COMMUNITY
Local leaders renew commitment to Families

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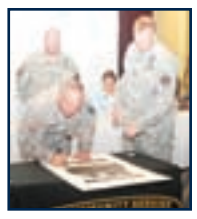

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ARMY FLIER

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State-of-the-art youth center opens

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker ended overcrowding issues and opened up numerous opportunities for its teen community when it cut the ribbon and began operating the new youth center on 7th Avenue Friday.

The 22,500-square-foot building is one of pure activity that is one-of-a-kind for the local area, according to Pam Williams, Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services coordinator.

"There is nothing like it in our area, and probably nothing like it in even cities like Montgomery. It is just amazing. The children have been talking about the center opening non-stop—they are so excited. There is so much room for individual growth here," she said.

The new facility includes a full gymnasium with a rock climbing wall, a teen lounge, a demonstration kitchen, an outdoor lounge, a common area, a technology lab, an arts and crafts room, an interactive physical fitness room, a homework center and an entertainment center.

"The interactive physical fitness room will be all the latest technology for keeping teens fit and healthy. We have new abilities in the entertainment center as well. Teens can compose and record on the sound and vocal booth," she said. "The demonstration kitchen is just amazing, too, because teens can learn how to cook and be safe in the kitchen."

The center is for teens ages 11-18, with the total cost of the building being more than $6.5 million dollars with an additional $750,000 in furnishings.

The overcrowded school age center held multiple instructional programs such as the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills program and

SEE CENTER, PAGE A5

PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Local youth play a game of pool while parents, the command staff and civilians explore the new youth center Nov. 30.

PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

First graders Scott Allen and Caiden Mellott make a thumbprint reindeer ornament for deployed Soldiers Nov. 29 at the primary school.

Operation Celebration provides Christmas cheer for Soldiers

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Recognizing that many Soldiers do not get to spend the holidays at home with their loved ones, students at Fort Rucker Primary School put some holiday cheer in a box to lessen the holiday blues that some deployed Soldiers may feel.

The program begins each season with the reading of the book "Operation Celebration," where the children in the book send Christmas favors, cards and gifts to deployed fathers. Then each Fort Rucker classroom mimics the manuscript, said Katie Condon, kindergarten teacher at the primary school who began the program locally two years ago.

"The children will decide as a class what types of things they want to make and send to the Soldiers that will be away during Christmas. We always make the gifts and [the children] all try to personalize each one," she said.

The program grew last year when all of the kindergarten classes joined, and has grown further this year with the addition of first grade.

"I am so happy it is growing— who knows where the program will take us," she said, adding that the [children] really get into the project and are thrilled to give back.

Some of the things that were made this year are paper wreaths, thumbprint ornaments, tabletop angels, Chinese poppers and military magnets.

"This has been a whole-week event. They have made so many cards, decorations and stockings," said Condon, adding that they are even sending a small tree this year.

The packages will be sent to Family members of students and staff at the primary school that are currently deployed and cannot get leave for the holidays.

"Every class has someone to send a package to. We will send the package to that specific Soldier, and they are asked to share and distribute all the gifts to their battle buddies who are also separated from their Families," said Condon.

The packages were sent out Monday and are headed to Afghanistan, Honduras, Korea and Kuwait.

Operation Celebration serves as a service learning project for the children, which teaches them that Christmas isn't just about getting gifts, according to Condon.

"It teaches them the importance of giving and that giving [a gift] can be just as fun as receiving one. It is an important lesson to learn for their age group," she said. "They understand more than what people expect about the hardships of being away from Family."

The children, who seemed quite excited about the project, wore smiles as they glued, colored and glittered their many crafts and set them aside for packaging.

"We like making stuff for the Soldiers who are not home. They need presents, too," said first grader Liam Larson. "We get to create stuff for them and they will be excited and say 'Thank you,' when they open up the boxes."

According to Wanda Wilds, first grade teacher, Operation Celebration is real for the children because they are familiar with the idea of a parent not being home for Christmas.

"They can relate to the book, so we tied it in to our social studies curriculum about how they can help out their community. Since this is their community, and their life, it is a way for them to serve people who help

SEE CHEER, PAGE A5

Aviation hero speaks with Soldiers

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

In the war on terrorism where the enemy does not wear a uniform, and women and children are used as decoys or sacrifices, the knowledge and experience of a retired Vietnam colonel who fought and survived a guerrilla war is invaluable to Soldiers.

Such a veteran visited Fort Rucker last week and spoke to Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape students and cadre, and members of the pre-command course, captains career course and the basic officer leaders course.

Retired Col. William S. Reeder Jr., Ph.D (history and anthropology), an Aviator who was shot down and captured by the North Vietnamese during his second tour to Vietnam and spent almost a year as a prisoner of war, spoke to the Aviators in the Seneff Building Nov. 28 to inspire and educate Soldiers with his experiences.

"I hope what I share with you today is going to be of some value to you. I had unique experiences in Vietnam. I was one of the lucky few because so many are still missing in action," he said.

Reeder gave a short history lesson on the Vietnam War where he participated in deep reconnaissance and surveillance operations, and was involved in special operations with the Studies and Observations Group.

"On May 9, 1972, I was launched on a tactical emergency mission of a flight of two Cobras to support the besieged camp at Polei Klang. After many trips back and forth to refuel and re-arm we were diverted to a larger attack taking place at another camp, Ben Het," he said as he began his recounting of the day he was shot down.

It would be his third combat mission of that day. He remarked on the position, weaponry and numbers of the enemy versus how the friendly Vietnamese battalion and the few Americans that held Ben Het were faring.

"I flew into a hornet's nest. My Cobra came down spinning and burning. After escaping the wreckage, I fell in and out of consciousness. I had a broken back and I had gotten burned in my escape. I also had a piece of shell fragment sticking out of my ankle," he said, adding that he had no weapon.

He conveyed to the Soldiers how he tried to signal for

SEE HERO, PAGE A5

PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Retired Col. William S. Reeder. Jr., Ph.D. (history and anthropology), speaks to Aviators Nov. 28 at the Seneff Building about the Vietnam War and his time as a prisoner of war.

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PERSPECTIVE

Army launches winter safety campaign

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center
Strategic Communications Directorate

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center officially launched the Army Safe Winter campaign Nov. 26, providing leaders, Soldiers and safety professionals valuable information to augment their seasonal safety programs.

The campaign is the second of four installments of the "Know the Signs" safety effort.

While fatal accidents usually dip during the winter months, it's no time to be complacent about safety.

"As an Army, we're doing extremely well regarding accidental losses," said Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Edens, director of Army Safety and commanding general, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. "Fiscal [year] 2012 was our best year in more than a decade, and this year we've seen further decreases in fatal accidents.

"The last thing we want to have happen is Soldiers use that good news as a reason to drop their guard."

Private motor vehicle accidents remain the No. 1 killer of Soldiers. Inclement weather during winter can heighten risk while driving, whether on two wheels or four.

"Believe it or not, more Soldiers were killed on motorcycles during January and February this year than sedans and other conventional vehicles," Edens said. "Leaders have to know what their Soldiers are doing and stay engaged on the hazards they may face, even if it seems counter intuitive to the time of year."

The Army Safe Winter campaign includes informative articles and posters that heighten awareness of cold weather hazards. Media products from previous campaigns have become staple items in unit safety toolboxes.

"These campaigns have become the focal point for seasonal safety programs," Edens said. "That's a good thing, because it continually challenges us to think of new and creative ways to relay the information. However, leaders shouldn't use it as a crutch. Safety is a lot more than briefings and bulletin boards. It's about the safety culture within the organization, and it begins with leader engagement at the lowest level."

U.S. ARMY GRAPHIC

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center officially launched the Army Safe Winter campaign Nov. 26, providing leaders, Soldiers and safety professionals valuable information to augment their seasonal safety programs.

Seatbelts not optional — strap in and survive

By Chris Hairr
Army Training and Doctrine Command Safety Office
Fort Monroe, Va.

Do you think seat belts, like leather upholstery, are optional in your vehicle? I can tell you from a personal experience they're not optional — they're essential.

A few years ago, my brother was attending college in a big city when he and a friend decided to go out for a night on the town. Knowing his friend would be drinking, my brother offered to be the designated driver that night. It was a good thing he did.

As they were heading home, another driver ran a stop sign and drove directly into my brother's path. All my brother could do was hit the brakes, slowing the car from 30 to 20 mph as they struck the other vehicle.

My brother and his friend were both in the front seat, and the impact threw both of them forward. My brother was restrained by his seat belt, but his unbelted friend went head-first into the windshield. When the car stopped, my brother had a minor cut on his forehead, which required a few stitches to close.

ARMY GRAPHIC

His friend, however, didn't fare so well and suffered serious head injuries. He spent more than a month in the hospital and never fully recovered. Who'd have thought that wearing a seat belt during a 20-mph collision would spell the difference between a minor injury and a permanent disability?

Need more proof seat belts work?

Well, a year later, I was involved in a single-vehicle accident. I'd just gotten onto a road and was accelerating to the 55-mph speed limit when I saw a pile of pine straw ahead in my lane. Because of an approaching vehicle, I couldn't dodge into the oncoming lane to avoid the pile. What I couldn't see was a large piece of a fallen tree limb buried beneath the straw.

When my front passenger-side tire hit the branch, it sent my car veering into the oncoming lane. I avoided going off the road into a ditch, but fishtailed when I swerved right to avoid the oncoming car. My car spun and then went off the right side of the road. As it did, one of the tires dug into the dirt and caused my car to simultaneously spin and flip.

When everything stopped, my car was upside-down and facing the direction I'd come from. I was still safely in my seat — hanging by my seat belt. But it could have been much worse. Not being a frontal collision, my airbag never deployed. Had I been unbelted and thrown forward, there would have been nothing to protect me.

The crash totaled my car. Also, I'd been heading home from college for Christmas break, so nearly everything I owned was in that car. Many of those things were damaged or destroyed, but that's a small price to pay. After all, while they could be replaced, I couldn't.

I survived with slight tenderness in my right shoulder and some pain in my right ankle where it had gotten caught in the pedals as the car rolled. I'd been going about 50 mph when I crashed, and the way my car spun and flipped, I'd have been dead without my seat belt. I'd likely have been ejected and smeared across the road like the quart of barbecue I'd bought to take home. Not a pretty picture.

How about you? Are you ready to strap in and survive? It's your choice. Consider it carefully because you may well live or die by it.

Rotor Wash

"A Christmas tree lighting ceremony takes place today from 5-6 p.m. at Howze Field. How do you get into the holiday spirit?"

CW2 Greg Gibson, C Co., 1st Bn., 13th Avn. Regt.

"I like to buy a bunch of things for myself, like a new motorcycle. It makes me happy."

Pfc. Robert Seybold, C Co., 1st Bn., 11th Avn. Regt.

"I like to go back home and visit with all my Family and friends. Getting back in the environment that I am familiar with."

Nicole Tally, Army spouse

"Spending time with our Family."

Andrea Lopez, Army spouse

"We make big dinners, wrap presents and decorate the Christmas tree."

Cora Fitch, Military widow

"You just try to think about all the good things, like Family, friends, God and Santa. Thinking about those things can make you happy."

COMMAND

Maj. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum
FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

Col. Stuart J. McRae
FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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If you would like to contact the Army Flier by e-mail, please contact the editor at jhughes@armyflier.com.

Local leaders renew commitment to Families

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Local leadership re-signed the Army Family Covenant Friday at the Worthwhile Information Needing Distribution meeting at the Landing to show its continuing commitment to taking care of Families.

The covenant, which is signed every time there is a change of the commanding general and the garrison command, is important for the Army, its Soldiers and their Families, according to Tom Jenkins, Army Community Service information referral program manager.

"Both Soldiers and the Families are being recognized for their sacrifice and all of their hard work through these means (the means provided by the covenant). A full and happy life makes a better Soldier and improves Family readiness. It sends the message that what they put out they are also receiving at the same time," he said.

The covenant, according to Maj. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum, Fort Rucker and U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence commanding general, is a contract that the Army signs with the community that says it is going to do its very best to take care of Soldiers and their Families.

"It does a couple of things. It standardizes funding for existing Family programs, it seeks to improve youth services, housing and healthcare, and helps with spouse employment and education," he said.

The Army Family Covenant reads:

"We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day. The strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families. We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service, providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive, building a partnership with Army Families that enhances their strength and resilience. We are committed to improving Family readiness by standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services, increasing the accessibly and quality of health care, improving Soldier and Family housing, ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care, and expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members."

PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Maj. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum, Fort Rucker and USAACE commanding general, signs the Army Family Covenant as Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Buford E. Noland, garrison command sergeant major, look on at the WIND meeting at The Landing Nov. 30.

The covenant is responsible for several projects on post, according to officials at the meeting.

"It covers things like child, youth and school services, but it is very far-reaching. A lot of what is being built or renovated on post is based on what the covenant is allowing us to do; the renovation of Lyster Army Health Clinic and the Brown Dental Clinic or even the renovations of the physical fitness facility on Andrews," said Jenkins.

One of the covenant's direct impacts on Fort Rucker was the ability to build a new state-of-the-art teen youth center, which opened Friday.

"The Army Family Covenant is such a great thing, it allowed for the youth center to be built and it is such a success," said Pam Williams, Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services coordinator.

The other direct result of the funds that became available with the Army Family Covenant is the child development center that will soon break ground.

"This is a concrete example of how the Army Family Covenant supports our Families. We are proud to be opening this new youth center. The facility fulfills a community need and opens a whole new world of opportunity for the youth of Fort Rucker," said Mangum.

Though the Army budget situation is unclear, Mangum recognizes the importance of Family programs.

"Last year the Army spent $1.4 billion dollars on Family programs. Some of that money was spent here building our new teen youth center. We anticipate that we will spend about the same this year.

"There may be some consolidation of some programs, because some programs and services are redundant. But the Army is committed to care for its Soldiers and Families. I am proud to do that here and to continue the commitment to improving the quality of life of everyone here on Fort Rucker. We will do everything that we possibly can to make this a great place to work, live and raise a Family," he said.

The covenant goes by a matrix for each program and officials decide where funds or consolidation are needed most, Jenkins said.

"When new direction came in October, several things changed concerning budgeting," he said.

One of the changes from the old matrix to the new one is the elimination of the Family readiness group free child care.

"Before when an FRG met, the covenant provided funds to cover child care for the FRG meeting. That has gone away as of October. There is still child care, but the parents are responsible for the fees."

Those who signed the covenant included Mangum; Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander; Sgt. Maj. Buford E. Noland, Fort Rucker garrison command sergeant major; and Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Thomson Jr., Aviation Branch command sergeant major.

Privately owned weapons: Focus on the can, not the can't

By U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center
Ground Directorate

On Jan. 7, 2011, Public Law 111-383, also known as the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, was enacted.

"There is a great deal of controversy surrounding Public Law 111-383 among many Army commanders and leaders," said Tracey Russell, a safety and occupational health specialist for the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. "Much of the controversy is rooted in misperception."

At issue is Section 1062 of the law concerning the "prohibition of infringing on the individual right to lawfully acquire, possess, own, carry, and otherwise use privately owned firearms, ammunition, and other weapons." This section of the law, according to Russell, is intended to protect the Second Amendment rights of Service Members, but has been interpreted by many leaders to mean they can no longer talk to their Soldiers about privately owned weapons.

"At the heart of the issue is a portion of the law that states, in general, the secretary of defense (and subsequently subordinate commanders and leaders) shall not prohibit, issue any requirement relating to, or collect or record any information relating to the otherwise lawful acquisition, possession, ownership, carrying, or other use of a privately owned firearm, privately owned ammunition, or another privately owned weapon by a member of the armed forces," Russell said.

The law provides exceptions in the general rule for military installations and other properties owned or operated by the Department of Defense. Additionally, the law provides exceptions for situations such as the belief a Soldier presents a threat to themselves or others, further clarified in ALARACT 333/2011.

"Essentially, the law states that under normal conditions you can only inquire about or collect information on privately owned weapons brought onto a military owned or operated property or installation," said Lt. Col. James Smith, director, USACR/Safety Center Ground Directorate. "However, what the law does not do, in any shape or form, is prohibit commanders or leaders from discussing the safe handling of privately owned weapons with their Soldiers.

"Not only can you discuss privately owned weapons with your Soldiers, you should discuss this issue, along with the safe handling of military weapons," Smith said. "In the five-year period from fiscal 2008 through 2012, 29 Soldiers lost their lives as a result of accidents involving the discharge of a firearm, while another 160 non-fatal injuries were reported. Eighteen of the 29 fatalities occurred off duty with a privately owned weapon; the other 11 occurred on duty with military weapons."

The basic tenets of safe handling apply to all weapons, regardless of who owns them.

"We don't hand new recruits an M-4 and expect them to operate the weapon safely without training," Russell said. "We also don't assume that once they've qualified with an M-4 they are qualified to operate a .50 cal machine gun. Therefore, you, in addition to your Soldiers, should never assume that simply because you are an expert with an M-4 that you are an expert with all weapons."

"While you can't order a Soldier to participate in training with their privately owned weapons, you can recommend and provide information on privately owned weapons training available in your local area or consider offering a voluntary basic weapons safety class, as Fort Sill (Okla.) is currently doing," Smith said. "You can also mandate that all your Soldiers attend safety classes covering privately owned weapons.

"These classes should stress the need to know appropriate laws, regulations and procedures for the transport, storage and registration of weapons, as they vary between different states, localities and installations," he added. "The classes should also stress never mixing weapons and alcohol. The majority of fatal accidents involving privately owned weapons have also involved alcohol."

"Remember to focus on what you can do," Russell added. "A very wise first sergeant once said that if you aren't listening, you aren't leading. If you truly listen to your Soldiers there is very little they won't tell you, to include their recent purchase of an awesome weapon. No, you can't record that information, but you can use the opportunity to share some safety tips."

For more information on safe weapons handling, visit the Range & Weapons Safety Toolbox at https://safety.army.mil/rangeweaponssafety. The toolbox includes a section dedicated to privately owned weapons, which contains a copy of ALARACT 333/2011 along with safety messages, presentations, videos, posters and links to other tools and resources.

News Briefs

Aviation Seminar Series

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence hosts the continuation of its Army Aviation Seminar Series Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. This third part of the series features a distinguished panel of veterans on hand to discuss the birth of Army Aviation as a branch in 1983 and on into its employment in Operation Desert Storm. All are invited to attend.

Military pay closure

The Defense Military Pay Office will close at noon Friday for its holiday luncheon and off-site training. All DMPO customers are asked to visit the DMPO with their pay inquiries prior to the closure. Soldiers who have a military pay emergency or need to clear the DMPO during this time should call Christy Carter at 237-1968 or James Fails at 470-4405 for assistance. The office will reopen Dec. 10 and begin new operating hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Primary care manager changes

Lyster officials said that all Soldiers and civilians on flight status were reassigned to primary care manager and flight surgeons on Team Respect. After the changes are processed, Humana will mail PCM Change notices to every person changed to identify their new primary care managers.

CFC closing ceremony

Fort Rucker hosts its Combined Federal Campaign fundraising awards ceremony Monday at 1 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

For more information, call 255-9261.

Commissary hours

The commissary will have a change in hours on Christmas and New Year's eves. Dec. 24 and Jan. 31, the commissary will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

1st WOC change of command

The 1st Warrant Officer Company hosts its change of command ceremony Dec. 18 at 9 a.m. at the Fort Rucker Wings Chapel, Bldg. 6036 on Andrews Avenue. CW3 (P) Travis T. Elliott will assume command of the company from CW4 (P) Richard C. Myers Jr.

For more, call 255-2646.

Instructors of the year

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence hosts its Instructors of the Year Awards Ceremony Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

For more, call 255-9840.

Holiday meal hours

During the holiday break from Dec. 20 to Jan. 2, the Warrant Officer Candidate Dining Facility, Bldg. 5914, will close and meals will be served at the Advanced Individual Training DFAC, Bldg. 6204.

Meal hours at the AIT DFAC will be 8-9 a.m., noon to 1 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m.

The WOC DFAC will close after the lunch meal Dec. 19 and will reopen for the breakfast meal Jan. 3. Dec. 19, the dinner meal will be served at Bldg. 6204.

The holiday meal will be served Dec. 18 at both DFACs during the regular scheduled lunch meal hours. The holiday meal rate of $7.50 will apply. Family members, guests and retirees are welcome. A traditional holiday meal will also be served on Christmas Day for patrons on the installation.

For more, call 255-3017.

Holiday gift wrapping

Community groups can raise funds while spreading holiday cheer as the Fort Rucker Exchange solicits partners for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's annual community gift wrap program.

"In order to make the holidays a little easier, the exchange partners with local groups to ensure gifts can be wrapped up before they even leave the store," said Don Walter Jr., main store manager. "Beyond offering a one-stop solution for busy military shoppers, this effort also helps raise money for local military support initiatives."

During peak holiday seasons, the Fort Rucker Exchange sets up tables and provides supplies that community volunteer groups can use to wrap gifts in exchange for donations. Interested organizations can contact the Fort Rucker Exchange for information on scheduling a time to participate by calling 503-9044, Ext. 211.

DUI consequences far-reaching

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Driving under the influence not only jeopardizes the lives of the offender and everyone around them, but if caught, it can also have far-reaching consequences for the driver's career.

Driving under the influence is a serious issue both on and off the installation, and officials on Fort Rucker want to make sure people understand the serious consequences that come along with the decision to drive drunk, according to Capt. Megan Mueller, special assistant U.S. attorney for Fort Rucker's Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

"The abuse of alcohol or drugs is inconsistent with Army values," she said. "If a person gets a DUI on the installation, that person will be prosecuted – it's a zero tolerance policy – that's something that people need to understand."

Mueller said that any individual on the installation that is pulled over for suspicion of DUI and cited, that person will have his or her driving privileges suspended on post for a period of one year, regardless of conviction. There are ways to reverse the decision in instances that the case is dismissed, she added, but for the most part the suspension will stick.

"That's a huge thing that a lot of people don't realize because they wouldn't be able to drive to work," she said. "There have been people who have had to park outside the gate and ride their bikes onto the installation or get rides from friends – it's a huge inconvenience."

If civilians are pulled over for DUI on Fort Rucker, they will be arrested, which will go on their record, and prosecuted in the district court. If convicted, the DUI conviction will also go on their record.

Since there is no federal DUI law, those cited for DUI on post will be prosecuted using Alabama state law, said Mueller. In Alabama, a first time DUI offense carries a minimum penalty of a $600 fine, license suspension of 90 days and the possibility of up to one year of jail time. But in cases that a person has more than a .14 blood alcohol content, he or she will automatically serve jail time and have all fines doubled, she added.

Soldiers on the installation will suffer the same consequences but will also receive a General Office Memorandum of Reprimand, which when coupled with a conviction on the record can greatly affect service members' careers, said Mueller.

"A conviction will stay on your criminal record, so if you're a Soldier in the Army and you move to another state, the conviction will still be visible on your record," she said. "For the GOMORs, when a commanding general [issues them], he decides whether or not it will be filed into a Soldier's local file, which is shredded or destroyed once a person leaves Fort Rucker, or if it will go into his permanent file, which will follow the individual for the rest of his career.

"Generally, when a person gets some sort of reprimand on their permanent record, it's a career killer," said Mueller. "It can prevent promotion, especially in today's Army with the drawdown, and it can even cause a separation board to start."

The Army has jurisdiction over its Soldiers and any crimes they commit, whether on or off an installation. With most off-post issues, the state will handle the case, said the assistant U.S. attorney. If a Soldier gets a DUI in a neighboring city, most times the city will prosecute the Soldier, and if the incident happens on the installation, the Soldier will be prosecuted through the federal court system. Either way, it will affect the Soldier's career.

"DUIs are a big issue that the Army takes very seriously," said Mueller. "If a Soldier is convicted of two serious incidents of alcohol-related misconduct within a one-year period, the Army will initiate separation proceedings."

This doesn't mean that the Soldier will be separated from the Army, but the possibility is there, she added.

In order to prevent incidents like this occurring, on or off the installation, people should be knowledgeable and responsible about alcohol and the affects it has on the body, according to Jeanetta Sheppard, Army Substance Abuse Program clinical program manager.

"The first thing that people need to understand is that alcohol is considered a depressant and it affects the body's central nervous system," she said. "Because of that, alcohol affects a person's judgment and reaction time."

Sheppard said the first part of the body affected by alcohol is the brain, particularly the parts of the brain that allow a person to think clearly and make sound decisions. Shortly after, muscle control and vision will be affected, which greatly reduces a person's ability to drive.

People should also understand that the affects of alcohol vary from person to person, depending on an individual's size, age, metabolism and even gender, said Sheppard.

"Food consumption also plays a role in the way alcohol is absorbed," she said. "If they have food in the stomach, it slows the alcohol absorption rate, but the same amount of alcohol will still be absorbed into the body."

There is also a misconception among people that if a person's tolerance is higher, they are able to consume more alcohol without it affecting them, according to Cynthia Hataway, ASAP supervisory counselor.

"If [a person] has a higher tolerance [for alcohol], he or she can drink more than someone else, but they are still becoming impaired in terms of their reaction time and motor skills," she said. "Their blood alcohol content could still be very high even if they aren't feeling the effects because they have built up a tolerance within their system."

Sheppard and Hataway both agree that people should make sure to educate themselves to ensure the safety of their self and others, and take responsibility to prevent incidents from occurring.

"It can happen to anyone, and that's something that people don't seem to realize when they get into a car after they've been drinking," said Mueller. "A lot of good people, who have never done anything wrong before, go to jail and have their lives changed forever because of a bad decision they made."

Safety officials offer tips for winter driving

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Winter is a popular time for travel as people hurry to get to their Families in time for the holiday season, but Aviation Branch Safety Office officials want to make sure that people reach their destinations safely.

One of the keys to ensuring that people stay safe while traveling during the season is to make sure their vehicles are in tip-top shape for driving in cold weather, according to Scotty Johnson, ABSO air safety specialist.

"Preparing to drive in winter is essential [for safety]," he said. "One of the most important things is to make sure that your car is in good condition and ready to deal with the cold, snow and ice of winter."

Although much of the South doesn't experience winter weather like snow and ice, Johnson said its necessary to be prepared for anything.

And he also offered some tips to keep cars safe for winter driving.

Get the right kind of oil change

If you're approaching the time for a full service for your vehicle, don't procrastinate. Among other things, the service should include an oil change, which should have the right viscosity for the vehicle for this time of year. Oil tends to thicken as it gets colder, and if it's too thick, it won't do the best job keeping the engine lubricated. People should check their owner's manual for guidance about which oil to use in different climates and temperatures.

Make sure you can see

Make sure that you keep up with when the last time you changed your windshield wiper blades. They usually work effectively for about one year, so be sure to invest in some new ones if you're due. Also, make sure the windshield washer reservoir in your vehicle is full with windshield washer fluid. Plain water won't do the trick during this time of year because it can freeze in cold weather. Also, make sure that your vehicles' heater and defroster are working properly so that the windshield can be kept clear of frost.

Give your battery a little TLC

This is an ideal time of year to make sure that your car's battery's posts and connections are corrosion-free and the battery has all the water it needs. If the battery is more than three years old, have a certified repair shop test its ability to hold a charge.

Examine your belts and hoses

When having a full-service check done on a vehicle, make sure that the belts and hoses are checked for wear and tear – even if you are driving a newer car. Cold weather can do a number on the belts and hoses of a car, so they deserve attention around this time of year.

Check your tire pressure

Tires must be properly inflated to ensure the best possible traction with the road. Traction is often severely jeopardized in wet, snowy or icy conditions. The air pressure in tires tends to drop when weather gets colder, so it's important to see where things stand. You can generally expect that tires will lose one pound per square inch whenever the temperature drops by 10 degrees. People should check their owner's manual to see what the proper tire pressure should be for their vehicle.

Think about switching to snow tires

If you live in a hilly place with lots of snow, it might be a good idea to invest in winter tires to improve traction. Although all-season tires are meant for winter driving, if you live in an area of heavy snow, the extra traction provided by winter tires could be a life saver.

Check your four-wheel drive

If your vehicle has four-wheel drive, it's important to check the status of your 4WD system and be sure it's working correctly. Most drivers don't use their 4WD systems in the summer months, so be sure that the system engages and disengages easily, and that all drivers in your household know how and when to activate it.

Get the antifreeze mixture just right

People should aim to have a 50-50 mix of antifreeze, or coolant, and water inside the radiator. This will prevent the mixture from freezing even at extremely cold temperatures. It's easy to check the status of the mixture with a tester that can be picked up at any auto parts store. If the mixture is off, the cooling system should be drained and refilled or flushed. People should also make sure they are equipped to dispose of old antifreeze properly if they do it themselves – it can't just be poured down a drain.

Prepare an emergency kit

During the winter months, people should prepare a kit that they can store in their trunks – especially if there is a road trip in their future. Some of the items people should have in their kit are: blankets; extra boots and gloves; extra set of warm clothes; extra water and food, including hard candies; an ice scraper; a small shovel; a flashlight; windshield washer fluid; windshield wipers; flares; jumper cables; a tool kit; tire chains; a tire gauge; a spare tire with air in it; tire-changing equipment; a first-aid kit; paper towels; and a bag of abrasive material such as sand, which can provide additional traction if a tire gets stuck in the snow.

Know what to do if you get stranded

If stranded, people shouldn't wander away from the car unless they are completely sure about where they are and how far away help is. They should light two flares and situate them at each end of the vehicle to call attention to them. Put on extra clothes and use a blanket to stay warm. If there is enough gas in the tank, run the engine and heater for about 10 minutes every hour. Leave at least one window open a little bit so that snow and ice don't seal the car shut, and suck on a hard candy to prevent your mouth from getting too dry.

Johnson also advises that people stay alert, slow down and stay in control.

"Weather conditions can change quickly, placing extra demands on your vehicle and your driving skills," he said. "Keep your focus on the road and on other vehicles, eliminate all distractions and make sure you are well rested."

In order to help people on Fort Rucker stay safe throughout the holidays, the automotive skills center is offering free pre-Christmas vehicle inspections Dec. 17 and 18. The inspections take about an hour and people should call to make an appointment.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 255-9725.

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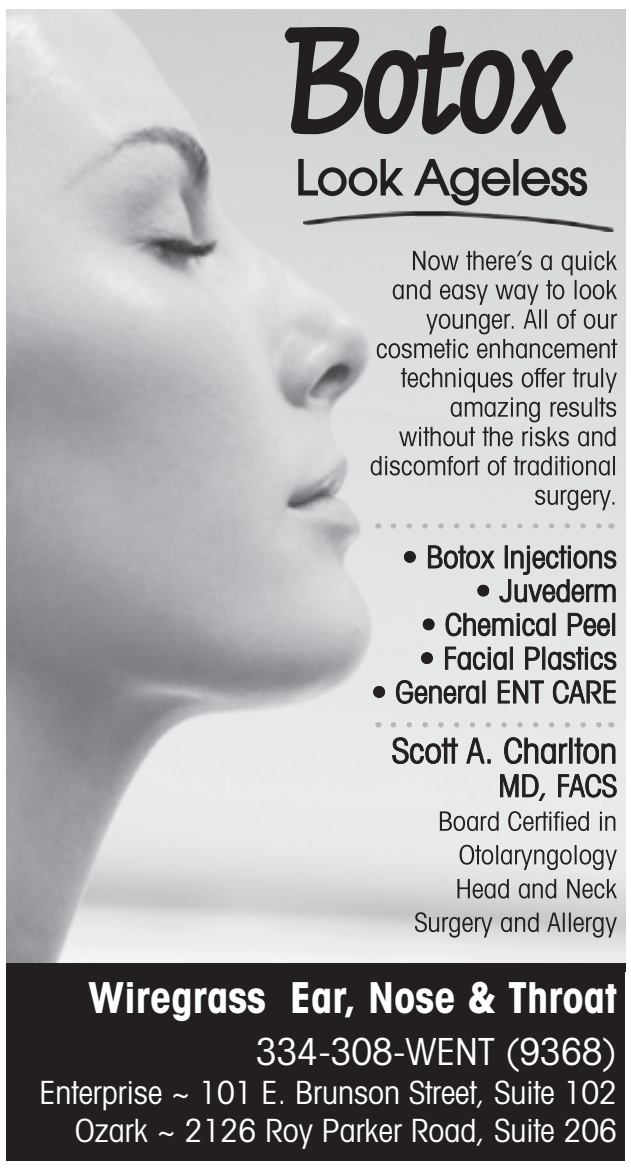

Center: Family Covenant made it possible

Continued from Page A1

the afterschool school-age program, but now with the new center the "logistical nightmare" of scheduling each program is in the rearview mirror, according to Williams.

"When you get that many people competing for space it is a nightmare. We've had around 50 teens every day in one cramped space, but now we have a capacity of 150," she said. "It's important for each age group to have their own space."

The capability of creating such a building was the result of the Army Family Covenant.

"When the Army Family Covenant funds became available, an opportunity was created and we demonstrated the need with the amount of teens that come every day. Now we have 10 utility buses that we go and pick up over 100 children from Ozark and Enterprise," she said.

There are 14 similar centers planned Army-wide, and according to Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, the center is the result of teens speaking up about what they needed to improve their quality of life.

"This building is the result of 10 years of work that started as an issue in the teen Family action plan and the local teens kept the matter alive with validated issues such as lack of space," said McRae.

CYSS has almost 2,500 Families enrolled with more than 4,000 children. More than 800 of those children are ages 11-18 and will use the new facility. In addition, almost 800 preschoolers, 300 kindergartners and a little over 1,000 school age children are eligible to be involved in youth sports and fitness, which will also be operating out of the building.

Eligibility for use of the facility is extended to children of active duty and retired military personnel; members of military reserve component; widows, widowers and other next of kin of military personnel on active duty at time of death; next of kin of prisoner-of-war or missing-in-action personnel of all armed services; Department of Defence appropriated fund and non-appropriated fund civilians employed at or assigned temporarily to Fort Rucker; and DOD contractors employed at Fort Rucker.

Williams said that once word begins to spread, the facility will attract teen participation.

"When teens want to be away, we hope this is the place they want to come to. Once teens see it, those who have not wanted to participate in our programs will want to because they will see they don't have to share it with 6-to-10 year olds," she said.

Though teens don't have to share the space with younger children, they are still supervised. The adult-to-youth ratio at the center is one adult to 10 teens.

"There is always an adult handy to mentor, to be a listener, to introduce an activity, and this is a wonderful opportunity for teens to get that adult interaction," said Williams.

The "first class facility," which utilizes the Boys and Girls Club of America, 4-H and Army Community Service Youth Services curriculum and activities, will help teens grow into productive adults, according to Williams, and many parents and teens agree with her.

"It's pretty interesting just how big it is. I am so surprised. There are so many things to do — there is something for everyone. It is a safe place, too. We can stay out of trouble and our parents don't have to worry about us," said Adrienne Stanpley, a local youth.

Parents were also astounded by the variety of things for teens to do as well as the safety of the teens.

"It is money well spent. It will allow them to explore different aspects of their teen life overall. They have so much to choose from and parents can rest at ease knowing that their child is safe and well cared for," said Kimberly Eskridge, parent of a youth.

Hero: Soldiers applaud speaker's story of survival

Continued from Page A1

help, how he was almost killed by friendly pilots and how he evaded the enemy for three days before being captured.

"I was questioned, beaten, threatened, and eventually they tied my arms behind my back … until ultimately both of my shoulders were dislocated," he said.

Reeder continued with his recount of a three day march to a jungle prison camp. He described the deplorable conditions of the camp, the other prisoners, his treatment and illnesses, and the daily life of a POW.

"Under these filthy, starvation conditions, without medical care, it seemed that someone died almost every day," he explained.

After several months at the camp he was told that he would go on an 11-day walk to a new camp that would have better conditions. The trip turned out to be a three-month journey on the Ho Chi Minh Trail to the city of Hanoi, a trip that nearly claimed his life many times.

"I went into North Vietnam's prison system and ended up at the infamous Hanoi Hilton. I knew the hardest part was over once there," he said.

He spoke to the men and women about how he stayed as positive as humanly possible, how he tried to escape and gave them tips on the military Code of Conduct.

He went on to say that the Army of today is much better than the Army that fought in Vietnam because of factors such as pilots undergoing SERE training and Soldiers' education levels.

Reeder, who had only rudimentary survival classes in flight school and Officer Candidate School, said that the addition of SERE as a requirement of flight school graduation is an absolute necessity.

"We really need it. It needs to be something everyone goes through. It is extraordinary that all of the pilots have to complete the course. I know they don't particularly enjoy going through it, but it is for their survival," he said.

Soldiers are more educated in general than during the 1970s, especially pilots, and having that extended education and knowledge among Aviators makes the Army better, said Reeder.

"I don't see their education as a benefit but a necessity. They have to be educated with our command control systems — it requires that knowledge. Our cockpits are so sophisticated now," he said.

That sophisticated technology that makes flying successful today, and that some Aviators may take for granted, Reeder said he would have appreciated back when he was flying.

"The ability to see at night is invaluable. We lost a lot of pilots and aircraft in the mountains simply because the night vision goggles and technology had not been developed yet," he said.

Reeder departed with applause and some Soldiers couldn't believe that he survived his ordeal.

"His resiliency in his situation that few people have been subjected to is simply a miracle. It will keep me motivated to get through any challenge," said Capt. Jason Turner, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces.

"Hopefully, I provided some words for the men and women here today that might help them in their service as Aviators," said Reeder.

Cheer: Experience teaches children responsibility

Continued from Page A1

them," she said.

Wilds also believes that the experience makes the children feel like they are a part of the big picture.

"It gives them ownership of what's going on in their lives and it kind of makes it easier for them to accept it when it is their turn for a parent to be away. It can also teach them responsibility and how they can be of service," she added.

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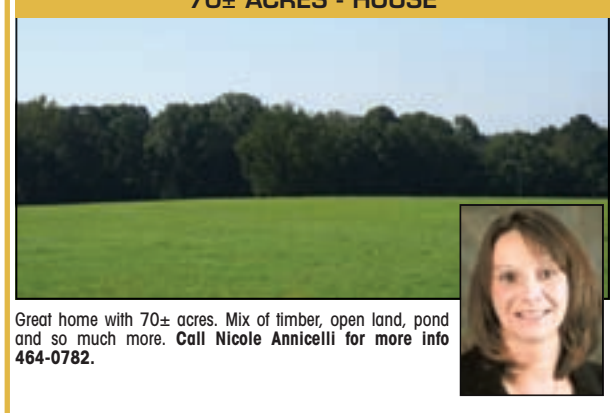

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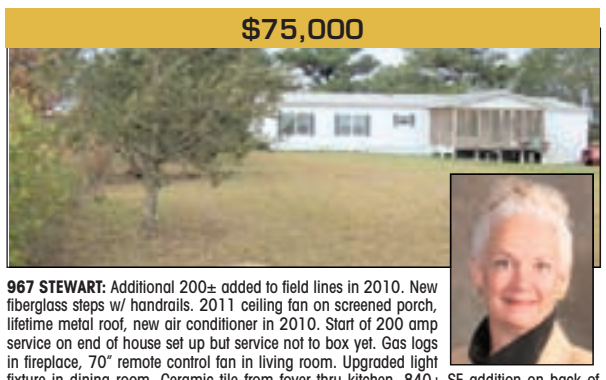

967 STEWART: Additional 200± added to field lines in 2010. New fiberglass steps w/ handrails. 2011 ceiling fan on screened porch, lifetime metal roof, new air conditioner in 2010. Start of 200 amp service on end of house set up but service not to box yet. Gas logs in fireplace, 70" remote control fan in living room. Upgraded light fixture in dining room. Ceramic tile from foyer thru kitchen. 840+ SF addition on back of house not competed. 14x16 connecting room, appliances newer than home. Laminate floors installed 2010. **Evelyn Hitch 406-3436**

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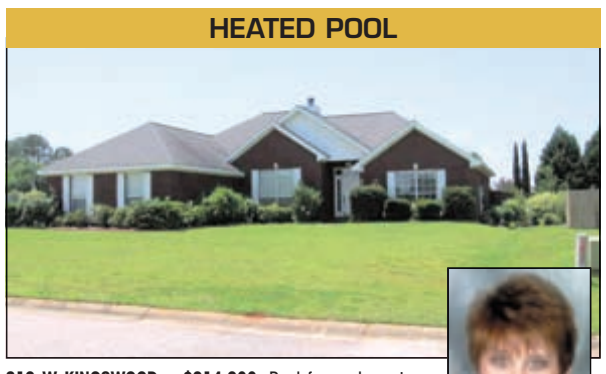

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Infantry evaluates maneuver capabilities of motorcycles, ATVs

Story on Page B4

DECEMBER 6, 2012

PHOTO BY SGT. DANIEL SCHROEDER

Afghan flight medic Jan Alem, Kandahar Air Wing, loads a simulated patient in the back of a UH-60 medevac Black Hawk assigned to C Co., 3rd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., TF Hammerhead, 25th CAB, during flight medic training on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Nov. 28.

KAW flight medics certified

By Sgt. Daniel Schroeder
25th CAB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Medics of the Kandahar Air Wing were certified during flight medic training with the C Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Hammerhead, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Nov. 28.

The purpose of the training is for the flight medics of the KAW to learn how to receive a 9-line medevac request and perform the necessary treatment to a casualty.

"The training is great for us to have," said Afghan Sgt. Fazal Haq Maftoon, a flight medic with the KAW. "I learned a lot that I did not know before. The patient assessment is the biggest part of being a flight medic."

Flight medics from C Co., 3rd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB have trained 15 flight medics from the KAW. The soldiers were trained on conducting medical and trauma assessments, basic life-support procedures, and combat lifesaver tactics.

"The most important thing for a health care provider is the assessment of a patient," said Staff Sgt. Miguel Valdez, a flight medic assigned to Co., 3rd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, originally from Phoenix. "The training has evolved from having the flight medics learn flight medic procedures to treating patients on a real-time medevac call."

The Afghan flight medics completed an in-flight scenario to receive two simulated casualties and provide the necessary care during transport to the nearest medical facility.

"The goal of the training is to teach them to be able to provide critical care to a patient in transit and to develop an assessment rhythm," said Valdez. "Once you develop a rhythm, you will not miss anything and make you a better [health care] provider."

As the soldiers continue the training, their relationship and trust grows with them.

"Our coalition partners have taught us how to become better at our tasks," said Maftoon. "We can now help our patients effectively and train others to do the same."

Simulation teaches intel skills

By Regina Albrecht
U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. — As the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence continues its campaign to build a more effective and efficient future force, its Learning Innovation Office is responding to the call to action by developing adaptable interactive multimedia instruction.

LIO's latest IMI product release, the Collection Asset Management Simulator, can expand to serve multiple intelligence disciplines and staff functions within and outside the installation.

"CAMS isn't one of those products that is developed for a single course and then put on a shelf to gather dust," stated Capt. Luke Gosnell, executive officer, LIO.

Developed for the Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course, CAMS is an Afghanistan-based simulation that is meeting USAICoE's need for high intensity conflict training.

Gosnell said CAMS offers a more contemporary scenario than MICCC's Operation Northern Star and Operation Southern Cross which are based in Sierra Vista.

"It's a serious game that allows students to plan requirements, task, direct and execute information collection inside a simple-to-use graphical user interface," he explained. "The GUI is a baseline platform that can be easily modified by the user to expand upon other objective-based and learner-centric serious games."

Chris Gonzales, LIO lead developer on the project, stated CAMS is also portable and requires very little system resources.

"The product does not require a gaming computer," Gonzales said. "It's a web application that can be played at someone's home station or in their home for refresher

SEE SKILLS, PAGE B4

PHOTO BY LEARNING INNOVATION OFFICE

A Soldier at the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence's Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course plays the Collection Asset Management Simulator 2-dimensional game. The 2D product is focused on the tasks of a brigade collection manager.

PHOTO BY CAPT. RICHARD BARKER

A door gunner from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade loads his ammunition for his qualification pass as he competes against other door gunners in the first 25th CAB Top Gun Competition in Afghanistan in late November.

Soldiers compete for 'Top Gun'

By Sgt. Daniel Schroeder
25th CAB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – UH-60 Black Hawk crew chiefs and door gunners of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade competed in the first 25th CAB Top Gun Competition on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in late November.

The purpose of the competition was to bring the best door gunners representing each task force together in a friendly head-to-head competition to determine the 25th CAB's "Top Gun."

"The Soldiers were chosen from each task force based on their demonstrated performance and proficiency as door gunners," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Frazee, 25th CAB standardization noncommissioned officer, originally from Gainesville, Ga. "This was a perfect time to recognize the Soldiers after a year of direct-fire engagements and test fires."

Twelve Soldiers were chosen by their leadership out of 150 eligible door gunners and crew chiefs. Each Soldier was given two 100-round belts for the competition-engaged makeshift targets. The door gunners shot at the targets from a UH-60 Black Hawk as it made two passes to simulate receiving small arms fire while flying to and landing at an objective.

"It was really great to be a part of this competition," said Spc. Timothy Edwards, a UH-60 crew chief assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Lightning Horse, 25th CAB, originally from Richland, Va. "After long hours, performing missions and conducting maintenance, it was a big morale boost."

The idea for the competition came from events conducted by Task Force Diamond Head in previous years to build esprit de corps and increase the proficiency of the door gunners. This year the competition was opened to all door gunners across the brigade.

Edwards was named the winner of the Top Gun Competition by putting seven rounds in the torso, one in the head and setting off a smoke grenade with one burst.

"Everything I learned was from Staff Sgt. Frazee and Sgt. Hardwick when they were trainers," said Edwards. "From here, I want to go from crew chief to trainer and then to company standardization trainer. I want to pass on my knowledge to others."

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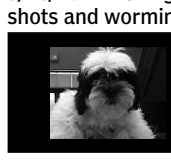

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OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

Infantry evaluates maneuver capabilities of motorcycles, ATVs

By Lt. Col. Deanna Bague
Brigade Modernization Command

DONA ANA RANGE, N.M. — Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, are evaluating how motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles can help the maneuverability of Soldiers during reconnaissance missions conducted in scenarios during Network Integration Evaluation 13.1.

Soldiers from 2nd BCT, 1st AD, provide immediate feedback that allows U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command to assess concepts, identify implications, and enables Army Test and Evaluation Command to assess the technical performance of materiel technologies.

Capt. William Branch, a commander for C Company, 1-6 Inf., said as far as warfighting functions are concerned, the use of motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles addresses the maneuver side of the house because they allow the dismounted Soldier to get from Point A to Point B without any kind of fatigue.

"It leaves him ready to take the fight to the enemy when he finally gets to his location," said Branch. "It also allows for him to move stealthily through the battlefield in the event that he is establishing an [observation post] as maybe a scout — he can infiltrate inside and outside enemy lines using his motorcycle and not be very visible audibly to the enemy."

Soldiers said the motorcycles and ATVs are an integrated base defense mobility package that allows them to conduct reconnaissance and patrols around their perimeter to make sure it is safe.

"Once we have identified targets and have collaborated those with the systems that we have, we're able to use the motorcycles and ATVs to go out and make contact with that enemy," said Branch.

Pfc. Joshua Doster, a tanker with 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., who is one of the Soldiers testing the motor vehicles, said he feels the motorcycles and ATVs will increase the range of tasks Soldiers can perform in the area of scouting missions and area reconnaissance.

"Just being a smaller vehicle [it is] able to move under cover without the noise and the profile of a lot of these larger vehicles that we've been using," said Doster.

Branch said the integrated base defense system is in Afghanistan but it's not integrated with motorcycles and ATVs.

"The work that we're doing here at the NIE is allowing for us to aid the Soldiers that are in Afghanistan," said Branch. "This is allowing us to establish a baseline for our tactics, techniques and standard operating procedures for how we employ these systems in a testing environment such as this one so that we can forward it to Soldiers that are in Afghanistan and allow them to be successful in their operations."

PHOTO BY SGT. MICHAEL J. MACLEOD

Soldiers from C Co., 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 1st AD, ride motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles to conduct area reconnaissance at Dona Ana Range, N.M., during Network Integration Evaluation 13.1.

Skills: Beta tests help improve product

Continued from Page B1

or sustainment training."

CAMS comprises two IMI products, Operation Kanjhar Strike and Operation Kanjhar Storm. Operation Kanjhar Strike is a 2-dimensional product with a high intensity conflict scenario and Operation Kanjhar Storm is a 3-dimensional product with a counterinsurgency setting.

He said the 2D product is focused on the tasks of a brigade collection manager.

Jamie Tate, MICCC training specialist, said Operation Kanjhar Strike teaches students how to conduct their own analysis as well as read and determine the pertinence of message traffic.

The 2D game also explains how to plot icons on maps. "Students place NAIs (or named areas of interest) on maps to track enemy movement and develop situational templates for their plans," Tate said.

Students are graded on how well they use their collection assets.

"If they place the right or wrong assets in the wrong place at the wrong time, no information is generated to determine the enemy situation and plot maps," he said. "It's imperative students know what assets to use as well as how and when to use them or to employ cueing, redundancy and mixing."

Gosnell said CAMS learning outcomes extend beyond collection asset management to situational order of battle, symbology and fusion analysis.

"Operation Kanjhar Strike incorporates fusion of various incoming intelligence sources," he elaborated. "Whether they're white noise, non-intelligence or intelligence, all sources must be linked, parsed and vetted for conversion into usable intelligence."

Satisfied with the finished product, Gosnell, Gonzales and Tate acknowledged some challenges they encountered during development of Operation Kanjhar Strike.

"Maintaining the original vision was challenging," Gosnell said.

Gonzales agreed, stating the scope changed during development. "I think it's a bigger and better product," he said. "It's definitely broader in terms of scope."

Feedback from beta tests spurred some changes to the product.

"During testing and validation, we received a lot of great feedback from a very mixed group of individuals," Gosnell said. "Participants were officers, ranging from non-MI Soldiers awaiting course enrollment to current and past MICCC students as well as collection asset managers downrange."

MICCC intends to implement Operation Kanjhar Strike by January. Beta testing for Operation Kanjhar Storm is complete and modifications are under way.

According to Gosnell, CAMS's unique features and capabilities are already capturing the attention of other USAICoE organizations and courses.

Most recently, the Joint Human Intelligence Officer Course submitted a request for service to modify CAMS and develop a supplement to their existing instruction.

"JHOC is looking to add more of a HUMINT (Human Intelligence) flavor to CAMS, which will facilitate its use as a study tool for course exercises and exams," he said.

For more information on CAMS, contact LIO Project Manager Michelle Austin at 533-7140 or michelle.l.austin20.ctr@mail.mil.

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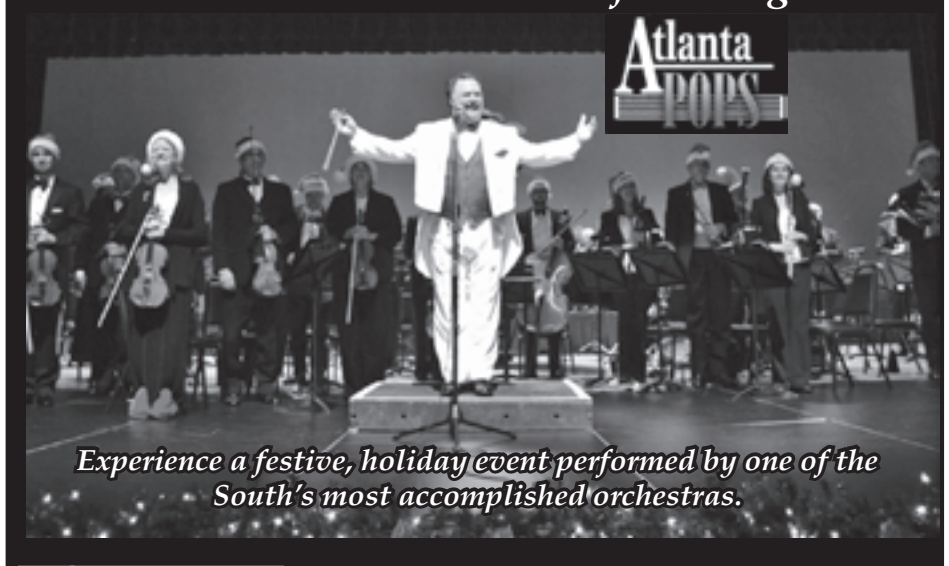

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Lyster observes World AIDS Day with patient education

Story on Page C5

DECEMBER 6, 2012

COURTESY PHOTO

Children from the Fort Rucker Primary School perform a holiday pageant at the Picerne Military Housing Headquarters during last year's Milk and Cookies with Santa event.

Picerne hosts milk, cookies with Santa

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

It's the time of year when red noses, reindeer antlers and unique sweaters are donned to spread Christmas cheer, and Picerne Military Housing gets in on the action with its Milk and Cookies with Santa event.

The event will be held Dec. 13 at the Fort Rucker Picerne Partners Headquarters, in Bldg. 2908, and will be a great holiday affair, according to Brandon Masters, PMH communications manager.

"We will have photos with Santa, light refreshments, a craft opportunity and a holiday performance along with other festivities," he said.

The photo opportunities do not require any type of reservations and include a chance for Families to incorporate their four-legged members.

"From 3-4 p.m., we will have a pet-specific photo opportunity. People can bring any pet they wish to have a photo with Santa. We like to have this special time to put the least amount of stress on nervous pets and children as possible," said Masters, adding that from 5-7 p.m. the traditional Family photos with Santa will begin.

Children are encouraged to tell Santa their Christmas wishes and parents are encouraged to bring their own cameras.

"If parents want to bring their own cameras, that is fine, but we will take photos and print them for free for Families. We print them almost immediately so people can take the photos home that night," said Masters.

Light refreshments will be served in the form of milk, cookies, hot chocolate and water for children and adults.

"Coffee will not be served this year. We are focusing on the kids," said Masters.

Santa won't be the only one spreading Christmas cheer at the event, because word has it that elves and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance as well.

"This is the time of year where many Families want to get their picture made with Santa and we want to provide an opportunity for Families where they do not have to drive to the mall or wait in line," he said. "They can come here and we will do it in a Family environment for free."

According to Masters, the great thing about this event is that the Picerne team has as much fun as the residents and the children do.

"It is as fun or even more fun for us. It's just a great way for all of us as members of the community to come together and celebrate the holiday," he said.

Five hundred to 700 pictures are expected to be taken during the event, but Masters wants residents to know that they will try to make the event go as smoothly as possible.

"It is not always the easiest or fastest transition getting children on and off Santa's lap, to help children to feel comfortable to speak to Santa and to smile for the camera, but we will try to accommodate everyone as much as possible," he said.

There will be entertainment at the event, provided by the Fort Rucker Primary School.

"At 4:30 p.m. the first grade primary school chorus will perform a holiday pageant for attendees to enjoy. It includes holiday singing and dancing," said Masters, adding that they will introduce Santa.

Children will get a holiday goodie bag, and there will be an opportunity for children to make a holiday craft and mail a letter to Santa.

"We will have a station for craft making that children can take home if they wish and there will also be a mailbox set up if children wish to send a letter to Santa Claus," said Masters.

Santa won't be the only one receiving a letter or card from the children. A chance to create and sign a Christmas card for deployed Soldiers will also be held at the event.

"An area will be set up where participants can either sign or create a card that will be sent overseas to Soldiers who cannot be home for the holidays," said the communications manager.

Masters also said that the event is the perfect occasion for Soldiers to celebrate because their attendance shows that they are home for the holidays, something that they may often miss out on.

"This is an opportunity to commemorate their time here because this is a Christmas that they spent here, not only with their Families but at Fort Rucker. We are trying to make it a memorable experience for the whole Family," he said.

For more information, contact the local neighborhood office or visit www.ruckerpicerne.com.

Hollyday Bazaar raises money for scholarships

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

More than 1,200 people came out to Yano Hall to enjoy everything the 2012 Fort Rucker Community Spouses' Club Hollyday Bazaar had to offer Saturday.

The bazaar was a good opportunity for people to enjoy food, fun and crafts provided by more than 65 vendors, as well as a chance for people to support a good cause, according to Andrea Merrigan, Hollyday Bazaar co-chair for FRCSC.

"It was a huge success and we had a large crowd this year, larger than last year's," she said. "There were a great variety of vendors that came out and all the proceeds that were raised went to benefit scholarship funds [provided by FRCSC], and some to the welfare program."

People were able to enjoy vendors with various items ranging from furniture to handmade holiday decorations and ornaments.

Sam Johnson, civilian, said the bazaar was her favorite event that she has attended so far this year.

"I'm really amazed at how big the event is," she said. "I can't believe the amount of different things that you can by, and the fact that a lot of this stuff is handcrafted makes it just that much better.

"It's been a great place for me to buy gifts for people since most of the items that I'm purchasing here are very unique," she continued. "I just absolutely love it and I already can't wait for next year's event."

PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Helaine McRae, wife of Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, helps Austin Farmer, military Family member, make his picture frame at Santa's Workshop during the 2012 Fort Rucker Community Spouses' Club Hollyday Bazaar at Yano Hall Saturday.

Along with the vendors, people were also able to participate in Santa's workshop, where people were able to bring their children and make different crafts like picture frames, or even take a picture with Santa Claus.

The bazaar was also an opportunity for people to win prizes while helping out the FRCSC's cause.

"The vendors that are working here today, when they bought their booth, part of the contract was that they had to donate a prize for us to be given out," said Darcy Lynch, first vice president for FRCSC. "We sell opportunity tickets and then draw for prizes that we've been handing out to the people that are here today."

The FRCSC scholarship program provides students in the Wiregrass opportunities that they might not be afforded otherwise, said Merrigan.

"The Fort Rucker Community Spouses' Club, in conjunction with other organizations that have donated through our program, has distributed more than $133,000 in scholarships over the past nine years," she said. "Our primary mission is to develop a spirit of community responsibility, help the spouses on Fort Rucker and raise money for the area."

Many who attended, like Beth Price, retired military spouse, were happy to be able to help a good cause while shopping.

"It's always a great thing if you can do something you love and help people at the same time," she said. "I absolutely love to shop, and to know that me just coming here can help people makes me feel good.

"It's just a great program that they have with the spouses' club," she continued. "For them to be able to put on something as big as this shows that they're going to be able to help a lot of people, and I'm glad to be a part of that."

On Post

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO FORT RUCKER EVENTS , SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS NOON THURSDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK'S EDITION.

Newcomers Welcome moved to January

Army Community Service moved the Newcomers Welcome to Jan. 18 because of the low amount of Soldiers who inprocessed this month.

For more information or for newcomer assistance, call 255-3735.

Breakfast with Santa

The Landing will host breakfast with Santa Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. The breakfast buffet will include eggs, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, toast, ham, biscuits with gravy, assorted fruits, a cereal bar and more. The price for this breakfast will be $10 for adults 13 and older, $5 for children 3-12, and children 2 and younger eat for free. There will be a Family special for $25 for a Family of two adults and two children 12 and younger. Children will be able to get their photos taken with Santa at the breakfast.

For more, call 598-2426.

Comedy Live

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts Comedy Live Friday from 8-10 p.m. at The Landing. Entertainers will include comedians Jarrod Harris and Mike Winfield. Tickets are $10 before 2 p.m. Friday and $15 at the door. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and The Landing Zone will have a live DJ following the performance. This show is for individuals 18 and older.

For more, call 255-9810.

Financial Readiness Training

Army Community Service offers Financial Readiness Training Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center, Rm. 284. The free training provides a practical approach to personal financial management so Soldiers can gain control of and manage money effectively. Financial Readiness Training is required for all first-term junior enlisted Soldiers (E-1 through E-4). Spouses are also encouraged to attend.

For more, call 255-2594 or 255-9631.

EDGE! December activities

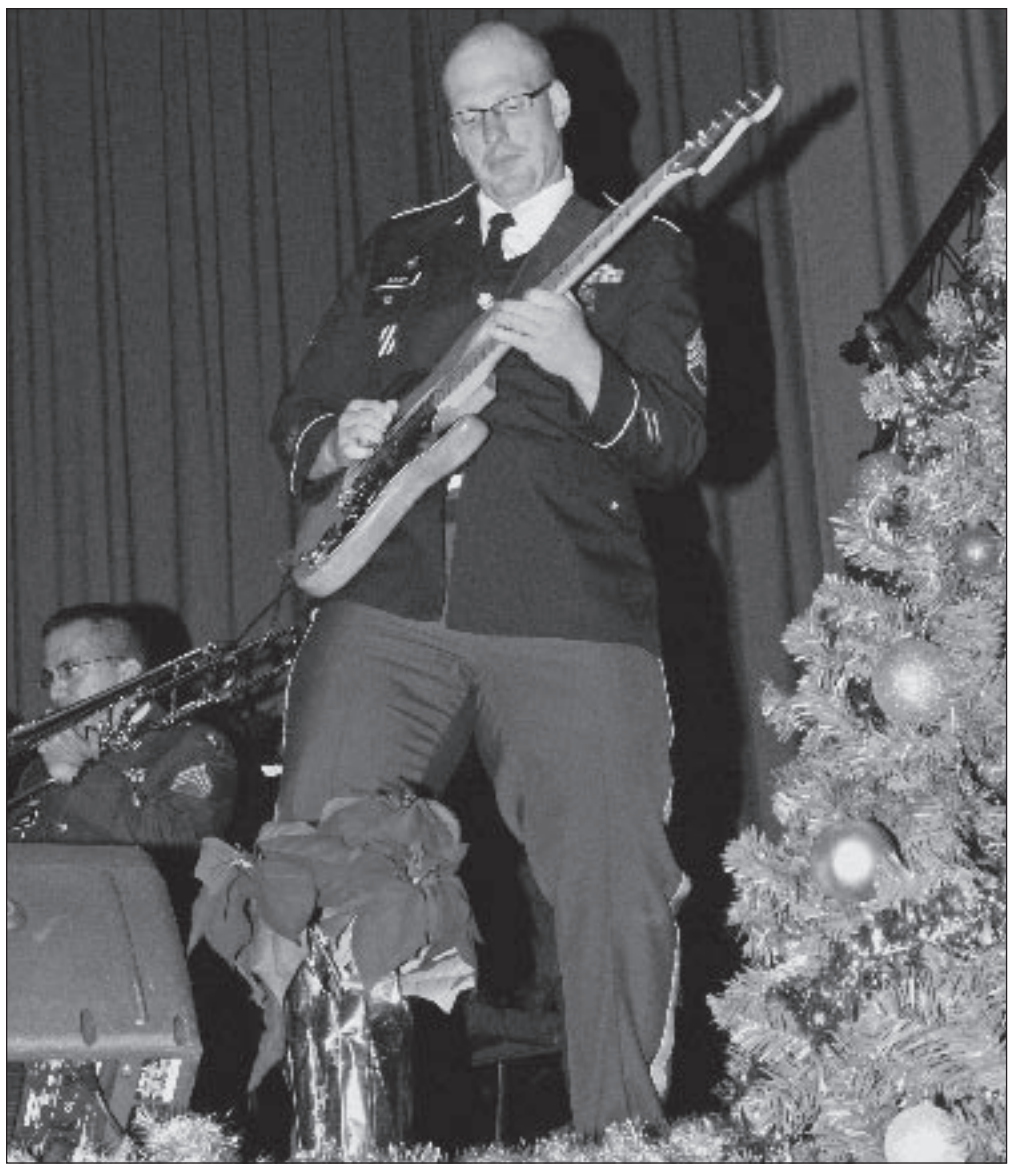
Child, youth and schools services host various activities as part of its EDGE! program in December. December activities include wreath making, winter scarf arts and crafts, wood burning crafts and more. EDGE! events cost $5 per hour. Activities occur every weekday from 4-6 p.m.

For more, call 255-0666.

EFMP Information and Support Group

The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military Families that have an exceptional or special needs Family member to the EFMP Information and Support Group meeting Tuesday from 9–10 a.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950. The topic for the meeting is holiday stress – tips and techniques will be provided on how to minimize and handle holiday stress. The EFMP Information and Support Group offers camaraderie, friendship, information exchange, idea sharing, community resources, support and assistance with finding solutions, according to Army Community Service officials.

For more, call 255-9277.



FILE PHOTO

CG's Holiday Concert

Maj. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, hosts the CG's Holiday Concert Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the post theater. Featuring Fort Rucker's own 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band, the free concert's theme is Joy to the World! The band's Blackout Brass Band, Crossfire and Wiregrass Jazz Ensemble will perform a festive concert with music from around the world, jazzy holiday tunes, modern favorites and sing-alongs. Santa will be in the house, as well.

Christmas craft making

The Center Library hosts a Christmas Craft Making Activity Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 65 children to register.

For more, call 255-3885.

Taco Thursdays

In December, every Thursday after 5 p.m. is Taco Thursdays at The Landing Zone, featuring $1 beef or chicken tacos with shredded lettuce, tomatoes, cheese and sour cream. People can add a side of guacamole for 50 cents, or make it a meal by adding black beans and rice for $1.95, or chips and queso for $2. People must purchase a beverage to be eligible for dinner specials. The offer is for dine in only and is not valid with other coupons or promotions.

Rib Night

In December, every Friday beginning at 5 p.m. in The Landing Zone will be Rib Night, featuring half a rack of smoked barbecue ribs served with fries for $7 with the purchase of a beverage. The offer is for dine in only and is not valid with any other coupons or promotions.

For more, call 598-8025.

Steak Night

In December, every Monday at 5 p.m. is Steak Night at The Landing Zone, featuring an 8-oz. Flat Iron Steak with fries for $5 with the purchase of a beverage. People can add a side salad for an additional $1. Other sides are also available for purchase. This special is limited to the first 100 guests per night and is available for dine in only, with a limit of one per guest. The offer is not valid with any other coupons or promotions.

For more, call 598-8025.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief scholarship applications for the 2013-2014 school year are available at www.aerhq.org and are due by April 1. AER scholarships are available for spouses and dependent children of active duty, retired and deceased Soldiers.

For more, visit www.aerhq.org or call (866) 878-6378.

Kids Night at The Landing Zone

Every Tuesday is Kids Night Character Dining at The Landing Zone from 5–8 p.m. Children 12 and younger eat for free from the Kids Buffet with the purchase of an adult entrée (limited to two per adult). Kids Night events will vary each week to include Kiddie Karaoke, magic shows, face painting, crafts and more. The event is open to the public.

For more, call 598-8025.

Story Time

The Center Library holds Story Time Fridays from 10:15–11 a.m., except for holidays and days of no scheduled activity. The free program introduces "the joy of reading" to children ages 2-5 years old and enhances parent-child interaction, according to library officials. A typical event includes a story, music, and coloring or craft time.

For more, call 255-0891.

DFMWR Spotlight

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 6 - 9

Thursday, Dec. 6	Friday, Dec. 7	Saturday, Dec. 8	Sunday, Dec. 9
Argo (R) ..... 7 p.m.	The Man With The Iron Fists (R) ..... 7 p.m.	The Man With The Iron Fists (R) ..... 7 p.m.	Cloud Atlas (R) ..... 7 p.m.

TICKETS ARE $4.50 FOR ADULTS AND $2.25 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARD HOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.

Seek 1st to understand, then be understood

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Milton Johnson
Garrison Chaplain's Office

Have you ever been misunderstood? Or, have you ever misunderstood someone else? Think about these questions for a minute and try to give a sincere answer to each one.

If the answer to the first question is yes, let me ask a couple of other questions:

What happened that caused you to be misunderstood?

How did you feel being misunderstood?

Was it unavoidable or could it have been prevented? Many times misunderstandings can be averted.

How could things have been done differently?

What damage resulted from your experience?

Was the misunderstanding resolved? If so, how was it worked out?

Now, answer the second question and go through the same follow up inquiry – only this time put yourself in the shoes of a person who misunderstands another individual. Then ask the six follow-up questions.

Let me be the first to say that I have misunderstood others on multiple occasions, and I have been misunderstood more than once, or maybe a thousand times, in life by friends, relatives and people who didn't even know me.

The problem is, I can't think of one instance when I misunderstood someone else or another person misunderstood me that I or the other person enjoyed the experience. The truth is, neither others nor I appreciate such confrontations. More often than not, misunderstandings end on a negative note rather than a positive one.

Writing this article reminds me of a time when I misunderstood my second oldest daughter. She was 17 and wanted to date, but I was strongly against it. She was approaching her senior year in high school and all I could see in her having a male friend was (what all fathers see) – multiple distractions.

Candace spent weeks trying to convince me that she was mature enough and ready for such a relationship, and I spent twice as much time repeating the same words, "It will not happen until after graduation." One time, I even said that it would only happen over my dead body.

To my surprise, she came home one day and said, "Daddy, I know what you said about having a boyfriend right now, but I decided to date Mike whether you like it or not."

To say the least, I was floored by her bold and daring announcement. So, I lowered my voice and calmed myself down then I asked, "Really?"

Unhesitatingly, she said, "Yep, oh yes!"

At this point, although she did not say it literally, I imagined her saying in her mind, I am ready to fight if I have to.

Enough, I said, something's got to change. I said a short prayer, then invited her to take a ride with me to Atlanta, Ga., which was only an hour away from Fort Benning, Ga., so we could talk and try to understand each other better. She agreed, and off we went.

Needless to say, I started the conversation with familiar words she had heard for many years. And, as usual, she listened patiently and respectfully until I finished. Then she began to explain that she loved school and worked hard to achieve the good grades she earned.

She told me that she was excited about life after high school, but that she wanted to start learning more about boys before going off to college. She said she didn't want to find out about relationships away from home, but at home, where she could get parental advice easier than if she was in a distant place a long way away, and had to call and talk on the phone.

Then, with tears in her eyes, she assured me that she would never do anything to disgrace God, herself or her Family regardless to whom she talked to or associated with. I must admit that conversation helped me to see something I had never seen before and hear words I needed to hear.

Candace showed me that she had matured enough to put values before feelings. And she convinced me that her priorities started with God. The conversation continued all the way to Atlanta without a pause – it was word for word and one of the best chats I have had with my daughter to this day.

Surprisingly, I agreed to let her date a classmate and the relationship turned out pretty good.

I share that experience to illustrate how important it is to seek first to understand, then to be understood.

If I had insisted on getting my point across without listening and giving Candace an opportunity to fully explain her position, the result would probably have been disastrous. Thank God it turned out for the best because, for once in our conversations, I paid attention first!

Think about it. What would happen in your relationship if you tried this principle? Try it and see. Seek first to understand, then to be understood. I am sure you will be please with the results.

Post housing questions?
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PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Iris, a 12-month old female mixed breed. She is outgoing, caring and loves to play. Iris is $81 to adopt, which includes spaying, a microchip and heartworm testing. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the veterinary clinic or the commissary. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility's ***Facebook*** page at http:// www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/ for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

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Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

HEADQUARTERS CHAPEL, BLDG. 109

Multi-Cultural Worship Service 8 a.m., Sunday

MAIN POST CHAPEL, BLDG. 8940

9 a.m. Catholic Mass, Sunday

11 a.m. Liturgical Worship Service, Sunday

12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass, Tuesday-Friday

4 p.m. Catholic Confessions, Saturday

5 p.m. Catholic Mass, Saturday

WINGS CHAPEL, BLDG. 6036

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Chapel Next Contemporary Worship Protestant Service

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER, BLDG. 8939

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School

10:45 a.m. CCD (except during summer months).

BIBLE STUDIES

9 a.m. Protestant Women of the Chapel, Wings Chapel, Tuesday

11 a.m. Above the Best Bible Study, Yano Hall, Wednesday

10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center, Wednesday

Noon Adult Bible Study, Soldier Service Center, Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study, Headquarters Chapel, Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Chapel Next (Meal/Bible Study), Wings Chapel, Thursday

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II RED DAWN - PG13
Mon - Fri 7:15 & 9:15 • S &S 2:15, 7:15 & 9:15

WESTGATE CENTER
III WRECK-IT RALPH - PG
Mon - Fri 7:00 & 9:10 • S &S 2:00, 7:00 & 9:10
IV SKYFALL - PG13
Mon - Fri 7:00 & 9:40 • S &S 2:00, 7:00 & 9:40

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3D* • S &S 2:10 & 7:10* • Mon. -Fri 7:10
2D** 9:10 Everyday
III KILLING THEM SOFTLY - R
Mon - Fri 7:00 & 9:05 • S &S 2:00, 7:00 & 9:05

OZARK
I TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 2** - PG13
Fri 7:00 & 9:20 • Sat 2:00, 7:00 & 9:20
Sun 2:00 & 7:00 • Mon - Thurs 7:00
II RISE OF THE GUARDIANS - PG
Fri 7:00 & 9:00 • Sat 2:00, 7:00 & 9:00
Sun 2:00 & 7:00 • Mon - Thurs 7:00

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Church Directory

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

Center Point Community Church
†Charismatic † Relational † Purposeful†
Pastor: Ed Corley
† 3351 Lynn Road – Enterprise (right off Rucker Blvd)
† Service times
Sunday Worship – 10 AM
Sunday Evenings – 5 PM
Wednesday Evenings – 7 PM
Nursery – Children – Youth
† Office: 334 347 5044
www.centerpointag.org
centerpoint3351@yahoo.com

First United Methodist Church
Traditional Worship Service
8:30 am & 11:00 am
Contemporary Worship - New Connection
8:45 am
The Gathering - Youth
5:45 pm
Sunday School
10:00 am
Nursery Care: During all services
217 S. Main St • Enterprise, AL
Office: 334-347-3467
efumc@adelphia.net
Prayer Line (24 Hours) 334-393-7509

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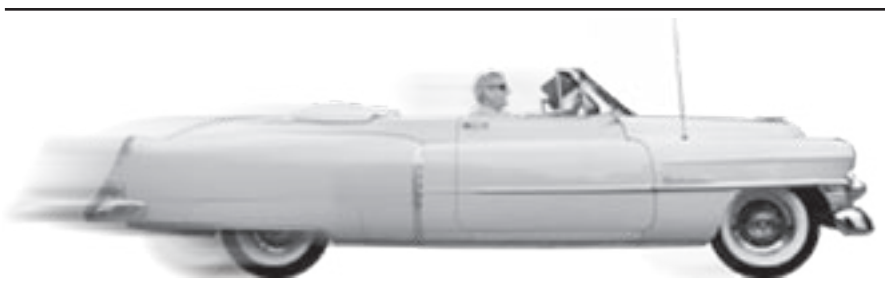

Childersburg, Sylacauga: Family fun

By Grey Brennan
Alabama Tourism Department

Childersburg — Covered Bridge and Cavern Fun

Childersburg is believed to be the location of a Coosa Nation village visited by the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in the fall of 1540.

Childersburg calls itself "The Oldest Settlement in America."

Named for the explorer, DeSoto Caverns Family Fun Park (5181 DeSoto Caverns Pkwy.; (256) 378-7252) is a magnificent 12-story cave. Guided tours of the cave include a light, sound and water show on every tour. The more than 25 attractions outside the caverns include a maze and wacky water golf.

During your visit, be sure to stop by the gift shop for some delicious DeSoto Caverns fudge. This stuff is so good that it's featured as a "must taste" on Alabama Tourism's list of "100 Dishes To Eat in Alabama Before You Die." The park also includes a butterfly house. In warm weather, you can watch the butterflies as they scurry from place to place.

Also on the outskirts of Childersburg are the historic 1864 Kymulga Grist Mill and the adjacent Covered Bridge built in 1860 (7346 Kymulga Grist Mill Rd.; (256) 378-7436). Visit the mill site, walk across the covered bridge that spans Talladega Creek and then explore the nature trails. The Kymulga Grist Mill grounds are the home of the annual Coosa Fest held in late September.

Vineyard and drive-In

Drive on U.S. Hwy. 280 across the Coosa River and as you head north toward Harpersville (less than 10 miles), you will reach Morgan Creek Vineyards (181 Morgan Creek Lane, Harpersville; (205) 672-2053). This family-owned vineyard and winery offers free guided tours and wine tastings. During its annual Grape Stomp, held the third Saturday in September, you can crush grapes with your bare feet while listening to live music and watching the "Lucy Look-A-Like" contest recognizing the best Lucille Ball costumes.

A family road trip to this part of Alabama wouldn't be complete without going to the Harpersville Drive-In (45 Woodland Road; (205) 672-8484). This is great evening entertainment for the whole family as you enjoy watching one of two movies on the large 80-by-24-foot screens from the comfort of your car.

Sylacauga's ice cream and the magic of marble

Start your trip in Sylacauga with a fun walking tour of the Blue Bell Ice Cream factory (423 N. Norton Ave.; (256) 249-6100). Children and adults alike will enjoy seeing exactly how their favorite food items are made, especially when the tour ends with a free ice cream sample. Blue Bell is located a block from city hall. It offers tours Monday through Friday, with the first tour at 9 a.m. and the last starting at 1 p.m. You should call ahead to schedule your place on the 45-minute tour.

Since you are in Sylacauga, which sits atop a bed of mostly white marble, take time to visit the Isabel Anderson Comer Museum and Arts Center (711 North Broadway, (256) 391-1352). This museum, containing works of art by the Italian sculptor and quarry investor Giuseppe Moretti, is a great place to learn about Sylacauga's marble history. It also has a "Nabors Room," which celebrates native son Jim Nabors, who gained national fame as both an actor and a singer. Nabors was discovered by Andy Griffith and played the garage attendant Gomer Pyle on the "Andy Griffith Show." Be sure to tour the upstairs gallery inside the museum, where you will see a copy of the Hodges Meteorite and newspaper clippings that tell the story of the 8.5-pound rock that fell from the sky and struck Ann Elizabeth Hodges as she napped in a farmhouse in Oak Grove just outside of Sylacauga.

Be sure to call ahead to chosen destinations to make sure they will be open during the time of your visit.

You can also view Sylacauga marble sculptures at the B.B. Comer Memorial Library (314 N. Broadway; (256) 249-0961) where the sculptures from visiting Italian artists are on permanent display. They can be found in the lobby around the stairwell. Another must-see are the 17 paintings that ran as advertising for Avondale Mills in The Saturday Evening Post. These paintings by Douglass Crockwell reflect the American way of life in 1948 and are in a similar style to that of Norman Rockwell. Look for the Crockwell painting that includes a very young Doug Layton before he became the longtime color commentator for the University of Alabama Football Radio Network. Layton was born in Sylacauga.

Where to eat

If you're hungry, try either the more laid-back atmosphere of The Marble City Grill (112 N. Broadway Ave.; (256) 245-8108), located in an old furniture store, or the Buttermilk Hill Restaurant (300 East Third St.; (256) 207-1001), situated in a 1904 Victorian home. There is a back entrance to The Marble City Grill, making the large parking lot that serves the many stores downtown easily accessible and a joy for those who do not like to park along North Broadway. Buttermilk Hill, which offers more of a white tablecloth dining experience, is located in a spacious home with dining options available in the downstairs rooms or on the front porch.

A great time to visit Sylacauga is during the annual Magic of Marble Festival in April. A 10-day event, the festival showcases Sylacauga's beautiful white marble with on-site sculpting, "Marble Mania" scavenger hunts, and an observation point overlooking one of the historic quarries.

Oak Grove – where "stars fell on Alabama" and your car rolls uphill

From Sylacauga, travel north on U.S. Hwy. 280 to the adjacent community of Oak Grove, the site of a rare occurrence. An 8.5-pound meteorite crashed into the home of the Guy family on November 30, 1954, striking Elizabeth Ann Hodges. A farmer found another meteorite nearby. These two Oak Grove rocks from the sky are the only known meteors from that day.

To find the location of this unusual event and see the "Stars Fell on Alabama" historical marker commemorating the occurrence, travel U.S. 280 N. from Sylacauga. When you see the Nissan automobile dealership, exit to the right onto the Old Birmingham Highway. The historical marker will be on your right just before you reach Odens Mill Road.

Gravity Hill

Seeing the site where a meteorite struck a human is bound to be an exciting experience for you and your fellow travelers, but what you'll find really cool about your trip to Oak Grove is Gravity Hill, where, oddly enough, cars appear to coast uphill. This last adventure is a great way to end your road trip to the area.

This oddity happens on a section of Old Hwy. 280, now officially named Gravity Hill. For those with a GPS, it should be easy to find; simply type in Gravity Hill. If your GPS doesn't have the road listed or you're traveling using a map only, closely follow the directions included here.

WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT, EMAIL JIM HUGHES WITH ALL THE DETAILS AT JHUGHES@ARMYFLIER.COM.

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — The American Legion Post No. 80 regular meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialegionpost80.org.

DALEVILLE

ONGOING — Daleville Chamber of Commerce meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Daleville Cultural and Convention Center. For more information, call 598-6331.

ONGOING — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6020 Franchise J. Ballard Post membership meetings are at the post headquarters on State Road 84 every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Breakfast served on Sundays and games and TV's available for entertainment. Open to all. Post can host parties/weddings/hails and farewells. For more information, call 598-6211, 598-1297 or 598-6211/379-9187.

DOTHAN

SUNDAY — Landmark Park holds it Victorian Christmas at 1 p.m. Experience Christmas past with mulled cider, hot chocolate, a circuit riding preacher, old fashioned decorations, turn of the century desserts and music. Admission is free for everyone. For more information, call 794-3452.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 27 — The Wiregrass Museum of Art hosts a series of paintings, entitled Color in Freedom: journey through the underground railroad. The series was part of a U.N. exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland. Open to the public. Admission to the museum is free Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DEC. 3-7, 10-14, 17-21 — Landmark Park hosts its Christmas Past Seasonal for students in preschool through sixth grade in either a morning session from 9:30-11 a.m. or an afternoon session from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants will have a chance to experience an old-fashioned Christmas with storytelling, games and cider. They will also have a chance to create an old-fashioned ornament.

For more information, call 794-3452.

ENTERPRISE

TODAY — The City of Enterprise Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be at 6 p.m. at Johnny Henderson Park on Highway 167 North.

SATURDAY — From 9 a.m. until noon the first Breakfast with Santa will be held at the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church New Hall. Bring children to have breakfast with Santa Claus. Santa will be ready to hear all Christmas wishes. Tickets are $7 per child, ages 3 and older and children age 2 and under eat for free. Tickets can be purchased at the church office in advance and at the door. For more information, call 472-0419.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY — St. Luke United Methodist Church will host its 20th annual Live Nativity from 6-8 p.m.

Located in the parking lot of St. Luke UMC, on the corner of Alberta and Henderson streets. The live nativity is St. Luke's Christmas gift to the community and is free to everyone. For more information or to write a possible story, contact lnrdndrw@yahoo.com.

ONGOING — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6683, John Wiley Brock Post membership meetings are at the post headquarters on County Road 537 every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Connie Hudson at 406-3077, Randy Black at 393-6499 or Bob Cooper 347-7076, or visit the VFW Post 6683 on *Facebook.*

GENEVA

ONGOING — The Geneva County Relay for Life meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Citizens Bank.

For more information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

ONGOING — Residents are invited to Town Hall meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1385 Hinton Waters Ave.

For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — Every Tuesday and Wednesday, Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 99 maintains a service office in the New Brockton police station.

The officers can help veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims, VA pension, death benefits, VA medical care, Social Security disability benefits, veterans' job programs and other veteran services. All veteran services provided are free of charge.

For more information, call Chuck Lobdell at 718-5707.

OZARK

TODAY — The Vivian B. Adams School hosts the 40th annual Christmas Bazaar at 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crafts, raffles, baked goods and more are available for purchase. Raffle drawing is Saturday at 1:15 p.m.

TODAY — The 98th Silver Wings Army Band performs a Christmas Concert at the Flowers Center for the Performing Arts at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

SATURDAY — The city of Ozark Christmas Parade begins at 10 a.m. in downtown.

PINCKARD

ONGOING — The public is invited to the Cross Country Workshop every Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Pinckard United Methodist Church. For more information, call 983-3064.

SAMSON

ONGOING — American Legion Post 78 meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

TROY

FRIDAY — Troy Arts Council presents Shelia Jackson - Holiday Concert at the Crosby Theatre at Troy University at 7:30 p.m. Patrons can enjoy the voice of Troy's own Sheila Fayson Jackson as she joins with a host of other local vocalists, dancers, and musicians to present her annual Holiday Spectacular. Admission charged. For more information, call 670-3593 or go to www.troyartscouncil.com.

Beyond Briefs

5K, 1-mile Race

City of Panama City hosts the Reindeer Race and Santa Shuffle Monday at St. Andrews State Park at 3 p.m. The cost is $20 for the 5K and $15 for the 1-mile "shuffle." Physically-challenged participants and stroller-pushers are welcome. Registration available at www.active.com or day of registration available. For more information, email jmam33@bellsouth.net.

Christmas Traditions

Christmas Traditions is a singing, dancing, acting and musical accompaniment to bring traditions to life held at Fort Walton Beach Municipal Auditorium Friday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Price is $12 adults, $10 seniors over 60, $8 children under 12. Purchase tickets from the following outlets: P.S. Gifts, Fort Walton Beach; Connect with Flowers, Shalimar; Alphy's Catfish House, Navarre; FNBT.com Banks, Niceville, Destin, and Crestview; and the ITT offices at Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field. For more information, call (850) 543-5298.

12 Nights of Lights

For the month of December, a festive light show will be held at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin at the Events Plaza set to holiday music every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday leading up to Christmas at 6 and 7 p.m. Event is free and open to the public. This event will also be featured during the holiday editions of the Wednesday Night Concert Series at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.sandestin.com/events or call (866) 912-3224.

Lyster encourages adults to receive immunizations

By Katherine Rosario
Lyster Strategic Communications Specialist

Keeping abreast of recommended routine immunizations is not just child's play. Adults need immunizations too.

Lyster Army Health Clinic encourages adults to check with their physician to make sure they are up to date on important vaccinations they may have received as a child, but not as an adult.

Vaccinations many adults do not receive include the Tdap shot, which protects against tetanus and diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough), which is recommended every 10 years. Others include the shingles vaccination for those 60 years and older, and the pneumococcal vaccination for those 65 years and older.

"Adults need immunizations, too," said Donna Upshaw-Combs, community health nurse at Lyster. "As we grow older, childhood immunizations can wear off, and put us and our love ones at risk for acquiring old and new strains of vaccine-preventable diseases."

Each year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publish a recommended adult and child immunization schedule. The adult-specific immunizations are determined by age, lifestyle, health conditions, previous immunizations and other factors.

The CDC recommends adults receive the seasonal influenza, or flu shot, every year; Tdap every 10 years; shingles for those adults 60 years and older; pneumococcal for adults 65 years and older (a one-time shot); and hepatitis B (three-shot series) for adults who have diabetes or are at risk for hepatitis B.

Patients who keep current on vaccinations ensure their body has the right amount of antibodies to fight off the virus or illness, Upshaw-Combs said.

Adults are encouraged to receive their flu vaccination every year because the formula for the vaccine is altered each year to keep up with the ever-changing strain of the virus.

It is also important to make sure patients are up to date on their Tdap shot, especially if they plan to be around children, she said.

"When adults receive their Tdap shot, they are not only protecting themselves from curable illnesses but also protecting their loved ones because whopping cough can be deadly in children, especially those under the age of 6 months," Upshaw-Combs said.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with your provider, call 255-7000.

Lyster observes World AIDS Day with patient education

By Katherine Rosario
Lyster Army Health Clinic

Lyster Army Health Clinic observed World Aids Day Nov. 30 by providing educational material to Soldiers, Family members and retirees at the post exchange.

This year's theme, Getting to Zero, focuses on increasing HIV public awareness, education and support of those infected or affected by HIV.

"HIV is still around and although it is not a commonly talked about subject, it is important that our beneficiaries know what they can do to protect themselves," said Victoria Knighton, community health nurse at Lyster.

The Lyster Preventative Medicine Clinic is available to beneficiaries to provide educational material and support for those coping with their diagnosis.

"We help patients make sure they have the appropriate appointments based on their diagnosis, and can refer them to other specialties throughout the hospital, such as nutrition care and behavioral health," Knighton said.

HIV is a preventable virus that is carried into the body through semen, vaginal fluid, blood and breast milk. It then attacks the immune system, but may not show signs until much later.

Many people have no symptoms of HIV for years; however, when the virus becomes active, symptoms may begin to develop.

A blood test six weeks to six months after suspected infection can determine if a person is HIV positive, Knighton said.

"The introduction of different antiviral drugs has increased the lifespan of those infected but there is still no cure for this deadly disease," she said.

Practicing safe sex, not sharing needles and getting tested are just some of the ways to prevent infection.

For more information on HIV or to get tested, see the community health nurse in the preventative medicine clinic.

ARMY PHOTO

Retiree Glenn Davis, right, receives educational pamphlets about HIV from Victoria Knighton, Lyster community health nurse, to bring home to his Family Nov. 30 at the post exchange.

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4H provides new experiences for youth

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Deployments are hard on military Family members, but trying new experiences can help Families cope with the separation.

That's what 4H and Operation Military Kids did for 15-year-old Megan and 12-year-old Alexis Matthews, whose father is currently serving overseas in Kuwait, according to Marian Clemmons, 4H extension agent and OMK liaison.

"We want to try and keep children from being depressed and keep their minds off of a Family member being overseas," said Clemmons.

The girls participated in different events, such as: the Southeast Regional Outdoor Sports Day at the Mabson Community Education Forest in Ozark, where the girls got to shoot air rifles, participate in archery and learn about wildlife; and the National Peanut Festival, where they got the opportunity to participate in photography and chicken showing competitions.

"It's been a lot of fun. We get to learn new stuff all the time and meet new people, and have different experiences," said Megan. "[4H] has really kept us busy and has helped make time go by faster."

"Since our dad is deployed right now, [having these organizations] takes our minds of the fact that he's deployed for a while and gives us a chance to have different experiences with different friends and Families," added Alexis.

The sisters got involved with the chicken showing after Megan entered a photography contest in which she won two blue ribbons.

"Last year, we met with [Marian's Family] while they were showing their chickens, and we thought it was really cool," said Megan. "When we found out this year that we could get involved in it, we decided we wanted to do it, and that's what really sparked our 4H interest."

Clemmons said the sisters showed a real interest in showing the chickens at the peanut festival so they began the search to find the girls some chickens, which they found in Florida.

"The girls came out to one of the Geneva County 4H meetings and there was a girl from Florida who had two chickens, Old English Bantams, for sale," she said. "My son, Seth, actually bought the chickens for the girls and they came out to our house to start practicing with them."

In order to be ready to show chickens at the festival, Megan and Alexis had to learn general and extensive knowledge about the chickens. The girls had to learn things like parts of the chicken, diseases that chickens are susceptible to, and how to properly handle the chickens.

"Showing chickens is absolutely crazy," said Clemmons. "My kids show cows, and what we do with the cows is nothing compared to what these girls had to do and learn in just a few short weeks."

During the competition, participants had to go through three different stages, during which they were asked questions about their chickens and were made to show how to properly handle the animals.

"It was a lot of fun because we don't really get to handle different kinds of animals like that," said Alexis. "It was just really cool to do it and spend time with the chickens."

"The girls were put through the ringer," said Clemmons. "This was their first time showing chickens and they're going against children that have been doing this for years, but I just knew they were going to blow everybody away because they worked so hard at it."

Megan placed second in the competition and Alexis placed tenth, which Clemmons said was impressive considering their competition.

"We brought 52 chickens to the show, and for Megan to place second and Alexis to place tenth in such a large group of children just made me so pleased," she said.

The real prize, however, wasn't about ribbons or who had the best chicken, said Clemmons, but about and experience to share.

"This gives them something that they get to be proud of," she said. "I know they get to talk to and see their [father] through [video chat], but doing something like this gives them something to talk about – not just something to talk about but something new to talk about.

"You're bringing something new in, so they get to share a new experience with their dad that he didn't already know about," she continued. "It's good for the parent that is serving overseas just as much as it is for the child sharing the experience."

These are the types of experiences that Clemmons said that 4H and OMK want to provide children on Fort Rucker.

Clemmons said 4H used to only offer activities for livestock, sewing and cooking, but the organization has moved beyond that to accommodate more interests.

"This isn't your mother's or your grandmother's 4H anymore," she said. "We're trying to step into the new generation and reach out to them with different things."

For more information about 4H or Operation Military Kid, call 400-2843, or 898-0003.

COURTESY PHOTO

Megan and Alexis Matthews, military Family members, hold a baby alligator at the Southeast Regional Outdoor Sports Day at Mabson Community Education Forest in Ozark where they also participated in archery and air rifle shooting Nov. 11.

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HONORING VETERANS
IMCOM leaders help Bears, Texans honor vets

Story on Page D3

DECEMBER 6, 2012

1-145th wins championship

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Competition was heated as the D Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment Bama Bombers met A Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt. on the football field to play out two games to decide which team would take the title as 2012 Fort Rucker intramural football champions.

A Co., came out on top, beating the undefeated Bama Bombers two games in a row during the final of the double-elimination tournament to be crowned post champions.

"Honestly, the win was kind of unexpected," said Capt. Julius Myers, A Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt. quarterback. "These guys beat us in all the games during the regular season and the games have always been really close – literally coming down to the last play. It was nice to come out here and finish the job when it counts."

Capt. Walter Thomas, team captain for A Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt., agreed and said the younger Bama Bombers had him worried when the final went into a second game.

"I thought the young guns were going to beat us because we had to play two back-to-back games," he said. "I thought they were going to outrun us, but we kept our composure and played a great game."

The final started as the undefeated Bama Bombers received the opening kick and pushed downfield for a short return. Their offense started strong, managing to push past their opponents to get first down after first down.

A Co. wouldn't be shown up, however, as their defense got into the game and kept D Co. from their end zone and forced a turnover.

As A Co. took possession, they managed a 20-yard play downfield and their offense continued to push past their opponent's defense to get them to the Bama Bombers' 20-yard line.

D Co. were able to take A Co. to a fourth down, but a penalty against the Bama Bombers awarded their opponents a first down, which allowed A Co. to complete a 20-yard pass and score the first touchdown of the game.

The Bama Bombers took possession and pushed aggressively downfield on the return, but weren't able to push too far past A Co.'s strong defense, which kept D Co. at bay.

An interception returned possession to A Co., giving them the chance to widen their lead on their opponents, an

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE D4

PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Capt. Walter Thomas, A Co., 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment team captain, picks off a pass during the Fort Rucker intramural football championship game at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility Nov. 28. A Co. won the championship by winning two games in the double elimination tournament against the Bama Bombers.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Intramural volleyball

Left: W01 Clay Pittman, of B Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt. and player for 110th, hits the ball over the net during the 2012 Fort Rucker Intramural Volleyball championship game Nov. 29 at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility. The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Court Hogs took on and beat the 110th Aviation Brigade team to be named post champions.

Right: Kelly Kahumoku, military Family member and player for the DFMWR Court Hogs, gets ready to spike the ball over the net during the 2012 Fort Rucker Intramural Volleyball championship game Nov. 29 at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility.

PIGSKIN PICKS

	Dallas vs. Cincinnati	St. Louis vs. Buffalo	Tennessee vs. Indianapolis	Baltimore vs. Washington	N.Y. Jets vs. Jacksonville	Detroit vs. Green Bay	Houston vs. New England
Jim Hughes *Public Affairs* **(56-35)**	Bengals	Rams	Colts	Ravens	Jets	Packers	Patriots
Brian Jackson *DFMWR* **(44-47)**	Bengals	Bills	Colts	Redskins	Jets	Packers	Texans
John McGee *CDID* **(56-35)**	Bengals	Bills	Colts	Ravens	Jets	Packers	Patriots
Capt. Mike Simmons *Directorate of Public Safety* **(52-39)**	Bengals	Rams	Colts	Ravens	Jets	Packers	Texans
Sharon Storti *Network Enterprise Center* **(52-39)**	Bengals	Bills	Colts	Ravens	Jets	Packers	Patriots

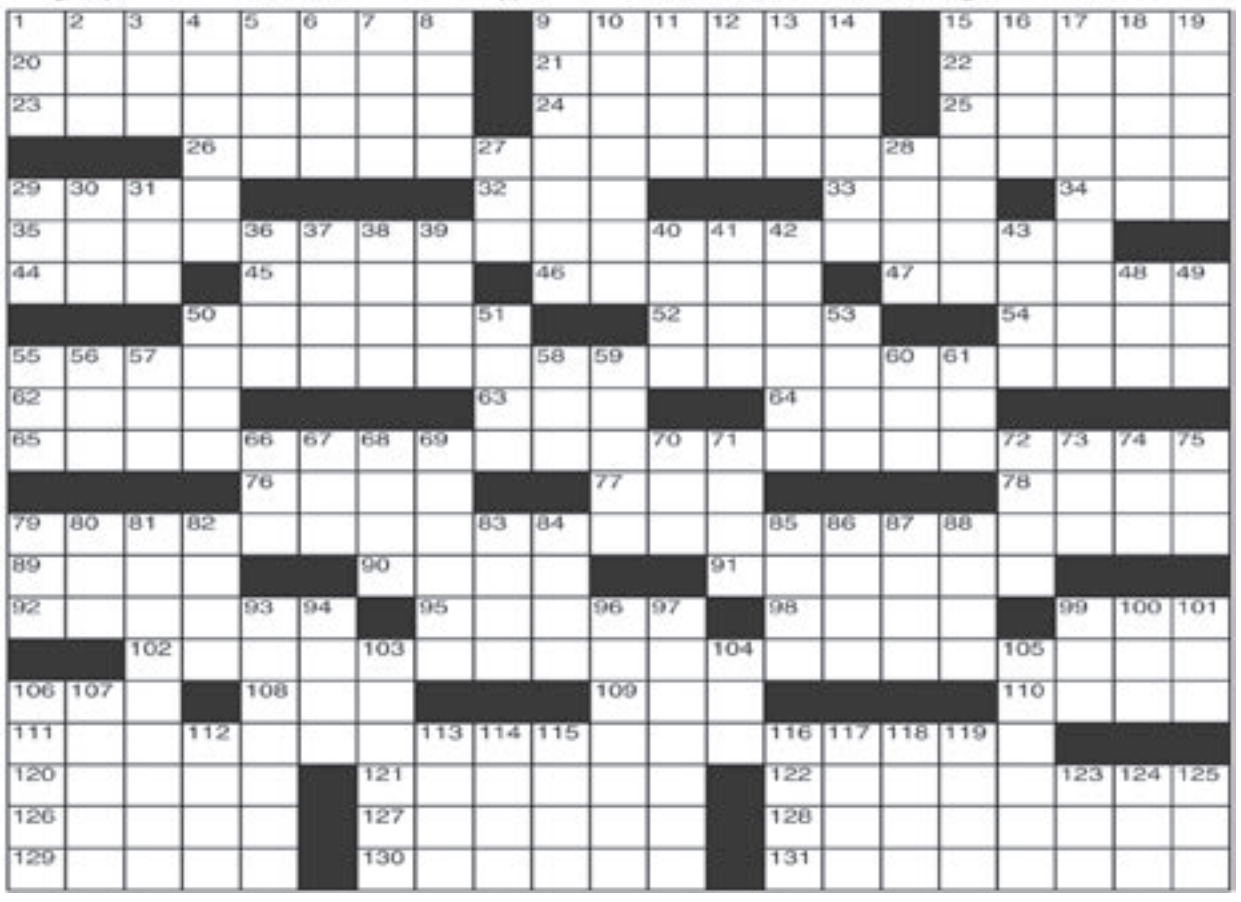
Down Time

Super Crossword

FRESHENING FRANCHISES

ACROSS
1 Fellow crew member
9 Social levels
15 Set of morals
20 Food of the gods
21 Orange-and-black bird
22 Hotel queen Helmsley
23 Camp shelter with a rounded roof
24 1982 Fleetwood Mac hit
25 City on the Rhone River
26 Start of a riddle
29 Skiing need
32 Sterile hosp. areas
33 Make believe
34 Mag. team
35 Riddle, part 2
44 Category
45 Oft-dunked cookie
46 Knocked off
47 "Hava —" (Jewish folk song)
50 12-step affiliate group
52 Neutral, e.g.
54 Certain Scot
55 Riddle, part 3
62 Congeal
63 Here, to Pierre
64 Help wrongly
65 Riddle, part 4
76 Anecdote
77 Roxy Music's Brian
78 "— Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel hit)
79 Riddle, part 5
89 Guesstimate words
90 Gas in lights
91 Nebraska natives
92 Neighbor of Croatia
95 Jury's event
98 "The heat —!"
99 Longoria of TV
102 End of the riddle
106 "Gimme —!" (start of a cheer at Iowa)
108 Cartoon shriek
109 "— Town"
110 "I do," e.g.
111 Riddle's answer
120 Part of POW
121 City in southwest Ireland
122 "Get Smart" star
126 — -Turkish War
127 Some fishers
128 Optometric exams
129 Paint coat
130 Can't stand
131 Sudden drop

DOWN
1 Doleful
2 Doc bloc
3 Big name in early PCs
4 Before a big early 20th-cen. conflict
5 Light-loving insect
6 Cruising
7 Color shade
8 Scarfs down
9 Accomplices
10 Stimulation
11 Window component
12 Rundgren or Bridges
13 Tickled red Muppet
14 Spotted in the vicinity of
15 Hyundai model
16 Byte beginner
17 Of detective Sherlock
18 "— some advice"
19 Houses, to Jorge
27 Tillage tool
28 Inflation subj.
29 Biol. or zool.
30 Bobby Orr's org.
31 With 113-Down, acorn producer
36 — me tangere (touch-me-not)
37 Port near Algiers
38 — shui
39 Carrot, e.g.
40 Othello's betrayer
41 Gladly
42 Speak sharply to
43 Waffle brand
48 Grassy tract
49 Wholly
50 High: Prefix
51 Film style
53 Yank rivals
55 Learning loc.
56 1960s TV Tarzan Ron
57 Kirk's diary
58 M.Sgt., e.g.
59 Cube's six
60 Home: Abbr.
61 Erwin of early films
66 King James Bible suffix
67 Rural "uh-uh"
68 Personal flair
69 Old Spanish money
70 Pa's bro
71 North Pacific salmon
72 Smokes
73 Old witch
74 — Darya River
75 Singer Cooke
79 Irate crowd
80 Spanish gold
81 Ill-fated 1940s warship
82 "Sula" author Morrison
83 Tooted thing
84 Camelot wife
85 Discharge
86 Seattle loc.
87 Flapjack eatery, briefly
88 Mama's ma
93 Not correct
94 To — (perfectly)
96 Penitent types
97 Least soft
99 Pindar's H
100 Dog treater
101 Eruption emission
103 Did an axel
104 Sky sphere
105 Laid turf on
106 Seething
107 U.S.-Can.-Mex. pact
112 Cube of hay
113 See 31-Down
114 Desist
115 Sheltered, nautically
116 Garden west of Nod
117 Vary wildly
118 Billfold fillers
119 — the Great (kiddie-lit detective)
123 "A Fool Such —"
124 "Jersey Shore" airer
125 Compass dir.



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

TRIVIA

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is a philographist?
2. TELEVISION: Which actor played the character of "Fonzie" on "Happy Days"?
3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Matilda"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What tiny principality lies between Spain and France?
5. MYTHOLOGY: In Greek mythology, what was the Hydra?
6. FOOD & DRINK: What is muesli?
7. ART: Where is the Uffizi museum?
8. MEASUREMENTS: What does a kelvin measure?
9. MOVIES: What spell is used to disarm opponents in the "Harry Potter" movies?
10. ANATOMY: Where is the latissimus dorsi muscle located on the human body?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9					6		5	
		3		7				1
	5		2		4	6		
2		5		9		8		
		8			3			2
	4		8				1	
		1	3			4		6
	7			5				3
4					7		8	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ HOO BOY!

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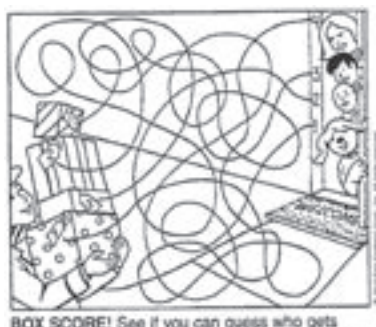
See Page D3 for this week's answers.

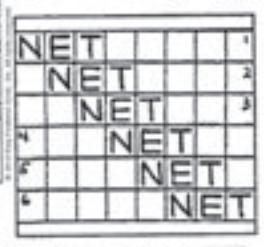
Kid's Corner



BOX SCORE! See if you can guess who gets which gift, then check through lines to see if you guessed right.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



CLUE-ING YOU IN ON NET RESULTS

LET'S SEE if you can identify all six stepped-off NET words in the diagram at left, is accord with the clues below.

Definitions:
1. ABC, CBS and NBC, for instance (pl.)
2. Mind with a single focus (hyph. word).
3. Marco Polo was one.
4. Thumbnail sketch.
5. Kitchen storage places.
6. Global info surfing place.

How quickly can you fill the blanks?

Time limit: Two min.

1. Memoirs; 2. One-track; 3. Venetian; 4. Vignette; 5. Cabinets; 6. Internet.

DRAW STRING! Draw three circles. Place the numbers 3, 1 and 6 within them. Now arrange the circles to form a number that is divisible by 7. How is it done?

Turn six upside down to form 901.

TRICKY NICKY! Leave it to old St. Nick to come through with an amusing party trick. It requires a sheet of paper cut part way through in two places (see right). Object is to have paper tear into three pieces with a simultaneous tug at the two sides. Alas, most times it will tear into two.

Is there a secret? Here's St. Nick's answer: Simply chomp down on the middle piece with your teeth, then yank the sides. Alakazam, three pieces ensue. Ho!

HAT STUFF! What bird is named for a hat? The fez-ant. What hat suits the queen? The reign-bonnet.

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V	A	L	N	E	A	R	L	X	E	I	T	E
2	5	6	3	8	7	5	6	3	7	6	8	5
I	F	N	R	R	O	U	D	O	T	A	I	T
3	8	2	6	4	8	2	4	6	3	4	2	4
L	T	B	S	A	A	L	D	T	B	E	E	R
8	6	7	3	7	6	3	8	5	3	5	7	5
L	R	I	U	O	A	D	B	U	G	R	N	E
6	7	6	3	7	8	7	6	3	6	5	7	5
N	T	G	E	O	L	F	E	T	R	I	A	S
8	5	8	5	7	5	8	7	5	7	5	7	5
I	B	S	R	M	I	S	I	G	L	H	Y	T

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Difference: 1. Flower is missing. 2. Swing is shorter. 3. Handle is longer. 4. Roof is shorter. 5. Ladder is missing. 6. Stripe are shorter.

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IMCOM leaders help Bears, Texans honor vets

By Tim Hipps
IMCOM Public Affairs

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS MARISOL HERNANDEZ

Leadership from the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, including Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter and Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, participated in the Chicago Bears' annual tribute to military veterans during their Sunday Night Football game against the Houston Texans on Veterans Day at Soldier Field in Chicago.

CHICAGO — Leadership from the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, including Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter and Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, participated in the Chicago Bears' annual tribute to military veterans during their Sunday Night Football game against the Houston Texans on Veterans Day at Soldier Field.

Ferriter participated in a pregame 50-minute discussion of former Bears players, medical personnel and other military members who discussed concussions and traumatic brain injuries.

The TBI panel included Ferriter, Col. Andrea Crunkhorn from the Office of the Surgeon General, Bears neuropsychologist Dr. Elizabeth Pieroth, former Bears players Otis Wilson and Gary Fencik, and Bears President and CEO Ted Phillips.

The discussion was part of the U.S. Army's partnership with the NFL to promote positive culture change regarding head injuries in both organizations. The relationship includes information sharing between the Army Medical Research Center and the NFL's key brain injury experts.

Through this cooperative effort, both are gaining a better understanding of exactly what happens to the brain when it is impacted.

"It was a chance to change the culture, education, and advance the initiative we have with the NFL," Ferriter said. "What Command Sergeant Major Rice and I emphasized was that unlike a jump in which one is physically injured and has to be evacuated, a concussion falls off the drop zone for not self-reporting the invisible wound. You are placing the 'always place the mission first' at risk as you are not 100 percent."

Some of the latest medical procedures, policies and misperceptions about TBI were discussed.

The similarities of Army and NFL cultures were emphasized and it was noted that NFL players are capable of gaining the attention of Soldiers, and vice versa, with each benefiting from the other.

The panel discussed the importance of top-down leadership, the necessity to educate and inform mid-level leadership, and likely Soldier and player reactions to increased leadership focus. It was agreed that most players and Soldiers will not take themselves out of the game or mission in most circumstances, thus, coaches and leaders must make those decisions for them.

It was agreed that this culture change and reduction in stigma associated with TBI is a long-term initiative that will take time.

Ferriter assured that the Army is "all in" on this initiative and that an open invitation to NFL teams is always on the table to continue movement forward on this and other challenges shared with the league. He welcomed former and current NFL players to come speak at basic combat training, to a brigade combat team, or at any Army installation to share their experiences to help change the culture and further educate folks about TBI.

"It was a very engaging panel, as Mr. Luntz worked the panel members and Soldiers alike," Ferriter said.

Wilson, a linebacker with the 1985 Super Bowl champion Bears, half-jokingly said that he dealt more concussions during his career than he received dings.

The panel discussion was featured on NBC's Sunday Night Football pre-game show and received local news coverage in Chicago. U.S. Army and NFL social media sites also recognized the forum.

"It was a great event, and we appreciated the partnership opportunity to represent the Army on Veterans Day," Ferriter said.

Veterans Day also was recognized on Soldier Field.

The West Point Glee Club's Knight Caps performed the national anthem. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Gen. Ray Johns, commander of Air Mobility Command, served as the Bears' honorary captains for the coin toss.

At halftime, Illinois Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Daniel Douglas received a Purple Heart and Staff Sgt. Matthew Bracken, with U.S. Army Special Forces Command, received a Bronze Star with Valor medal. Ferriter also conducted a re-enlistment ceremony of 30 service members from the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard.

During the third quarter, the traditional Bears/Boeing Military Salute went to retired Navy Lt. Robert Fash Sr., a veteran of World War II.

November is the NFL's "Salute to Service" month, during which each team chooses a home game to recognize service members.

BRIEFS

MISTLETOE 5K

The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Facility hosts the annual Mistletoe 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run Saturday from 9–11 a.m. Registration on the day of the event will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 8:45 a.m. at the Fortenberry-Colton PFF. Participants are encouraged to pre-register for the event. The 1-mile fun run is free and open to all children. It will begin after the 5k is completed. Each fun run participant will receive a medal. Cost for the run is $20 with a shirt until Saturday, $25 with a shirt after Saturday, $12 without a shirt and $100 per team of eight.

For more, call 255-2296.

YOUTH SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION

Registration for youth spring soccer runs now through Dec. 31 at the youth center and school age service center. Cost is $40 per child. Children must meet age requirements by Sept. 1, 2012. A current sports physical and valid child, youth and schools registration are required for participation. Spring soccer will begin Feb. 25. Prospective coaches are also needed for all age groups.

For more, call 255-0950 or 255-9105.

HAM SHOOTOUT

Silver Wings Golf Course will host its Ham Shootout Dec. 15 from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event costs $20, plus cart and green fees. The game is individual stroke play, and prizes will be awarded to gross and net winners. For more, call 598-2449.

3 FREE CHRISTMAS AT RUCKER LANES

Rucker Lanes hosts its 3 Free Christmas special Dec. 21-30. Up to three children ages 13 and younger can bowl three free games, including shoe rental, when accompanied by an adult bowling at the regular price of $8.50. For more, call 255-9503.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BOWLING

Rucker Lanes will host two New Year's Eve events Dec. 31 from 6-9 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. From 6-9 p.m., Rucker Lanes holds the Family Countdown. Families can enjoy three hours of unlimited Xtreme Bowling, shoe rental, an all-you-can-eat pizza bar and fountain beverage. Cost is $15 per person, $10 for children younger than 10, and $60 for a lane for up to five people. Rucker Lanes advises people to make reservations for the event.

From 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., Rucker Lanes will host the Pin Down Countdown. The event will feature a 1920s theme, three hours of unlimited Xtreme Bowling including shoe rental, a meal including choice of soup or salad, entrée, dessert and a beverage. There will be party favors and giveaways throughout the event. Cost is $25 per person, $45 per couple or $100 for a lane for up to five people. People need to make reservations and dinner selections in advance. A non-refundable deposit of $5 per person is due at time of reservation. For more, call 255-9503.

WINTER BOOT CAMP

Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Facility hosts its six-week Boot Camp Jan. 7 to Feb. 15. The program meets five days a week with two sessions to choose from, 6:30–7:30 a.m. or 8:30–9:30 a.m. The cost is $100 per participant and includes weekly consultations to keep track of progress, training with certified personal trainers, access to all group fitness classes during the six weeks and T-shirts for all participants who complete the training. Orientation will take place Jan. 4 at 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. at the Fortenberry-Colton PFF. There is limited space in each session. Registration forms are available at either PFF.

For more, call 255-2296.

DRV NOW
TXT L8R

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword
Answers

S	H	I	P	M	A	T	E		C	A	S	T	E	S		E	T	H	I	C
A	M	B	R	O	S	I	A		O	R	I	O	L	E		L	E	O	N	A
D	O	M	E	T	E	N	T		H	O	L	D	M	E		A	R	L	E	S
			W	H	A	T	S	H	O	U	L	D	O	N	E	N	A	M	E	A
S	N	O	W					O	R	S				A	C	T		E	D	S
C	H	A	I	N	O	F	R	E	T	A	I	L	S	T	O	R	E	S		
I	L	K		O	R	E	O		S	L	A	I	N		N	A	G	I	L	A
			A	L	A	N	O	N			G	E	A	R			G	A	E	L
S	E	L	L	I	N	G	T	O	N	S	O	F	P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L
C	L	O	T					I	C	I			A	B	E	T				
H	Y	G	I	E	N	E	P	R	O	D	U	C	T	S	S	U	C	H	A	S
				T	A	L	E			E	N	O					I	A	M	A
M	O	U	T	H	W	A	S	H	E	S	C	H	E	W	I	N	G	G	U	M
O	R	S	O				N	E	O	N			O	M	A	H	A	S		
B	O	S	N	I	A		T	R	I	A	L		I	S	O	N		E	V	A
		M	I	N	T	S	A	N	D	T	O	O	T	H	P	A	S	T	E	S
A	N	I		E	E	K				O	U	R					O	A	T	H
B	A	D	B	R	E	A	T	H	A	N	D	B	E	Y	O	N	D			
O	F	W	A	R		T	R	A	L	E	E		D	O	N	A	D	A	M	S
I	T	A	L	O		E	E	L	E	R	S		E	Y	E	T	E	S	T	S
L	A	Y	E	R		D	E	T	E	S	T		N	O	S	E	D	I	V	E

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

9	2	4	1	8	6	3	5	7
6	8	3	9	7	5	2	4	1
1	5	7	2	3	4	6	9	8
2	6	5	7	9	1	8	3	4
7	1	8	5	4	3	9	6	2
3	4	9	8	6	2	7	1	5
5	9	1	3	2	8	4	7	6
8	7	6	4	5	9	1	2	3
4	3	2	6	1	7	5	8	9

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Someone who collects autographs
2. Henry Winkler
3. Roald Dahl
4. Andorra
5. A many-headed monster whose heads could grow back if they were cut off
6. Breakfast cereal with fruit and nuts
7. Florence, Italy
8. Temperature
9. "Expelliarmus!"
10. Back

Business Card Spotlight

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PIGSKIN PICKS

Go Army Beat Navy

David C. Agan Jr, *Fort Rucker Public Affairs* (56-35)	"ARMY CAME AWFULLY CLOSE TO BEATING NAVY LAST YEAR. THIS SEASON HAS BEEN ROUGH BUT THE ADDED INCENTIVE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S TROPHY MIGHT PUSH THE BLACK KNIGHTS OVER THE TOP. END THE DROUGHT! GO ARMY, BEAT NAVY!"
Kent Anger, *Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security* (62-29)	"AS A RETIRED SOLDIER, I WILL ALWAYS ROOT FOR THE BLACK KNIGHTS OVER THE MIDSHIPMEN. HAVING BEEN STATIONED ON A NAVAL BASE FOR SIX YEARS, I LEARNED TO DESPISE THE NAVY FOR ONE DAY A YEAR. GO ARMY, SQUASH THE SQUIDS."
Benjamin Conner, *Directorate of Public Safety* (53-38)	"GO ARMY, BEAT NAVY!"
Wes Hamilton, *Network Enterprise Center* (62-29)	"THEY CAN BOTH RUSH THE BALL, BUT ONLY NAVY'S DEFENSE WILL SHOW UP."
Tish Williamson, *USAACE* (54-37)	"THERE ARE SUCH GREAT AMERICAN HEROES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FIELD, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHILE YOU ROOT FOR ALL OF THE CADETS WHEN THEY'RE COMMISSIONED AND VENTURE OUT TO DEFEND OUR NATION...ON GAME DAY... IT IS ALL ABOUT ARMY KICKING NAVY'S BACKSIDE."

Football: Teamwork, planning led to victory

Continued from Page D1

opportunity they took full advantage of as they scored their second touchdown within minutes of gaining possession.

The pressure was now on the Bama Bombers as the first half was winding down, and they seemed to finally find some footing in their offense as they managed to push downfield and get within 15 yards of the goal line.

A Co. managed to take the Bama Bombers to fourth down, but, like earlier in the game, a penalty gave D Co. a first down, which allowed them the opportunity to score their first touchdown of the game with 38 seconds left in the first half.

Not to be outdone, A Co. brought back their aggressive offense, which proved too much for their opponents, and pushed past the Bama Bombers defense to score another touchdown before the end of the half, to lengthen their lead 21-7.

D Co. had their work cut out for them as they went into the second half, but since A Co. received the kick, it was up to their defense to step up its game.

Bama Bombers' defense came back strong and managed to stay on top of their opponents' quarterback, forcing a punt.

As D Co. took possession, they took full advantage of the fact that they were within 45 yards of the opposition's end zone and managed a 30-yard pass to take them to first and goal. They scored their second touchdown shortly after, trailing their opponents 21-14.

A Co. took possession determined to stay ahead of the Bama Bombers, and played more aggressively than before, which led to some careless plays. D Co. managed to pick off a pass and renew their hopes of pulling out a win.

It was still anybody's game as the Bama Bombers found the holes in A Co.'s defense and pushed past their opponents to score another touchdown to tie the game 21-21 with only two minutes remaining.

A Co. took possession as time ran out and managed to push downfield play after play, and with 11 seconds remaining, were able to score a touchdown to win the game 28-21 and push the teams into a second game.

After a short break, the second game started with Bama Bombers receiving the opening kick. They started strong offensively, but an interception changed the pace of the game and gave possession to A Co.

With spirits high from the interception, A Co. pushed hard downfield, but an overconfident pass resulted in another interception, giving possession back to the Bama Bombers.

The teams continued to trade interceptions as neither team made any real advance against the other. Fatigue seemed to set in for both teams and the first half ended with both teams scoreless.

As the second half got under way, both teams were determined to gain momentum as the championship was riding on the outcome of this game.

A Co. took possession and seemed to get their second wind as they pushed past their opponents for first down after first down to get within 10 yards of the goal line. As D Co. tired out, they were unable to stop A Co. from getting past their defense and scoring the first touchdown of the game.

PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Capt. Julius Myers, A Co., 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment quarterback, runs past an opposing team member during the Fort Rucker Intramural Football Championship game at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility Nov. 28. A Co. won the championship by winning two games in the double elimination tournament against the Bama Bombers.

With the pressure on harder than before, the Bama Bombers slowly advanced on their opponents to push the ball to the opposition's end zone, but A Co.'s defense worked hard to keep them from scoring and managed to pick off another pass to retake possession.

D Co.'s defense seemed to falter at every turn as time ran out, and gave way for A Co. to score their second touchdown of the game, bringing the score to 14-0.

As the Bama Bombers took possession, they tried desperately to get past their opponent's defense, but another interception by A Co. with less than two minutes left in the game dashed any hope for D Co. to win the championship.

A Co. held on to the ball until the clock wound down and won 14-0.

Myers said it was good teamwork and planning that led to the team's victory.

"Our linemen did a great job blocking all season, and it was just a good all-around effort by everybody and it worked out," he said. "Usually we play pretty loose and we don't draw out plays or anything, but today we came in with a bit more of a game plan and it paid off."

READY ARMY

- Have a Family disaster plan and supply kit.
- Build or identify a safe room in your home.
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