

# ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

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## INSIDE SECTION ALPHA

Garrison Change of Command

MEDDAC Q & A

Hero honored

GI Jane

Col. Timothy Jones Retires

Battle of the Bands

## SECTION BRAVO

Home fire safety

Valdez camping

Community Calendar

For Your Information

New trails on post

## AT A GLANCE CHANGE OF COMMAND



Garrison hails and farewells

More on page 4

## NEW TRAILS



More to do outside for summer and winter

More on page 8

## WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday

Mostly Cloudy

Low 50 High 75

East winds to 10 mph

Saturday

Mostly cloudy

Rain likely

Low 50 High 80

West winds 10 to 15 mph

Sunday

Mostly cloudy

Chance of showers

Low 50 High 65

Forecast courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## Garrison command changes hands, Col. Jones retires

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

Members of the Fort Wainwright and Fairbanks North Star Borough communities celebrated a change of garrison command Friday, as well as a retirement ceremony for the outgoing commander, Col. Timothy A. Jones.

Under a threatening sky the two ceremonies went off without a hitch as Mrs. Debra Zedalis, director, Pacific Region, Installation Management Command presided over the passing of the colors, relinquishing command from Jones to Col. Ronald M. Johnson. "I don't remember ever being part of a change of command where the same three players were involved three years ago," said Zedalis, referring to the fact that Johnson held the garrison commander position when Jones took the helm in 2008. Johnson is returning to Fort Wainwright after serving as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command.

Immediately following the change of command, Jones, who is retiring after 27 years of service, was honored with a certificate of appreciation from President Barack Obama, Commander-in-Chief. Jones also received a certificate retirement signed by General Martin E. Dempsey, United States Army Chief of Staff and was awarded the Legion of Merit medal for "exceptionally meritorious service".

Mrs. Theresa Jones also received a letter of appreciation from the Army Chief of Staff and the Commander's Award for Public Service from Zedalis.

During his speech, Jones said he



Fort Wainwright and Fairbanks North Star Borough communities gathered for the Fort Wainwright Garrison change of command ceremony Friday, on Ladd Field parade grounds outside the garrison head quarters. Mrs. Debra Zedalis, director, Pacific Region, Installation Management Command presided over the event as Col. Timothy A. Jones relinquished command to Col. Ronald M. Johnson. After the change of command ceremony, Jones was honored with a retirement ceremony, ending 27-years of service with the U.S. Army. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

had only commanded combat units before coming to Fort Wainwright and thought leading a garrison would be different. "But I was wrong," he said, "the battles have just been different. Budget battles, board structure battles, battles with regulators, battles with

irate hunters." His comments prompted chuckles from the crowd. "Some we won, some we lost, some seemed to be like the Cold War or the War on Terror and go on and on." Jones said.

See GARRISON, on page 4

## Let the battles of Birch Hill begin

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

Birch Hill will be alive with the sound of music and the fragrance of barbecue tomorrow as the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts the Battle of the Bands and the Battle of the Backyard BBQ.

The barbecue competition starts bright and early as teams prepare their chicken, tri-tip beef, ribs and sauce for the afternoon judging. Once the judging is complete and prizes are awarded, it will be time to crank up the tunes, rock-n-roll, move and groove or boot-scoot boogie.

See BANDS, on page 3

## Battle of the Bands

## New and repaired trails enhance recreational opportunities, access on Fort Wainwright

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

Construction on Fort Wainwright is on pace this summer and is evident in the repairs to existing trails, construction of recreational trails at Birch Hill and a state of the art running track, and football field at Engineer Park.

Dennis Holtry, Directorate of Public Works, chief contract manager has been involved with the bike trail that ended abruptly at a fenced, private housing area, making it necessary for pedestrians and cyclists to either take to the drainage ditch or the shoulder of the road alongside River Road proceeding north to the Siku Basin subdivision on Trainor Gate Road.

See TRAIL REPAIRS, on page 8

## Valdez Glacier Campground

Staff Report, Fort Wainwright PAO

The Valdez Glacier Campground is located in scenic Valdez, Alaska and operated by Fort Greely Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and offers some of the best of what Alaska has to offer in the way of recreational opportunities.

The campground is open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Fort Wainwright and Fairbanks drivers will travel about 360 miles south to Valdez, on the Richardson Highway.

The campground is located at the base of the Chugach Mountains beneath the famous Valdez Glacier. The Glacier run-off provides a waterfall that cascades into a crystal clear creek, according to Emily Fisher, Fort Greely FMWR.

Campers can watch mountain goats graze on the steep slopes overlooking the campground. The waterfalls, eagles and wooded areas are some of the main attractions according to one of the camp hosts, Bob Kimball.



Photo by Connie Storch/Fort Wainwright PAO

See VALDEZ, on page 5



The multi-use trail along River Road was recently repaired with new material. The elevated, compacted gravel base is covered with recycled asphalt product. The trail is not intended for motorized vehicles that could damage to the smooth surface. (Photo by Allen Shaw/Fort Wainwright PAO)

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## Petry inducted into Pentagon Hall of Heroes

Tech. Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey, U.S. Air Force

The second living recipient of the Medal of Honor from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was inducted into the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon June 13.

Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry, who was awarded the Medal of Honor June 12, by President Barack Obama, was inducted into the Hall of Heroes during a ceremony hosted by Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta.

"Today, Leroy Petry's name joins the hallowed ranks of other Medal of Honor recipients listed on this wall. He is truly a representative of a new generation of Americans who have answered the call during almost a decade of war," Panetta said. "In paying tribute to him, we also celebrate a generation that is fighting for a better life, a better America, and a better world."

Petry expressed his gratitude as he stood before some of his fellow Rangers, four other Medal of Honor recipients and a slew of senior military leadership.

"I'm humbled by this ceremony, your words, and your presence. I particularly want to thank my wife, Ashley, [and] our children; it was their love and support that kept me going on this journey," Petry said.

"And I would like to thank my fellow Rangers. The 75th Ranger Regiment has been continuously deployed over 3,500 days since the start of the war on terrorism. During that time, 55 of my fellow Ranger brothers have been killed in both Afghanistan and Iraq," he said.

Petry passionately implored the nation to remember his



Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry receives a photo and citation from Army Secretary John McHugh and Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Petry's wife, Ashley, applaud during the Hall of Heroes induction ceremony at the Pentagon, July 13, 2011. (Tech. Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey/U.S. Air Force)

fellow servicemembers who gave their lives for their country.

"As you have recognized me today, I ask that you continue to pay tribute and never forget those Rangers and all other men and women of the armed services that have made the ultimate sacrifice," he said.

"Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers. It has been my honor to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with all servicemembers, defending our nation for almost 12 years. And I look forward to my continued service with you," Petry said. "Thank you and Rangers lead the way."

Other senior military leaders spoke during the induction, praising Petry for his selfless actions.

"Sgt. Petry joins a small, elite group of American warriors who hold our nation's highest military honor. Thank you so much for being here and your continued service as well," Army Secretary John McHugh said.

Army Chief of Staff General Martin E. Dempsey described the Petry family as "all-Americans" as he spoke of Petry's service.

"This is an all-American family. They are tight. They love each other. They are supportive of each other, [and] they could not be more polite and courteous," he said.

"When I think about the Hall of Heroes, I'm struck by how fortunate we are as a country to have generation after generation [of] men and women like Sergeant First Class Petry," Dempsey said. "He represents the best of our nation and today we honor his valor, unbending."

Olson, the SOCOM commander, spoke directly to Petry, on behalf of the Special Forces community to which they both belong.

"Leroy, you epitomize the spirit and ethos of our nation's most intrepid warriors," he said. "On behalf of a grateful and respectful special operations community, I salute you."

### MEDDAC commander

Col. George Appenzeller,  
MEDDAC-AK commander



## Medical Department Activity Alaska Q & A

**QUESTION:** Routine appointments, are they going away?

**ANSWER:** Appointments are not going away, in fact availability is increasing. The way Medical Department Activity-Alaska categorizes and names appointments has changed and more changes are on the horizon. Bassett Army Community Hospital recently opened up primary care appointments on Thursday mornings and changed administrative and meeting schedules, increasing the overall appointment availability by approximately 100 appointments per week and are at present taking the next logical step.

In reviewing patient-provided feedback in surveys, (yes, beneficiaries should fill out the Army Provider Level Satisfaction surveys received in the mail), the biggest dissatisfaction with service is the time between making an appointment and getting in to be seen by a provider. Part of the problem, according to both patients and staff, are the different appointment types. So much so, that a previous column was written to explain all the differing appointment types and what the standard wait times were for each.

Problem identified. Placing patients in "baskets" based on appointment types added to patient wait times until the right type of appointment was available.

By labeling appointment baskets as acute, routine wellness or preventive care and specialty care appointments and allocated to each basket matched patient's medical conditions with a specific appointment type. That allocation often lead to the reduced appointment availability and longer than expected wait times, failing to take patient schedules and life events into consideration.

Next week the hospital will begin a more streamlined approach by offering only two appointment types - acute and established. By having only two general appointment types, overall access to care is increased. Instead of having well, established, routine, acute and other procedure types, all with specific scheduling criteria, patients now only have two criteria on which to base appointment scheduling. Acute appointments are for issues which need to be seen within 24 hours. Established appointments are for everything else.

As always, emergency services are available and accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In an emergency, Tricare beneficiaries should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Our goal is to maximize the appointments available with the patient's primary care provider while increasing flexibility of the scheduling staff to meet patient needs. As with any new process, there will be expected some bumps in the road and it will take time to work off the backlog of appointments. But in time the new process should decrease waits and increase availability of providers.

MEDDAC-AK remains dedicated to ensuring all beneficiaries' medical needs are met, and working as a team, accomplish the mission of increasing access to healthcare. Please, never hesitate to drop by or give us a call if you have any questions. "Arctic Medic!"

## United States Army Soldier Show

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the United States Army Soldier Show at Pioneer Park Center for the Performing Arts in partnership with the Golden Days Celebration.

Shows start at  
6 p.m. July 22  
4 p.m. July 23



## GI Jane embraces friends, doesn't go it alone

GI Jane, Alaska Post Contributor

Whether this separation from your Soldier is just another multiple-month school somewhere other than here, your first or fifth deployment or a field exercise, one thing remains true, there will be times when it seems as though everything that could possibly go wrong will go wrong. You know, when the kids seem to have forgotten how to behave properly, your boss is exceptionally rude or difficult, you get a flat tire, you miss an appointment you have waited months to get, you're having a bad hair day, there is something wrong with your Soldier's pay, you locked your keys in the house and on and on it goes. Don't worry, you don't have to be alone.

When faced with the challenges and troubles that are inevitable in this life we live we have a choice to make. We can sit around and struggle through it alone and frustrated or we can get help. Even after having a few deployments and plenty of other geographical separations under my belt, I still find that each time my Soldier leaves I have to make a conscious effort to remind myself that it is okay to ask for help. When our

Soldiers are home we can depend on them to pick up the slack around the house, with the kids, for appointments and errands and when things break or fall apart. So who do we turn to when they are not here? We can and should turn to one another. As much as our family and non-military friends love and care about us no one can sympathize and understand better than another military spouse. When talking to a fellow GI Jane, there is no need for the lengthy explanation of why something is so frustrating or why there is not an easy solution to a military related issue. A military sister already knows and understands the complications that exist and she probably also has some words of wisdom and experience or a listening ear to share as well.

We all have heard it said that we are supposed to be strong and independent women. We are supposed to be holding down the fort but I never recall hearing anyone specify that I had to hold it down alone. Besides being nearly impossible, it isn't as much fun to do it alone. It is difficult to ask for help at times but we have

to be willing to ask for it. If you don't tell anyone that you are having problems or need help, you can't expect them to just know. Remember, we are all in the middle of this demanding life together and although no one may think to ask you if all is well or if you need help it doesn't mean they aren't willing to be there for you. Don't take offense to the lack of help if you haven't asked. Remember, at some point the person that you seem to have already asked at least a million times for help will need your help in return and you will be more than ready and certainly happy to repay the favor or favors.

Just as it is important for us to be willing to ask for help it is also important for us to extend help. We should be checking in on one another regularly throughout these times. We could all use a battle buddy to vent to, relax with and help carry the load when necessary. Remember to give a call to that friend you haven't seen in a week or so. Stop by and check in to make sure all is well. Plan a day out to actually share what's going on and listen to a friend. Make those connections, foster

those relationships and be there for one another the way that we all know our Soldiers are there for one another when they are away.

Things in life are so much easier when we share the load with one another. You wouldn't go it alone if your Soldier was here and he certainly wouldn't want you to have to go it alone while he is away either. Life isn't meant to be lived alone. Don't allow an Army initiated separation get the best of you. Allow this to be an opportunity to find a new friendship, strengthen one that has just begun or reaffirm a life-long friendship by being there for one another and creating the kind of community that only the military provides.

Editor's Note: The Alaska Post features the GI Jane column every other week. GI Jane is a composite character of many different military spouse contributors and offers a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives. We would like to hear from readers. Submit column ideas and feedback to [pao.fwa@us.army.mil](mailto:pao.fwa@us.army.mil).

## U.S. Army Alaska mountaineer assists in MIA recovery mission

Sgt. Trish McMurphy, U.S. Army Alaska PAO

Instructors at the Northern Warfare Training Center in Alaska not only teach Soldiers and leaders to survive the arctic climate and maneuver through mountainous terrain; their unique skills often put them in demand for specialized missions.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command often calls upon the NWTC for assistance in their mission - to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans from the nation's past conflicts.

NWTC instructors help bring closure to friends, family and the military community by advising and assisting JPAC to recover the remains of long lost service members and equipment in remote and treacherous terrain.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Weaver, an instructor at NWTC, recently helped to recover a B-24J Bomber in Papua New Guinea that crashed in June of 1944.

Mountaineering experts like Weaver are needed to help traverse the rugged terrain to reach some of these remote sites and to be able to recover the remains and wreckage safely.

"They want someone there to assist them negotiate the obstacles, so they look for people

that are mountaineer trained," said Weaver.

Weaver said the remoteness and terrain made the crash site very inaccessible and it took a long time just to get supplies to the base camp before they could even start the recovery part of the mission.

The site was so remote they had to shuttle their equipment in by helicopter, and some days even that was impossible.

Weaver said, "In that type of terrain, air (traffic) is limited by visibility. Some days the clouds would come up over the mountain as early as 9:30 a.m. and (the site) would be shrouded in clouds and we couldn't fly in."

The site was not only remote but very rugged.

"This site had exposed spurs," Weaver said. "We had to gain about 300 feet in altitude from our base camp to get to the actual crash site on one of these spurs."

"There were a lot of fixed ropes installed to mitigate the risks," Weaver said. "There were slopes that were 50 to 60 degrees and you could seriously hurt yourself in a fall."

"There was one area at the crash site that was pretty steep to work on. I installed a safety line we



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Weaver, a mountaineering specialist from the Northern Warfare Training Center in Alaska, treks through mountainous terrain, in Morobe, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, while assisting with a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command recovery operation. Weaver is advising team leadership on proper risk management procedures which are unique to navigating extreme mountainous terrain. The mission of JPAC is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of our nation's past conflicts. (Photo by William Dasher/Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command)

could hook into so while we were digging and moving dirt we weren't going to slip and fall and continue to fall down the hill."

Weaver also installed some basic raising systems to move heavy equipment and wreckage up and down the mountain.

"We moved wings, parts of wings,

pieces of fuselage and things like that," Weaver said.

This was Weaver's first mission and he said he thought the trip and the mission were very worthwhile.

"To be able to bring something back and possibly get closure, I think that is just awesome," Weaver said.

## BANDS: Let the battles of Birch Hill begin

Continued from page 1

The Battle of the Bands has an eclectic mix of musical genres with something for everyone. "We've got everything from rockabilly to psychobilly, ska and blues," said Megan Brown, FMWR special event coordinator. "It is all outside on the grass at Birch Hill, so bring your blanket or lawn chair and enjoy an evening of quality entertainment," Brown said. There will also be food and beverages available for purchase. The event is open to the entire community.

There 11 bands signed up for the competition battling for cash prizes. The 1st place band will receive \$1500, 2nd place will net \$1,000 and 3rd will take home \$500. There will also be a cash prize for the people's choice. Brown said, "We have great local talent as well as Soldier bands competing."

Marc Brown and the Blues Crew will take the stage at 4 p.m. and each band will have 30-minutes to perform. Arly-Jylz will be next, followed by Behind Tide. The fourth band up is Eating for Two, followed by Ruckus, Avery Wolves and Awaken Antagonist. Sonic Karma will perform, then Fire X Night, Big Delta Blues and Some Kind of Sorcerer will close the show. Judging and awards are scheduled between 9:30 and 10 p.m.

The Avery Wolves got their name from animator Tex Avery whose bad wolf in the "Little Red Hot Riding Hood" story was portrayed as a "hard-drinking, woman-crazy maniac." Jason Dalke, drummer for the band said, "The music we play is psychobilly, which is a cross between rockabilly and punk." Nathan Harris plays double bass and vocals, and Dave Keller play guitar and sings back-up. "We decided to enter the contest because we love to play shows and playing with the best bands in town is going to be a great time," Dalke said.

### LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Pvt. Ryan J. Larson of B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, may contact 1st Lt. James Desjarlais, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1-25th SBCT, 3717 Neely Road, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-8700 or call 353-1630.

## Duty, Honor, America Tour

Staff Report, U.S. Army Alaska PAO

The rubber will meet the road in the form of bike tread for U.S. Army Alaska Soldiers at Fort Wainwright and Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Volunteer Soldiers at both installations are being offered the opportunity to join U.S. Army retiree, Doug Adams as he bikes from Fort Wainwright to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during his trek across Alaska and the United States as a part of the Duty, Honor, America Tour.

The cycling trek will begin Aug. 8 at Fort Wainwright and will conclude Aug. 13 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, with participants biking as many as 60 miles per day. Transportation is being coordinated to transport participants from JBER to Fort Wainwright prior to the ride

and from JBER back to Fort Wainwright at the conclusion of the ride, however, because this is a volunteer opportunity, participants will be required to arrange their own lodging throughout the ride.

Soldiers who have gained approval from their chain of command to participate in the ride must confirm their intent to take part in the event to U.S. Army Alaska Community Relations Chief Mary Rall no later than July 22 by calling 384-2019 or emailing [mary.rall@us.army.mil](mailto:mary.rall@us.army.mil).

More information on the Duty, Honor, America Tour is available at [www.dutyhonoramericatour.com](http://www.dutyhonoramericatour.com). Participation in this event is limited, and cyclist slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Courts martial proceedings, Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Soldiers

Staff Report, U.S. Army Alaska PAO

U.S. Army Alaska held courts-martial at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on 20 June and Fort Wainwright June 22 to 23.

Spc. Michael J. Fierley, E Company, 725th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division was found guilty of Desertion with Intent to Avoid Hazardous Duty. He was sentenced to confinement for 10 months and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

A specialist with 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Regiment, was found not guilty of charges preferred during court martial proceedings.

## ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

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## GARRISON: Command changes hands, Col. Jones retires

Continued from page 1

Jones kept most of the speech light-hearted, talking about the different uniform changes he has seen during his career. "I've seen three uniform changes from OG107's to BDU's to ACU's, four if you count jungle fatigues, 5 if you count the new Afghanistan pattern uniforms," Jones said, "We've gone from patrol caps to berets and back to patrol caps and sometimes berets."

He also thanked his family. Jones said to his wife, "Sweetheart, you've carried more than your share of the load and you've been a true Army wife. Last month we celebrated 25 years of marriage and that means more to me than anything I've achieved in my military career. I look forward to the next 25," he said. He continued by telling his children how proud he was of them. "For my kids, Megan, John and Daniel, as for Army kids everywhere there's no fairness in your sacrifice, pulled continuously from the comfort of friends and familiar environments," he said. "Whether coming home from a year-long deployment or just after a long day, you give me strength."

Jones spoke about the 183 campaign streamers that make up the colors. The first streamer reads, "Lexington-1775," the last one reads, "Iraqi Surge-2007-2008". "Behind each of those streamers, every one, there are thousands of faces, faces of Americans, faces of ordinary men and women who achieved extraordinary things, many who have never returned," he said. "I carry into retirement the memories of three Soldiers who served and perished under my command. Chief Warrant Officer Andy Porter, Chief Warrant Officer Eric Koesterson, Sgt. Warren Hansen." Jones said, "Each of these men gave their last full measure of devotion. I can only pray I have honored their memories with my service."

Jones gave credit to the civilian workforce that supports the Army, as well as the contract partners and privatization partners. He requested that the next time Soldiers have the opportunity, "thank them for their service," he said.



Mrs. Debra Zedalis, director, Pacific Region, Installation Management Command passes the colors to Col. Ronald M. Johnson, as he takes command of Fort Wainwright Garrison, July 8. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

During his speech, Johnson, the incoming garrison commander also gave credit to the post personnel who made him want to return (to this duty station). He said, "When you're looking in the mirror scratching your heads wondering how this happened, well you've got only yourselves to blame."

Although Jones spoke of mixed emotions about leaving the Army, he said he was comforted by what awaits him outside the

gate and said Fairbanks is where they will stay. "We've felt at home here from day one and Theresa and I look forward to remaining here and serving this community in a different capacity."

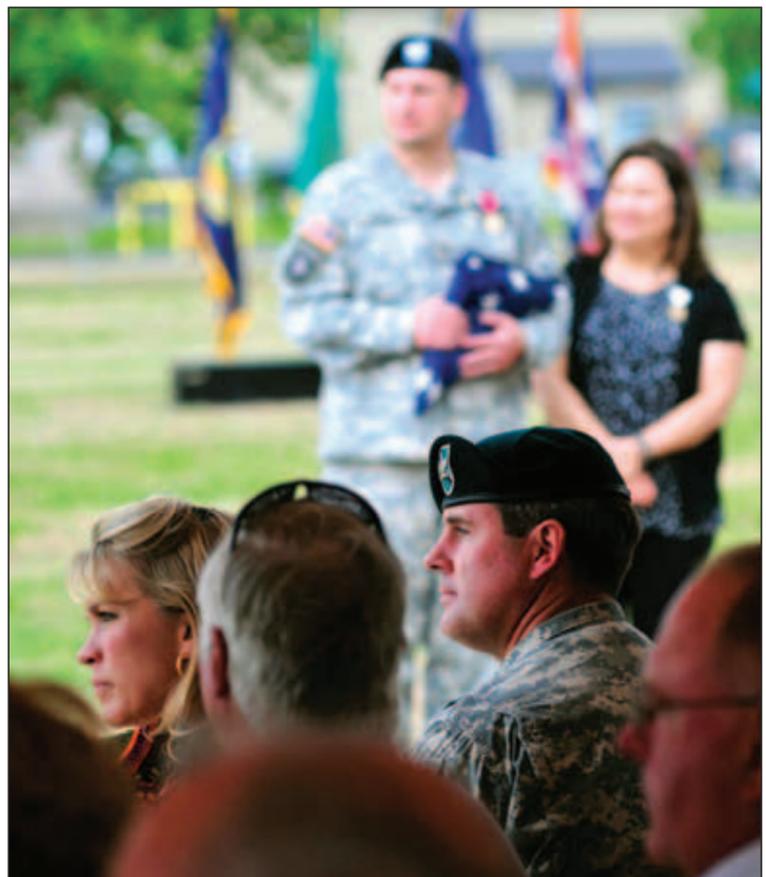
In closing Jones told those who witnessed the dual ceremony, "I am truly a blessed man. I've got a great family, great friends, a great life and I don't have to say good-bye, only, see you around," he said.



Col. Timothy Jones salutes standing with wife Theresa Jones as the flag lowers during retreat on Fort Wainwright July 8. Jones was presented the flag which had flown over Fort Wainwright in his honor as he retires after 27-years of Army service. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)



Col. Ronald M. Johnson returns to take command of Fort Wainwright Garrison after serving as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command. (Photo by Trish Muntean/Fort Wainwright PAO)



Fort Wainwright and Fairbanks North Star Borough community members were present at the garrison change of command ceremony held Friday at Fort Wainwright's Ladd Parade Field. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Newly appointed Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander, Col. Ronald M. Johnson and wife Candy Johnson watch as the 9th Army Band plays a medley of songs from each of Col. Timothy Jones' previous units to which he was assigned at the closing his retirement ceremony, July 8. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

# Directorate of Emergency Services, North Haven Communities, host Fire Safety Days

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO

The Fort Wainwright Fire Department and North Haven Communities have joined forces to provide Soldiers and families crucial information and give residents an opportunity to meet the firefighters who serve the Fort Wainwright community.

In two years Fort Wainwright has racked up over \$2 million in property loss claims from 20 post housing fires said Chuck Downham, project manager, North Haven Communities.

"Fortunately, none of the fires resulted in personal injuries or death, but all were preventable," Downham said.

The Fire Department and North Haven have formed a partnership to raise awareness and promote fire safety. One of the results of this partnership is Fire Safety Days, beginning Saturday.

"Given the number and frequency of fire occurrences, NHC believes an interactive session involving displays and (Fire) Department personnel will have a lasting and effective impact on resident fire safety and awareness that we hope will translate into reduced fire incidents," he said.

Maurice Fischer, the Directorate of Emergency Services director explained that he wants the community to have the opportunity to meet the people who serve them.

"We want to enlighten the residents as to who we are and what we do. Fort Wainwright has the best Fire Department in the Pacific and the Fort Wainwright community should benefit from their efforts," he said. "I want the residents to know their firefighters and know that they can stop at a fire station at any time with questions or concerns and



More than 2 million dollars in property loss claims filed within the past two years by residents of North Haven Communities; impacting more than 20 households. Because of this issue, the Fort Wainwright Fire Department and North Haven Communities have formed a partnership to raise awareness and promote fire safety. (Courtesy photo)

know that the firefighters that serve there will help them.

"My personal experience has been that many people know where the fire house is but not many people know the brave men and women that work there and have only a small understanding of what they can do for the community. Firefighters and police officers are our hometown heroes, yet many residents have never met a firefighter," Fischer said.

"Given the number and frequency of fire occurrences, NHC believes an interactive session involving displays

and (Fire) Department personnel will have a lasting and effective impact on resident fire safety and awareness that we hope will translate into reduced fire incidents," Downham said.

The training is mandatory for all housing residents, he said. "While we believe participation will benefit all residents regardless of past training or experience with fires, the penalty for non-participation by a resident could include revocation of resident self-help privileges."

Residents who attend will receive a package filled with fire safety

information including useful tips for around the home.

The Fire Department will provide displays and interactive training during Fire Safety Days. The intent of the training is to raise awareness and preparedness for Soldiers and their families in the event of a fire emergency within their home.

Fischer said that residents will be able to meet the firefighters that serve their specific housing area. We will offer fire extinguisher training, fire prevention information and tips, and provide residents the opportunity to sign up for a Project Safe Guard home fire and crime prevention consultation.

Directorate of Emergency Services also offers the free, Project Safeguard assessments to Fort Wainwright families living off post.

Children can look forward to the fire truck to climb on, equipment to wear and try out. A smoke trailer will teach fire survival techniques, and, Sparky the Fire Dog will be there with his bouncy house for the children to enjoy, Fischer said.

All Fire Safety Days will take place in Fort Wainwright housing. Sessions are open to all DoD ID cardholders.

The first sessions take place in Chena Bend 9 to 11 a.m. and North Town 1 to 3 p.m. tomorrow. Sessions continue through the summer in Denali Village 9 to 11 a.m.; Siku Basin 1 to 3 p.m. July 30; Southern Cross 9 a.m. to noon, Aug. 27; Northern Lights from 9 to 11 a.m. and Bear Paw 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 10.

For more information, call North Haven Communities at 356-7000 or the fire prevention office at 353-9166.

## VALDEZ: Glacier Campground

Continued from page 1

Kimball is one of two lead recreation assistants with FMWR. He works on-site along with Regina Sheppock.

"Remoteness," is key to the park's appeal, Kimball said.

"I like that it's more secluded," rather than downtown, said Amanda McGaha, administrative assistant for Fort Greely's Directorate of Public Works.

Amanda and her husband, Kevin McGaha have been traveling to Valdez for years, she said, and have noticed many recent improvements, like the bath house and the "spacious, hard shell" camping trailers that are in-place for overnight use.

Guests at Valdez Glacier Campground can walk to Valdez Glacier Lake, McGaha said, and watch icebergs float to the shoreline. There's also a public shooting range nearby.

She said the bike trails are very nice; they've made the two-wheeled trek to town.

And while families are welcome, campers of all ages should watch for bears, they've been known to amble around the park.

Prince William Sound in Valdez is known for glaciers, sea life, and shorebirds. Flight-seeing trips allow prime viewing of glaciers and vast, imposing, mountain ranges.

Popular outdoor activities include biking, berry picking, backpacking and sea kayaking.

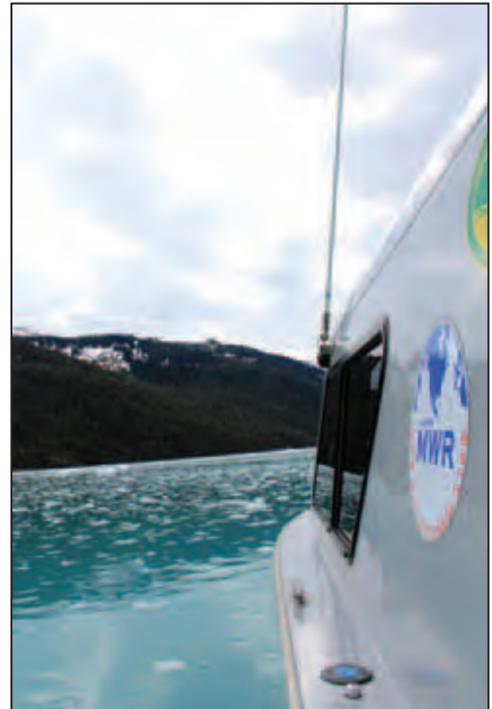
In town, souvenir and curio shops dot the streets. A stroll around the small boat harbour nearly always turns up a photo opportunity.

There is also a pair of nesting bald eagles on site. Campsites 102-104 are off limits to give this protected family some space. Amenities at the location include 21 RV pads with electric hook-ups, and eight on-site rental trailers\* with electrical hook-ups. Shower facilities are available. Most sites have a picnic table and fire grill. A covered pavilion and three large group, day-use areas are available to all patrons.

Pets are welcomed in the campground on leashes, but are not allowed in the rental trailers.

Valdez is perhaps best known as a fishing mecca. There are several salmon fishing derbies and a halibut derby. "The fishing is great," McGaha said.

The Family and MWR fishing boat is available



Valdez Glacier Campground is located at 1200 Airport Road, about seven miles north of the Valdez small boat harbor and town center. Airport Road intersects with the Richardson Highway. Open Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Valdez Glacier Campground and is located at the base of the Chugach Mountains beneath the famous Valdez Glacier. The Glacier run-off provides a beautiful waterfall that cascades into a crystal clear creek in the day use area. The campground takes pride in the beauty and serenity of this location. For information on fishing, availability and reservations call (907) 873-4058.

for fishing and or sight-seeing with a fee assessed to cover services and is located in the Valdez small boat harbor.

Valid Alaska fishing licenses are required for all persons above the age of 12 participating in a fishing trip. For all trips there is a minimum of four and a maximum of six people per trip. Trips are booked based upon the availability of the boat and may be reserved in advance by calling Fort Greely Outdoor Recreation.

The campground is open to the public, however military rates are lower.

Exception: Fishing trips and rental trailers availability is limited to military, their dependent family members, DoD civilians and retirees only. For reservations, call (907) 873-4058.

For visitor or fishing information, visit [www.valdezalaska.org](http://www.valdezalaska.org).



Valdez Glacier Campground is located at 1200 Airport Road, about seven miles north of the Valdez small boat harbor and town center. Airport Road intersects with the Richardson Highway. Open Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Valdez Glacier Campground and is located at the base of the Chugach Mountains beneath the famous Valdez Glacier. The Glacier run-off provides a beautiful waterfall that cascades into a crystal clear creek in the day use area. The campground takes pride in the beauty and serenity of this location. For information on fishing, availability and reservations call (907) 873-4058.

what is it? when is it? where is it? **find it here!**

## Friday – 15th

**COPING WITH GRIEF**, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Northern Lights Inn conference room, Bldg. 3402. Call 353-6286.

**MAKE and TAKE FUN WITH FIBER**, 6 to 7 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Bldg. 3727. Open to participants ages 16 and older. Call 353-7520.

**MIDSUMMER KINIGHT'S READ ACTIVITY**, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Post Library, Bldg. 3700. Participants must register for this program. Call 353-4137.

## Saturday – 16th

**BATTLE OF THE BANDS AND BACKYARD BBQ**, Birch Hill Ski and Snowboard Area. Barbecue competition begins 6:30 a.m. Judging will begin at 3 p.m. The Battle of the Bands follows. Bands will take the stage between 4 and 10 p.m. The all-ages event is open to the public. The bands begin battling at 4 p.m.

**GOOD SAMARITAN TOURNAMENT**, Starting at 8 a.m., Chena Bend Golf Course, Bldg. 2092. For more information, call 353-6223.

**ZUMBA FITNESS**, 1 to 2 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 3709. Cost is \$7 per class. Call 353-7223.

**CHENA RIVER KAYAK/CANOE**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 4050. Participants will meet at the ORC. Cost is \$5 per person. Open to participants 14 and older (youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Call 361-2652.

**WOODSHOP 101**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Bldg. 3727. Cost is \$40 and includes all materials. Open to participants 16 and older (under 18 must be accompanied by a parent to work in the woodshop). Call 353-7520.

**HOT DOG STORY HOUR and CRAFTS**, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Post Library, Bldg. 3700. Call 353-4137.

**BOATER SAFETY COURSE**, 1 to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 4050. Open to participants 18 and older. A boater safety card is issued at the completion of the course and is valid for four years. Everyone renting a watercraft from the Outdoor Recreation Center is required to have a boater safety card issued from the ORC on Fort Wainwright prior to boat reservation. Call 361-6349.

**COMMUNITY GAME DAY**, 1 to 6 p.m., Post Library, Bldg. 3700. Call 353-4137.

**SPECIAL EVENT: BATTLE OF THE BANDS**, 4 to 11 p.m., Birch Hill, Bldg. 1172. Call 353-6043.

## Sunday – 17th

**ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES SAFETY COURSE**, 1 to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 4050. Open to participants ages 18 and older. This course is required for any of the ATV programs ORC will host during the summer. Call 361-4089.

**SMOKE THOSE SALMON**, 3 to 5 p.m., Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 4050. Call 361-2652.

## Monday – 18th

**AUTO SAFETY ORIENTATION**, 6 p.m., Auto Skills Center, Bldg. 3730. Call 353-7436.

**NATIONAL INVENTORS' MONTH**, all day, Post Library, Bldg. 3700. Participants can bring in their inventions and projects will be displayed at the Library through the month of August. Call 353-2642.

**KEEPING LOVE ALIVE**, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Northern Lights Inn conference room, Bldg. 3402. Call 353-6286.

**NATIONAL ICE CREAM APPRECIATION DAY**, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Bldg. 1044. Call 353-7755.

**ZUMBA FITNESS**, 6 to 7 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 3709. Cost is \$7 per class. Call 353-7223.

## Tuesday – 19th

**GROUP CYCLING**, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. or 5 to 6 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 3709. Call 353-7223.

**FAMILY READINESS GROUP CARE TEAM TRAINING**, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Post Library, Bldg. 3700. Call 353-4332.

**PREGNANCY and POST PARTUM BUTTERFLIES**, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Northern Lights Inn conference room, Bldg. 3402. Call 353-6286.

**ACT OUT-STORY TIME THEATRE**, 2 to 3 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Bldg. 1044. Call 353-4137.

**STRESS MANAGEMENT**, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Northern Lights Inn conference room, Bldg. 3402. Call 353-4248.

**COMMUNICATION AND ASSERTIVENESS**, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center Quiet Room, Bldg. 1044. Call 388-2553.

## Wednesday – 20th

**DISABLED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**, 10 a.m. to noon, Education Center Annex room 106. Disabled Soldiers and veterans brief presented by Army Career and Alumni Program. Call ACAP 353-2113.

**FILLING OUT VA MEDICAL CLAIM FORMS**, 1 to 3 p.m. at the Education Center Annex room 106. Presentation by Veterans service representative. Call 353-2113.

**CARDIO SCULPT FITNESS CLASS**, 5 to 6 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 3709. Call 353-7223.

**GROUP STRENGTH FITNESS CLASS**, noon to 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 3709. Call 353-7223.

**LOVE LANGUAGES**, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Northern Lights Inn conference room, Bldg. 3402. Call 353-6286.

**ANGER MANAGEMENT**, 3 to 4:30 p.m., Behavioral Health conference room, Bldg. 4066. Call 353-4248.

## Thursday – 21st

**AURORA SPOUSES**, noon to 1 p.m., Northern Lights Inn conference room, Bldg. 3402, Call 353-4333.

**CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING CLASS**, 5:30 to 8 p.m., Arts and Crafts Center, Bldg. 3727. This class is required to use the framing equipment and tools. Cost is \$35 and includes all materials. Open to participants 16 and older. Bring a 5-by-7 picture to mat and frame. Call 353-7520.

**GROUP CYCLING**, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., and noon to 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 3709. Call 353-7223.

**ROMP AND STOMP PLAYGROUP**, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Youth Center, Bldg. 4109. Transportation for Families to and from Romp and Stomp is available at the Northern Lights Inn at 9 a.m. Call 361-7713/7372.

**ZUMBA FITNESS**, 6 to 7 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 3709. Cost is \$7 per class. Call 353-7223.

**WII MARIO KART**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Bldg. 1044. Call 353-7755.

## For your information

### RED CROSS EMERGENCY CALLS

No matter where a military member and their family are stationed, they can rest assured the Red Cross will deliver their notifications in times of crisis.

To contact the Red Cross for emergency assistance, call (877) 272-7337. The number is toll-free within the continental United States.

For the Fort Wainwright Red Cross station office, call 353-7234.

### EDUCATION FAIR

The Fort Wainwright Education Center will host an education fair at the Post Library August 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fair will feature local and out-of-area school representatives.

For more information call 353-7486 or 353-6355.

### CONSTRUCTION VIBRATIONS

A new hangar construction project will be underway shortly. Ground compaction is required and will likely cause vibrations that may be felt in surrounding areas. Compaction is done to stabilize the soil and involves releasing a weight from a predetermined elevation using a crane. Compaction activities are expected to begin Tuesday and last for approximately 30 days. Compaction may take place 24-hours a day although most days it will be less.

For questions and comments about construction, call the garrison public affairs office at 353-6780.

### PHOTOGRAPHY LAB CLOSURE

The Photography Lab will be closed through July 29. If you have any questions concerning photographic support during this period of closure please contact Mike Bonnell at 353-7037.

### TRAINING TO BE RESCHEDULED

Ask, Care, Escort - Ace, Suicide Intervention Peer Training and Certification sessions have been canceled due to a scheduling conflict.

Training will be rescheduled by the Risk Reduction Program coordinator with the Army Substance Abuse Program. For more information, call 353-1378.

### U.S. ARMY SOLDIER SHOW

The U.S. Army Soldier Show will be in town for two shows: July 22 at 6 p.m. and July 23 at 4 p.m. Performances are at the Pioneer Park Centennial Center for the Arts Theater. The shows are open to the public and part of the Golden Days celebration.

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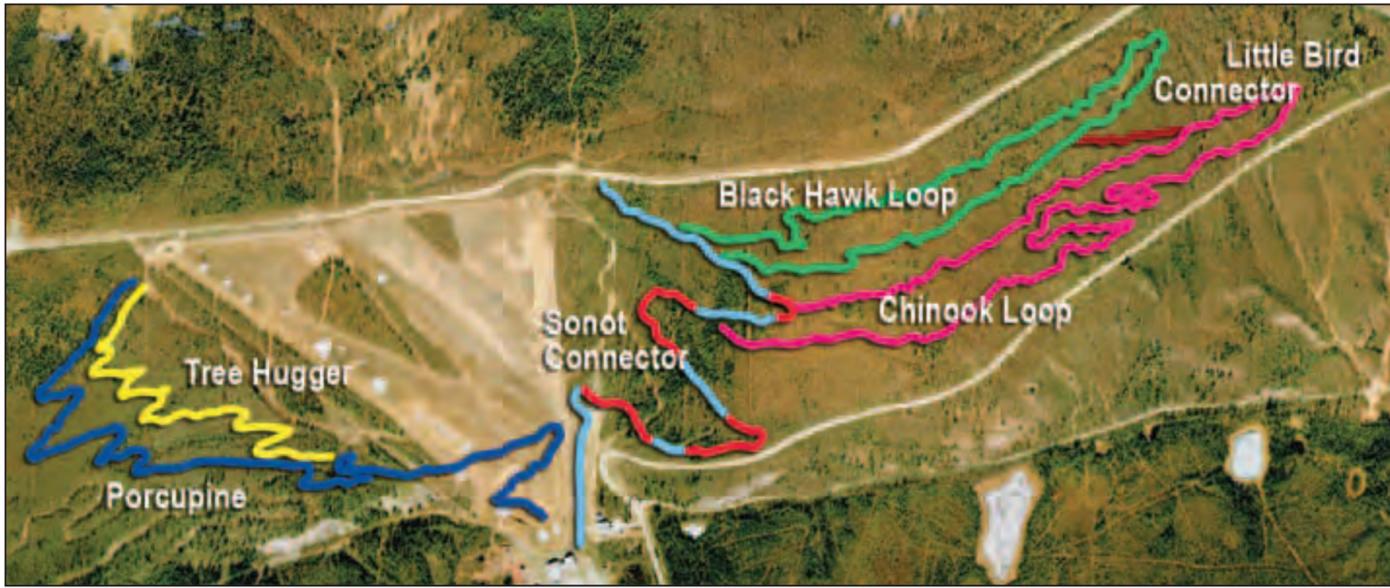


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## TRAIL REPAIRS: New trails enhance recreational opportunities, access on Fort Wainwright



Graphic Illustration by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO, photo image courtesy Directorate of Public Works

Continued from page 1

That's no longer the case. A new asphalt trail now travels alongside the fence to the Siku housing area entrance which ties into the bike trail that opens near Ladd Elementary and Tanana Middle schools.

The other trail project in conjunction with the paved bike trail is the repair, extension and upgrade of the multi-use trail along the north side of River Road. It begins at the southern terminus of the bike trail, at the southeast corner of the Birchwood housing fence. It crosses River Road to the east and follows a northerly route crossing River Road at Canol Road then easterly along the north side of River Road as far as the dump area. "Had funds been available," Holtry said, "we would have preferred to continue the repair as far as the (Birch) ski hill access."

The River Road trail was rebuilt with a gravel base topped with recycled asphalt. The trail -



Currently under construction, a new running track and football field is scheduled for completion in September. at Fort Wainwright's, Engineer Park. The new track replaces the dirt track with a fenced in 400-meter, all-weather, rubberized running surface sporting six painted lanes. (Photo by Allen Shaw/Fort Wainwright PAO)

recreation and sports options. The running track replaces an old dirt track with an all-weather rubberized running track. "When finished," Damario said, "the track will be a six lane, 400-meter track. The track will be fully striped and have a fence surrounding it."

Track specifications called for major excavation, layers of geo-textile fabric, backfilled with 80-inches of non-frost susceptible fill covered by 8-inches of compacted, coarse gravel then two inches of asphalt and topped with a synthetic rubberized surface material. It is an all-weather surface and, "can be used in the winter, if it is maintained and kept clear," Damario said. It's not known if the track will be available for winter use. The track will surround a football field, has a 0.8 percent slope for drainage and each of the running lanes are 42-inches wide.

The Engineer Park track and field is expected to be complete by September.



Start of Sonot Connector trailhead, off limits to motorized vehicles. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

goal would be to continue this repair as funds become available," said Holtry.

Another trail project is the installation of 2.4 miles of downhill mountain bike trails and approximately five miles of cross-country trails at Birch Hill.

"The downhill trails are designed for the aggressive rider and incorporates several jumps and banked turns," said Nathan Damario, DPW, project manager. The cross-country trails are more family friendly with varying trail difficulties. He said, "The cross-country trails adhere to the International Mountain Biking Association modern sustainability requirements for alignment, grade, integrated water control and durable tread." The trails can also be used during the winter as cross-country skiing trails.

Don't tread on me.

Mary Jo "MJ" Lohrenz, director, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation said, "To allow the trails to season correctly we are asking that everyone stay off them this summer." Everyone should stay off the new trails until they're hardened and opened for use.

The recreational trail system, including downhill and cross country trails, is intended for non-motorized vehicles only."

The new running track and football field being built at Engineer Park expands upon



The multi-use trail along River Road was recently repaired with new material. The elevated, compacted gravel base is covered with recycled asphalt product. The trail is not intended for motorized vehicles that could cause damage to the smooth surface. (Photo by Allen Shaw/Fort Wainwright PAO)

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