

## COMMUNITY CORNER

## Warrior Zone to celebrate anniversary, offers Soldiers place to relax

By Col. William Clark  
GARRISON COMMANDER

On Aug. 25 and 26, the Warrior Zone will celebrate its one-year anniversary.

The 25,000-square-foot facility has been providing a home away from home since Aug. 26, 2011, when it officially opened.

Located in Building 7867 on Custer Hill at the heart of the "Big Red One's" primary barracks' footprint, the Warrior Zone is a place for Soldiers to focus on developing strong

friendships that enhance a troop's ability to maximize its potential and deal with the stresses of war.

The \$10-million facility features 68 computers for general use and gaming, dozens of game systems hooked into 55-inch flat screen televisions, pool tables, poker tables, a snack bar that seats 75, a full bar, a theater and a large conference room. Outside, a covered



Col. Clark

patio invites Soldiers to fire up a grill and relax beside a large fire pit.

If you frequent the Warrior Zone, great; if not, I encourage you to check it out – and what better time than the anniversary celebration when special events will take place.

Video game contests, a pool tournament, karaoke, a barbecue and a car show are among event scheduled to celebrate the facility's anniversary.

Pre-registration is required for the car show and tournaments. Those interested in participating in the car show or

tournaments can sign up at the Warrior Zone.

The Warrior Zone complements the Fort Riley programs and facilities already in place that all play a part in sustaining the health, wellness and strength of the BRO Family, and particularly, of our Single Soldiers.

Fort Riley's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program meets every second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the facility. The next meetings will be Aug. 22, Sept. 12 and 26.

The BOSS program aims

to enhance the quality of life of single Soldiers, while offering opportunities for community service, recreation and leisure. Each year, the organization participates in a variety of activities, ranging from pool parties to trips to Kansas City and Colorado. In fact, BOSS' next event is a pool party from 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 25 at Custer Hill Pool.

Our single Soldiers have a unique experience in the Army. When they permanently change station, they do not have a Family who makes the move with them. They do not always have

that built-in support system. BOSS provides that support.

BOSS and the Warrior Zone can be found on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/rileybosswz](http://www.facebook.com/rileybosswz).

For more information about Warrior Zone programming and events, visit [rileywmr.com/warriorzone](http://rileywmr.com/warriorzone) or call 785-240-6618. For more information on BOSS, call 785-239-BOSS (2677).

*If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic for a future Community Corner, email [usarmy.riley.incom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.riley.incom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil).*

## Residents can aid in reducing energy consumption on post

By Calun Reece  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

High energy consumption because of recent heat waves makes it all too likely for Fort Riley residents to experience power outages, according to public works officials.

"Last summer we experienced several occasions where the electrical demand was at its peak at Fort Riley causing intermittent electrical outages – brown outs – because of the extreme temperatures last year ... We anticipated this year of having the same thing," said Marshall McCallister, housing manager, Directorate of Public Works.

Picner Military Housing has been proactive this season by providing energy-saving tips to residents on post to lessen the electrical demand.

To avoid power outages, residents are encouraged to:

- Set thermostats to 78 degrees. Set and maintain constant temperature. Do not use setback thermostat during extreme hot days.
- Use fans in rooms to circulate air and to keep rooms more

comfortable, and remember to turn fans off in unoccupied rooms.

- Keep doors and windows closed when air conditioning is in operation.

- Close curtains, shades or blinds on sun-exposed windows.

- Turn off non-essential appliances and as many lights as possible.

- Run the clothes dryer later in the evening, as opposed to during the day.

- Make sure the dryer is appropriately sealed and vented to the outside.

- Use your exterior grill or microwave for cooking. Avoid using the oven and stove as much as practical.

- Use kitchen and bathroom ventilation fans to reduce humidity when cooking or showering.

- Limit opening the refrigerator or freezer as much as possible.

- If one has a refrigerator in the garage, consider removing it or unplugging it for the summer.

- During these 100 degree days, the (electrical) system is stressed to the max, so we en-

courage folks to do some of those tips," McCallister said.

If a power outage does occur, DPW will be out quickly responding to the situation.

"If there's a power outage, before you even make the call, DPW is more than likely responding to that outage," McCallister said.

"They know immediately when there's an outage and response begins and corrective action is being taken – DPW is very good about getting the power back on."

When power outages do occur, appliances should be turned off to avoid a second power outage when the electricity is turned back on.

"If all your power goes out and then they try and bring it all back on at one time, it'll kick it back off ... So if you go around and shut everything off, DPW can bring the power back on gradually without overstressing the system, and then you can gradually turn your appliances back on," McCallister said.

It takes an effort from everybody to conserve energy, he added.

See ENERGY, page 14

## Fort Riley children enjoy VBS

By Calun Reece  
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Children took off to soaring heights at Vacation Bible School Aug. 6 to 10 at Morris Hill Chapel.

This year's VBS theme was "Sky: Everything is possible with God."

The curriculum was chosen to help children face the different challenges of military life by learning to trust God, said Don Ericson, director of religious education, Garrison Chaplain's Office.

Activities included singing, Bible stories, games, snacks and even science experiments like "the launch."

"The thing I liked best was the launch," said Derek Shull, 11, Fort Riley Elementary School. "You let the alka seltzer fizzle in water, pop the cap back on and wait a little bit and the cap will pop off," he said.

"The experiment was about trusting in God and how you



Calun Reece | POST

Children play with a parachute Aug. 7 during Vacation Bible School at Morris Hill Chapel. The parachute represented a mosquito net to help them understand about sending mosquito nets to Mali, Africa, as part of their Operation Kid-to-Kid mission project.

deal with your emotions," said Marazata Temese Jr., 15, VBS volunteer and Junction City High School student. "The kids really liked it."

Children also played games that connected with their daily Bible lesson and helped them have a better understanding about their "Operation Kid to Kid" mission project.

"The kids are going to be

gathering money and putting them in buckets that are going to Mali in Africa to help buy mosquito nets for the kids," said Sam Standefer, VBS volunteer, Neosho, Missouri, about the mission project.

"It's been really great – the kids have been awesome, and I think they're really learning."

See VBS, page 14