

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Responsible viewpoint necessary to eliminate wasted tax dollars

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

"Reduce, reuse and recycle are good ideas but those three concepts should only be the last resort. What you really need to focus on are the other words that begin with R - reconsider and refuse. Before you even acquire a disposable good, ask yourself why you need this consumer product. And then turn it down. Refuse it. You can."

— Eustace Conway in "The Last American Man"



Col. Brown

other facilities. It is anticipated most employees will not notice the changes in service because they are minor.

MOWING

The frequency of seasonal grass mowing will be reduced to save money. Grass

mowing, for the majority of the installation, has been performed on a seven-day cycle. These areas now will be mowed at closer to a 14-day cycle. Road shoulders will be maintained at only one mower width wide and only the fronts of motor pools will be cut at all. These changes and others will result in an approximate \$1.1 million annual savings. High visibility areas such as the Post Cemetery and parade fields will be maintained at the previous standards.

MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY

A few changes to supply and maintenance services will be noticeable to garrison customers. Instead of employees going to units, units now will need to bring weapons to Building 8100 for annual gauging. In Building 7920, known to most as the Star Building, delivery and pick up of supplies will revert to being a brigade requirement. However, delivery and pick up will continue for those garrison units without transportation assets. Units also will be required to deliver excess supplies for turn in. For packing and crating, organizations will need to make appointments to facilitate the streamlined process. Also, the wait time for requested parts may be longer. However, Soldiers may do a "high-pri" walkthrough if the part is required immediately.

At the Central Issue Facility, individual Soldiers will be required to

make appointments to be issued gear and to turn in gear. Due to a slower turn around process in cleaning and restocking the gear, it may be necessary for a Soldier to make more than one appointment when being issued gear.

Dining facilities will no longer provide carry out or drive through services, except the DFAC at Irwin Army Community Hospital, which will continue carry out service.

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We've gotten along without these services in the past, and can survive well into the future without them, as well. It's just one piece of what we can do to reconsider our responsibilities to taxpayers, our Families and ourselves.

Instead of thinking it is everyone else's responsibility to provide us with what we need, what if we turn it around and ask what we can provide. Or, in the words of another president, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Think about how you can help Fort Riley maintain its services without going overboard. Where can you volunteer to make a difference? What can you do in your office to help conserve?

Sustainability, along with the other aspects of the FR 2015 Campaign Plan, are broad concepts. They involve making Fort Riley the best division-level installation in the Army and being smart about doing it. Each person on this installation is responsible for something. Whether it be their home and Family, a unit of Soldiers or a civilian office, there are things we can all do to take responsibility for what we use and the services we provide.

To comment on this column or suggest a topic for Community Corner, e-mail rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.

HOUSE FILL AD

BOSS raises money with sing-a-grams

By Parker Rome
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Unsuspecting Soldiers and civilians around Fort Riley were surprised with serenades just in time for Valentine's Day.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers was hired to deliver sing-a-grams Feb. 9 to 11 to a list of individuals named by their Valentines.

"We've been having a lot of fun for the

last three days," said Spc. Desaree Molina, BOSS president.

Along with the serenades, the package included gift baskets full of candy, balloons and a free car wash from Briggs Auto in Manhattan.

Songs included "You are my Sunshine," "The Temptations' 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and Aerosmith's "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing."

One patron made a special song re-

quest for the BOSS singers to perform.

"We had a request for the 'Big Red One' song, which was kind of fun," Molina said.

BOSS delivered more than 10 sing-a-grams each day, including 17 on Feb. 11.

"The best part was embarrassing people and seeing their red faces," Molina said.

The effort was a fundraiser for the BOSS program.

Employee readiness event to feature seminars, home business starting tips

By Deikya Greer
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Army Community Service Office is hosting an Employment Readiness Event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 23 at Riley's Conference Center.

The day will be filled with seminars on education, starting a home business and a lunchtime speaker, Chris Biggs from the Kansas Security Commission.

"We will cover the full spectrum of employment here," said Teresa Johnson, of Army Community Service's Employment Readiness Program. "From getting a job in a new place to getting a career that follows you from place to place. As military spouses we all have to deal with finding new jobs as we relocate. This will help make those transitions smoother. We will also have information

on education funding and how to attend the schools offered here on post."

The education seminars will have representatives from Barton Community College and K-State. The seminars will focus on ways to obtain a high school diploma or General Educational Development diploma. For those looking into higher education, opportunities will exist to talk about bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

In addition, the technical schools in the area such as Manhattan Technical College and Cloud County Community College will be available from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for participants who are looking to join the health care field and become a registered nurse, a certified nursing assistant or a licensed practical nurse. The welding department from Manhattan Technical College also will

be available for questions.

Lunch will be provided by the Kansas State University Research and Extension Office for those who registered by Feb. 16.

Child care for military Families will be available for those who pre-register.

The afternoon sessions will focus on working from home and the difference between operating your own business and working from home.

The Geary County Learning Center, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Non-Appropriated Funds and Irwin Army Community Hospital will be present to speak with individuals.

Due to limited space, those interested are asked to pre-register. To register or for more information on the event or child care, call Johnson at 785-239-9435.

Early lessons in money management can pay off in long run for children

K-STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Children who see their parents pay for items with a credit or debit card, rather than cash, may have some misconceptions about money, said Carol Young, Kansas State University Research and Extension financial management specialist.

Young encourages parents to take children along when banking. Children need to see their parents handling money, said

Young, who also recommended helping a child open a savings account.

"Talk to your child about his or her short-term goals, such as saving for a bicycle, and long-term goals, which might include a specialty camp, and encourage saving toward those goals," she said.

Doing so can lay a foundation for financial responsibility — and security — later in life.

When at the bank, Young recommends explaining to a child why money

or dad is making a savings deposit toward the Family's short- and long-term goals or moving money to a checking or debit account to pay bills.

While Family life is busy and banking online convenient, the financial management specialist said, "Children can still benefit from the bank experience."

More information is available at county and district K-State Research and Extension offices and online at www.ksre.ksu.edu/financialmanagement.