



the **Cannoneer** *Online*

Things to do

Gospel tour

Fort Sill presents the 2013 *“United as One Tour,”* a gospel music ensemble starring James Fortune & FIYA, Vashawn Mitchell, Kierra Sheard and Zacardi Cortez **Feb. 26** at 7 p.m. at Sheridan Theater. Doors open at 6 p.m. This uplifting musical event will be hosted by Shucky Ducky and is open to the public. **Tickets are now on sale** for \$10 for ages 3 and up at Adventure Travel locations in Building 4700 Mow-Way, or Central Mall in Lawton. For more information, call 442-3113.

Summer expo

If you want to keep your kids active this summer, make plans to attend the Youth Summertime Activities and Job Expo **March 2** from 1-4 p.m. at Rinehart Fitness Center. The free event is open to the public and a wide variety of fun and productive options for kids this summer will be available. There will be information on educational programs, sports camps, job opportunities, college help and more for toddlers, teens and in-betweens. For more information, call 442-4916.

Newcomer brief

Newcomer orientation is Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. at the Graham Resiliency Training Campus auditorium, 2934 Marcy Road, and is open to all newly assigned Soldiers and family members. For more information, call 442-2360.

Army Community Services activities

ACS has a variety of programs for adults and their children:

- **Parent Support Group** is a new program that offers a variety of activities for parents to meet and network with others. It also helps military children work on socialization skills. Each group has limited seating, so participants should arrive early.
- **Explorers Club** is for children ages 3-5. The group meets weekly for a guided, educational play session based on a theme. Parents and children will hear a story, sing, dance, play educational games and do a craft on a variety of topics that are of interest to preschoolers.
- **Playgroup** is free play sessions for children ages birth to 5 years. They meet in the Explorers Room at GRTC, 2934 Marcy Road.
- **Caravan Club** is for children ages birth to 5 years. The club goes on monthly educational field trips and activities to different locations, such as local museums or parks, and enjoys learning together. Each session is coordinated and hosted by an ACS volunteer.
- **Gartenzwerge Kinderschule** is for German-speaking children of military families and offers weekly guided, educational play sessions based on a theme. Parents and children hear a story, sing, dance, play educational games and do crafts entirely in German.
- **Deployment Playgroup**, for children ages birth to 5 of a deployed parent. This group meets Thursdays with other families coping with this phase of military life. Each session features free play time and a craft project designed to increase the bonds between separated parent and child.

For more information on any of these ACS programs, call 442-4916.



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Emergency relief

The Army Emergency Relief program is available to assist service members and their military families with financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans or grants. Service members should contact their unit command financial NCO to start the process. The AER office is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 442-4916.

Transition assist

The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) encourages all Soldiers who are retiring or ending their term of service within the next 12 to 18 months to call the ACAP center to start their transition process. The *Veterans Opportunity to Work to Hire Heroes Act*, which was signed into law and implemented Nov. 21, 2012 **requires mandatory ACAP pre-separation counseling**, a Veteran Affairs briefing and a Department of Labor employment workshop for all Soldiers. Pre-separation briefings can be scheduled by calling 442-2222/2713 or online at www.acap.army.mil.

Volunteer program

Explore a new career, make friends, develop skills, build a volunteer portfolio, set your own hours, professionally network and create opportunities. Active duty military may earn the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal worth 10 points on the E-5 and E-6 promotion boards. Army Community Service and the American Red Cross offer free childcare for volunteers. For more information call 442-4682/4916.

Hourly child care

The Alice Grierson Child Development Center offers hourly care for children 6 weeks to age 5 and a part-time preschool and toddler program. The center's hours are 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for hourly care and 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for the part-time programs. Grierson also offers before and after school care for the Lawton Public Schools program and full day toddler care. The services are offered from 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Parents must register with Child, Youth and School Services to use the center. Call 442-3927 for more information.

Family Readiness Group training

Army Community Service offers Operation Ready classes for Family Readiness Groups and families. Contact the Mobilization and Deployment section to register at 442-4916/0653.

Manage your finances

The Army Community Service financial readiness program personal financial counseling helps individuals and families manage their finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as buying a home and planning for retirement. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 442-3080.

Spouse tuition

Funding is available to military spouses who have recently relocated to Fort Sill with their service members, and were employed elsewhere. It covers tuition, fees and books for up to \$5,000 for technical certification programs, \$7,000 for associate degrees and \$10,000 for bachelor's or master's degrees. For more information, call 442-4256.



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Story time

Preschoolers and their parents are invited to story time and craft outings Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 2 p.m. at Nye Library. For more information, call 442-2048.

Easy medication refills

Reynolds Army Community Hospital patients can refill prescriptions by calling 458-2442/2443, or going online at: www.rach.army.mil. The call-in refill service is available at the Main Pharmacy in the hospital and the Pharmissary next to the commissary. Refill requests made before 7 a.m. will be ready after 11 a.m. that morning. Refill requests received after 7 a.m. will be ready after 11 a.m. the next duty day. The Pharmissary offers same day walk-in refill service.

Wounded veterans

Anyone awarded the Purple Heart can attend meetings of the Military Order of the Purple Heart the first Tuesday of each month at American Legion Post 29 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 583-6417.

Finance seminars

Fort Sill Federal Credit Union offers free seminars monthly. Attendees can get tips on negotiating with sales people, deciphering financing options, negotiating prices and understanding warranty prices and usage. For more information, call 353-2124.

Commissary cards

The Defense Commissary Agency is making progress in its rollout of the Commissary Rewards Card that will soon allow customers to access and redeem digital coupons at all of its stores. Cards can only be used at commissaries where the card has been deployed, but officials expect the rollout to include all stores by early fall. Customers should check with their local commissary to see if the card is available at their store. For more information, visit www.commissaries.com/FAQs and select "Commissary Rewards Card."

Sill Scouting

The Fort Sill **Girl Scouts** is for girls in kindergarten to seventh grade. For more information, call Becky Clark at 351-1435. High School age girls should call Princess Behrens, Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma community development executive, at 800-698-0022.

Fort Sill **Boy Scouts** Troop 173 offers boys ages 11-17 opportunities for outdoor fun. Call Brett Lewis, scoutmaster, at 284-1538 for more information on getting into scouting.

Lookin' for live music?

Fans of live music can find plenty of places to get their groove on at www.okielive.com/events. More than 45 performance venues from Stillwater and the Oklahoma City area, to Southwest Oklahoma (including the Lawton area) and as far south as Wichita Falls, Texas, are highlighted. The site lists performances and concerts for almost every night of the week. You can also check out profiles and performance videos for some of the musicians. For more information go to the website, or send an email to okielive@gmail.com.



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BOSS

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings are the first and third Tuesday of every month at 2 p.m. at the RecPlex. The program offers activities for Soldiers and geographic bachelors. For more information, call 442-6346.

Paintball

Make plans to play paintball at Arena Paintball Saturdays and Sundays excluding holidays. The price is \$27, which includes entry, marker, goggles, HPA tank, unlimited air refills, the paint pack with three pods, barrel sleeve and 500 rounds of paint. Paintball runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register at the Outdoor Adventure Center and bring the receipt to Arena Paintball, 2607 SE 75th St. in Lawton.

Outdoor rental

The Outdoor Adventure Center has all the equipment you need to make the most of your outdoor time from flying discs to fishing boats. The center also reserves the five on-post picnic areas and parks. Medicine Creek, Ambrosia Springs, Quinette, Rucker and the Co-Op parks are available to reserve for family outings or unit functions at no charge. The center is in the RecPlex, 2502 Sheridan Road. Call 355-8270 for more information.

Bowling deals

Twin Oaks Bowling Center offers specials throughout the week. Monday is bowl for \$1.75 all day long. Tuesday and Thursday are the Bowlopolis family special, starting at 2 p.m., with the last session starts at 8 p.m. Get a lane for up to six people with two-hour shoe rental, one large one-topping pizza and two pitchers of soda for \$30. Saturday night is head pin bowling. When a colored pin comes down as the head pin, get a strike and receive a coupon for a free game. The center offers party packages starting at \$3.25 per person. For more information on party options, call 442-2882 for information.

RecPlex

The RecPlex has a wide variety of movies available at the Friday night movie since it now has an account with NetFlix and Gamefly. Popcorn and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Each Saturday at 1 p.m. the RecPlex offers Kinect Tournaments. Gamefly provides games for the Xboxes with Kinect, Playstation 3, and Wii. Come out and test your gaming skills. For more information, call the RecPlex at 442-4824.

Piano lessons

SKIESUnlimited has piano music theory classes for students ages 2 to 18 years. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays for 30 minutes at the RecPlex. Fees are \$65 per month. Students must be registered with CYS Services. Private and advanced lessons are also available. For more information, call 917-4492 or register online at www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil.

Free park access

Active-duty military personnel and their family members can enter every national park for free, the Interior Department announced. An annual pass is available to members of the military free. The national parks and federal recreation lands annual pass ordinarily costs \$80 and provides access to 2,000 national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands. For more information, logon to www.nps.gov/finda-park/passes.htm.



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Lotsa food

Java Café in the Impact Zone offers daily lunch specials Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Native arts

Registration is open for traditional Native American arts and crafts classes through the **Native American Cultural Studies Program**. All classes are open to the public. The nonprofit program teaches traditional ways to make moccasins, dreamcatchers, intricate beadwork and more to all those interested. Classes are scheduled throughout the month of January at the Tribal Art Center, 423 West C Ave. in Cache. A student discount is offered for all classes. For more information call 580-429-3430 or 483-6864.

LETRA cabins

Lake Elmer Thomas Recreation Area has lakeside rustic, wooden cabins available for reservation in three sizes. The small cabins accommodate up to four people; the medium cabins, six people; and large cabins, seven people. Prices are \$60, \$70 and \$80 for small, medium and large cabins. They are available for reservation to all, but there is an additional \$10 cost for civilians. The cabins come with all the amenities including furnishings; heat and air; a TV and DVD player; fully-stocked kitchens with dishes and silverware; and linens and towels. Reservations should be made up to two months in advance. For reservations or questions, call the Country Store at 442-5854.