Photo by Pfc. Aimee J. Felix

Saying goodbye ...

A memorial service was held at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel Nov. 14 for Spc. Christy Legua Tillman, a supply specialist with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Supply and Transportation Troop. Tillman, just home from Iraq was driving with her husband and 14-month-old daughter when she was killed in a car accident in Colorado Springs Oct. 24. Tillman is survived by her husband Gregory, their daughter Jazmine and her parents Ven and Merlyn Castillo of Dasmariñas, Cavita, Republic of the Philippines.

Community

Maternity care changes Dec. 28

Courtesy Evans Army Community Hospital

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 included a provision to eliminate the requirement for a Non-Availability Statement for TRICARE Standard/Extra maternity care provided to patients living within 40 miles of Evans Army Community Hospital. This change will become effective Dec. 28. Mothers-to-be who are TRICARE Standard/Extra starting prenatal care after this date will no longer be required to secure an NAS, even if they live near a military hospital willing and able to provide prenatal and delivery services. It is important, however, to remember that any maternity care starting before Dec. 28 will still require an NAS. For example, if a (TRICARE Standard/Extra) woman living 25 miles from EACH has her first prenatal visit on Dec. 27, she will still be required to get an NAS to cover the entire maternity episode. If another mother-to-be has her first prenatal visit Dec. 29, she will not need to get an NAS.

There may be some women who are enrolled in TRICARE Prime who wish to have their baby delivered by a civilian doctor in a civilian hospital. As long as the first prenatal visit takes place after Dec. 28, she may disenroll from TRICARE Prime and have her baby, paying the appropriate TRICARE Standard/Extra cost shares. These individuals should remember, however, that exercising this option could result in their being locked out of TRICARE Prime for one

year. This would require them to pay Standard/Extra deductibles and cost shares for all care, whether or not associated with the maternity episode. In this situation, deductibles and cost shares for authorized services will still be limited by the appropriate fiscal year catastrophic cap, \$1,000 for active duty families and \$3,000 for retiree families. These are the maximum potential costs associated with disenrolling from TRICARE Prime.

It is very important to make sure that any mothers-to-be fully understand how enrollment decisions, authorization requirements and NAS requirements may affect the cost of having a baby. No beneficiary should have the welcome addition of a new family member marred by unexpected expenses because they did not understand administrative requirements related to maternity care. The Evans Patient Representative Office, 526-7225 or 526-7256 and TRICARE Service Center personnel, 264-5000 are available to help you understand your benefits.

Most women find that the maternity care available through EACH is equal to or better than that available through civilian providers. If, however, you wish to return home to have your baby, you're planning to leave the military during your pregnancy, or any other circumstance that could affect the continuity of your maternity care, use the available customer service channels to make an informed decision.

DECAM

From Page 1

to stop radon from being trapped in a building. Basically, the gas is vented out into the atmosphere where it is diffused and no longer poses a risk. Once the systems are in place, the facilities are retested on a routine basis.

Fort Carson continuously conducts radon testing in on-post facilities and radon system projects are ongoing. In an instance such as the West Child Care Center, Fort Carson is more aggressive in pursuing a remedy even though the levels are below what would be considered a threat to human health.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Asbestos/Lead/Radon Program Manager at 526-3127 or you can log on the EPA Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon/pubs/citguide.html> for more information about radon.

Community EVENTS

Miscellaneous

Share Colorado — Share Colorado holiday dinner packages will be offered Dec. 1, 2 and 3 at the Family Connection from 11:30 to 1 p.m. Only cash is accepted. Call Vicky Shaffer at 351-4366 or 526-1070 for more information. Visit www.sharecolorado.com for the current menu.

Flu Shot — If you missed the opportunity to receive the flu vaccine, do not worry. Flu shots are given:

Who: All eligible Tricare beneficiaries age 17 and older.

When: Nov. 17 to Dec. 12.

How: By appointment, call 526-5000.

Where: Evans Army Community Hospital, east entrance of the hospital, just past Admissions on the right side.

• For all pediatric patients up to age 17, flu vaccine will be available through Pediatric Walk-in Clinic from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:20 p.m. Monday to Friday.

• All eligible federal employees get flu shots through Occupational Health Clinic.

Christmas Unlimited applications available — In further support of our soldiers and their families, your Army Community Service program Financial Readiness section has started screening for Christmas Unlimited applications. Christmas Unlimited is a local nonprofit organization that provides new and refurbished toys for Christmas to children in El Paso and Teller counties. This year more than 90 percent of the toys are new.

Christmas toys are available for children from birth up to the developmental or chronological age of 12. Parents of qualifying children will be provided a holiday "shopping certificate" that can be used at the Christmas Unlimited distribution site. This year, Desaree Venema (ACS Finance Counselor) will be the Fort Carson project coordinator.

Please call ACS to schedule your Christmas Unlimited application appointment at 526-4590. Applications will be accepted now through Nov. 30.

Bull Elk hunting seasons on Fort Carson — Saturday marked the beginning of the third bull elk rifle season, which extends through today. The fourth season begins Saturday and ends Wednesday.

Bull elk licenses are available over the counter, but after the actual beginning of the seasons, licenses can only be purchased at Colorado Division of Wildlife Offices (Regional Office located at 4255 Sinton Rd., Colorado Springs, Southeast of Interstate 25 and Garden of the Gods Road). The Fort Carson Outdoor Recreation Center no longer sells hunting licenses, but they can be purchased almost anywhere hunting equipment is sold.

The Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management Wildlife Check Station (building 9301) will be open depending on range availability from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day during the season to issue Range Passes. Call the Range Control Information Line at 526-4136 to determine what training areas will be available for hunting. For current information about hunting on Fort Carson, call the Wildlife Office Information Recording at 579-9318 and select Option 5. For specific questions, call 576-8074 or visit our Web site at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/gmu591>.

Colorado provides military hunting preference for deployed soldiers — Deployments may have prevented some active duty hunters from applying for Colorado's limited game license drawing. The application deadline for limited game licenses was April 1. As a result, the Colorado Wildlife Commission initiated a program to allow deployed servicemembers access to big game licenses and preference points.

The Preference Point Program allowed deployed servicemembers to purchase leftover hunting licenses

prior to the licenses being offered to the general public Aug. 12. Although this deadline has past, military hunters are still eligible to apply for a preference point for next year's hunt.

To apply for a preference point, the soldier must have been deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on or about April 1, 2003. Documentation of the above must be included with submission of the application. (Photocopies are acceptable.)

The Preference Point Application is available at http://www.wildlife.state.co.us/hunt/BigGame/military/preference_point.pdf. The application must be received at the Colorado Division of Wildlife by Jan. 2, 2004.

It is unknown at this time if the Preference Point Program will be continued in 2004 by the Colorado Wildlife Commission. For more information, call the Wildlife Office at 579-9094.

Federal employee flu shots — Eligible federal employees can receive their influenza vaccine through January, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. from the Occupational Health Clinic located in building 2059 on Magrath Avenue.

People can call the Influenza Hotline at 526-6422 for updates.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets weekly on Fort Carson — Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who desire to stop drinking or remain sober. All members of the Fort Carson community are invited. During meetings the members share their experiences, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. Since 1935, AA has been working successfully for men and women of every age and kind of background. There are more than 100 meetings of AA in Colorado Springs. The AA meeting on Fort Carson is at Evans Army Community Hospital, fourth floor wing, Room 4918 every Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by the Colorado Springs AA Center Office and lead by a retired Army sergeant. Call 526-2862 for further information.

ACAP job openings — Army Career and Alumni Program currently has the following job listings for interested personnel. For more information about the jobs, call 526-1002.

What: Group leader for Early Childhood Development in Colorado Springs. Who: Candidates with a clean background check, three years experience, CDA/AA Early Childhood Development required.

What: Assistant teacher in Colorado Springs. Who: Entry level (two years experience or less) with clean background check.

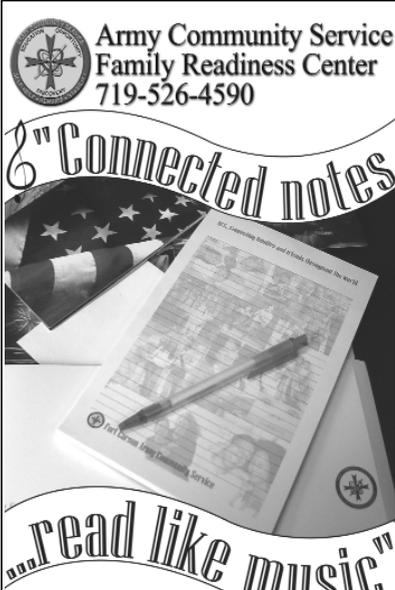
What: Six openings for Logistics Group Leader in Pueblo. Who: BA/BS degree and leadership experience required.

What: Immediate openings for Equipment Technicians in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah for oil field services. Who: All military occupational specialties and ranks.

Annual leave donations — Joe Martinez, Directorate of Community Activities and Alan Wright, an employee in the Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management, need annual leave donations to help cover absences because of illnesses and the exhaustion of available paid leave, call Robin Spencer at 526-0427.

Civilian employees willing to donate annual leave under the "Voluntary Leave Transfer Program" should call Patrick McCusker at 526-1696 or Kathy Green at 526-1729.

DOD civilian leave donation — Department of Defense civilians can currently only donate annual leave to other civilian employees who are seriously ill or have long-term illnesses and have exhausted their sick leave. Civilian employees cannot donate annual leave to other civilians to use as annual leave. Civilian cannot donate leave to soldiers under any circumstances.



**Army Community Service
Family Readiness Center
719-526-4590**

"Connected notes"

...read like music"

"Connecting the Notes"

soldier packets (designed/assembled by ACS) are available to the spouses of DEPLOYED soldiers. The packets are a great way to stay in touch and contain postcards, stationary, a pen and envelopes. If you are interested in including one of these packets in a care-package, stop by ACS and pick one up. Minimum of 1 per family, while supplies last.

Gate construction — Gate 5 upgrade construction has started. A by-pass road will allow entry through the gate and detour traffic around the construction area. This dirt road will be operational for the duration of construction. Please watch your speed. The speed limit on the by-pass road is 20 mph. Fines are doubled for speeding in the construction area.

Gates 1, 2 and 3 are open. Gate 4 reopens today. Construction on Gate 20 is scheduled to start Dec. 1. A by-pass road will also be in place for continued entry through the gate. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Claims against the estate

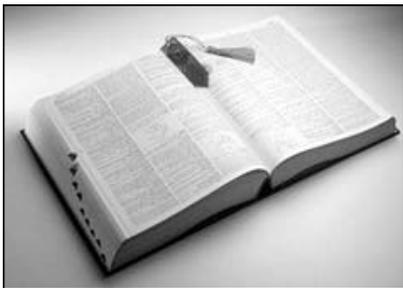
Claims against the estate — With deepest regrets to the family of Cpl. Darius Jennings, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact CW3 Tracy Forehand, 232-4581 or 392-0374.

Claims against the estate — With deepest regrets to the family of Spc. Brian Peniston, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact 1st Lt. Randy Mitchell at 526-2095 or (478) 335-3531.

Claims against the estate — With deepest regrets to the family of Spc. Christy Tillman, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to her estate should contact Chief Warrant Officer Silas Bland at 930-7961.

Claims against the estate — With deepest regrets to the family of Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Badder, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact 2nd Lt. Justin Journey at 526-2785 or (502) 727-6066.

Claims against the estate — With deepest regrets to the family of Spc. James R. Wolf, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact Capt. Jason M. Whitten at 526-0028 or 526-0029.



Chapel

Thanksgiving Worship Service — There will be Thanksgiving Worship Service Nov. 27 at 10 a.m., Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Youth of the Chapel — Activities for Protestant and Catholic Middle School and High School Youth take place Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Protestant High School activities include Bible Studies Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Catholic youth classes meet at 10:45 a.m. Sundays, at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Native American Sweatlodge — Native American Sweatlodge ceremonies (He Ska Akicita Inipi) are offered to military personnel, dependants and Department of Defense personnel for traditional prayer and purification. Fasting before the ceremony is recommended and refreshments are offered following the ceremony. Please call Michael Dunning at 382-5331 or (c) 330-9537 for ceremonial information and directions.

Chapel Schedule					
ROMAN CATHOLIC					
Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
M-W-F	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Battiato/649-5260
Tues., Wed., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	8 a.m.	Mass	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/526-5744
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Battiato/649-5260
Sunday	12:15 p.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/526-5744
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
PROTESTANT					
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Kincaid/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Borden/526-3711
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Fox/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot./Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Byrd/526-2811
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Byrd/526-2811
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Fox/524-1166
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Ellison/526-8890
Sunday	6 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/524-1166
LITURGICAL					
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Lutheran	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Lloyd/526-3888
JEWISH					
For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.					
WICCA					
Monday	6:30 p.m.		Family University	Building 1161	Melissa Dalugdu/330-7873
MORMON					
Sunday	2 p.m.	LDS	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Jones/526-3718
NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE					
Please call the following for ceremonial information and directions. Michael Dunning at 382-5331 or cell phone 330-9537					
Youth of the chapel — Activities for Protestant and Catholic Middle School and high school youths take place Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Protestant High School activities include Bible studies Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Catholic youth classes meet at 10:45 a.m. Sundays, Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.					
For additional information, contact the Installation Chaplain's Office, building 1550, at 526-5209. Normally, free child-care is available during on-post worship services.					

Daily Bible readings: In order to assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.

Friday — Psalms 141 & Matthew 9-10

Saturday — Psalms 142 & Matthew 11-12

Sunday — Psalms 143 & Matthew 13-14

Monday — Psalms 144 & Matthew 15-16

Tuesday — Psalms 145 & Matthew 17-18

Wednesday — Psalms 146 & Matthew 19-20

Thursday — Psalms 147 & Matthew 21-22

The Army Cycle Of Prayer — Each week the Office of the Army Chief of Chaplains will highlight Army units, the Army at large, the nation and religious organizations to focus prayer. You are invited to join with the chaplain community and pray for these individuals and organizations. Please pray this week for the following: **Unit:** For the soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers supporting Homeland Defense missions and/or serving in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Army: For all Foreign Area Officers and their families, especially as they celebrate Thanksgiving over the world while separated from their own families. **State:** For all soldiers and their families from the state of Ohio. **Pray also for Gov. Bob Taft,** the state legislators and municipal officials of the Buckeye State.

Nation: For the Tom Ridge, director of the Office of Homeland Defense. Pray that God would strengthen and guide him in his efforts to coordinate the safety of our great land.

Religious: As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, even as we face an enemy that seeks to destroy our very way of life, let us be ever grateful to God for all his blessings, and to seek his protection and mercy.

For more information on the Army Cycle of Prayer, or to pray for items from previous weeks, visit the cycle's Web site at www.usarmychaplain.com.

Chaplain's Corner

Praise be to God

This holiday season — give credit where credit is due

Chap. (Col.) Lowell Moore
Command Chaplain

Many years ago I heard a story that really made an impression on me. Not only was I impressed enough to remember the story all these years, but I was impressed enough to change the way I gave thanks. The story went something like this:

A man was pheasant hunting in western Kansas when he noticed two cock pheasants engaged in a vicious cock fight several hundred yards away. They were going at each other with so much energy that they were stirring up a small cloud of feathers and dust. After watching for awhile, the hunter noticed a small irrigation ditch that ran from his vantage point to a spot very close to where the pheasants were fighting. He decided to see how close he could get to the fighting birds without being discovered. He got down in the ditch on his hands and knees and painfully crawled to the spot near the fighting birds and then, ever so slowly, he eased his head up for a peek. The birds were so involved in their fight that they hadn't noticed the approaching hunter, and they continued in their quest to beat the other into submission. The hunter, being surprised with his good fortune, decided to push his luck and see if he could

actually take one of these birds. He eased up his gun, aimed, and fired. At the crack of the gun, one of the birds dropped dead, but what happened next is what really surprised the hunter. The remaining pheasant, undaunted but the roar of the gun, immediately jumped on the chest of the dead bird; beat his wings, and began crowing as if to say, "Look what I did!"

When I first heard the story, it brought a smile to my face and I chuckled at the arrogance of that stupid bird. I imagined that just before the crack of the gun, that pheasant thought he was in over his head and was worried about the potential consequences of the situation. Maybe it wished it had never started the fight in the first place and was hoping for a little help from somewhere. I doubt if pheasants pray but if they do, I'm sure this one was praying for some help. Then when help came, it quickly forgot about its stress and took pride in the accomplishment even though it wasn't its own.

The smile quickly left my face when I realized that I often act just like that bird. How many times have I been in a situation that caused me to lose sleep worrying about getting the job done on time, or

pleasing the boss, or failing in a way that would expose my shortcomings to everyone, etc.? Then after I have exhausted my personal resources, how many times would I out of desperation go to God or friends for help? Then how many times would I receive help and everything would work out? I hope I didn't behave like that pheasant and forget how I needed the help and fail to say thanks to God and those who have been there to help me when I needed it. This little story has made me be careful to thank those who pull me out of a tough spot, of give a word of encouragement, or help me in any way.

We are coming to the Thanksgiving season and I hope we see this day as more than an excuse to feel justified in gorging ourselves on a great meal. I also hope we don't behave like the pheasant and forget to thank God and the many time he has come to our rescue.

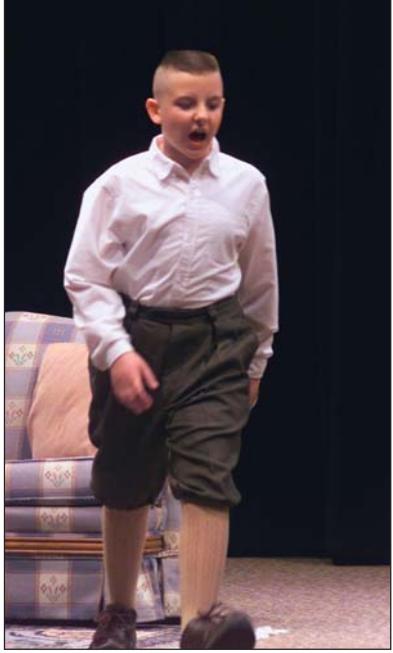
I encourage each of you to pause a moment before you descend on that delicious Thanksgiving meal to thank the one who worked hours to prepare it, the one who faithfully went to work to provide it, and God who made it all possible. Then dig in and enjoy.





Photos by Spc. Curt Cashour

Carson Middle School students attempt to avoid a fight during their production of Christopher Sergel's "We Shook the Family Tree." Set in the 1950s, "We Shook the Family Tree" presents a comedic look at a teenage girl named Hildegarde Dolson and her struggle to find a prom date. Cast members rehearsed the play nearly every day for five to six weeks, according to Bobbi Wilson, director of the play. Pictured from left are: Wayne Havey, Keenan Johnson, Sierra Yates, Kenneth Link, Chance Hibbs, Leanna Felts and Reesa Bohanan.



Hildegarde's potential prom date, Freddie, played by Shawn Karalash, storms off after an argument concerning his knickers.



Hildegarde's younger sister Sally, played by Megan Hurtado, acts out a scene during one of the play's three acts.



Mr. and Mrs. Dolson, played by Wayne Havey and Leanna Felts, flank their daughter Hildegarde, played by Emily Wininger, as they try to console her.

That's entertainment

Carson school play 'shakes the family tree'

by Spc. Curt Cashour
14th Public Affairs Detachment

Backstage before a play in the theater of Fort Carson's Patriot Elementary School, single, red roses lay on the room's chairs. As cast members of the evening's performance filter into the room, Bobbi Wilson, director of the play, informs the actors that it is a theatrical tradition to give roses to performers on opening night. While the tradition of the theater can be traced back many years, in Fort Carson's schools it is just beginning.

Carson Middle School's production of "We Shook The Family Tree" Nov. 13 was the first play to take place in the theater at Patriot Elementary, which opened in the fall.

The theater provides students an outlet in which to showcase the

skills they learn in drama classes that were implemented last year, Carson Middle School Principal Steve Jerman said.

Arts like the theater contribute to the full education of students by requiring them to use parts of the brain they don't normally use in other subjects, Jerman said.

Family Tree cast member Chance Hibbs, a sixth grade Carson student, used his brain to study lines for one to one and a half hours per night, he said.

"Since this is my first play, I was worried about stage fright," Hibbs said.

Shawn Karalash, also a sixth grade Carson student, said participating in the play taught him how to get into character and get along with the other cast members.

Production costs for the play, which also ran Friday night, were around \$550, Wilson said.

"Normally, if your school already has a (theater) program going, it doesn't cost that much. But since we're just starting, it costs a little," Wilson said.

Future productions will cost less because, with each play, the schools accumulate reusable props, costumes and supplies, Wilson said.

The theater is equipped with professional-quality stage lighting and special ceiling panels, which enhance the look and sound of each performance, Jerman said.

In the future, the theater will be used to host a variety of performances for Carson Middle School and the post's three elementary schools, Jerman said.



Out & About

21 28 Nov 2003

Proudly Brought to You by Your Fort Carson Directorate of Community Activities, Bldg. 1217 Specker Ave. 719-526-3161
Visit us at www.ftcarsonmwr.com

"Winter Wonderland" Holiday Village

Special Events Center
Bldg. 1829 Specker Ave

4 - 6 December 2003

For detailed information call,
719-526-4494

Show your holiday and team spirit. "Trim the Tree" Decorating Contest

To register contact Marsha Montoya at the Directorate of Community Activities 526-6452 or e-mail, Marsha.Montoya@carson.army.mil no later than 1 Dec 03

One tree per unit or activity may be entered in the contest. Participants must furnish their own artificial trees, decorations, lights and extension cords.

The Holiday Village theme is "Winter Wonderland" this year. All tree lights will be limited to any combination of blue & white lights.

Trees will be decorated on 3 Dec 03, 8 am - 4 pm.

Special Events Center, Bldg. 1829.

Trees will be judged on 4 Dec 03, prior to the official opening of Holiday Village.

Units, directorates or activities must remove their trees on 8 Dec 03, 8 am - 4 pm.

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**30 January 2003 to
1 February 2004**

Keystone Resort

Tickets at ITR/ITR

Santa is Coming!



**Come meet Santa at the Elkhorn
Tuesday, 9 December 2003
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

This will be a fun holiday party for everyone!

**Free Picture
with Santa for
all Kids!**



- Free Face Painting
- Cookie Decorating
- Children's Movies & Music
- PB&J Sandwiches
- Hot Dogs

- Buttered Popcorn
- Potato Chips
- Holiday Candy
- Kool Aid



\$5.00 per person at the door
Kids 6-10 years are \$2.50
5 years and under are free



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Bldg 2429 Specker Ave

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Sports & Leisure

7th Grade: Winning streak ends

Losing streak continues for 8th-grade Eagles

by Bill Scharton
Mountaineer staff

One streak came to an unpleasant end and another streak painfully kept on going Monday during Carson Middle School boys seventh and eighth-grade basketball action.

The four-game undefeated streak for the Eagles seventh-grade team came to an abrupt halt at home Monday when Woodland Park dealt the Eagles a 46-41 loss. Ironically, it was also Woodland Park that put an end to a four-game unbeaten streak by the Eagles seventh-grade football team during the fall campaign.

Woodland Park's seventh-grade hoopsters executed their coach's scouting report of the Eagles almost to perfection Monday from the start of the game to the final buzzer. The Panthers roared from the starting gate by scoring the first five points of the game and had the Eagles players reeling backward on the heels of their sneakers early in the contest.

Carson battled back and briefly took an 8-7 lead midway through the first quarter. However, the Panthers immediately regained the lead at 9-8 and never trailed again in the game.

Woodland Park's lead was only two points at halftime (23-21), but the Panthers came storming out of the locker room and built the lead to nine points (38-29) by the end of the period. Carson's Devyn Harris was the team's only point producer during the third period with four field goals. He had an opportunity to produce six more points in the frame but was 0-6 at the free throw line.

The Eagles bounced back again by scoring the first six points of the fourth quarter to close the gap to 38-36 with 3:50 left in regulation. The Panthers responded and stayed in front of Carson by hitting some key baskets down the stretch.

In the final quarter, Harris missed four more charity tosses in a row before finally sinking a free throw on his 11th attempt of the game. He finished the contest 1-13 from the line but, as usual, still paced the Eagles in scoring with 23 points. Jeremy Green and Anthony Pritchard added six points each for the Eagles. The loss to Woodland Park was a non-division game so the Eagles remained undefeated in division play (2-0) but fell to 4-1 overall.

"They (Woodland Park) scouted us very well," said Eagles seventh-grade coach Ronald Green.

"They were ready for us today. We started the game in a 1-3-1

zone defense and Woodland Park was ready for it. They attacked the zone defense successfully. We switched to a man-to-man defense in the second half but we should have made the switch earlier in the game."

Carson's eighth-grade squad was attempting to put an end to a three-game losing streak Monday against Woodland Park. The Eagles got off to a good start and rolled to a 6-2 lead midway through quarter number one. Woodland Park finished the second half of the period in strong fashion and grabbed a 12-10 lead at the end of the period.

Early in the second quarter, the Eagles went ahead by the score of 14-13. At this point, Woodland Park put together an 8-2 run and led 21-16 at the break.

The Eagles outscored the Panthers 6-5 in the third quarter to narrow the lead to 26-22 at the end of three quarters of play. Jerry Ventura, Darius Hill and Dominique Smith hit field goals for Carson in this period.

In the fourth quarter, Eagles guard Chris Locklin came alive offensively and twice cut the Panthers' lead to three points with key buckets. But with 2:30 left in regulation, Woodland Park went on an 8-0 run to ice the 38-30 victory. Three of the four Panthers' baskets during this stretch were layups. Brandon Parks led the Eagles balanced scoring attack with six points while Locklin,

Smith and Hill tallied five points

See Eagles, Page 20



Eighth-grade Eagles forward CJ Lacer, 15, attempts to block a shot against this Woodland Park player during non-division play Monday at the Carson gym.



Dominique Smith (light jersey), center for the eighth-grade Eagles, battles for the loose ball against a pair of Manitou Springs players during the Nov. 12 road contest.

Photos by Bill Scharton

Eagles

From Page 19

apiece. This non-division setback gave the Eagles a 1-4 overall record (0-2 in division play).

"We still have not been able to put together a fully consistent game," said Eagles eighth-grade coach Greg Williams. "But the guys are making progress and will continue to do so."

The seventh-grade Eagles stayed undefeated (2-0) in division play with a 27-14 win at Manitou Springs Nov. 12. The Eagles had the game in hand by halftime with a 22-2 lead. This provided the bench players with valuable playing time in the second half. Harris tallied 15 points for the Eagles.

Carson's eighth-grade squad had a 13-6 lead over Manitou Springs after one quarter of play in the Nov. 12 game at the Mustangs gym. However, the Mustangs woke up in the second quarter and rocked the Eagles 26-13 in the period. This gave Manitou Springs a 32-26 halftime margin.

The Eagles closed the gap to 40-36 at the end of three quarters but the Mustangs widened the lead in the fourth frame. Down the stretch, the Mustangs tallied nine straight free throws to win by the final score of 55-44. Locklin and Parks scored in double figures for the Eagles with 16 and 12 points respectively.

Both Eagles teams played a division game at The Classical Academy Wednesday. On tap for Monday is another division game for both teams at Colorado Springs Christian School.



Photo by Bill Scharton

Devyn Harris finds everybody else flatfooted and easily grabs a rebound for the seventh-grade Eagles during their home game Monday against Woodland Park.

Sports Briefs

Youth sports basketball registration

Registration for Fort Carson youth sport winter basketball and cheerleading is now under way and will last until Dec. 13. Registration is taking place at Building 5510 Hare Ave.

The age groups for basketball will be: 5- and 6-year-olds; 7- to 9-year-olds; 10- to 12-year-olds; 13- to 15-year-olds; and 16- to 18-year-olds. The season starts Jan. 17 and runs to March 6.

Youth participants must provide a medical statement signed by a licensed health professional that certifies the individual is physically fit to participate in the chosen sport(s) and addresses any pertinent medical condition(s) or constraints. This medical statement must be current to the time of the first practice and remain valid through the completion date of the chosen sport season. These requirements are a condition of participation, and no child will be authorized to play or practice until a valid physical is furnished.

Military ID cardholders can be volunteer coaches. Coaches receive training, continuing education and excess liability insurance coverage. Each coach is held accountable to a code of ethics when coaching.

For additional information, call the Fort Carson youth sports office at 526-1233 or 526-6810.

Intramural basketball tourney final tonight

by **Bill Scharton**
Mountaineer staff

Eight Fort Carson intramural basketball teams began a quest for a pre-season intramural tournament title Monday. Tournament play continued Tuesday and Wednesday and the title tilt is scheduled for 8 p.m. today at McKibben Physical Fitness Center.

Regular season intramural basketball competition at

Fort Carson will begin Dec. 8. For additional information regarding intramural hoops, call the intramural office at 526-6630.

Eleven teams signed up for the Fort Carson intramural bowling league and the competition for the league crown is under way. League action takes place each Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at Thunder Alley Lanes bowling center.



Anthony Ringold, left, a member of the 7th Infantry Division intramural basketball team, gets off a three-point field goal attempt against the pressure defense put up by the player from the 10th Special Forces Group.



Jermaine Jackson scores an uncontested layup for the 10th Special Forces Group intramural team during tournament action Monday at McKibben Physical Fitness Center.

Photos by Bill Scharton

All-Army boxing team selected

Team prepares to defend Armed Services title

by **Bill Scharton**
Mountaineer staff

The All-Army boxing team was selected last weekend at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

The squad returned to Fort Carson Wednesday to begin training for the Armed Forces Boxing Championships which will take place Dec. 6 to 12 at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Army is the defending armed forces team champion and has dominated the Armed Forces Boxing Championships team competition down through the years. The Army boxing team has captured 12 armed forces titles in a row, 23 of the last 24 titles and 25 of 27 championships overall. The Marine Corps boxing team won the armed forces titles in 1978 and 1991.

The All-Army boxing team will be coached by Army World Class Athlete Program head boxing coach Basheer Abdullah. In October, it was announced that Abdullah will be the head boxing coach for the 2004 United States Olympic Boxing Team.

Winners of each of the weight classes at the Armed Forces Boxing Championships will earn a spot in the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials. The 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials will be in Tunica, Miss., in February.

Three Army boxers have already earned a spot in the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials by winning their weight class at other national boxing tournaments

earlier this year. They are Clarence Joseph (Golden Gloves champion), Edward Joseph (PAL champion) and DeAndrey Abron (Golden Gloves champion).

Members of the All-Army boxing team include:

Men

119 pounds — Torrence Daniels
125 pounds — David Barrios
132 pounds — Mahlon Kerwick
141 pounds — Keith Mason
152 pounds — Boyd Melson
165 pounds — Clarence Joseph
178 pounds — DeAndrey Abrons
201 pounds — Charles Leverette
201+ pounds — Deutsch Puu

Women

119 pounds — Christina Boilard
125 pounds — Sherie Retamozzo
132 pounds — Betzaida Espinoza
145 pounds — Kerlyn Orellana
154 pounds — Jennifer Greb
165 pounds — Danielle Miner



Photo by Bill Scharton

All-Army, Army World Class Athlete Program and 2004 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team Head Coach Basheer Abdullah, right, works with All-Army boxing team member Keith Mason earlier this year at the Fort Carson WCAP boxing facility.

Sports and Leisure Briefs

Turkey Trot slated for Saturday

The annual Turkey Trot 10-kilometer fun run, sponsored by the Directorate of Community Activities recreation division, will be at 9 a.m. Saturday. The event will start and finish at the Special Events Center.

Mountain Post Wellness Center staff members will coordinate a short-course children's race starting at 11 a.m.

Awards will be given for first, second and third place team competition; best dressed turkey, oldest turkey; youngest turkey; and most family members.

The entry fee is \$14 for pre-race registration and \$16 the day of the race. For additional information, call 524-1388.

Holiday Village will be Dec. 4 to 6

The annual Fort Carson Holiday Village, sponsored by the Directorate of Community

Activities, will be Dec. 4 to 6 at the Special Events Center.

The theme this year is "Winter Wonderland" and the event will feature crafts, ice sculptures, hay-wagon rides, Youth Services Center booths, Family Readiness Center booths, a town square, food, drink and, of course, Santa Claus. For additional information, call 526-4494.

Santa at the Elkhorn

Santa Claus will be at the Elkhorn Conference and Catering Center from 4 to 7 p.m. Dec. 9 and will be available for photographs.

Other events will include face painting, cookie decorating, children's movies and music. Food and beverages, including peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, hot dogs, buttered popcorn, potato chips, candy and juice, will be served.

The cost of the event is \$5 per adult, \$2.50 for children 6- to 10-years-old and free for 5-years-old and under. For additional information, call 576-6646.

Annual weight-lifting event will be Jan. 9 and 10

The annual McKibben Physical Fitness Center weight lifting competition will be Jan. 9 and 10.

The event is open to all active-duty members, Department of Defense civilian employees, civilian contractors and retirees.

For additional information regarding this event, call Lenwood Jordan at 526-2137 or 26-2597.

Volksmarch event

The Falcon Wanderers Volksmarch Club of Colorado Springs will be sponsoring a five-kilometer and a 10-kilometer volksmarch (noncompetitive walking) event Dec. 6.

The start/finish for the event is Henri's Mexican Food, 2427 W. Colorado Avenue in Colorado Springs.

Participants may start this event any time between 8:30 a.m. and noon. The event is free and open to the public. All participants under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

For additional information, call 392-1834.

A day in Pueblo

Story and photos
by Nel Lampe
Mountaineer staff

Founded in 1842 as a trading post called El Pueblo, the town of Pueblo at one time was Colorado's second largest town, behind Denver.

From its start as a trading post, Pueblo grew to become a trading center, located on the banks of the Arkansas River, on the Mexico/U.S. border.

Pueblo began to grow in the 1850s when gold and silver were discovered in Colorado.

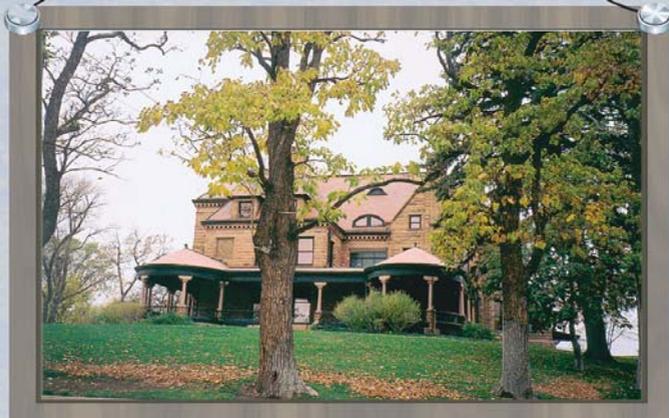
In 1858, Pueblo was thriving – there were hotels and a flour mill, a school and a church.

John Thatcher arrived in Pueblo in 1862 with a wagon load of goods he'd brought from Denver. He established a general store and in later years started a bank. He became a leading citizen in Pueblo as a successful banker and rancher. Thatcher built a prestigious Victorian mansion in Pueblo in 1893 that still stands. It is one of the finest Victorian houses in the nation and is now the Rosemount Museum.

In the 1870s, Colorado Springs' founder Gen. William Palmer was building the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad south toward Mexico. In order to have locally available steel products, Palmer helped establish a steel mill at Pueblo, called the Colorado Coal and Iron Company. It was the first steel mill west of the Mississippi River

Cattle drives from Texas, run by Charles Goodnight, came to Pueblo. Goodnight bought land and established his own ranch near Pueblo.

The Denver



Rosemount Museum is a one of the nation's best examples of Victorian houses. It was built in 1893 by John Thatcher, a successful banker.



The Historic Arkansas River Project, called HARP, has created a picturesque scene with sidewalks, benches, statues and gardens.

and Rio Grand Railroad reached Pueblo in 1872. From the 1870s to 1890s, six railroads served Pueblo with 24 trains a day. By the 1880s Pueblo's population was almost 35,000.

Italian immigrants were attracted to Pueblo for the work available in the steel mill and smelters. It is said that Palmer's Denver and Rio Grand Railroad sent representatives to Italy to recruit workers for the railroad. Some arriving Italian immigrants established small businesses, such as grocery stores, restaurant and farms. Large groups of immigrants from other nations joined Pueblo's population for the work.: Hispanics, Irish, British, Russians, Slovenians, Slovaks, Croatians, Russians, Czechs and Serbs.

An 1880s photo shows Santa Fe Avenue in downtown Pueblo lined with brick buildings, most with snappy striped awnings in front. Electric poles ran along both sides of the wide, unpaved street. An electric trolley ran



The new El Pueblo Museum opened recently with elaborate ceremonies. The museum is near the dig-site of the original fort.

HAPPENINGS



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

Nov. 21, 2003

Pueblo

From Page 25

along the street.

During the 1890s four smelters were in operation. Pueblo prospered by refining gold, silver and other metals. In 1891 an elaborate exhibition hall was built in Pueblo, a tribute to the state's minerals, called the Colorado Mineral Palace. The building cost \$165,000 and was 224 feet long and had a 90-foot high ceiling. It was dismantled in 1942.

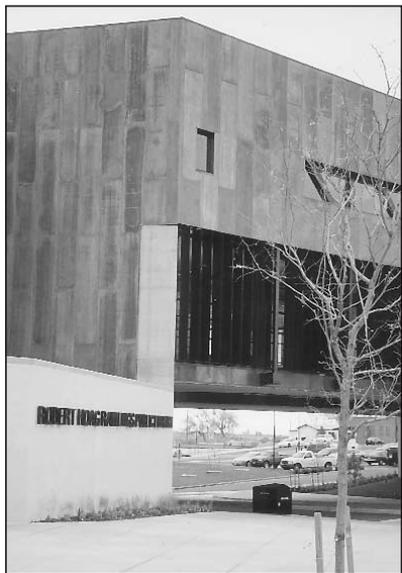
Pueblo has a historic court house, hotel, high school, train station and other restored historic buildings.

Although it's not often listed as a vacation destination, the city of 100,000 citizens does have attractions worthy of a visit.

In addition to the Rosemount Museum, Pueblo has other museums. The Weisbrod Aircraft Museum is on the Pueblo Memorial Airport. It has excellent historic displays. Take Exit 100a to the airport and museum.

The best children's museum in the state of Colorado is in Pueblo, part of the Arts Center complex. The multi-million dollar museum opened in June 2000 and is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. It's on Santa Fe Avenue downtown.

Just last month two new museums opened in



The new Robert Hoag Rawlings Library, top, includes an InfoZone News Museum on the fourth floor. There is no museum admission.



Pueblo has a swim beach in Lake Pueblo State Park which is open in summer. Nearby Pueblo Lake is open to boating and fishing.

Pueblo.

The recently completed El Pueblo Museum has historic artifacts and exhibits about Pueblo's history. Nearby is the excavation site which reveals the original trading post adobe walls. El Pueblo Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adult admission is \$4; children over 3 are charged \$3; those under 3 are admitted free. It is on West First Street, downtown.



The Buell Children's Museum in Pueblo is one of the nation's top children's museums. It's open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Housed in the new Robert Hoag Rawlings Library is "InfoZone," a newspaper museum with interactive exhibits, historic printing equipment, photographs and newspapers about Pueblo's history. The museum is on the fourth floor of the library and is open daily from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Entry is free. Take the Abriendo Exit, west.

About 40 miles south, Pueblo has differences in altitude and weather from that of the Colorado Springs area. About 2,000 feet lower in altitude, weather in Pueblo is frequently less severe than Colorado Springs and may have a shorter, milder winter Pueblo's climate — an average high of 68 degrees and low of 37 — allows extended use of some outdoor facilities.

Lake Pueblo State Park on Pueblo's western edge has 60 miles of shoreline. There are campsites and picnic areas and the lake is used for boating or fishing. Hiking trails are abundant. Take Highway 50 West and follow signs.

The Greenway and Nature Center is just off Pueblo Boulevard near Pueblo West. It has 21 miles of hiking and biking trails. The nature center also has volleyball courts, playground equipment, a picnic area, gift shop and a café. Special summer events, such as "Bluegrass on the River" and "Rolling River Raft Race" are held nearby. Take Highway 50 West to Pueblo Boulevard.

Rock Canyon Swim area is near Lake Pueblo and is open in summer. The swim area has a beach, giant water slide, picnic tables and lots of grass and trees.

Pueblo has outstanding parks with large trees. Pueblo City Park has a pool, a zoo and a

children's amusement park open in summer. A historic hand-carved carousel is in the amusement park.

Pueblo has golf courses and a motor speedway.

The Arkansas River had been rerouted from downtown Pueblo because a devastating flood in 1921 almost destroyed the business district. A few years ago the multi-million dollar Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Project was completed. The river again runs peacefully through downtown Pueblo, with statues, gardens, curving sidewalks and bridges alongside. People walk along the paths and relax on benches beside the water. In summer, excursion boats make trips along the Arkansas; paddle boats may be rented nearby.

The Riverwalk is the site for summer fests featuring music, food and entertainment.

Pueblo is 40 miles south of Fort Carson on Interstate 25. Take Exit 98b to the Children's Museum at 215 N. Santa Fe. Stop at the Chamber of Commerce next door to pick up a Pueblo map and attraction information.

Just the Facts

- **Travel time** 45 minutes
- **For ages** all
- **Type** Nature, science museum
- **Fun factor** ★★★★★ (Out of 5 stars)
- **Wallet damage** varies
 - \$ = Less than \$20
 - \$\$ = \$21 to \$40
 - \$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60
 (Based on a family of four)

Get Out!

Pikes Peak Center

Michael Martin Murphey's "Cowboy Christmas" is set for Dec. 5, 8 p.m.
San Diego Nutcracker Ballet is Nov. 28, 29 and 30.

Brian Setzer Orchestra's "Christmas Extravaganza" is Dec. 9.

Call Ticketmaster, 520-SHOW or 520-9090 for tickets.

Christmas concert

The U.S. Air Force Academy Band presents its **Christmas concert** Dec. 7 at the World Arena at 3 p.m. The concert, "Holly and Ivy" is free and open to the public but tickets are required. Pick up tickets at any Ent Federal Credit Union or the World Arena Box Office.

Fine Arts Repertory Theatre

"It's a Wonderful Life" is a new musical, based on the black and white movie starring Jimmy Stewart. The musical is in the Fine Arts Center Theater Dec. 5 through 21. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Call 634-5583 for reservations.

Post's "Winter Wonderland"

The post's annual Christmas extravaganza is set for Dec. 4, 5 and 6. Opening ceremonies begin at 4:30 Dec. 4, with music and lighting of the Christmas tree. Activities continue until 8:30 p.m. Dec. 5 activities are 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday activities get under way at noon, continuing until 6 p.m. Activities include hay rides, magic, music, entertainment, crafters and food vendors. It's in the Special Events Center on Specker Avenue, just across from Burger King. Entrance is free. Santa will be there.

Pikes Peak Philharmonic

"Sounds of the Season" features Christmas and winter selections in a concert Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. The concert is at Benet Hill Center, 2577 N. Chelton Rd.

Tickets are available at the door. 442-6853.

Holiday parade

Manitou Springs hosts its annual Holiday Parade Saturday at 1 p.m. After the parade, enjoy free hot cider and cookies at the Town Clock. Participants are invited to join in the holiday spirit by bringing a nonperishable food item for Care and Share.

Thanksgiving service

Soldiers' Memorial Chapel holds its Community Thanksgiving Service from 10 to 11 a.m. Thanksgiving day.

Open Cockpit Day

Open Cockpit Day in the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum is the C-119 "Flying Boxcar" cargo transport of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Nov. 29, from 10 am to 2 p.m. Cost is \$6 per person over 10 years old, under 10 are free. There is no charge to sit into the cockpit.

Nutcracker

Nutcracker, the Ballet, is in Pueblo for its annual four-performance run at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 and Dec. 5, and two shows Dec. 6 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. The *Sangre de Cristo Ballet Theatre* performance is the traditional story as performed in 1892. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors and children. Tickets are at the *Sangre de Cristo Arts Center Box Office* at 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., (719) 295-7222.

Thanksgiving dinner

The Colorado Springs community hosts a free Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who wants to attend. Times and places are listed below:

Marian House, 13 W. Bijou, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Odd Fellow's Hall, 575 S. Union, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Salvation Army, 908 Yuma, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Fountain Senior Center, 5725 Southmoor, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Manitou Springs, 606 Manitou, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Festival of Lights Parade

This year's **Festival of Lights Parade** includes 80 festive entries — floats, bands and other lighted entries. The parade starts at 5:50 p.m. at the corners of Tejon and St. Vrain streets, going south on Tejon

to Vermijo, then heading north on Cascade Avenue to Kiowa Street.

Festival at the Pioneers Museum

"Family Fun Day" at the Pioneers Museum is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes fun, crafts and entertainment for the whole family. Hot cider will be served on the grounds during the "Festival of Lights Parade."

Santa is coming to the Elkhorn

Santa is at the Elkhorn Conference Center Dec. 9, from 4 to 7 p.m.. The holiday party includes free face painting, cookie decorating, food, children's movies and music. Admission is \$5 at the door, children 6 to 10 are admitted for \$2.50 and children under 5 years are free. Call 576-6646 .

Pueblo Symphony

The Pueblo Symphony presents its concert Dec. 6, featuring Australian pianist Bernard Walz. The concert is Dec. 6 at at 7:30 p.m. in Hoag Recital Hall on the campus of Colorado State University-Pueblo. Tickets start at \$20; call (719) 545-7967.

Colorado Springs Chorale

The Colorado Springs Chorale presents "Deck the Hall Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center. The 120 member chorale will be joined by brass ensembles, timpani, percussion, piano and organ. Tickets range from \$12 to \$30; call 520-7469 or 520-9090.

Christmas at the zoo

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo opens its 13th annual "Electric Safari" Nov. 28, 29 and 30 at 5:30 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children 3 to 11; those under 3 are free. There are lights, animal sculptures and carolers. Santa and his elves are handing out candy canes. The Electric Safari opens Dec. 5 to Jan. 1 (except for Christmas Eve).

Shortened Nutcracker ballet

Sangre de Cristo Ballet Theatre presents "Nutcracker in a 'Nut Shell'" Nov. 29 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The shortened performance is part of the *Sangre de Cristo Art Center's Children's Playhouse Series* and tickets are \$6. Call the box office at (719) 295-7222.



Courtesy photo

Grease is the word ...

"Grease" is the next production in the Pikes Peak Center's Broadway series Dec. 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$25; call 520-SHOW or 520-9090. The Pikes Peak Center is at 190 S. Cascade Ave.

Program Schedule for Fort Carson cable Channel 10, today to Dec. 5.

Fort Carson is working on a live feed to broadcast President George W. Bush's presentation Monday. As of press time, the arrangements are still in negotiation, but the broadcast would take place live during his presentation at the Special Events Center.

Special Program from ACS: Operation Ready: Making Your Reunion Work. Airls at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Army Newswatch: includes stories on the Defense Supplemental Bill, the next Troop Rotation Plan and Afghan squad training. Airls at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Navy/Marine Corps News: includes stories on the National Naval Medical Center, testing of the V-22 Osprey and Marines training with New York firefighters. Airls at 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Air Force News: includes stories on fighting wildfires in California, the Defense Language School and tilt-rotor aircraft update (repeat). Airls at 8:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

Channel 9 daily broadcasts SCOLA, foreign language news broadcasts. Access the schedule at the Fort Carson Web site.

If you have comments on Channel 10 programming or wish to coordinate a broadcast on Channel 10, please contact Chief of Command Information at 526-1241 or via e-mail at CommandInfo@carson.army.mil.

Program times will be published in the *Mountaineer* provided coordination is made one week prior to publication.

If you wish to have a training videotape shown on Channel 9 only, contact the Regional Training Support Center at 526-5111.

For additions to the Community Calendar, please submit an e-mail or clean, typewritten copy to Public Affairs Office, room 2180, 6151 Specker Ave., Fort Carson, CO 80913 or fax to 526-1021 no later than the Friday before airing time.