

Briefs

Heritage, retiree day

Oct. 22 marks the 10th annual Heritage Family Reunion on Fort Polk honoring the "Heritage Families" who were removed from their homes, communities and churches to establish Camp Polk in 1941. Attendees are feted with family history boards, period music and a "down-home" meal beginning at 8 a.m. in the Warrior Community Center. Also on Oct. 22, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Fort Polk hosts Retiree Appreciation Day. Activities include medical and dental checkups, meals and other activities. A complete list of the day's events will be published in the Oct. 14 Guardian.

CIF inventory

The main Central Issue Facility, located in bldg 4374, is closed to conduct annual inventory from Oct. 14-23. Normal operations resume Oct. 24. The main CIF will continue to accommodate Soldiers that are clearing due to PCS or ETS during the inventory period. Emergency requirements during this period should be addressed to Bonnie Perry at 531-0950 or Luther Stepp at 531-2886.

Catfish dinner

The Leesville High School baseball team is selling fried catfish lunches on Oct. 19 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Leesville. Each plate includes ½ pound of fried catfish, French fries, cole slaw, pistolette and a dessert for \$10. To purchase tickets contact Shannon Pope 353-4266 no later than Oct. 13.

Abandoned vehicles

The Directorate of Emergency Services traffic section announces the following vehicles will be released to a towing company for disposal if they remain unclaimed:

1982 Ford F150 VIN # 5574
1994 Mazda P/U VIN # 8877
1995 Mazda Miata VIN # 5143
1995 Chevrolet Lumina VIN # 5003
1997 Pontiac Grand Prix VIN # 7310
1998 Honda Passport VIN # 0331
1998 Ford Escort VIN # 4082
1999 Ford Explorer VIN # 1192
2003 Kia Spectra VIN # 7152
2007 Mercedes 350 VIN # 2544
2010 Chevrolet Impala VIN # 6786
For more information call 531-6675.

Tigerland, box tour

The Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group hosts a box tour and "Return to Tigerland" event Oct. 29 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The tour is open to Fort Polk

Please see Briefs, page 5

AHS recognized as Blue Ribbon School

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

ANACOCO, La. — Anacoco High School, in Vernon Parish, is one of six Louisiana schools recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School.

The Blue Ribbon Schools program honors schools that are either high-performing or have closed achievement gaps. Nominated schools submit applications to the U.S. DoE for the award.

These schools demonstrate that all students can achieve at high levels, said Louisiana State School Superintendent John White. "The leaders, educators, students and families of the six schools should be incredibly proud of what they have accomplished," said White.

"Their ability to either steadily improve student achievement over subsequent years or consistently remain one of the top performing schools in the state is a commendable achievement worthy of this distinguished honor."

Anacoco High School, the only school in Vernon Parish to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, was honored in the "Exemplary High-Performing School" category. According to the DoE web site, "Anacoco High School excels due to quality instruction led by educators with an average teaching experience of nearly 22 years. AHS faculty provides every child with a rigorous and relevant education that instills the necessary skills to become well-rounded, productive citizens."

Among the criteria, a school in this category must be in the top 15 percent of all schools in the state when schools are ranked on the performance of all students who participated in the most recently administered state assessments in reading (or English language arts) and mathematics.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes both public and private elementary, middle and high schools.

The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.

Anacoco High School, like all the schools within Vernon Parish, is part of an educational partnership between Polk Progress, (a regional community organization), the Vernon Parish School District and Fort Polk.

The partnership, the Education Initiative, was

formed to acknowledge the achievements of Vernon Parish schools and to help them meet future challenges.

The Education Initiative focuses on school performance and benchmarks Vernon Parish schools against not only the national average, but also other schools supporting Army installations. More than 29 percent of the 9,000 Vernon Parish School District student population is military.

The Education Initiative, said Fort Polk Garrison Commander, Col. David Athey, is making incredible progress.

"Congratulations to Anacoco High School for this prestigious honor," Athey said. "This is just another milestone for Vernon Parish schools and the educators within our district. We are all stakeholders in the future of military

children residing at Fort Polk. The quality of education is a driving force that has high visibility well above the local level. The successes of the Education Initiative to date have made profound impacts on how education in the Fort Polk area is viewed nationally."

Just a few highlights of the Education Initiative's milestones over the past year include:

- Association of Defense Communities Excellence Award for Collaboration for its successful collaboration with local, state and federal partners in support of the educational community at Fort Polk.
 - The Education Initiative received the Pete Taylor Outstanding Partnership award, which encourages and applauds the outstanding partnerships formed between military installations and school districts that serve military children
 - In August 2015, Vernon Parish school officials unveiled a brand-new \$20 million facility at Leesville High School, allowing students access to 50 additional classrooms, three state-of-the-art science labs, six computer labs, an art room and a commercial kitchen.
 - The August 2016 opening of Parkway Elementary School — a project years in the making funded by \$18 million from the Department of Defense, and \$1 million each in matching funds from the Vernon Parish School Board and the State of Louisiana.
- In 2016, the Department of Education recognized 329 schools nationwide as Blue Ribbon Schools. These schools will be honored Nov. 7-8 during an awards ceremony in Washington, where each will receive an engraved plaque and flag signifying its status as a 2016 Blue Ribbon School.

