

Working Together

Iraqis Open New Community Center

By Cpl. Bill Putnam
122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Iraq - A new community center in Al Rashid was officially opened Sept. 2, at a palace complex once owned by Saddam Hussein

Hosted by a private bank, the opening included a dinner and tour of the refurbished community center.

The center's main features are a women's center and an indoor pool.

"The pool will be open seven days a week, with men and women each getting two days a piece to enjoy it and families the other three days," Capt. Jason Morgan, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment said.

The community center also has a reception hall for weddings and parties and classrooms that will provide computer and Internet training for both children and adults.

"What makes the complex unique is how it was funded," said Capt. Dan Ramos, a civil-military project officer for 1-8 Cav.. "The tank battalion spent almost \$300,000 on the two large buildings, which will house the women's center and eventually a restaurant."

The Iraqi Interim Government, the United States and a private bank partnered together to not only reinvest in the center



By Cpl. Bill Putnam 122nd MPAD

Col. Stephen Lanza, commander of 5th Brigade Combat Team, laughs at a joke during the tour of the community center's opening Sept. 2.

but to make it a center piece for investment in the Al Rashid community, said Morgan.

According to Morgan, a private Iraqi bank, Baraka Bank, stepped forward through a local citizen to fund the community center's remodeling.

"The bank spent a lot of money on landscaping, remodeling some of the smaller buildings on the site and installing lighting throughout the center," Morgan said. "And, they hosted the grand opening party."

Baraka bank worked with the German-based Deutsche Bank, who wants to spend almost \$26 million in the area, Morgan said.

"Deutsche will go through Baraka for the investing, which is a common thing in international investing," he explained. "A larger, foreign bank will typically work with a smaller, local bank to invest in an area."

Baraka plans to build an apartment complex in the area large enough to house 1,000 people, Morgan said. More homes, schools and

private business will also be built.

"This local investing is important," Morgan said. "Because it's by Iraqis for Iraqis. It also shows that companies are feeling more secure about investing in [this] sector because they wouldn't put up money if the sector wasn't secure."

Because it's underdeveloped, the area is primed for investment and rebuilding, Morgan said.

"Most of it belonged to the Hussein family and consists of date palm tree groves," he said.

39th BCT Uncovers Weapons Cache

By 1st Lt Chris Heathscott
39th BCT Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq - Soldiers from Oregon's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, recently uncovered a weapons cache just north of Camp Cooke, with the assistance of the Iraqi National Guard.

"They found two separate caches consisting of 28, 155 mm artillery rounds, [rocket propelled grenade] launchers, and small-arms ammunition," said Staff Sgt. Jon Jeu, of North Little Rock, Ark.. "A search of a small residence nearby, located an actual [improvised explosive device] that was wired and ready for placement."

"They found a whole bunch of propaganda, a whole bunch of gas masks, and a whole bunch of rounds," said Capt. Damian San Miguel, a resident of Eugene, Ore., and Company B commander. "We took a whole lot of rounds that were possible [IEDs]."

Commander of the 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment, Lt. Col. Keith Klemmer, a Russellville, Ark. resident, said the discovery of the weapons cache was a sig-



By 1st Lt. Chris Heathscott, 39th BCT

Staff Sgt. Larry Price, of the 103rd Field Artillery Battalion from Rhode Island, looks on as the commander of the 307th Battalion, Iraqi National Guard demonstrates the use of a protective mask. The mask was one of many items that were found at the site of weapons cache that netted 28, 155 mm artillery rounds, which were most likely used as improvised explosive devices against the Multi National and Iraqi Security Forces.

nificant development to the recent attacks on the Multi-National Forces at Camp Cooke.

"What's interesting is, this is no more than a couple of kilometers away,

roughly a little over a mile, from where we actually have received several attacks over the past few months," Klemmer said. "We may have done two things. We found a cache of

weapons and may have actually solved a big mystery of attacks on convoys just north of our location."

The mission brought in more than weapons. The discovery resulted in intelligence on those responsible said Jeu, who assisted in the interrogation of a detainee.

"We ended up taking one detainee at the time, who was a former Iraqi Soldier who served during the Iran-Iraq war," Jeu said. "We also identified our primary target, the person responsible for the majority of the ammunition in the arms cache that we located."

Klemmer said, the find was an impressive accomplishment for the battalion, because the process from receiving the initial order to unearthing the cache took place in less than 24 hours.

"It was in a very compressed time frame," he said. "It was a very successful mission, well executed by the infantry Soldiers on the ground."

"It's a very labor intensive process searching the area with metal detectors," Jeu said. "The teams work very hard and they work very well together."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

I'm hungry.
anna ga'ANna

Wednesday

High: 108
Low: 82



Thursday

High: 110
Low: 82



Friday

High: 108
Low: 82



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Cowboys Set Out on 650 Mile Ride

BANDERA, Texas (AP) - Dozens of cowboys and wannabes hitched up their horses and wagons in this Hill Country town on Monday and pointed them north along a historic route used by 19th-century cattle drovers to get their beef to market. The hardy travelers plan to take seven weeks to cover the 650 miles from Bandera, the self-proclaimed Cowboy Capital of the World, to the famed Wild West outpost of Dodge City, Kan. The ride will follow what was known as the Western Trail, along which millions of Texas longhorns were driven north to railheads during a two-decade span ending in 1893.

Army Will Rebid Haliburton Contract

NEW YORK (Reuters) -- The U.S. Army plans within months to break up Halliburton Co.'s contract to provide support services for U.S. troops in Iraq -- valued at up to \$13 billion -- and open the work to competitive bids, the Wall Street Journal said on Tuesday, citing an internal Army memorandum. Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall told the newspaper the Army's move was expected and that KBR would consider bidding for parts of the work. The newspaper said the Army is frustrated with efforts to estimate the final cost of the work and may stop negotiating contract costs with KBR.



Austin American-Statesman

Running in the Congress Avenue Mile meant getting up early on Labor Day. Runners of all ages and sizes hoofed it from the Capitol to the bridge. The Congress Annual Mile is a decade-old race through downtown Austin.

Central Texas Fair Honors Military

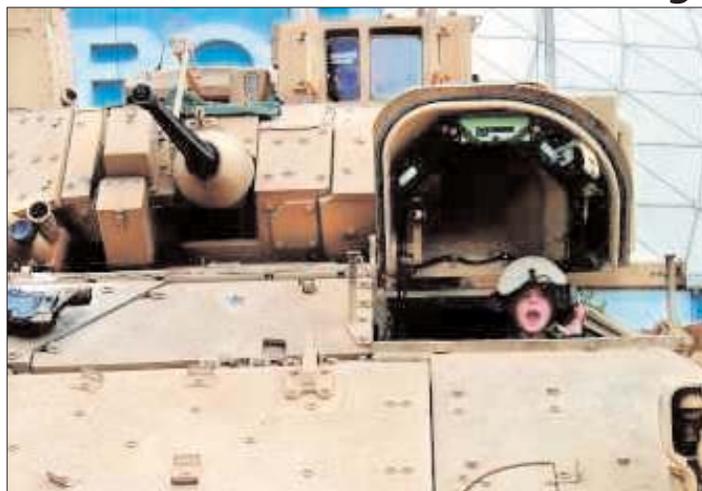
BELTON, Texas (Temple Daily Telegram) - Organizers of the Central Texas State Fair honored the United States military with free food and admission on Labor Day, the final day of the annual event at the Bell County Expo.

Keith Smith, fair manager, said turnout this year was up, in spite of slightly smaller than expected crowds Monday due to threatening rain.

"It's been great today," he said, "the rain came early, so the turnout was higher today than we expected."

Smith said the military personnel deserved to be honored this year.

"Those folks have done so much, for us as Americans and for our country," Smith said of the military. "The fair is only a small thing for us, but they lay their lives on the line every day," he said.



Temple Daily Telegram

Tyler Litchfield, 8, shouts orders from a hatch in a Bradley fighting vehicle Monday at the Central Texas State Fair in Belton at the Expo Center. Litchfield is the son of Robert and Holly Dinsmore of Killeen.

Smith added that the families of Soldiers were also given free admission and food since many Soldiers are serving overseas.

"This was our way to give the families of Soldiers

at least a couple of hours not to have to worry about their loved ones overseas," he said.

Smith said overall attendance was up 10 percent beginning Monday.

Gelding Breaks Futurity Record

RUIDOSO DOWNS, N.M. (AP) -- DM Shicago, a 2-year-old gelding with a quirky name and a furious finish, ran the fastest 440 yards in the history of the All American Futurity to win the \$2 million sprint Monday.

Ridden by Juan Vazquez, the gray broke near the lead in the run down the Ruidoso Downs straightaway, went to the front at about the halfway point and was pulling away when he hit the wire three-quarters of a length ahead of runner-up Take Off Jess.

DM Shicago went the 440 yards in 21 seconds, the fastest trip since that distance became the standard for the futurity 31 years ago.

"I've always said if he left within a half-length,



DM Shicago hits the finish line ahead of Take Off Jess, second from left, in the All-American Futurity, the richest quarterhorse race in the world, at Ruidoso Downs, N.M. on Monday.

we'd have a shot," owner Don Moler said. "It looked like he left right on top so I knew the 440 yards weren't going to stop him."

Moler, who bred DM Shicago on his farm in Cheyenne Okla., sold a half interest in the gelding last winter to Fredda

Draper, the wife of trainer Carl Draper.

"For the past 40 years, this has been our dream," said Fredda Draper, who as a teenager worked at the food bar at the track's Jockey Club. "I watched that dream come true down the racetrack today."

Astros Remain in Wild Card Race

HOUSTON (AP) -- The crowd was on its feet, beckoning the latest slugging surprise in the Houston Astros' vaunted offense to re-emerge from the dugout.

Already seated and oblivious to the cheers, Brandon Backe didn't stir from his daze until his teammates nudged him back outside.

"I was just excited thinking about the home run," said the 26-year-old pitcher, who was making only his fourth career start. "I was going to go down and sit in my little hole, but they told me to get out there."

Backe hit his first career homer, a two-run shot, and allowed one run in seven innings to keep the Astros in the thick of the NL wild-card chase



Astros pitcher Brandon Backe is greeted by teammate Jose Vizcaino after hitting a two-run home run against the Reds on Monday.

with an 11-5 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Monday - their season-high 10th straight victory.

Jeff Bagwell, Lance Berkman and Jeff Kent also homered for Houston, on its longest

win streak in five years. The Astros have won 18 of 21 since Aug. 15, the best record in the majors during that stretch.

The Astros closed within a game of NL wild-card leaders Chicago and San Francisco. Houston, a season-high 11 games over .500 at 74-63, hasn't been within striking range of the Cubs and Giants in more than three months.

"They are not missing anything at the plate," Reds manager Dave Miley said. "If you make a mistake, they hit it and they hit it hard."

The Astros, who've averaged nearly 10 runs a game during its win streak, roughed up Reds starter Aaron Harang for the second time in six days.

Sports Shorts

Hogs Don't Have Time to Celebrate

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (Democrat-Gazette) -- Moments after Arkansas rang up the highest four-quarter score in Coach Houston Nutt's seven seasons, Nutt cautioned players against doing the same to their egos. Demolishing New Mexico State 63-13 deserved a slap on the back for a job well done. But now, Nutt said, the Razorbacks (1-0) have to prepare to play "a real team" Saturday when seventh-ranked Texas (1-0) visits Reynolds Razorback Stadium. The Longhorns dismantled North Texas 65-0 Saturday.

Singh Ends Tiger's Reign at Top

NORTON, Mass. (AP) -- Vijay Singh has been playing the best golf in the world for a long time. Now he



has Tiger Woods' No. 1 ranking to prove it. Singh finished his long climb to the top of golf's ultimate leaderboard by beating Woods in a head-to-head matchup, shooting a 69 on Monday to win the Deutsche Bank Championship by three strokes and claim Woods' spot as the top-ranked player in the world. It was Singh's sixth victory of the year, enough to convince the computers that crunch the numbers what many have known for months.