

# THE OUTPOST

Published for the employees and families of Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center, U.S. Army Garrison – Yuma, Cold Regions Test Center and Tropic Regions Test Center

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Arizona 85365

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# Commanding general tours proving ground

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Maj. Gen. Peter Utley assumed command of the Army Test and Evaluation Command last summer but did not have the opportunity to personally visit Yuma Proving Ground until early this month. He arrived in the late afternoon and spent the entire next day visiting test sites and absorbing huge quantities of data, all with an eye toward configuring the command to meet the budget challenges of the future while still providing American forces with the best, most reliable equipment possible.

His day began before dawn had broken with a several hour briefing conducted by senior YPG leaders to provide him with a well-rounded overview, but also allow him to place faces with names.

Utley interjected some of his own thoughts in response to issues brought up by the various briefers.

“Our mission is all about doing what’s best for the Army,” he said. “Current and future budget realities are causing leaders throughout the Army to think outside the box to come up with innovative approaches.” If leaders don’t make smart changes now, he said, future budget realities may force them to implement cutbacks for which they aren’t prepared.

He is a strong believer in supporting members of the military and civilian workforce as much as possible. “It’s key for leaders to take care of the workforce – we must never break faith with them,” he said.

At the same time, though, he also believes that when someone steps out of line, appropriate action must be taken, particularly when dealing with a sexual harassment problem. “When you’re wrong, you’re wrong,” he stated with a firm look. “People must be held accountable.”

The bulk of Utley’s whirlwind visit



**The general’s whirlwind day at the proving ground began before the break of dawn with a series of briefings by YPG senior leaders at which a wide variety of detailed information was presented. Above, he interjects some of his own thoughts based on nearly 32 years military experience. Test Officer Bert Evans (below) provides ATEC Commander Maj. Gen. Peter Utley with details about sensor testing performed by the people of Yuma Test Center’s Air Combat Directorate.**

was spent at a wide variety of YPG test facilities, concluding that evening at the Cactus Café where a reception took place that was attended by YPG and Yuma community leaders.

A native of Philadelphia, Utley graduated from the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina,

and was commissioned as an armor officer in 1982. He has served in numerous locations over the years, including Iraq, Haiti and Germany. Prior to his current assignment he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Army Training and Doctrine Command.



## THE OUTPOST

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# Health clinic welcomes new leaders

By Yolie Canales

Yuma Proving Ground's Health Clinic is proud to welcome new Detachment Officer-In-Charge Maj.

Leilani Racpan Davis and Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge (NCOIC) Staff Sgt. Normandie Landeros.

Serving at YPG's clinic since this past summer, Davis, born in the Philippines, migrated to Hawaii in 1981 at the age of seven. She has been in the Army for over 13 years.

Davis said she joined the Army to become a nurse and learned that promotions in her field came much faster than any other military branch. "Serving in the Army is a great way to serve my nation and contribute to the freedom we enjoy," she said.

Davis loves her job and feels the most unique thing about

it is that she is six hours away from her higher headquarters (Fort Irwin), which makes the administrative portion of her responsibilities much more challenging. "Administratively, it's great, plus, I work with extremely competent people," she said. "I trust their professionalism and the care they provide for patients that come through the doors every day."

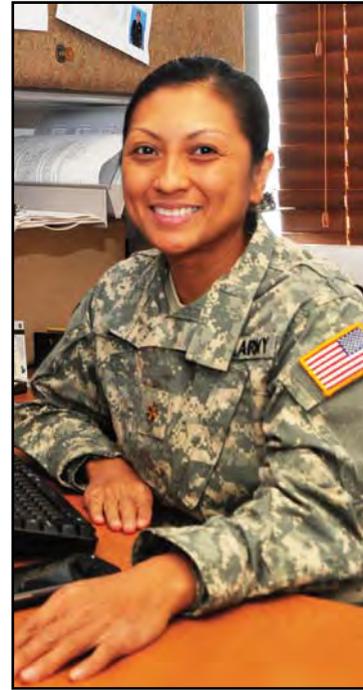
With a military installation as small as YPG, during the winter months the clinic stays quite busy, however, in the summer months its workload can be slow, however, everyone keeps busy during these times by working on on-line correspondence or college courses as well as Soldier training. "There is always something Soldiers are doing to enhance their performance and careers," she said.

The most rewarding

experience in Davis' career has been the opportunity to continue practicing her nursing skills, teaching others how to provide quality patient care, learning new skills, and having the chance to travel the world. "The military has also afforded me the opportunity to live up to and demonstrate the Army values around the clock (Leadership, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Integrity, and Personal Courage)," said Davis. "Being able to adapt to situations, discipline, and taking pride in what we do every day, is most important, as well, as being resilient to the challenges of each day."

As a positive role model, Davis points to her mother. She says her mother raised five children and held two jobs where she worked extremely

See **LEADERS** page 5



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

**Maj. Leilani Davis takes time out for a photo at the health clinic.**

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# American views of Christmas have evolved

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Today, the United States is the most powerful nation on the face of the globe, whether the consideration is military strength or cultural reach. People around the world look to us for leadership, but it's well to remember that it wasn't always that way. Let's turn the calendar back to early America, when our nation was young and our political institutions new.

Life was different in ways we in the modern world can barely imagine. The 1815 population of the United States tended to be young, with the median age 16 years. Only one person in eight grew to the ripe age of 43.

Agriculture provided the livelihood for the overwhelming majority of Americans, with a gross domestic product similar to a third world nation today. Wooden plows used by farmers to till fields were basically the same as they had been for hundreds of years. Few people were entirely self sufficient,

but bartered with neighbors. The vast majority of clothes manufacturing was performed by women in the home.

One author has described life in early America as "dirty, smelly, laborious, and uncomfortable." Most waking hours were spent working and public education was unknown. Professionally made shoes were expensive, with most country people of ordinary means going barefoot much of the year. A single fireplace provided heating and cooking for the common household and, during the winter, everybody slept by the fire on shared beds.

Few bathed once per week, as the process was time consuming and inconvenient. Water had to be fetched from a well, spring or stream, then heated over a stove and poured into a washtub. People most often simply "rinsed off." As late as 1832, a New England doctor complained that four out of five of his patients bathed no more than annually.

One factor, a large one, which

differentiated America from the old world in our early years was the widespread distribution of land. Ownership meant a great deal and created immense pride. People defined themselves as "citizens" rather than "subjects."

Some sort of harvest festival took place in most areas. Many called it Thanksgiving Day, but it didn't become a national holiday until 1862. Christmas was viewed by many as a Catholic holiday and shunned by most mainstream Protestants. They also disliked the many "pagan" customs borrowed for use in activities celebrating what they considered a solemn religious observance – the burning of Yule logs and gaudy decorations such as holly, mistletoe and Christmas trees.

At the time of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Christmas was not widely celebrated in North America. An interesting fact is that the U.S. Congress in 1789 chose to be in session on Christmas Day. It was not recognized as a federal holiday until 1870.

No one can deny that life in the early United States dramatically differed from the nation of today. A great many momentous changes, too many to enumerate, occurred in the ensuing years, from the Industrial Revolution and a bitter Civil War, to the dawn of flight, universal tax-supported free education, a sophisticated network of concrete highways, and instant communication.

Yet we, as a people, still remain somewhat the same. Our republic stands in accordance with the original Constitution written in 1787. We still assert our rights and seem to have no qualms doing so. Though we are an independent people, many are willing to drop all to help others in need.

A learned man once said that if we do not remember the past we are doomed to repeat it. As we enter 2014, let us remember what we have achieved as a people, be forever grateful for it and solemnly vow to work toward a future that is equitable for all, both in our nation and around the world. From everyone at YPG, Merry Christmas!

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## December Go-Getters



Congratulations to Cash Harrington (left) and Anamarie Smith (right) from Miss Stein's Kindergarten class for being selected Price Elementary School "Go-Getters" for the month of December.

# LEADERS

FROM PAGE 3

hard. "Coming from an immigrant family, I learned firsthand that in order to be successful, you have to work hard, be patient, and not give up. My parents brought me up to be strong and self-reliant, and I thank them for this."

In her spare time, Davis enjoys spending time with her second family away from home, a Hawaiian group named, Hui O'Hawaii of Yuma. "We do a great deal of community services and performances to share the Hawaiian and Polynesian culture. We are currently planning our annual scholarship luau in February."

## NCOIC Staff Sgt. Normandie Landeros.

An 18 year veteran of the Army, Landeros is proud and grateful to have been selected to serve in his current position. "In this field, to be able to be given the overall responsibility of what goes on at the clinic every day, a Soldier must have a background as a combat medic," said Landeros. "My specialty background is in preventive medicine. So, to be serving in my current capacity is a great accomplishment. Like my senior personnel have told me at my higher headquarters at Fort Irwin, 'keep doing what you're doing because you're doing it right.'"

As the NCOIC of the Health Clinic, his duties are to oversee clinic operations beginning with the 20 Soldiers who work for him and the six civilian staff members. In addition, he oversees the budget and patients seen at the clinic each day. "My job is unique at YPG," he said. "At YPG, we are given the opportunity to build our own leadership and work ethics styles. You're expected to work as an individualist but at the same time, you're in charge of a whole lot more than yourself. You're expected to think 'outside the box, go with the flow, and outshine.'"

Helping people is what Landeros enjoys most. "The clinic operates on a 24/7 basis. We provide medical support to the Military Freefall School during student training at all the drop zones. Our help is crucial and vital to the entire community. Because I love helping people so much, this is one of the many reasons why I changed my specialty after joining the Army as an infantryman," he said.

Landeros says services provided by

the clinic are limited. "We only provide outpatient services at this clinic, which includes patient screening, limited pharmacy medicine distribution, X-rays, lab work, and diagnosing and treating injuries and illnesses," he explained. Anything that requires major procedures is referred to Yuma Regional Medical Center in Yuma. In addition, the clinic's occupational health staff provides services such as occupational checkups, physicals and eye and hearing exams for the civilian workforce.

Landeros was impressed with YPG when he arrived two years ago. "The feeling of community I felt and saw among people at YPG was amazing. This is one of the reasons I have chosen to retire out of YPG in two years." His plan is to enroll in medical school at the University of Arizona.

Inspired by his mother, who is his role model, just like Davis, Landeros says he desires to excel in his career because of the role his mother has played in his life throughout his Army career. "I want my mother to be proud of me," he said. He has three siblings and three daughters who he wants to influence by setting an example of caring and success. "It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to get to where I am now, but you can't quit," said Landeros. After departing from the Army and receiving his medical degree, he intends to return to Yuma to practice family medicine.

In his spare time, Landeros enjoys going to the gym. "Working out is good mental therapy," he said. "It makes me feel good about myself."



(PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES)

**Staff Sgt. Normandie Landeros, who will be retiring in two years, plans on completing medical school and returning to Yuma to open a family medical practice.**



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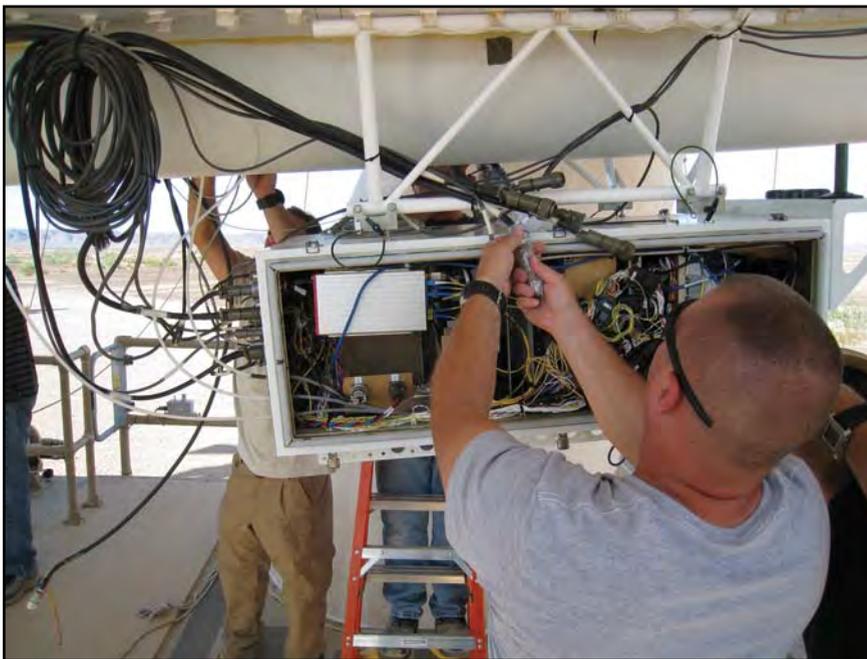
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# Helium filled Aerostats



**The Persistent Threat Detection System (PTDS) adds cutting edge high-tech detection sensors to an ordinary aerostat, carrying a sensor suite that allows ground controllers watching crisp, high definition video feed to continuously monitor a huge swath of land below.**



**By Mark Schauer**

Since its launch in the late 1980s, Yumans have become familiar with the large aerostat balloon maintained by the United States Air Force flying over a southern portion of YPG's range. Fewer locals, however, realize that YPG has conducted developmental and acceptance testing on dozens of its smaller cousins for use in Forward Operating Bases (FOB) and above urban areas in combat zones.

One of these platforms is the Persistent Threat Detection System (PTDS), which adds cutting edge high-tech detection sensors to an inexpensive platform: an ordinary aerostat. The moored lighter-than-air craft is capable of floating as high as 5,000 feet above the ground and carries a sensor suite that allows ground controllers watching crisp, high definition video feed to continuously monitor a huge swath of land below. About 70 of the craft have seen action in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the one at YPG is the only fully-functional one of its kind in the continental United States.

"We have multiple customers that come out for testing and demonstrations," said Quang Ho, Sensor Test Branch test officer.

In continuous use at YPG since 2010, the PTDS is used as a test bed for the integration of sophisticated sensors, acceptance testing

and training. During testing, the sensors are subjected to realistic scenarios tracking military and civilian vehicles and simulated insurgents with firearms, small artillery and explosives. Live fire and explosions are also incorporated. Tests also investigate more mundane, but still important aspects of the system, such as ensuring that the sensors meet strict weight criteria.

The aerostat is inflated with helium, which is stored in long multi-container tanker trucks and delivered to the aerostat's inflatable envelope by means of an ordinary looking hose. While in use, the aerostat is tethered to an armature on a long, portable mooring trailer. To prevent wind gusts from putting stress on the tether, the armature gently revolves in a strong breeze, rotating the entire aerostat. The aerostat is raised and lowered with a winch, and has a pressure system that controls the ratio of helium and oxygen in the envelope as it changes elevation.

An important part of the testing and training experience at YPG is the mock forward operating base that has been constructed around the system over the past several years, complete with shore power.

"The FOB significantly affects the winds near the ground, resulting in additional challenges for the operator during launch and recovery," said Ho.

# hover high over YPG



LOANED PHOTOS

**YPG's PTDS has been used for distributed testing, in which test officers at remote locations get data from the platform in Yuma, for tests conducted out of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Fort Dix, N.J., and even an international exercise that took place in Norway.**

The PTDS has also hosted distributed testing, in which test officers at remote locations get data from the platform in Yuma. In the past year, the PTDS platform at YPG has hosted distributed testing for tests conducted out of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. and Fort Dix, N.J. It even participated in an

international exercise called Unified Vision 2012 that took place in Norway, wowing participants half a world away.

“One day it rained over there, so all demos were shut down,” recalled Ho. “YPG’s PTDS became the center of attention. They watched footage of our near real-time

scenarios on big screens in Norway.”

Despite its relative ease of use, deploying the craft is a job for half a dozen people, all of whom need to learn proper procedures. Teams of contractors who will ultimately be deployed overseas undergo realistic training on the system at

the mock forward operating base, learning how to inflate the craft, run the winch, and operate the advanced detection sensors from the platform’s ground-based monitor station.

“The operators have to learn every aspect of the system, from splicing tethers and fiber to inflating the

aerostat, to launching and recovery,” said Ho.

Though it originally began as a quick reaction test, testing and training on the PTDS should continue well into the future, with the platform expected to eventually have remote control capabilities from great distances.

American Legion Post bring cheers to YPG families



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Representatives of American Legion Post #19 were aboard Yuma Proving Ground to distribute Thanksgiving baskets with all the trimmings to about 20 Soldiers and their families as a small token of appreciation for their service to the country. On behalf of the families at YPG, thank you for making Thanksgiving Day a happy one in addition to bringing cheers to more families at Christmas time as well.

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## VIEWPOINTS

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving, but sometimes the gifts we receive are less than thrilling. We asked members of the workforce about the worst Christmas gift they've ever received.



**Linda Hoke**

Computer operator

Many years ago, my then-husband gave me a tiny toy sewing machine, and told me he would buy me a real one someday. He did this in front of everyone at a family Christmas party. It was an interesting Christmas that year.



**Bobbye Dorris**

Engineering technician

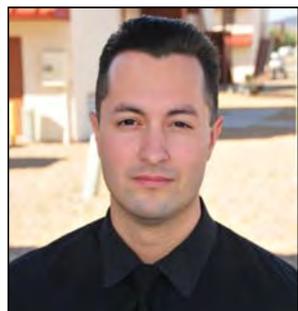
A co-worker gave me a fruitcake about five years ago. I don't know if it was supposed to be a gag gift or not, but I had tried one years ago and didn't care for it. I re-gifted it, and the person I gave it to didn't like it, either.



**Ismael Delgado**

Environmental engineer

I come from a very large family: I have nine sisters and two brothers, and we get together every year at my mother's house. About four Christmases back, she bought me these slippers that were really funky-looking fake leopard skin. I'm a size 11, and these were a size 15. My wife was cracking up, but I told my mother I loved them.



**Spc. Justin Tovar**

medic

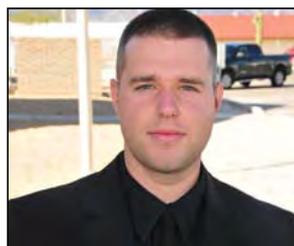
When I was 12 or 13, I got a handheld milkshake maker. It was electronic, but it didn't work very well... the ice cream was always chunky. At random times, when I was in a milkshake mood, I appreciated it, but it mostly just sat around. At that age, I would have preferred a new video game or a nice pair of shoes



**Randy Smith**

Photographer

It was at a dirty Santa Claus exchange put on by MWR at MCAS about three years ago. When I got mine, there were a lot of things inside the bag that I can't mention ... the best of the bunch was a pair of fishnet panty hose. Definitely not my style, so I was very happy that someone decided to take that gift from me.



**Sgt. Michael Miller**

Health clinic

One year at a holiday party, I received a SpongeBob piggy bank. I didn't really even know who SpongeBob was, but it turned out pretty well: I re-gifted it to my father-in-law and now it sits on his desk at work. I think he was actually into it, which surprised me.

**U.S. Army Family and MWR Programs**  
**DECEMBER 2013**  
**Holiday Hours of Operation**

<p><b>FMWR Administration</b>            24 Dec - Close at 1300            25-26 Dec - Closed            1-2 Jan - Closed</p>	<p><b>Coyote Lanes</b>            24 Dec - 0900-1800            25 Dec - Closed            1 Jan - 0900-2000</p>
<p><b>ACS Administration</b>            25 Dec - Closed            1 Jan - Closed</p>	<p><b>Child Dev. Center</b>            25 Dec - Closed            1 Jan - Closed</p>
<p><b>Fitness Center</b>            24 Dec - 0600-1530            25 Dec - Closed            31 Dec - 0600-1530            1 Jan - Closed</p>	<p><b>KFR Roadrunner Cafe</b>            23 Dec-5 Jan - Closed</p>
<p><b>Library</b>            24 Dec - 1000-1530            25 Dec - Closed            26 Dec - 1000-1830            31 Dec - 1000-1530            1 Jan - Closed</p>	<p><b>Cactus Cafe &amp; Cutaway Lounge</b>            23-24 Dec - Closed            25 Dec - 1100-1400            (Christmas Dinner)            26 Dec-5 Jan - Closed</p>
<p><b>Auto Skills Center</b>            25 Dec - Closed            1 Jan - Closed</p>	<p><b>ROC Garden</b>            23 Dec-5 Jan - Closed</p>
<p><b>Youth Center</b>            24 Dec - Close at 1700            25 Dec - Closed            1 Jan - Closed</p>	<p><b>Travel Camp/Outdoor Rec</b>            24 Dec - 0830-1530            25 Dec - Closed            1 Jan - Closed            31 Dec - 0830-1530</p>

**24 December hours subject to change in the event of a Presidential Order.**



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## —CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—

# Make new memories, but keep the old, too

By Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison

Dear Yuma Proving Ground, wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is a phrase you may see on a holiday card. I don't know how many people still send cards. However, if one does send a card through the post office, a digital card via the internet or makes a special telephone call, they are most likely attempting to connect with others with good sentiments in mind. A Christmas card that truly matters causes you to express your sincere thoughts and wishes to those you care about. The Christmas and Hanukkah season causes each of us to recollect about past holidays as we begin to make new ones.

As I reminisce about Christmas, I think of the Christmas Eve Mass. One service in particular I keep close to my heart is being touched by the first Christmas hymn I remember singing, which was "Go, Tell It on the Mountain." This song is about sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. I recall after the service looking at various houses alit with Christmas lights before we headed home. The vivid colors still stand out in

### HOLIDAY SERVICES

Community Christmas  
Eve Service at 6 p.m. and  
Christmas Day  
Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m.

my mind. These are indeed fond memories for me.

Still thinking about holiday cards, I looked at some old cards and their respective sayings. Here are a few: "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year;" "Christmas Eve was a night of song that wrapped itself about you like a shawl. But it warmed more than your body. It warmed your heart...filled it, too, with a melody that would last forever;" "as you celebrate the Festival of Lights, may your home be bright with happiness and love. Best wishes at Hanukkah."

There is something about celebrating the holiday traditions that makes each of us want to share a bit of warmth with friends, family as well as strangers. Whether you send a holiday card or not, do evoke old memories and generate new ones, and send heartfelt wishes to all. May God be with you now and always.

## In Observance of the Holiday

### CHRISTMAS

#### Commissary Hours of Operation are:

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>1000-1900</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>1000-1600</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>CLOSED/MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>1000-1900</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>1000-1900</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>1000-1800</b>

## —SAFETY CORNER—

# A Shocking Experience

By Wes Collins  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF.

The holiday season has arrived, and the time for decorating is in full swing. Most of us trim the tree, hang the lights and hook up our air-filled, oversized Santa, Rudolph or whatever else we have in our arsenal of decorations. Here is the problem; we forget that our old friend electricity powers most – if not all – of our holiday decorations. What we fail to realize is most outlets are generally 15-20 amps, so overloading them is easy.

Overloaded outlets increase the potential for shock or electrocution, so here are some helpful hints to keep you safe this holiday season:

- Inspect all electrical decorations for defects or damage. The smallest fray in an electrical cord can have devastating consequences.
- Ensure all bulbs used for lighting decorations are operational and in place. The empty socket in a string of lights exposes users to the potential of electrical shock.
- Daisy chaining (plugging multiple electrical sources in sequence) can cause electrical connections to overheat, resulting in a fire.

Following the manufacturer's recommendation is the best course of action to alleviate the potential for overload.

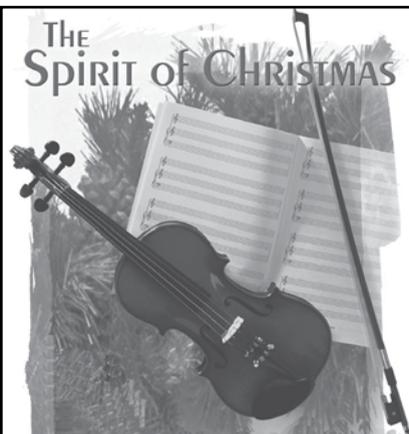
One golden rule I live by is to use heavy-duty extension cords designed to carry the intended load. I never use those light-duty cords – you know, the little flat ones sold for as little as \$1.29 at hardware stores. These cords can heat up quickly when they're overloaded and are not good for home decorating.

So, go forth this holiday season and enjoy it without the worries of an electrical fire. Remember, electricity is dangerous and demands respect, so give it the recognition it deserves.

#### Did you know?

Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Fire Administration, an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage. For more information on winter and holiday safety, visit the

NFPA website at <http://www.nfpa.org/>. Protect yourself and your loved ones this holiday season.



Civic Orchestra  
String Ambassadors  
Janet Jones & Kathy Younker Conducting  
*Traditional holiday music will be played.*

**Saturday, December 14, 2013**  
**7 p.m. in the evening**

*Please arrive early*

**Historic Yuma Theater**  
**254 Main Street**

Couple \$15 • General Admission \$10  
Seniors/Military/Students \$5  
Children 12 and under no charge  
Tickets available at the Yuma Art Center  
Information 246-6715 or 314-0735

*The concert benefits The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program.*



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# FOOTBALL SPECIALS

**\$2\* DRINK SPECIALS**

- 16 OZ. DOMESTIC DRAFTS
- 12 OZ CHELADAS
- WELL DRINKS
- HOUSE WINE

**\$3\* FOOD SPECIALS**

- ¼ LB HOT DOG
- ½ DOZEN CHICKEN WINGS
- NACHOS WITH CHEESE & JALAPENOS
- CHILI CHEESE FRENCH FRIES

**\$4\* FOOD SPECIALS**

BREAKFAST BURRITO OR EGG SANDWICH (SERVED TILL 1PM ONLY)

¼ LB. HAMBURGER ADD CHEESE 50¢

\*SPECIALS AVAILABLE DURING TELEVISED FOOTBALL GAMES

# FOOTBALL FRENZY

MONEY ADDED TO THE POT EVERY TIME A TEAM SCORES!

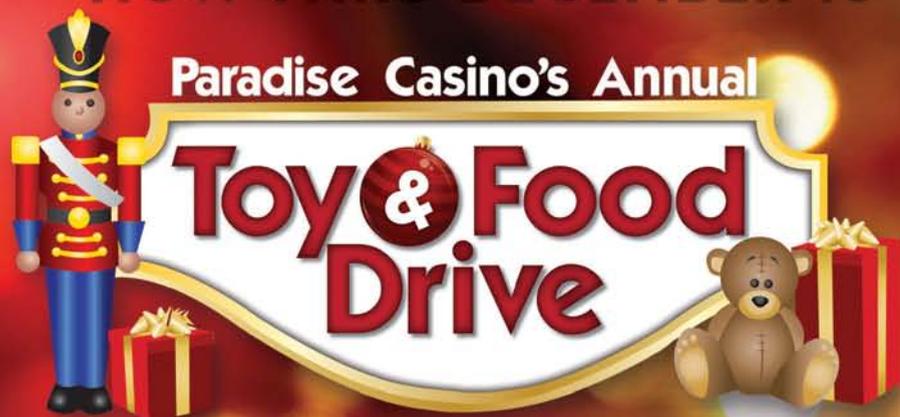
- \$50 - TWO POINT CONVERSION
- \$35 - SAFETY
- \$25 - TOUCHDOWN
- \$15 - FIELD GOAL

See Poker Room for details on all poker promotions



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Paradise Casino's Annual

# Toy & Food Drive

BRING IN A NEW TOY OR FOOD item(s), with the original store receipt valued at \$10 or more (excluding tax) and RECEIVE UP TO \$40 IN REWARDS PLAY for your donation.

NOW THRU DECEMBER 23

# 25 Days of Christmas

WIN YOUR SHARE OF **\$35,000** IN CASH & PRIZES!

DRAWINGS BEGIN DAILY AT 4 PM WITH A CHANCE TO WIN UP TO \$2,000!

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