



MOUNTAINFEST

Fort Drum honors, celebrates freedom

A4-A8



POWER OF CHOICE

Air Force captain uses adolescent experiences to motivate self, others

B3

The MOUNTAINEER

Fort Drum, N.Y. • July 3, 2013 • Vol. 6 • Issue 26

Agencies stand ready to assist civilians during furlough

Michelle Kennedy
Staff Writer

With the furlough beginning next week, Fort Drum civilian employees who could be facing insurmountable financial or emotional challenges should rest assured they are not alone or without hope. Whether a person is facing financial insecurity or trouble coping with other stressors a furlough may yield, there are agencies available to help.

Roughly 1,800 Fort Drum civilians will face up to 11 days of unpaid leave beginning next week through the end of the fiscal year in September.

Civilians were first notified of the possible furlough in March, in which employees affected will see a 20-percent pay reduction. Since then, Fort Drum leaders have been proactive in informing employees of the ever-changing situation in an attempt to provide some predictability.

"Over the last three months, our mission has been to stay in front of the situation, allowing civilian employees the time to plan and prepare," said Col. Gary A. Rosenberg, Fort Drum garrison commander. "We all know that the furlough will affect almost everything on Fort Drum, but we must remember that our great civilians will bear the heaviest burden. The civilian workforce has been doing 'more with less,' yet their dedication to their mission hasn't wavered. They

work hard to take care of the Families and ensure the Soldiers who live and work on Fort Drum have what they need to train, deploy and defend our nation. Because of this, it is critical that we take care of our civilian employees, too. There are services and agencies available to assist them during this difficult time."

Financial assistance

Even with months to prepare for a possible furlough, a loss of income due to furlough will likely still cause financial strain for many.

"Twenty percent is a lot of income," said Judee Kelly, Financial Readiness Program manager and accredited financial counselor.

The Financial Readiness Program is one of several services that can help civilian employees during the furlough. FAP's team of accredited financial counselors can help individuals with budgeting, restructuring debt, building savings and setting goals.

Before making an appointment, Kelly recommends people track their spending and write down everything they buy for a minimum of two weeks before FAP counselors create a budget.

"Find out where you spend every single penny; don't guess," she said. "If (people don't) know what they're spending, I can't help them create a realistic budget."

See FURLOUGH, Page A3

Army chief of staff promotes division deputy commander

Sgt Javier S. Amador
3rd Brigade Combat Team Journalist

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno promoted Col. Mark J. O'Neil, 10th Mountain Division (LI) deputy commander - operations, to brigadier general in a late morning ceremony Monday in front of historic LeRay Mansion at Fort Drum.

Odierno, the 38th chief of staff of the Army, took a moment away from his demanding work schedule to preside over the ceremony and to highlight O'Neil's career.

In his speech, Odierno highlighted not only the magnitude of the promotion itself but of the reasons promotions to the general officer ranks are so rare.

"Less than one percent of all colonels in the Army get selected for promotion to brigadier general," he said. "It is something that is incredibly difficult to attain."

Odierno spoke about the considerable changes that those who attain the rank of a general officer can expect to see in their lives as a result of the additional responsibility that comes with the office.

"When you put that star on your shoulder, it does change your life," Odierno said. "It changes how people see you, and it is a burden of responsibility, but it is also one that we give to the very best."

O'Neil was deployed every year from 2002 until 2011, when Odierno selected him as his aide de camp. Odierno said he felt the deployments were crucial to O'Neil's selection for the rank.

"That's an incredible burden



GLENN WAGNER

Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the 38th chief of staff of the Army, promotes Col. Mark J. O'Neil to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony Monday in front of LeRay Mansion on Fort Drum.

and an incredible sacrifice," Odierno said. "And it gets to really saying why Mark O'Neil is being promoted."

Immediately after the publication of the orders, Odierno pinned on the initial stars that represent O'Neil's new rank. Afterwards, O'Neil's Family and parents joined in pinning on his shoulder boards and helping him don his new headgear.

Odierno emphasized the fact that promotions are Family affairs that involve both a Soldier's Army Family and their actual Families by stressing the need for their support while progressing through the ranks.

In his remarks after his promotion, O'Neil thanked Odierno for his attendance as well as the mentorship that he credits with his success. He also acknowledged that he has been fortunate to have been given the opportunities he has had throughout his career.

"My story continues to be one of extraordinary opportunities and extraordinary people," O'Neil said. "I am thankful for each of you that have helped to shape my life."

O'Neil was commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant upon graduating from Norwich University in 1986. He has served for more than 27 years, commanding at every level. □

6-6 Cavalry memorializes four fallen aviation heroes

Staff Sgt. Joel Pena
10th Mountain Division Journalist

Soldiers, Family Members and friends of 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, gathered Thursday in front of their headquarters building to unveil a memorial dedicated to four of their fallen Soldiers.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Philip E. Windorski Jr., Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew G. Kelley, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua M. Tillery and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Benjamin H. Todd were memorialized in stone in front of their peers.

The four aviators were killed in action Jan. 26, 2009, during a mid-air collision while evading a surface-to-air improvised explosive device, while in support of a recovery operation for Task Force Six-Shooters.

After the playing of the national anthem, performed by the 10th Mountain Division Band, Chaplain (Maj.) Darrick Gutting, deputy division chaplain, offered an invocation for the fallen Soldiers and all present.

Before introducing the guest speaker, Lt. Col. Erick Sweet, commander of 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, "Six-Shooters," greeted all who were present for the ceremony.

"Before I introduce our guest speaker," Sweet said, "I want to first specifically recognize the Windorski and Kelley Families. Your presence here today honors not only the four heroes, Phil, Matt, Josh and Ben; it is also a special honor for our squadron of



STAFF SGT. JOEL PENA

Two Soldiers assigned to 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, unveil a memorial dedicated to four fallen comrades, Thursday, in front of the squadron headquarters.

which they were a treasured part."

Sweet introduced the guest speaker by saying that there was no question about who would serve in that capacity for the occasion. Retired Lt. Col. Brian Serota was the squadron's commander in 2009, when these war heroes gave

their full measure.

"The mantle of command was likely (not) heavier than it was on that day," Sweet said.

After a round of applause, the guest speaker approached the podium.

Visibly touched, and with his

voice trembling as he read the names of those who were his Soldiers back in 2009, Serota addressed the crowd.

"We gather today to celebrate the dedication of this memorial to the memory of four exceptional officers, aviators, husbands, fa-

thers, friends and cavalymen," Serota said.

"Their service to this unit and to our nation will bear remembrance for years to come."

He continued by explaining that today, as is the Army's custom, we honor the life and service of four great Soldiers.

"To those who knew them best," Serota said, "their names inspired selfless service, courage, commitment, competence, confidence and camaraderie. They represent the best in all of us who have served, currently serve, and what we hope to instill in those who will follow and serve."

"The dedication of the memorial," he said, "will ensure that their legacy will continue to live on and that it will stand as a tangible reminder to all those assigned to 6-6 Cav."

The retired commander said nothing less than excellence is acceptable, and that selfless service is an honor and accomplishing the mission was their duty.

After a round of applause, two Soldiers unveiled the plaque that was in a rock in front of the headquarters building with the names of all four Soldiers: Windorski and Kelley, codenamed "Adversary 22," and Tillery and Todd, codenamed "Adversary 11."

The ceremony concluded with the playing of taps and the benediction by Gutting. Friends and Family Members present went forward afterward to observe the monument and later went into the squadron's classroom for refreshments. □

TidBits

Soldiers, Families can enjoy 'Fort Drum Rides the River'

Fort Drum Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation strives to provide recreation and leisure opportunities for Fort Drum personnel. Summer can be a busy time for Soldiers and Families as it is the premiere time to enjoy the outdoors in the North Country.

Before the season winds down, Soldiers and Families can enjoy the end of summer with Fort Drum Rides the River on Aug. 29 in Clayton.

This will be the third year that Family and MWR hosted a river-filled day on the St. Lawrence River in Clayton. Tickets will be on sale throughout August at \$5 per adult ticket and \$3 for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and younger can enjoy the day for free with no ticket necessary.

Each ticket includes admission to the world-famous Antique Boat Museum, where visitors can take a

self-guided tour of the museum and grounds and explore the 106-foot Rand McNally houseboat "La Duchesse." Children's activities will be available, featuring crafts, photos and more. Ticket holders can take a boat ride on the St. Lawrence River and enjoy a barbecue picnic lunch at the museum river shed.

Visitors also are invited hitch a ride on the Family and MWR trolley to explore the village of Clayton and its many shops, galleries, museums and restaurants.

Bus shuttle transportation to Fort Drum Rides the River will be provided from Magrath Sports Complex.

Mark your calendar to save the date for your Family to enjoy this wonderful day on the St. Lawrence River.

For additional information, call 772-5370.

Fire, police, medical service telephone numbers

During an emergency, seconds count. In the event of a fire, police or medical emergency on post, dial 911.

During nonemergency situations, follow these guidelines:

- For nonemergency police service, call 772-5156 / 5157.

- For nonemergency fire services, call 772-4420 / 3180. For information on fire prevention, call 772-4702.

- For nonemergency medical care, patients may schedule appointments with their primary care provider, primary care management team or the Acute Care Clinic by calling 772-2778.

Weekend dining facility schedule

1st BCT, Bldg. 10305

Brunch:
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Supper:
4:30 to 6 p.m.

10th Sustainment, Bldg. 795

Brunch:
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Supper:
4:30 to 6 p.m.

Quote of the Week

"When you put that star on your shoulder, it does change your life. It changes how people see you, and it is a burden of responsibility, but it is also one that we give to the very best."

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno

10th Mountain Weather

Fort Drum

Around the Globe



18TH WEATHER SQUADRON DETACHMENT 1

The MOUNTAINEER

Fort Drum, New York

Commanding General

Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend

Garrison Commander

Col. Gary A. Rosenberg

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Col. David A. Kono

Garrison Public Affairs Officer

Julie Cupernall

Managing Editor

Lisa Reape Albrecht

Staff Writers

Steve Chirringhelli

Michelle Kennedy

Melody Everly

This Army Civilian Enterprise Newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The Mountaineer are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Fort Drum. It is published weekly using offset method, with a printed circulation of 10,000. The editorial content of the publication is the responsibility of the Fort Drum Public Affairs Office. Printed by Watertown Daily Times, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government, under written contract with the Commander, Fort Drum. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Army, or Watertown Daily Times Inc., of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

E-Mail: Lisa.R.Albrecht.civ@mail.mil
Phone: 772-5469
Fax: 772-8295
Mailing Address:
10012 S. Riva Ridge Loop
Fort Drum, N.Y. 13602-5028

Paid advertising:
782-0400 or 1-800-724-0401
nyads.com

Websites:
www.drum.army.mil
www.facebook.com/drum.10thmountain.com

CG's Hotline: 772-6666

Airlift



COURTESY PHOTO

A CH-47 transports a Task Force Allons howitzer in Paktika Province, Afghanistan.

Sustainment Brigade Soldiers rise to Muleskinners Challenge VII

Sgt. Michael K. Selvage

10th Sustainment Brigade Journalist

Muleskinner Challenge is a phrase not uncommon for Soldiers assigned to 10th Sustainment Brigade to hear. More than 80 Soldiers from the brigade's five subordinate battalions participated in the seventh Muleskinner Challenge on June 18.

These challenges are rigorous competitions used to test the Soldiers' physical and mental strength and endurance.

Each team that competed in the challenge was made up of two Soldiers. The challenge was composed of four demanding events: pulling the heavy load, Six Heroes, the Thunder Run and the Mogadishu Mile.

The challenge started with a one-mile ruck run, which Soldiers conducted while wearing their body armor without protective plates, Kevlar helmet, protective mask, assigned weapon and rucksack weighing 35 pounds.

At each event station, Soldiers received a set of instructions covering the task and standards as well as a brief background of what each event represents.

Soldiers arrived at the first event, pulling the heavy load, with uniforms damp with perspiration and partially out of breath from the unforgiving run. Teams grounded their rucksacks and weapons in preparation for the first event.

Muleskinners trace their heritage directly back to the Alpine infantrymen and their pack mules that formed the mountain medical, supply and maintenance battalions that supported the 10th Infantry Division during World War II. To this day, Muleskinners continue to pull the heavy load.

To complete station one, Soldiers had to drag a sled – males pulled 135 pounds while females pulled 95 pounds – through a muddy field 50 meters out to the turnaround point and back followed by 50 air squats to complete one round. They had to complete as many rounds as possible within 12 minutes.

Soldiers were drenched with sweat as they pulled sleds across the start line to complete their final round before time expired.

After completing the lower body workout, Soldiers seized their weapons and continued their trek through puddles of muddy water on their way to the second event.

The tasks for the Six Heroes seemed even more challenging than the first event.

Since 2005, elements of 10th Sustainment Brigade have provided world-class supply, maintenance, medical, transportation, engineering, law enforcement and explosive ordnance disposal support to Operation Enduring Freedom; however, many have made the ultimate sacrifice in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. To commemorate their lives and service, this workout paid tribute to the six



PHOTOS BY SGT. MICHAEL K. SELVAGE

Capt. Joshua Meador, operations officer assigned to 10th Special Troops Battalion, and teammate 1st Lt. Julia Neutkens, deputy operations officer assigned to 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, drag weighted sleds through mud and water as part of the first event of Muleskinner Challenge VII. Soldiers kept their motivation levels high as they tackled each event in the challenge.

Soldiers who did not make it home.

Soldiers were instructed to don their protective masks before executing six rounds of six kettle bell swings, 12 hand-released pushups and 18 lunges. They had 15 minutes to complete the event.

"The Six Heroes event – that involved wearing a protective mask while swinging kettle bells – was by far the most exhausting event," said Capt. Jason Dunbar, 10th Sustainment Brigade safety officer. "The Muleskinner Challenge made you rely on your teammate and tested your mettle."

Exhausted and gasping for air, Soldiers removed their protective masks and pushed on to the next event, the Thunder Run, where their combat lifesaver skills were put to the test.

Soldiers of 10th Sustainment Brigade units have served multiple deployments in support of Operation Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Operation Iraqi Freedom I-V. Sustainment support commands went further into enemy territory than other units of their kind during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and led the way into Baghdad during the OIF "Thunder Run."

The fatigued warriors arrived at the third station, where a haze of smoke covered the area and sounds of machine gun fire and explosions boomed through stereo speakers to replicate a combat environment.

Working together, Soldiers rendered first aid to a simulated casu-



A Soldier assigned to 7th Engineer Battalion makes his way through the water pit with his weapon and protective mask carried high en route to the Mogadishu Mile. Some Soldiers found the water to be refreshing while others found it extremely cold.

alty before picking up a sandbag-loaded litter and attacking four obstacles.

Soldiers carried the litter over a low wall before crossing some rough terrain. They climbed a small hill and crawled through the final obstacle, a small tunnel.

"The litter carry was the most challenging event because of the obstacles in place as you were carrying the litter and the sandbags on it," said Spc. Ramon D. Salcedo, an intelligence analyst assigned to

10th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters.

Once teams made it through the course, they trudged through a murky water pit with weapons and protective masks held high to avoid any water damage.

Some Soldiers who conducted the challenge in the early morning hours found the water pit extremely cold and uncomfortable, while other Soldiers who participated later in the afternoon, when temperatures were higher, enjoyed

on things they can control, Eichner added.

"Set some goals and work hard to feel the satisfaction of reaching those goals," she said. "Hunt the good stuff daily and remember that each day does not have to be perfect, but each day does have purpose."

Eichner and her team of trainers will offer "Thrive Through the Furlough" sessions designed specifically for civilian employees. Classes will be offered at 9:30 a.m. July 23, Aug. 20 and Sept. 12. For more information or to sign up, may call 772-0470 / 2848 / 0509.

The Employee Assistance Program is a service that can assist federal employees in the confidential treatment of all mental health issues that can affect job performance, such as substance abuse, Family and marital concerns, financial stress, workplace conflicts and other mental health-related issues.

EAP also can provide short-term counseling and referral services to organizations like the Army Substance Abuse Program to help employees achieve a balance between their work and personal responsibilities.

For those who need additional emotional support, Military Family Life Consultants can provide confidential, solution-oriented counseling to individuals, Families, couples and groups.

the cooling sensation the water gave their overheated bodies.

Soaking wet, they continued their march to the final station, the Mogadishu Mile.

Weary-bodied Soldiers received instructions for the fourth event as they tried to regain control over their breathing.

In December 1992, the 10th Sustainment Brigade, known as a division support command at the time, deployed to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope. The Muleskinners' responsibilities grew dramatically as they sustained, maintained and cared for several rotations of division Soldiers while supporting humanitarian assistance to the local population. The event represented the Mogadishu Mile that led battle-fatigued Soldiers out of the war-torn city.

Soldiers were required to lay flat on their back with a sandbag, which weighed 40 pounds for male Soldiers and 20 pounds for the females, and return to a standing position for three minutes before taking off on their one-mile journey.

After the run, Soldiers returned their sandbags to the station's start point and headed toward the finish line, where officials recorded the team's overall time.

Soldiers celebrated with high-fives and congratulated each other on the strenuous task they accomplished.

What they thought was the end of their participation in the Muleskinner Challenge VII was merely a mirage. A surprise event was waiting for them around the corner.

The Soldiers – still highly motivated but physically spent – headed to the final event of the challenge.

Teams then completed the surprise firefighters event, in which they completed an obstacle course consisting of knocking down eight targets with a fire hose, moving a weighted tire with a sledgehammer, pulling a 165-pound dummy on a stretcher approximately 75 meters and then carrying the dummy to the finish line.

First Lt. Leo Walker and 1st Lt. Luke Colson tied for first with 1st Lt. Rudy Chelednik and 1st Lt. Joseph Adams, all assigned to 7th Engineer Battalion, in the male team category.

Capt. Joshua Meador, assigned to 10th Special Troops Battalion, and teammate 1st Lt. Julia Neutkens, assigned to 548th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, placed first in the coed team category.

"Soldiers have been pushing their bodies and minds to the limits during Muleskinner Challenges since June 2010," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jose A. Castillo, 10th Sustainment Brigade senior enlisted leader. "I am proud of the Soldiers and challenge them to start training for the next one: climbing Whiteface Mountain." □

Furlough support services

- Army Emergency Relief – 772-6560 / 2855
- Army Substance Abuse Program – 772-6704
- Employee Assistance Program – 772-2597
- Family Advocacy Program – 772-6929
- Federal Employee Education Assistance Fund – 1-800-323-4140 or www.feaa.org
- Financial Readiness Program – 772-5196 / 772-2919
- Master Resilience Training – 772-0470 / 2848
- Military Family Life Consultants – 212-6919

MFLCs can assist active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, Family Members and civilian employees. They are located at Army Community Service. For an appointment, call 212-6919.

Financial problems can lead to anger and stress. The Family Advocacy Program provides workshops and individualized training to individuals who need anger or stress management support. For more information, call 772-6929. □

My service in Vietnam still serves my family today.

Roger Staubach,
USAA member, veteran and former NFL quarterback

USAA insurance. Earned once. Cherished from generation to generation.

At USAA, we recognize and appreciate the sacrifices of all military families. That's why our auto, home and life insurance is designed to meet your specific needs. In fact, our commitment to serve military members, veterans who have honorably served and their families is so great, 95% of members plan to stay with USAA for life!

Begin your legacy. Get a quote.

usaa.com/insure | 800-531-3550



OFFICIAL MILITARY APPRECIATION SPONSOR OF THE NFL

*Based on 2011 Member Communications Trend Survey. Use of the term "member" does not convey any legal, ownership or eligibility rights for property and casualty insurance products. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or in the National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Contact us to update your records. Adult children of USAA members are eligible to purchase auto or property insurance if their eligible parent purchases USAA auto or property insurance. Purchase of a life insurance product does not establish eligibility for membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, USAA County Mutual Insurance Company and USAA Texas Lloyd's Company, San Antonio, TX. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Life insurance provided by USAA Life Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and in New York by USAA Life Insurance Company of New York, Highland Falls, NY. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2012 USAA. 140037-0912

Mountainfest 2013

Soldiers compete in Mountainfest sports events for bragging rights, love of game

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Bunn

2nd Brigade Combat Team PAO NCOIC

The 10th Mountain Division (LI) conducted Mountainfest sports competitions June 22-25 at fitness facilities and fields across post. Soldiers from all the brigades within the Fort Drum footprint organized teams for the various sports events and physically demanding activities during the four days of competition.

Most of the Soldiers did not just compete for trophies and bragging rights. They competed because they love the challenge and the sports in which they participated. Events included basketball, softball, soccer, tug-o-war, 5K R--un and flag football.

"I love softball. I have been playing it for years," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Adam Rickert assigned to B Troop, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade. "Whenever I can get in a league, whether it is in a church league, bar league, or on post here, I play."

Rickert jumped on the chance to play, and he said he has networked with other Soldiers within 10th CAB whom he would not have had a chance to at work. He also knows the importance of team building outside the work environment.

"A lot of us only see each other around the office, and I think this helps meld the unit a little bit," he said. "It gives us that cohesion, a little more pride in the unit. It shows that we not only can accomplish the mission on the battlefield but also on the softball field. So, it's a good team building event."

Pfc. Afungang Mbombo, a military policeman assigned to 511th Military Police Company, 91st Military Police Battalion, is originally from the Republic of Cameroon. He said he has been playing soccer his whole life, and this is the first time since arriving at Fort Drum that he has had a chance to play on a team. He also met a couple of other Soldiers from his home country.

"It's fun, soccer. You've got to love the game to play the game, and I met a couple of good people out there who know what they are



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BUNN

Soldiers from 91st Military Police Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, and 1st Brigade Combat Team race for the ball during a soccer match June 22.



SGT. WILLIE PATRICK

A Soldier tries to maneuver around his opponents during a flag football game June 23. Units from across the installation competed in sporting events in hopes of winning the coveted Commander's Cup trophy.

doing on the field," he said. "I also met two people from Cameroon; I never knew there were Cameroonians here."

Basketball is another popular team sport at Fort Drum. Soldiers are seen playing on courts throughout post on a regular basis. Spc. China Threatt, a unit supply specialist for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6-6 Cavalry, 10th CAB, said she used to play division ball for DePaul University.

She joined the team to support her unit.

"It's a morale boost for one thing, then unity throughout the whole CAB and all the other units (on post)," she said. "We are from the airfield, so here we meet other units on post and we see everybody's talent."

The teams that placed in their sport contributed to the overall point count toward the Commander's Cup, the trophy for the best



STAFF SGT. JENNIFER BUNN

Soldiers from across the 10th Mountain Division (LI) battle it out on the court June 22 during the basketball competition at Magrath Sports Complex.

brigate.

The winners in each sports event were as follows:

Basketball: first place, 543rd Quartermaster Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade; second place, 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team; third place, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Softball: first place, 91st Military Police Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade; second place, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team; third place, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade.

Soccer: first place, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team; second place, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team; third place, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 10th Mountain Division.

Flag football: first place, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team; second place, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team; third place, 543rd Quartermaster



SGT. WILLIE PATRICK

Soldiers participate in a tug-o-war match June 24 at Remington Park.

Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade.

Tug-o-war: first place, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade; second place, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team; third place, 91st Military Police Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade.

5K Run: first place, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team; second place, 710th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team; third place, 91st Military Police Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade.

After all of the points were tallied, the Commander's Cup trophy went to 10th Sustainment Brigade.

"Mountainfest activities and sporting events are great opportunities for units to compete and build relationships," said Col. Willie Rios III, 10th Sustainment Brigade commander. "This year, the 10th Sustainment Brigade was fortunate to have majority of our units available to compete. This has not been the case for previous years."

"Winning the Commander's Cup was a collective effort by each of the five battalions, and each should be proud of their outstanding efforts for making Mountainfest 2013 a memorable event for the Muleskinner Brigade." □

Fort Drum's annual celebration of freedom, camaraderie, fun

Fort Drum Soldiers test mental, physical abilities in Endurathon

Sgt. Javier S. Amador

3rd Brigade Combat Team Journalist

Soldiers postwide got a chance to test themselves to their mental and physical limits June 24 when they competed against the clock and against each other during the second annual Endurathon at Fort Drum.

The Endurathon consists of a variety of common soldier tasks that are challenging enough if done one at a time and spread out over a regular work week, so just completing them all in one day is an accomplishment, let alone being competitive in all of them.

"They started out with a run in full kit at Magrath Gym in full body armor to Range 2, where they fire at targets with an M-9 pistol and an M-4 carbine and then back," said 1st Lt. Steven Ballinger, a staff operations officer with 1st Brigade Combat Team. "From there, they dropped their body armor, grabbed their packs and ruck march as fast as they can to Remington Park, where they canoe for 800 meters, back to ruck marching for another couple of miles, a surprise lane and then ruck to the finish."

The surprise lane turned out to be a combat casualty care exercise where Soldiers had to evaluate a casualty, render the correct aid, coordinate for a helicopter medical evaluation and finally, secure the casualty onto a litter and carry him up a hill towards the "LZ" or landing zone. From there, it was back down the hill and on with the rest of the course, all while wearing their approximately 60-pound rucksacks.

Soldiers competed in teams of two, and both members of each team had to complete the same events. They had to not only be fast, but accurate as well. Having the fastest time in completing the events did not necessarily translate to winning.

"How well they do in the medical event and the range can affect their score," Ballinger said. "Time is added for every shot they miss as well."

Not surprisingly, Soldiers all had the events they liked best and those not so much. The likes and dislikes were as varied as the Soldiers themselves, with just as many liking the same event as much as those that disliked it. "For me, the hardest events were



SGT. JAVIER S. AMADOR

Sgt. Bryce Lyons, left, and his teammate, Spc. Jeremy Machanic, of A Company, 10th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, pose with their trophy at their company headquarters. The trophy was presented to them by Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend for winning the Endurathon held June 24 as part of the Fort Drum's Mountainfest 2013.



SGT. JAVIER S. AMADOR

Capt. Josh Silder, left, commander of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, and his executive officer, Capt. Kyle Hedgecorth, paddle their canoe to complete the 800-meter course at Remington Pond during the Endurathon event June 24.

the ruck (marching) and the litter carry," said Sgt. Bryce Lyons, a squad leader with A Company, 10th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team. "The running and canoeing were the easiest."

Bryce, along with his teammate, Spc. Jeremy Machanic, would go

on to end win this year's Endurathon.

Every team competing in the Endurathon gave it all they had, and examples of the toughness, endurance and resilience as well as the teamwork for which the American Soldier is known were seen throughout the course.



SGT. MICHAEL K. SELVAGE

Command Sgt. Maj. David Burton, 91st Military Police Battalion senior enlisted adviser, keeps his eye on the ball as it makes contact with his bat during the Commanders versus Command Sergeants Major Softball Game on June 25. The sergeants major proved victorious, with a final score of 14-12.

Commanders, sergeants major go head-to-head on diamond

Sgt. Michael K. Selvage

10th Sustainment Brigade Journalist

Three up and three down, in a Soldier's mind, may represent the rank of master sergeant, but in this case, it means the end of an inning.

Command sergeants major engaged in a seven-inning attack on the commanders in a softball game June 25 at the fields behind the Magrath Sports Complex during the annual Mountainfest activities.

The sergeants major charged to their assigned positions on the field as the commanders were read their batting order.

The first two innings of the game were a bit slow, with both teams only scoring one run.

By the bottom of the third inning, the sergeants major were in the lead with a score of 8-3.

At the bottom of the fourth inning, the commanders were only able to manage one run, while the sergeants major were getting hit after hit, allowing two runners to find their way across home plate.

Commanders tried with everything they had to close the ever-growing lead the sergeants major established early in the game, but were unsuccessful.

It was the bottom of the fifth when Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, Fort Drum and 10th Mountain Division (LI) com-

mander, took the field as the commanders' new pitcher.

Townsend allowed three runs while on the pitcher's mound, which increased the score to 13-4.

As the sixth inning came to this case, the score remained the same.

Now at the top of the seventh inning, the commanders buckled down and kept their heads in the game as they scored run after run, closing in on the sergeants major's lead.

The sergeants major seemed shocked to see the commanders scoring more runs in one inning than they did the previous six combined.

After allowing the commanders to score a few "sympathy runs," the sergeants major made the final out, ending the game with the score of 14-12.

"Next year it will be a different story, and I'm looking forward to our rematch," said Col. Willie Rios III, 10th Sustainment Brigade commander.

Both teams lined up and shook each other's hands to show no hard feelings.

"It was a pleasure to allow the sergeants major an opportunity to feel like winners," said Lt. Col. Brian Clarke, 63rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion commander. "It's good for the less talented athletes to occasionally win. It helps us root for the underdog at times." □

Drivers, start your engines!

Soldiers put skills to test during Truck Rodeo

Sgt. 1st Class Luis Saavedra

10th Sustainment Brigade PAO

The Army has a variety of vehicles Soldiers may find themselves driving during their career. Some may drive tanks, while others may drive personnel carriers or smaller vehicles. No matter what the mode of transportation, they need to be proficient in its maintenance and operation.

Soldiers assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (LI) competed in a Truck Rodeo on June 24-25 in front of Bldg. 280 to test their skills against each other in a Mountainfest tradition.

Once Soldiers arrived, they were given a briefing that covered safety and course expectations. They also were inspected to ensure they had the proper personal protective equipment and a valid military driver's license.

Sgt. 1st Class Bernard W. Lithkousky, a platoon sergeant assigned to 110th Transportation Company, served as noncommissioned officer in charge of the competition. He said there was a good turnout of competitors as well as a mix of lower enlisted and NCOs.

The competition consisted of eight stations, which included a written exam, preventative maintenance checks and services, serpentine, controlled stop, diminishing clearance, straight line, parallel parking and offset alley.

The written exam was specific to the vehicle with which each Soldier competed, allowing them to showcase their knowledge. Soldiers tested on a Humvee, a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, or a

Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck.

After the first hurdle was complete, some Soldiers donned their gear and were directed to conduct PMCS on a vehicle.

Soldiers are taught the importance of maintenance early in their career. Some Soldiers considered this the easiest event based on familiarity.

"The easiest event is the PMCS," said Spc. Russell J. Edgett, a truck driver assigned to 110th TC. "We do that almost every day."

After the exam and PMCS were complete, Soldiers got in a vehicle and began to navigate the lanes. Several Soldiers drove the vehicles with a trailer attached.

The serpentine course tested each Soldier's ability to drive in a figure-eight pattern around barrels and remain in continuous movement forward and backward within the boundary.

Some Soldiers initially thought this was going to be the hardest event, because they had to drive backwards.

"I was a bit nervous not having a ground guide," said Sgt. Ryan F. Rice, an unscheduled maintenance NCOIC assigned to 511th Military Police Company. "You're taught in the Army to always have two ground guides when backing up, and it's the first time I have been told to back up on my own."

The stop line event was next on the Soldiers' journey.

Soldier were required to approach the stop line moving forward, maintaining a normal driving position, and stop the vehicle's front bumper on the

marked line.

Immediately following the stop line event was the diminishing clearance.

Soldier had to make a continuous forward movement and maneuver the vehicle between two cones without displacing them or stopping the vehicle. The first set of cones were placed nine feet, six inches apart, and the second set eight feet, two inches apart.

Soldiers were not out of the woods yet. The straight line event was still between them and victory.

Soldiers had to make continuous forward movement running the right side-tires between an 80-foot path of cups, ensuring they did not touch any of them. The cups were emplaced four inches wider than the widest tire on the vehicle.

Up to this point, Soldiers mostly had to move around obstacles, but the next event required them to park instead.

Soldiers were required to position a vehicle between a set of cones, which simulated a parking space, and stop when the entire vehicle was within six inches of them. Drivers were allowed two changes of direction.

Only one station was left for the Soldiers to conduct before the Rodeo was complete.

Offset alley required Soldiers to maneuver a vehicle through barricades, offset with 15 inches of clearance on each side of the vehicle, in a continuous motion without striking the barricades.

Organizers called the Truck Rodeo a success, even for the Sol-



SGT. 1ST CLASS LUIS SAAVEDRA

A Soldier drives the right side tires of a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle between an 80-foot path of cups during the Truck Rodeo competition held June 24 during Mountainfest. Soldiers assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (LI) tested their skills and gauged their proficiency.

diers who did not win. Being able to complete the course safely and learn from mistakes can be enough to feel a sense of accomplishment.

"For the younger enlisted, it builds confidence in what they already trained on," Lithkousky said. He said Soldiers can return to their units with some feelings of pride and perhaps train on some areas where they saw improvement was needed.

When the dust settled, it was Spc. Michael A. Kell Jr., a mechanic assigned to 110th TC, who was recognized as the winner during a ceremony June 26 at the Salute to the Nation.

"I was a little ecstatic," Kell said. "I didn't know I was getting an award. I thought I was going to get a hand shake and a 'thanks for playing,' and I would have been fine with that, but this works too." □

Soldiers tackle Functional Fitness Challenge during Mountainfest

Sgt. Michael K. Selvage

10th Sustainment Brigade Journalist

More than 30 Soldiers competed in the Functional Fitness Challenge held June 24 at Magrath Sports Complex, as part of the annual Mountainfest celebration.

Soldiers' missions require a broad range of physical attributes that can be grouped into three categories: strength, endurance and movement skills.

"This event is a great tool to measure the endurance and muscular strength of each Soldier," said Capt. Robert Rendon, deputy operations officer assigned to 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

Each team was composed of two Soldiers. The first event of the challenge was the Illinois agility test, which was used to measure the Soldiers' quickness and agility. The event required Soldiers to lie in the prone position before jumping to their feet and negotiating, sprinting and zigzagging around a course of cones.

Team members were then required to jump forward as far as possible and stick the landing in order for the distance to be recorded.

The third station required Soldiers to complete a series of pull-ups. Competitors were required to complete their pull-ups in proper form – they were not allowed to

kick their way up, and their bodies had to maintain a straight line.

After a five-minute break, teams readied for the fourth event – the metronome pushup. This event required teams to test their muscular endurance of upper body and core muscles as Soldiers performed pushups in cadence to a metronome until they were unable to continue.

Teams were given a five-minute break before facing a 300-yard shuttle run.

After completing two iterations of the run, Soldiers prepared for the heel clap challenge. While hanging from a pull-up bar, Soldiers had to lift their lower body up and raise their feet above the bar and tap their heels together before lowering their body to the starting position. Teams were not timed, but they had to complete as many repetitions as possible.

The final event was the beep test. Soldiers had to maneuver through a cone course, running one to come before a beep was heard. The longer the Soldiers stayed within the time constraints, the quicker the beeps.

"It was probably the most comprehensive physical fitness assessment that I have ever gone through," said Spc. Josh Warren, a trumpet player assigned to 10th Mountain Division Band. "It was a lot of fun. I just really enjoyed getting the opportunity to go through all of the events and see



SGT. 1ST CLASS LUIS SAAVEDRA

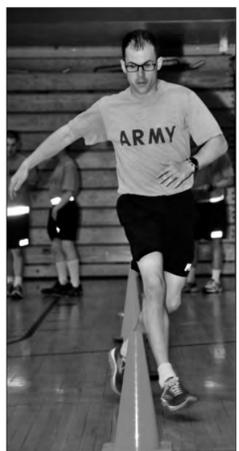
Col. Mark O'Neil, 10th Mountain Division (LI) deputy commander – operations, congratulates 1st Lt. Julia Neutkens, left, and 1st Lt. Amy Beatty, both assigned to 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, on winning first place in the female category of the Functional Fitness Challenge. The pair entered the event after completing the 5K Run earlier that day.

where I was."

Pfc. Joseph Ola, an operations runner assigned to 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, teamed up with Pfc. Darien Milian-Bravo, an assis-

tant gunner assigned to 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, and placed first in the male category.

First Lt. Amy Beatty, supply service officer, and 1st Lt. Julia



SGT. MICHAEL K. SELVAGE

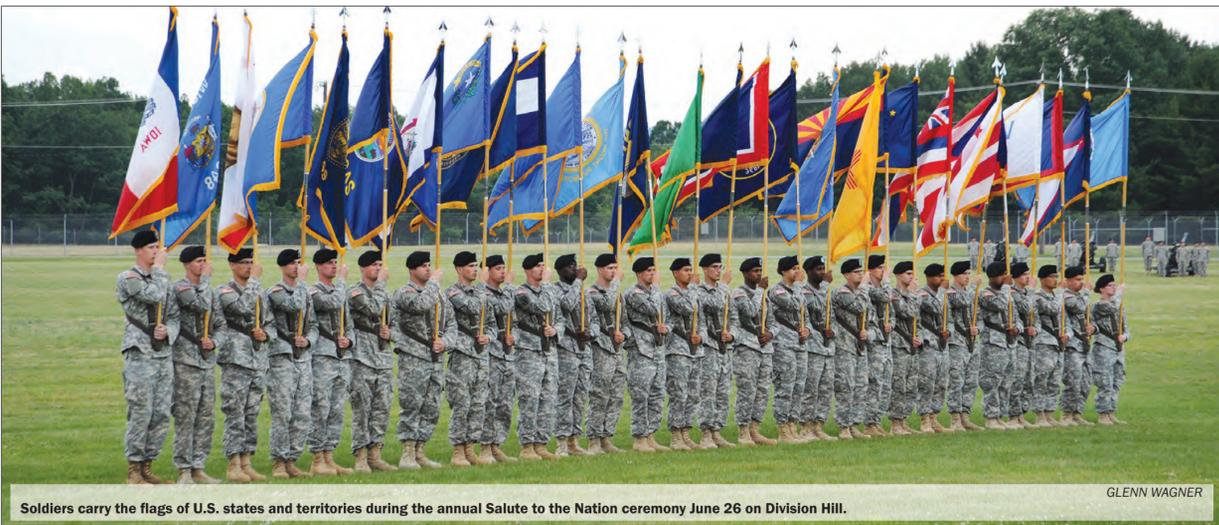
A Soldier negotiates a cone during one of seven events as part of the Functional Fitness Challenge on June 24 at Magrath Sports Complex.

Neutkens, deputy operations officer, both assigned to 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, teamed up and took first place in the female category. □

Fort Drum's annual celebration of freedom, remembrance

Mountainfest 2013

Mountainfest 2013 draws crowds to Division Hill



Soldiers carry the flags of U.S. states and territories during the annual Salute to the Nation ceremony June 26 on Division Hill. GLENN WAGNER

Fort Drum community honors fallen warriors during annual ceremony

Steve Ghiringhelli
Staff Writer

Soldiers, Family Members and guests filled large tents and bleachers in Memorial Park last week to honor six Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division (LI) who were killed in Afghanistan throughout 2012 during Fort Drum's annual Mountain Remembrance ceremony.

After the national anthem and an invocation from the division chaplain, Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, 10th Mountain Division (LI) and Fort Drum commander, walked with three others behind the Military Mountaineers Monument, where they unveiled a new memorial plaque inscribed with the names of the six fallen Soldiers.

Accompanying Townsend was retired Col. Mike Plummer, president of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, who on behalf of the association donated the memorial to stand as a permanent fixture in front of division headquarters.

Also a part of the detail were Command Sgt. Maj. Mark H. Oldroyd, Fort Drum garrison senior enlisted adviser, and retired Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackman, former 10th Mountain Division (LI) assistant division commander for support and the event's guest speaker.

Before introducing Jackman, Townsend thanked everyone for coming. He extended a special welcome to Gold Star Families and asked the crowd to join him in a round of applause for the Family Members of fallen Soldiers in attendance.

Townsend also spent a few minutes explaining how a popular country song played moments before the ceremony was inspired by a man sitting in the audience.

He said Lee Brice's "I Drive Your Truck" was written with Paul Monti in mind, a Gold Star father

who still drives the truck left behind by his son, former 10th Mountain Division (LI) Soldier and Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Jared C. Monti.

Monti reluctantly stood to be recognized at the general's request.

During his remarks, Townsend explained how in the safety and security of Fort Drum, it is important for people to appreciate that more than 5,000 division Soldiers remain in harm's way today.

"Our nation may be drawing down its efforts in Afghanistan, and our Army may be returning to its garrisons, but not the 10th Mountain Division (LI) and Fort Drum," he said. "It's tough, but it's fitting for this division. We were there at the start of this war on the ground in Afghanistan, and it's appropriate that we be there to close out Operation Enduring Freedom."

When Townsend concluded his remarks, Jackman took his place in front of the dozens of flags that waved in the warm summer breeze above a line of Soldiers fanned out on the field. The colors, some of them cased to signify the division's deployed brigades, represented every major Fort Drum and 10th Mountain Division (LI) unit.

Jackman, who called Fort Drum his Family's favorite Army assignment, told audience members that the names of the six fallen Soldiers represented hundreds of other division Soldiers who stood shoulder to shoulder with their forefathers of the 10th Mountain Division.

"I grieve for the Families, friends and fellow Soldiers they leave behind," he said. "These are shattering losses."

The retired general went on to say that after 35 years of service as an Army officer, he always marveled at how masterfully America's warriors have fought on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.



Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, 10th Mountain Division (LI) and Fort Drum commander, addresses Soldiers, Family Members and guests June 25 in Memorial Park during Fort Drum's annual Mountain Remembrance ceremony honoring six division Soldiers who lost their lives while deployed to Afghanistan last year. STEVE GHIRINGHELLI

"Our nation may be drawing down its efforts in Afghanistan, and our Army may be returning to its garrisons, but not the 10th Mountain Division (LI) and Fort Drum. It's tough, but it's fitting for this division. We were there at the start of this war on the ground in Afghanistan, and it's appropriate that we be there to close out Operation Enduring Freedom."

Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend

istan. He said lessons were learned, down to the smallest tactical levels. But one thing always remained.

"These warriors fought bravely and effectively, and our foes learned that about us."

Jackman spoke a great deal about America's past wars, pointing out the deeper meanings of what it means to be an American service member.

"The Families that make up America produce these outstanding men and women," he said. "When the United States was wounded on 9/11, these men and women responded to the call of duty. They came from every corner of our country and raised their right hand to support and defend our Constitution."

"They became our warriors," he added. "They are our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers, and our neighbors."

He said regardless of right or wrong strategic decisions, these

young Soldiers stepped forward at a time of war, volunteering and re-volunteering to serve.

"They are a credit to America," he said. "They represent the finest in American character. They are simply the best of us."

But the death of each Soldier greatly impacts Families, comrades and friends left behind, Jackman said, all of whom lost something in themselves when their Soldier fell.

"We can never put things back to the way they were," he said. "But we can honor the treasure that the fallen and wounded have given us."

Jackman finished by encouraging audience members to honor the memories of the fallen while also comforting and praying for the Family Members.

"(I ask you) to reflect," he said. "That you not take for granted their sacrifice, and that you commit yourselves to honoring them and their Families."

"It is right. It is pure. And they deserve nothing else."

The names of those Soldiers killed in action, appearing in chronological order, are as follows: 2nd Lt. David E. Rylander and Spc. Junot Mevs LeGrand Cochilus, both from 630th Route Clearance Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade; Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Rodriguez and Sgt. Jose J. Reyes, both of 110th Transportation Company, 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade; and Sgt. 1st Class Bobby L. Estle and Pfc. Jose O. Belmontes, both of 630th Route Clearance Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade.

After a 21-gun salute, the playing taps, a bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace" and the benediction, loved ones and friends took turns viewing the new monument inscribed with the names of their fallen warriors. □

Melody Everly
Staff Writer

Division Hill was a flurry of activity June 26 as thousands of Soldiers, Family Members and community members attended Fort Drum's annual Mountainfest celebration.

This pinnacle event concluded a weeklong series of competitions and ceremonies leading up to the two-week block leave period that Soldiers began Saturday.

Mountainfest started with the celebration of Riverfest on June 20. Soldiers and Family Members were invited to take a trip to Alexandria Bay, where they enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities, including a riverboat ride and a stop at Boldt Castle on Heart Island.

The many sporting events kicked off June 22, with teams competing for the coveted Commander's Cup trophy in events like soccer, basketball and football.

On June 24, Families were invited to Remington Park to cheer on Soldiers as they competed in several challenges, including a Warrior Endurathon and a tug-of-war match. The day also featured music, food and a variety of games and activities.

The annual Remembrance Ceremony took place June 25 in Memorial Park. Family Members were invited to witness the dedication of a commemorative plaque to honor Fort Drum Soldiers who gave their lives this past year in support of freedom.

Mountainfest Day activities began June 26 with the Division Run in the morning. The activities continued at Division Hill in the afternoon, with a variety of carnival-style games, concessions and learning opportunities.

Attendees had an opportunity to get a sneak peek at the life of a Soldier as they viewed military equipment displays. Children were invited to don helmets and sit inside helicopters, wreckers and Humvees as Soldiers provided them with demonstrations and information about the equipment.

Child, Youth and School Services staff members were on hand with a variety of fun activities for children, including bounce houses and slides, an archery range and a laser tag course.

Staff members from Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation provided a rock-climbing wall and an ATV riding course. Concert headliner and country music star Craig Morgan even rode his dirt bike on the course, much to the delight of Mountainfest attendees.

The festivities drew a sizeable crowd, and participants voiced their appreciation for the event, which provided a venue to enjoy good times with friends.

"They have activities for people of all ages. It's a really good opportunity to enjoy a fun day," said Tanya Gooding, who attended the celebration with her husband, Maj. Derek Gooding, and their children.

Andrea Ray, a military spouse who brought her children to the event, said she had been looking forward to the day for some time. She was thankful that Fort Drum had been able to continue Mountainfest activities this year.

"It's important because it gives



Col. Mark J. O'Neil, 10th Mountain Division (LI) deputy commander - operations, and Division Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Merritt present the Commander's Cup to Col. Willie I. Rios III and Command Sgt. Maj. Jose A. Castillo, 10th Sustainment Brigade command team, during Salute to the Nation on June 26 on Division Hill. GLENN WAGNER



Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, Fort Drum and 10th Mountain Division (LI) commander, gives a "thumb's up" while he and members of division staff lead the troops during the four-mile run June 26. STAFF SGT. JOEL PENA

Families a fun day. We are really looking forward to the concert tonight," Ray said.

Hal Greer, FMWR director, said he was extremely pleased to see that attendance at this year's event was on par with that of years past.

The success of this year's Mountainfest celebration, he said, was possible because of the support of the community and of corporate sponsorship.

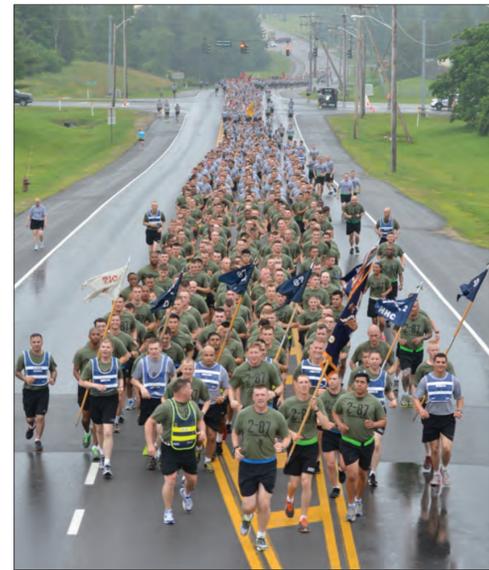
"We couldn't have done this without the help of our community and corporate sponsors," Greer said. "Our sponsors have funded the event and underwritten the entire cost of the concert. They are the reason that we are able to continue to provide this

wonderful event for our Families."

Greer also emphasized the importance of maintaining a state of normalcy despite the challenging fiscal restraints resulting from sequestration. Because Soldiers are still deploying in support of freedom, it is important that the community continue to honor their hard work and dedication.

"Celebrating our great nation and our Soldiers is something that has been done since the division was founded," Greer said. "We felt it was important to continue the tradition of celebrating the sacrifices of our Soldiers and Family Members. They deserve it."

Greer also pointed out that Mountainfest is open to the pub-



Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team don their unit shirts during the four-mile Division Run on June 26. STAFF SGT. JOEL PENA



Country singer Craig Morgan entertains the audience at Mountainfest on June 26. STAFF SGT. JOEL PENA

lic, and it is a great way to encourage the surrounding community to come to Fort Drum and interact with military Families.

At 5 p.m., the Salute to the Nation ceremony began with a rank and file display of the flags of each U.S. state and territory.

Col. Mark J. O'Neil, 10th Mountain Division deputy commander for operations, welcomed Soldiers, Family Members and honored guests to the ceremony. O'Neil was promoted to brigadier general in a ceremony held Monday.

O'Neil emphasized that this year's Mountainfest celebration was particularly special to the division, as we currently have three brigades engaged in forward operations in Afghanistan, with additional units preparing to deploy in the near future.

"The 10th Mountain Division does not rest," O'Neil said. "So today, as we honor our great nation, we remember those Soldiers currently deployed in harm's way, and we will keep those Soldiers

and Families in our thoughts and prayers."

O'Neil introduced the evening's guest speaker, Tony Keating, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army.

Keating had been asked to fill in for Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, Fort Drum and 10th Mountain Division (LI) commander, so that he and his wife could attend their son's basic training graduation ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga.

Keating passed along Townsend's reminder to enjoy the upcoming holidays in a safe and responsible manner and asked the 10th Mountain Division Band to present a medley of patriotic tunes in lieu of a lengthy oration.

"I recognize that they, musically, (will) offer patriotic messages and themes far more elegantly and articulately than I could possibly do with words," he said.

"All of us on this side of the parade field understand that it is you – each one of you – together with your sisters and brothers at arms, who for the last 238 years have stepped into the breach to defend all of us against all enemies – foreign and domestic – just as you pledged you would," he continued. "Without you, there is no independence, no freedom. Without you, there is no point in celebrating on this day. I want you to enjoy this concert. This one's for you."

The 10th Mountain Division Band played a medley of "America the Beautiful," "Yankee Doodle" and "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Following the ceremony, concertgoers made their way to the stage area, where the evening's events began with performances by 2013 North Country Idol winner, Corey Walts, and Syracuse's newest rock band, Scars N' Stripes.

After the opening acts, country music star Craig Morgan took the stage to entertain the crowd. The evening events concluded with a fireworks display immediately following the concert. □



From left: Monica Bogado uses a stencil to paint a glitter design on Aiden Rhein's face. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Keaton, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, shows Family Members some of the gear that OH-58 Kiowa pilots use. Staff Sgt. James McCloud, a Soldier from 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and volunteer at the event, takes a lap on the ATV course at Mountainfest. Brandi Stanford, daughter of Staff Sgt. Branden Stanford of 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, plays on one of many inflatable slides that were set up on Division Hill. Sgt. Merle Skeet teaches Alex Sowby, son of Staff Sgt. Jeremy Sowby of 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, the basics of archery. This year's annual Mountainfest celebration offered sporting events, fun family activities, a remembrance ceremony, Salute to the Nation and a concert by country musician, Craig Morgan. PHOTOS BY MELODY EVERLY



Above left: Col. David Francis, left, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and Task Force Falcon commander, congratulates newly promoted Sgt. Maj. John Kolodgy after his promotion June 23 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Kolodgy has deployed with 10th CAB five times, including in 2003 when he was promoted to sergeant first class in the same building as his recent promotion (Photo by Capt. Pete Smedberg). Right: The Family of newly promoted Sgt. Maj. John Kolodgy was able to witness his promotion via video teleconference from Fort Drum. Earlier the same day, Kolodgy awoke at 3 a.m. and was able to watch his daughter, Beth, graduate from Indian River Central High School (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Pouillot).



Soldier on fifth deployment receives top enlisted rank, Family watches promotion from Fort Drum

Staff Sgt. Todd Pouillot

10th Combat Aviation Brigade Journalist

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Just a couple of months after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, then-Staff Sgt. John Kolodgy arrived at Fort Drum from an assignment in Korea. Since then, the northern New York post would become home for him and his family.

Within two years of his arrival, Kolodgy deployed with 10th Combat Aviation Brigade for the unit's first deployment to Afghanistan. He is now on his fifth deployment with the unit – its fourth to Afghanistan – and working in the same building at Bagram Airfield as during his first deployment in 2003.

During that first deployment, Kolodgy was promoted to sergeant first class – the first senior non-commissioned officer rank. On June 22, in nearly the same spot as

last time, Kolodgy received the rank of sergeant major – the highest senior noncommissioned officer rank.

"It's kind of full circle," he said. "I started my senior NCO career in this building, and it could be my last senior NCO rank."

During the promotion ceremony, Col. David Francis, 10th CAB and Task Force Falcon commander, recognized the Kolodgy Family, who were able to witness the ceremony via video teleconference, for their contributions to the unit and to the Fort Drum community.

Francis noted that he is honored to be Kolodgy's sixth 10th CAB commander, adding that he had met the new sergeant major during an earlier deployment. He said the impression Kolodgy had made on him had not been forgotten.

"If you look up 'leader' in the dictionary, that's whose picture you should see," Francis said. "He

"If you look up 'leader' in the dictionary, (Kolodgy) is whose picture you should see. He is an absolutely outstanding leader ... (and he) has touched not only everyone in this room, but those on the other side of the ocean as well."

Col. David Francis, 10th CAB and Task Force Falcon commander

is an absolutely outstanding leader, and he's the epitome of an NCO. He hasn't lost the energy in training young Soldiers with passion and expertise. He has touched not only everyone in this room but those on the other side of the ocean as well."

Kolodgy joined the Army in 1989 to become an aeroscout observer. He eventually flew alongside a pilot aboard an OH-58A Kiowa.

He said his father played a significant role in his career. Few people knew of the aeroscout observer occupational specialty, but his father knew, and he told his son it was the job to take.

"There were only two slots per state allowed for that job, and I just happened to get it," Kolodgy said. "Basically, it's an enlisted co-pilot that is focused on the tactical piece – radios and calls for fire. Occa-

sionally, I would dismount and conduct dismounted observation on hilltops to call in airstrikes."

Kolodgy served as an aeroscout observer for eight years, until 1997, the year that the Army began requiring two officers in the cockpit.

Two months after becoming an aviation operations specialist, Kolodgy was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Since then, in addition to a three-year stint as a company first sergeant, he has served for 13 years in aviation operations at the battalion and brigade levels.

Currently, he serves as 10th CAB operations sergeant major.

In addition to the promotion ceremony, Kolodgy celebrated another milestone. On the day of his promotion, he woke up at 3 a.m. to proudly watch his daughter Beth's graduation from Indian River Central High School. □

Website features issues related to women vets

Meanwhile, Thompson said he has enjoyed commanding the MEDDAC.

"It has been the most professionally challenging experience of my life and, aside from my time commanding a combat support hospital in Afghanistan, the most professionally rewarding," he said. "I have learned a great deal from my fellow commanders on Fort Drum and within Northern Regional Medical Command, my command staff and from the staff of the MEDDAC as a whole. I feel like I have grown tremendously as an officer, physician and leader, and I hope others see and feel that as well."

As Thompson prepares for his next assignment, as chief consultant and chief of clinical services at Joint Base San Antonio, he has thought about what he would like his legacy to be when he leaves Fort Drum.

"I think most commanders would want their legacy to be simply that the unit is better today than on the day I took over," he said. "I think we, as a team, have done a number of things to hopefully meet that mark. And I emphasize that it is the team that has done those things. I have simply had the honor of being able to lead it." □

WASHINGTON – Labor Department officials have launched a website devoted to issues and challenges affecting women veterans.

The site highlights challenges that may affect the economic security of women veterans, including:

- Disability: Women veterans are more likely than their male peers to have a significant service-related disability. Thirty-five percent of women veterans have a disability rating of 50 percent or higher as compared with 26 percent of male veterans.
- Marital: Women veterans are nearly twice as likely to be divorced as male veterans – 18 percent of women veterans.
- Single parents: Eleven percent of women veterans are raising children alone, compared to 4 percent of male veterans.

The site also contains links with information on employment opportunities, education and health care options and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other government agencies. □

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

News Briefs

Civilian employees seek leave donations

The following Appropriated Fund employees have been accepted in the Leave Recipient Program: Danielle Goodrich, Maura Jensen, Sabrina Johnson, Michelle Leboito and Christine Robinson, all of MEDDAC; April Spencer, Director of Human Resources; Russell Benton, James Haggerty and John Smith, all of Directorate of Emergency Services.

Appropriated Fund employees who wish to donate annual leave should complete an OPM 630A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, and forward it to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Bldg. 10720, for processing.

Officials seek estate claims

Anyone having claims against or debts owed to the estate of Lt. Col. Jaimie E. Leonard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, may contact her summary court-martial officer, 2nd Lt. V. Carlos Garza, at 774-2956.

Anyone having claims against or debts owed to the estate of Lt. Col. Todd J. Clark, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, may contact his summary court-martial officer, 2nd Lt. John Bomsta, at 774-2477.

Anyone having claims against or debts owed to the estate of Pfc. Mariano Martin Raymundo, 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, may contact his summary court-martial officer, 1st Lt. Christopher J. Burke, at 772-5891.

All correspondence will be forwarded to the appropriate legal representative of the estates.

Newspaper staff plans holiday closure, summer hiatus
The Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 10012, will be closed Thursday in observance of Independence Day.

In addition, there will be no issue on July 11, as the staff observes a hiatus during summer break leave.

The next issue will be published July 18. The deadline for submissions will be noon July 11.

Note: Submissions will be due at noon Thursdays during the furlough of Department of Defense civilian employees.

Education Center staff will observe holiday
The Fort Drum Army Education Center will be closed Friday to include the following activities: Counseling Services, Army Testing and Multi-use Learning Facility. The Education Center will reopen at 9 a.m. Monday.

Organizers seek golfers for St. Lawrence Cup

The Fort Drum Chapter of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division will host the U.S. team in the 63rd Annual St. Lawrence Cup Golf Tournament between the U.S. and Canada. This is tournament for highly skilled golfers will take place Aug. 16-18 at Carlowden Country Club in Denmark.

The U.S. team will consist of 12 men and two women. Men must have a handicap of 10 or below (from the blue tees) and score no higher than 82, while women must have a handicap of 20 or below (from the red tees) and score no higher than 92.

Qualifying rounds will take place at 8 a.m. Sunday and July 14 at Carlowden Country Club.

All interested military personnel (active, National Guard, Reserve and retired), and current Fort Drum civilian

employees need to contact Dave Musher (team captain) at 783-7649 or email dmusher@twyncyrr.com for more information and to schedule a time slot.

Guthrie Clinic offers school, sports physicals

Did you know that you do not have to wait for school and sports physicals for Family Members?

New York state law requires physicals before entering kindergarten, 5th grade and 9th grade. Guthrie Health Clinic currently has an abundance of appointments, and Family Members can complete their physicals now.

Does your child plan to participate in Pop Warner football or cheerleading? Pop Warner regulations require that all physicals must be completed before Aug. 1. To schedule a physical, call the appointment line at 772-2778.

Guthrie Clinic will again offer Saturday physicals during the summer and fall months to accommodate busy schedules. Physicals will be offered from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 3 and Sept. 7 at Guthrie Health Clinic. For more information, call the appointment line at 772-2778.

Fort Drum Education Fair will take place Aug. 6
Fort Drum will host an Education Fair from 2 to 6 p.m. Aug. 6 at the McEwen Library and Education Center.

Representatives from more than 30 colleges, Jefferson - Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services Technical School, U.S. Army health care recruiters and Department of Veterans Affairs will be present. Prizes, food, cake and refreshments will be available during the fair, and all are welcome.

For more information, contact Doug McKenzie, Penny Plante or Andrea Slater-Williams at 772-6878.

Contacto extends road project

Quartermaster Road is currently closed from First Street West to the intersection of Railroad Street and from Railroad Street to the intersection of Warehouse Road. Due to unforeseen underground utilities and asphalt work, this section of road will be closed until Sept. 19. Construction will continue on Quartermaster Road to West Street, but those road closure dates have not been determined yet. If the work is completed before Sept. 19, the road will be reopened.

If you work or live on this section of the road and need access, call Jeff Carroll, project construction representative, at 523-0458, for assistance.

AA group meets on post
Alcoholics Anonymous will meet from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall of North Riva Ridge Chapel, Bldg. 10030. For details, call Ronald D. Jacob, 772-0035.

Report security issues to Fort Drum tip line
Fort Drum's Directorate of Emergency Services encourages everyone to contribute to community security by reporting suspicious behavior or activities to 774-8477 (TIPS).

Callers to the anonymous tip line should report odd behaviors and activities, such as people measuring or asking for blueprints of important buildings; strangers asking about security protocols; a briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left behind; vehicles left unattended in front of buildings; and chemical smells or fumes coming from a residence or business. The effort is part of iWatch Army, an antiterrorism program.



SGT. JAVIER S. AMADOR

Terrence Roche, chairman of the Purple Heart Scholarship Committee, stands with Sgt. 1st Class Scott Messier, his wife, Shannon Messier, Joann Blake, Douglas Blake and Sgt. Miguel Solano of the 543rd Military Police Company, 91st Military Police Battalion, after Messier received the Pvt. Joseph Blake Scholarship.

Scholarship keeps division Soldier's memory alive

Sgt. Javier S. Amador

3rd Brigade Combat Team Journalist

WATERTOWN – Sgt. 1st Class Scott Messier, a Soldier from the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Drum, became the latest recipient of the Pvt. Joseph Blake Scholarship during a ceremonial luncheon held June 26 by the local chapter of the Rotary International club at the Italian American Civic Association building.

The scholarship was created in 2006 as part of the Purple Heart Scholarship Fund, which the Watertown chapter of the Rotary Club established in 2004 as a way to celebrate the club's 100 years of service to people throughout the world.

The Pvt. Joseph Blake Scholarship is unique in being the only named scholarship in the fund.

Blake, an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, was killed in 2006 while deployed with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan. His parents, Douglas and Joann Blake, received compensation from the Army for his loss. Shortly after, they decided to contribute a portion of it to veterans' causes.

"After our son was killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 17, 2006, we had committed to using whatever monies we received from his death to set up a memorial for him," Joann Blake said.

The Blakes' initial desire to help Soldiers came from a conversation that they had with their son while he was visiting during his mid-tour leave in July 2006, shortly before he was killed.

"Joe was single, and when he came home on his mid-deployment leave on July 4, one of the things he said to us was that he was glad he was that he was not married and how hard it was for the Families of the deployed Soldiers," Joann Blake said.

The Blakes, who reside in Livonia, Mich., were introduced to the Purple Heart Scholarship Fund when their son's best friend in his unit, Sgt. Miguel Solano, contacted them after 3rd Brigade's return to Fort Drum.

"When we first came back from our deployment in 2007, I heard

word from our first sergeant that they wanted us to come to the Rotary Club, because they were having a commemoration for the recipients of Purple Hearts," Solano said. "And unfortunately, I was one of them."

At the luncheon Solano attended, it occurred to him that the real honorees should be the Purple Heart recipients who were not there, the ones who had sacrificed their lives.

"In the back of my mind, I was thinking we should not be the ones being celebrated," he said.

Solano's first contact with the Blakes came during his mid-tour leave at his home in Nacodoches, Texas. He had his aunt call the Blakes to see if it would be all right if he called them. Shortly after he and the Blakes had spoken with each other, Solano sent them a music CD and a letter.

"He knew that Joe had been killed and wanted to know if it would be OK to call," Joann Blake said. "And I'll tell you, that was the most precious telephone call to us, because he had a connection with Joe."

The Blakes continued to stay in contact with Solano after he returned to his unit at the end of his mid-tour leave and upon his return, related to him what their son had told them as well as their desire to help Soldiers and their Families. The Blakes approached the Rotary Club with Solano acting as their connection to Fort Drum, with their intention for the money they received after their son died.

"He (Solano) really was our primary contact with Fort Drum," she said. "I told him about what we really wanted to do."

Solano told them about the Rotary Club and what they were doing and put the Blakes in contact with Terrence Roche, a former Fort Drum garrison commander, who informed them the Rotary Club has a scholarship for 10th Mountain Soldiers.

"We contacted Terry and found out that they were having a fundraiser for the scholarship that already existed," Joann Blake said. "And I explained that we would like to offer a matching amount for anything they could raise, up to \$15,000."

While the money for the Purple Heart Scholarship Fund was being raised primarily through drawings, the Blakes said they preferred to match their pledge to money raised with donations. The money that was raised far exceeded the original \$15,000. Upon seeing the work that went into the effort, they matched the whole amount. What followed next came as a complete surprise to the Blakes.

"We didn't know it at the time, but they had decided to name that particular scholarship after our son," Joann Blake said.

"It was not our intention for them to do that, but they did it because we matched their amount."

The scholarships that the Rotary Club offers through its Purple Heart program may be funded through money that they raise; however, it is through the work of the Northern New York Community Foundation, which manage this and other scholarship programs for the Rotary Program, Roche said.

The fact that the scholarship already has a profound tie to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team and the 10th Mountain Division (LI) is made even more so when Sgt. 1st Class Messier mentioned that he earned the first of his two Purple Hearts on the same deployment as Blake and Solano while he was a weapons squad leader with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment.

Messier, who plans to pursue a degree in human services, has medically retired from the Army; the day on he received his scholarship was his last day on active duty.

The friendship that the CD, letter and the phone call forged between Solano and the Blakes had a profound effect on all of them. It led to a bond between the Blakes and the surviving members of Blake's platoon that endures to this day, although Solano, who is currently assigned to 543rd Military Police Battalion, is the last member of Blake's platoon still at Fort Drum.

"They come to visit every year during Mountainfest, and they have become a part of my Family," Solano said. □

Outgoing MEDDAC commander reflects on service

Capt. Rebecca Newton

Acting MEDDAC PAO

While thinking about the upcoming change of command scheduled later this month, Col. Mark W. Thompson took time to reflect on his last two years as the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity – Fort Drum commander, including the challenges and achievements during his tenure.

"Our team has accomplished a great deal over the past two years, but I think the greatest accomplishment we have made is reconnecting with our surrounding community, both on and outside of Fort Drum," Thompson said. "I think with our current and future fiscal challenges, those relationships will be vital in helping us continue to deliver the service required by our beneficiaries."

Accomplishments that Thompson and the MEDDAC team have made as an organization include instituting Patient Centered Medical Home; a National Committee for Quality Assurance Level III recognition of that practice; expansion of the Behavioral Health System of Care with creation of embedded behavioral health teams; creation of the Partial Hospitalization Program at River Hospital; establishing the Child and

Family Assistance Center at Guthrie to grow Family-centered behavioral health care; and an agreement with Samaritan Medical Center to increase the size of its inpatient Behavioral Health ward in Watertown to help cover Fort Drum's inpatient needs.

In addition, Thompson said there have been significant improvements to the MEDDAC's Joint Commission compliance in the past two years, which has resulted in excellent marks on the latest survey.

He also noted that communication has improved with MEDDAC personnel and with the community as a whole.

"Getting 'communication' perfect is probably an impossible task," Thompson said, "but I hope with our efforts to communicate in multiple venues (in person, online, through social media, commander's calls, brown bag lunches, Community Leaders Information Forums, town halls) we have been able to get timely information to both our patients and our staff."



Thompson

Meanwhile, Thompson said he has enjoyed commanding the MEDDAC.

"It has been the most professionally challenging experience of my life and, aside from my time commanding a combat support hospital in Afghanistan, the most professionally rewarding," he said. "I have learned a great deal from my fellow commanders on Fort Drum and within Northern Regional Medical Command, my command staff and from the staff of the MEDDAC as a whole. I feel like I have grown tremendously as an officer, physician and leader, and I hope others see and feel that as well."

As Thompson prepares for his next assignment, as chief consultant and chief of clinical services at Joint Base San Antonio, he has thought about what he would like his legacy to be when he leaves Fort Drum.

"I think most commanders would want their legacy to be simply that the unit is better today than on the day I took over," he said. "I think we, as a team, have done a number of things to hopefully meet that mark. And I emphasize that it is the team that has done those things. I have simply had the honor of being able to lead it." □

WASHINGTON – More reserve-component Soldiers may now be eligible to receive retirement pay before 60, if they meet certain criteria.

As of January, Congress authorized more categories to the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, which originally applied only to reserve-component Soldiers serving in overseas contingency operations like Iraq and Afghanistan, said Sheila Dorsey, chief, Reserve Component Retirements.

Soldiers can count 90 days of their tour toward 90 days earlier retirement for each fiscal year deployed, according to Richard Gray, supervisor of Retired Pay.

That part is still in effect.

The new categories include reserve-component Soldiers who are activated to respond to national emergencies, such as natural disasters like hurricanes or earthquakes.

Another category is for those in warrior transition units who were hurt while mobilized for such responses, Gray said.

The most important thing Soldiers can do to meet the criteria, Dorsey said, is to check their mobilization orders or their DD-214 discharge document.

Those documents need to have any one of the following Title 10 or Title 32 U.S. codes annotated: 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12305 or 12306.

If one of those numbers is not there, either the Soldier won't be eligible or needs to see someone in the personnel office to get the appropriate code amended, Dorsey said.

There are some exceptions to the rule.

Soldiers who have demonstrated substandard performance are an exception, for instance.

DOD to expand benefits to same-sex spouses

WASHINGTON – Defense Department officials will move forward in making benefits available to all military spouses, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in a statement issued June 26 after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act.

The law had prevented federal agencies from offering all of the same benefits to spouses in same-sex marriages that they provide to other spouses.

Here is the secretary's statement:

"The Department of Defense welcomes the Supreme Court's decision today on the Defense of Marriage Act. The (DOD) will immediately begin the process of im-

plementing the Supreme Court's decision in consultation with the Department of Justice and other executive branch agencies. The Department of Defense intends to make the same benefits available to all military spouses – regardless of sexual orientation – as soon as possible. That is now the law, and it is the right thing to do.

"Every person who serves our nation in uniform stepped forward with courage and commitment. All that matters is their patriotism, their willingness to serve their country and their qualifications to do so. Today's ruling helps ensure that all men and women who serve this country can be treated fairly and equally,

with the full dignity and respect they so richly deserve."

Later, a Defense Department spokesman issued a statement detailing some of the steps the department is taking:

- The department will immediately begin to update the identification card issuance infrastructure and update the applicable implementing guidance. We estimate that this process will take about six to 12 weeks. For civilian employees, the department will look to the Office of Personnel Management for guidance. For civilian employees who are eligible for ID card-related benefits, the department intends that ID cards



will be made available to same-sex spouses of civilian employees at the same time as same-sex spouses of military members.

- We are carefully reviewing command sponsorship for overseas tours, and all applicable status of forces agreements.
- We will assess costs as we move forward with implementation. □

medical, dental, interment at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., and with-dependent Basic Allowance for Housing. The department will implement these benefit changes as soon as possible for same-sex spouses.

- The policies governing burial at Arlington National Cemetery will apply equally to same-sex and opposite-sex spouses.
- We are carefully reviewing command sponsorship for overseas tours, and all applicable status of forces agreements.
- We will assess costs as we move forward with implementation. □

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Reserve Soldiers can opt for reduced-age retirement

David Vergun

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – More reserve-component Soldiers may now be eligible to receive retirement pay before 60, if they meet certain criteria.

As of January, Congress authorized more categories to the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, which originally applied only to reserve-component Soldiers serving in overseas contingency operations like Iraq and Afghanistan, said Sheila Dorsey, chief, Reserve Component Retirements.

Soldiers can count 90 days of their tour toward 90 days earlier retirement for each fiscal year deployed, according to Richard Gray, supervisor of Retired Pay.

That part is still in effect.

The new categories include reserve-component Soldiers who are activated to respond to national emergencies, such as natu-

ral disasters like hurricanes or earthquakes.

Another category is for those in warrior transition units who were hurt while mobilized for such responses, Gray said.

The most important thing Soldiers can do to meet the criteria, Dorsey said, is to check their mobilization orders or their DD-214 discharge document.

Those documents need to have any one of the following Title 10 or Title 32 U.S. codes annotated: 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12305 or 12306.

If one of those numbers is not there, either the Soldier won't be eligible or needs to see someone in the personnel office to get the appropriate code amended, Dorsey said.

There are some exceptions to the rule.

Soldiers who have demonstrated substandard performance are an exception, for instance.

Gray said Soldiers can check with U.S. Army Human Resources Command for eligibility information. The HRC can be reached by calling (502) 613-8950 or by visiting www.hrc.army.mil/tag/reducedageretirement.

While Soldiers who meet the criteria can receive retirement pay before age 60, they will still need to wait until their 60th birthday before they are eligible for TRICARE, Dorsey said.

Other than that, they will receive the normal retirement benefits, such as post exchange and commissary benefits.

Despite deferred medical, Dorsey said she has already seen a number of Soldiers taking advantage of the early-age retirement option.

Doing the math
Those Soldiers with the eligible U.S. codes can accrue reduced-age retirement as follows:



During any fiscal year, Soldiers can accrue 90 days of early retirement. Fewer days will not count or be carried over to the next fiscal year, and more days past 90 will not count and will not be carried over to the next fiscal year.

That 90-day period does not have to be contiguous. It could be the sum of more than one mobilization, so long as it meets the U.S. codes within that fiscal year.

For instance, a Soldier might have three 30-day mobilizations in one fiscal year. That would meet the 90-day criteria. Or, there might

be six 15-day mobilizations. That too would meet the criteria. Any number of combinations that add to 90 days would count.

Mountaineer OPINION-EDITORIAL

The Mountaineer, Fort Drum, N.Y. • July 3, 2013 • A11

American Red Cross issues safety tips for July 4 holiday

WATERTOWN – It's time for Fourth of July celebrations – fireworks, a backyard barbecue, or maybe a trip to the beach. Whatever people have planned, the American Red Cross wants them to enjoy their holiday and has steps they can follow to be safe.

"We want everyone to have a great holiday and a safe one," said Jane Gendron, community chapter executive of the American Red Cross Northern New York Chapter. "Whether the weekend will involve fireworks, grilling or going to the seashore, we have safety tips everyone can follow."

Fireworks safety

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public fireworks show put on by professionals. Stay at least 500 feet away from the show.

Many states – including New York – outlaw use of most fireworks by individuals.

In states where setting fireworks off at home is allowed, individuals should follow these safety steps:

- Never give fireworks to small children.
- Always follow the instructions on the packaging.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- Make sure the person lighting fireworks always wears eye protection.
- Light only one firework at a time, and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.
- Immediately leave any area where untrained amateurs are using fireworks.

Grilling safety

Every year, people in this country are injured while using backyard charcoal or gas grills.

Follow these steps to safely cook up treats for the backyard barbecue:

- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use.
- Never grill indoors – not in your house, camper, tent or any enclosed area.
- Make sure everyone, including pets, stays away from the grill.
- Keep the grill out in the open, away from the house, the deck, tree branches or anything that could catch fire.
- Use long-handled tools, especially made for cooking on the grill to keep the chef safe.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals have been ignited.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using grills.

Beach safety

If someone's visit to the shore includes swimming in the ocean, they should learn how to swim in the surf and only swim at a beach where a lifeguard is on duty, within the designated area. Obey all instructions and orders from lifeguards.

Other safety tips include:

- Keep alert for local weather conditions. Check to see if any warning signs or flags are posted.

- Swim sober, and always swim with a buddy.
- Have young children and inexperienced swimmers wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.
- Protect the neck – don't dive headfirst. Walk carefully into open waters.
- Keep a close eye and constant attention on children and adults while at the beach. Wave action can cause someone to lose their footing, even in shallow water.
- Watch out for aquatic life.

Water plants and animals may be dangerous. Avoid patches of plants, and leave animals alone.

Rip currents

Rip currents are responsible for deaths on our nation's beaches and for most of the rescues performed by lifeguards every year. Any beach with breaking waves may have rip currents.

Be aware of the danger of rip currents, and remember the following:

- If someone is caught in a rip current, he or she should swim parallel to the shore until out of the current. Once free, the person should turn and swim toward shore. If the person can't swim to shore, he or she should float or tread water until free of the rip current and then head toward shore.
- Stay at least 100 feet away from piers and jetties. Permanent rip currents often exist near these structures.

Additional water safety tips are available at redcross.org/water-safetytips.

Sun protection

Limit exposure to direct sunlight between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a protection factor of at least 15. Reapply sunscreen often.

Remember to drink plenty of water regularly, even if not thirsty. Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine in them.

Protect the eyes by wearing sunglasses that will absorb 100 percent of UV sunlight.

Protect the feet – the sand can burn them, and glass and other sharp objects can cut them.

During hot weather, watch for signs of heat stroke: hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; rapid, shallow breathing.

If it is suspected someone is suffering from heat stroke:

- Call 911, and move the person to a cooler place.
- Quickly cool the body by applying cool, wet cloths or towels to the skin (or misting it with water) and fanning the person.
- Watch for signs of breathing problems, and make sure the airway is clear. Keep the person lying down.

Download first aid app

Another thing people can do is download the free American Red Cross first aid app, which puts expert advice for everyday emergencies at someone's fingertips. The app is available for direct download from the Apple or Google Play for Android app stores.

AMERICAN RED CROSS
OF NORTHERN NEW YORK

We want to hear from you!

E-Mail
Lisa.R.Albrecht.civ@mail.mil
Phone
772-5469

Fax
772-8295

Submissions are due by noon Friday.



Independence Day 2013

For 237 years, the United States has served as a beacon of democracy and hope for countless people around the world. Soldiers have been there every step of the way, ensuring our hard-won freedoms endure for all time. Thank you for your service, whether you're in uniform or support our brave men and women behind the scenes as a Family member or civilian employee. This most American of holidays is yours to celebrate.

Between the picnics, fireworks, cookouts and other special events, please remember that risk is ever present. Managing it is easy: Make smart risk decisions and always fall back on training, discipline and standards. Whether you're enjoying at day at the lake, a week at the beach, a road trip to see friends or traversing country roads on an ATV, what you've learned on duty will keep you safe off duty. Outright indiscipline or a single moment of carelessness — both can result in equally tragic outcomes. Stay focused and stay smart to stay safe.

Thank you again for your service and dedication to our nation. We wish you all a very happy Fourth of July!

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG!

Richard D. Stidley

Richard D. Stidley
Command Sergeant Major

Timothy J. Edens

Timothy J. Edens
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

'Beetle Bailey' draws attention to post-traumatic stress

Bob Reinert
USAG-Natick Public Affairs

NATICK, Mass. – Fans of the long-running comic strip "Beetle Bailey" got a bit of a surprise June 16, when its creator, Mort Walker, chose to set aside his usual military-inspired humor to tackle a more serious subject.

That day's three-panel strip showed Beetle Bailey experiencing the signs and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, known as PTSD – including nightmares and trouble sleeping. The third panel reminds readers that "Post-traumatic stress can affect any Soldier." That message from Walker helped kick off a public service campaign by the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program to bring attention to the invisible wounds of war – post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury – during June, National PTSD Awareness Month.

The Home Base program, founded in 2009, has provided clinical treatment for more than 600 veterans and Family Members, and it has educated more than 7,500 clinicians nationwide about PTSD and traumatic brain injury, known as TBI.

In a video he recorded, Walker, an 89-year-old Army veteran of World War II, discussed why he used Beetle Bailey to help shed light on this issue.

"I feel so sorry for the veterans that have that post-traumatic stress," Walker said. "I would do anything to help them – even

"If you can make somebody happy, boy, I'll tell you, that cures all kinds of problems that people have. It's my business, in a way, and I enjoy that part of it."

Mort Walker, creator of
Beetle Bailey

happy, boy, I'll tell you, that cures all kinds of problems that people have," Walker said. "It's my business, in a way, and I enjoy that part of it."

Beetle Bailey is one element of the Home Base campaign's series of messages about helping Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their Families recover from those invisible wounds. Developed pro bono by advertising firm Hill Holiday, it features print, radio, online and electronic billboards.

"There's no greater honor than being of service to our veterans and military Families," said Mike Sheehan, Hill Holiday chairman. "We are honored to offer our resources, creativity and support to

Home Base, and to raise awareness about post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. Returning veterans and their Families deserve every resource available to help them adjust to life back home."

Numerous media outlets contributed advertising space and time to the Home Base campaign.

"These messages are timely and urgent," said retired Brig. Gen. Jack Hammond, Home Base executive director. "Although the war in Iraq has ended and more troops are returning from Afghanistan, it is critical that we remember that for many veterans and their Families, these wars have not ended and the return home has meant nightmares and difficulty sleeping, no longer feeling safe in everyday places, trouble concentrating, severe headaches and Family stress."

"The clinicians and staff of Home Base and all of our veterans and Family Members are so grateful for the talent and generosity of Hill Holiday in creating this unique and very powerful campaign. We are also grateful for the generous contribution of Mr. Mort Walker, and especially to our media partners, who have recognized the importance of this issue and made the decision to step up in support of our returning veterans and Families."

For more information about the Home Base program and its public service campaign, visit www.helpathomebase.org. To view Mort Walker's video, go to <http://bit.ly/19vCb0s>.



Your donation to Home Base helps our veterans and their Families recover from post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. Learn more at helpathomebase.org.

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF MORT WALKER

Fort Drum's Finest Town Home Community

Eagle Ridge VILLAGE

MOVE-IN SPECIAL - CALL FOR DETAILS!

Right Outside Fort Drum

315.629.5069 • www.EagleRidgeVillage.com

RT 342
KARTS & MORE

THE FASTEST FUN IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

2 Go Kart Tracks • 18 Holes of Miniature Golf
Single & Double Holes • 3 Holes are Handicap Accessible
Have the Track to Yourself with a Track Rental • Putt your way through Waterways & Cove

Military Discounts Tues. & Thurs.
788-RACE

OPEN DAILY - CALL FOR HOURS

Present Full Ad For Discount
\$1.00 OFF GAME OF GOLF

Located on Rte. 342 - 1 mile West of McDonalds, 3 miles East of Rt. 61, Exit 42



Put Your Family's Health in Good Hands

The Martin's Point US Family Health Plan is a designated TRICARE® Prime option. We provide the health benefits you have earned, and we do it with the service and personal attention you deserve.

315-785-5467

Call today or visit us at our new location at Freedom Plaza, 26121 US Rte 11, Evans Mills.



www.MartinsPoint.org

The TRICARE name and logo are registered trademarks of the TRICARE Management Activity. All rights reserved. 07/11 enr_p_01_11@mountaineer.com



FOLLOW THE BEAT TO TURNING STONE

EVENT CENTER

BUDDY VALASTRO
THE CAKE BOSS



THE BAKIN' WITH THE BOSS TOUR
JULY 21 - 4PM

KISS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST LEDGUM



AUGUST 8

SHOWROOM



DEANA MARTIN

BOBBY VINTON

TED NUGENT

Explore a Gilded Age Castle...or TWO



BOLDT CASTLE SINGER CASTLE

- ★ Castle Cruises
- ★ Luncheon Cruises
- ★ Dinner Cruises
- ★ Two-Nation Tours
- ★ Twilight Cruises
- ★ Special Charities



DISCOUNT TICKETS @ PARKS & RECREATION

Moving?

You need it? We've got it.

552 Moving & Storage
JOBS SELF STORAGE. Working in St. Watson. Call for more. 315-400-0000.

Classifieds
• 315-782-0400 •
1-800-724-0401

Find us online at
WATER TOWN DAILY TIMES
www.watertowndailytimes.com

A CAREER TO BE PROUD OF

Become a Professional Tractor Trailer Driver



Apply in Person • Daily Tours Available
Mon.-Fri. 11am-5pm & Sat. • Sat. 10am-4pm
4650 Buskey Rd., Liverpool, NY
1-800-243-9300 • www.nits.edu

LEOPARD LOUNGE JUL 4-6 MOJO & THE PROFESSIONALS JUL 11-13 MELISSA V BAND

TS BOX OFFICE > 877.833.SHOW TICKETMASTER > 800.745.3000

5218 PATRICK ROAD, VERONA, NY 13478
TURNINGSTONE.COM

Turning Stone
RESORT | CASINO

Save Big!

MAVIS DISCOUNT TIRE

bole muffler/brake

BUY 3 GET 1 FREE!

PASSENGER/PERFORMANCE				SUV & LIGHT TRUCK DEALS			
Avg. Price After BUY3 GET1 FREE				Avg. Price After BUY3 GET1 FREE			
Reg. Price (base) \$641*				Reg. Price (base) \$109**			
\$6374*				\$8249*			
185/65-14 SK				23x7.5-15 S			
185/60-15 SK	\$105.99	\$79.99	235/75-15 S	\$109.99	\$82.49	235/70-16 S	\$138.99
195/70-14 SK	\$92.99	\$69.99	245/75-16 S	\$145.99	\$109.99	245/70-16 S	\$145.99
205/70-15 SK	\$102.99	\$77.99	245/70-16 S	\$145.99	\$109.99	265/70-16 S	\$158.99
205/65-15 S	\$97.99	\$73.99	265/70-16 S	\$158.99	\$119.99	285/70-17 S	\$172.99
205/60-16 S	\$105.99	\$79.99	L225/75R16 S	\$152.99	\$114.99	L205/75R16 S	\$178.99
205/55-16 SK	\$104.99	\$78.99					
215/70-15 SK	\$105.99	\$79.99					
225/60-16 SK	\$105.99	\$79.99					

*Starline Tires, **Kelly Tires Excludes Plus

SAVE BIG! ALL-SEASON SPECIAL PURCHASE TIRES

Passenger	Performance	SUV & LT
175/80-13	215/65-17	215/70-16
175/80-14 \$44.99	205/60-15 \$63.99	215/70-16 \$73.99
185/70-14 \$44.99	205/60-17 \$63.99	225/70-16 \$73.99
185/65-15 \$44.99	215/65-15 \$63.99	225/65-17 \$73.99
195/70-14 \$44.99	215/65-17 \$63.99	235/65-17 \$73.99
195/65-15 \$44.99	215/60-17 \$63.99	235/60-19 \$73.99
195/60-15 \$44.99	225/65-18 \$63.99	235/65-18 \$73.99
205/70-15 \$44.99	225/60-17 \$63.99	245/65-17 \$73.99
205/65-15 \$44.99	225/55-17 \$63.99	255/65-18 \$73.99
225/60-16 \$44.99	235/60-15 \$63.99	270/65-20 \$73.99
235/60-16 \$44.99	235/45-17 \$63.99	

All-Season Tire Specials, Speed-Rated Performance, All-Season SUV Tires

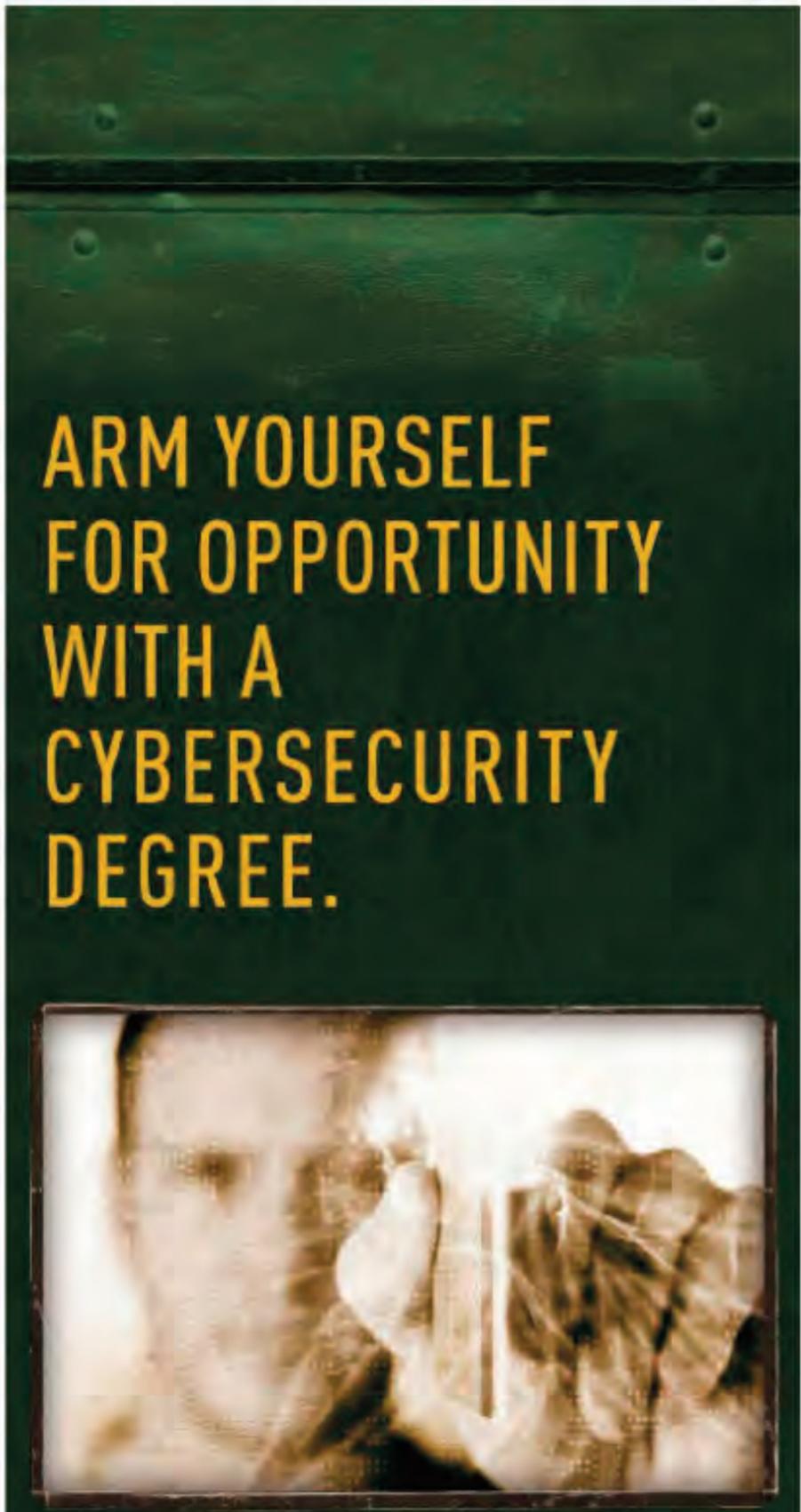
<h3>\$70 OFF!</h3> <p>Primacy MXV4 60,000 Miles (75,000 Miles on SUVs)</p>	<h3>\$80 OFF!</h3> <p>Signature 60,000 Miles (75,000 Miles on SUVs)</p>	<h3>\$80 OFF!</h3> <p>Integrity 50,000 Miles (75,000 Miles on SUVs)</p>
<h3>\$97.99</h3> <p>Defender 90,000 Miles (75,000 Miles on SUVs)</p>	<h3>\$99.99</h3> <p>Rover RVXT Rugged Truck Tire</p>	<h3>\$79.99</h3> <p>Eagle GT Goodyear Performance</p>
<h3>\$97.99</h3> <p>Energy Saver A/S Fuel Efficient Tire</p>	<h3>\$84.99</h3> <p>Lifeline GLS 65,000 Miles (75,000 Miles on SUVs)</p>	<h3>\$89.99</h3> <p>Wrangler Goodyear SUV Tires</p>

<h3>WATERTOWN</h3> <p>918 Arsenal Street 315-788-3480 (next to McDonald's)</p>	<h3>WATERTOWN</h3> <p>1662 State Street 315-785-8462 (across from Walgreens)</p>	<h3>FULTON</h3> <p>801 South Fourth St. 315-592-7309</p> <p>OSWEGO 350 West First St. 315-342-0114</p> <p>PULASKI 3427 Maple Ave. 315-298-5705</p>
--	--	--

OPEN: Mon.-Fri. 8:00AM-6:00PM, Sat. 8:00AM-5:00PM
Now Open Till 5:00PM ON SATURDAYS!

MAVISTIRE.com

Buy 3 tires, get 1 free. Mufflers & Exhaust \$25 OFF! Tire Rotation FREE!



ARM YOURSELF FOR OPPORTUNITY WITH A CYBERSECURITY DEGREE.

To win the battle in cyberspace, we need more cyber warriors. University of Maryland University College (UMUC) has answered the call, educating the next generation of cybersecurity specialists in the public and private sectors. Our accessible online degree programs have been recognized for excellence by NSA and DHS. And many of UMUC's courses address industry-standard certifications, including several on the DoD 857J list. UMUC is affordable, too, with scholarships for those who qualify, no-interest monthly payment plans and participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Because the nation's battle for cybersecurity can't afford to be without you.

UMUC
University of Maryland University College
AT YOUR SERVICE SINCE 1947

★ University of Maryland University College is the nation's largest public university. ★

Learn more • 301-887-7575
military.umuc.edu/securejobs

Mountaineer LEISURE

The Mountaineer, Fort Drum, N.Y. • July 3, 2013

Teddy Roosevelt impersonator to perform today in Clayton

CLAYTON – Nationally acclaimed Teddy Roosevelt impersonator Joe Wiegand will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Clayton Opera House.

Joe Wiegand is regarded as the nation's premiere impersonator of Theodore Roosevelt. Before becoming Teddy Roosevelt, Wiegand had a 25-year career in politics and public policy in his native Illinois.

In 2008, after running gubernatorial and presidential campaigns in the Land of Lincoln, Wiegand set out with his wife, Jenny, daughter, Sam, and golden retriever, Faith, on a 50-state tour celebrating Theodore Roosevelt's sesquicentennial birthday and the centennial of his final year in office. The adventure was highlighted by a performance at the White House for President and Mrs. George W. Bush on Theodore Roosevelt's 150th birthday.

Immediately following the performance, audience members are invited to step outside to enjoy the Clayton fireworks display. Fireworks to celebrate Independence Day will begin at dusk and can be viewed from vantage points along Riverside Drive.

Showtime is 7 p.m. Tickets are



MARK GLENN STUDIO

Joe Wiegand will perform as Theodore Roosevelt at 7 p.m. today at the Clayton Opera House. Tickets are \$25 per person.

\$25 and can be purchased at the Clayton Opera House Box Office, by calling 686-2200 or by visiting www.claytonoperahouse.com. □

THOUSAND ISLANDS PERFORMING ARTS FUND

Travel magazine offers tips for exploring National Scenic Byway

The 2013 Great Lakes Seaway Trail Travel Magazine is packed with ideas for exploring the 518-mile National Scenic Byway that hugs the freshwater shoreline of New York and Pennsylvania.

Feature articles in the magazine highlight 30 historic lighthouses; War of 1812 battle sites; cultural heritage attractions; quilt classes and exhibits; events and festivals; and volkswalking, biking, kayaking and geocaching opportunities.

The magazine includes Thousand Islands / Jefferson County

highlights: historic War of 1812 battles fought at Sackets Harbor plus the modern-day celebrations of the 45th anniversary of the French Festival in Cape Vincent and fireworks for the 75th anniversary of the Thousand Islands Bridge on Aug. 2 in Alexandria Bay. Lighthouse enthusiasts are invited to visit the newly upgraded Rock Island Lighthouse.

The travel magazine is found at some 50 kiosk units on the byway; at information centers, accommodations and attractions through-

out the region; and at visitor centers and interstate rest areas.

Jefferson County pickup points for the magazine include the 1000 Islands International Tourism Council in Alexandria Bay, Tibbetts Point Lighthouse and Hostel in Cape Vincent, and the town of Lyme office in Chaumont.

The magazine also is online at www.seawaytrail.com.

Print copies can be requested by phone at 646-1000, extension 200.

GREAT LAKES SEAWAY TRAIL

Going Hollywood



Hollywood producer-writer Carmen Finestra talks with Chaplain (Capt.) David Arthur, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, while broadcasting at a Watertown Rams game earlier in the season. Finestra, who worked as a writer for "The Cosby Show" and producer of "Home Improvement" among other projects, did play by play during the games and interviewed local personalities, including Soldiers from Fort Drum.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Soldiers earn berths in Wrestling World Championships

Tim Hipps

U.S. Army Installation Management Command

STILLWATER, Okla. – Three wrestlers in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program earned spots on Team USA for the World Championships at the 2013 U.S. World Team Trials, June 21-22.

Sgt. Spenser Mango, Spc. Justin Lester and Spc. Caylor Williams will compete Sept. 16-22 at the 2013 FILA Wrestling World Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

An unprecedented eight Soldiers reached the finals of the U.S. World Team Trials, including four in two weight classes, ensuring that at least two Army wrestlers would make Team USA.

Mango, a two-time Olympian who will make his fourth appearance at the World Championships, won two straight matches against WCAP teammate Sgt. Nate Engel in the best-of-three finals of the Greco-Roman 55-kilogram / 121-pound division.

Lester, a 2012 Olympian who earned his sixth trip to the World Championships, defeated WCAP teammate Pfc. Ellis Coleman in two consecutive matches in the 66-kilogram / 145.5-pound Greco-Roman division.

"I've just been feeling good," Lester said. "I'm having fun again, and that's what it's all about. When I'm having fun, I'm wrestling well. Still got awhile to go – got to get my offense clicking. Obviously my lungs are back. Just get my moves clicking, and I'm going to be ready to go by Budapest."

Lester welcomed Coleman's move into his weight class and onto the Army WCAP squad.

"He's somebody else I have to beat," Lester said.

"We're going to be battling until these shoes are off," he added, "but until then, I expect him to push me and I'm going to push him to make him a better wrestler."

Williams, 22, a 2013 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, prevailed in two matches against New York Athletic Club's Marcus Finau in the Greco-Roman 96-kilogram / 211.5-pound class.

"The same way I came into this

tournament – nobody knew who I was, I wasn't a favorite – that's the same way I feel about the world," Williams said. "The No. 1 guys from Russia, Cuba, Hungary – I'm ready to wrestle all of them. I've wanted to make the national team and the world team for a long time.

"This stuff is all cool," Williams said after receiving his Team USA uniform from USA Wrestling Director of National Teams Mitch Hull. "But I don't really care – I'm trying to win the Worlds."

Williams praised the Army for renewing his wrestling life after UNC-Greensboro dropped its wrestling program.

"I thank WCAP for picking us up and taking us to the next level," he said. "It's the No. 1 team in the country right now."

WCAP head wrestling coach Shon Lewis said he is glad to have Williams on his squad.

"He's so explosive," Lewis said. "He's one of our new guns, and we're happy to have him. He's working hard, and he's hungry. As long as he stays hungry, and he stays humble, I think he's going to do great things."

After wrestling through a day-long challenge tournament, three other Soldiers reached the finals. They will serve as alternates for the World Championships.

Capt. Jon Anderson dropped two straight matches to 2011 U.S. World Team member Andy Bisek of the Minnesota Storm in the finals of the Greco-Roman 74-kilogram / 163-pound weight class.

Anderson, 28, a 2006 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, defeated Minnesota Storm's Jake Fisher to reach his first final in the U.S. World Team Trials. He saluted Family Members and Army fans for their support from the grandstands at Gallagher-Iba Arena on the campus of Oklahoma State University and others watching on the Internet.

"I'm pumped," Anderson said. "I've got my Family out there: my wife, my parents, brother in law, a bunch of guys came down – even my old commander that I went to Iraq with, he's here watching, and his wife. It's awesome that I've got all my Family watching online, too. All the hard work paid off."



TIM HIPPS

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program wrestler Spc. Caylor Williams throws New York Athletic Club's Marcus Finau en route to victory June 22 in the finals of the 96-kilogram / 211.5 pound Greco-Roman division of the 2013 U.S. World Team Trials in Stillwater, Okla. Williams won the best-of-three series in two straight matches to earn a spot on Team USA for the 2013 FILA Wrestling World Championships, Sept. 16-22, in Budapest, Hungary.

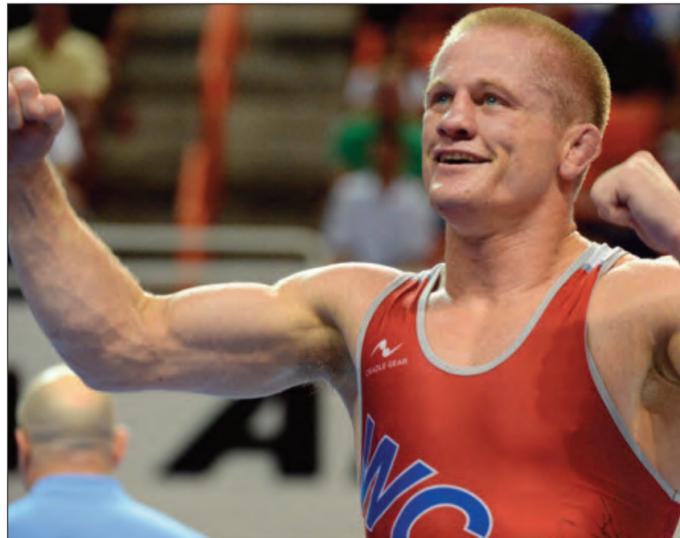
Spc. Peter Hicks lost to reigning national champion Jordan Holm of the Minnesota Storm in the 84-kilogram / 185-pound Greco-Roman division.

Reigning national champ at 51 kilograms, Pfc. Whitney Conder, wrestling up a weight class, lost to 2012 World silver medalist Helen Maroulis of New York Athletic Club in the women's freestyle finals at 55 kilograms / 121 pounds. Conder, 25, was a 2007 Junior World champion.

"She really showed her toughness by coming here to compete and going against women five or six kilos heavier than she is, and knocking them off," Lewis said. "Right now, she's ranked No. 2 at 55 and ranked No. 1 at 51."

Fresh off an Olympic cycle, the Army wrestling team already has reloaded.

"By far, this is the strongest and the deepest team that we've had," Lewis said. "We put three on the team, and we had a chance to put four or five on the team." □



TIM HIPPS

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program wrestler Capt. John Anderson reacts to earning a berth in the finals of the 74-kilogram / 163-pound Greco-Roman division of the 2013 U.S. World Team Trials with a victory over Minnesota Storm's Jake Fisher, June 22, in Stillwater, Okla. Anderson lost to Andy Bisek of the Minnesota Storm in the finals.

Mountaineer PEOPLE

RONSON'S
Gold Star Liquors
Let Ronson's Keep You In Good Spirits

BIG STORE SELECTION & LOW PRICES WITH SMALL STORE SERVICE AND CONVENIENCE

341 Arsenal Street
In Gold Star Plaza, Watertown
SALE & CELEBRATION (315) 782-5220

WOW Smirnoff Vodka \$16.99 1.75L	Kamora Coffee Liqueur \$18.99 1.75L	New Amsterdam Gin \$16.99 1.75L	Black Velvet Reserve 8 Years Old \$16.49 1.75L	WOW Brugal Anejo Rum \$16.99 1.75L
WOW 22 Marquis (Cognac W/ Coconut) \$18.99 750ml	Canadian LTD Whisky \$12.99 1.75L	WOW Captian Morgan Spiced Rum \$18.99 1.75L	Jose Cuervo Gold Tequila \$16.99 1.75L	Wagner Niagara \$4.99 750ml
WOW Yellow Tail Chardonnay \$8.49 1.5L	Excelsior Cabernet Sauvignon \$6.99 750ml	New Age White \$6.99 750ml	Layer Cake Shiraz \$10.99 750ml	Mirassou Cabernet Sauvignon \$6.99 750ml
Simi Russian River Chardonnay \$15.99 750ml	Gran Reserva Cataregia (Spain) \$7.99 750ml	WOW Cook Brut California Champagne \$5.99 750ml	Antinori Santa Cristina Rosso + Blanco \$7.99 750ml	WOW Hazlitt Red Cat \$9.99 1.5L

Jim Beam Black 8 Years Old Giftset With 2 Glasses
\$16.99 **WOW**

Sutter Home White Zinfandel
\$6.99 1.75L

Convenient Location.... Convenient Hours....
Sunday: 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Friday & Saturday 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM
.... Amazing Prices

Sale Ends July 15, 2013 ~ Family Owned & Operated since 1967

SAVE 20% OFF 2 Or More Bottles Of Wine Excludes advertised specials, closeouts, discontinued items. Coupon Expires 07/15/2013	SAVE 20% OFF 2 Or More Bottles Of Wine Excludes advertised specials, closeouts, discontinued items. Coupon Expires 07/31/2013	SAVE 20% OFF 2 Or More Bottles Of Wine Excludes advertised specials, closeouts, discontinued items. Coupon Expires 08/15/2013
---	---	---

The power of choice

Air Force officer learns value of shaping one's own course

Melody Everly
Staff Writer

Stories are often told of people who spend their childhoods dreaming of serving as officers in the military. Some participate in JROTC programs during high school, while others choose college coursework that will better prepare them for their military careers.

Air Force Capt. Jason Hawkins followed a very different path. Although he didn't always dream of becoming an aviator, when he discovered his passion for flying, he pursued it wholeheartedly.

The son of an airman, Hawkins grew up in a family that stressed academic achievement. However, while his sister excelled in school, he struggled in an academic setting.

After being expelled from school during his second attempt at completing the eighth grade, Hawkins attended an alternative high school during his freshman year.

"I decided I haven't gotten any good grades for a long time. I'm just going to get straight A's just to prove to myself that I can do it," Hawkins said. "And I did. I got all A's in every class."

He returned to public high school, but he quickly fell back into the routine of just getting by. During his senior year, Hawkins struggled with his course work, and he enrolled in night classes to complete his requirements. He graduated in the bottom three percent of his class. At that point, college did not seem like an option for him.

After taking a year off and working several dead-end jobs, Hawkins decided to enlist in the Air Force. He was classed into the security forces squadron, and although it was not a career that he felt drawn to, he did not feel he had other options.

Hawkins said he vividly recalls the moment that he realized he wanted more out of life. He was stationed in Korea, working as a security forces gate guard at the flight line, and he spent his shifts watching F-16 fighter planes take off and land.

As he was checking a pilot's identification card on a particularly cold winter night, he had an epiphany.

"This one pilot, he rolls down the window with a big smile on his face and (he) shows me his badge," Hawkins recalled. "You could tell he was a happy person. He was a pilot who got to fly these awesome airplanes."

"I went back to my shack after checking his ID and thought - 'that's what I want to do!' I went right to the education office and said 'sign me up. I want to take some education courses.' And that was my focus for the next few years."

Hawkins said the realization that he had the power to change the course of his life was an amazing revelation to him, and one that has driven him to continue to adapt and succeed in any challenge that comes his way.

He began taking courses through the Community College of the Air Force and eventually completed his associates degree in criminal justice.

His next duty station was Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, where he worked as an elite guard for the headquarters building. It was there that he met Air Force Lt. Gen Stephen Polk, who was then vice commander of the Pacific Air Forces.

"He was just a really nice regular guy," Hawkins said. "He came in to work in civilian clothes one day, which made him seem even more approachable to a young airman. So I went up to him and said 'Hey sir, I want to be a pilot.



Capt. Jason Hawkins performs guard duty during a deployment to Saudi Arabia just days after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.



Capt. Hawkins and his family pose for a photo in front of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C., in the spring of 2012. From left are his wife Tina, son Cole, Hawkins, son Bradley and daughter Holly. At the time this photo was taken, the couple was expecting their youngest daughter, Juliet, who is now 10 months old.



Hawkins receives his "Competent Communicator" award from Dan Bennet, Toastmasters International District A governor.

Any ideas what I should do?" He said, "first thing you should do is start taking pilot lessons. Learn how to fly. It shows them you're serious."

Hawkins went to the local airport, signed up for lessons, and earned his pilot's license before leaving Hawaii.

After four years as an enlisted member of the Air Force, Hawkins decided to separate from active duty to pursue the bachelor's degree that would allow him an opportunity to become an officer. His family and friends were in a state of disbelief.

"I had just gotten married a year before and my wife was pregnant, and people were like 'are you crazy?'" he said.

Hawkins knew that becoming an officer would allow him to pursue his dreams, so he took a leap of faith and went back to school.

He and his wife moved to Texas, and he worked as a public school bus driver, a job that ensured he and his family would have good insurance benefits. He took as many night courses as he could manage.

Before completing his degree, Hawkins applied for acceptance to Officer Training School. His inspiration, Polk, was now serving as inspector general of the Air Force.

"When I got out of the military he had said, 'If you ever need any help, let me know,' and he seemed sincere about it," Hawkins said. "I took a shot and sent him an email asking for a letter of recommendation, and he responded three hours later. So, sure enough, he wrote me a letter of recommendation."

Getting back into the Air Force proved to be more difficult than Hawkins had anticipated.

"They wanted people with degrees in engineering, and the Air Force wasn't really hiring officers at (that) time," Hawkins said. "So, as a recruiter, you didn't want to

wait your time with an applicant who didn't have a technical degree."

Hawkins met with every recruiter in the area, but not one was willing to submit his application packet. He was determined to re-enter the Air Force, and he refused to give up.

Fortunately, he lived in San Antonio, home of the Air Force recruiting headquarters office. Hawkins visited the headquarters and explained the situation to a helpful lieutenant colonel, who personally saw to the submission of his application packet. Shortly thereafter, he was accepted into Officer Training School.

"My (college) graduation was on a Saturday, but I got picked up for OTS and my class date was so soon that I couldn't even make it to graduation," Hawkins recalled. "The morning of my graduation, I started driving to OTS."

Although Hawkins had hoped to enter OTS as an aviator, he was instead offered a navigator spot. Grateful for a placement that would get him off the ground, he accepted the position.

It was during navigator training that he met a young child who sparked his desire to work with youths, encouraging them to make positive choices. This young man, who lived with his grandmother, was having behavioral issues. Hawkins began taking him to the gym on base to play basketball. The two often spoke of the importance of making good decisions that would have a positive impact on the future.

Although Hawkins made a permanent-change-of-station move shortly thereafter, the experience cemented his desire to serve as an advocate for youths.

After performing reconnaissance missions during several deployments as a navigator, Hawkins craved the opportunity to get closer to the action. He researched his options, and de-

cidated that he wanted to become an air liaison officer.

ALOs serve as the primary airpower adviser to the Army ground commander. Their front-line combat position is crucial to success of the mission, as it helps commanders to integrate battlefield operations and close air support in conjunction with one another.

"I told my commander I wanted to go be an ALO, and he sat across from me and said 'There's no way you're going to go be an ALO. You might as well just get comfortable here.'"

Again, Hawkins refused to accept defeat. He volunteered as the base aircraft scheduler, where he was responsible for creating and executing the entire flying schedule for Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. This gave him an opportunity to demonstrate his ability level to base leadership and earned him a position as an ALO.

During his first deployment to Afghanistan as an ALO, Hawkins said that while he felt closer to the action, he felt something was still missing.

He decided that what he really wanted was to become a motivational speaker to educate youths on the power of choice and the importance of working hard to achieve their goals and dreams.

Recognizing that he needed to improve his skills, Hawkins joined the public speaking organization Toastmasters International.

He worked diligently to improve his delivery skills, and he began contacting local school districts and volunteering to speak to their students.

During his speaking engagements, Hawkins discusses what it takes to become an extraordinary individual, by taking an active role in making positive decisions that affect one's future. He calls this "the power of choice."

This world are ordinary. These people live ordinary lives, but they're not really happy," Hawkins said. "They don't enjoy their jobs and relationships, and just kind of go through life."

"But then there are these people who love life," he continued. "They have jobs that they really enjoy, that are fulfilling. They have great relationships with their families. What's the difference between ordinary and extraordinary? It's that extraordinary people do those things that ordinary people are unwilling to do."

Hawkins encourages students to think about their futures and plan for success from an early age. But he also reminds them that, at any point, they can decide to make choices that can change their lives for the better.

While the Air Force has provided Hawkins with a wealth of experiences, he and his family recently decided that they are being led in a different direction. Hawkins will soon separate from the Air Force to start a nonprofit organization to support at-risk teens.

"I want to teach young kids to build kit airplanes," he said. "These are real airplanes that come in pieces from the factories. You assemble them, and they are a complete flyable airplane. Then (we will) teach the kids how to fly these airplanes. What an amazing thing for a 16- or 17-year-old kid who was headed in the wrong direction to change it around."

By uniting youths in a shared mission, Hawkins said he believes they will develop the confidence and motivation to make choices that will help them to succeed in every aspect of their lives.

"If you are really passionate about something, you will make it work," he said. "If you learn how to do something, you learn how to be motivated and responsible, you will figure it out." □

WELCOME TO NORTHERN NEW YORK!

REAL ESTATE DIRECTORY

Jefferson Realty
and Property Management
315.783.2321
www.BuyJefferson.com

Looking to Buy or Sell?
107 Water Street Dexter, NY 13634
315-637-6900
Specializing in Residential and Waterfront Properties

Veteran Owned and Operated
ALL AMERICAN REALTY CENTER
James Conlin
Lic. RE Broker
Proud to be your Realtor
315-681-6914 or 315-408-8246
www.aare.biz/

Elliot REALTY
Cty. Pl. 123, HENDERSON HARBOR 938-5764
OR
642 Coffeen St., WATERTOWN 788-5765
www.elliottrealtyinc.com

Carthage Federal
Savings & Loan Association
313 State St Carthage 493-3480
146 Arsenal St Watertown 779-9775
325 State St Clayton 686-4850
www.carthagesavings.com
VA Mortgage Experts

LORI GERVERA REAL ESTATE
605 Washington St. Watertown, NY 786-1900
www.LoriGervera.com

Nancy D. Storino Real Estate
417 Arsenal St, Watertown
315-788-7171 or 782-8108
"Our Experience Is Priceless!"
Making House Calls for 28 Years
EMAIL: NancyD@NancyD.com
www.NancyD.com

Your Perfect Partner™
COLDWELL BANKER
Rimada Realty
109C Arsenal St. Watertown (315) 783-4444
325 Justice St. Clayton (315) 636-4444
17 N. Broad St. Carthage (315) 493-7000
www.rimada.com
coldwellbanker.com

EXIT MORE REAL ESTATE
www.EXITMORE.com
18874 U.S. Rte. 11, Watertown, NY 782-9292
Office Toll Free 877-808-9398

Mountaineer HAPPENINGS

Mountaineer Classifieds

782-0400 or TOLL FREE 1-800-724-0401 • MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M. • ONLINE: NNYADS.COM •

Real Estate

COFFEEVILLE 1 bed, 1 1/2 bath, vinyl, and wood floors near Fort Drum. \$495. 810-757-8910

WATERLOO a big Apple of luxury rental unit, near 1000 ft. of lake, 2nd floor. \$1000. 810-757-8910

LAFAYETTE OPPORTUNITY home with 20 acre, 100 ft. front porch, 4,000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

IN COGSVILLE LARGEST HOME in the area. 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Rentals

WATERLOO DOUBLE 1 1/2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, vinyl floors, 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Employment

EXTEND YOUR REACH

Classified line ads appear on the Work Week Web at: nyads.com

Garage/Yard Sales

THURSDAY 2013. 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Merchandise

SELLING OLD TREASURES? Looking for new ones?

The classified section of the Mountaineer works.

782-0400 or 1-800-724-0401

Real Estate

COFFEEVILLE 1 bed, 1 1/2 bath, vinyl, and wood floors near Fort Drum. \$495. 810-757-8910

Rentals

WATERLOO DOUBLE 1 1/2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, vinyl floors, 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Employment

EXTEND YOUR REACH

Classified line ads appear on the Work Week Web at: nyads.com

Garage/Yard Sales

THURSDAY 2013. 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Merchandise

SELLING OLD TREASURES? Looking for new ones?

The classified section of the Mountaineer works.

782-0400 or 1-800-724-0401

Real Estate

COFFEEVILLE 1 bed, 1 1/2 bath, vinyl, and wood floors near Fort Drum. \$495. 810-757-8910

Rentals

WATERLOO DOUBLE 1 1/2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, vinyl floors, 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Employment

EXTEND YOUR REACH

Classified line ads appear on the Work Week Web at: nyads.com

Garage/Yard Sales

THURSDAY 2013. 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Merchandise

SELLING OLD TREASURES? Looking for new ones?

The classified section of the Mountaineer works.

782-0400 or 1-800-724-0401

Real Estate

COFFEEVILLE 1 bed, 1 1/2 bath, vinyl, and wood floors near Fort Drum. \$495. 810-757-8910

Rentals

WATERLOO DOUBLE 1 1/2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, vinyl floors, 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Employment

EXTEND YOUR REACH

Classified line ads appear on the Work Week Web at: nyads.com

Garage/Yard Sales

THURSDAY 2013. 1000 sq. ft. home, 2nd floor finished, 2nd floor storage building, 1000 sq. ft. garage. For more info: 815-771-8840

Merchandise

SELLING OLD TREASURES? Looking for new ones?

The classified section of the Mountaineer works.

782-0400 or 1-800-724-0401

PROPERTIES FOR SALE OR RENT

No facilities will be advertised in the Fort Drum Mountaineer without the Fort Drum Mountaineer receiving written notification that Open Housing Practices are enforced by the owner, manager, rental agency, agent or individual.

The Federal Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to show any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

I agree to enforce Open Housing Practices.

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Signature _____ Date _____ Agency/Firm (if applicable) _____

Mall or fax completed form to: Fort Drum Mountaineer, 260 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601. FAX # 315-661-2521

CLASSIFIED AD-BLANK

FORT DRUM MOUNTAINEER PRIVATE PARTY ADS \$5.35 UP TO 4 LINES \$1.20 EACH EXTRA LINE ALL ADS ARE PREPAID

Please Print Clearly:

Name _____ Phone _____ Email Address _____

HEADLINE	BLACK BORDER	BOTH	TOTAL COST
Per Adm. \$6.75	Per Adm. \$6.55	Per Adm. \$7.55	

TO PREPAY BY CREDIT CARD PLEASE CIRCLE CARD OF CHOICE

Business Classified \$9.85 UP TO 4 LINES / \$1.20 EACH EXTRA LINE

3 EASY WAYS TO PLACE YOUR AD

- Phone Us At: (315) 782-0400 or (800) 724-0401
- E-Mail Us At: classified@mt.com
- Mail to or visit us at The Mountaineer, 260 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601

Don't miss the chance to place your ad in the Mountaineer, Tuesday prior

Calendar

Tuesday

Federal employment seminar: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Army Community Service, hosted by Family Employment Readiness. Navigating the process of applying for federal employment can be confusing. Army Community Service Family Employment Readiness presents procedures and tips on applying for federal employment. This class teaches about benefits, writing an effective federal resume, and how to search and apply for a government job. Information / reservations: 772-9611.

July 19

Change of command ceremony: 10 a.m., Marshall Dental Clinic. Col. Michael P. Mahoney will relinquish command of U.S. Army Dental Activity to Col. Valerie Holmes.

July 24

Education planning seminar: 1 to 4 p.m., Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. This seminar is designed to help Soldiers and Family Members make informed decisions about education. Representatives from technical training schools as well as state and private colleges will answer questions, and counselors will present information about the GI Bill. Information / reservations: ACAP clients, call 772-3434 / 3286.

July 11

Bike Night: 6 to 9 p.m., USO Fort Drum. This event will feature a motorcycle cruise-in and live music. There will be free food and prizes for military members and their Family Members. The event is open to all military members, veterans, DOD civilians and military supporters.

July 12

Advanced resume seminar: 9 to 11 a.m., Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. Boost your resume-writing skills and build on the Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshop curriculum during the advanced resume seminar. Participants will work with their resumes on laptops with guidance from ACAP counselors. Information / reservations: ACAP 772-3434 / 3286.

July 26

Advanced interview seminar: 9 to 11 a.m., Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. This seminar reviews and provides additional hands-on practice for job interviews. Dress for success and bring a copy of your resume for a more realistic interview experience. This offers a great opportunity to prepare for the Career Fair on Aug. 8! Open to anyone who completed the mandatory preselection briefing. Information / reservations: ACAP clients, call 772-3434 / 3286.

Retirement ceremony: 4 p.m., Multipurpose Auditorium.

Aug. 1

Bike Night: 6 to 9 p.m., USO Fort Drum. This event will feature a motorcycle cruise-in and live music. There will be free food and prizes for military members and their Family Members. Open to all military members, veterans, DOD civilians and military supporters.

Aug. 6

Education Fair: 2 to 6 p.m., McEwen Library and Education Center. Representatives from more than 30 colleges, Jefferson-Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services Technical School, U.S. Army health care recruiters and Department of Veterans Affairs will be present. Prizes, food, cake and refreshments will be available. All are welcome. Information: 772-6878.

Aug. 8

Career Fair: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Commons, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. This is a great opportunity to network with local, national and global employers and to conduct research on companies and educational institutions. Employers will be looking to hire! Bring copies of your resume and wear professional attire. The public is welcome, and no pre-registration is required. Information: ACAP Center, 772-3434 / 3286.

Boots to Business program: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. Robin Stephenson from the Small Business Development Center, Watertown, will present this two-day program, which will continue July 17. The program is part of the Transition GPS Entrepreneur Track. Seats for this workshop fill quickly. Reservations: ACAP clients, call 772-3434 / 3286. Others who wish to attend should contact Lorrie Guler, transition services manager, at 772-3284.

July 17

Change of command ceremony: 10 a.m., Sexton Field (train location: Magrath Gym). Col. Mark W. Thompson will relinquish command of U.S. Army Medical Department Activity to Col. Matthew E. Manner. A reception will follow at the Commons.

At the Movies

Playing at 6 Reel Time, Bldg. 10725, North Riva Ridge

Friday Now You See Me (PG-13) - 7 p.m.

Saturday After Earth (PG-13) - 2 p.m.

FREE SCREENING (PG-13) - 7 p.m. Tickets can be picked up at the Post Exchange Food Court. Doors will open to ticket holders at 6 p.m. Available seats will be on a first-come, first-served basis after 6:30 p.m.

Sunday After Earth (PG-13) - 2 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children 6-11; free for children 5 and younger. Add \$2 for 3D movies. For complete movie information, call 772-5571.

Activities

son will relinquish command of U.S. Army Medical Department Activity to Col. Matthew E. Manner. A reception will follow at the Commons.

July 19

Change of command ceremony: 10 a.m., Marshall Dental Clinic. Col. Michael P. Mahoney will relinquish command of U.S. Army Dental Activity to Col. Valerie Holmes.

July 24

Education planning seminar: 1 to 4 p.m., Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. This seminar is designed to help Soldiers and Family Members make informed decisions about education. Representatives from technical training schools as well as state and private colleges will answer questions, and counselors will present information about the GI Bill. Information / reservations: ACAP clients, call 772-3434 / 3286.

July 11

Bike Night: 6 to 9 p.m., USO Fort Drum. This event will feature a motorcycle cruise-in and live music. There will be free food and prizes for military members and their Family Members. The event is open to all military members, veterans, DOD civilians and military supporters.

July 12

Advanced resume seminar: 9 to 11 a.m., Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. Boost your resume-writing skills and build on the Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshop curriculum during the advanced resume seminar. Participants will work with their resumes on laptops with guidance from ACAP counselors. Information / reservations: ACAP 772-3434 / 3286.

July 26

Advanced interview seminar: 9 to 11 a.m., Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. This seminar reviews and provides additional hands-on practice for job interviews. Dress for success and bring a copy of your resume for a more realistic interview experience. This offers a great opportunity to prepare for the Career Fair on Aug. 8! Open to anyone who completed the mandatory preselection briefing. Information / reservations: ACAP clients, call 772-3434 / 3286.

Retirement ceremony: 4 p.m., Multipurpose Auditorium.

Aug. 1

Bike Night: 6 to 9 p.m., USO Fort Drum. This event will feature a motorcycle cruise-in and live music. There will be free food and prizes for military members and their Family Members. Open to all military members, veterans, DOD civilians and military supporters.

Aug. 6

Education Fair: 2 to 6 p.m., McEwen Library and Education Center. Representatives from more than 30 colleges, Jefferson-Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services Technical School, U.S. Army health care recruiters and Department of Veterans Affairs will be present. Prizes, food, cake and refreshments will be available. All are welcome. Information: 772-6878.

Aug. 8

Career Fair: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Commons, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. This is a great opportunity to network with local, national and global employers and to conduct research on companies and educational institutions. Employers will be looking to hire! Bring copies of your resume and wear professional attire. The public is welcome, and no pre-registration is required. Information: ACAP Center, 772-3434 / 3286.

Boots to Business program: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Clark Hall, Bldg. 10720, hosted by Army Career and Alumni Program. Robin Stephenson from the Small Business Development Center, Watertown, will present this two-day program, which will continue July 17. The program is part of the Transition GPS Entrepreneur Track. Seats for this workshop fill quickly. Reservations: ACAP clients, call 772-3434 / 3286. Others who wish to attend should contact Lorrie Guler, transition services manager, at 772-3284.

July 17

Change of command ceremony: 10 a.m., Sexton Field (train location: Magrath Gym). Col. Mark W. Thompson will relinquish command of U.S. Army Medical Department Activity to Col. Matthew E. Manner. A reception will follow at the Commons.

informal mentoring meetings twice a month. For more information, call 772-7791.

To report sexual assault, call 772-5914. Confidentiality is guaranteed. A 24-hour helpline is available at 767-6128.

Automotive Skills Center

The Automotive Skills Center has a Self Help Center for ID card holders who wish to work on vehicles.

The Self Help Center is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. A free safety and orientation class is required to use this facility. Classes meet at noon and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Save money by learning how to do easy vehicle repairs at 5 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information or to register, call 772-5785.

The Vehicle Resale Lot, located off Iraqi Freedom Drive in the Automotive Skills Center and the Exchange Car Care Center parking lot, is now open.

Child, Youth and School Services

Access your child care account online at www.drummwr.com.

CYSS SKIES Unlimited offers classes in Tae Kwon do, tumbling, babysitting and sewing. Hours of operation are 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call 772-0629.

Free child care may be provided for Families of a Soldier who is deployed, a member of a rear detachment, a wounded warrior, a fallen warrior, or on temporary duty, temporary change of station, permanent change of station (unaccompanied tour) that qualify for special child care options under the Army Family Covenant. For more information, contact CYSS Outreach Program at 772-3677 or 772-8672.

Family Child Care Homes is accepting applications for child care providers. Earn money while working from home. No experience is required. Free training will be provided. For more information, call 772-6716.

Youth Center:

Youths in grades 6-12 are invited to an Independence Day barbecue from 5 to 8 p.m. today at the Youth Center. Participants can enjoy food, music, games and more. A current school photo ID is required to attend. For additional information, call 772-6719.

Enjoy a 3-on-3 basketball tournament from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday at the Youth Center. The free event is open to youths in grades 6-12. For more information, call 772-6719.

Parent and youth orientations are required of all members within 30 days of member registration. For more information and to schedule an orientation session, call the Youth Center at 772-6719.

The Youth Center is open to youths in grades 6-12 on weekdays after school, at noon Saturdays and when school is not in session. Free snacks are offered. Membership is free.

Visit www.drummwr.com for a list of Youth Center activities and trips. All Youth Center trip registrations are due on the Friday before the week of the trip.

Youth sports and fitness:

Call or visit the CYSS Youth Sports Office to sign your child up for a team. For registration requirements, fees or more information, call 772-6718.

Volunteer coaches and referees are needed. Coaches receive their first child's sports enrollment free and get 50 percent off for second and third children. For details, call 772-6718.

McEwen Library

Digital and eBooks can now be "borrowed" from the McEwen Library! Patrons can access the Army / Digital Media Library through their AKO accounts. Click "Self Service" then "My Library." There, patrons may select "Read" or "Listen to a Book." The eBook and audio book resource page will allow patrons to load books onto their eReader or tablets.

McEwen Library offers online research tools. The eResources / Research Tools can be accessed at <http://mylibrary.us.fmw.net/screens>

The Soldier and Family Assistance Center is now located at 11042 Mount Belvedere Blvd. SFAC provides

Boxed paperback books are available for units training at Fort Drum or preparing for deployment exceeding 10 days. For more information, visit the library or call 772-9099.

Story time for preschoolers takes place from 10 to 10:45 a.m. every Tuesday and Friday at McEwen Library. Parents are asked to stay with children. Anyone interested in volunteering to read to children may call 772-6005.

Adventure Training

Sign up for a free white water rafting trip July 12, 19 or 26. The bus to the river leaves at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day from Parks and Recreation. The event is sponsored by Adventure Training and Parks and Recreation. For information or reservations, call 772-5169.

Adventure Training offers a skeet and archery range, paintball range, GPS units and maps for geo-caching or orienteering, and guided hunting and fishing trips. Equipment is available for rent. For more information or to plan a trip, call 772-4010.

Family readiness groups can schedule Parks and Recreation and Adventure Training event and activity briefings by emailing eugene.s.spencer2.naf@mail.mil.

Parks and Recreation

Remington Park is now open for the summer season. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. The Remington Pond beach is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fort Drum personnel tests pond water quality weekly; the beach is open or closed accordingly. Water quality is affected by wildlife and weather conditions, such as geese and rainfall respectively. For more information, or to verify the status of the beach, call 772-4765.

Horseback riding is now offered at the Remington Park campground. Trail rides take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Rides cost \$30 and are limited to three participants. Riders must be 8 or older and 220 pounds or less. Pregnant women are not permitted to ride. Children of all ages may ride from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday for \$5. For more information, call 772-4765.

Planning a trip to Florida? Check out the free admission tickets available for Disney Parks, SeaWorld and Anheuser-Busch attractions.

Parks and Recreation has rental equipment - everything from campers to boats to popcorn makers - to make parties and special events more fun. For details, call 772-5169.

BOSS

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Recreation Center hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

The BOSS facility has gaming stations connected to big-screen TVs and the latest video games. BOSS accepts requests for games; ask at the front desk. In the game room, BOSS offers pool and air hockey, along with several arcade games.

The facility has wireless Internet and computer stations available.

Sports Division

Sign up for sporting events through the Fort Drum Fitness, Athletics and Aquatics Sports Office in the Magrath Sports Complex. Tournaments are open to active-duty military members assigned or attached to Fort Drum, Family Members 19 and older with valid military ID, and DOD civilians employed on Fort Drum. Rosters are due in advance; for deadlines, call 772-6663.

Lifeguard classes are scheduled monthly at Monti Physical Fitness Center and at Magrath Sports Complex. For fees, class schedules and more information, call 772-4807 or 772-9673.

Fort Drum is now hiring lifeguards. Anyone who is interested may call 772-6663.

MAZDA JULY 4TH WEEKEND EVENT

2008 Chevy Cobalt LTZ Leather, Sunroof, Manual, 75,000 Miles..... \$7,990	2010 Subaru Impreza Hatchback Automatic, PW/PL, 51,000 One- Owner Miles..... \$14,990	2010 Toyota RAV4 Limited AWD Stk #1565P, Sunroof, Leather, Only 28,000 Mi..... \$21,995	2010 Infiniti FX35 AWD Leather, Sunroof, Auto, 47,486 Mi. Books \$32,500... SALE \$28,990
2009 Mini Cooper S Manual, 89,000 Miles, Signed by Tony Stewart..... \$12,995	Feature Trucks of the Week!		2012 Jeep Liberty LTD 4x4 Leather, Sunroof, 31,000 Miles, Red..... \$20,990
2010 Audi A5 Quattro Leather, Sunroof, Manual, Only 35,000 Miles..... \$29,995			2012 Mazda 6i Touring PS Auto, Air, Alloys, Bluetooth, Miles in the 20's..... \$14,990
2012 Subaru Impreza Sedan Limited Auto, Sunroof, Back-up Camera, Pearl White, Auto, Leather..... \$21,995			2012 Mazda CX9 Touring AWD 7-Pass, Leather, 27,000 Mi..... \$23,995
2008 Chevy Aveo LS 4dr. Auto, PW, PL, Only 5,000 miles, Not A Mistake 5,000 miles..... \$9,990	2012 Chevy Silverado 1500 Crew Cab LT 4x4 Stk #1544P, 4.8L V8, Automatic, Power Windows & Locks, Air, CD, 4,277 Miles, NADA \$33,500 \$27,990⁰⁰	2013 Toyota Tundra Rock Warrior Edition Stk #1558Q, Double Cab, 5.7L V8, Automatic, Navigation, 4,546 Miles, NADA \$41,562 \$34,990⁰⁰	2012 Hyundai Tucson Automatic, Air, Leather, Only 14,000 Miles..... \$18,990
2013 Mazda MX5 PRMT Convertible Grand Touring, Auto, 600 Miles, Not A Mistake..... \$27,990	*All prices plus tax, title & registration.		2012 Mazda 3 SPEED 3 Spd., Tech Pkg., Only 6,000 miles..... \$22,995
2013 Kia Soul Plus 4dr. Auto, Power Windows, Locks Only 25k..... \$16,990	*All prices plus tax, title & registration.		2012 Mazda 3 Hatch S Grand Touring w/Tech Pkg., Roof, Navigation, 14,000 Miles. \$21,995
2013 Mazda CX5 Touring AWD Auto, Moonroof, Bose, Navigation, 9000 Miles..... \$25,990	*All prices plus tax, title & registration.		2012 Subaru Impreza STI Hard To Find, Only 12,000 Miles, Clean, 1 Owner..... \$31,995

Call for details (315) 446-9666 • www.romanocars.com • 3120 Erie Blvd. E. Syracuse, NY

FUCCILLO



NEED YOUR OIL CHANGED? TIRES ROTATED? NEW WIPERS?
STOP BY OUR NEW EXPRESS LANE.
NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED!



EXPRESSLANE
FAST OIL CHANGES & MORE

WE CAN HELP YOU TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR CAR CARE NEEDS!
GET IT DONE WITH DEALERSHIP KNOW-HOW, WITHOUT THE WAIT.
DONE FAST - DONE RIGHT.
FREE VEHICLE CHECK-UP WITH EVERY OIL CHANGE.
WE SERVICE ANY MAKE - ANY MODEL.

OIL CHANGES ONLY \$34⁹⁵
MOST MODELS

MENTION THIS AD AND GET AN ADDITIONAL **\$5.00 OFF** YOUR OIL CHANGE.



PICK UP AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE
LET US BE YOUR TIRE SPECIALIST!

- All Tires On Location
- Lifetime Tire Rotation With Purchase Of 4 New Tires
- Email Us For Any Size And Installation Pricing

If You Buy From Fuccillo And Find Them For Less Within 30 Days, We Will Refund You The Difference.



- FUCCILLO DODGE, CHRYSLER, JEEP**
ROUTE 11, ADAMS
315-232-3222 OR
1-800-235-8037
- FUCCILLO MITSUBISHI**
OUTER WASHINGTON ST.,
WATERLOO
315-785-7453 OR
1-800-244-1745
- FUCCILLO FORD**
ROUTE 11, ADAMS
315-232-3222 OR
1-800-235-8037
- FUCCILLO GM**
ROUTE 11, ADAMS
315-232-3222 OR
1-800-235-8037
- FUCCILLO IMPORTS**
OUTER WASHINGTON ST.,
WATERLOO
315-785-7453 OR
1-800-244-1745

FUCCILLO AUTO MALLS
EXIT 41 OFF ROUTE 81 • ROUTE 11, ADAMS • 232-3222 OR 1-800-235-8037
SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT OR ORDER PARTS ONLINE TO RECEIVE SPECIAL DISCOUNTS!! AT WWW.FUCCILLO.COM

Celebrating 25 Years of Power, Beauty, and Elegance
The Orchestra of Northern New York
KENNETH ANDREWS
Music Director

The North Country Arts Council presents

American Pops!

Kenneth Andrews
Conductor

Featuring July 4th favorites including The Stars and Stripes Forever, 1812 Overture and salute to Gettysburg.

July 4, 2013 at 8 pm
Annual FREE 4th of July concert in historic Olmsted-designed Thompson Park

A DEAF FRIENDLY EVENT
The event will be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing communities.



Pre-Concert
6:00 pm: 198th Army Reserve Band
6:40 pm: Acappella
7:35 pm: Welcome Speeches
Post-concert
Enhanced Fireworks

FREE!
Featuring
Hall of Fame fiddler
Gretchen Koehler
and friends!



www.nnyart.org

Media Sponsors
7 NEWS FOX 28

PRE-OWNED 4TH OF JULY SAVINGS



CHOOSE FROM 5

2013 VW JETTA 2.5 SE
 STRIP 13124. 4CYL., AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, CD/MP3 PLAYER, POWER LEATHER SEAT, WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, PRIOR RENTAL, CHOICE FROM 5, 10,088-19,080 MILES
\$16987
 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.
JUST ARRIVED



2009 CHEVY IMPALA LT
 STRIP 13118. 4CYL., AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, CD PLAYER, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, ALLOY WHEELS, 90,272 MILES
\$12499 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2011 HYUNDAI ELANTRA
 STRIP 13118. 4CYL., 5 SPEED, AIR, CRUISE, POWER WINDOWS & LOCKS, 28,544 MILES
\$13887 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2011 TOYOTA SCION TC
 STRIP 13128. 4CYL., 6 SPEED, AIR, CRUISE, CD/MP3 PLAYER, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, 30,887 MILES
\$15507 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2012 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5Li
 STRIP 12268. 4CYL., 5ST, AIR, CRUISE, CD/MP3 PLAYER, HEATED SEATS, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, REAR SPOILER, ONE OWNER, 54,890 MILES
\$16657 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2009 HONDA CRV EX 4X4
 STRIP 13118. 4CYL., AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, CD PLAYER, PWR ROOFRACK, WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, REMOTE STARTER, 65,474 MILES
\$17420 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2010 TOYOTA RAV4 4X4
 STRIP 13127. 4CYL., AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, CD/MP3 PLAYER, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, 24,126 MILES
\$17899 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2008 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4
 STRIP 14118. 5.9L, AUTO, DUAL CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE, CD/MP3 PLAYER, POWER LEATHER HEATED SEATS, ROOFRACK, WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, TOW PACKAGE, 57,038 MILES
\$18899 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2011 FORD FUSION SPORT
 STRIP 12257. 5L, AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, 5YR/60,000, CD/MP3 PLAYER, POWER ROOFRACK, LEATHER SEATS, WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, 14,023 MILES
\$19994 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2011 EDGE SEL AWD
 STRIP 13118. 5L, AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, CD/MP3 PLAYER, POWER SEAT, WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, REVERSE PARKING, REAR SPOILER, 19,373 MILES
\$24911 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.



2012 F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4
 STRIP 13127. PRIOR RENTAL, V6, AUTO, AIR, CRUISE, CD/MP3 PLAYER, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS & MIRRORS, BEDLINER, 14,895 MILES
\$28912 PLUS, TAX, TITLE & REG.

Caskinette's
 L O F I N K
 36788 RTE 26 • CARTHAGE NY 13619 • 1-888-694-5047
www.lofinkford.com

HURRY! PRICES GOOD UNTIL JULY 11, 2013

HOURS: SALES: SERVICE
 Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-7:00 Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:00
 Friday 9:00-6:00 Saturday 8:00-6:00
 Saturday 9:00-6:00

FORT DRUM DATE 3 | **RT 26** | **SCHOOL** | **CARTHAGE**
CHRYSLER | **LOBES**

AUTO SPA
 Detail Center & Car Wash
 Located at Caskinette's Lofink Ford

CALL US TODAY! 315-493-1360

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR DETAILING SUPER SPECIAL \$119.99
 Auto Spa Center.com

36700 NYS RTE. 26, CARTHAGE, NY 13619

THINK BIKES. THINK

CHOOSE FROM OVER 90 IN STOCK BIKES!
 VISIT OUR MOTORCYCLE SHOWROOM AT CASKINETTE'S FORD!

CASKINETTE'S Throttle Shop

THINK ACCESSORIES

THINK SERVICE

<p>2011 HARLEY-DAVIDSON ROAD KING HD 17238. Simply the best bike alive with this classic, 6,700 mi. \$14,900 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2010 HARLEY-DAVIDSON ROAD KING CLASSIC HD 17114. Classic and classic, 3,380 mi. \$15,900 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON ROAD KING HD 16990. The original "fat on wheels" bike, 2,273 mi. \$15,900 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SOFTAIL HD 17118. An old school style that is still brand fashionable in front, 1,000 mi. \$16,900 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>
<p>2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SUPER GLIDE CUSTOM HD 16888. A classic cut-throat for the road, 877 mi. \$12,900 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2011 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SUPER GLIDE HD 16870. Low-down & beefy, with old school chopper looks, 1,802 mi. \$13,900 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2009 HARLEY-DAVIDSON V-ROD HD 15941. Front end styling balances the rear, 240 mm tire, 8,188 miles \$12,990 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2011 HARLEY-DAVIDSON FORTY-EIGHT HD 17002. Old school bobber style, 1,740 miles \$9,800 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>
<p>2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SEVENTY-TWO HD 17227. Low miles, practically new, 45 mi. \$10,400 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2011 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SPORTSTER HD 16905. The right color flying down the road, 37 mi. \$8,300 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON V-STAR TOUR HD 16990. Clean, sleek cruiser with style, 2,012 mi. \$8,500 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>	<p>2008 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SUZUKI BOULEVARD HD 16900. Look at the miles, not a misprint, 845 mi. \$12,600 plus, tax, title & reg.</p>

NEW LOCATION AT 36381 NYS RT. 26 CARTHAGE, NY (315) 519-1021 • CASKINETTESTHROTTLESHOP.COM