



FORGING THE

WARRIOR SPIRIT

THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

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Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

Dec. 13, 2019

WELCOME HOME PATRIOTS!

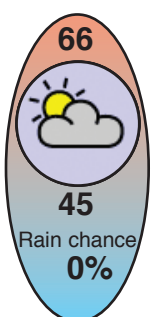


3/10 Mtn Soldiers return home for holidays

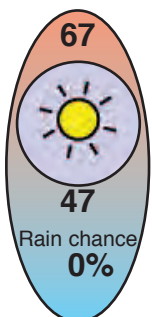
Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, return to Fort Polk after a six-month deployment to the southwestern U.S. More than 1,700 Soldiers took part in the de-

ployment. Ceremonies were held at Fort Polk's Warrior Gym to honor the returning heroes as they were reunited with Families and friends. See page 5 of today's Guardian for more photos.

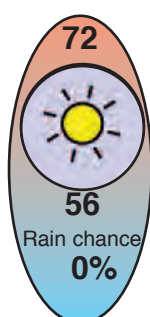
Weekend weather



Today



Saturday



Sunday

Inside the Guardian

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Viewpoint

In our view

Guardian staff asked Fort Polk community members, "Other than faith, what inspires you and why?" Here are their responses:



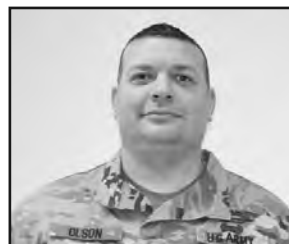
Dwight Winsett:
"Madisonian democracy because it gave us the greatest government on earth."



James Baer: "My family. They are my reason to get up in the morning."



Fatmata Kamara:
"My goals keep me focused on what I want most and my friends."



Staff Sgt. Jesse Olson: "My family because everything I do is for them."



Clifton Hill: "My family because they are what I live for — period."



Janice Breland:
"Seeing other people happy. That makes me happy."



Conrad Deocariza:
"Soldiers bettering themselves by getting their education."



Melissa Baugh: "Exercise, because it's the only time I do something for me."

Justice beat: Punishment administered to UCMJ violators

STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

FORT POLK, La. — The preamble to the Manual for Courts-Martial states, "The purpose of military law is to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the armed forces, to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the military establishment and thereby strengthen the national security of the United States."

At the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, the commanding general and subordinate commanders take good order and discipline seriously.

Across Fort Polk, the following disciplinary issues continue to be prevalent: Sexual assault, driving under the influence, wrongful use or possession of controlled substances, inappropriate relationships, fraternization and domestic violence. Below are recent examples of adverse legal actions across the installation.

- A staff sergeant, assigned to 519th Military Police Battalion, was issued a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for driving under the influence of alcohol. The Soldier

provided a breath sample that indicated a breath alcohol content of .0111%.

- A specialist, assigned to 32nd Hospital Center, was separated by an Administrative Separation Board pursuant to Chapter 14-12 (Commission of a Serious Offense) for having an inappropriate relationship with junior enlisted Soldiers. The separation board recommended the Soldier be administratively discharged from the United States Army with an Other than Honorable characterization of service. Generally, this characterization of service results in the loss of a service member's Montgomery GI Bill benefits.

- A specialist, assigned to 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), was punished under Article 15 for wrongfully housing a pet and having a female visitor past visitation hours in on-post housing while participating in the roommate program, in violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The Soldier was sentenced to seven days of extra duty and seven days of restriction.

- A specialist, assigned to 710th

Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, was punished under Article 15 for testing positive for Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), during a unit urinalysis in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to reduction to the grade of E1, 45 days of extra duty and 45 days of restriction.

- A private first class, assigned to 710th BSB, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, was punished under Article 15 for wrongfully possessing two unregistered firearms in on-post housing, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction to the grade of E-2 and 45 days of extra duty.

- A private first class, assigned to 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn Div, was administratively separated pursuant to Chapter 14-12c (Commission of a Serious Offense) for sexual assault and was issued a General Under Honorable conditions characterization of service. Generally, this characterization of service results in the loss of a service member's Montgomery GI Bill benefit.



Guardian

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Briefs

BJACH hours

Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital announces the following schedule during the Christmas and New Year's holidays:

- Dec. 20 — outpatient services close at noon for holiday celebrations
- Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1 — outpatient clinics, lab, radiology and dining facility are closed.

Inpatient services and the emergency room will remain open.

Dumpster concerns

Fort Polk personnel should check the dumpsters in their assigned area of responsibility and keep lids and doors closed when not in use. The installation is currently in violation of Louisiana Code Title 33, Part VII 503.A, because dumpster lids and doors are left open across the installation. Open dumpster lids and doors allow rain water and wildlife to enter the dumpsters and odors to escape. Military units are directed to add a dumpster check to their unit's staff duty officer and charge of quarters area checks. Directorates, tenants and contractors are directed to check the dumpster lids and doors in their area of responsibility. The command has added a dumpster check to the field officer of the day checklist and open dumpsters are documented in the daily FOD report to the commander.

The correction of this compliance violation requires attention and action by the all members of the Fort Polk Team.

Abandoned vehicles

The Directorate of Emergency Services Traffic Section will release the following vehicles to a towing company for disposal on Jan. 27 if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four numbers of their VIN number. If one of these vehicles belongs to you please contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Section 531-1806/2677.

2008 KIA	SPORTAGE	7546
2011 CHEVROLET	1500	4608
2001 KIA	RIO	5378
1999 CHEVROLET	1500	5469
2002 SATURN	VUE	7797
2009 VW	JETTA	0049
2006 KIA	OPTIMA	9904
2012 NISSIAN	VERSA	8379
2006 GMC	1500	3847
2008 BMW	X5	4757
2003 TOYOTA	COROLLA	0139
2006 MAZDA	3	9500
2010 KAWASAKI	KLR650	9760
1990 HONDA	CIVIC	1536
1996 CHEVY	IMPALA	0432
2001 FORD	MUSTANG	1007

Please see Briefs, page 6



Home-based business showcase set Thursday

EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM

FORT POLK, La. — Military Spouse employment also includes home based businesses, which allow military spouses an alternative to “outside of the home” careers.

These HBB's are a portable career option for military spouses that can be taken from military installation to military installation as your Sponsor moves.

Fort Polk's Employment Readiness Program kicks off it's recognition of HBB's with a Military Spouse Home Based Business Showcase, Thursday, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Fort Polk Family Readiness Center, bldg 924, Mississippi Avenue.

If you have a Commander Approved Solicitation Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and

Recreation permit for your home based business and live on Fort Polk you can showcase your business, plus sell items from your business at the showcase.

Employment Readiness will have someone from DFMWR available to discuss the process to register your home based business for the next quarterly event.

If you do not have a home based business and would like to know more about how to get started, this is a wonderful opportunity. Come and talk to other military spouses who are already working in a home based business to see if this is an option for you. Or, just come out to support your local military spouse home based business.

Contact Stacey Delgado at 531-6922 to reserve a table or to get more information.

Tax Center set to open Jan. 21 for Soldiers, retirees

INSTALLATION TAX OFFICE

FORT POLK, La. — The 2019 tax season is almost here, and the Fort Polk Installation Tax Center is once again providing free assistance to Soldiers, retirees and their Family members. The Tax Center is located at 2165 Ninth St. (inside Home of Heroes Fitness Center/ Pizza Hut building).

Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, beginning Jan. 21. Appointments for preparing a tax return may be made by calling 531-1040 starting Jan. 21.

Appointments will have priority. Walk-ins for preparation of an electronic tax return will also be available on a limited basis.

To prepare your tax return for a faster, smoother process, please use the following as your checklist:

- Both spouses must be present to file joint returns unless the absent spouse has prepared a power of attorney that allows the other spouse to file and sign a tax return. Bring the valid power of attorney. For the IRS, it is IRS Form 2848.
- Social Security cards are required for the Soldier and spouse and all Family members being claimed on the tax return.

- Dates of birth of Soldier, spouse and all Family members being claimed.
- Original W-2s.
- If you have any interest income from banks or stocks, bring Form 1099.
- If you received any unemployment compensation, retirement pay or mortgage interest paid, bring Form 1098.
- If you claim any education expenses, provide your student registration for itemized expenses paid and any loans/grants that were to be applied.
- If you are claiming an exemption for a person who is in someone else's legal custody, you will need either IRS Form 8332 signed by the custodial person or have a court order or divorce paperwork saying you may claim the exemption for that person.
- To take the child-care deduction, you will need the provider's name, Social Security number or Taxpayer Identification Number and address, and the total amount paid to your provider. Most child-care providers give you an itemized statement with this information.
- If you want to have your refund directly deposited into your checking or savings account, bring a check or other confirmation of your routing number and bank account number.

3rd BCT finds success through new assignment process

By DEVON L. SUITS

Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — With the launch of the new Army Talent Alignment Process, Col. Kendall Clarke, commander of 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, was faced with the challenge of filling critical positions before the market closed Friday.

Through ATAP, officers now had more ownership over their careers and no longer have to wait for Army Human Resources Command to divvy out assignments, Clarke said. Each officer can prioritize their assignment preferences and base their selections on their unique knowledge, skills and behaviors.

His brigade out of Fort Polk, Louisiana, was now competing to fill 51 billets against the rest of the Army. To make things more difficult, officers often see Fort Polk as an unfavorable assignment location, which often puts the installation low on their list, Clarke said.

Maj. Gen. J.P. McGee, director of the Army Talent Management Task Force, said one of the No. 1 concerns he hears about the Army Talent Alignment Process is how the Army will fill positions in locations that have a reputation for being less desirable than others.

"For whatever reason, the military is extremely geographic when it comes to their assignment preferences," Clarke said. "A lot of officers just see the location and not necessarily an opportunity."

"Historically, assignments in certain locations are easier to fill than others," McGee said. "Interestingly, what we've found is that by allowing leaders to engage in the hiring process, they were able to inform and shape officers' preferencing decisions."

"For whatever reason, the military is extremely geographic when it comes to their assignment preferences. A lot of officers just see the location and not necessarily an opportunity"

COL. KENDALL CLARKE

3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division

Refusing to stand idly by, Clarke would not allow his location to dictate who filled his ranks. He garnered support from his battalion commanders and stood up a "talent scout-like organization" to search and engage with officers throughout the marketplace, he said. The team put in a lot of hard work and started to find success.

"We have had a lot of medical officers reach-



With the launch of the new Assignment Interactive Module 2.0 marketplace, Col. Kendall Clarke, (left) commander of 10th Mountain Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team at Fort Polk, was faced with the challenge of filling critical positions before the market closed on Dec. 6. His brigade was competing to fill 51 billets against the rest of the Army.

ing out," said Maj. Mateo Acosta, the brigade S-1. "This was the most competed position. They understand that BCTs are busy, and it is a great opportunity for their professional growth."

Out of the 51 available billets, 43 of the requisitions have had some form of interaction, Acosta said. This interaction is either through expressed interest from the officer, or through the 3rd BCT's review and selection process, which ranked candidates through the Assignment Interactive Module 2.0 marketplace.

From the start, the 3rd BCT team emphasized the full range of opportunities throughout the installation. Within the Army's legacy assignment system, the ability to share and promote a unit and select a candidate never truly existed, Clarke explained.

"We offer direct moves into key billets," Clarke said. "There are also key development broadening opportunities at Fort Polk ... between the Operations Group and the Joint Readiness Training Center."

Soldiers can also find stability for their families at Fort Polk, Clarke added. The installation offers quality housing, schools, daycare centers, recreation areas and physical fitness centers.

"What does (the Army Talent Alignment Process) do for the Army? For places like Fort Polk, we now have a system in place that can

elevate performance," he said. "It ensures that the right talent, skills and attributes go to the right position at the right moment in time."

As the commander, Clarke said he is happy knowing that his team identified a majority of his billet requisitions, with many officers expressing interest in the 3rd BCT. In the coming months, Clarke will wait for HRC to apply the Army Talent Alignment algorithm and approve each officer's selection.

The algorithm was designed to match each officer to an available position by prioritizing their list of assignment preferences before a unit's request, officials said. Before a match can occur, both the officer and unit must rank each other within the Army Talent Alignment Process. If an officer does not list any preferences, or the algorithm fails to match them with a unit, the Army will reassign them under the legacy assignment process.

"When the ATAP market closed at midnight on December 6, approximately 6,000 officers matched to their number one job choice," McGee said, "This represents a significant change to how officers receive their next assignment and creates the foundation for a talent management system that empowers officers and units to better employ, develop and retain the talent the Army needs to dominate in future land combat."

Patriots return to hero's welcome after six-month deployment

GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — Soldiers assigned to Fort Polk's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division "Patriot Brigade" returned home after a six-month deployment in the Southwestern U.S.

The troops arrived in groups ranging from 75 to nearly 200 over a month-long period beginning in November, ensuring they would be reunited with Families and friends before Christmas. The photos on this page were taken during ceremonies held at Warrior Gym for the returning heroes. More photos can be found on the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Facebook page.



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN



'Go Army, beat Navy:' Annual battle kicks off Saturday, 2

By **BRANDON O'CONNOR**

Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. — The annual rivalry game between the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis will take place Saturday at 2 p.m. in Philadelphia. The game will be televised on CBS.

When the players on the Army West Point football team take the field, they do so for more than themselves.

They represent the U.S. Military Academy and the generations of graduates who make up the Long Gray Line. They play for the U.S. Army and those who have fought and died protecting America. And each week during the season, they play for a particular division of the Army and past and present Soldiers.

For most of the regular season, the division is honored by a patch on the back of the players' helmets. But for the past three years during the Army-Navy Game, the Black Knights have honored one of the Army's divisions by wearing an entire uniform telling the division's story.

The new uniform tradition started with a design telling the story of the 82nd Airborne Division. So far, the 10th Mountain Division and 1st Infantry Division have also been honored.

This year, Army will take the field in honor of the 1st Cavalry Division and tell the story of the Soldiers' role in the Vietnam War as America's first airmobility division.

The 1st Cav's role as the honored division was kept secret until the uniform was unveiled Dec. 5 in front of the assembled Corps of Cadets, but the process of designing the uniform for the game each year is an 18-month collaboration between Nike and West Point's Department of History.

The cycle of divisions is decided three to four years in advance by West Point's Athletic Department and most of the work is already done on 2020's uniform. The process for 2021 will start to ramp up in the near future.

After the division is selected, step one of the process is determining the timeline that will be honored. For the 82nd Airborne it was World War II and for the 1st Infantry Division they highlighted World War I for the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice.

Then, Nike's designer in partnership with the USMA history department starts doing research and crafting the story the uniform will tell.

"It is almost like a method actor

preparing for a role," Kristy Lauzonis, senior graphic designer for Nike college football uniforms, said.

"I just go as deep as humanly possible with the research. I order books, read everything I can under the sun and that's when I start hitting the history department back with all kinds of crazy questions."

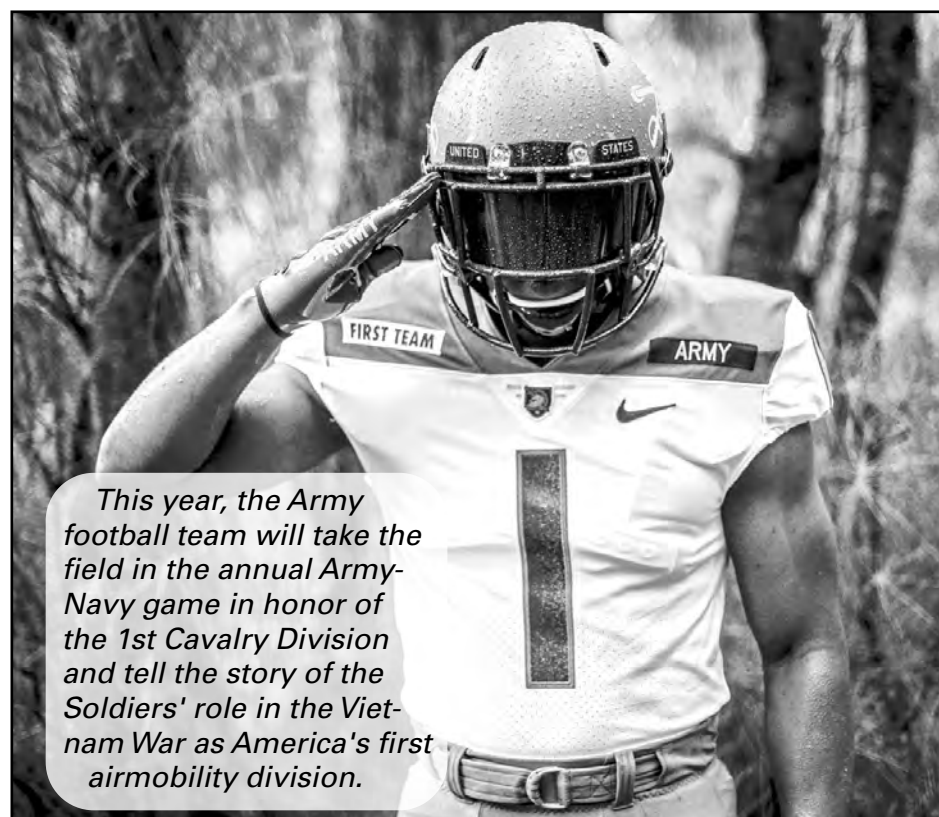
With help from the Department of History, Lauzonis goes through photos and artifacts of the unit from the chosen timeline and crafts a uniform that will authentically tell the story of the unit. Some elements are predetermined by NCAA rules such as whether the uniform is light or dark depending on if Army is home or away, but everything from colors of elements to fonts are built from scratch to make them historically accurate.

On the first uniform, the flag on the players' shoulder may have looked backward to a casual observer, but it was placed the way it was worn in World War II. On the 10th Mountain uniform, the popular Pando Commando logo wasn't something created by Nike, but was instead a little used logo found during the research process. On last year's uniforms, the Black Lions were to tell the story of the 28th Infantry Regiment and the first major combat for American forces in World War I.

"I think one of the great things about being authentic to history is you will have those moments like where you've done something where it is 100% authentic and people aren't aware of it," Lauzonis said. "That is that bonus element where everyone is saying the flag is backward and we are able to say it pre-existed flag code and this is exactly how it was worn on the uniform and we purposely did it that way."

"It is not just a company whoops we flipped the flag the wrong way. We are never going to do that."

Throughout the entire process, the USMA history department is fact checking elements on the uniform and making sure they accu-



rately represent the division's history and the timeline being depicted. That includes checking colors such as the red used in last year's Big Red One on the helmet and making sure each insignia used is authentic and historically accurate.

"We provide historical context and then of course, the Nike designers are amazing," Steve Waddell, an assistant professor in the Department of History, said. "They've got to kind of translate a historical idea concept to actually make it work on a real uniform and have the color contrasts and everything work ... I'm a World War II historian and we did the 82nd Airborne for the first one. It's just exciting that they're tying the sport of football to military history and military history is always popular."

Along with assisting in the uniform design, the USMA history department helps tell the story of the uniform and the division through the athletic department's microsite, which is created as part of the unveiling each year.

There the elements of the uni-

form are explained, and the story of the division is told in detail.

"The Army's business is people," Capt. Alexander Humes, an instructor in the Department of History, said. "That's why it's also important to tell the story of this unit and the people that were part of this unit and to take this as an opportunity to do that. This presents the Army a great opportunity in something as highly visible as the Army-Navy Game to be able to tell its story to the American public."

This year's uniform pulls elements from the 1st Cav's Vietnam War era uniforms and the pants were designed to resemble the motif of the UH-1 "Hueys" the Soldiers flew during the war.

"I hope that for the folks that are in or have a relationship to the unit, that they feel like their story is being told authentically," Lauzonis said of her goal when designing the uniform each year. "That they feel like they now have something they can wear with pride and that we've done right by them with the storytelling."

Briefs

Continued from page 3

TRICARE cost increase

Prescription drug costs for Tricare users are set to rise Jan. 1, some by as much as 42%. The pharmacy fee increases impact Tricare users who use off-base pharmacies, including those on Tricare for Life.

Effective Jan. 1, a 90-day supply of generic drugs received through the program's Express Scripts mail-order pharmacy will increase from \$7 to \$10. Co-pays on brand-name drugs received through the

mail will go from \$24 to \$29; the price rises from \$53 to \$60 for non-formulary drugs.

Generic drug prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies will see the cost rise from \$11 to \$13 for a 30-day supply, while the same supply of brand-name medications will increase from \$28 to \$33.

Non-formulary drugs — those not on Tricare's list of fully covered medications — will go up from \$53 to \$60. Prescriptions filled on post will continue to be free.

Community

Briefs

School lunch menu

The following school lunch menu is for Vernon Parish schools for Tuesday through Dec. 20. Meals are served with salad bar and choice of milk:

Monday: Steak finger basket, creamy mashed potatoes and gravy, Italian seasoned green beans, peaches and Jell O cup, whole wheat roll.

Tuesday: Barbecue ribettes on whole wheat bun, Cajun French fries, peas and carrots, pineapple chunks.

Wednesday: Sliced ham or turkey roast, mashed potatoes or dressing and gravy, sweet peas, fruit salad, sweet potato crunch, whole wheat roll.

Thursday: Pork roast with gravy, fluffy whole grain rice, sweet peas, fruit, sherbet, whole wheat roll.

Dec. 20: Hot dog with chili on whole wheat bun, French fries, ranch style beans, watermelon, coleslaw.

Dinner with Santa

The Fort Polk community is invited to attend "Dinner with Santa" hosted by Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Warrior Center.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 6 p.m. Meal tickets are \$6 each and include chicken nuggets with ranch dressing or ketchup, grilled cheese sandwich, tater tots, corn and drink.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available at the BJACH Entrance A front desk today from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Feel free to bring cameras.

BJACH construction

The Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital emergency check-in and lobby area have moved to the radiology department as part of ongoing hospital construction. There will be no interruption of services during the temporary move. Signs will direct patients to the temporary emergency room entrance. Call 531-3111 or email kathy.l.ports.civ@mail.mil for more information.

Masquerade ball

Gator R.O.C.K.S., a mentoring organization for officers, hosts a masquerade ball, Saturday, from 6-11 p.m., at the Warrior Center, bldg 352, 1321 Corps Road. Cost is \$50 per person and includes a three-course meal and entertainment. Proceeds go toward Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarships and the mentoring program. Call (256) 694-5624 or (870) 494-5192 for more information.

Please see Briefs, page 12



Anvil back in business

Tiffany Koch (left), Fort Polk school liaison officer, and Marie Schultz, Exceptional Family Member Program, have a conversation and some refreshments at the Anvil Bar Dec. 5. The bar had been undergoing repairs since a fire on Sept. 30. The bar is now open and available for unit events and offers sUFC fights, football games and holiday parties. Follow the Fort Polk MWR Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fortpolkmwr/ for announcements of upcoming events.

NZW offers Christmas tree recycling

GUARDIAN STAFF

FORT POLK, La. — Each year, Fort Polk Families face the prospect of disposing of their Christmas trees following the holiday season. The Directorate of Public Work's Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division's Net Zero Waste Program offers Fort Polk residents an option that not only makes disposing of the Christmas trees easier, but also provides much needed habitat for the area's quail population.

"Everyone is encouraged to bring their live trees to the Fort Polk Recycling Center so they

can be used to build more quail habitat," Annabelle Cuffee, a specialist contractor with Net Zero Waste, said.

ENRMD will make two pickups in Corvias housing on Jan. 8 and 16. Trees can be brought to the Recycling Center, located at the corner of Georgia and Maine avenues, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Trees will be accepted from Dec. 26 to Jan. 31. After hours drop off will be available. Recyclers are asked to remove tinsel, lights and ornaments before recycling their tree.

For more information call 531-1105.

Self Help Centers save residents money

CORVIAS

FORT POLK, La. — There are many advantages to living on base in Corvias housing and one such advantage is the Self Help Program. This program is set in place to save residents time and money — especially during the holiday season.

The Self Help Program gives residents a common place to pick up basic items for their homes and there is no charge for this service. In each of Corvias' local community centers you can find a Self Help Program. To use this program, Corvias asks that you stop by your community center and ask one of the staff members for the items you need. You can also recycle old, non-working lightbulbs.

Some of the available items in the Self-Help

Centers include: Air filters, touch-up paint, paint brushes, vertical blind slats for sliding glass doors, drip pans, sink drains, stove fan filters, grass seed, light bulbs, replacement batteries for garage door openers and smoke detectors.

Additionally, there are items that residents can check out from the lending locker such as a weed eater and tools.

Self Help Centers are located at the following locations:

- Dogwood Terrace, 300 Warren Road, 537-5055
- Palmetto Terrace, 200 BellRichard Ave., 537-5040
- Maple Terrace, 100 Pendleton Dr., 537-5065

For 24-hour emergency maintenance call (866) 436-2047 or visit www.polk.corviasmilitaryliving.com.

Saints, Pelicans owner visits children at Child Development Center



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

New Orleans Saints and Pelicans owner Gayle Benson along with the Pelicans' mascot Pierre, visit the Child Development Center, bldg 701, Dec. 6 to read stories and give Dr. Seuss books to the children.

WHEN WAS YOUR LAST CARDIAC CHECK-UP?

— ALEXANDRIA CARDIOLOGY CLINIC ANNOUNCES —

Dr. Qusai Saleh

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BJACH Soldiers and Families visit Natchitoches Christmas festival

By **KATHY PORTS**

BJACH Public Affairs Officer

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital Soldiers and Families had an opportunity to enjoy the 93rd Annual Christmas Festival Dec. 7 in Natchitoches, Louisiana's oldest city. The day-long festival filled with music, entertainment, a parade and fireworks show choreographed to holiday music over the Cane River, provided a great way to get into the holiday spirit.

Armbands for the festival were given to BJACH by retired Maj. Richard Hooter, event host and chef. Hooter raises money throughout the year to purchase armbands for Fort Polk Soldiers and their Families. Natchitoches is BJACH's sister city.

Hooter and his band of volunteers provided a smorgasbord of barbecued pulled pork, smoked bologna and sausage, beef hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, homemade chocolate chip cookies and drinks. Richard Blanchard, a Breau Bridge native and volunteer for the last four years, brought the ingredients for his gumbo from south Louisiana.

Preparations for the yearly feast take several days. Hooter cooked Boston butts for the pulled pork sandwiches, scored and smoked a large chunk of bologna and plenty of sausage. Lunch was served at 11 a.m. and it didn't take long for hungry Soldiers, children and Families to savor the delicacies. Food was available all day and well into the evening.

As to why Hooter does it, he said, "Why not? I spent 20 years in the Army; I tailgate for the Northwestern State University Reserve Officer Training Corps and this is our way of giving back and thanking our troops and their families," he said. "We don't want to forget those families; they sacrifice too and deserve a big thank you. I was an enlisted Soldier and reached the rank of sergeant before I got out and went to college. I received my commission through the NSU ROTC. The Army is where I learned that you have to take care of your Soldiers and that's what we're doing here. It also gives us an opportunity to share the City of Natchitoches and our traditions and customs."

Hooter receives donations from individuals and businesses. In addition to BJACH Soldiers and Families, NSU ROTC Cadets, along with first responders enjoyed the cuisine.

BJACH Soldiers and Families had front row reserved seating for the parade. Following the fireworks display, BJACH Soldiers and Families rounded out the day by roasting marshmallows for s'mores over a roaring fire before heading back to Fort Polk. For some of the children, it was their first time to roast marshmallows and eat S'more. Some preferred to enjoy the toasted marshmallows and candy bar separately, but the smiles and sticky faces were evidence of their delight.

This year, the eating area was adorned with more than 100 Christmas cards from students and staff at NSU.

The cards echoed the same sentiment —

Thank you for your service and sacrifice — wishing the Soldiers and their Families the happiest of holidays.



Courtesy Photo

Col. Jody Dugai, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity commander, presents retired Maj. Richard Hooter with a BJACH hat as a thank you for his hard work and dedication.

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Competition tightens their bonds of friendship, family and service to our nation.
USAA salutes the Cadets and Midshipmen of the 2019 Army-Navy Game.

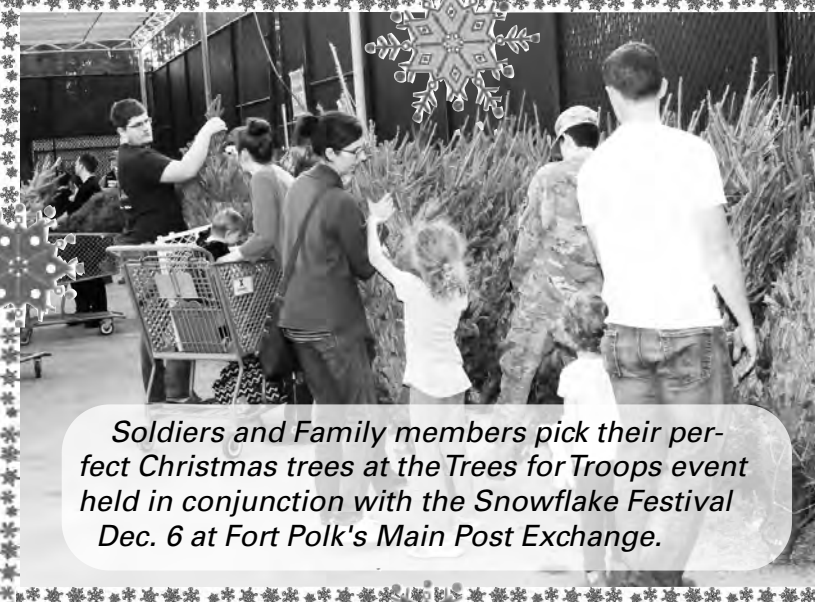


PROUD PRESENTER OF AMERICA'S GAME

**TUNE IN FOR THE 120TH ARMY-NAVY GAME
SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2019, 3 PM ET ON CBS**

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Snowflake Festival brings joy, laughter to Fort Polk



Soldiers and Family members pick their perfect Christmas trees at the Trees for Troops event held in conjunction with the Snowflake Festival Dec. 6 at Fort Polk's Main Post Exchange.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN



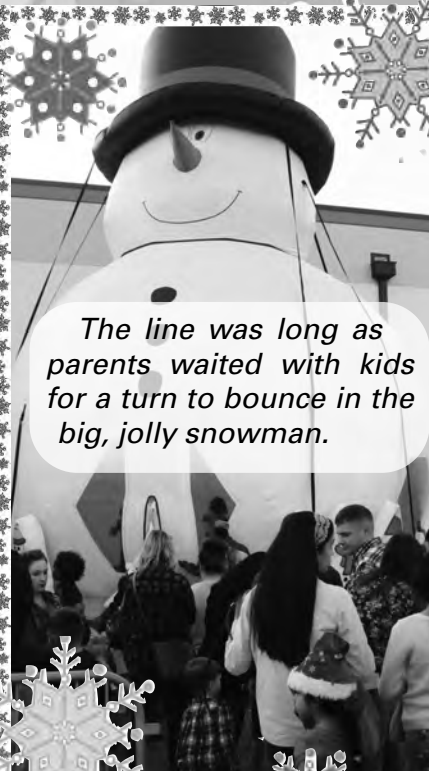
Ready to whisper Christmas wishes, Camden Teter, 5, sits on Santa's lap and his sister, Avery, 3, sits with Mrs. Claus at Fort Polk's Snowflake Festival held Dec. 6.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN



Decked out in snazzy Christmas pajamas, Jade Manning, 6, gets her face painted like a reindeer with a bright red nose Dec. 6 at the Snowflake Festival.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN



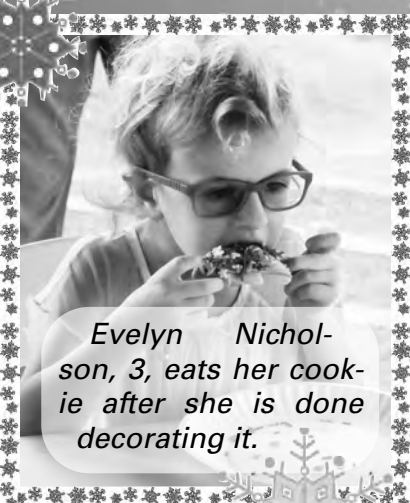
The line was long as parents waited with kids for a turn to bounce in the big, jolly snowman.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN



Col. Ryan K. Roseberry, Fort Polk garrison commander, (left) stands with Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher M. Ausbun, garrison command sergeant major, in front of the Christmas tree at the Snowflake Festival.

COURTESY



Evelyn Nicholson, 3, eats her cookie after she is done decorating it.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN



Makai Fidler, 4, puts sprinkles on his Christmas cookie.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN



Kids waiting to take a picture with Santa play in snowflakes while they wait at the Main Post Exchange.

ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

Vigilance greatest asset in fight against national security threats

By KEITH HOUIN

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — The world can be a risky place. The danger associated with home or travel accidents, crime and natural disasters can often be mitigated through education and taking proper precautionary measures.

The same can be said about protecting national security.

“Our greatest asset in this fight is observant and vigilant personnel who know what to look for and report in an efficient and timely fashion so the matter can be handled correctly before a serious incident occurs,” Sgt. Nicholas Plevris, Delta Company, 30th Military Intelligence Battalion 902nd, Military Intelligence Group, said.

“The Army’s Threat Awareness and Response Program is how trained and certified professionals sensitize Department of Defense contractors, civilians, and Army personnel and employees on threat indicators to be cognizant of, and how and where to appropriately report these indicators and incidents of potential security violations concerning matters of national security,” Plevris said.

Training and knowledge alone can only go so far in stopping threats. Everyone needs to be involved in the program, he said.

Attending TARP briefings, familiarity with Army Regulation 381-12 and observance, vigilance, and situational awareness while reporting suspicious behavior and security violations to local counterintelligence personnel is the best way to participate, he said.

It takes more than just Soldiers, DoD civilians and contractors to thwart threats. “Family and community members should be involved. Insider threats are not restricted to Army posts and workspaces. These insider threats can live off post, be involved in the local community, and display behavioral threat indicators everywhere family members frequent,” Plevris said.

“While family members do not routinely receive TARP training, Soldiers who do can sensitize them. Then, those Family members can use their understanding of threat incidents and behavioral threat indicators coupled with vigilance, observation and situational awareness



with a willingness to report to prevent a serious incident from occurring.”

Examples of reportable activity are:

- Attempts by anyone to obtain or acquire unauthorized access to classified or unclassified information concerning DoD facilities, activities, personnel, technology, or material through questioning, elicitation, trickery, bribery, threats, coercion, blackmail, photography, observa-

tion, collection of documents or material, correspondence or automated systems intrusions.

- Any personnel who are in contact with persons known or suspected to be members of or associated with foreign intelligence, security, or international terrorist organizations.

A full list of reportable activity can be found in paragraph 3-1 of AR 381-12.

To make a report call 531-7181 or visit www.inscom.army.mil/isalute.

Drinking, driving is road to disaster

ASAP

FORT POLK, La. — “Cheers; probst; here’s to you.”

These are all sayings that many will hear a little more often during the holidays. Whether you are spending time with friends, traveling to be with family or just enjoying some down time, Fort Polk’s Army Substance Abuse Program offers the following sobering facts associated with this time of year.

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 885 people lost their lives in traffic crashes involving a drunk driver in December 2017.

- Of the traffic fatalities in 2017 among children 14 and younger, 19% occurred in alcohol impaired driving crashes.

- In the United States, one person is killed every 48 minutes by a drunk driver.

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reported that in 2017, among individuals age 16 and above, 12.8 million drove after using illicit drugs.

- According to the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, on average, three in five people will be involved in a crash due to impaired driving in their lifetime.

Fort Polk’s ASAP suggests the following options during the holi-



days — and every day — if alcohol is involved:

- Always take sober rides home.
- If hosting a party, provide plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverage; ask for vehicle keys at the door; have a breathalyzer on hand; and let people spend the night if they are too drunk.
- Help friends get home safely.
- Give breathalyzers as stocking stuffers.
- Plan ahead for a sober ride.
- Leave your car at home.

Enjoy your time over the holidays, but do so responsibly. For more information on impaired driving statistics or resources for drinking responsibly call Fort Polk ASAP at 531-2031 or check out these websites: driving-tests.org or owny-ourlimits.org.

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Head to Lafayette to experience authentic Cajun Christmas

ACADIAN VILLAGE

LAFAYETTE, La. — Many Soldiers stationed at Fort Polk are from other parts of the country. That means they might not know much about the culture and history to be found in Louisiana. If you are curious, Christmas is a great time to learn more.

Just head to Lafayette, the heart of Cajun Country, and visit the Acadian Village. It is the oldest authentic vision of life in 19th century Southwest Louisiana. It showcases historic homes that depict the unique Acadian architecture of the time and features winding bayous, a blacksmith shop, general store and more, spanning 32 acres.

To get to the village, enter 800 West Broussard, Lafayette into your GPS.

The village is decked in old-world holiday fashion with modern spectacular bling thanks to half a million Christmas lights and new animated displays during Noel Acadian Au Village, and you can see the splendor daily through Dec. 23 from 5:30-9 p.m. (weather permitting).

Families can also enjoy carnival rides and nightly live entertain-

ment, as well as holiday shopping in the general store.

You better watch out and you better not pout because Papa Noel (Santa Claus) will be present nightly for photo opportunities.

Photo packages are available for purchase. No cell phone or personal camera photography is allowed. He is located under the pavilion, on the right-hand side. He will be there from 6-9 p.m.

The "Village Artists" are located in their own "art gallery" inside the Dr. Salles home (administration building). Here you will find some of the finest examples of Southwest Louisiana landscape paintings, stills and florals.

Food is available for purchase at Santa's Kitchen. Items include gumbo, pork jambalaya, nachos, popcorn, sausage po'boys, barbecued hamburgers, hot dogs and more.

Hot chocolate and other beverages are available as well.

Early Acadian settlers lived a simple life and the village serves as a living example of their daily tasks.

For example, when they realized that corn could be grown successfully, it proved to be a blessing to their existence due to its varied



ACADIAN VILLAGE

uses. Corn could be made into hominy, grits and cornmeal.

The corn shucks were used to make dolls, mattresses, hats and brooms. They were also used to smoke out mosquitoes. Dampened corn shucks were braided into rope and used for chair seats and hats. Cobs were used for stoppers and kindling for fires.

Spinning wheels were used to spin threads from fibers and looms were used to weave the fibers into cloth. Hats, slippers, handbags and baskets were woven from palmetto fronds and corn shucks. Leather was tanned at home. Combs were made from cow horns.

Mattresses were made of moss, corn shucks and feathers. After the green moss was picked, it was laid out to dry. It was turned over every few weeks.

When the moss turned black, it was used for rope, mule harnesses, upholstery, insulation for packing and mattresses. Every summer the mattresses were taken apart and the ticking and moss were washed separately.

When the moss was dry, it was fluffed by being pulled apart, and then put back into the ticking.

Candles were made at home. Tallow or beeswax was melted and poured into molds.

A string was put in the center to form the wick. To loosen the candle after the wax had hardened, the

mold was placed in hot water. Candles were later replaced by coal and oil lamps. Coffee had to be parched in a pot, "griller le café," then it was placed in a coffee mill where it was ground as coarse or as fine as one wished. It was ground just before dripping so it was always fresh and usually brewed very strong.

Drinking water was obtained from a well or a wooden cistern, which was near the rear of the house.

Sometimes barrels were placed outside to catch and hold rainwater.

Dried gourd shells were used as the dippers from which they drank. Scraps of material were never discarded. They were woven to make rag rugs or bedspreads. Often they were sewn together to form certain patterns for patchwork quilts.

These old-world tasks are displayed with festive holiday flare during Noel Acadian Au Village.

Advanced tickets can be purchased online at <https://acadianvillage.thundertix.com/events/161647>

Tickets can also be purchased at the village gate for \$10. Children age 4 and younger and military with ID get in free.

An ATM is available at the general store. Parking is free and strollers are welcome, but no pets are allowed.

For more information call (337) 981-2364 or visit the internet at www.acadianvillage.org.

Pickering Girl Scout Troop 143 and

Local Animal Organizations

"Take Action For Animals"

Come by Leesville Walmart on Saturday December 14, 2019

900am to 400pm and drop off a Pet Donation.

Hot chocolate, candy cane reindeer and pictures with Santa will all be available for donation to support Local Animal Organizations and

Community Service Project "Operation Dolls and Dogs for local

Nursing Homes" (Sponsored by Brothers and Sisters In Arms Dog Training)



Briefs

Continued from page 7

Scholarships

Corvias Foundation is accepting 2020 scholarship applications available to military spouses and children of active-duty service members. The application for the military-dependent student

scholarship will close on Feb. 14, while the military spouse scholarship application process will close on May 8. Individuals who are interested in applying can visit www.corviasfoundation.org/apply-now/ to review eligibility criteria and access the application.

Lagniappe

Miscellaneous

• Mansfield Christmas

Visit Mansfield State Historic Site, located on La. Hwy 175, three miles south of the town of Mansfield, Saturday for a "Christmas on the Homefront" presentation.

You will learn what holiday treats were popular on the homefront, North and South, during the American Civil War. Period sweets such as gingerbread cookies, peppermint sticks and molasses taffy will be available for sampling, as well as coffee.

Discover the Christmas traditions of the era and how families of Soldiers in the field celebrated the holidays.

The program begins at 2 p.m. in the museum theater. Admission is \$4 per person ages 4-61. Seniors 62 and over and children 3 and under are admitted free. For more information call (888) 677-6267.

• Seasonal dinner

A community dinner takes place Saturday at 2 and 6 p.m. at the Wooten Theatre, 102 East First St., DeRidder. Those invited include the lonely, widowers, needy, veterans and anyone who would like to share a meal with others. No one will be turned away.

The purpose of the dinner is to show those who need a good meal and fellowship that even though the season can be rough, there are people who care. If you would like to volunteer call (337) 396-8083 or email brian13f2003@yahoo.com.

• Christmas music

The DeRidder First Baptist Church Christmas program, "Messiah Has Come," is held Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are not required. A canned good may be brought for the DeRidder Food Bank. The church is located at 2030 U.S. 171, DeRidder. Call (337) 463-9047 for more information.

• Zoo holiday

The Alexandria Zoo lights up the season with Holiday Light Safari today and Saturday, Dec. 19-21 and 26-28 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (last entry at 8 p.m.).

If you are looking for a unique way to create holiday memories, don't miss your chance to bundle up and stroll through the zoo's colorful environment sparkling with thousands of lights and whimsical lighted animal figures.

There are festive opportunities for little ones to share their wish list with Santa through Dec. 23, as

well as decorate a sugar cookie and make a craft.

Families can then hop aboard the Holiday Express Train for a merry ride with holiday music to see even more lights and displays. The first 100 guests each night receive a free train ride.

Admission is \$8 per person ages 4 and older. Children ages 3 and under get in free. The zoo closes early each evening of the event at 3:30 p.m. (last admission 3 p.m.) and re-opens as Holiday Light Safari at 5:30 p.m.

In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel an evening of Holiday Light Safari will be announced via the zoo's Facebook page.

For more information visit www.thealexandriazoo.com.

• Holiday park

Visit Dark Woods Christmas in the Park, 4343 University Parkway, Natchitoches, for a magical winter wonderland through Dec. 25 — weather permitting. The holiday attraction offers a variety of holiday experiences and the beauty of Christmas lights and decor in a woodland setting. For more information visit Facebook at Christmas in The Park or call (318) 332-8546.

• Christmas in Roseland

Head to the American Rose Center, 8877 Jefferson Paige Road, Shreveport to attend Christmas in Roseland today through Sunday and every night from Monday through Dec. 22.

During the holiday season the park is transformed.

Walk through the winter wonderland with thousands of twinkling lights, dozens of lighted displays, giant Christmas cards, nightly entertainment rides on the Roseland Express train, photos with Santa and tons of fun for the family. Admission is \$20 per carload or \$5 per person. Children ages 2 and under get in free.

For more information visit www.rose.org.

• Museum exhibit

The Alexandria Museum of Art hosts "Pelican State Goes to War" — a look at Louisiana's contribution to World War II on loan from the New Orleans World War II Museum through Feb. 22. There will also be panels, performances and discussions in conjunction with the exhibit throughout its stay. Admission is free.

For more information visit

<https://themuseum.org/#>.

• Gumbo dinner

Stop by for some gumbo at the eighth annual community Christmas gumbo dinner. Everyone is welcome and the event is free. The dinner is Dec. 25 from noon-4 p.m. at the New Llano old town hall building, 211 Stanton St. For more information call (337) 378-7607.

Clubs/groups

• Bass Masters

Join the Fort Polk Community Bass Masters. The club meets monthly on the Tuesday before each tournament. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. at the New Llano

American Legion, Post 387, 500 Vernon St. The next meeting takes place Tuesday.

The December championship tournament takes place at Sam Rayburn Lake Saturday and Toledo Bend Sunday. The entry fee is \$40. For more information visit www.fortpolkcommunitybassmasters.com.

• Lose weight

Join Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) every Thursday at the Vernon Parish Library meeting room. Weigh in is 5-5:50 p.m. The meeting starts at 5:50 p.m.

For more information call (337) 208-0896.



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Published for the community of Fort Polk, La.

Deadline For All Classified
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Turn in ads to the
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Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr.
or fax to: 318-352-3667
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F150 FORD TIRES AND RIMS, six lugs, 30S/40R-22. \$500 OBO. Call 337-208-6983.

6 TICKETS TO SEE THE GARY ALLAN CONCERT at the Coushatta Resort in Kinder Louisiana. Please call 337-396-1832 for more information.

ONE WEEK VACATION PACKAGE TO ORLANDO FLORIDA for \$500. You will stay at a resort near Disney World Amusement Park. Call 337-396-1832 for more information.

FOR SALE: TWO 28-FOOT ALUMINUM PONTOONS, connected with partial cover. Pontoons sit on 28-foot trailer, \$6,000. Call 318-352-3618.

REAL ESTATE

NOTICE: All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination. The Guardian will not knowingly accept any advertise-

ment for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

STATEWIDES

3-DAY WINTER PUBLIC AUCTION! December 12th, 13th and 14th 2019. 250+ Package of Rental Equipment. Farm Tractors, Construction, Autos and More!!! www.HendersonAuctions.com for all the details and auction lists. 13340 Florida Blvd., Livingston, Louisiana 70754 (225)686-2252 Consignments Accepted! Auctioneer: J. Henderson 1160-19 (LA-SCAN)

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* Advertising is FREE for soldiers, family members and DA civilians.
* Businesses will not receive free advertising. All business ads must be prepaid. We accept Visa and Mastercard.
(This includes child care, quarters-cleaning, or the sale and/or breeding of multiple pedigreed/registered animals)
* Only single soldiers living in barracks may list numbers with 531 prefixes.

Turn in ads to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr.
Or fax to 318-352-3667 or email to tradingpostads@yahoo.com

Deadline for FREE ads is NOON Tuesday.

Category: ☐ Household Appliances ☐ Furniture ☐ Sporting goods ☐ TV/Radio/Stereo
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Advertisement: In 25 words or less (one word per block) give description, price, telephone number and other pertinent information. For garage sales, list time, date and location.

I am a: ☐ Soldier ☐ Retiree ☐ DA Civilian ☐ Military family member

In signing this form, I certify that the items I am advertising will be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

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