

COMMUNITY CORNER

Warrior Zone another way of increasing quality of life for Soldiers, Families

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

After being at Fort Riley for more than a month, I am happy to say I am pleased with all of the hard work I am seeing from our Soldiers and our civilians who support them.

Next week, we will celebrate all of the hard work that has gone into a big project – the opening of the new Fort Riley Warrior Zone – the first of its kind in the Army.

I invite all of you to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Aug. 23 at the new facility. And, at the end of the week, Aug. 26 and 27, I hope you will attend one of many events to celebrate the grand opening of the Warrior Zone. Live music will begin



Col. Clark

at 5 p.m. Aug. 26 and will continue until past midnight. Bands will include Muzizi, a reggae group from Manhattan; Soulicité, a Wichita alternative rock band; and Collab or Collide, a hip-hop group from Virginia. Additional attractions include demonstrations by Bikes Over Baghdad; a Call of Duty Black Ops tournament; pool tournament; Texas Hold Em lightning round; Muay Thai demonstration; Mortal Kombat tournament, as well

as many other free activities. For a full schedule of events, visit <http://rileymwr.com/main/?p=439> or call 785-239-6618. The Warrior Zone, which is located in Building 7867, next to Barlow Theater on Custer Hill, is more than 25,000 square feet. So far, I've heard it described as the "biggest, baddest, most high-tech" facility, and, I'm excited for what it will offer in terms of rest and relaxation for our Soldiers.

The new Warrior Zone will feature 68 computers for general use and gaming; 16 Xbox 360s with Kinect; 16 Playstation 3s with Move, with each console hooked up to a 55-inch flat screen TV; 30 additional TVs; four regulation-sized pool tables; three poker tables; a snack bar with seating for 75; a full bar with beer; a theater with 20 recliners; a 30-person conference room; and a patio with grills and a fire pit. We've created all of this

for you – the Soldier. This is a place where you can go and unwind. After a long day of work, you can blow off some steam right in your backyard, just a short walking distance from many of the barracks on Custer Hill. I hope that you embrace this facility as yours. *If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, send an email to rile-post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.*



Shandi Dix | POST

Children work on activities during the second annual Riley's Roundup Aug. 9 at Riley's Conference Center.

Riley's Roundup helps Families connect with each other on post

By Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation teamed up with the Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club, Enlisted Spouses Club and Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley to bring the Fort Riley community the second annual Riley's Roundup and Super Signup Aug. 9 at Riley's Conference Center.

"This year, what it's focused on is just information about the surrounding communities, what businesses have to offer for new Families to Fort Riley, and even the older ones that have been here for quite some time," said James Wade, relocation program manager, Army Community Service.

The event was focused on new Families to the Central Flint Hills Region; however, it also was open to Families who have been in the area for a longer period of time, as well as the general public.

The Family-orientated event had something for everyone, even the children, including inflatables, mule wagon rides provided by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, military working dog demonstrations and a static display by Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services.

Shannon Tomerlin, wife of Spc. David Tomerlin, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, said she attended this year's event to enjoy quality time with her kids while seeing what Fort Riley has to offer.

"It's nice just to be able to

bring my kids to nice events to meet new people," she said. "I think with Fort Riley being small and not much word-of-mouth travels, so when they put free events out, that's for you to get your hands on to actually see for yourself what's out there."

The spouse clubs used the event as an opportunity to increase membership numbers in their organizations.

"We're really excited to welcome all of the new spouses who have moved to Fort Riley over the summer, and we got together with MWR and the other spouse club organizations on the post and dreamt up this great event, where they can all come together at one time, join whichever of the clubs applied to them and get connected with the businesses and the community support organizations in the area that they would want to be involved with while they are here at Fort Riley," said Bevin Landrum, OCSC president.

OCSC had a goal of acquiring 100 of its 200-member goal for the year during the event.

Money raised from the vendor fees went back to the community to help Families with back-to-school expenses.

"We're going to contact the schools on post and donate all of the money ... dollar-for-dollar to buy school supplies for the Fort Riley kids," Landrum said. "It's a great way, at the beginning of the year, for the three spouse clubs to show that we're more than just an organization, we actually give back and help the community and all of Fort Riley."

Junction City and Manhattan businesses, as well as inde-

pendent consultants for sell-at-home businesses took part in the event.

"We wanted to come out and support the military spouses," said Rhonda Sharp, owner of a local beauty shop in Junction City. "We appreciate all the things that they do for us, so we wanted to come and be able to return a little bit of the favor."

Sharp said she feels the military is a wonderful addition to the community.

"We have a large military clientele – some of our best guests we've ever had," she said. "They are knowledgeable, they are like all of the different services, they come from all over the world, so they are familiar with a lot of the different services that we provide and what's not to like – it's a wonderful group of people."

Landrum said she believes that Fort Riley is a great place to live.

"You have to get involved and meet people and be active in the community where you live, not just sit at home and wish you were living somewhere else," she said. "We have great people here, and you just have to get out and meet them."

Landrum said she also felt the event was "an extreme example of partnerships."

"I'm just really proud to day when I look around and I see the crowd. You've got all the right people represented here, and every spouse that's comes through the doors today should be able to make at least 30 or 40 different connections for their family that will help them while they live here," she said.

SENATOR JOINS CAUSE



Mollie Miller | 1st Inf. Div.

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, far left, and his wife, Robba, second from left, join 1st Inf. Div. volunteers behind the serving line Aug. 12 during the bi-monthly No Dough Dinner. No Dough Dinners provides free meals for up to 250 Soldiers and their Families twice a month just before pay day. The Aug. 12 dinner was sponsored by American Legion Post 370 in Overland Park, Kan.

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