



THE TIPTON TIMES

and Alumni News

...the quarterly renderings of our small town



P.O. Box 6, Tipton, Kansas 67485

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Pictured are the 3rd-6th grade students for the 2007-08 school year.

Tipton Community School Receives Governor's Award

Tipton Community School has received the Governor's Achievement Award, which means TCS has been honored as one of the top performing schools in the state of Kansas. The specifications for this are as follows:

- The school must have achieved the Standard of Excellence in both reading and mathematics for 2008
- The school must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in both reading and mathematics and one additional measure in 2008
- The school must have been among schools in the top 5% in both reading and mathematics on the 2008 state assessments at its respective level (elementary school, middle/junior high school, high school)

There are 938 elementary schools in the state of Kansas, and only forty-four elementary schools qualified for this prestigious award. Congratulations to the students at TCS for working hard to receive this award once again. We are very proud of our students and staff!

Fall Treker Raffle Raises \$24,459 for CYO, TCS

The fall joint fundraiser for Tipton's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and Tipton Community School (TCS) was a huge success. Kelli Hake, CYO Sponsor who was in charge of the raffle, set a goal of selling 1,200 tickets. Students in grades K-12 far exceeded this goal by selling 1,598 tickets.

After paying for the prizes, the total profit from the raffle is \$24,459.00, which will be split evenly between the CYO group and Tipton Community School. The CYO will use its half to fund their trip to the National Catholic Youth Convention (NCYC) in Kansas City next fall. Hake said that 100% of the Tipton CYO members plan to attend. Tipton Community School's half of the funds will go toward operating expenses for the school.

Gary Sloggett of Hunter won the top prize in the raffle, a 2008 Treker all-terrain utility vehicle. Receiving \$100 for selling the winning ticket was Ty Brummer. Rolenda Corpstein of Tipton won the second prize of a flat-screen TV. Jim Marshall of Tipton won \$500 cash, and Melvin Brummer of Tipton won \$250 cash.

The top five families who sold the most tickets won cash prizes. Top sellers were



Ty Brummer and Gary Sloggett

Dylan and Brooke Hollerich who received \$500 for selling 162 tickets. In second place was Meaghan Jones who sold 138 tickets and received \$400. In third place was Ty Brummer who sold 133 tickets and received \$300. Jacob Palen was in fourth place with 108 tickets, receiving \$200. And in fifth place were Junior and Samantha Hollerich who sold 82 tickets, winning \$100.

U.S. Army Comes to Tipton for Strong Bonds

by Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs

Soldiers often form bonds with each other through shared experiences in the face of adversity, but rarely is the opportunity presented for those same bonds to be formed between the senior leaders and the junior troops.

From Oct. 13 through Oct. 15, a group of leaders with upwards of 20 years experience in the Army and Soldiers with as few as two years in the service fostered relationships through a Strong Bonds Retreat to the Ringneck Ranch in Tipton, Kan.

Over the course of the three-day retreat, the group, all members of the 1st Infantry Division, went hunting and fishing together in a relaxed environment away from the everyday stresses of being a Soldier.

Spc. Brady Johnson, the 1st Inf. Div. Deputy Commandant, said the trip had a significant impact on him.

"The retreat was probably one of the most exciting and influential trips that the military has ever provided for me; it gave us a chance to see how the senior NCOs and officers open up and really bond with the lower enlisted Soldiers," Johnson said. "For me it showed how a senior noncommissioned officer can still be professional but hang out like one of the guys."

Hanging out like a group of friends instead of senior leaders and junior Soldiers was made easier thanks to the environment created by the staff at Ringneck Ranch, where the troops were treated to high quality lodging and meals on a beautiful ranch in Northern Kansas.

Sgt. 1st Class Roger Matthews, an operations NCO with the 1st Inf. Div. Headquarters, said it was a learning experience for the leaders as well.

"The event was very beneficial not only for the junior enlisted but also for the senior enlisted," Matthews said. "I was able to talk with the junior enlisted on a more personal basis and hear their issues and concerns in a more intimate setting.

"I was able to teach, coach and mentor Soldiers and in some cases be taught, coached, and mentored myself." Col. Donnie Walker, the 1st Inf. Div.



Ten members of the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters participated in the first Strong Bonds Retreat at the Ringneck Ranch in Tipton, Kan., from Oct. 13 to Oct. 15. Over the course of the three days, senior leaders and junior Soldiers of the 'Big Red One' fostered stronger relationships while hunting and fishing. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nathaniel Smith, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

Assistant Chief of Staff for Commander's Initiatives, said the atmosphere was perfect for the leaders to help the young troops appreciate the outdoors.

"The Ringneck Ranch experience provided the perfect setting for Soldiers of all ranks from the 'Big Red One' to share a common interest and to build camaraderie and fellowship," Walker said. "The senior

mentors were able to teach the junior Soldiers about the positive aspects of hunting, fishing and how to appreciate what nature has to offer."

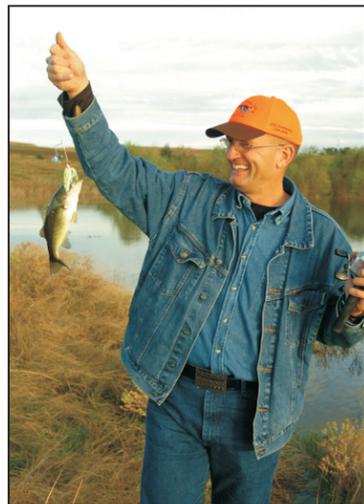
Appreciating nature was easier thanks to the help of the guides working the ranch who were eager to teach first-time hunters the fundamentals of the sport.

By the end of the Strong Bonds Retreat, Walker said the relationships built were clearly evident.

"The times we all spent around the breakfast, lunch and dinner table were priceless, where we told war stories, shared previous hunting

experiences, talked current events, military history, and talked about where we came from and grew up, our families and talked about our group experiences on the hunt we had just completed; these were some of most enjoyable times each day during the

➔ Please see "Strong Bonds" Page 6



Chap. (Lt. Col.) David Waters, the 1st Inf. Div. Chaplain, shows off his catch at the Ringneck Ranch's Bluehills Lodge in Tipton, Ks., Oct. 13, 2008. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nathaniel Smith, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

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Strong Bonds Soldiers, Hunting and Tipton

➔Continued from Page 1

three-day trip," Walker said. "I also found it interesting that we all sat in the same place at each meal, just as a family would in their own home."

The October Strong Bonds Retreat to Ringneck Ranch was the first of many the 'Big Red One' hopes to hold for its Soldiers.

One Soldier's Account

by SFC Harry Haack

From 24-26 November the 97th Military Police Battalion conducted its first ever Strong Bond Hunting Retreat at the Ringneck Ranch in Tipton, KS. The audience of Soldiers consisted of four senior "mentors" and five new hunters that had never experienced any type of hunting at all. Although the trip was filled with numerous activities and adventures, the actual focus was to foster junior leader development and allow some much deserved down time from the continuous rigors of a MP BN deployment cycle.

Day one consisted of travel and "inprocessing" as some might call it. We arrived at the ranch and were immediately welcomed by the owners, Keith and Debra Houghton. After a small amount of paperwork and safety briefings, The Soldiers immediately went off to the skeet range in order to familiarize the new hunters with the shotguns that they would actually be carrying in the field. Two hours and several hundred rounds later, the new hunters were comfortable with their shotguns so we loaded into the vans with the smell of gunpowder heavy on our clothes and headed towards Blue Hills Lodge where we would be staying.

No sooner had we dismounted the vans than we were warmly "assaulted" by Lisa Hake and Lila Lawrence. As the Soldiers downloaded their gear, Lisa and Lila entertained us with stories of the area and the hand-built house that we were staying in. It was difficult not to relax to the smells of fresh, homemade bread and it was not long before "Pappy" (Lisa and Lila's father) had a wonderful fire burning in the yard for the Soldiers to relax around while regaling in their Annie Oakley stories on who killed more of the elusive "orange pheasants" at the range earlier! The meals were fit for a king with all the bread and desserts being homemade and steaks that would have made the finest restaurants seem skimpy. The bowls were never empty and rarely did a Soldier leave the table with an empty plate. The ladies waited on the Soldiers hand and foot and within a matter of hours we all felt as if we were "home" and surrounded by family that truly cared about us. To say that these two sisters make you feel at home would be an understatement and a serious injustice.

Day two started with a very filling

breakfast of homemade biscuits and gravy, hash browns, bacon and some sort of delicious cheese and bacon combination. At 0730 we were met by Dan and Craig, our guides for the hunt. The Soldiers all received a safety brief from the guides and were cautioned about shooting around the dogs. As Dan put it, "One of my dogs costs about \$10,000, and I won't be sure which it is until one of you shoots it!" After the brief we broke down into two groups of five and headed into the field. The day was filled with pointing dogs, cackling roosters, the sweet smell of expended rounds and the infectious sound of Soldiers laughing. That afternoon we retired to the lodge and spent another evening lazing around another of Pappy's fires with bellies distended and full of pork chops. Lisa and Lila challenged the Soldiers to an "unnamed" game of skill played with bean bags...needless to say, we had no chance against these two "ringers"!

Day three was much the same as day two with a wonderful breakfast and an early start after the roosters. New to this day, however, were the moans and groans that Soldiers make after shooting about 500 rounds through a twelve gauge shotgun! After a few shots the Soldiers loosened up and finished the day by harvesting their limit of pheasants. After lunch we had to begin to get ready to return to Fort Riley. Long faces were worn by everyone as we packed our gear and loaded the vans. Heartfelt good-byes were exchanged and more than one person was misty eyed while giving hugs to Lisa and Lila. There were shared email addresses and phone numbers with the promises of pictures and recipes being exchanged as soon as we were back at our computers.

Although it seems that the days were filled to capacity with hunting and eating, we never failed to take advantage of all opportunities to talk with our Soldiers about different aspects of leadership and



The sun sets over the lake at Bluehills Lodge in Tipton, Kan., on Oct. 13. Ringneck Ranch was the location of the first Strong Bonds Retreat of 2008, with more scheduled through December. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nathaniel Smith, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

the importance of keeping the Army filled with strong Soldiers and focused leaders. We discussed the need for discipline and the importance of leading from the front. Communication was another in depth discussion and every meal was started with a special thank you from the Chaplain to the CSM above.

I have been hunting and fishing for nearly 25 years. I have been in the Army for 18 years and have been leading Soldiers for the last 16. I can honestly say that I have never encountered any event that allowed for such a blend of camaraderie, teaching, learning and development of new friendships. If I were to sum up the entire trip in one word, I think that word would have to be "inconceivable"!!

Editor's note: In putting the information for these stories together, it was obvious to see the interest and enthusiasm this program has generated in local folks and in the soldiers that attend. I was fortunate to welcome the group of MPs above when they arrived at Ringneck. Their eager young eyes seemed to know they were in for a good time. Later, I spoke to Lisa Hake, she told me these men were a powerful inspiration to her.

TIPTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Tipton Heritage Association has received 501c3 certification so that donations can be used as a tax deduction by the donor. We greatly appreciate the donations received and encourage all to consider future donations. While the materials used for the museum building repair to date have been donated with the exception of the roof, the materials for the back wall and the 2nd story flooring will be major expenses. We won't be able to apply for grants until some of this work is done. Therefore, any donations will be greatly appreciated.

We are working on documentation to submit to the State Historical Society to be designated a State Historic Building (which is a prerequisite to applying for grants). Kyle Peterson, director of the Mitchell County Museum in Beloit, has been invaluable in researching documents and providing direction for the state application process.

Basic structural work needs to be done on the museum building before applying for state designation. Several generous donations have been received in the form of services and material as well as money to accomplish the improvements that need to be made. Repair of the concrete floor at the front has been done thanks to the donation of labor, equipment and materials by TREB Construction, Kent Hake of Great Plains, and Rick Koenigsman. Virgil Jearde has been there to help when needed. Oak Creek Construction has donated 30 padded chairs for use in the museum. A new stairway has been provided and installed by Dave Ellenz. Will Stucker of Manhattan spent considerable time in the heat of summer removing the old upstairs flooring. Work is currently being done to restore the front façade and eventually remove the metal false front. The limestone foundation still needs to be repaired and the upper story windows restored. The next major project will be the replacement of the current metal back wall with block or brick.

Display cases have been promised to the museum by Bob Thummel and St. John's of Beloit. We've already received artifacts to eventually be displayed which are now in storage. Much work needs to be done, though, before the building is ready for use.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please do not discard old land or business documents related to Tipton or Pittsburg Township including old abstracts. Some of these have invaluable information concerning the development of our town and area.

Consider donating materials that might be of historic interest to the Tipton Heritage Association. At the very least, let us make copies of pertinent information. Valuable historic documents of the establishment of the town have been found in boxes of old newspapers ready to be destroyed. **Please check what you're about to throw away.**

We are always interested in scanning old pictures related to the early days of Pittsburg—Tipton. Contact Fred at the Times office or Carolyn Ellenz.

Thanks to all for the interest and support this museum project has received.



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