

# Mountaineer

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Visit the Fort Carson Web site at [www.carson.army.mil](http://www.carson.army.mil)

Dec. 12, 2003



Photo by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger

## Ol' Saint Nick ...

Santa Claus gives a lollipop to Kayli Branan, 4, during his visit to the Elkhorn Conference Center Tuesday. Kayli was one of many Fort Carson community children who got a chance to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas at the event sponsored by the Elkhorn Conference Center.

## Evans' cautions for flu season

Courtesy Evans Army Community Hospital

Colorado and Fort Carson are undergoing one of the worst flu seasons ever. Because of this, Evans Army Community Hospital would like to remind beneficiaries about the following hospital policy.

Children who do not have appointments at Evans Army Community Hospital must be left with a babysitter, the childcare center or another caregiver. They are not allowed in the hospital. Parents need to be aware that appointments may be cancelled or rescheduled if they bring other children with them.

Evans Army Community Hospital has provided more than 18,000 influenza immunizations over the past six weeks, and now because of the high demand, the following will have priority to receive the vaccine:

Through today only, EACH will offer the influenza vaccine to eligible beneficiaries from the age of 6 months to 6 years old, adults over the age of 45 and anyone with a chronic medical condition. Chronic conditions are defined as:

- Chronic heart and lung conditions, including asthma.
- Patients in need of regular medical care or who have been in a hospital because of metabolic diseases (like diabetes), chronic kidney disease or weakened immune system.
- Children on long term aspirin therapy who therefore could develop Reye's Syndrome.

See Flu, Page 4

## 52nd Engineers build Diamondback basecamp

by Capt. Emile Buzaid  
52nd Engineer Battalion

The 52nd Engineer Battalion moved into the brand-new Diamondback Basecamp in Mosul, Iraq.

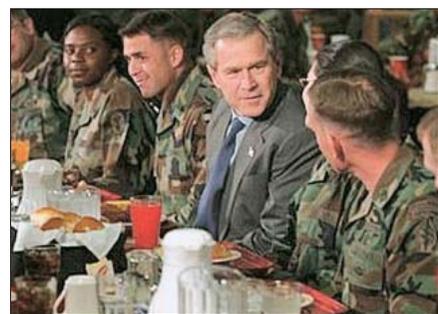
Over the past four months, this basecamp has been the main focus of these Fort Carson-based construction engineers as they worked long hours in austere conditions and under enemy threat to bring this project to fruition. As a result, the Mosul Airfield has the premier American facilities in northern Iraq and serves as an example of what Army engineers do in modern warfare.

The 52nd Engineers have built more than 30 administrative buildings that serve as headquar-

ters for company, battalion and even brigade-sized elements. These buildings are equipped with everything necessary to meet the demands of the Iraqi environment: electricity, plumbing, temperature control, Soldier force protection, telephone lines, and Internet. The battalion has taken 600 acres of undeveloped property and turned it into usable space and road networks that enable more than 5,000 Soldiers to accomplish the 101st Airborne Division's combat mission.

While the basecamp that the 52nd Engineer Battalion has moved into is a significant project in and of itself, it is only a small part of the battalion's total contribution to Mosul Airfield. More

See 52nd, Page 6



Courtesy of The White House

## Presidential lunch ...

President George W. Bush enjoys lunch with Soldiers during his visit Nov. 24. The president visited the installation to thank Soldiers for the contributions they make to our nation.

## INSIDE THE MOUNTAINEER

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Eagles end on a high note. Page 21

### Feature



Santa Claus visits post during Holiday Village festivities.

See Page 18 and 19.

### Happenings



Holiday lights in Denver are worth a trip.

See Page 27.

### What's new

The last *Mountaineer* of the year will be published Dec. 19. News items and briefs, which need to appear in the *Mountaineer* before the Jan. 5 issue should be submitted before close of business today.

Post Weather hotline:  
526-0096

# From the garrison commander:

# Thanks, enjoy holiday season

It is once again time to celebrate Christmas and new year. This has been an extremely busy year, and I am proud of Mountain Post Team members and their families for the stellar job they have done. I want to personally thank you for your continued dedication to our mission.

One of the many activities the garrison has been involved with is embracing the Installation Management Agency. During this time, we have focused our energy on continuing to provide outstanding customer service to Fort Carson's Soldiers, civilians, family members and retired personnel. The official transition to IMA occurred Oct. 1, and we will continue to grow together.

Our Soldiers also worked long and hard to ensure that the visits of both the secretary of defense and the president were highly successful

events — I am deeply grateful and extremely proud of our great community for supporting these events. The hours of planning and executing these events did not go unnoticed. Fort Carson Soldiers and civilians are some of the most professional and dedicated people I have had the pleasure to work with, in my career. You continue to make all events you are involved with a resounding success, and you set the example for all other installations to emulate.

Another resounding success was our October Retiree Appreciation Day. The installation had hundreds of retirees who visited Fort Carson and took advantage of the services provided by a professional and dedicated staff. The continued support of this very important part of the Fort Carson community is vital to our core mission. We appreciate what our retirees have done for this great

nation and continue to do for our young Soldiers every day.

In addition to these events, there are upcoming programs for you and your family to enjoy during the holidays. Don't forget about the New Year's Eve Bash at the Elkhorn Dec. 31. The evening has many exciting things in store for participants as we welcome in the new year. Come enjoy this great event with your friends and neighbors right here at Fort Carson.

The Resty family would like to extend our best wishes to all our Soldiers, civilians and their families as we embark on this joyous holiday season. Take time during the holiday season to enjoy the many activities available to you and your family, and if you are traveling out of town during this period, please be safe in your travels.

Our sincere thanks.  
Merry Christmas and a happy



**Resty**

new year.

Col. Michael Resty Jr.  
Commander, U.S. Army Garrison

## Word of month: integrity

Commentary by Maj. Dawn Metro  
Nurse Corps, 2nd Brigade, 91st  
Division.

"I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions and dedicated to the principles, which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."

These words, familiar to all Soldiers, are in Article VI of the Code of Conduct. The original intent behind these words written in 1955 provided a moral guide for Soldiers in combat or being held as prisoners of war. Every day, Soldiers are faced with the personal responsibility of living the above words and principles.

It is all too easy in today's society, not to abide by the moral guidance in Article VI. The words from the Code of Conduct are quite often read, repeated and recited by wearers of the uniform. However, most Soldiers tend to not think about the words, "responsible for my actions ... dedicated to the principles." Peer pressure, society and even our own Army organization frequently presents challenges to the ability of a Soldier to conduct himself/herself with integrity.

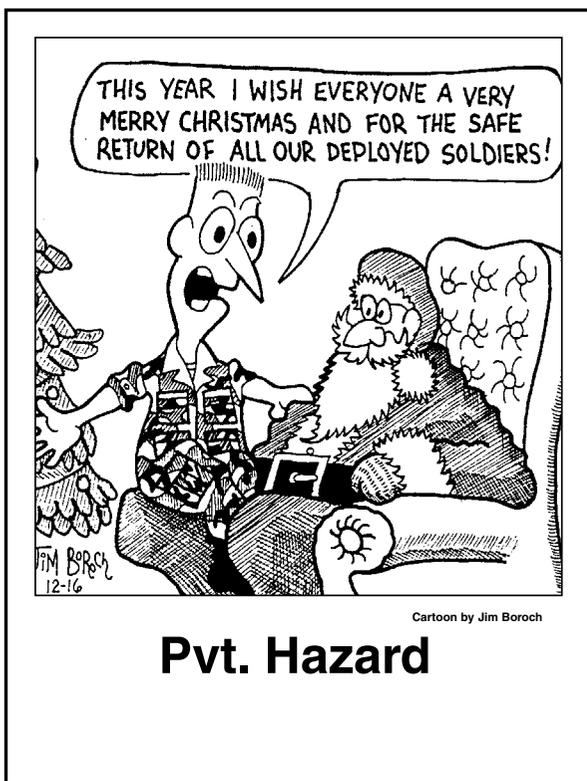
Integrity is the building block of all

Army values. Integrity is the admission of right or wrong. A person's character is responsible for developing a value of integrity.

The high road isn't necessarily the easiest road. Eroding societal values contribute to an acceptance of untruths and "situational ethics." Making the right decision instead of the least-resistant decision is sadly becoming the exception and not the norm. Though society's values may have a strong influence on us, we still expect the Soldier to uphold the highest of standards regarding integrity and honesty.

Integrity must be maintained at all costs and cannot be compromised. Every Soldier at every level has a personal responsibility to uphold integrity. Leaders, peers and subordinates must model and demonstrate integrity in everything they do, personally and professionally. If you have to do the wrong thing to stay on the team, then you are on the wrong team.

Gen Joseph L. Collins, a World War II commander wrote, "The American people rightly look to their military leaders not only to be skilled in the technical aspects of the profession of arms, but to be men of integrity."



Cartoon by Jim Boroch

## Pvt. Hazard

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# News

## ABC broadcasts Christmas to Soldiers

by Pfc. Aimee J. Felix  
Mountaineer staff

Anxious children holding their parents' hands waited in line to send a message overseas to mom or dad.

The ABC Radio Network was at the Fort Carson Post Exchange Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., recording holiday messages from families to deployed Soldiers. Families had the option of sending a holiday song dedication and/or a 30-second message.

Fort Carson contributed a total of 83 messages, said Mike Lewis, program manager for KRDO and local ABC representative. "I've been editing the messages, and some of them really got me misty-eyed," said Lewis.

The messages will be broadcast Dec. 24 and 25 in the United States, Iraq and Kuwait. The messages will be aired at random as a tribute to Soldiers and families

servng apart during this holiday season. The radio tribute will include a radio address from President George W. Bush.

Christmas Around The World, the ABC program in which the messages will air, is going on its second year in the air.

Headquartered at Walt Disney World, it is a 30-hour holiday celebration that will be broadcast by hundreds of affiliates nationally and on American Forces Networks worldwide.

The show will feature live national reports on Santa's whereabouts from North American Aerospace Command experts. Santa himself will be periodically calling in to report his status around the globe, and he will spend a few moments taking phone calls from his "nicest" fans.

Broadcasting will begin at 1 p.m. and can be heard locally on KRDO 1240 AM.



Photo by Pfc. Aimee J. Felix

**Laura Sales and her children send a holiday message to her husband Staff Sgt. Donald Sales, a Soldier with the 43rd Engineers Battalion.**

# GMH takes over Fort Carson housing Nov. 28

by Pfc. Aimee J. Felix  
Mountaineer staff

GMH Military Housing announced Dec. 3 the acquisition of the military family housing division of J.A. Jones. The change in ownership came after J.A. Jones' parent company declared bankruptcy.

GMH assumed operations of Fort Carson housing Nov. 28, and will be responsible for the remaining phase of the housing renovation process.

"This acquisition absolutely fits with our core business of providing quality housing for the families of our country's military personnel," said Gary M. Holloway, CEO, GMH Military Housing.

"This will be a seamless transition," said Kathleen Grim, vice president of marketing, GMH Military Housing.

Fort Carson residents will not suffer any negative consequences as a result of this transition. Furthermore, the present housing renovation efforts will go uninterrupted, said Grim.

The acquisition includes the family housing of Fort Carson, and Fort Eustis and Fort Story, both located in the Tidewater, Va. area.

GMH's portfolio will now add up to nine military housing projects, which include Fort Stewart, Hinesville, Ga.; Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Ga.; Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Fort Detrick, Frederick, Md.; Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, N.Y. and the Stewart Terrace Marine housing in Newburg, N.Y.

For more information, contact Kathleen Grim at 610-355-8206.

## Flu

From Page 1

• Women in their second and third trimester of pregnancy  
Evans Army Community Hospital has enough vaccine to cover children who have received the vaccine and need a second dose to finish their series. Adults do not require a second dose.

Beginning Monday, the influenza vaccine will be available through the Allergy/Immunization Clinic by appointment only, call 264-5000 to schedule an appointment. Pediatrics Immunization Clinic will continue to see pediatric patients who meet the priority or require their second dose. Walk-in hours are 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Call the Influenza Hotline, 526-6422, for additional updates.

## Visitation

There is a limit of two visitors per patient. All visitors should be well without fever, cough or respiratory symptoms. Visitations are restricted to those over the age of 12. Child Youth Services offers child-care at an hourly rate of \$2.50 (to increase to \$3 starting Jan. 15) and would like as much advance notice as possible. The child must first be registered at CYS. Call 526-1100 to register your child and 524-0151 for reservations and more information.

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# Military

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## Carson tracks noise impacts, works with community to offset concerns

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by Nelson Kelm

**Directorate of Environmental  
Compliance and Management Noise  
Program Manager**

Noise generated during training exercises can cause controversy when it comes to residents in the local community. Fort Carson strives to be a good neighbor to those outside of installation boundaries through a comprehensive noise management program. Noise experts at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine have recognized the Fort Carson Noise Program as a leader in the Army. The program has three components:

### Monitoring

Fort Carson currently has 23 operating noise monitors located on the installation and in surrounding towns. Noise monitors are set up in Widefield,

Fountain, Pueblo West and in Penrose. The data from these monitors is transmitted in real time to Fort Carson. Noise generated by explosions and canon fire is called impulsive noise. When an impulsive noise event exceeds 108 decibels, the monitor automatically transmits the data to the base station computer. Monitors on Fort Carson have recorded events in excess of 141 decibels. There have not been any events this loud in several years.

Fort Carson is adding the ability to monitor wind speed and direction at 10 monitoring locations on Fort Carson. Wind is a very important factor in noise propagation (how noise is transmitted by the atmosphere). The data from the noise monitors serves several functions. When noise complaints are received, the data can be used to verify whether or not the event occurred on the instal-

lation. The data can be used to investigate damage claims. It also provides insight regarding the impact of noise levels produced by Fort Carson training in surrounding communities.

The Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site currently has 10 noise monitors. They provide background noise levels. Data from these units will be manually downloaded to a computer four times a year.

### Land-use planning

Fort Carson maintains a proactive working liaison with land use planners in surrounding communities and counties. Current noise contours are maintained and provided to regional land use planners. Noise contours are maps with superimposed lines showing what noise levels can be expected on lands adjacent to Fort Carson. This information is a crucial element used in making zon-

ing decisions.

Many noise-sensitive establishments such as schools, day care centers, hospitals and churches are not recommended for construction/occupation in areas with high noise levels. Efforts are also made to reduce potentially non-compatible land uses near the installation boundary. Regional land-use planners have required rezoning petitioners to provide a disclaimer from Fort Carson stating that the land proposed for rezoning is not noise impacted, before the petitions will be considered for action. Additionally, Fort Carson personnel attend regional meetings where zoning changes are approved. Information and data are provided to council members regarding noise levels at the site proposed for rezoning.

# Military Briefs

## Misc.

### West Point

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

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

## CIF Hours

**Central Issue Facility hours of operation:**

### Regular business hours

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

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

### Initial/partial issues

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

### Direct exchange

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

### Partial turn-ins

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

### Full turn-ins

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

### Effective immediately:

Replacement will be scheduled Mondays, Thursdays and Friday mornings.

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

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

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

Bulk issue and turn-ins — by appointment only.

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

## Briefings

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

### The Army Career and Alumni

**Center briefing** is required for all departing servicemembers. The current ACAP policy is to register personnel ETSing one year out and retirees two years out.

Briefings are held Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Call 526-1002 or 526-0640 to schedule a briefing.

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

### The Commanding General's

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

## Laundry Service

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

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

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

## Hours of operation

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

### Hours are:

eArmyU Testing center, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Army Learning Center and Basic Skills Classes, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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

### Personnel Claims hours:

Mandatory briefing: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Submit DD 1840/1840R

### Receive documents for filing:

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

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

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

## Noise

From Page 5

### Research

Noise monitoring and management is a new science. Noise data received are frequently compromised with false events caused by wind gusts. Fort Carson has served as an Army test bed for innovations to reduce/eliminate wind-caused events. Progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go in eliminating wind events. Noise models used to generate noise contours are under constant revision. Fort Carson has recently gained the ability to con-

sider the effects of topography on noise generation and can now create contours that show decibel peak noise levels. The installation is currently trying to gain funding to predict noise generation conditions and to improve noise data display software.

The primary purpose of the Fort Carson noise management program remains to support our continued ability to successfully accomplish military training while reducing potential disruption of off-site interests.

For more information about the noise management program, call 526-1723.

## 52nd Engineers

From Page 1

than 10 major units on the airfield have relied on the 52nd Engineers for force protection and quality of life upgrades. This kind of work represents the value that the 52nd Engineers bring to the fight: a constant transformation of an area so that Soldiers can do their mission better and safer. Whether building showers or developing fuel points, this unit has taken on a large and diverse set of challenging missions and has succeeded on all counts.

The 52nd Engineer Battalion's experience with Diamondback and Mosul Airfield has been a collaboration with different construction entities. The battalion's Soldiers have worked with Kellogg, Brown and Root

to install pre-fabricated living trailers. They've also worked with Iraqi contractors to renovate pre-existing buildings and establish new buildings of the same style. Other locals have been involved in the process: the battalion has trained more than 70 former Iraqi soldiers in the construction trades and provided them with jobs in the process. The Diamondback project has been a tremendous opportunity to train other Army engineers in construction skills.

Diamondback Basecamp and Mosul Airfield has not only improved the conditions for the Soldiers in this area, but it also set the standard for engineer operations in the future. Mosul Airfield has been transformed into an American outpost. The 52nd Engineer Battalion has made it a great place to train and an example of American excellence to this developing country.

# Dining Schedule

Dec. 13 to 19

## Weekday Dining Facilities

43rd ASG Cheyenne Mtn. Inn (building 1040)  
3rd ACR CAV House (building 2461)  
Mountaineer Inn (building 1369)  
10th SFG (A) (building 7481)  
3rd BCT Strikers Cafe (building 2061)

## Weekday Meal Hours

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

## Exceptions

- Butts Army Airfield dining facility is closed until further notice.
- Patton House is closed until further notice.
- Cav House and Iron Brigade are closed Saturdays and Sundays.



## Saturday, Sunday and Training Holiday Dining Facilities

3rd ACR Cav. House. (building 2461)  
43rd ASG (building 1040)  
Mountaineer Inn (building 1369)  
3rd BCT Strikers Cafe (building 2061)

## Saturday, Sunday and Training Holiday Meal Hours

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



Photo by Spc. Jon Wiley

## *Sniffing around . . .*

Staff Sgt. William Rase, K-9 unit, 148th Military Police Detachment, and his partner Nero search for explosives during a random vehicle check on post Dec. 4. Fort Carson MPs searched all vehicles traveling on Khe Sahn Avenue between Specker and Barkeley avenues from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. as part of a random antiterrorism security exercise.



Photo by Pfc. Aimee J. Felix

## *Honoring a fallen hero ...*

Command Sgt. Maj. Terrance McWilliams offers his condolences to Kim Byers in a posthumous Bronze Star ceremony held Monday in the office of the commanding general. Byers received the medal for her husband Capt. Joshua T. Byers of Fox Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. He earned the medal for exceptionally meritorious service and valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# TRICARE dental rates to increase in 2004

About 1.7 million members affected by upcoming change

### Courtesy TRICARE Dental Program

TRICARE Dental Program enrollees will notice an increase in their monthly premiums beginning January 2004. The new rates are effective Feb. 1; however, since premiums are collected one month in advance, TDP enrollees will notice the change in their January 2004 billing statement, payroll allotment or deduction.

The new monthly premium rate for eligible family members of active duty and Reservists on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days will be \$9.07 for a single enrollment and \$22.66 for a family enrollment.

Premiums for members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve (Special Mobilization Category) will be \$9.07 for a single enrollment.

Members of the Individual Ready Reserve (other than Special

Mobilization Category), their eligible family members, and the eligible family members of the Selected Reserve (not on active duty) will pay a new monthly rate of \$22.68 for a single enrollment and \$56.66 for a family enrollment.

"Despite the 2004 premium increase, the TDP continues to provide excellent value for members of the military community," said Tom Harbold, United Concordia's TDP Senior Vice President.

Additional information about 2004 rates is available on United Concordia's Web site, [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com), or by phoning the TDP Enrollment & Billing Department at 888-622-2256.

United Concordia Companies, Inc., headquartered in Harrisburg, Pa., is the fifth largest dental insurer in the country with more than six million members worldwide. The company has administered the TRICARE Dental Program and its predecessor, the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan for the Department of Defense since 1996. In 2002, the company processed almost 11 million claims and paid more than \$760 million in dental benefits.

## Greenback

## Online W2s coming soon

**Courtesy 4th Finance Battalion**

If you are a taxpayer anxious to get the process under way, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service has recently released the schedule of predicted dates when U.S. military servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants, and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through the DFAS myPay Web site.

The program is called eW2 and will let the individuals mentioned above have access to view, save and print their tax statements from the myPay Web site. All you need is a valid myPay personal identification number. If you have forgotten or have never received a PIN, you can obtain your myPay PIN by using the online feature called ePIN.

ePIN simplifies the process of gaining a PIN that is necessary to access myPay and eW2. Users need only to go to the myPay Web site, <https://myPay.dfas.mil>, and click on the "New PIN" button. The system will verify the identity of users through their Social Security Numbers and give them a PIN. The user can elect delivery of the PIN by e-mail or regular mail. E-mail delivery takes place within 48 hours and is sent only to .gov or .mil email addresses previously registered with myPay.

For assistance, myPay users can call customer support at 800-390-2348.

**Thrift Savings Plan investment percentage increase**

If you want to start investing some of your Department of Defense pay into the Thrift Savings Plan you have until Dec. 30, the end of open season.

During, and only during TSP open season, Soldiers can elect to invest up to 9 percent of their basic pay. Soldiers can start or change their TSP pay-roll deduction investment by submitting a TSP-U-1 Election Form, available on [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) under "forms and publications," through their servicing Personnel Actions Command.

**DOD web sites with useful mobilization information**

The following Web sites contain useful mobilization information:

DOD Mobilization Guide:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/mobil/pdf/section1.pdf>  
Pay and Benefits Section:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/mobil/pdf/benefits.pdf>

Army Community Service: [www.goacs.org](http://www.goacs.org)

Family Assistance Hotline: (800) 833-6622

Army National Guard Family Services:

[www.GuardFamily.org](http://www.GuardFamily.org)

U.S. Army Reserve: [www.Army.Mil/USAR](http://www.Army.Mil/USAR)

Contingency Travel Pay:

<http://www.asafm.army.mil/fo/fod/fincom/cti/cti.asp>

**Fort Carson Finance holiday hours**

Finance on Fort Carson will be open Dec. 22 to 24 and 29 to 31 during the holiday season.

**DFAS tax statement schedule**

	No earlier than:	No later than:
<b>Military annuitants</b>	Saturday	Thursday
<b>DOD civilians</b>	Dec. 24	Dec. 29
<b>Army, Air Force, Navy Reserve and national guard</b>	Dec. 26	Jan. 1, 2004
<b>Military retirees</b>	Jan. 1, 2004	Jan. 5, 2004
<b>Marine Corps Active and Reserve</b>	Jan. 13, 2004	Jan. 21, 2004
<b>Army, Air Force, Navy Active</b>	Jan. 16, 2004	Jan. 26, 2004

# Community

## Safe toy, gift month

*Ensure holiday toys are safe for children*

by Capt. Renee L. Busse  
Community Health Nursing  
Evans Army Community Hospital

More than 16,000 injuries are caused by toys each year, half to children under 5.

Most toy accidents result from misuse or from tripping on the toy rather than from some defect or design flaw in the toy itself. Noninflated balloons or pieces of popped balloons cause the most injuries to toddlers. They are the most dangerous toy there is for small children.

Buy toys with safety in mind. Ask yourself, will my child use this toy the way it was intended to be used? Does it have strings or clothing an infant could choke on? Do arms and legs of this doll pull off easily? As eye catching as a toy may be to you, it may not be suited to a toddler's age, interests or developmental stage. Read the age range given to toy packaging. Properly using a child's building blocks, for instance, requires

skills too advanced for most infants. A baby might also get hurt playing with toys incorrectly or by crawling over them.

Many tots choke on the marbles, small parts or tiny batteries of toys belonging to their older siblings. A brother's or sister's hobby kit or chemistry set can burn or poison an infant.

Both you and your children need to be on guard. Have everyone in the family put things away and out of reach, especially before meals or whenever leaving the room. Remind your school-age children that if they leave little toy parts lying around, they probably won't have them for long. Keep play areas separated by closing bedrooms doors or installing baby gates.

Even if you may have childproofed your home, be aware that the homes of friends and relatives offer potential hazards when you bring your baby to visit. Such outings require closer supervision than usual.



Photo by Spc. Jon Wiley

## *Final honors ...*

Melissa Givens accepts the Purple Heart from Maj. Gen. Robert Wilson, commanding general, 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, at the post headquarters Tuesday on behalf of her deceased husband Pfc. Jesse Givens. Givens died after his tank rolled into the Euphrates River May 1, while he was serving with the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Division in Al Habbaniyah, Iraq.

# Community Events

## Miscellaneous

**Gate Closure** — Gate 4 will close from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. seven days a week from Dec. 20 to Jan. 3, 2004. This temporary change of hours is to allow Soldiers to spend time with their families during the holiday season. The gate will return to operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week Jan. 3.

**Road Closure** — Harr Avenue, the short bumpy, muddy section of road between Chiles and Specker avenues in front of the natural gas refueling station, will be closed for reconstruction until February 2004. The natural gas refueling station can be accessed from Specker, via the dirt road that runs north around the contractor's storage yard.

**Criminal Investigations** — CID is looking for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the theft of two motorcycles from the privately owned vehicles sales lot Nov. 14 or 15. The vehicles that were taken are a 2002 Harley Davidson Dyna Glide Super T Sport. (vehicle identification number is 1HD1GLV132Y315199) and a 1989 Yamaha YSR50 (VIN JYA2RRA05KA037121).

If you have any information, contact Special Agent Jason Dailey at 524-1086 or the military police at 526-2333.

**Thrift Shop** — The Fort Carson thrift shop will be closed Dec. 19 to Jan. 5. Regular business hours will resume Jan. 6. The thrift shop is currently accepting applications for disbursement of funds. These funds are available to nonprofit organizations and individuals who are advancing their education. For more information call 526-5966.

**Evans Army Community Hospital closures for the holidays** — The emergency room will be open 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Outpatient pharmacy:

Friday - Reduced staff after 2 p.m. for holiday parties

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve, limited staff

Dec. 25 - Christmas day, closed

Dec. 26 - Military training holiday, closed

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day, closed

Jan. 2 - Military training holiday, limited staff

Jan. 16 - Military training holiday, limited staff

Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King's birthday, closed Clinics:

Dec. 19 - Closed after 2 p.m. for holiday parties

Dec. 25, 26 - Closed

Jan. 1, 2 - Closed

For assistance call a patient representative at 526-7225/7256.

**Tax season** — The Fort Carson Tax Center will open Jan. 20. It is located in building 6264, on Woodhill Road, across from the Colorado Inn and the Elkhorn Conference Center. Free tax services are available for active duty servicemembers and their family members; mobilized reservists and their family members; servicemembers receiving either retirement or disability pay and their family members; and surviving family members of active-duty, mobilized reservists and retired servicemembers.

The Fort Carson Tax Center will electronically file your return and have federal and state tax forms available. In order for your tax return to be completed, you will need to bring all W-2s, Social Security cards for yourself and all family members, a power of attorney, if filing for your spouse, and all relevant financial information.

**Protestant Women of the Chapel** — The PWOC invites you to a display of song, dance, testimony and a feast in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ Tuesday 9 to 11:25 a.m. at the Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

The PWOC is also hosting a Bible study in a relaxing coffee house atmosphere at the Soldiers' Memorial Chapel Jan. 6, 2004, 9 to 11:25 a.m. Child-care is provided with proof of immunizations. For more information, call Michelle Fowles 382-9056.

**Wives of Warriors Conference** — WOW is hosting a community conference at the Soldiers' Memorial Chapel Jan. 30, 7 to 9 p.m. and Jan. 31 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics will include: keeping a marriage strong, parenting skills, how to deal with stress and time management. Free child-care and lunch will be provided. For more information, call Denise Castle 540-0777 or Betty Moore 573-0332.

**Red Cross** — The next cardiopulmonary resuscitation class will be Saturday 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Evans Army Community Hospital, Room 1801. Registration is \$40, which includes a skills card and information booklet. Call 526-7825 for more details.

Felicia Wilkinson is the new health and safety coordinator. Her office is at Evans Army Community Hospital, room 1801, and her phone number is 526-7825. Her work hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New and gently used formal wear is still needed for the Revolving Dress Collection. Dresses go to Army wives attending balls and other formal events. If you have a donation, call Theresa at 576-1767.

If you are interested in babysitting classes, call Tammy at 526-1058.

For swim lessons, call Crystal at 526-3122.

**Gold Star Wives and Mothers** — The Gold Star Wives and Mothers organization is working with Fort Carson's Casualty Assistance Office to ensure that eligible families receive a gold star pin. For more information about this program, contact JaNene Skinner at 597-5630 or visit [www.goldstar-wives.org](http://www.goldstar-wives.org) and [www.goldstarmoms.com](http://www.goldstarmoms.com).

**Nominate Your Hero** — Army Community Service Financial Readiness is promoting the "Community of Heroes" award program. This program recognizes those within our community who exhibit the spirit of kindness and community service, without hesitation, as a way of life. For details and nomination applications visit [www.csbbb.org/index.php?CAT\\_UID=98](http://www.csbbb.org/index.php?CAT_UID=98). Information will also be available on the ACS Web site at [www.carson.army.mil](http://www.carson.army.mil) (click on ACS). Applications are available at ACS, building 1526 (next to the commissary). For more details, contact the Financial Readiness Manager, Pat Randle, at 526-4590. Deadline for nomination of your hero is Dec. 31.

**Santa suit rental** — The Enlisted Spouses Charitable Organization is conducting its annual Santa suit rental for only \$20. For more information, call the ESCO office at 524-1115.

If you are interested in meeting new people and having a great time, please join us. If interested, please attend a meeting or e-mail us at [CarsonESCO@hotmail.com](mailto:CarsonESCO@hotmail.com) or call our office at the Family Connection Center 524-1115.

**Christmas assistance registration** — Come help The Salvation Army register and distribute Christmas and emergency holiday assistance to families. Volunteer service may be a minimum of three hours, at either of two locations.

### Registration

908 Yuma St. registration: until Saturday; 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

901 N. Santa Fe-Fountain registration: today; 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Distribution

908 Yuma St. distribution: Dec. 22 and 23; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

901 N. Santa Fe - Fountain distribution: Dec. 24; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

2003 Kettle campaign bell ringers:

Groups and individuals are welcome to partici-

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

**10<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**ARMY  
FAMILY  
TEAM  
BUILDING**

"Empowering military families for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond"

**-Cake Cutting Ceremony-**  
**Monday**  
**15 December**  
**2-4pm**  
**Main Post Exchange**

### AFTB Volunteers Will Be Recognized

Army Community Service AFTB Volunteers are professionally trained to provide information and classes covering a variety of military related subjects. Classes are designed to help prepa soldiers, spouses and family members for the challenges of military living. If you would like volunteer or attend a class, call 526-4590.

pate at one of 60 locations throughout the city until Dec. 24. Volunteers may volunteer for a minimum of four hours, a day, weekend or the entire bell ringing season.

Angel tree attendant: You may volunteer at either Chapel Hills Mall Saturday to Dec. 20, or Citadel Mall now until Dec. 20. Volunteer service may be a minimum of four hours or more.

Adopt a family: Your company or group may adopt a family and provide food, clothing and toys. Sign-up now through Monday; distribution will be Thursday and Friday.

Fill a stocking. We provide the stockings! Fill some up today for a needy child or elderly person.

Toy drive: Your company or group can help The Salvation Army collect toys for children.

### Claims against the estate

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

**Claims against the estate** — With deepest regrets to the family of Staff Sgt. Ernest Bucklew, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact CW2 Robert Alequin at 201-7129.

**Claims against the estate** — With deepest regrets to the family of Staff Sgt. Stephen A. Bertolino, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact CW2 Robert A. Alequin at 210-7129.

**Claims against the estate** — With deepest regrets to the family of Staff Sgt. Dale A. Panchot, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact 2nd Lt. Collin Bissell at 526-1567.

# Preventing cold-weather injuries

by Tracy A. Bailey

Heidelberg, Germany, Medical Department Activity

It is that time of year again, winter weather is here, complete with freezing temperatures.

If you don't know the threat cold weather brings, you can't fight it. Many generals have lost the battle of the cold. Napoleon learned this in 1812 when, during his retreat from Russia, he lost 250,000 soldiers as a result of the cold weather. The U.S. Army has not been immune to cold weather, either. During World War II, records show 46,000 cold-weather injuries occurred in the European theater from autumn 1944 to spring 1945.

The most important preventive measure is planning for cold weather. Make sure you have accurate weather information for the area and time of the mission. Be particularly aware of rain, snow and winds since wet conditions and wind-chill greatly increase chance of injury.

Ensure your Soldiers have appropriate cold-weather clothing. The most important individual preventive measure is the proper wearing of cold-weather clothing and boots. Some Soldiers think wearing every article of cold-weather clothing issued is the way to go. Wrong! This can cause overheating and dehydration, or restrict circulation in the extremities, which can increase the risk of frostbite. All cold-weather clothing should be worn loose and in layers, which allows for insulation by trapping air between the layers. Socks should be changed frequently and pairs of boots rotated.

Proper wear of boots is important. Soldiers should not wear jungle boots in the snow, and intermediate cold-weather boots should only be worn outdoors, year-round. Wet or damp boots need to be dried with warm air whenever possible. If boots are removed at night and moisture in them freezes, you will be sticking your feet in ice cubes the next day — a perfect setup for cold injury.

It is important to protect hands and fingers by wearing proper cold-weather/water-resistant gloves.

Typical cold-weather injuries include dehydration, chilblain, immersion foot or trench foot, frostbite and hypothermia.

## Dehydration

Dehydration is caused by a depletion of bodily fluids; symptoms include dizziness, weakness and blurred vision. The appropriate first aid treatment is to replace lost water, which should be sipped not gulped and to seek medical treatment.

## Chilblain

Chilblain is caused by repeated exposure of bare skin for a long period of time to temperatures from 20 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Some of the symptoms are skin that is swollen, red (or darkening of the skin in dark-skinned Soldiers), tender or hot. Itching may accompany any or all of these symptoms. First-aid treatment is to

warm the affected area with direct body heat. Do not massage or rub the affected area; do not wet the area or rub it with snow or ice; and do not expose the affected area to open fire, stove or any other intense heat source.

## Immersion foot

Immersion foot, which is commonly known as trench foot, is caused by prolonged exposure of feet to wet conditions at temperatures of 32 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit, inactivity and damp socks and boots (or tightly laced boots that weaken circulation, which speeds onset and severity).

Symptoms of trench foot are cold, numb feet, which may progress to hot with shooting pains and swelling, redness and bleeding. If you suspect trench foot, get medical help immediately. Rewarm feet by exposing them to warm air, and evacuate the victim to a medical treatment facility. Do not massage, rub, moisten or expose the affected area to extreme heat.

## Frostbite

Frostbite is caused by freezing of tissue, normally due to exposure to temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Body parts that are most often affected include fingers, toes, ears and other facial parts. Symptoms of frostbite are numbness, tingling, blistering, swelling or tenderness, pale, yellowish, waxy-looking skin (grayish in dark-skinned soldiers) and frozen skin that feels wooden to the touch.

Frostbite is a medical emergency. Consult medical personnel immediately and evacuate the victim as soon as possible. If not treated properly, frostbite can lead to gangrene and amputation. If you suspect frostbite, you must start first aid immediately. Warm the affected area with direct body heat. Do not thaw the frozen areas if treatment will be delayed; do not massage or rub the affected areas; do not wet the area or rub it with snow or ice; and do not expose the affected area to open fire, stove or any other intense heat source.

## Hypothermia

Hypothermia is caused by prolonged cold exposure and body-heat loss. Hypothermia may occur at temperatures well above freezing, especially when a person is immersed in water. Symptoms include a lack of shivering, drowsiness, mental slowness, and lack of coordination. This can progress to unconsciousness, irregular heartbeat and even death.

By knowing some of the other factors that can contribute to or prevent cold injury, you can further protect yourself:

- Previous cold injuries. Soldiers with previous cold injuries are more susceptible to another one. These soldiers must be identified, and first-line supervisors should monitor them closely.
- Tobacco. Nicotine — regardless of whether it



comes from a cigarette, snuff, pipe, or cigar — causes blood vessels to constrict. Tobacco decreases circulation and increases your risk for injury, especially in the hands and feet.

- Alcohol and caffeine can lead to increased urination and subsequent dehydration.
  - Meals. If you skip meals, the first thing the body does is to slow the metabolism. Slower metabolism means less heat production and increased chance of cold injury.
  - Activity. The more you move, the more heat you produce. Decreased activity decreases the time it takes to get an injury.
  - Buddy system. The buddy system is a great way to help prevent injuries if Soldiers are trained to know what to look for.
  - Self-checks. A simple self-check is to pinch the fingernail and watch how fast the blood returns. The slower the return the higher the potential for a cold injury to fingers or toes.
- Prevention is the key, and all cold-weather injuries are preventable, say experts. Prevention is the responsibility of leaders, as well as the individual Soldier.

*Editor's note: Clinical expertise for this article was provided by Capt. Kathleen Spangler, chief community health nurse at U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Heidelberg, Germany.*



Photo by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger

### *In memory ...*

John Poole tunes his bagpipes before a memorial service for Spc. Darius T. Jennings, at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel Nov. 18. Poole was one of four Soldiers who was killed in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter crash when it went down Nov. 2 in Al Fallujah, Iraq. Jennings, 22, was assigned to 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and is survived by his wife Ari Young and extended family. Other Carson soldiers who died in the crash: Staff Sgt. Daniel Bader, 28, who was assigned to 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and is survived by his wife Tiffany, 15-month-old son Taryn, parents Lona and Roger and brother David. Sgt. Ernest G. Bucklew, 33, was assigned to Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and is survived by his wife Barbara, sons Joshua, 8 and Justin, 4, father Donald and sister Dawn Marie. Spc. Brian H. Penisten, 28, was assigned to 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and is survived by his 4-year-old son Trevor and parents John and Mona.



Photo by Pfc. Aimee J. Felix

### *Saying goodbye ...*

A memorial service was held for Staff Sgt. Dale Aldon Panchot, a 3rd Brigade Combat Team Soldier, Nov. 25 at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Panchot, 26, was killed Nov. 17 south of Balad, Iraq, when ambushed by enemy fire while on patrol. He is survived by his parents Arland and Karen Panchot.

## Volunteers key to AFAP success

by Nancy A. Montville

### Army Family Action Plan Program Manager

Volunteers joined to make the 20th annual Army Family Action Plan Conference a success for Fort Carson. More than 20 Army Community Service AFAP Volunteers served in facilitator, recorder, issue support and administrative volunteer positions.

AFAP issues were collected throughout the year from briefings and classes given to AFTB class participants, retirees, youth, unit briefings and spouse organizations. Submitted issues were researched prior to the conference to ensure they were not similar to AFAP issues already in the system. Issues were then divided into the appropriate work groups for prioritization.

AFAP Volunteers were trained prior to the conference to ensure they were knowledgeable about the process. More than 70 delegates also received the AFAP training prior to the conference.

AFAP Volunteers may have the opportunity to attend the MACOM level and/or the DA level conference in the upcoming year.

There were 19 issues prioritized at the conference this year. Those issues that can be resolved at Fort Carson will be addressed at the garrison commander's quarterly AFAP steering committee. Those issues requiring higher headquarters attention will be forwarded to the major command level.

Fort Carson is fortunate to have so many willing volunteers giving countless hours to the AFAP process. The many dedicated volunteers stepped forward although many have spouses deployed and added responsibilities on the home front.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks for their selfless volunteer service. To obtain further information on the AFAP Conference or the issues prioritized, call Nancy A. Montville at 526-4590. All prioritized issues can be viewed at [www.carson.army.mil](http://www.carson.army.mil); click on ACS and then AFAP.

## Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo donates funds to Carson

### Courtesy of Army Community Services

Each performance of the local Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo has been dedicated to the men and women who have served the country in the U.S. military. A portion of the proceeds was donated to programs benefiting local military personnel and their families. More than \$ 1 million has been donated to many programs at Fort Carson.

This year, more than \$10,000 was provided to Fort Carson — Army Community Service Programs such as Baby Bundles, the Emergency Food Voucher program, Army Family Action Plan, Army Family Team Building, and many others have benefited from the contributions of the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo.

Bringing the community together in support of one another, as the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo does, is a rich model for other cities to emulate. Army Community Services continue to salute this event and its founder for the contributions made to the Fort Carson community by the city of Colorado Springs and its residents.

The Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo has a long and rich history in Colorado Springs. It is one of the premier stops on the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association circuit. Spencer Penrose started the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo in 1937 near the Broadmoor Hotel. The rodeo was held annually from 1937 through 1941. During 1942 through 1945 a rodeo was not hosted because of the war. The rodeo resumed again with a vengeance in 1946, and has been going strong ever since. Dozens of world famous cowboys and cowgirls have competed at the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, one of the most recognized events in Colorado.

## Chaplain's Corner

# Jesus impacts world for 2003 years

**Commentary by Chap. (Maj.) Duane Kincaid  
Evans Army Community Hospital**

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called wonderful, counselor; the mighty God, the everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) The event was foretold centuries before it happened, and since it happened our world has not been the same.

That event, of course, is the birth of Jesus Christ, the whole reason we even have this thing we call Christmas.

It is strange how the birth of a small child, in a distant land, in a humble stable, could have such an impact on the world. It is stranger still how this holiday of Christmas comes back year after year with the same mystery and wonder of that first Christmas long ago. Historically, we know that Christ was probably not born at this time of year, but that seems to make no difference to the magic of Christmas. For this season is marked more by the seasons of the heart, than the seasons of the year.

We all have Christmas memories and stories of Christmas past, and they are truly a part of who we are. We remember with warmness and joy those times spent with those who are no longer with us, and yet they are with us still. The sights, the sounds, the smells, all trigger for us an inner feeling, a magic if

you will, that makes Christmas special. It goes beyond the material, for that seems to come much too soon as every retailer strives to get their part of the holiday's bounty. Christmas is more, so much more.

Christmas is experienced in the heart and soul, not merely celebrated outwardly among the tinsel and gifts. God chose to give us his love in a very unique and powerful way by offering himself as a child of salvation. An angel of God announced the gift to all of us, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." The Christ Mass celebrates this gift from God; it is the whole reason for the season.

It is no mistake or matter of chance that people are different during this season. It is no wonder we have a gift-giving character like Santa Claus, or all the traditions associated with Christmas; they all have there roots in God's gift. God is behind Christmas and everything that has to do with Christmas. We really can't separate his spirit from Christmas because that is what makes it wonderful, magical and life changing. God brings good will into our hearts and joy into our lives. God makes us feel the holiday as wonderful as it is, and it is God that ensures that Christmas will return each year with new blessings.

This year, whatever we give, whatever we do, let it be accompanied with genuine love and joy, in the

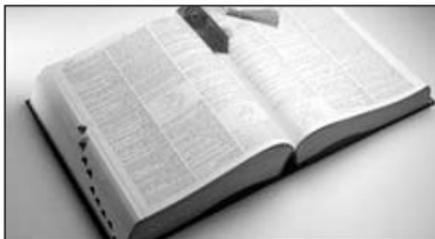
spirit of him whose birthday we celebrate. Let it be a part of us, this spirit of Christmas, which we not only take out at this time of year, but something we live throughout the year.

### Upcoming Chapel Events

**Protestant Women of the Chapel** — The PWOC invite you to a display of song, dance, testimony and a feast in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ Tuesday 9 to 11:25 a.m. at the Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

The PWOC are also hosting a Bible study in a relaxing coffee house atmosphere at the Soldiers' Memorial Chapel Jan. 6, 9 to 11:25 a.m. Child-care is provided with proof of immunizations. For more information, call Michelle Fowles 382-9056.

**Wives of Warriors Conference** — WOW is hosting a community conference at the Soldiers' Memorial Chapel Jan. 30, 7 to 9 p.m. and Jan. 31 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics will include: keeping a marriage strong, parenting skills, how to deal with stress and time management. Free child-care and lunch will be provided. For more information, call Denise Castle 540-0777.



## Chapel

Chapel Holiday Schedule - Fort Carson Chapel

### Worship

Catholic Services

All Holy Day Masses are held at Soldiers'

Memorial Chapel.

**Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:**

Family Christ-Mass, 5 p.m.

Christ-Mass, 9 p.m.

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25**

Christ-Mass, 10 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, Dec.

31

Vigil Mass, 5 p.m.

Holy Day child care will only be provided for the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

Child care is also provided at all 5 p.m.

Saturday Masses, and 9:30 a.m. and 12:15 Sunday Masses.

Protestant Services.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m., Soldiers Memorial Chapel.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m., Provider

Chapel

No services New Year's Eve or New Year's

Day.

## Chapel Schedule

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
M-W-F	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Battiato/649-5260
Tues., Wed., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	8 a.m.	Mass	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/526-5744
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Battiato/649-5260
Sunday	12:15 p.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/526-5744
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769

### PROTESTANT

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Kincaid/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Borden/526-3711
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Fox/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot./Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Byrd/526-2811
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Byrd/526-2811
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Fox/524-1166
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Ellison/526-8890
Sunday	6 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/524-1166

### LITURGICAL

Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Lutheran	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Lloyd/526-3888
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### JEWISH

For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

### WICCA

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Family University	Building 1161	Meissa Dalugdug/330-7873
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### MORMON

Sunday	2 p.m.	LDS	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Jones/526-3718
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### NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE

Please call the following for ceremonial information and directions. Michael Dunning at 382-5331 or cell phone 330-9537

Youth of the chapel — Activities for Protestant and Catholic Middle School and high school youths take place Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Protestant High School activities include Bible studies Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Catholic youth classes meet at 10:45 a.m. Sundays, Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

For additional information, contact the Installation Chaplain's Office, building 1550, at 526-5209. Normally, free child-care is available during on-post worship services.

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

**Friday** — Psalms 11 & Isaiah 10-12

**Saturday** — Psalms 12 & Isaiah 13-15

**Sunday** — Psalms 13 & Isaiah 16-18

**Monday** — Psalms 14 & Isaiah 19-21

**Tuesday** — Psalms 15 & Isaiah 22-24

**Wednesday** — Psalms 16 & Isaiah 25-27

**Thursday** — Psalms 17 & Isaiah 28-30



Santa Claus greets a Mountain Post child at the Holiday Village. Not only could the children let their holiday wishes be known, but they could also have their photograph taken with the jolly man.



Brittany Homier, 18 months, gazes in awe at the dazzling light display that illuminated the Holiday Village at the Special Events Center Thursday. Many children ran and played in the village park while waiting in line to tell Santa what they wished for Christmas.

Photos by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger



Col. Michael Resty Jr., garrison commander, Fort Carson, lets some Fort Carson youths know that a special visitor is on the way. Santa Claus arrived shortly after to speak with the children and be photographed.



# It's a wonderful village

by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger  
Mountaineer staff

Holiday spirit filled the air this past weekend. Wagon rides and Santa Claus, holiday snacks and crafts for children were just a few of the things available for the Mountain Post community to enjoy. The Holiday Village was open to the Fort Carson community at the Special Events Center Thursday through Saturday. The inside of the Special Events Center was decorated to resemble a winter village with a centralized park, snow-crested buildings and two gazebos.

Some of the buildings that made up the village were The Wonderland Library, The Holiday Craft Mall, The Avalanche Café and Frosty's Village Bakery.

The event began with a lighting ceremony featuring Col. Michael Resty Jr., garrison commander, Fort Carson, and the children of Fort Carson. The ceremony didn't light just one tree but the entire village in a holiday glow that could have warmed even the coldest of hearts.

Members of the Fort Carson community were treated to wagon rides to Ironhorse Park and back, music provided by local choirs and musicians, a

back-lit ice sculpture in the shape of the words "Merry Christmas" and the opportunity to tell Santa Claus what they wanted for the holidays.

Entertainment was provided by a plethora of local talent such as Maestro the Magician, Hurley the Clown, Actors Community Playhouse Singers, Colorado Springs Ballet, Serendipity Peak Dulcimer Club, Prussman Chapel choir, Carol-okey, Fort Carson Skies Unlimited, Fountain-Fort Carson High School band and choir, Harmony in Motion and the Dickens Victorian Carolers.

The Avalanche Café and Frosty's Village Bakery provided holiday treats galore. Turkey legs, pretzels, bratwursts, eggnog, hot chocolate and gluhwein, a spiced wine, were just some of the food and drink available. The bakery had treats sold by 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Family Readiness Group, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team Family Readiness Group, the Officers' Spouses' Club and the Enlisted Spouses Charitable Organization.

Crafts made by the Youth Service youngsters were sold in the teen craft shop and Child and Youth Services provided several craft opportunities for kids to make ornaments to put on their trees at home.

Outside of the Special Events Center sat Fort

Carson's first fire truck, a 1941 Seagrave, adorned in many Christmas lights and a banner on the front that read, "God Bless America." Fire Station 34, located at Turkey Creek Ranch, provided the fire truck.

"This event is always such fun to put on for the community," said Ann Edinger, community event coordinator, Directorate of Community Activities. "It took lots of different teams to turn the Special Events Center into a wonderful winter wonderland. The hours they put in showed in the final product.

"We have already begun to plan for next year's holiday event, to make a totally different experience for the community," said Edinger.

Sponsors for the event included USAA, Government Personal Mutual, 1st Community Bank, 1st Command, Southwest Diagnostic, Texas Road House and Summit Group.

With many military personnel and their families leaving post for the holidays, oftentimes the community does not get the opportunity to celebrate Christmas together. The Holiday Village was a perfect opportunity for the Mountain Post community to come together and celebrate this season of loving and sharing in a most festive and Carson-like way.

# Out & About

Dec. 12 - 19, 2003



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31 December 2003

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Breakfast Buffet  
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## Fort Carson Child and Youth Services



For more information on exciting upcoming events and services provided by your Fort Carson Child and Youth Services please call.

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Divot's Grill  
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Will Be Available  
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# Sports & Leisure

## Eagles basketball teams finish regular season on high note

by Bill Scharton  
Mountaineer staff

The Carson Middle School Eagles seventh and eighth-grade boys basketball teams defeated their counterparts from Ellicott Middle School Dec. 3 at the Carson gym to finish the regular season on a winning note.

The victory gave the seventh-grade Eagles a 6-3 record overall and a 4-2 division mark. The eighth-grade Eagles improved to 4-5 overall and 3-3 in division play with the win over Ellicott.

As usual, Eagles forward Devyn Harris paced the attack in the easy 48-26 victory over the Ellicott Hawks. Harris scored a game-high 25 points and also led the Eagles in rebounding and blocked shots.

The Eagles basically put the game away in the second quarter. Carson had a 12-7 first period lead and built this lead to 29-14 at halftime.

A dominating third quarter put the game on ice for Carson, and the Eagles rolled to victory. The other leading scorers for Carson were Anthony Pritchard (8), Jeremy Green (7), and Carlos Melendez (5).

The eighth-grade Eagles used a balanced scoring attack en route to a 46-39 win over Ellicott. The win was the second in a row for the



Jerry Ventura, left, plays tough defense for the Carson eighth-grade Eagles with the encouragement of head coach Greg Williams. Ventura and the Eagles defeated Ellicott in the regular season finale Dec. 3



Carson eighth-grade center Dominique Smith pulls down a rebound for the Eagles during a final regular season game win over Ellicott Dec. 3.

eighth-graders and gave them a level 3-3 record in division play.

The game was a see-saw contest throughout. Ellicott maintained a slim 6-4 lead after one quarter of play. Carson bounced back and outscored Ellicott 14-8 to grab an 18-14 halftime lead.

Third quarter play was tight all the way. In the period, Ellicott outscored Carson 15-13, and the Eagles lead was only 31-29 heading into the deciding fourth frame.

Eagles' point guard Chris Locklin took charge in this decisive fourth quarter and led the team to victory. He canned three key jump shots, hit a pair of important free throws and had several key assists during the quarter. The Eagles kept Ellicott from scoring during the last minute and a half of the game while scoring five points of their own.

"We really played well as a team in the fourth quarter," said Locklin. "It was great to end the regular season with a win at home."

The eighth-grade Eagles participated in a post-season tournament this week. Seventh-graders do not play a post-season tourney.

The Carson Middle School Eagles seventh and eighth-grade girls basketball teams begin practice Monday.



Carson seventh-grade forward Devyn Harris snares a rebound during the Eagles 48-26 victory over Ellicott Dec. 3.

Photos by Bill Scharton

# Army goes for another boxing championship

by **Bill Scharton**  
**Moutaineer staff**

The All-Army boxing team went after its 13th straight Armed Forces Boxing Championship this week at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Army has dominated the Armed Forces Boxing Championship down through the years. Along with the current title and 12 in a row, Army has captured 23 of the last 24 titles and 25 of 27 championships overall.

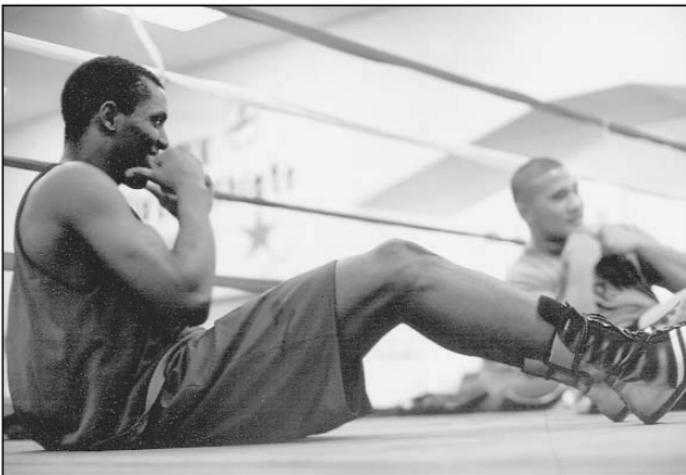


Photo by Bill Scharton

**All-Army boxing team member Clarence Joseph works on his stomach muscles in preparation for the Armed Forces Boxing Championships this week at Camp Lejeune, N.C.**

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

When asked if there was any pressure to repeat as champions and to continue the dominance of the Army boxing team, Abdullah chuckled but was serious in his response. "I certainly do not want to be the coach that loses the Armed Forces championship," said Abdullah. "This is what we live for. We will be ready to defend the title."

According to Abdullah, the Army boxers will have a lot of motivation behind their performances.

Winners of each of the weight classes at the Armed Forces Boxing Championships will earn a spot in the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials along with an automatic qualification for the 2004 Golden Gloves Championships and the 2004 international military competition.

Three Army boxers have already earned a

spot in the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials by winning their weight class at other national tournaments earlier this year. They are Clarence Joseph (Golden Gloves champion), Edward Joseph (PAL champion) and DeAndrey Abron (Golden Gloves champion). The 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials will be in Tunica, Miss., in February.

Six female boxers will also be competing for Army at the Armed Forces Boxing Championships.

The female competition will not count towards the team championship.

## **The Army boxing team representatives at the Armed Forces Boxing Championships are:**

- 119 pounds-Torrence Daniels**
- 119 pounds-Christina Boilard**
- 132 pounds-Mahlon Kerwich**
- 125 pounds-Sherie Retamozzo**
- 141 pounds-Keith Mason**
- 132 pounds-Betzaida Espinoza**
- 152 pounds-Boyd Melson**
- 145 pounds-Kerlyn Orellana**
- 165 pounds-Clarence Joseph**
- 154 pounds-Jennifer Greb**
- 178 pounds-DeAndrey Abron**
- 165 pounds-Danielle Miner**
- 201 pounds-Charles Leverette**
- 201+ pounds-Deutsch Puu**

# Former 3rd ACR officer selected as head football coach for West Point

by **Bob Beretta**  
**Army News Service**

**WEST POINT, N.Y.** —The leadership at the U.S. Military Academy announced the hiring of Bobby Ross Tuesday as the Black Knights' new head football coach.

The Army's football team went 0-13 during the 2003 season and is 0-15 over the last 15 games. The Black Knights lost their last game Dec. 6 to the U.S. Naval Academy's Midshipmen 34-6.

"Bobby Ross is highly qualified — his reputation as a coach speaks for itself. We are very confident that he has what it takes to restore a winning tradition to Army football," said USMA Superintendent Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox Jr.

Ross, who has built championship programs at both the collegiate and professional levels, was named the 34th head coach in the history of intercollegiate football at the U.S. Military Academy.

Ross has been out of coaching since resigning from his position with the Detroit Lions nine games into the 2000 season.

"I'm extremely excited about being named the head football coach at Army," said Ross. "From my very youth, right up until the present time, I've always had a tremendous amount of respect for West Point and what it's stood for. I think it's a place of great pride and tradition, and a place of great learning. I think it represents college football in its purest form, and I'm very, very proud to have the opportu-

nity to be associated with the Academy."

Before taking the job at Georgia Tech, Ross spent five seasons at the University of Maryland, where his Terrapin teams were celebrated for their explosive offenses. During his time at Maryland, the Terrapins compiled a sparkling 39-19-1 record (.607), with Ross guiding UM to three ACC titles and four bowl games. Ross' Maryland teams produced a number of outstanding talents, including All-American quarterbacks Boomer Esiason, Frank Reich and Stan Gelbaugh, as well as former Detroit Lions All-Pro center Kevin Glover.

Ross began his collegiate coaching career in 1965, following his time in the Army. He went on to serve assistant coaching stints at William & Mary, Rice and Maryland before accepting his first head-coaching job at The Citadel in 1973. He spent four years as an assistant coach with the Kansas City Chiefs (1978-81) before returning to the collegiate ranks as head coach at Maryland.

"Today marks the end of a long and exhaustive process, and the beginning of a great new chapter in the history of Army's proud football program," said Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Rick Greenspan. "We couldn't be more excited to turn the reins of our program over to someone the stature of Bobby Ross ... Most importantly, we feel Coach Ross will be an outstanding role model for our young men, casting an eye toward our primary mission of developing leaders of character for the United States Army."

A head coach in the college ranks for 15 years prior to serving successful stints directing the San Diego Chargers and the Detroit Lions in the National Football League, Ross has led Georgia Tech to a national title and the Chargers to a Super Bowl.

Ross compiled a 94-76-2 (.552) in 15 seasons as head coach at The Citadel (1973-77), Maryland (1982-86) and Georgia Tech (1987-91). He guided the Yellow Jackets to an 11-0-1 record and shared the national championship with Colorado in 1990.

During nearly nine seasons at the helm of the Chargers (1992-96) and Lions (1997-2000), Ross authored a 77-68 overall record (.531). His clubs reached the playoffs in three of his five years in San Diego, guiding the Chargers to their only American Football Conference title and Super Bowl appearance in 1994. He also led the Lions to a pair of playoff showings, serving in the dual role of head coach and vice president for football operations.

Lennox said Ross' solid reputation and proven leadership abilities would be a tremendous asset to the Academy. "Bobby Ross has a stellar achievement record," Lennox said. "His leadership ability will benefit our cadets both on and off the field."

"When we began our national search back in October, our primary goal was to hire a person that we felt would represent the institution and its core

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**See Ross, Page 24**



Photo by Bill Scharton

## Winning serve...

Jim Flagg demonstrates the form that served him well during the Thanksgiving week racquetball tournament at Garcia Physical Fitness Center. Flagg defeated Zeke Mazyck for the tournament title. The next Fort Carson racquetball tournament will be Dec. 16 to 18 at Waller Physical Fitness Center.

## Ross

From Page 23

values to the fullest, while restoring the competitive success of our football program," Lennox said. "We feel very confident that we've accomplished that with the hiring of Bobby Ross." Lennox said he was determined to find a coach who would add to the rich history of the Academy's football program. "We conducted an exhaustive search for an individual who personifies the core values of our institution and who fully understands the key role that football plays in our process of creating leaders of character.

"The spirit of West Point really appealed to me," Ross said. "My background has a military tone."

Ross' two sons graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy and Naval Academy respectively, and he served three years as a lieutenant in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"I have a deep appreciation of what West Point stands for and a deep respect for it," he said. "I know this - that West Point boasts some of the finest young men that any institution could ever offer. I look forward to the opportunity to work with them and to be an integral part of their lives while at the Academy."

"When you've done something for 44 years and then it leaves you for a period of time, you get very excited about returning to it," Ross explained. "When the leadership at the Academy offered me this opportunity, I

was extremely excited and I jumped at it, to be very honest. I've followed football during the period of time that I've been away from coaching, followed it collegiately and professionally, so I think I'm well-versed and well-rested to begin anew.

"I've studied Army's roster closely. I know we lose just 10 seniors, only three of which were starters, so it's a young football team. There's a lot to be done between now and when we get on the field for spring practice. I think the initial response by myself will be to meet with each and every one of the players. I know they start exams soon, but I'm hoping to have the opportunity to sit down with each one on a personal, one-on-one basis and get to know them first and foremost. Before we do anything, before we can block and tackle and run and throw and catch, I think we've got to build a bond of trust. I'm going to be very open and up front with our players. My door is going to be open at all times. I want to get to know them right away and start working on our bond of trust that I think begins the building of our football family."

Ross will begin his new duties at Army immediately, assuming full control of one of the nation's most storied gridiron programs this afternoon. He expects to begin building his initial Black Knight coaching staff in the days ahead.

*(Editor's note: Bob Beretta is the associate director for athletic media relations at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.)*



## *Strike ...*

Shawn Krajewski displays fine form while bowling in the Fort Carson intramural bowling league at the Thunder Alley facility.

Photo by Bill Scharton

Walking ...

# In a winter wonderland



Courtesy photo

The Denver Zoo's "Wildlights" display is featured through December, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The zoo is in Denver's City Park.

by Nel Lampe  
Mountaineer staff

nce you've seen the local holiday parade and the zoo lights, perhaps it's time for a change of scenery. The

city of Denver is just a little over an hour away and there's a great selection of holiday venues available.

Plan to stay until dark to take in the full impact of the holiday lights, or spend a couple of days and nights and make it a mini-vacation. Some downtown hotels have holiday specials which start at \$68. Go online at [www.denver.org](http://www.denver.org) or call (800) 2-DENVER for hotel information.

One of the famous sights in Denver is the Denver City and County Building, which is downtown. The

building is light- ed with 30,000 red and green floodlights. The building is lit throughout the holidays and through the National Western Stock Show in January. The City and County Building is just west of the State Capitol building.

Musical chimes ring out from the building from 7 to 9 p.m., and 10 bronze bells provide music from the clock tower.



Courtesy photo

Colorado Ocean Journey features a "Scuba Santa" show during the holidays.

Union Station is also downtown at 17th and Wynkoop Streets. It is close to the 16th Street Mall.

Larimer Square, the restored historic shopping district, between 14th and 15th streets, is decorated with 200,000 twinkling lights. Larimer Street was the site for Denver's first post office, theater, bank and drygoods store in the 1850s. Holiday activities at Larimer Square include carolers, roasted chestnuts, a decorated tree and music. Specialty shops are along Larimer Street along with lots of places to dine.

A traditional German Christmas Market, called "Christkindl Market," is situated along the 16th Street Mall at Glenarm, between 15th and 17th streets. Dozens of vendor booths are housed in decorated wooden huts, similar to that of traditional German markets. Mouth-watering smells waft



Courtesy photo

The Denver Botanical Gardens are ablaze in lights during the holiday "Blossoms of Light."

# Places to see in the Pikes Peak area



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

Dec. 12, 2003

## Denver sights

From Page 27

through the Christmas market, such as baking breads, grilling bratwursts and simmering gluhwein. Hot-spiced cider, potato pancakes and gingerbread and other German treats are also available. A lighted 26-foot traditional pyramid, a 40-foot Christmas tree, an antique carousel and Kinderfun activities help round out the market. Performers and music groups entertain. The Christkindl Market is free and open to the public Monday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays the market is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday hours are noon to 6 p.m.

The 16th Street Mall is a two-mile long pedestrian mall. As no automobile traffic is allowed, free shuttle buses constantly traverse 16th Street. Along the 16th Street Mall there are businesses, hotels, theaters and a large number of places to eat.

The Denver Pavilions is a 350,000 square-foot shopping, entertainment and dining complex, which is at 500 16th Street Mall, between Tremont and Welton Streets. The Pavilion includes Nike Town, a 15-screen theater, Wolfgang Puck Grand Café, Hard Rock Café and many other shops and eating places. Holiday lights decorate the trees and shops along the mall.

Another place to visit is the Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York Street, phone (720) 865-3500. The gardens are popular anytime of year but a visit to the 23-acre garden is especially beautiful during the holiday "Blossoms of Light." Blossoms of Light is open every night from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for ages 4 to 15 and free for children 3 and under. Warm drinks are available.

Denver Botanic Gardens is just east of downtown, before reaching City Park, where the Denver Zoo is located.

The annual "Wildlights" display in the Denver Zoo until the end of December. Visitors enjoy millions of sparkling lights throughout the zoo's 35 acres. There are glittering trees, animated light sculptures. Entertainment is provided by musical groups, carolers and dancers. Warming stations throughout the zoo offer hot chocolate and cider, soft pretzels and cappuccino.

Hours are 5:30 to 9 p.m. through Dec. 31.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$4 for ages 4 to 12 and free for children under 3. Call (303) 376-4800 for information or go online at [www.denverzoo.org](http://www.denverzoo.org).

A Scuba Santa makes appearances at Colorado's Ocean Journey, 700 Water St., at Exit 211. This Santa wears flippers and dives with colorful fish at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Dec. 20 and 21. There will be two shows Dec. 22 and 23, at 11:15 and 3 p.m. There's one show Christmas Eve at 11:15 p.m., and the aquarium closes at 2 p.m. The aquarium is closed Christmas Day. Admission to the aquarium is \$14.95 for adults and \$12.95 for children. Admission is free for ages 3 and under. Ocean Journey is open from 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. daily.

Denver's Four Mile Historic Park celebrates "A Colorado Christmas" Saturday, in which the holiday is celebrated the way it used to be. Hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Horse-drawn rides are \$1 per person, admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Children under 6 are admitted free. Four Mile Historic Park is at 715 S. Forest St. Call (303) 399-1859 for information.

Several holiday-related productions are in Denver area theaters.

"Santa's Big Red Sack Reloaded" is presented by the Rattlebrain Theater Company and is showing through Dec. 28. Call (720) 932-7384 for tickets and show times.

"The Nutcracker" is presented by the Colorado Ballet at the Paramount Theatre through Dec. 28. Call (303) 893-4100.

"A Christmas Carol" is at the Stage Theatre at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. Call (303) 893-4100 for tickets and show times, showing through Dec. 28.

"Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum," presented by the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble is in the Space Theatre at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, through Dec. 21. For information call (303) 295-1759.

"Disney on Ice presents "Disney's Princess Classics" at the Pepsi Center through Sunday. Call (303) 830-TIXS for information.

Several downtown Denver hotels have specials during the holidays.

Go online to [www.denvermetroconventionandvisitorbureau](http://www.denvermetroconventionandvisitorbureau) and click on holiday specials or call (800) 462 5280. Of course, Denver has



Courtesy photos

**Denver's German-style Christmas Market, Christkindl Market, is near the Pavilions on the 16th Street Mall. TOP: A musician in lederhosen adds a German touch to Christmas carols. BOTTOM: Two young shoppers choose a special Christmas tree ornament.**

many motel chains, such as Motel 6, Holiday Inn Express, etc.

A free visitor's guide for Colorado called "Key," is available at the Colorado Springs Visitors and Convention Bureau, 515 S. Cascade Ave. The Key has information about Denver attractions as well as maps. The Bureau is open from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To reach Denver, take Interstate 25 north about 70 miles. Take the Colorado Boulevard Exit to reach City Park, where the Denver Zoo is located. Take the Colfax Exit to reach downtown.



Courtesy photo

**The Denver City and County Building is ablaze with 30,000 red and green lights during the holiday season.**

### Just the Facts

- **Travel time** about an hour
- **For ages** all
- **Type** Holiday activities
- **Fun factor** ★★★★★ (Out of 5 stars)
- **Wallet damage** varies
  - \$ = Less than \$20
  - \$\$ = \$21 to \$40
  - Based on a family of four)

## Get Out!

### Mining Museum

**Super Saturday at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry** is Saturday. "What's Mined is Music" is from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn how mined minerals become the musical instruments and make an instrument. Admission is \$3 per person, call 488-0880 for reservations. The museum is at 1025 N. Gate Road, opposite the north entrance to the Air Force Academy.

### Denver Art Museum

"El Greco to Picasso," a collection from the Phillips Collection, is at the Denver Art Museum through Jan. 4.

### Ice show

**Disney on Ice Presents Disney's Princess Classics** at the Pepsi Center through Sunday. Call (303) 830-TIXS for tickets.

### Musicals

"Grease" is set for Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave. in downtown Colorado Springs. Tickets begin at \$25 and are sold at 520-SHOW or 520-9090.

"It's a Wonderful Life," a new musical based on the black and white movie, is in the Fine Arts Center theater through Dec. 21. Shows are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. Sundays. Call 634-5583 for tickets.

### Nutcracker

"The Nutcracker," a Colorado Ballet production, is in the Paramount Theatre, 1621 Glenarm Place in Denver, just off the 16th Street Mall. Performances are Thursdays through Sundays, with some matinee performances. Ticket prices begin at \$10, and are available online through Ticketmaster at 520-9090 or at [www.ColoradoBallet.com](http://www.ColoradoBallet.com), through Dec. 28.

### Christmas at Children's Museum

The Buell Children's Museum celebrates the holidays with "Everything Nutcracker," through Jan. 3. The museum at 2100 N. Santa Fe Ave., in

Pueblo, is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. Take exit 98b off Interstate 25 south.

### Imagination Celebration

"Sarah, Plain and Tall," a presentation by TheatreWorks USA, from New York City, is at the Pikes Peak Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Tickets are \$9.50, call 520-SHOW. The doors open at 6 p.m. for Imagination Celebration lobby activities.

### Holiday at the Zoo

"Holiday at the Zoo" is the Colorado Springs Philharmonic presentation Dec. 28 at 2:30 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade. Call 520-7469 for tickets.

### New Years Eve Concert

The Colorado Springs Philharmonic presents a New Year's Eve Concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 31. Tickets are available at 520-7469.

### Comedian

Jerry Seinfeld is set for two shows Jan. 30 at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade. Call 520-SHOW for tickets which start at \$46.50.

### Dragon Tales Live

"Dragon Tales Live" takes a Journey to Crystal Cave. This adventure with singalong music features Emmy, Max and their Dragon Land friends. Shows are Jan. 16 at 7 p.m., Jan. 17 at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Jan. 18 at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Ticket prices begin at \$12; call 587-2626 or go online at [www.dragontaleslive.com](http://www.dragontaleslive.com).

### Free opera

Amahl and the Night Visitors in one act is presented free by the Colorado Springs Conservatory and the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Bon Vivant Theater, on Austin Bluffs Parkway, at 3 p.m. Saturday at Focus on the Family. Call 577-4556 for information.

### Seven Falls in holiday lights

Seven Falls is lighted each year during the holidays. From Dec. 18 to 28, evening admission is suspended and entrance is a \$3 donation to charity. Seven Falls is closed Christmas Eve.

Souvenirs and refreshments are available for purchase.

### Rocky Mountain Christmas

Old Colorado City celebrates "A Rocky Mountain Christmas" during weekends until Christmas, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., there's Santa Claus, carolers and horse-drawn carriage rides. Old Colorado City is a restored historic shopping district on West Colorado Avenue, between 24th and 27th streets.

### Holidays at the zoos

"Electricritters" is through December in the Pueblo Zoo. The special holiday exhibition allows visitors to take a lighted walking tour on the wild side. A small admission is charged; go online at [www.pueblozoo.org](http://www.pueblozoo.org).

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo has its "Electric Safari" through Jan. 1, except for Christmas Eve. The zoo is filled with electric lights and animal sculptures. Admission is \$5.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 3 to 11 and free for those under 3. Electric Safari is open from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m., but the last ticket is sold at 8 p.m.

"Wildlights" at the Denver Zoo runs through Dec. 31, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., when the whole zoo is bathed in holiday lights. Admission is \$7 for adults; children 3 to 11 are \$4 and under 2 are admitted free. Ice-sculpting demonstrations are each Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. The Denver Zoo is in City Park, just off Colorado Boulevard going north.

### Castles in Christmas decor

Rosemount Castle in Pueblo is decorated in elaborate Victorian style for the holidays. Tours are available Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults and children 6 to 18 are \$4.

Miramont Castle in Manitou Springs has cider and cookies Saturday and Sunday as a Victorian Christmas is celebrated. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, and \$1 to \$3 for children; call 685-1011.



Courtesy graphic

***NORAD sees Santa ...***  
Every year Santa's travels are watched by the men and women of North American Aerospace Defense Command. Starting early Christmas Eve NORAD posts a world map on the Web site [www.NORAD.mil](http://www.NORAD.mil). The map is updated throughout the day. This year's honorary Santa Tracker is Ringo Starr, who will track Santa when he visits Great Britain.

Program Schedule for Fort Carson cable Channel 10, today to Dec. 19.

Special Program: President George W. Bush addresses the Soldiers, civilians and family members of Fort Carson. Airs at 7 a.m., noon, 7 p.m. and midnight.

Army Newswatch: includes stories on the fiscal 2004 Defense Appropriation Bill, the incoming Sgt. Major of the Army and combat stress control. Airs at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Navy/Marine Corps News: includes stories on deploying the USS Cole, aboard the submarine the USS Montpelier and Naval Station Rota, Spain. Airs at 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Air Force News: Special Edition: "Making of a Pilot." Airs at 8:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 8:30

p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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