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WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday

Clear and sunny.
Low -9 High 19

Saturday

Mostly sunny.
Low 6 High 27

Sunday

Partly cloudy.
Low 7 High 30

Unrestricted visibility
NE winds 5 -10 mph

Forecast courtesy of
Det 3, 1st Weather Squadron,
Fort Wainwright, AK

Wainwright Soldier earns Outstanding Military Musician Award

Sgt. Trish McMurphy, USARAK PAO

The U.S. military has stepped up to recognize musical excellence in its ranks with the Col. Finley R. Hamilton Outstanding Military Musician Award and a U.S. Army Alaska Soldier is one of the first to receive the honor.

The award recognizes U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard enlisted musicians who exhibit outstanding musical and leadership excellence.

U.S. Army Alaska Commander Brig. Gen. Raymond P. Palumbo presented the award to Staff Sgt. Robert Leatherbee of the 9th Army Band Mar. 2 at Fort Wainwright.

"When you look at the seal of the US Army on our flag you will find a drum and two drumsticks. This signifies the importance of past Army musicians to move troops on the battlefield and our importance today to sustain and motivate our Soldiers," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeffrey Price, the band's commander.

"We are the commanding general's number one weapon of peace," Price said.

Leatherbee, a native of Carver, Mass., is one of only 12 awardees selected to receive the award. With more than 4,000 members in the Army bands and several more thousand in the sister-service bands, this is quite an accomplishment, according to Price.

All of the applicants had to meet the criteria including musical talent, outstanding leadership and continuing leadership potential.

Leatherbee has had a long relationship with music and performing. He has played the trumpet since the 4th grade.

Since joining the Army he has become a singer for the band as well, something he said he never thought he would do. He even joked that he would have run away screaming had he known that up front.

His peers nominated him for the award because he not only meets the criteria, he exceeds it.

"[Leatherbee] has earned the Charlie-1 additional skill identifier, placing him amongst the top 10 percent of his peers in the field," said 1st Sgt. Miles Griffiths, 9th Army Band. "He is always learning."

Since joining the Army in 2006, Leatherbee's accomplishments have extended well beyond music. He has

completed the Army Modern Combatives Level I Course, Cold Weather Leader's Course, Basic Mountaineering Course with an "E" special qualification identifier, and is a member of the Order of the Silver Spur.

"Staff Sgt. Leatherbee is a complete Soldier," Griffiths said. "It is my hope that he continues to be a model Soldier and musician."



Staff Sgt. Robert Leatherbee, 9th Army Band, Fort Wainwright practices with his fellow band members for upcoming events. Leatherbee has been awarded the Col. Finley R. Hamilton Award for displaying exceptional leadership skills and well as being an outstanding musician. (Photo by Sgt. Trish McMurphy, U.S. Army Alaska PAO)

A place to reflect, remember, rejoice - "Our Heroes Tree"

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO



Senior enlisted leader and advisor to the commander of 1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Command Sgt. Maj. Bernard L. Knight, 1-25th SBCT sergeant major, looks at the ornaments hanging from Our Heroes Tree Tuesday at the Post Library. Service members from all military branches, active, Guard and Reserve and their families will be joined by friends, coworkers and senior leaders from on and off-post for the formal dedication of "Our Heroes Tree" Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Post Library. The Our Heroes Tree honors past and present heroes. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

"Reflect, Remember, Rejoice" is the theme of "Our Heroes Tree," a community program to honor the service and sacrifice of our military members, no matter what branch, past or present, and their families. Col. Timothy Jones, garrison commander, and the Post Library will dedicate "Our Heroes Tree" Tuesday at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The program encourages people to: Reflect, start a tradition. Decorate "Our Heroes Tree" with American flags, yellow ribbon, white lights and ornaments in honor of service members. Remember, share community spirit: Dedicate "Our Heroes Tree" to honor U.S. service members and their families, and acknowledge their service, sacrifice and deployment separation. Rejoice together in patriotic pride: Host "Our Heroes' Tree" to promote patriotic pride, patriotic literacy and community support.

The program was created in 2005 by Stephanie Pickup, author of "The Soldier's Tree" and Marlene Lee, author of "The Hero in My Pocket," "and it spread like wildfire through libraries and schools and other organizations throughout this country and overseas," said Joy Wohlman Boyce, who is coordinating the program at the Fort Wainwright Library.

"Trees" are different in each community and may simply be drawn on a wall or made of cardboard tacked to a wall. Those with limited space may have a bulletin board serving as a tree. What all trees have in common are two American flags at the 10:00 and 2:00 positions, a bow made of yellow ribbon, white lights to symbolize a silent salute to history and the deceased in addition to the ornaments.

"We wanted to take it a step further and make it bigger than life," Wohlman Boyce said, so she recruited the services of her husband, Earl "Doug" Boyce,

Please see TREE, Page 2

539th deploys to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

Sgt. Trish McMurphy, USARAK PAO

More than 140 Soldiers from the 539th Transportation Company, 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade loaded their final bags and set forth on a year-long deployment March 9 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"You are not just deploying to Afghanistan, you and your families are making history," 539th Commander Capt. Brite Donkor told Soldiers during the unit's deployment ceremony's opening remarks at Fort Wainwright on Feb. 23.

"Only one percent of the nation has signed on to become a Soldier and they are the ones that make freedom possible for others all over the world," said Donkor. "I am proud of you."

As Donkor told the Soldiers he was proud to be their commander he said to the family members "though you would miss [the Soldiers] while they were gone, know that they are fulfilling the duty upon which the freedom of millions depends."

"The months of training and long hours have prepared [them] for this moment," Donkor said, "and I know [they] will do even greater things as [they] embark on the mission before [them]."

Family members and loved ones accompanied the Soldiers to building 1001 to bid farewell and see the 539th Transportation Soldiers off as they deployed from Fort Wainwright to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Company is prepared to conduct convoy operations as well as force protection and sustainment operations during their expected 12-month deployment.



Capt. Brite K. Donkor, Commander, 539th Transportation Company, sings the Army Song with his Soldiers during the unit's deployment ceremony, Feb. 23. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Trish McMurphy, USARAK PAO)

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SN/ BIRCHWOOD HOMES

Corps of Engineers receives highest Army environmental award

Pat Richardson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, won the Secretary of the Army's Environmental Award for Restoration of an Installation for the Manning Point (Jago River) Formerly Used Defense Site team. The Secretary's Award represents the highest honor in the field of environmental science and sustainability conferred by the Army.

The FUDS project, located in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, removed and disposed of over 1,400 drums, drum contents and associated soil contamination from the Jago River delta. This work eliminated the possibility of future petroleum product releases into the Arctic Ocean. The project team transported equipment and supplies over 800 miles to perform work that lasted three weeks during August of 2010.

The project was jointly executed with another project at Brownlow Point to save the government nearly a half million dollars in mobilization and demobilization costs. Approximately 2,500 man-hours were worked by the project team with zero lost-time incidents or accidents.

This is the second year in a row that the Alaska District received the Army's top environmental award. In 2010, the district received the award for investigating formerly used military sites on Tanaga and Ogluga Islands in the Aleutian Islands.

TREE: A special place for Soldiers, families

Continued from Page 1

who served on active duty for four years and is a professional artist. He created a 10-foot replica of an oak tree, which stands in the middle of the library.

Generally, there are about six weeks leading up to the dedication, which is usually associated with Veterans' Day, Valentine's Day, deployment or redeployment, according to Wohlman Boyce. "The library chose to dedicate the tree now because our major unit is deploying soon."

"All these Soldiers will deploy in the next month, and their families will be able to come and display their hero for all to see," said Command Sgt Major Bernard Knight, command sergeant major for 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

"We felt it absolutely necessary to show these men and women how much they mean to all of us and give families a way to work with their own families and situation by honoring their heroes," Wohlman Boyce said.

The library has been hosting ornament-making sessions since January and will continue to do so even after the dedication of the tree. Families may also make ornaments at home to hang on the tree. Ornaments can be made at the dedication as well, just bring a picture of the Soldier being honored and everything else will be provided.

The library also wants stories to include in a scrapbook. "From the perspective of an educator I want to see a little bit more of the writing. I want to see people express themselves through literature. We will have art and literature to allow expression," Wohlman Boyce said, "It is a good vehicle to let families, all ages, express themselves and honor these wonderful people who do so much for us."

"I think it keeps the community connected and that is an important thing when Soldiers are away," said Knight.

Women's history celebration

Staff report, Fort Wainwright PAO

American women's history has had many pioneers who fought for their rights and made their mark in the fields of politics, sports, literature, science and the arts.

The 16th Combat Aviation Brigade will host the Fort Wainwright Women's History Month celebration March 25 at 1 p.m. at the Physical Fitness Center.

The theme for this year's observance is "Our History Is Our Strength" featuring Jeri Wigdahl as the guest speaker. Wigdahl is a community leader, active volunteer and has recently come out of retirement to work in public relations.

Mariah Ver Hoef a student at University of Alaska Fairbanks, who has recorded three albums of original music, will perform.

National Women's History Month, celebrated each March, is the time of year we remember and celebrate those accomplishments and contributions. In 1977, when the women who would establish the National Women's History Project began planning a women's history week, March 8th, International Women's Day, was chosen as the focal date.

Women's History Week became National Women's History Week in 1981, and in 1987 National Women's History Week became National Women's History Month. The expansion was the result of a lobbying effort that included hundreds of individuals and dozens of women's, educational and historical organizations. National Women's History Month is now celebrated across the United States.

In the 1960s, with women's liberation, interest in women's issues and history grew. In the 1970s, women's history was still considered a virtually unknown topic in the schools and in general public consciousness. In 1980, the NWHP was founded when a group of women noticed that women were mostly absent from our history books. No more than three percent of the content was devoted to women. Today, the mission of the NWHP is the same as it was in the beginning: to teach as many people as possible about women's role in history. The NWHP also sets the theme each year for the national observance.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wiest at 353-0398.

Quit tobacco in her honor

Shari Lopatin, TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Throughout history, women have made tremendous contributions to our Nation, both within and outside of the military. This March, during National Women's History Month, the U.S. Department of Defense wants active duty, VA veterans, retired personnel, their friends and family to quit tobacco in honor of a special woman.

"From Revolutionary War fighter Molly Pitcher to astronaut Sally Ride to Olympian Lindsey Vonn, women serve as great sources of inspiration for current and future generations of both men and women," said Cmdr. Aileen Buckler, M.D., M.P.H., U.S. Public Health Service officer and chairman of the DoD Alcohol and Tobacco Advisory Committee. "But women don't have to be a famous figure to be inspirational. There are countless numbers of remarkable women that surround us in our daily lives."

So DoD is urging everyone to pick a day in March to quit for his or her mother, wife, sister, grandmother, or other significant woman that has touched his or her life. Those planning to quit can post their dedication and a picture of the woman they are honoring for Women's History Month on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ucanquit2.org.

To help prepare for a March quit date, DoD encourages service members to enroll in Train2Quit, a self-paced online system based on U.S. Public Health Service guidelines. The free training is available 24/7 at www.ucanquit2.org. Train2Quit features interactive components to help users create a customizable quit plan including a calendar to monitor progress. With Train2Quit, tobacco users can double their chances of quitting tobacco for good.

"No matter where you are in the quit process, Train2Quit gives you the confidence and the tools to help you quit tobacco, once and for all," Buckler adds. "And our Web site offers a full array of resources to help you stay on the training track."

The dynamic tobacco cessation Web site contains all support tools to help beat cravings, overcome weight gain, and cope with the effects of nicotine withdrawal. Users also can access personal quit coaches 24/7 for answers to questions about quitting and how to stay quit. And, there are fun games like Texas Hold 'Em, a calculator to track savings, blogs for peer support, the opportunity to sign up to receive text message quit tips, and links to social media sites where those interested can connect with others who are quitting tobacco.

All non-Medicare eligible beneficiaries can receive assistance with smoking cessation through Tricare's toll-free smoking help lines. Toll-free telephone lines are available in each Tricare region offering support, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year.

"What better way to pay tribute to women this month than by quitting tobacco for that special woman in your life," remarks Buckler.

Commander's column

Col. Timothy A. Jones, Garrison commander



March Madness

Fun for Soldiers, families, friends

Join us next weekend as we close the ski hill for the season. The days are getting longer, the sun warmer and the snow is starting to melt away. Before you know it, breakup will be upon us. Before the snow goes, we'll have our annual spring fling March 25 to 27 to celebrate the end of winter with free skiing and boarding for Soldiers on Friday, family events Saturday and fun competitions all weekend long.

March Madness will feature competitions and games the whole family will enjoy from noon-8 p.m. all weekend. Lift tickets are required for all hill events.

Friday, March 25

SOLDIER APPRECIATION DAY

No cost for Active Duty, Guard Reserves and military retirees; from 9 p.m.-midnight. Must have DOD ID card. Others take half-off standard day rates.

Military Unit Team Skeet Shoot - noon - 4 p.m. - unit pre-registration required.

Individual Military Skeet Shoot - 5 - 6 p.m. - open to ALL military for regular skeet shooting.

Tube Hill Bowling - 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - two players at a time, steering down the tube lanes to knock down plastic pins at the base.

Slope Style Hoop Relay - 2 - 3 p.m. - teams of two compete by placing a beach ball in buckets throughout an on-hill course - second man waits by container 1, retrieves ball and heads for container 2, where first man is now waiting, continuing the bucket alternations, keeping the relay in motion to end of course.

Lazy Skier Competition - 3:30 - 5 p.m. - teams of 3 or fewer bring their own chair of any kind (lawn chairs, lazy boys, dining chairs, stools, etc.). Will be issued their choice of a set of skis or a snowboard to which they will attach the chair using their own supply of duct tape and 5/50 cord only. Their assembled lazy skier ride will then be taken to the top of the tube hill, where they will race to the finish. If it fails or falls apart beyond capability of finishing the race, the team is disqualified.

Tube Races - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - First across finish line moves to the next heat. Play continues until the best man wins!

Birch Hill Friday Night Soldier Appreciation Extravaganza - 9 p.m. to midnight

Free skiing and snowboarding, DJ; snacks, beverages will be available for purchase.

Saturday, March 26

FAMILY DAY

Coloring Contest - noon - 4 p.m. (ages 10 and under) - Choose your picture, color, and submit for judging at 4 p.m.

Pudding Munch-Off - 1 p.m. (ages 8-13, 7 and under) - At the start of the whistle, the fastest child to devour his/her bowl of pudding wins.

Kyle Sullivan Demo/Rail Jam - 2 p.m. (Open to all ages, military, civilian, skier, or snowboarder.) Demonstration provided by pro-rider Kyle Sullivan prior to start of competition. Competition will then be judged by our guest host. Additional games and prizes for bystanders as well. Competition grand prize: New Snowboard from Epic Snowboards.

Boot Camp Obstacle Course - 3 p.m. - finish (ages 10 and under) - course to be designed using old tires, ski poles, flagging, cones and various other objects. Children will navigate thru the course wearing ski boots.

Ski Slalom - 5 p.m. - finish - Fairbanks Alpine Ski Club hosts traditional ski slalom.

Sunday, March 27

END THE MADNESS

Couples Skeet Competition - noon - finish - Couples team up to shoot for the win.

Slope Style Big Air Competition - 2:30 - 4 p.m. - Riders categorized by skier or snowboarder, male and female, and age brackets. Compete from multiple jumps and tricks.

Snow Surf - 4:30 - 6 p.m. Skiers and snowboarders try to skip across a 50-foot icy-cold pond.

Polar Plunge - 6 - 6:15 p.m. - First 30 daring participants signed up can take a dip in the ice cold pool of water.

Bonfire/S'mores - 6:30 - 8 p.m.

For more information on March Madness call, 353-1998 or 353-6795.

Wainwright Ski Patrol assists with rescue

A 9-1-1 call Sunday afternoon had Fort Wainwright Fire department personnel responding with one engine company and an ambulance to a snowmobile accident on the Chena River. Once on site, firefighters found egress from the area difficult and called for assistance from the Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area's Ski Patrol unit. Ski Patrol Hill Capt. Chad Cole and Nicholas Pulice, Birch Hill manager, responded immediately to the dispatch call requesting help for the evacuation of a patient. Ski patrollers are trained emergency medical technician basics, with sled and toboggan experience in medical emergency extractions over difficult terrains. Fire Department Chief Russell Toms said, "They were instrumental in helping take care of the rider."

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

EDITORIAL STAFF
Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander
Col. Timothy Jones
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright PAO
Linda Douglass
Command Information Chief
Connie Storch
Editor
Allen Shaw
Staff writers
Trish Muntean
Sheryl Nix
Brian Schlumbohm

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The Editorial office is located on Ft. Wainwright in Building 1047 #1; Mailing address is Public Affairs Office, 1060 Gaffney Road, 5900, Ft. Wainwright, AK 99703. Call 353-6700 or 353-6701, or send emails to

pao.fwa@us.army.mil

The ALASKA POST - Home of the Arctic Warriors

The 27th Annual Army Family Action Plan General Officer Steering Committee resolves 17 quality-of-life issues

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Installation Management Command

I often say you can read about history or make history. This year, the voices of Soldiers, Civilians and Families that have contributed to the AFAP process were heard and history was made at the recent AFAP General Officer Steering Committee held the first week of February.

Senior Army leaders and program representatives from across the Army resolved 17 of 40 quality-of-life issues making great strides in support of our Wounded Warriors and Families. These issues originally identified by AFAP representatives at the unit or installation level will make life better for Soldiers, their Families and Civilians for years to come.

Qualified Wounded Warrior job applicants now receive greater visibility in the Federal Government hiring process. Major accomplishments include the integration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Resume Inventory (*VetSuccess.gov*) into the Army recruitment process and the designation of human resource specialists as veteran employment coordinators. To learn more about this issue, visit the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/> and search for issue number 617.

Through issue number 610 we have expanded treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury patients. Traumatic Brain Injury screening, identification, treatment, and rehabilitation services are now in place at each Army Medical Treatment Facility. To date, TBI programs at 40 facilities have achieved full validation, 10 have achieved initial validation and the remaining programs will receive full validation by this month.

Wounded Warriors will benefit from the availability of standardized respite care for their caregivers through TRICARE and VA (issue number 630) and through the establishment of the Army Wounded Warrior Support Network (issue number 632). The AWWSN is a support program that connects severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families to a network of resources in the local community.

Three initiatives were completed in the Family Support category. These initiatives provide for more affordable child care to those who need it the

most (issue number 566), TRICARE coverage for children up to age 26 (issue number 632), and a policy revision that requires Initial Military Training Soldiers with exceptional Family members to receive new assignment instructions if the OCONUS travel approval authority has not notified the Soldier of the availability of EFM services 30 days prior to the Soldier's graduation (issue number 639).

Ten of the 17 issues resolved were designated as unattainable due to resource or legislative constraints. Although the AFAP recommendations were unattainable, progress was made on many of the issues. An example of this is the increase in administrative and PCS weight allowances for grades E1 to E4 and E7 to E9, establishment of a hardship-based increase to PCS weight allowance, and 500 pounds of spouse professional weight allowance. To learn more, visit our website and search for issue 457.

The Army will continue to work the issues, but the Army Family Action Plan is your program. I encourage you to learn more about the AFAP process by visiting the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/familyprograms/armyfamilyactionplan>. From here you can follow the progress on issues that are currently being worked by selecting "Active Issue Search" at the bottom of the page and then search by issue number or by keyword. The website also allows you to submit a new issue directly to your garrison or command's AFAP process and provides AFAP brochures, articles and videos to download. You can also download the "HQDA AFAP Issue Search" application for free on your iPad®, iPhone® and iPod Touch®.

My next article in this series will review the 16 new quality-of-life issues AFAP delegates identified as being the most critical and our need as an Army community to identify inefficient, redundant, or obsolete Family programs so we can redirect those resources to where we truly need them.

Support and Defend,
D6

Editor's Note: See information regarding the local AFAP Conference on Page 6.

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AK POST/PASTA FAIR
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AK POST/AK POST-FUR
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AFC/USAA
AK POST/WORLD'S TOUG
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World ice artists visit Fairbanks for cold competition

Story and photos by **Trish Muntean**, Fort Wainwright PAO



The sculpture titled "Mask" by Steve and Heather Brice, United States, won 2nd place in the realistic category of single block competition at the 2011 World Ice Art Championships.



Combat Medic is one of the ice sculptures created by a variety of artists in tribute to the military community at the 2011 World Ice Art Championships.



Sam Vose and Thomas Lewando, both of the United States, created "Life's a Balancing Act" out of a single block of ice at the 2011 World Ice Art Championships.



Lkhagvadorj Dorjsuren and Tsagaan Munkh-Erdene, Mongolia, competed in the single block competition creating "Angelic Keepers" at the 2011 World Ice Art Championships.

Military appreciation day at Ice Park

Visiting Ice Alaska should be on every military family's "must do" list. It is an experience unique to Alaska and fun for all ages. Ice Alaska is one of the largest ice art competition and exhibitions and features work by both local and world-class artists.

Ice Alaska features a kids' park made entirely of ice. There are slides and rides for all ages, amazing mazes, and "twirlies," small bowls made of ice which children can sit in and be spun around. The park also has life-size sculptures of animals and toys to touch and climb on. There is even an ice rink to skate on and a place to borrow skates. There are also sculptures on display paying tribute to the military community.

Sunday is MAC Federal Credit Union Military Day at Ice Alaska and is a great time to visit the park. Soldiers and military families can get a \$5 discount on the price of admission simply by showing their military identification cards.

Ice Alaska is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is open until March 27. For more information visit www.icealaska.com



Palace Pet, a sculpture by Steve and Heather Brice, Aaron Costic and Thomas Lewando, all of the United States, won the Governor's Award and 2nd place in the realistic category of the multi-block competition 2011 World Ice Art Championships.

Fairbanks Ice Dogs: Show support, thanks through military appreciation

Connie Storch, Fort Wainwright PAO

Fort Wainwright Soldiers took to the stands and players' ice for opening ceremonies and the starting puck drop March 8 and 9 for Fairbanks Ice Dogs



Spc. Nicole Hensal, Warrior Transition Battalion wishes Ice Dog team captain Matt Millis good luck, after the ceremonial puck drop. (Photo by Connie Storch/Fort Wainwright PAO)

hockey games. Both nights were dubbed Military Appreciation Nights and about 2,500 spectators filled the seats, including fellow Soldiers, their families and military retirees.

Col. Todd R. Wood, commander of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, dropped the puck Tuesday night.

Spc. Nicole Marie Hensal, Warrior Transition Battalion, signaled the start of Wednesday's game when she dropped the puck. After the ceremonial puck drop, Hensal took a moment to share a few words with the Ice Dogs team captain, Matt Millis, and wish the team luck.

The United States and Alaskan flags were presented during the ceremony March 9. Spc. Stephen Dornan,



Soldiers from 16th Combat Aviation Brigade present the colors before the hockey game March 9. (Photo by Connie Storch/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Pfc. Melena Felbarth and Pvt. John Hodge of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, C Company, 123rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, presented the colors under the supervision of Staff Sgt. Marcus Whisman (not pictured). A vocalist, Sgt. Daniel Puls from the 9th Army "Arctic Warrior" Band, sang the national anthem. The first 300 attendees received free U.S. flags each night.

Military discount tickets for home games at the Big Dipper are available on post at the ASYMCA. For more information, call 353-5962.



Col. Todd R. Wood, commander of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division thanks the crowd for their support March 8. (Photo by Maj. Joel Anderson/1-25th SBCT PAO)



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when is it?
where is it?

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Flag flies at half-staff for last American World War I veteran

Brian Schlumbohm, Fort Wainwright PAO

Flags were flown at half-staff Tuesday in remembrance of Army Cpl. Frank W. Buckles, the last known surviving American veteran of World War I. Buckles died at his West Virginia farm Feb. 27, 2011, at the age of 110.

According to the Washington Post, Buckles was born in Bethany, Mo., Feb. 1, 1901. He quit school at the age of

16 to enlist for the war, but was rejected by various military recruiters for being underage. Eventually he lied about his age and enlisted in the Army Aug. 14, 1917, going on to serve in 1918 behind the trenches of the Western Front as a rear-echelon ambulance driver.

He is survived by his daughter, Susanna Buckles Flanagan, who looked after him at his West

Virginia home. One day after his death, President Obama signed a presidential proclamation that all United States flags would be flown at half staff in his honor March 15.

Read more on Cpl. Frank Buckles by Paul Duggan at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/28/AR2011022806538.html



Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates (left) talks with Frank Buckles, the last living American World War I veteran, during a Pentagon ceremony March 6, 2008. Mr. Buckles died Feb. 27, 2011, at age 110. (Photo by R. D. Ward/Department of Defense)

Arctic Health Link

WHAT: Cholesterol Class
WHEN: March 22, 2 to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Bassett Army Community Hospital
COST: Free for all Tricare beneficiaries
CALL: Arctic Health Link 361-4148

NOTES: Classes are by appointment only and space is limited. Please call for more information and to schedule your class.

WHAT: Hypertension Class
WHEN: March 23, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: Bassett Army Community Hospital
COST: Free for all Tricare beneficiaries
CALL: Arctic Health Link 361-4148

NOTES: Classes are by appointment only and space is limited. Please call for more information and to schedule your class.

WHAT: Tobacco Use Cessation
WHEN: March 24, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: Bassett Army Community Hospital
COST: Free for all Tricare beneficiaries
CALL: Arctic Health Link 361-4148
NOTES: Classes are by appointment only and space is limited. Please call for more information and to schedule your class.

Friday - 18th

TAX CENTER OPEN, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 353-2613 for appointment.

LASER TAG, 1 to 4 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Must be 18 years and older to participate. No cost for active duty military. Call 353-7755.

STORY HOUR AND CRAFTS, 4 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-2642.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, 7 p.m., Southern Lights Chapel, 361-4463.

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RELOCATORS INTERNATIONAL
FF-AK POST/DITY MOVE
1 x 1.5

AFAP
CONFERENCE
MARCH 30 - 31

Submit
issues
now
Call 353-2382

18379717
GOOD NEWS FISHING GUIDES
AK POST/FISHING GUID
2 x 3.0

18379715
WARBELOWS AIR VENTURES
FF/AK POST/BALLROOM
2 x 7.0

Saturday - 19th

WOODSHOP SAFETY ORIENTATION, 10 a.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Open to DoD cardholders ages 16 and older. Call 353-7520.

CUDDLE CURE CLASS, 10 a.m. to noon, Child Development Center I, Building 4024. Call 361-7372.

ENCORE STORY HOUR AND CRAFTS, 10:30 a.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-2642.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709, \$7. Call 353-7274.

FUSED GLASS PENDANTS, 1 to 3 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Cost is \$35. Open to DoD cardholders ages 16 and older. Call 353-7520.353-7274.

CHESS CLUB, 3 to 5 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7755.

POKER TOURNAMENT, 6 p.m., The Warrior Zone, Building 3205. Must be 18 years and older to participate. No cost for active duty military. Call 353-1087.

Sunday - 20th

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, Mass at 11 a.m. at the Southern Lights Chapel, 361-4463

GOSPEL BIBLE STUDY PRAISE AND WORSHIP, 11 a.m., 3rd floor Bassett Army Community Hospital. Call Chaplain (Maj) Munson at 361-5535.

FAMILY DAY AT TUBE HILL, 12 to 7 p.m., Birch Hill, Building 1172. Cost is \$20 per hour for DoD cardholders, \$30 per hour for non DoD cardholders. Birch Hill closes at 20 below zero. No children younger than 5. Height requirement is at least 40 inches. Five and six year olds must be accompanied by an adult in a separate tube. Call 353-9131.

"GODFATHER" MARATHON/SPAGHETTI FEED, 1 p.m., The Warrior Zone, Building 3205. Must be 18 years and older to participate. No cost for active duty military. Call 353-1087.

YOUTH OF THE CHAPEL, 5 to 7 p.m., Northern Lights Chapel, Building 3430. Call 361-4463.

Monday - 21st

ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN CONFERENCE, March 30-31. Submit issues via AFAP links online at www.wainwright.army.mil or call 353-2382.

ROMP AND STOMP PLAYGROUP, 10 a.m. to noon, School Age Services, Building 4391. Transportation for Families to and from the playgroup is available at Northern Lights Inn at 9:30 a.m. Call 361-7372.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 6 p.m., PFC, Building 3709, \$7. Call 353-7274.

Tuesday - 22nd

GROUP CYCLING, 6:30 a.m. and noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7274.

INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT, 1 to 4 p.m., March 22-25. Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Must be 18 years and older to participate. No cost for active duty military. Call 353-7223.

ICE SKATING, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Physical Fitness Center Ice Rink, Building 3709. Must be 18 years and older to participate. No cost for active duty military. Call 353-7223.

OUR HEROES' TREE dedication, 3 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-2642.

TAX CENTER OPEN for walk-ins 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointments.

Wednesday - 23rd

GROUP CYCLING, 6:30 a.m. and noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7274.

ROCKWALL CLIMBING, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Melaven Physical Fitness Center, Building 3452. Must be 18 years and older to participate. No cost for active duty military. Call 353-1994.

ANGER MANAGEMENT, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Northern Lights Inn Conference Room. Call 353-4227.

CARDIO SCULPT: STRENGTH & CARDIO, 5 to 6 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7274.

Thursday - 24th

HOME ALONE COURSE, 6 to 8 p.m., School Age Services, Building 4391. Call 361-7372.

Ongoing

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TAX CENTER OPEN, weekdays and some Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday noon to 7 p.m. Call 353-2613 for an appointment.

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For your information

FATHER-DAUGHTER BALL

The annual Father-Daughter Ball is slated for April 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Westmark Hotel. The cost is \$25 per family, no matter how many people are in the family. Tickets may be purchased at the Armed Services YMCA office located at 1047-4 Nysteen Road between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The ASYMCA can only accept cash for ticket purchases.

For more information call the ASYMCA, 353-5962.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The 2011 ACS Volunteer Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for April 14.

Nominations for the Military Volunteer of the Year, Civilian Volunteer of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year, Military Spouse of the Year, Volunteer Family of the Year and Overall Volunteer of the Year Award are being accepted until March 31.

For more information contact Denise Mitchell at d.mitchell1@us.army.mil

HOME ALONE COURSE

School Age Services is offering a course to prepare families for children being at home without adult supervision.

The workshop is Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the SAS Building 4391.

This workshop is two-fold. The parent portion covers the installation home-alone policy, how to determine if your child is ready to be alone, how to ensure the safest home-alone experience for children and what the children are covering in their classroom. A 4H curriculum is used and each parent will receive a parent handbook to assist with this transition process for their family.

The student portion covers safety, family expectations and house rules, the policy on the installation and some basic snack ideas. Each student receives an imAlone workbook to assist in preparing for being home alone and to keep all of their important information together. They will also receive a packet of nutritious snack recipes to help them on their way.

The last part of the workshop provides an opportunity for parents and students to get together and complete some of the planning and discussion pieces together.

For more information, or to register call 361-7713 or 361-7372.

EMAIL NEWS TO: pao.fwa@us.army.mil

10378173
ARCTIC TRAVELERS
AK POST/MARCH-AP
2 x 2.0

17379599
NORTH STAR DANCE
AK POST/SNOW WHITE
2 x 2.75

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NENANA ICE CLASSIC
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2 x 6.5

WOMEN'S HISTORY GUEST SPEAKER

The 16th Combat Aviation Brigade will host the Fort Wainwright Women's History Month celebration March 25 at 1 p.m. at the Physical Fitness Center.

The theme for this year's observance is "Our History Is Our Strength" featuring Jeri Wigdahl as the guest speaker. Wigdahl is a community leader, active volunteer and has recently come out of retirement to work in public relations.

Mariah Ver Hoef, a student at University of Alaska Fairbanks, who has recorded three albums of original music will perform.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wiest at 353-0398.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

Army Emergency Relief is the Army's way of taking care of their own. Soldiers, both active and retired and their family members can get financial assistance from AER during times of emergency.

To do this, AER needs your help. The annual AER campaign continues until May 15. If you need information about AER check out their website at www.aerhq.org/ or contact Master Sgt. Kenton Allen by calling 353-7534.

BEWARE - THE SKY IS FALLING

Falling ice and snow from Fort Wainwright buildings will begin as temperatures rise. Snow and ice on all the structures, including hangars, will begin sliding off the rooftops and can land on vehicles. This can and does occur from structures with and without posted warning signs. Please be aware of these dangers and take precautions to keep privately owned property, including vehicles, further away from structure roof lines. In accordance with Army Regulation 27-20, falling ice and snow is a common occurrence in cold weather climates, therefore, it is considered an "Act of God" and damages sustained as a result of falling snow and ice are generally not compensable through the Army Claims Service. If you have any questions, please contact the Fort Wainwright Claims Office at 353-6155, 353-6507 or 353-6558.

CHESS CLUB MEETS

The chess club meets every Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044.

All are welcome to attend. Call 353-7755 for more information.

PWOC GROUP MEETS

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Northern Lights Chapel, 3430 Luzon Avenue. Free on-site childcare and home-school room. For more information, call 356-1299 or email wainwright@pwoc.org or Facebook: PWOC Fort Wainwright.

OUR HEROES TREE

"Reflect, Remember, Rejoice" is the theme of "Our Heroes Tree," a community program to honor the service and sacrifice of our military members, no matter what branch, past or present and their families.

Fort Wainwright will dedicate "Our Heroes Tree" Tuesday at 3 pm. at the library. All are welcome to attend and hang an ornament to honor their heroes.

LENT PROGRAM

Southern Lights Chapel, Eighth St. at Neely Road. Call 361-4463

Friday: Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

Saturday: Packages for the Native People of Kalskag, Alaska, at noon

Second **Sunday** of Lent: Mass at 11 a.m.

March 25: Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

TAX CENTER OPEN

The Tax Center is open. Active-duty, mobilized Reserve, retirees and the family members of these sponsors who have simple personal income tax returns are eligible for tax assistance service.

Returns may be filed electronically whether you are getting a refund or you owe taxes. Only taxes prepared by a Fort Wainwright Tax Assistance Center staff member can be electronically filed at the Tax Assistance Center.

The Tax Assistance Center is located in Building 1049-4 Gaffney Road near the Law Center on the north side of Fort Wainwright. Both appointments and walk-ins are available, but customers having an appointment take priority.

For more information or an appointment call 353-2613.

ALASKA POST HOME DELIVERY

Housing residents who no longer want home delivery of the Alaska Post should e-mail the Public Affairs Office at pao.fwa@us.army.mil or call 353-6780.

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JACKIE@HAIR AFFAIR
AK POST/AK POST
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TOP NAILS
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IMAGE OPTICAL
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ALASKA FUN CENTER SALES
AK POST/HARD CORE
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