

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

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Fort Wainwright, Alaska

January 13, 2012

One Stryker Brigade Soldier killed, two wounded

Staff Report, U.S. Army Alaska PAO

A Soldier assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division here at Fort Wainwright died in an exchange of small arms fire in the city of Qalat, in Afghanistan's Zabul Province Sunday afternoon.

Two other Stryker Soldiers were wounded in the incident. All three Soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment of the 1-25th SBCT.

Pfc. Dustin Paul Napier, 20, was from London, Ky. He joined the Army in July 2010, completed Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga. and arrived at Fort Wainwright in November 2010. He deployed to Afghanistan with his 4,000-Soldier brigade in April 2011 for a one-year tour of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The next of kin have been notified.



Pfc. Dustin Paul Napier

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

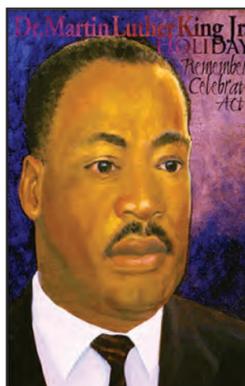
Staff Report, U.S. Fort Wainwright PAO

Monday is Martin Luther King Day. It is a day to remember Dr. King and his dedication in promoting justice, equality and dignity for all people.

The lasting theme of this holiday, "Remember, Celebrate, Act, - a day on, not a day off.", a reminder that the holiday is not just a paid day off from work or not having to attend school, but a day devoted to the service of our communities and to our fellow man.

This year, Dental Activity-Alaska will host the 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance starting at 1:30 p.m., Jan. 25, at the Physical Fitness Center.

The guest speaker will be Reverend Fred Wilson.



Remember, Celebrate, Act, - a day on, not a day off.

Sgt. Joel Clarkson Training Support Center dedication

...honor not just for Joel's family to have this building dedicated in his honor, but the Rangers' battalion as well.



See story on page 4

Arctic Wolves adapt to changing mission

Sgt. Michael Blalack, 1-25th SBCT PAO

The 2011 fighting season is over in Afghanistan, and U.S. forces are adjusting their mission, all the way down to platoon level operations, to reflect the resulting

change in focus. While insurgents are still active, contact is less frequent and International Security Assistance Forces and Afghan National Security Forces are taking

advantage of the lull in combat operations to spend more time on building good relations with the people of Afghanistan.

2nd Platoon, B Company, 1st

Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, recently participated in just such a patrol, led by their Afghan partners near Combat Outpost Sperwan Ghar, in Southern Kandahar.

"The purpose was basically to get to know the people in the village of Shengazi," said 2nd Lt. Skyler Pettit, platoon leader for 2nd Platoon, who led the patrol. "We had never been there before. We didn't even know what the village was called."

On the morning of Jan. 3 the platoon, along with their Afghan National Army partners, marched out of Sperwan Ghar equipped with rifles, mine sweepers and a military working dog.

But they were also carrying radios to be passed out to heads of households that receive the Afghan government's official radio broadcasts, as well as newsletters with the same information to be given to members of the family.

"We're also letting them know about things we're doing," said Pettit, "such as starting a school south of Sperwan Ghar that we need the support and desire of the villagers to get started."

While U.S. and Afghan soldiers took up security positions throughout the village, Pettit and his Afghan counterpart spoke with a shopkeeper and two village elders.



Sgt. Joshua Oakley, a team leader for 2nd Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, pulls rear security while on patrol in the village of Shengazi Jan. 3. (Sgt. Michael Blalack/1-25th SBCT PAO)

See MISSION on page 5

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday Partly cloudy Light winds Low -50 High -25	Saturday Partly cloudy Light winds Low -45 High -35	Sunday Partly cloudy Low -40 High -25	Monday Martin Luther King Jr. Day Mostly cloudy Low -30 High -25

Forecast courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF OR WITNESS TO SPOUSE ABUSE? CHILD ABUSE?

CALL
388-2260
NO NAME REQUIRED

Total Army Sponsorship Program



Training is available Thursday at the Digital Training Center, Building 1031 (next to the thrift store). Sign up at Army Community Service by Tuesday to secure a seat - 15 seats available per class. Class times are: 8 to 9 a.m., 10 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m. Classes are also offered on demand through unit requests. For more information call: 353-4227/7908.

The Total Army Sponsorship Program

Commentary by **Linda Douglass**, Fort Wainwright PAO

Do you remember what it was like when you first learned you were coming to Fort Wainwright? Wondering just how cold does it really get? Wondering if it snows year-round, or if it's dark 24 hours a day in winter? Wondering just how expensive food would be?

Did you have someone to help you find the answers to those questions? Was there someone on this end to help you get to where you needed to be during in-processing?

That is what the Total Army Sponsorship Program is all about. Installation Management Command established the TASP to ensure that all Soldiers, Family members and civilians – especially those new to the Army – are provided someone to help them navigate the unfamiliar territory of a new post.

When we received orders for Fort Wainwright in 1978, my husband's unit assigned us a sponsor. This young Soldier picked us up at the airport and got us to lodging to settle in after a long trip from Pennsylvania. While we were unpacking, he took my husband downtown to pick up some take-out dinner.

He helped my husband with in-processing and getting to appointments. Our sponsor left his vehicle for us and he used his motorcycle until our car arrived from the Lower 48 several weeks later.

This young Soldier was, to me, invaluable. He familiarized us with Fort Wainwright and saw to it we were not confined to our room in lodging all the time. He got our Family off to a terrific start at Fort Wainwright, and that set the tone for our new duty assignment.

As I've spoken with Soldiers and Family members over the years, it seemed the Army's sponsorship program fell into disrepair at some point.

Soldiers were not being assigned sponsors. Some of them had helpful noncommissioned officers to guide them through the in-processing, but others had to try to figure things out on their own.

I was very fortunate that we had a sponsor. He saw to it the 2-year-old and I got out of the single room in lodging and helped us become familiar with the post. Many Family members are not this lucky. Without sponsors, they don't have that opportunity. If they are a one-car (or no car) Family, they don't have the option of exploring the post, especially if they have small children.

The goal of TASP is to provide sponsors for all newcomers –

active duty, Family members and civilian employees. And the Army wants you as a sponsor.

As a sponsor, you could be the difference between a great first impression and a terrible one. You could be the determining factor in how this Soldier's or civilian's (and the Family's) tour at Fort Wainwright starts out.

Despite the huge difference you can make in a newcomer's life, the job's really not too difficult.

When you learn you are to sponsor a newcomer, you should prepare a welcome packet – letter, important phone numbers, information on housing and schools, maybe some brochures on the local area. Ensure the newcomer has your telephone number(s).

When your protégé arrives, provide a tour and if the Soldier is married, take the Family along, not just around Fort Wainwright, include the surrounding area. See to it your charge has transportation to all appointments and in-processing stops. Take the Family or single Soldier to the commissary or exchange to make necessary purchases. In short, be there to act as their guide, mentor and Family substitute in the area.

From basic through advanced training and in times of war, Soldiers are taught to use the battle buddy system to look out for one another, leading to better teamwork and improving Warfighter readiness. Our new Soldiers and their Families are expected to get up to speed in a strange environment fairly quickly, and like a battle buddy, a sponsor can make the difference between mission success and mission failure.



Fort Wainwright's Relocation Readiness Program will offer sponsorship classes Thursday at 8 and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Digital Training Center, Building 1031. Each one-hour class has 15 seats available. Classes are also offered on demand when units request them. To reserve your spot in a class or for more information, call 353-4227 or 353-7908.

Medical Department Activity - Alaska

Col. George Appenzeller, MEDDAC-AK commander

January, National Eye Care Month



January is National Eye Care Month, a time when we bring awareness to the promotion of healthy vision. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approximately 14 million people in the United States aged 12 years and older have visual impairment. Among them, more than 11 million Americans could improve their vision to 20/40 or better with corrective lenses. Whether you have perfect vision or you wear corrective lenses, at Medical Department Activity-Alaska we encourage you to make caring for your vision a part of your overall health care regimen.

There are some simple and effective ways to preserve vision and to prevent common eye diseases.

First, nutrition and exercise make a difference. Research shows that eating foods rich in antioxidants, such as green leafy vegetables like spinach and collard greens, can help prevent the onset of age-related macular degeneration and cataracts. In addition, an unhealthy diet and sedentary lifestyle can lead to health related illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure both of which have been linked to vision problems. There is research that suggests aerobic exercise can reduce eye pressure which can be beneficial for patients with glaucoma.

While we are in the dark of winter now, in a few short months we will have sunlight to contend with as well. Sun exposure has been linked to the formation of cataracts and proper protection from ultraviolet rays will be important. When going outside in the sun, sunglasses with 100 percent ultraviolet protection should be worn for maximum protection. It's also important to note that the tint of the glasses is not an indication of the protection offered. Glasses with clear lenses can have ultraviolet protection and dark lenses may offer no protection

whatsoever.

Another way to preserve your vision is to refrain from smoking tobacco. Smoking has been linked to an increased risk of eye diseases and vision problems. When a person smokes damage is caused to blood vessels causing them to constrict and deprive the eye tissue of oxygen.

One of the most proactive steps you can take is to have regular comprehensive eye examinations. These differ from the vision screenings that are done when you get your driver's license or by your primary health care provider. Comprehensive eye examinations determine more than just your prescription for corrective lenses they also check your eyes for common eye diseases determine how your eyes work together and can be an indicator to your overall health. A 2011 study by Human Capital Management Services Group found that eye doctors are often the first health care providers to detect signs of chronic conditions such as high cholesterol, diabetes and hypertension.

At Bassett Army Community Hospital, our clinic has the capacity to provide routine eye care for active duty Soldiers. In addition, refractive surgery for eligible active duty soldiers at Fort Wainwright is now available at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. If you have not had a recent eye examination and wish to have refractive surgery performed, please make an appointment in the optometry clinic to determine initial eligibility. If you have had a recent exam, we have refractive surgery packets available at the optometry clinic front desk to start the process.

To schedule an appointment with our Optometry Department, call the central appointments line at 361-4000. Tricare beneficiaries can find information about eye exam benefits at www.tricare.mil.

Alaska Nurse of the Year, Maj. Caroline Broden



Bassett Army Community Hospital is pleased to join the Alaska March of Dimes in recognizing Maj. Caroline Broden as Alaska Nurse of the Year in the category of Military Nursing Administration. Broden, who has been assigned to BACH as the night nursing supervisor for the past year and a half, was named for her leadership and impact on the military community as well as her contribution to nursing. (Courtesy photo)

ALASKA POST

Home of the Arctic Warriors

EDITORIAL STAFF

Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander

Col. Ronald M. Johnson

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Wainwright PAO

Linda Douglass

Command Information Chief

Connie Storch

Editor

Brian Schlumbohm

Staff writers

Trish Muntean

Allen Shaw

Contributors

Jennifer Morales, Alaska Post Contributor

1st Lt. Anthony M. Formica, 1-25th SBCT Contributor

Sgt. Michael Blalack, 1-25th SBCT PAO

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One life saved by the actions of many

1st Lt. Anthony M. Formica, 1-25th SBCT PAO Contributor

On the evening of Nov. 12, Sgt. Adam Lundy found himself in the ROLE 3 hospital at Kandahar Airfield. Just two hours prior, Lundy, an Alliance, Neb., native, was on patrol in the western side of Panjwa'i district, when his platoon struck several IEDs.

Suffering multiple shrapnel wounds, he was MEDEVACed to Role 3 medical facility for further assessment. In spite of having received shrapnel wounds to his face, arms and torso, he was listed in good condition and was able to walk unassisted.

Two of his comrades, 1st Lt. Nicholas Vogt and Spc. Calvin Pereda, were not as fortunate. Pereda, the platoon's radio-telephone operator, had been in the immediate vicinity of the blast area of the first IED and suffered massive internal bleeding, which ultimately cost him his life.

It was the second time in his seven months in Afghanistan that Pereda had been injured in combat.

Vogt, a 2010 graduate of West Point, had barely been in charge of his platoon for a month when he heroically pushed one of his soldiers out of the way of a second IED and absorbed the brunt of the blast.

The force of the blast combined with the projectiles seriously injured the Ohio native.

As a result, Vogt was listed in critical condition and was under constant observation at the Intensive Care Unit, requiring a double-amputation and massive amounts of blood to stay alive.

Lundy, a combat veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, recalls being overcome with emotion at learning about the conditions of both of his comrades.

"I couldn't think," Lundy said, remembering that day. "I needed to cool off, clear my head." Lundy recalls not being able to formulate cogent emotions, let alone thoughts.

"I was just feeling so many things, anger, fear, guilt, confusion ... all of it," he said.

Lundy went to sit with Sgt. Stephen Dodson, a soldier from his battalion who oversees the battalion's wounded soldiers on KAF. As Dodson recalls, although Vogt was still alive, the severity of his injuries had the doctors worried.

"They opened up his chest and had to manually massage his heart

several times in order to keep what blood he had left pumping through his body," Dodson commented.

The biggest risk to Vogt's life was the fact that he had lost so much blood—so much, in fact, that it would take 500 units to save his life. Vogt received more blood than any other surviving casualty in U.S. history.

This miracle was well-documented in the American press and stood to highlight the iron grit in Vogt's character, giving him the recognition he deserved as a true fighter and American infantryman. What is less known, and less reported on, however, is the inspiring story that enabled the miracle to take place, a story of service members from across the armed forces banding together to save the life of one of their own.

"I'm not sure whose idea it was to get people to give blood ... it was sort of a group consensus after we learned that the hospital would need donors," Lundy said.

According to Maj. Raynae Leslie, the officer in charge of the hospital's Aphaeresis Element, Vogt's bed was so soaked in blood that it needed to be washed off before it could be used further, and the doctors operating on him knew they were going to need a lot more blood to "stay ahead on him."

After learning from the doctors that Vogt needed blood, Lundy and Dodson, along with Dodson's assistant, Spc. David Beaudoin, decided that they would do what they could to help their fallen comrade.

"I was at the hospital," Dodson said. "So I called Spc. Beaudoin ... I told him to get anybody and everybody who happened to have 1st Lt. Vogt's blood type and to bring them to the hospital, ASAP."

Dodson stayed at the hospital to monitor Vogt's progress while Beaudoin picked up Sgt. Lundy, and together the two of them canvassed anywhere and everywhere on KAF they could think of to find potential donors.

"We went to the Boardwalk, to the Wounded Warrior ward, the R&R tents, the Rule of Law Platoon ... pretty much anywhere we knew there would be people at," Lundy said. "At first, we didn't get too much of a response. Then we started being specific, saying that we need AB positive. After we started saying that, people started getting up to go to the hospital."

At 7:19 p.m., KAF broadcast a message to all personnel on the airfield, advising "all AB blood types [to] please go to KAF ROLE 3 immediately. Emergency whole blood drive is activated."

Lauren Hudson, a civilian analyst working for Regional Command-South on KAF, said the message went on "for about an hour and a half," and further commented that it was the "first [message] I have seen requesting blood donations."

Hudson explained how between the messages and moving around with some of her coworkers to try to find donors, the staff "was active to see if anyone fit the bill."

Similar scenes were playing out all across KAF, home to personnel from not only the Army but also the Air Force, Navy, Marines and allied foreign forces.

Universally, service members received a message requesting their help, and universally, those service members were responding.

When Lundy, Dodson and Beaudoin returned to the hospital, they saw a line of people stretching out the front door and down the sidewalk, waiting to donate blood.

"There had to have been at least 300 of them," Lundy recalled. "Some of them were panting and out of breath, I'm guessing because they ran there."

Lundy remembered seeing people from every walk of life lined up outside the doors: Army soldiers in their combat fatigues, Air Force personnel in their physical fitness uniforms, some still soaked from sweat from the gym, contractors in their slacks and polo shirts.

To Lundy, it seemed like everyone on the airfield had dropped what they were doing to help a person they didn't know.

Leslie, along with Tech. Sgt. Jody Haslip, Staff Sgt. Troy Fred and Staff Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, were conducting the blood drive, while Senior Airman Ronique Waite was single-handedly running platelet collections.

Leslie recalls the required blood units were substantial.



1st Lt. Nicholas Vogt, platoon leader with the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, poses for his pre-deployment photo at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. (Courtesy photo)

"The doctor wanted 10 red blood cell units, 10 fresh frozen plasma units, 10 cryoprecipitate units and 10 platelet units on shelves, reserved for Lt. Vogt before he went back into surgery," Leslie said.

Leslie's team ran the blood drive until 3 a.m., just under eight hours. Because Vogt was due back in surgery two hours later, Leslie released her team for only four hours before ordering them back to resume work. Leslie herself reported back to the hospital at 5 a.m., going back to her dorm only to shower before returning to help.

It's a good thing she did—Vogt's condition turned critical again, and Leslie found herself using emergency reserve blood to keep Vogt stable.

"I was issuing red blood cells, fresh frozen plasma units and cryoprecipitate units ... every time Lt. Vogt was taken back into surgery," Leslie recollected.

Vogt was eventually flown out of Afghanistan to Germany and ultimately arrived at Bethesda Naval Hospital, where he has been routinely visited by his family and has undergone a miraculous recovery.

Thanks to the determination and hard work of Lundy, Dodson, Beaudoin, Leslie and those who answered the call, Vogt continues to recover from his injuries.

Stories of mourning, over time provide healing balm

Jennifer Morales, Alaska Post Contributor

As military spouses, we face many obstacles. Seems the moment our life mate leaves for training or deployment the world starts to fall apart at the seams. As soon as you arrive home from saying your goodbyes, the water heater goes out, your car's windshield cracks and the computer with all your family pictures crashes. At times, it's one crisis after another. There's no pause button for life when you're feeling low, missing your husband or wife. In that moment you may feel the need to pull your hair out or scream at the top of your lungs, but have you ever looked back over a deployment or training period and been amazed at what you accomplished? It seems as military spouses we have this almost super-hero-like ability to overcome impossible obstacles during even the hardest times in our lives.

A great example of a super-hero-like spouse is Leslie Hufstedler-Alvarez. The moment that all military spouses dread hit Leslie Hufstedler-Alvarez March 31, 2004. Pregnant with their first child, Hufstedler-Alvarez was notified that seven months into her husband's deployment, her

husband and four other Soldiers had been killed by a roadside improvised explosive device.

Relaxing on the couch, eight-and-a-half months pregnant, Hufstedler-Alvarez sat taking in the day, enjoying the last few moments of silence before the house was filled with the wails of her soon-to-be-born daughter, Grace Ashley. Her mother briskly walked by to open the garage for the service man. Shortly after her mom disappeared from view, Hufstedler-Alvarez heard another chime of the doorbell. Grasping the couch and using it as leverage, she slowly hoisted herself to her feet. Once on her feet, she caught a glimpse of the red beret and the easily recognizable, solemnly dressed men standing awkwardly with the chaplain. Her heart refused the next beat.

Hufstedler-Alvarez met them quickly, trying to silence her thoughts and shrugging off assumptions of what was about to happen.

"I knew, if they came to the door it was death, and if they called it was wounded." Hufstedler-Alvarez let denial win, bargaining with herself. "They knew I was pregnant, he wouldn't want them

to worry me. I had just talked to him yesterday."

Her brain seemed determined on denial, not wanting to digest what was happening, leaving her without the slightest idea of what to do or say next. The obviously nervous Soldiers began reading their lines while Hufstedler-Alvarez drifted away. While the world around seemed to crumble around her she let out a scream that startled neighbors.

"I couldn't tell you who was there, what was said, and before I knew it their speech was over and I was notified that they would be in contact within 24 hours."

Now with her whole world upside-down, Hufstedler-Alvarez was left in a daze with questions flooding her brain, the same brain that was so insistent on not working moments before. Not knowing what to do, who to call or what to say.

"The only thing that kept echoing in my mind was, 'I am pregnant, this isn't fair!'"

It is a heart-wrenching thought of a military spouse of the verge of bringing new life into the world, now being forced to collect the pieces.

Now, surviving family members and surviving spouses are not alone.

Today, Hufstedler-Alvarez uses her testimony to greatly empower other survivors, while working as the volunteer program coordinator for the Survivor Outreach Services program at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Hufstedler-Alvarez took an incredibly sad day in her life, and turned it into powerful encouragement. She gets to speak with other spouses and help them through what can easily be assumed as the hardest moment in any military spouse's life. She shows that her husband's sacrifice was not in vain. She continues his legacy, showing incredible strength as a military spouse, a mother and as an encourager. She admits to moments of grief and anger, but shows through her story that determination and courage prevail over even the most impossible life obstacles. So when you step into your house after saying your goodbyes, and life seems to have stored up some crisis for you, take a deep breath and remember that you can prevail over this, and some day you will look back and be astonished at what you accomplished and overcame.

Sgt. Joel Clarkson Training Support Center named after Fairbanks native

Trish Muntean, Fort Wainwright PAO



Arlie Nethken, the training support officer, presided over the dedication of the Sgt. Joel Clarkson Training Support Center. Shown, from left, Nethken, and Clarkson's family: mother and widow, Karen and Cassandra Clarkson, his father Steven Clarkson holding Joel and Cassandra's son Orion, who look on as Maj. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, commander, U.S. Army Alaska, and Col. Ronald Johnson, Fort Wainwright garrison commander, unveil the memorial plaque which dedicated the TSC building in honor of the fallen Army Ranger, Jan. 5. Clarkson, originally from Fairbanks, served with distinction with A Company 2-75th Ranger Battalion, Joint-Base Lewis-McChord, Clarkson was wounded in action Mar. 13, 2010, in, Afghanistan, and died of his wounds March 16, 2010. Also in attendance were several of Clarkson's fellow Rangers, pictured in the background, who travelled to Fort Wainwright for the occasion. (Photo by Trish Muntean/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Before his final mission, March 13, 2010, Sgt. Joel Clarkson of Fairbanks gathered with his fellow Soldiers to pray. The Soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, prayed for a successful mission and a safe return. Clarkson's prayer was a bit different. He also prayed for a successful mission, but if someone had to be taken, that it be him.

His prayer was not a surprise to anyone who knew him.



Sgt. Joel Clarkson sat with his father Steven Clarkson and son Orion Clarkson for a three-generation photo during the family's Thanksgiving celebration in 2009. (Photo courtesy of the Clarkson family)

It was for that and many other reasons that family, friends and his fellow Soldiers gathered for the dedication of the Sgt. Joel Clarkson Training Support Center on Fort Wainwright Jan. 5.

The training support center is a customer-focused facility that provides training resources and services to Army units assigned to the U.S. Army Alaska, Alaska Army National Guard and the Army Reserve, said Arlie Nethken, training support officer.

"We work with commanders and Plans and Operations officers to provide transparent and safe training support requirements that allows leaders & Soldiers to train as realistically as possible. These requirements may be a temporary loan of specialized equipment, special effects to replicate explosives, simulators to train high risk scenarios and more," he said.

Clarkson's parents, Steven and Karen Clarkson, said they knew he was going to be a Soldier from the time he was about eight years old when he and a bunch of buddies dug up and ate a case of MREs. Not only did they eat them all, they suffered no known ill effects that his mom could recall.

His parents knew military life would be a good lifestyle for him because "he needed external controls, he had no internal controls," but respected the authority of a military lifestyle, his mother said.

"He was kind of a wild child," his mother said. He ran away from home a couple of times, started to run around with some "undesirable" people and didn't graduate from high school (but did get his GED later).

His father said Joel was probably the only person he ever knew to return from basic training complaining it was not tough enough.

But just joining the Army was not enough to satisfy him. Once he found out about Rangers that was where he set his sights. In fact, his mother said he would not even allow her to take his photo upon completion of basic training because he had not earned his ranger

tab yet.

He was on his fifth deployment at the time of the injury that eventually took his life. He had done three tours in Iraq and was on his second deployment to Afghanistan. His parents said he could have opted out of this deployment to go to school or become a recruiter, but felt he needed to do that one last mission.

"He felt that someone needed to watch out for those boys," his father said. "The new ones that were going out there, someone had to watch out for them."

"He worried about them, he talked about them all the time," his mother said. "They are stupid Mom; they don't know what they are doing."

The night Joel was injured Steven came home to find Karen crying. They made the decision to fly down to Joint Base Lewis-McChord to be with Joel's wife Cassandra and their son Orion. Once they found out he was being sent to Landstuhl Hospital in Germany, they decided to fly over, stopping in Washington, D.C., to get passports for Cassandra and Orion, who was eight months old at the time of his father's death. Sadly, when they got to the hospital, they were told he was brain-dead, and nothing could be done for him.

He does live on through other people though, as seven people got a second chance at life through the donation of his organs. His wife also asked the people who knew him to write letters for their son Orion to read later in his life so that he may know his father.

She said it was a real honor not just for Joel's family to have this building dedicated in his honor, but the Rangers battalion as well.

There were three services held in Sgt. Clarkson's honor following his death. The first was at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the second was his burial at Arlington National Cemetery and the third was a celebration of his life here in Fairbanks.

Maj. Erich B. Schneider, Sgt. Clarkson's commander at the time of his death, said he



A Clarkson family gathering for Thanksgiving, November 2009, just before his last deployment, clockwise from left: his sister Jessica Clarkson, "Joel's Japanese brother," Akira Shimbo, who was an exchange student with the Clarkson family when Joel was in high school, Sgt. Joel Clarkson's wife, Cassandra and Sgt. Joel Clarkson. (Photo courtesy of the Clarkson family)

was definitely deserving of having the training support center named after him.

"I think the world of Joel and what he represents," he said.

"He was an uncommon guy," said Capt. Brian Kitching, Clarkson's platoon leader at the time of the injury that led to his death three days later. "Very tough and at the same time very caring to the men that he led. He was detail-oriented and trained very hard. At the same time he was concerned about the welfare of his men."

"He was a true American hero," Joel's wife Cassandra said.

"He loved what he did," Karen Clarkson said. "Army life was him. He had no fear."



Sgt. Joel Clarkson was on his fifth deployment at the time of the injury that eventually took his life. He had done three tours in Iraq and was on his second deployment to Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of the Clarkson family)

MISSION: Arctic Wolves adapt to changing operations

Continued from page 1

Counternarcotics have become a focus for ANSF operations in the area and during the recent patrol the ANA found and destroyed more than 2,000 lbs of marijuana.

Growing and using marijuana is both against Afghan law and Islam. For the first time since 2002, the Afghan government is putting emphasis on drug eradication.

"We're looking forward to next year," said Petitt. "The Taliban won't have the income that marijuana brings them to use against us and the ANA."

U.S. and Afghan forces working together to create a secure and stable Afghanistan in 2014.

To see additional photos regarding this story, see the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division FLICKR website at: www.flickr.com/photos/1-25_sbct/sets/72157628809932969/



Sgt. Adam Lundy, a team leader for 2nd Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and some children play with a crab pulled from the stream while on patrol in the village of Shengazi, Jan. 3. (Sgt. Michael Blalack/1-25th SBCT PAO)

Art of Fort Wainwright youth on exhibit

Brian Schlumbohm, Fort Wainwright PAO

Young artists from Fort Wainwright's School Age Services and Child, Youth and School Services put on a show of their artistic talents at the Last Frontier Community Activities Center last week with an art exhibit. The exhibit was sponsored through the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's National Fine Arts program which encourages artistic expression through classes, special events and of course - art exhibits.

Open to all children registered with any Child Services program, this year over 150 submissions were received from four age divisions, kindergarten through 15, were represented in the exhibit and ranged in various media disciplines as sculpture and line drawings to acrylic paints and even three dimensional works.

Tonya McCarty, Child, Youth and School Services, Training and Program specialist, coordinated the project along with the hard work of teachers at the School Age Services facility. "The kids did an excellent job. I was so impressed this year with the talent and patience," McCarty said. "You can really see how our kids have grown and how much they enjoy the artwork."

Of the 150 pieces submitted,



Kaylee Schultz, 11, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery and Rhonda Schultz, used acrylic paints to create "Alaska Summer", one of 20 pieces of art chosen to be sent to regional competition in California. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

20 were selected to represent the Fort Wainwright Youth Services at the regional competition which will take place in California, one of five regional judging events before the nationals level competition in Georgia. The winning pieces of art from nationals will be displayed throughout the following year at various BGCA events including

the annual National Conference. Images of the past few year's winning pieces can be viewed on the National Fine Arts Exhibit web page at www.bgca.org/FineArts/default.aspx.

Remaining artwork from the Fort Wainwright exhibit can be seen on display at the post library and child services centers.

The following is a list of first place artists of the Fort Wainwright's, Boys and Girls Clubs of America's National Fine Arts exhibit, whose works have been submitted forward to compete at regionals:

Jade Schrand, 8, daughter of Sgt. Jason and Robin Schrand, with "Color Truck" in Sculpture.

Leeza Wood, 8, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Patrick and Yana Wood, with "Big Red Flower" in Pastel.

Clavdia Egerstaffer, 9, daughter of Sgt. Michael and Elaine Eddington, with "Summer in Hawaii" in Watercolor.

Daniel Maclin, 9, son of Franklin and Tonya McCarty, with "Hot Coco for Santa" in Mixed Media.

Tishera Owens, 9, daughter of Staff Sgt. Lorenzo and Sgt. Shavon Owens, with "The Solar System" in Multicolor Drawing and "Wilderness" in Acrylic.

Lacie Patigayon, 10, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Gary and Sgt. Lacie Marsden, Kortni Smith, 11, daughter of Spc. John and Marsha Smith, Tishera Owens and Kennedi Williams, with "The Motionless Flower" in the Group category.

Cynthia Brown, 10, daughter of Sgt. Christopher and Rebecca Brown, with "Little Flower" in Pastel.

Je'Kayla Bradford, 10, daughter of Staff Sgt. Patrick and Kendra Foreman, with "A day at the Beach" in Watercolor.

Maya Pelayo, 10, daughter of Pfc. Angelica and Anthony Morales, with "The New Year Away" in Multicolor Drawing.

Kaylee Schultz, 11, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery and Rhonda Schultz, with "Alaska Summer" in Acrylic.

Kennedi Williams, 11, daughter of Master Sgt. Lamont and Ajoua Williams, with "Waterfall" in Collage.

Nala Courseault, 11, daughter of Staff Sgt. Earl and Pamela Courseault, with "Lutus Flower Bomb" in Monochromatic.

Trevonn Chaney, 14, son of Staff Sgt. Gregory and Kimberly Chaney, with "Home" in Multicolor Drawing.

Mylissa Maclin, 15, daughter of Franklin and Tonya McCarty, with "The Morning View" in the Pastel category; "Desert Evening" in Acrylics; "The Look" in Mixed Media; "All Cracked up" in Collage; "Don't Turn Your Back", in Monochromatic and "The Awakening" in Watercolor.



This year's Boys and Girls Club Fine Arts exhibit, hosted by Fort Wainwright's Child, Youth School Age Services, took in over 150 submissions from four age divisions. Many of the art pieces which were on display at the Last Frontier Community Activities Center, Jan. 5 to 6, can be seen around post at the library and Child Services facilities. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)

Friday – 13th

COSMIC BOWLING, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM CRAFT NIGHT, 6 to 7 p.m. Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Open to participants in the EFMP. Call 353-4243 to reserve a spot.

CELEBRATE PIZZA STORY HOUR and CRAFTS, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

Saturday – 14th

YOUTH SPONSORSHIP BRUNCH, 10 a.m., Youth Center, Building 4109. Call 361-5437.

COSMIC BOWLING, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7. Call 353-7223.

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

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 10 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

KID CRAFTING, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Open to children ages 4 to 7 and cost is \$5 per person. Must be accompanied by a parent. Call 353-7520.

Sunday – 15th

PROTESTANT SERVICES, 10 a.m., Sunday school, 11 a.m., Sunday Protestant worship, Northern Lights Chapel, Building 3430.

CATHOLIC SERVICES, 11 a.m., Catholic Mass, Southern Lights Chapel, Building 4107.

Monday – 16th

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

BIRCH HILL SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA, noon, Youth Ski Days. Call for more information 353-1998 and conditions update.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 6 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7. Call 353-7294.

Tuesday – 17th

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 6:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

HOOR OF POWER GROUP STRENGTH CLASS, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING, 5 to 7 p.m., Melaven Physical Fitness Center, Building 3452. Registration is required. Call 361-6349/6350.

FUNCTIONAL STRENGTH and CONDITIONING CLASS, 4 to 5 p.m., Melaven Physical Fitness Center, Building 3452. Call Ben Ehlers at 353-9137.

Wednesday – 18th

BOOT CAMP, 5 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

WILD WING WEDNESDAYS, 5 to 7 p.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

OUR HEROES' TREE, 3 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

Thursday – 19th

PROTESTANT WOMEN OF THE CHAPEL, 9:30 a.m., Northern Lights Chapel, Building 3430. Childcare provided, or more information email us at wainwright@pwoc.org.

HOOR OF POWER GROUP STRENGTH CLASS, noon, Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING, 5 to 7 p.m., Melaven Physical Fitness Center, Building 3452. Registration is required. Call 361-6349/6350.

BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SINGLE SOLDIERS MEETING, 1:30 p.m., The Warrior Zone, Building 3205. Call 353-7648.

ROMP AND STOMP PLAYGROUP, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. This activity is a partnership with ACS and CYSS. Call 353-7713 and 353-7856.

BOUNCY HUT NIGHT, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Last Frontier Community Activity Center, Building 1044. Call 353-7755. (ages 4-12 with parent).

FUNCTIONAL STRENGTH and CONDITIONING CLASS, 4 to 5 p.m., Melaven Physical Fitness Center, Building 3452. Call Ben Ehlers at 353-9137.

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 6:30 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

Friday – 20th

EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM BOWLING, 6 to 7 p.m. Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Open to participants in the EFMP. Cost is \$2.25 per game, shoes included. Call 353-4243.

COSMIC BOWLING, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

HUGGING DAY STORY HOUR and CRAFTS, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Post Library, Building 3700. Call 353-4137.

ALYESKA SKI/SNOWBOARD ADVENTURE, Jan. 20-22, Participants depart from the Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 4050 at 8 a.m. Cost is \$175 per person. Call 361-6349/6350.

Saturday – 21st

CUDDLE CURE CLASS, 10 a.m. to noon, Child Development Center I, Building 4024. Call 353-7713.

PARENT'S DAY OUT-SUPER SATURDAY, three sessions, Child Development Center I, Building 4024. Register and pay by January 13. Call 353-7713.
9 am to 1 p.m., Cost is \$16
1 to 5 p.m., Cost is \$16
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Cost is \$32

COSMIC BOWLING, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Call 353-2654.

KID CRAFTING, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Arts and Crafts Center, Building 3727. Open to children ages 8 to 11 and cost is \$5 per person. Must be accompanied by a parent. Call 353-7520.

ZUMBA FITNESS CLASS, 1 p.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Cost is \$7. Call 353-7223.

WOMEN IN THE WILDERNESS: COMPEAUS TRAIL SNOW MACHINE RUN, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Cost is \$50 per driver. If the temperature falls below -10 degrees, the trip will be postponed to a later date. Call 361-6349/6350.

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

GROUP CYCLING CLASS, 10 a.m., Physical Fitness Center, Building 3709. Call 353-7223.

Sunday – 22nd

PROTESTANT SERVICES, 10 a.m., Sunday school, 11 a.m., Sunday Protestant worship, Northern Lights Chapel, Building 3430.

CATHOLIC SERVICES, 11 a.m., Catholic Mass, Southern Lights Chapel, Building 4107.

BOWLOPLIS KICK-OFF PARTY, 2 p.m., Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, Building 3702. Open to participants ages 4 to 12. Call 353-2654.

Available to GCI Cable subscribers on post

WELCOME To the Fort Wainwright Command Channel 5

CHANNEL 5 Watch for Current Facility Information, Photos and Special Community Events

Also find it online under the Command Channel 5 link @ WWW.WAINWRIGHT.ARMY.MIL

**Volunteer Service Award honors outstanding commitment**

Staff Report, Fort Wainwright PAO

The Fort Wainwright Army Community Service Volunteer Program has teamed with the White House to become a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award. It is a national program recognizing Americans who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service. Established in 2003, the award was created by President George W. Bush to give presidential recognition to individuals, families and groups who meet requirements for volunteer service, measured by the number of service hours performed over 12-months.

ACS and the Army Volunteer program is one of thousands of organizations that have joined forces to deliver the President's Volunteer Service Award and honor the volunteers who strengthen our nation. As a certifying organization for the award, ACS is responsible for verifying service hours, nominating potential recipients and delivering the award.

"We are extremely proud to recognize our most outstanding volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award," said Charles Lyons, Army Volunteer program manager. "Fort Wainwright ACS volunteers are role models in our community, donating their time, energy and talent to bring us closer together as neighbors and a nation", he said. "The award is our way of thanking these volunteers and inspiring everyone in our community to make volunteering a central part of their lives."

"Even if you've never volunteered before, the President's Volunteer Service Award is within your reach," Lyons said. "There are so many ways to contribute and every volunteer hour

makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others. We encourage everyone to get involved and to bring along your family, friends and neighbors. Together, we can strengthen America – one hour at a time."

Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a good day to start. The national Martin Luther King Day of Service is federal legislation that challenges Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service in honor of Dr. King. Volunteers across the country are encouraged to donate their time off to make a difference on this day.

The award is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group convened by President George W. Bush to help foster and encourage a culture of volunteer service and civic participation among Americans. Chaired by two-time Super Bowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council is composed of leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofit and volunteer service organizations and community volunteering.

For more information about volunteering with Fort Wainwright's Volunteer Program and Army Community Service, please call Charles Lyons at 353-2382. For more information on the President's Volunteer Service Award and to find out how to identify additional volunteer opportunities in this area, visit www.presidentialserviceawards.gov or call 1-866-545-5307.

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WORKFORCE RESHAPING

The Workforce Reshaping information line for United States Army Garrison-Fort Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Army Support Activity civilian employees was activated this week. Call 353-5000 for updates. The first announcement features the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay notifications (voluntary applications for VERA and VSIP are due by 5 p.m. January 20).

To learn more about civilian workforce management programs, visit the Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay program webpage at www.opm.gov/employ/html/vsi.htm

Voluntary Early Retirement Authority visit the website: www.opm.gov/employ/vera/vera01.asp

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is also available to answer questions and assist employees. CPAC is located in building 1045 Gaffney Road in Room 7.

FEEDING OUR OUTSTANDING DEPENDENTS

The F.O.O.D. program invites Family members of deployed Soldiers and recently returned Soldiers and their Families to an evening where we cook for you. Sunday from 5 to 7:30 p.m., breakfast is served for supper at the Southern Lights Chapel, Building 4107. Volunteers are encouraged to arrive at 3 p.m. For more information call 590-0338.

LIMITED LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The legal assistance office in Building 1562, Room 113 is closed until it resumes normal business hours Tuesday, after the federal holiday. Emergency legal assistance will be available but may be limited to powers of attorney and notary service. For more information, call 353-6574.

AUTO RESCUE OR SELF-HELP

Whether locked out or the vehicle needs towing, the Automotive Skills Center is at your service 24-hours a day. For towing and lock-out service, call 590-1716.

For assistance with do-it-yourself auto care and winterization call 353-7436.

MILITARY FAMILY COLLEGE NIGHT

The Fort Wainwright School liaison office will host Military Family College night at the Youth Center, located at 4109 Neely Road, Jan. 26. Subject matter experts will be present to answer questions about the college application process, financial aid, standardized tests and more from 5:30 to 6 p.m. and there will be a panel discussion from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information call 361-9377.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Defense Commissary Agency Scholarships for Military Children Program is offering \$1,500 scholarships to qualified applicants. Applications are available through the local commissary or online at www.militaryscholar.org or www.commissaries.com.

Application deadline is Feb. 24. For more information call Loriann McDonald at 353-7310.

COMMUNITY SPOUSES CLUB

The Community Spouses Club monthly event will be hosted by Eielson's spouses' club, an evening of Dinner and Bunco at the Eielson Air Force Base Yukon Club, Thursday. Sign up by Sunday online at reservations@wainwrightcsc.org. More information is available on the CSC website, www.wainwrightcsc.org. The fee for the evening will be due at the door. Eligible members may attend one meeting or function as a guest; membership will be required thereafter.

ALASKA POST SUBMISSIONS

To submit a photo, place an event or class on the calendar send an email to pao.fwa@us.army.mil no later than close of business Monday prior to the print week. The name of the event or class, date, time, location and a contact phone number must be included. For display advertising contact the Fairbanks Daily News Miner at 459-7548.

NORTH POLE TRANSPORTATION

Operation Transportation gives North Pole High School students the opportunity to use the newly renovated Youth Center on Friday afternoons without having to find their own way to Fort Wainwright.

Students can take a bus from NPHS to the transit center in Fairbanks where they pick up a Youth Center bus to go to Fort Wainwright. The MAC bus costs 75 cents.

Note that the transportation is only one way and students must find their own way home when the center closes at 9 p.m. For more information call 361-5437.

Down to the nitty-gritty – That's what I'm talking about

Allen Shaw, Fort Wainwright PAO

AFC and NFC Divisional playoffs in the Alaska Post football series

**Bear**

175 Wins / 85 Losses

DEN @ NE NE
HOU @ BAL BAL
NO @ SF NO
NYG @ GB GB

**Brain**

174 Wins / 86 Losses

DEN @ NE NE
HOU @ BAL HOU
NO @ SF NO
NYG @ GB GB

**Steve Tate**

168 Wins / 92 Losses

DEN @ NE NE
HOU @ BAL BAL
NO @ SF NO
NYG @ GB GB

**A - Team**

165 Wins / 95 Losses

DEN @ NE DEN
HOU @ BAL BAL
NO @ SF NO
NYG @ GB GB

**Jones Bros**

165 Wins / 95 Losses

DEN @ NE NE
HOU @ BAL BAL
NO @ SF NO
NYG @ GB GB

**BrowBrose Salsa**

163 Wins / 97 Losses

DEN @ NE NE
HOU @ BAL BAL
NO @ SF NO
NYG @ GB GB

**Ed Urbi**

157 Wins / 103 Losses

DEN @ NE NE
HOU @ BAL HOU
NO @ SF SF
NYG @ GB GB

There was only one so-called big surprise from the National Football League wild-card weekend: the overtime victory at Mile-High Stadium in Denver as the Broncos beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 29-23. Denver quarterback Tim Tebow threw an 80-yard pass on the first play of overtime connecting with wide-receiver Demaryius Thomas to seal the deal. Thomas pulled in the pumpkin and hauled it through heavy traffic to the end zone for the quickest ending OT in National Football League history.

Tebow, who passed for 316 yards and two touchdowns, will now take his Broncos to New England to face the Patriots as the teams vie for an opportunity at the division championship and possibly a shot at Super Bowl XLVI.

The Broncos drafted Tebow in the first-round in 2010 after a stellar career as a college player with the Florida Gators. He helped his team win a national championship during the 2006 season. As the Gators' starting QB in 2007 he became the first player to both rush and pass for 20 or more touchdowns in a single season and the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy. In 2008 he led his team to its second national championship in three years and was named the offensive most valuable player of the national championship game. In 2006 he played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, which features the top 78 high school players in the nation. Tebow finished his high school career with 9,810 passing yards, 3,186 rushing yards, 95 passing touchdowns and 62 rushing touchdowns. He is a proven winner and maybe his most recent victory shouldn't be that much of a surprise.

Will it be Tim or Tom in New England? That's what I'm talking about.

In the other American Football Conference game the Houston Texans took another two-step toward the big dance as they toppled the Cincinnati Bengals 31-10. Running back Adrian Foster had 24 carries for 153 yards and two-touchdowns. This is the first time the Texans have made the play-offs in their 10-year history. They take on the Ravens Sunday in Baltimore.

In the National Football Conference, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees lit it up throwing for 466 yards and three touchdowns

as they tamed the Lions 45-28. Brees also claimed the record for the most passing yards in a regulation play-off game, connecting on 33 out of the 43 thrown. Altogether the Saints racked-up 627 yards of total offense. They will travel to San Francisco Saturday to take on the Forty-niners.

The Giants are also moving on in the NFC after deflating the Atlanta Falcons 24-2. New York quarterback Eli Manning who is having his best NFL season ever threw for 277 yards and three-touchdowns. They travel to Green Bay Sunday to take on the defending Super Bowl champion Packers.

The regular season is over and it's a whole new ballgame, but we're tracking total wins and losses for the season. Brain is now only one game behind Bear. Tate is third, followed

closely by A-Team, Jones Bros and BrowBrose Salsa while Urbi continues to fight his way out of the basement. It's definitely getting tougher as we get down to the nitty-gritty and that's what I'm talking about.

Fort Wainwright chips in to recycle Christmas trees



Members of Fort Wainwright's Sustainability Office, Natural Resources, Mainscape Inc., North Haven Communities and K & K Recycling, Inc. met behind the furniture store at one of Fort Wainwright's recycling areas Jan. 6 to collect and process more than 70 Christmas trees turned in by the Fort Wainwright community.

A large bin and wood chipper were set up to mulch trees into chips for their next use as trail cover and biomass for creating electricity. Phil Cole with K & K Recycling, Inc.'s

Project Development, said, "This is the second annual Christmas tree recycling event, started by Fort Wainwright, Mainscape and North Haven Communities." As a result of this program, the University of Alaska Fairbanks has also begun its own Christmas tree recycling program this year.

Christmas trees are a renewable resource and are farmed like other crops, Cole said, renewable in the sense that most trees were grown on farms and once harvested they are replaced with new seedlings.

After they are used for the holidays, these Christmas trees have the added potential of being recycled to maintain trail surfaces in the form of wood chips or as a biomass resource for producing electricity.

"These chips will most likely be used with trail maintenance," Cole said. "We are also in partnership

with UAF sustainability and Watershed Charter School." Any portion not used on trails and paths will be used as biomass for producing electricity. "It's a lot better than having an artificial, petroleum-based Christmas tree in your landfill for 50 plus years," Cole said.



Phil Cole from K & K Recycling, Inc., Project Development, guides a recycled Christmas tree into the opening of large chipper set up at a recycling area on Fort Wainwright. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)



Donned in the appropriate Christmas tree-shredding safety gear, Capt. Timothy Hall from Fort Wainwright's Sustainability Office; Shawn Osborn, with Natural Resources; Lori Glassco, Marketing manager for North Haven Communities and Phil Cole from K & K Recycling, Inc., Project Development, log some time in at the Christmas tree collection point on Fort Wainwright, Jan. 6. Some 70 trees were collected this year and after being chipped into a mulch, these trees will see more use than just a holiday icon as they become trail cover for areas at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and may even be used as biomass to create electricity. (Photo by Brian Schlumbohm/Fort Wainwright PAO)