

COMMUNITY CORNER

# Commander urges Families to attend upcoming post events, enjoy summer

By Col. Kevin Brown  
GARRISON COMMANDER

This week, on June 21, was the first day of summer. The kids have been out of school for a few weeks, the temperatures are warming up and many Families across post are planning or taking vacations.

In the next week, Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division have some exciting events coming up I hope you can take a little time out of your summer to enjoy.

From June 27 to 30, the 1st Infantry Division will celebrate Victory Week – a four-day celebration of the Army's oldest division, the "Big Red One." The week will begin at 6:30 a.m. June 27 with a Victory Run, where nearly 10,000 Soldiers from units across the division will participate in a four-mile run on Custer Hill.

Family readiness groups and other supporters are encouraged to support our Soldiers on this run to kick off Victory Week. As you may have seen on page 2 of the post newspaper, three locations are accessible for Family readiness groups under road closures:

- Ballard and Apennines
  - Graves and Apennines
  - Conner and Apennines
- Please take extra time if

attending the Victory Run – or any activity during Victory Week – as road closures and traffic delays may occur.



Col. Brown

Another important event during Victory Week I'd like to highlight is the Victory Park ceremony.

The ceremony, which is at 2:30 p.m. June 29 in front of the 1st Inf. Div. headquarters, Building 580, will honor fallen service members from the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley.

If you are able, I encourage you to attend this event to honor Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and our freedom. More than 20 Soldiers, who have died in the last 18 months, will be honored at Victory Park.

As we honor our fallen comrades during Victory Week, we also will do so with a grand opening of a neighborhood center, named after two U.S. Army Medal of Honor recipients – Cpl. Henry F. Warner and Staff Sgt. George Peterson. Both men earned their medals in Europe during World War II.

Fort Riley and our housing partner, Picene Military Housing, will open the third

facility of this kind on the post with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. June 28 at 5570 AP Hill on Custer Hill.

The Warner Peterson Neighborhood Center is an 8,200-square-foot Family-friendly facility with a club room, computer lab, media room, laundry facility and meeting space with a kitchen. It also boasts a fitness room, pool with beach entry and water features, as well as neighborhood offices.

In these warm summer months – and always – I hope you take advantage of the common facilities provided by Picene.

And if you are still looking for other summer activities, check out the latest Fort Riley Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation guide, found at most DFMWR locations and also available on [www.rileymwr.com](http://www.rileymwr.com). The post has pool parties, summer camps, softball tournaments, lake activities, concerts and much more to offer.

Take advantage of these great opportunities right in your backyard. Get outside and enjoy this warm weather while it lasts.

To comment on this article or suggest a topic for Community Corner, email [rile.post.newspaper@comus.army.mil](mailto:rile.post.newspaper@comus.army.mil).

## 'Summerize' vehicles from heat

By Melony Gabbert  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

When winter approaches, winterizing a car seems fairly common, but summertime may present other grueling conditions for an automobile – high temperatures, extended drives, more outings, road repairs and delays.

So, as the hotter part of summer approaches, consider basic maintenance issues like fluid checks, tire tread and pressure checks, hose and belt checks and a battery check to keep vehicles running smoothly. The air filter and windshield wiper blades also may need replaced. To keep passengers or the vehicle from overheating, consider replacing the coolant and having the air conditioning serviced. Radiators and cooling systems need to be clean to keep a car cool.

Replacing the coolant involves flushing the radiator and reintroducing antifreeze. According to AAA of Kansas, old coolant can develop an electric charge, which leads to premature corrosion inside of the radiator and within the engine. This process could lead to a leak, and, in turn, lead to a total breakdown and an expensive repair bill. Who hasn't seen an overheated car on the side of the road? Replacing coolant as recommended in an automobile manual, usually every 30,000 to 60,000 miles, is actually quite cost and time efficient.

Servicing the air condition-

ing generally consists of an inspection and perhaps adding the pressurized refrigerant, Freon. The refrigerant can slowly leak over time or there may actually be a substantial leak. Having the air conditioning serviced will keep occupants much more comfortable while inside the car during the hot summer and should prevent a sudden loss of air conditioning.

Because engines vary in size, in the amount of Freon necessary for optimal performance and in the type and amount of coolant, prices for these two services vary somewhat. A check of area automotive repair services found prices for air conditioning servicing to be about \$100 to \$150 and replacing coolant to be about \$85 to \$140. Some repair shops have coupons for some services on their websites.

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, offers the Automotive Skills Center, available to military, military Families, retired military and DOD civilian employees.

"We will give you all of the guidance you need," said Rick Newlon, one of the technicians. "To save you money, you do it yourself."

The facility provides tools, lift bays, an auto parts store, paint booth, body shop and more.

The center also offers a free 25-point inspection to all Family members of deployed Soldiers.

To qualify, verification of

deployment, an ID card and vehicle registration or vehicle's title are necessary. The free inspection will check the air conditioning and coolant level. Since Freon is regulated, and those handling it need a license, technicians will service the air conditioning unit for about \$100. Technicians will guide customers in flushing a radiator.

The Automotive Skills Center is located at 7753 Apennines Drive. The facility is available for use 24/7. Help is not available on Mondays or Tuesdays for services or guided assistance from a certified technician. The center is staffed from 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

For more information, call 785-239-9764 or 785-239-4028.



Parker Rome | POST

DeCa scholarship recipients Shanniqua Sheffield, center, and Brooke Bennett, second from right, pose with Peter J. Howell, Fort Riley Commissary store director, left; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Colvin Bennett Sr., second from left; and Garrison Commander Col. Kevin Brown, right, during an award ceremony June 17 at the Fort Riley Commissary.

## DeCa awards local recipients with scholarships for college

By Parker Rome  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Defense Commissary Agency awarded three Central Flint Hills Region students college scholarships for the next school year. The scholarships were awarded based on essays the students wrote about promoting health in their respective communities.

Shanniqua Sheffield, Brooke Bennett and Mark Muleski and were each given \$1,500 scholarships as part of the Scholarships for Military Children Program.

The Fort Riley Commissary had a ceremony for local recipients June 17.

"It means a lot to me because there were over 1,000 people who applied, so to get selected as one of only three, it means so much," Sheffield said. "Every little bit counts in scholarship money."

Sheffield, daughter of Staff Sgt. Corey Shannon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf.

Div., graduated from Junction City High School and plans to major in nursing at Georgia State University, Atlanta.

"I just wrote (in my scholarship application essay) about how there's a lot of opportunities to get involved to get healthy and get fit," Sheffield said. "It shows me that you can go and achieve great things. It's going to help me with school and everything, and I'm just really happy and excited."

Bennett, whose father is retired from the military, will be entering her senior year at Kansas State University, Manhattan, this fall.

"(The scholarship) means a lot," she said. "I actually applied for it my senior year of high school and wasn't awarded, so I was very excited to be awarded this time and got to see how my hard work had improved from when I was a senior in high school to when I'm entering my

senior year in college."

Bennett said she wrote about working with local fitness centers to have monthly open houses to encourage healthy lifestyles in the community.

Muleski, who just graduated from Marysville High School, was awarded his scholarship during his high school's senior award night. He plans on studying mechanical engineering and joining the ROTC program at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, he said. His father is retired Navy and was one of the first responders to the 9/11 attack.

"We're excited to report that the scholarship program continues to be a success in helping military families defray the cost of education," said Defense Commissary Agency Acting Director and Chief Executive Officer Thomas E. Milks. "We're proud to be associated with a program that has awarded 5,402 scholarships totaling more than \$8.3 million since its inception in 2001."

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