

THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 2024

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

AMC'S #1 DIGITAL PUBLICATION

'TIS THE SEASON

JACKSON KICKS OFF HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES



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Courtesy photo

C.C. Pinckney Elementary School students watch as the Grinch takes the stand in a mock trial of Santa Claus. Claus, who was charged with stealing Christmas, was found 'not guilty' by a jury of Pinckney students.

Santa 'not guilty' of stealing Christmas

By **ROBERT TIMMONS**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Christmas deliveries will continue this year.

A jury comprised of C.C. Pinckney Elementary School students declared the man in the red suit not guilty of stealing Christmas.

Pinckney and Fort Jackson's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate put Santa on trial, Dec. 2.

Old Saint Nick, charged with stealing Christmas, was tried in a mock trial before a jury comprised of Pinckney fifth and sixth graders.

"Our students received the opportunity to learn about the legal process, members of

the court, and even had the chance to participate as jurors and made a decision that showed their reasoning, inquiry, and decision-making skills," said Thomas Hill, fifth grade teacher. "This event is something that I hope our students have the opportunity to participate in for years to come."

The mock court martial trial provided students with a hands-on experience in

I LEARNED THAT YOU SHOULD BE RESPECTFUL TO THE JUDGE, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO GET IN TROUBLE IN REAL LIFE...

- Riley Fought
C.C. Pinckney Elementary School student

understanding the judicial system as well.

"Students heard opening and closing arguments from the prosecution and defense, as well as observed the direct and cross-examinations of witnesses," said Capt. Matthew A. McCoy with OSJA.

The witnesses included a Criminal Investigation Division agent, DNA expert, the Grinch, Mrs. Claus, Cindy Lou-Who, and Santa Claus himself.

"Students used the opportunity to apply recent lesson plans on how to make claims with evidence and reasoning," McCoy added.

The students also learned life lessons they may not receive in a regular classroom setting.

Riley Fought, jury foreman and fifth grade student said using analytical skills can be fun.

"I learned that you should be respectful to the judge, and you do not want to get in trouble in real life," Fought said. "I learned that you have to analyze evidence really quickly, but not so fast that you miss something because you have to make your correct decision. I liked the event because it showed me how analyzing can be fun and how I can use it when I grow up."

ON THE COVER

Lighted snowflakes glimmer over Patriots Park during the Holiday Tree lighting festival held Dec. 6 on post. It was the first event of Fort Jackson's holiday season.



Photo by **ROBERT TIMMONS**

See Page 6-7

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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From left to right: Staff Sgt. Jeannetta Lee, Staff Sgt. Kyle Tygart and Sgt. 1st Class Meaghan Ilmaleota recite the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer during a ceremony where they were inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club. The club is named after Audie Murphy, the most decorated Soldier of World War II.

3 welcomed into famed leadership club

Story, photos by ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Three noncommissioned officers were officially inducted into a prestigious association named after one of America's greatest heroes, Dec. 3.

Sgt. 1st Class Meaghan Ilmaleota and Staff Sgts. Jeanetta Lee and Kyle Tygart had medallions placed around their necks in a ceremony in the Soldier Support Institute Auditorium marking their inclusion into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club.

The event was hosted by the SAMC's Victory Chapter.

Each of the Soldiers being inducted showed leadership attributes, such as leading from the front and demonstrating

mental and physical fitness.

Retired Sgt. Maj. Wyman Loveless, guest speaker at the ceremony, said he was taking the opportunity to do two things.

"The first thing I am going to do is I'm going to congratulate you," said Loveless, who served as a Religious Affairs noncommissioned officer. "Second thing I'm going to do is I'm going to challenge you for what's next. What is next?"

"What are you going to do with the knowledge you've acquired? What are you going to do with the influence that you've

THE FIRST THING I AM GO-
ING TO DO IS I'M GOING
TO CONGRATULATE YOU ...

- Wyman Loveless
Retired Command
Sergeant Major

and continue to develop yourself and those around you," Loveless added.

What's next also is means they owe it to those who came before them, and those who helped them "to get where they are today."

Loveless also said what's next is a "metaphor for goal setting."

gained? "

He answered those questions by saying they must keep learning.

That means for the three NCOs learning doesn't stop. They need to expect to "continue to acquire knowledge

Those goals will provide "purpose, and purpose requires planning to achieve the set goals," he said.

Each Soldier had a medal placed about their neck by Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs, a membership card and a certificate of achievement.

The club is named after Audie Leon Murphy, the highest decorated Soldier of World War II. Murphy, who was considered too small to join the Marines or airborne fought with the 3rd Infantry Division.

His most notable achievement is fighting off a German attack by climbing onto the top of a burning tank destroyer and delivering devastating fire.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor for this feat.

Community Updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Victory Fresh Holiday Hours

Victory Fresh will close for Victory Block Leave Dec. 14 and will reopen Jan. 13, 2025.

Education Center Re-Opening

The grand re-opening of the Education Center will be held Jan. 15 after the Education Fair.

DHR Holiday Hours

The Directorate of Human Resources will be closed on these holidays:

Christmas Eve Training Holiday:	Dec. 24
Christmas Day:	Dec. 25
New Year's Day:	Jan. 1

ID Card Section Update

The Fort Jackson ID Card Facility located in Room 109, Bldg. 5450 Strom Thurmond Blvd., services walk-in customers from 8-10 a.m. Monday through Friday. All appointments are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office closes at noon on the first and third Thursday of each month for mandatory training. It is closed on all federal holidays.

Safety Courses

The Installation Safety Office presents various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to the website <https://imc.army.mil/airs/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your Safety Specialist.

- Local Hazards Course: Monday
- Intermediate Drivers Course:

- Dec. 19 (30 seats open)
- Remedial Drivers Course: Tuesday (20 seats open)
 - Unit Safety Officer Course: Feb. 4-5, 2025 (21 seats open)

Family and MWR Customer Survey

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation wants to hear from you. The 2024 Family and MWR Customer Needs Survey is your opportunity to have a direct impact on the future of Army Family and MWR programs and services. The survey will gather insights from Soldiers and Families across the Army to ensure MWR offerings match your needs and interests. What's working great? What could we do better? There's no better way for Family and MWR to learn than by hearing from you. Participation is voluntary, this survey will only take about 10 minutes to complete. Go to www.armymwr.com/survey to take the survey.

First Friday Golf

Maj. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, Fort Jackson commander, invites you to join him for First Friday Golf, the first Friday of every month. This is a captain's choice event and will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Jackson Golf Club. You may enter your own team or sign up as a single and be paired with a group. Entry fee is \$45 for Fort Jackson Golf Club members and \$55 for non-members. The entry fee includes applicable greens fee, user fee, cart, prizes, and a boxed lunch. Register by calling the pro shop, at (803) 562-4437.

Second Friday Shoot

1-4 p.m., Aachen Range. Post Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Ochs invites you to join

him for Second Fridays shoot at Aachen Range the second Friday of every month. Shade and fans will be provided. The cost is \$10 per round if you bring your own weapon and ammo or \$25 per round to rent a shotgun and ammo. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TOMORROW

Community Information Exchange

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1917 Club. Join Col. Timothy Hickman, garrison commander, and representatives of Fort Jackson directorates/activities update the post on upcoming events.

SATURDAY

Holiday Parent, Youth Snacks & Splats

1-5 p.m., Solomon Center. Come join us for a great time and learn some basic painting skills. Today is the last day for sign up. This is a parent and youth class for children in grades 6-12. Child must be registered in Child and Youth Services and must be enrolled in the teen program on Fort Jackson. For more information and sign up, call (803) 751-6387.

Jingle Bell Fitness Run

8 a.m., 1917 Club. This three mile run/walk free family event is open to all ages. There will be fitness stations along the route. Come kick off the holiday season with the Fort Jackson community. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

Waffles with Santa

9 a.m., 1917 Club. Come and enjoy a festive breakfast buffet at our 1917 Club. There will be photo opportunities with Santa.

Fort Jackson

Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.
Phone: 751-7488

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

- Den of Thieves 2: Pantera (R)
2 p.m. (Free Showing)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

- Kraven the Hunter (R) 2 p.m.

- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

The breakfast buffet costs: \$12 per patron and \$6 for children ages 4 to 10.

MONDAY

Kick Away the Blues

10-11 a.m., 9810 Liberty Division Road. Are you feeling emotional and having the holiday blues? Join the Exceptional Family Member Program as they share information to cope during the holidays, engage in creative movement and receive tips that will help with the holiday blues. For more information or to register, call (803) 751-5256..

DEC. 20

282d Army Band Holiday Concert

7 p.m., Koger Center for the Arts. Join the 282d Army Band for the Midlands Winter Carol, "A Soldier's Story." The concert is free and open to the public.

THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO

usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil

Deadline for events to be included in the Community Updates is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following

Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible.

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style.

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.



Capt. William Norman, a student in the Adjutant General Captains Career Course cheers on runners during a state qualifying cross country meet held in November. Norman was recently awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

AG student receives MacArthur Leadership award

Story, photos by ROBERT TIMMONS
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

One Reserve officer attending the Adjutant General School Captains Career Course, was referred to as the “number one captain out of 12 assigned” to his unit.

Capt. William Norman is a “superior leader,” wrote Lt. Col. Michael Matelski, with the 391st Military Police Battalion, in a packet nominating Norman for the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

The award recognizes company grade officers who demonstrate the ideals MacArthur stood for - duty, honor, country. Norman received the honor in the Reserve category in a ceremony held recently at Fort Myer, Virginia.

Norman said he was “extraordinarily humbled,” by the distinction because “if you look at just the company commanders in (brigade combat teams), you know,

it’s less than 1% who could ever receive the award because of how few there are. If you take in the Reserve component commanders and National Guard commanders, it’s probably half a percent” of eligible officers.

“For a captain to be getting recognized by the Chief of Staff of the Army, it was ... a very momentous occasion as anybody could imagine,” he said.

It was an occasion oddly highlighted by chance encounter.

A high school peer of his just happened to be getting awarded at the same time.

“When I got out there and I saw a guy who went to my own high school. What are the odds of that happening?”

The distinction should be instant credibility to him.

He thinks of the award in the same way the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Randy A. George put it people will oftentimes

put the bust of MacArthur on their desk, and it immediately makes the Soldier more credible.

“Beyond that it puts the onus on you to ensure that you aren’t pacified with where you are at when people come into your office,” Norman said. In this way it will show him he needs to focus much more on his Soldiers.

Norman was lauded by leaders at all levels for his work including his mission focus and leveraging all Army components to generate operational readiness.

As an AG officer in military police battalion, he had the unique ability to reach outside organizations, he said.

“We have the distinct privilege of being people-focused intrinsic to our role,” he said. That focus was on “how we could use our networks outside of our organization to leverage them to impact inside the organization.”

See **MACARTHUR:** Page 11

Can you maintain your balance?

By TIMOTHY JONES
Employee Assistance Program

It is difficult to maintain our balance while we are being pulled in different directions. We are pulled in different directions for various reasons. During the holidays, we may experience being pulled with time demands from family and work. It is imperative that you maintain your balance on your journey.

During the holiday season, your family may request more of your time. They may want to experience more activities with you. They may want you to visit or they may want to come and visit you. They may want to experience more quality time together doing a variety of activities. They may want to spend the time shopping or perhaps dining out. The demands may lead one into experiencing joy or stress. The joy may be a result of your feeling of being connected to others and the stress may be a result of not having enough time to spend with those that you value.

Also, during the holiday season, you still have your occupational obligations. Your work hours may limit the time you have to spend with your family during the holidays. Your obligation to your occupation may not be understood by some. You may feel frustrated because you may not be able to partake in some of the festivities during the holidays. Although you may miss some events, you have the choice to view your work obligations as a means of providing for yourself or your family.

Your perspective can allow both demands to take a toll on you; how-

See **BALANCE:** Page 10

'Tis the Season

Story by **ROBERT TIMMONS**,
Photos by **NATHAN CLINEBELLE**
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

“We’ve got Santa, we’ve got hot cocoa,” said Josh Soldan, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation director.

Hot cocoa was on order since the annual holiday tree lighting festival just happened to take place on one of the coldest days of this fledgling winter.

Hundreds crowded onto Patriots Park on post Dec. 6 to see the tree lit and possibly see Santa himself. Along the way attendees could partake in games, hear some holiday music, grab a bite at the numerous food vendors and even grab a quick train ride.

“We are just enjoying the holiday season with our lighting of the tree,” Soldan said. “It’s an important military tradition.”

Maj. Gen. Daryl Hood, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson commander, flipped the switch, and the tree came to life in a burst of color.

“Lighting the tree has historical significance,” said Soldan, who has been on Fort Jackson a month. “It’s one of those traditions that creates memories for everybody, where they can come and create memories with their families.”

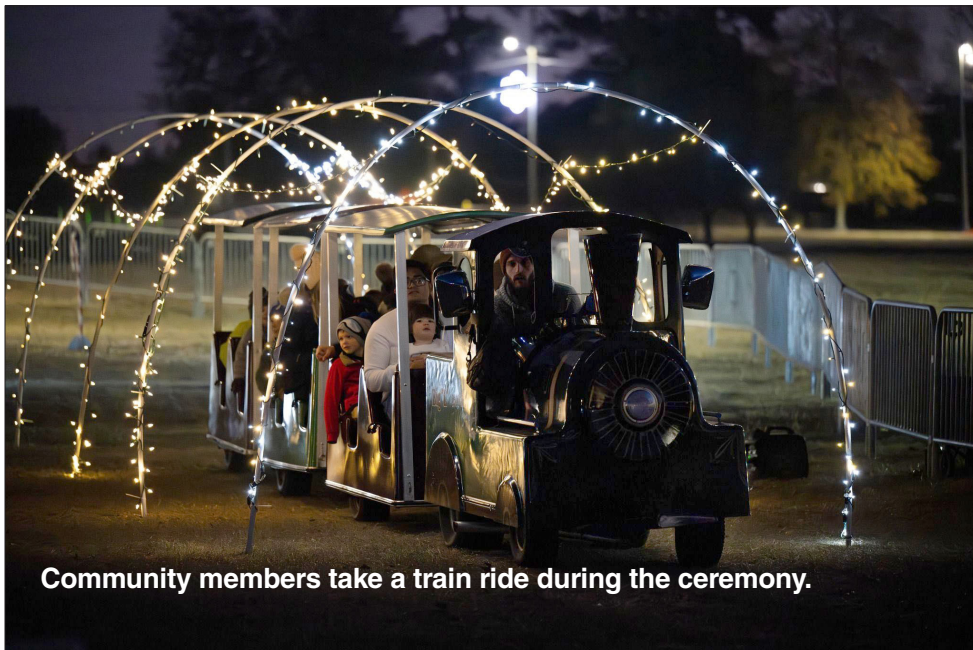
The tree lighting also integrates the Soldier experience on the installation.

These events are “imperative” to military families, Soldan said.

“MWR exists to do events like this,” he said. “Making memories with your family is one of the most impactful things you can do.”



A Fort Jackson Family meets with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Community members take a train ride during the ceremony.



Attendees walk through a festively-lighted Patriots Park prior to the tree lighting



Fort Jackson's holiday tree shines brightly over Patriots Park.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Andy Williams sang it best, It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!"

Whatever holiday you celebrate this time of year, it is definitely a season of joy, Family, and giving. We hope you have a very blessed holiday season!

If you are looking for opportunities to celebrate in worship, here are a few services available on Fort Jackson

Christmas Eve: Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m., Main Post Chapel

Christmas Mass: Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, noon, Main Post Chapel

Chanukah Service: Dec. 26, 6 p.m., Lighting Chapel

The following articles highlight two of the major holidays this season...

Chanuka: The Festival of Lights

By **CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) DOVID EGERT**
Rabbi, 120th Adjutant General Battalion

Chanukah is an eight-day Jewish holiday, celebrated with nightly menorah lightings, special prayers, and fried foods. The word Chanukah, meaning “dedication,” commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. This year, Chanukah begins on the evening of Dec. 25, 2024, and ends on Jan. 2, 2025.

In the second century BCE, the Jewish people rebelled against the Seleucid (Syrian-Greek) empire, which sought to impose Greek culture and suppress Jewish practice. Judah the Maccabee and his small group of faithful Jews triumphed against the mighty Greek army, reclaimed the Temple, and rededicated it to G-d. When they sought to light the Temple's menorah, they found only one small cruse of uncontaminated olive oil. Miraculously, this one-day supply burned for eight days, allowing time to prepare new pure oil.

To commemorate these miracles, the sages established Chanukah, centered on the nightly menorah lighting. The menorah has nine flames: eight for the eight nights and one shamash (attendant) used to kindle them. Each night, an additional flame is lit until all eight shine brightly on

See **WONDERFUL:** Page 10

Bats equal readiness of S.C. National Guard

Story, photo by **STEPHEN HUDSON**
South Carolina National Guard

While many people automatically think Halloween when the word bat is mentioned, to the environmental staff with the South Carolina National Guard these flying mammals are a critical piece of environmental stewardship and military training.

On a warm autumn afternoon Rebecca Boazman, a natural resource technician at McCrady Training Center, visited multiple bat boxes across the 15,300-acre South Carolina Army National Guard training site on the backside of Fort Jackson. The purpose of her visit is to get a look at the bat population on post. This is done by sending a bore scope into rocket roosts and bat boxes, as well as walking through tunnels where bats commonly roost on this sprawling National Guard training site.

"Bats are amazing little animals. They do a lot more than we realize," Boazman said. "Just because we don't see it impacting us directly doesn't mean it's not there."

Fifteen bat species call South Carolina home and eight of those species are found on McCrady. Two of those species are listed as threatened, which makes Boazman's work, and the entire environmental staff, that much more important guaranteeing military training requirements are met while balancing environmental stewardship.

"We ensure there is no net loss of training opportunities and ensure readiness for National Guard service members through the lens of natural resources," Boazman said. "We have several endangered and threatened species on the site and we ensure both can co-exist."

There are two different ecosystems at McCrady – bats and Soldiers and both have to coincide.

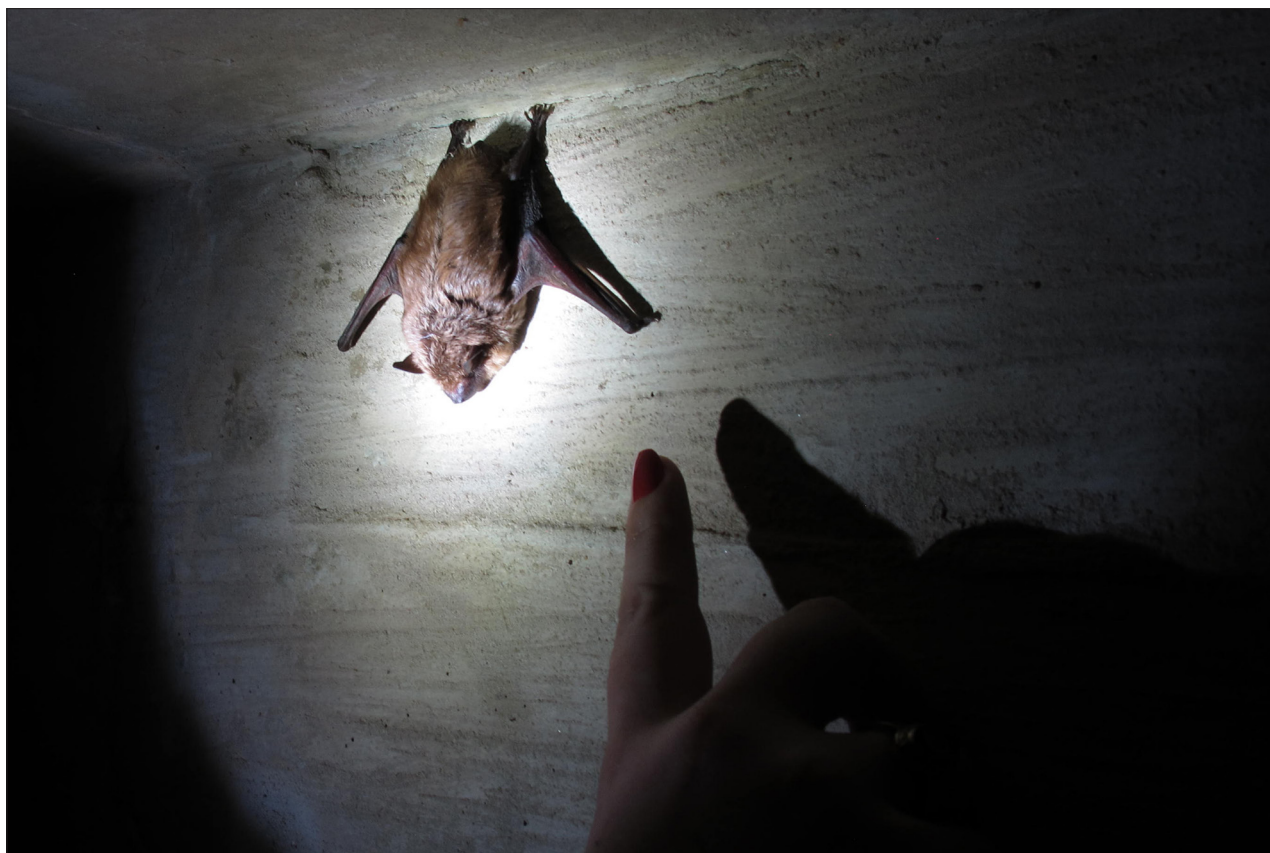
While military readiness is a priority, the environmental staff are beholden to laws such as the Endangered Species Act.

"Because our main mission is to maintain military readiness, we have to marry those two," Boazman said. "While they are out here, we can coexist to each their goals and achieve their training goals."

Inspecting and tracking bats in the six rocket roosts and 28 bat houses stationed around 14 sites and six tunnels and five concrete roost towers at McCrady is part of Boazman's job. In addition to the bat monitoring program here, the staff also monitors an additional four rocket roosts and two towers at the South Carolina Army National Guard Clark's Hill Training Site in McCormick County.

"The rocket roosts are a newly constructed and developed artificial roost habitats that simulates a standing snag," Boazman said.

The Environmental Services Office at McCrady serves as a liaison between regulatory authorities and the South Carolina National Guard. One of those agencies is the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.



Rebecca Boazman, a natural resource technician with the South Carolina National Guard, points out a brown nose bat inside a tunnel during a bat survey at McCrady Training Site, Nov. 1. The bat monitoring program at McCrady tracks the eight bat species on site

"SCDNR has partnered with McCrady Training Center in the past to survey bats through mist netting, radio-tracking, acoustic surveys, and winter hibernacula counts," said Jennifer Kindel, state bat biologist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. "Through those efforts, McCrady has collected bat species richness data for the site and continues to monitor their bat populations."

Kindel added that monitoring efforts include hibernacula counts of bats that roost in the old range tunnels and working with the National Wildlife Health Center to test the bats for White-nose Syndrome, a disease that's been decimating bat populations since its arrival in the United States in the winter of 2006-2007.

The environmental staff at McCrady also monitors maternity colonies of endangered Rafinesque's big-eared bats that use the bat towers placed in the woods, providing artificial roosts for the species. These artificial roost structures will last many years, giving the bats that call McCrady home a place to live and thrive.

"One of the leading threats to bat species is habitat loss. When the places bats normally forage and roost are destroyed, fragmented, or degraded, they cannot hope to survive or raise their pups," Kindel said.

Though not all bat species will use artificial habitats, providing research tested bat boxes for species like big brown bats or artificial bat towers for state endangered species like the Rafinesque's big-eared bat can provide a necessary roost when paired with nearby water and good foraging habitat.

Bats are integral part of the state's ecosystem, but they are also of great economic importance to the state – they suppress nocturnal insect populations, including crop and forest pests, and reduce the need for costly pesticides. South Carolina's bat native bat populations are insectivorous and according to the Department of Natural Resources bats save the agricultural industry \$115 million annually in pest suppression services.

"People fear what they don't understand," Boazman said. "Bats provide a lot of ecosystem services."

In one night, a colony of 100 little brown bats can consume 250,000 small insects and mosquitoes.

Work done by Boazman and the other members of the South Carolina National Guard's Environmental Office are not only preserving these threatened species, but also ensuring Soldiers are achieving their vital training requirements improving readiness.

'The Weigh It Is' with Pam James-Long

Looking and feeling our best does not always come down to the perfect outfit.

It begins with glowing, healthy skin.

What better way to light up a room than with youthful skin that is nourished, cared for, and young looking?

Healthier skin care is popular and trending during this time of year.

People are so busy with parties, cooking, baking and wrapping; they realize looking and feeling their best makes every gathering more special and meaningful. It shows you are not just taking care of others ... but you are taking care of yourself.

Makeup does not replace fresh, clean skin and that freshness goes beyond our face. People are interested in caring for their total body skin. Skin cared for is supple, and glowing.

It automatically produces a youthful glow.

Your face and your body represent clean beauty. Regardless of age taking care of your skin will make you feel and look younger and healthier.

You don't need the latest products to produce healthier, glowing skin.

There are many natural anti-aging techniques



James-Long

you can use this holiday season to deliver your best skin ever.

One of the most effective things you can do to produce more youthful skin is simply to lead a healthier lifestyle.

It is great to embrace the holiday season, but don't turn away from the healthier lifestyle habits you have practiced all year long.

During this time of year, your healthier habits are reminders of the importance of

striking a balance when it comes to eating, exercising, and more.

That lifestyle balance shows you can celebrate during the holiday season and remain committed and dedicated into the New Year.

Want better skin?

Healthier eating is at the top of the list. It is very important not to overdo it with too much of any food type that is not high in fat and sugar.

As a rule, a healthier way of eating begins with fruits and vegetables dominating your plate.

This is followed by whole grains and clean, portioned protein. This type of balance is one of the main factors in slowing the aging process. It also makes the body more efficient and health-

ier, so your body works less to maintain better health.

Our lifestyle predicts how healthy we are. If we smoke, or consume too much alcohol, it can affect the way we age. It can affect how the skin feels and looks.

Again, balance is the key. Moderation in drinking and potentially giving up smoking for your overall health offer way more benefits down the road.

Quitting smoking is a challenging habit to break and no one can tell you how easy that might be.

However, if you are looking to improve the way your body is aging, you might want to consider additional support to quit the habit. It will improve your health overall.

Finally, exercise is a major player in youthful skin.

Exercise releases toxins through sweating. It tightens skin, builds muscles and makes the body more vibrant and youthful.

Many experts, (including myself), consider exercise to be one of the most important anti-aging activities we can do.

You don't have to go overboard to make a difference either.

Gentle exercise routines performed regu-

See **WEIGH:** Page 11

DOD: Fight against ISIS continues

By JOSEPH CLARK
DOD News

The Defense Department's mission to defeat ISIS remains ongoing in Syria, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said Dec. 9.

She said the U.S. Central Command will continue to work to prevent the militant group from reestablishing a foothold in the country following the overthrow of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime over the weekend.

"CENTCOM, together with allies and partners in the region, will continue to carry out operations to degrade ISIS capabilities, even during this dynamic period in Syria," Singh said.

On Dec. 7, U.S. forces conducted precision airstrikes in central Syria against known ISIS camps and operatives. As part of the operation, U.S. Air Force fighter and bomber aircraft struck more than 75 targets.

"There should be no doubt — we will not allow ISIS to reconstitute and take advantage of the current situation in Syria," CENTCOM Commander Army Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla said in a statement following the strikes. "All organizations in Syria should know that we will hold them accountable if they partner with or support ISIS in any way."

Happy Retirement

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE

Fort Jackson recognized the service of Col. John R. Shipe III, from the 81st Readiness Division; Capt. Amirah Ambekisye-Cotton, Institute for Religious Leadership; and Regina L. Norris, Army Drill Sergeant Academy, during the 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment graduation, Dec. 5. Shipe retires after 21 years of service, Cotton with 14 years, and Norris 42 years.



Wonderful

Continued from Page 7

the final evening. Special blessings and songs accompany the lighting, with menorahs placed in doorways or windows to publicize the miracles. Public menorah lightings, often in parks or city squares, further spread the message.

Fried foods, like potato latkes and jelly-filled doughnuts (sufganyot), are eaten to recall the oil's miracle. Another tradition is playing with a dreidel, a four-sided spinning top inscribed with the Hebrew letters nun, gimmel, hei, and shin— an acronym for nes gadol hayah sham (“a great miracle happened there”). The dreidel game often involves a pot of coins, nuts, or chocolate gelt (foil-wrapped chocolate coins).

Giving Chanukah gelt (money) is also traditional, encouraging children to give tzedakah (charity).

The flickering flames of the menorah carry timeless messages:

■ **Stand up for what's right:**

Like Judah Maccabee, face challenges

with courage and faith.

■ **Always grow in goodness:**

Each night's additional flame reminds us to strive for more light and positive action.

■ **A little light dispels much darkness:**

Even a small act of kindness or goodness can brighten the darkest moments.

■ **Be proud of your identity:**

Like the public menorah, proudly proclaim your values and faith.

■ **Share your light:**

Chanukah teaches us to spread light and goodness beyond ourselves into the world.

Chanukah's message is universal:

In the face of adversity, faith, courage, and perseverance can triumph, and even the smallest light can illuminate the darkest night.

Christmas: Jesus' Birth

**By CHAPLAIN (COL.)
STANLEY SMITH**
Garrison Chaplain

While Christmas has become wild-

ly commercialized, the true meaning of Christmas is to remember the birth of Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Savior.

Most Christians around the world celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25. Christmas began to be celebrated on Dec. 25 as early as the 2nd Century.

For many, Advent is also celebrated during the four weeks leading up to Christmas day and is a time of “waiting and yearning” for the long-awaited Savior.

Advent was celebrated by the church as early as the 3rd Century.

During Advent, candles are lit during worship services and in homes to reflect on different themes of the season, such as hope, peace, joy, and love.

The story of Jesus' birth can be found in the Bible in Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-21, and John 1:14.

Christmas marks the moment God took on flesh and walked among us, which is glorious and scandalous at the same time. In fact, this is why one of the names ascribed to Jesus is Immanuel, which means ‘God with us’.

Christmas is a celebration of good news for the world.

Rejoice!

Balance

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ever, I want you to reflect on how you manage your stress. Are your usual stress management methods effective? If not, I want to provide three simple ideas that can be used that may help manage stress. The first idea is to take time for yourself. Find something you enjoy and plan it in your schedule. It can be as simple as taking a 10-minute walk. The second idea is to set limits. Learn to say no and do not overextend yourself. The last idea I will mention is recognizing how you define your balance of work and family time.

It is important that you can define your work/family time balance. It may not be 50/ 0. It may be 60/40 or 70/ 0. The key is to define it as it works for you. People define work / family balance based upon their perspectives and goals.

DID YOU KNOW: Do not apply camo to the skin in temperatures below 32°F. It can mask frostbite.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FAITH GROUP
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
CHANUKAH SERVICE
CATHOLIC MASS
CATHOLIC MASS
GOSPEL SERVICE
GENERAL PROTESTANT
REVIVE SERVICE
JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE

DAY
DEC. 24
DEC. 26
SUNDAY
MON-FRI
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
FRIDAY

TIME
7:30 P.M.
6-7 P.M.
9:30-10:30 A.M.
NOON
10:30 A.M.
11 A.M. TO NOON
5 P.M.
6-7 P.M.

PLACE
MAIN POST CHAPEL
LIGHTNING CHAPEL
MAIN POST CHAPEL
MAIN POST CHAPEL
KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
MAIN POST CHAPEL
MAIN POST CHAPEL
LIGHTNING CHAPEL

INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING
CATHOLIC MASS
PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE
CHURCH OF CHRIST
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE
ANGLICAN
ISLAMIC SERVICE
JEWISH SERVICE
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER DAY SAINTS
HEATHEN/PAGAN

DAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY
SUNDAY

TIME
8-9 A.M.
9:30-10:30 A.M.
10:30-11:30 A.M.
8:30-10 A.M.
8-9 A.M.
8-9 A.M.
10:15-11:30 A.M.

10:30 A.M. to NOON
8:30-9:30 A.M.

PLACE
SOLOMON CENTER
SOLOMON CENTER
CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL
POST THEATER
SOLOMON CENTER
KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL
LIGHTNING CHAPEL

WASHINGTON ROAD CHAPEL
CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS
Capt. Anthony Velez and Capt. William Norman, both students in the Adjutant General School's Captains Career Course, pose during a break in between heats during the 2025 South Carolina State Qualifying Cross Country event held on Fort Jackson. Norman, was recently awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

MacArthur

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For example, he called on his 30 to 40 contacts to help in case of resiliency issues.

"I had the National Guard and their psychological assistance or resiliency trainers coming out," he said. "We had a lot of postvention resources come from that."

Norman's people focus helped his unit in a number of ways.

"His efforts ensure mission success at every turn," Matelski wrote.

The AG officer showed his honor by driving more than 250 miles to help the brigade headquarters after the death of a Soldier. The "empathetic people first leader" was the guest speaker at the unit memorial to honor the fellow officer's service.

According to Matelski, Norman has actively volunteered in his community for over a decade, helping raise over \$200,000 annually for school-children while driving more than 1,000 miles annually using 33% of his annual leave.

Norman also volunteered at the recent Cross Country State Qualifier held on post, Nov. 15.

"He epitomizes Duty, Honor, and Country as General MacArthur once did," Matelski wrote.

Weigh

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larly deliver so many benefits to the body. It stimulates blood flow which can clear

blocked veins and arteries. It increases our bone density for greater stability, which helps offset the effects of osteoporosis. The benefits of exercise go on and on and each one slows down the aging process.

We don't need a miracle cream or product during this holiday season to look our best as we enjoy family and friends. If you

are new to healthier lifestyle practices, apply these simple suggestions during this holiday season. If you practice a healthier lifestyle, use that balance to get you through the holidays and into the New Year with a smile.

Pam's thought for the week: "Glowing skin is always in."

The Fitness Department offers a variety of group exercise classes that can help you reach your wellness goals.

Contact Pam Long, Fitness and Wellness Specialist for Family and MWR at (803) 751-3700 for more information or to become a member of the fitness and wellness program.

Family and MWR 2024-25
Holiday Activities Hours of Operation

Army Community Service

Dec 24,25Closed
Dec 31, Jan 1.....Closed
Jan 2.....Normal Hours

Auto Craft Shop- Dec 19 - Jan 5
Block leave hrs 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec 24,25Closed
Dec 31, Jan 1Closed
Jan 4Normal Hours

Century Lanes Bowling Ctr

Dec.17-19Closed
Dec 205-10 p.m.
Dec 213-8 p.m.
Dec 2212-6 p.m.
Dec 23-26.....Closed
Dec 27.....5-10 p.m.
Dec 2812-8 p.m.
Dec 2912-6 p.m.
Dec 30Closed
Dec 31, Jan ,2 1.....12-6 p.m.
Jan 35-10 p.m.
Jan 412-8 p.m.
Jan 512-6 p.m.

Child Youth Services
CDCs and SACs

Dec 20-29.....7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dec 23-27:
Care will be condensed:
CDCs @ Lighthouse CDC
(Bldg 5979) & Pickens CDC
(Bldg 5978) SAC@Lighthouse
(Bldg 5975):
Dec 25, Jan 1 ... All Centers
Closed

Youth Center

Dec 20-31.....7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Dec 25, Jan 1.....Closed

Parent Central Services

Dec 23-27.....9 a.m.-1 p.m.
25 Dec.....Closed
Dec 30-31Normal Hours
Jan 1Closed
Jan 2Normal Hours
Liberty Extended Care Center
Dec 20-Jan 2Closed

1917 Club

Dec 21-Jan 14Closed
Jan 15-Lunch Open-short
order only

Down Range Bar

Dec 21-Jan 14Closed
Jan 15Normal Hours

Palmetto Greens, 512 Trolley
Dec 14-Jan3Closed

Fort Jackson Golf Club
Dec 25Closed

Marion Street Station

Dec 17-2011 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dec 24-25.....Closed
Dec 26-27.....11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dec 31 -Jan 1Closed
Jan 2Normal Hours

Victory Bingo

Dec 24-26.....Closed

Victory Travel Center

Dec 17-20, 23.....9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Dec 24-25Closed
Dec 26,27,30.....9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Jan 1Closed
Jan 2Normal Hours

Fitness Classes

Dec 23-Jan 1No Classes
Jan 2Normal Hours

Perez Fitness Center

Dec 23-24.....6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dec 25Closed
Dec 26-31.....6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Jan 1Closed
Jan 2Normal Hours

Vanguard Gym

Dec 23-24.....6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Dec 25Closed
Dec 26-31.....6 a.m.-4 p.m.
Jan 1Closed
Jan 2Normal Hours

Coleman Gym-Open 24 hrs

Dec 18 -Jan 1Unstaffed
Jan 2Normal staffed hrs

Thomas Lee Hall Library

Dec 24-25Closed
Dec 31-Jan 1Closed
Jan 2Normal Hours

Knight Pool

Nov 1-Jan 3 -
Tentatively Closed

Weston Lake

Dec 24-25Closed
Dec 31Closed
Jan 1Closed
Jan 2Normal Hours

Recycle Center

Dec 25Closed
Jan 1.....Closed
Jan 2Normal Hours

Videorama

Dec 19-Jan 2Closed

(Current as of December 4, 2024)

VICTORY... STARTS HERE

LETTERS
FOR
SANTA



A mailbox for letters to Santa sits at Patriots Park waiting for children's letters. The mailbox was placed at the park so children from across Fort Jackson could send letters to St. Nick.

Photo by NATHAN CLINEBELLE