

Redstone Rocket

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Army in action



Ground-based defense achieves new heights

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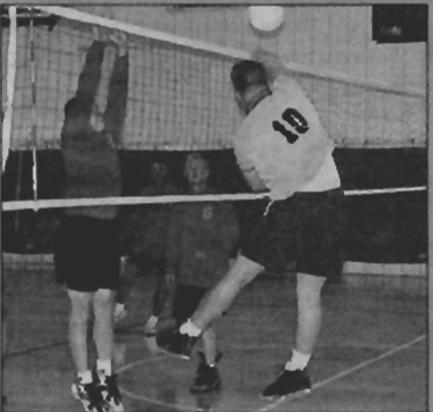
Just for kids



ChildWise facility serving families

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Win or lose



Troop volleyball teams prepare for preseason

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Individual differences just fact of life

Ex-sitcom actress with disability shares her motivational story

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Cousin Geri is doing just fine, thank you.

In the 1980s Geri Jewell became the first performer with a disability to obtain a regular role in a television series. She was known to millions as "Cousin Geri" in the NBC sitcom "The Facts of Life."

Now residing in Laguna Beach, Calif., the actress and comedienne with cerebral palsy spends most of her time traveling throughout the country on the speaking circuit. She gives inspirational talks to Fortune 500 companies and others about how she has overcome discrimination against people with disabilities.

"And I have some projects going on but nothing that I can talk about right now," said Jewell, in an interview before speaking April 3 at the Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence. "But I always

See Differences on page 5



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BE YOURSELF— Geri Jewell, who played "Cousin Geri" in the NBC sitcom "The Facts of Life," tells her audience to honor diversity and believe in yourself.

Community's signs of season range from spring cleanup to bike patrol

Upcoming events outlined during town hall meeting

By SSgt. SHARON McBRIDE

Staff writer

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There was a seasonal message at the Community Town Hall Meeting, April 2 at the Recreation Center.

Spring has sprung.

Redstone Arsenal Support Activity officials announced many activities in the works for post residents. As the bright colors of spring bloom, residents can soon expect to see the yellow T-shirts of the Military Police Bike Patrol cropping up in their neighborhoods. Memorial Day weekend will bring the patrol's second year of duty on the streets in the housing areas.

The family housing spring cleanup is scheduled April 25-26 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents who ordered plants will be

able to get them beginning April 22 at Self-Help. The Yard of the Month program is slated to start May 1.

And for those residents who are itching to get a little dirt under their nails, garden plots are still available. If interested call 876-1445.

To celebrate the new housing that is also springing up, a ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled 10 a.m. May 30 by invitation only. An open house for the new homes on Hof Circle is slated 1-4:30 p.m. May 30, 8-11 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. May 31 and from 8 a.m. to noon June 1. Construction of the 118 new housing units for military families should be finished by next spring, according to the Directorate of Public Works.

Post Exchange is celebrating Arbor Day on April 26 with the special planting of a tree in the PX parking lot. Kenny Barton, PX manager, said there will also be free

See Meeting on page 7



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride

GETTING READY— Spec. Jonathan Blerer checks his lawn mower before using it. Spring cleanup in the housing areas is scheduled April 25-26.

Acquisition workers complete training

Congratulations to the December 2001 graduates of the Naval Postgraduate School graduate degree program. The Army Acquisition Corps sponsors two resident graduate school programs, and three distance learning graduate school programs, conducted by NPS, Monterey, Calif.

These programs provide an advanced education in the fundamental concepts, methodologies and analytical techniques necessary for the acquisition and management of major defense systems. The following individuals participated in the local pilot offering of the NPS Distance Learning (VTC-based) Program which was hosted by the Southern Region, Acquisition Career Management Office: Robert Balla, THAAD Project Office; Dean Barten, PEO Aviation; Daniel Beck, PM Lower Tier; Richard Brown, SMDC; Alvin Cooper, AMCOM; Sidney Hoyt, PM MEADS; Mike Lawrence, JPO GMD; Kathleen Leonard, STRICOM; Jose Martin, JPO GMD-IFICS; Henrietta Maples, Fixed Wing Product Management Office; Michael McGee, AMCOM; and Glen Roberts, PFRMS Project Office.

Graduates of this program received the master of science degree in program management. Special congratulations to Sidney Hoyt who received

graduate with distinction honors during the ceremony. Participants of this pilot offering helped to pave the way for future program offerings to local Acquisition and Technology work force personnel.

Organizational support extended to the students during their participation is vital to the success of the program. Special thanks go out to the various organizations represented by these individuals. Also participating in the program as a sister-site to the local students were individuals sponsored by the Northeast Region, Acquisition Career Management Office at Fort Monmouth, N.J. The Southern Region Acquisition Career Management Office will sponsor briefings to be conducted by NPS for Acquisition and Technology work force personnel interested in participating in future offerings of this program. Briefings are scheduled to be held April 24, in building 5250, room A-241 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Go to the Southern Region Homepage at <http://southernregion.redstone.army.mil/> and select "What's New" for additional information about the briefings.

Alexis Holden
acquisition career manager,
Southern Region,
Acquisition Career Management

Superior unit award update wanted

In the June 13, 2001, issue of the *Rocket*, you wrote an article, subject: AMCOM soldiers, civilians to receive superior unit award. To date, I have not seen nor heard any more about this award. How do we get our lapel pin (for civilians) and is the award already noted in our personnel records? Another article in your Letters to the Editor column may be appropriate to inform the work force.

Eddie Allen
IMMC

Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response. "Last month (March 2002) AMCOM CPAC began distributing Army Superior Unit award lapel pins to organizational elements for redistribution to eligible employees. If an employee has not received a pin, he or she should check with the parent organization's point of contact for awards or the first-line supervisor. The Army Superior Unit award is a military award; it is not documented in civilian employee records."

Streaker target drone important, too

I am writing this letter in response to the article "PAC-3 program pockets another successful intercept test" featured in the *Redstone Rocket* on March 27. The article provides information about recent tests of the PAC-3 missile and includes an entire paragraph dedicated to the Hera target, including where it was launched from and other pertinent data. However, the MQM-107 Streaker target drone and its supporting organization were only mentioned briefly.

The MQM-107 subscale aerial target is one of the Army's many success stories that began at Redstone Arsenal. The MQM-107 was fielded by the Army Missile Command as its principal aerial target

and has been used to support various test and training exercises for over 20 years including the Patriot, Hawk, Linebacker, Avenger, Chaparral and Vulcan weapon systems — just to mention a few. This target is operated by Lockheed Martin Services Inc. under contract with the Targets Management Office, Project Manager, Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators, STRICOM. It would be great to see equal attention given to this target and the men and women of the Targets Management Office who support it.

Steve Moore
Targets Management Office

Vanity plate a matter of choice

Given security regulations and 9/11, is it acceptable to have a vanity plate that refers to where the motorist works (a government agency)?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support

Activity provided the following response. "Security regulations do not prohibit employees from displaying organizational names or acronyms identifying places of employment on vanity license plates. The degree of risk associated with, and assumed by, the party must be determined by the individual displaying such a license plate."

Wellness Center could use improvement

This letter is a request to the DCFA staff to provide a reasonable amount of funding in order to correct the deficiencies that exist at building 4460 (Wellness Center on Digney Road). The most notable deficiencies that are evident at the Wellness Center are in the treadmill machines. These machines are almost a decade old and half of them are not working or are unsafe to use for anything other than a slow walking pace. Currently three out of the total six machines have to have signs on them that state "Out of Order," "Walking Only" (tread slips), and "Warning Tear in the Tread" (tread falling apart at the seams). Two of these treadmills are in a very unsafe condition. Who would be held responsible when one of these treadmills causes an injury?

I have been to a couple of the other facilities on base and see that they have

all (or mostly) brand new equipment. Would you recommend we start going to the other facilities (Sparkman) and contribute to the already overcrowded condition that exists there?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "Thank you for your patronage of the Wellness Center, and for taking the time to provide us with some input concerning the center's equipment. You are absolutely correct that some of the equipment in the Wellness Center, and in our other fitness facilities as well, is rather old and seems to be in constant need of repair. Believe it or not, some treadmills still in use today are 11 years old! Much of that equipment is now simply beyond

See Wellness on page 13

Redstone Rocket

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Ground-based ballistic missile defense program achieves new heights

Test bed development due by September '04

By AL SCHWARTZ
Chief of Public Affairs

With organizational elements and people in locations as diverse as the Marshall Islands, Alaska, Colorado, Alabama, Washington, D.C. and California, the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office has embarked on an aggressive program to build an integrated test bed by the end of September 2004. The test bed will be used to perform realistic tests and provide reliable data for further system development.

Developing and constructing a ballistic missile defense system test bed that provides operationally realistic trajectory, sensing, interceptor and battle management command, control and communications is only one of the missions for which the Joint Program Office is responsible.

"We have three very challenging missions," Brig. Gen. John Holly, program director for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office, said. "The first is to create a prototype system that is as close to being operationally representative as possible, and execute a wide range of tests; the second is to continue a robust development program; and third, to propose production alternatives so that we will have identified what to build and deploy if a deployment decision is made."

Until January, the GMD main focus was on missile tests. The organization successfully completed the third consecutive test involving the intercept of an intercontinental ballistic missile target March 15. A modified Minuteman missile target was launched from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., and a prototype interceptor was launched about 20 minutes later from Kwajalein Atoll. This was the fourth successful intercept for the GMD segment, formerly known as national missile defense. Additional tests are planned for later this year.

"This test again successfully demonstrated 'hit to kill' technology," Holly said. "The test showed that the exoatmospheric kill vehicle could locate, track and intercept a long-range ballistic missile target. And it also demonstrated the ability of various systems elements to work together as an integrated system."

The current test bed is geographically constrained and tests, although extremely complex and technologically challenging, are not as realistic as they will become, according to Holly. As the test bed capabilities are expanded by having interceptors located in places other

than Kwajalein for example, it will add realism and further complexity.

The test bed is expected to evolve over time and improve its capabilities through development programs. Initially it will have a rudimentary contingency capability but as new technologies become available, it is expected to improve.

The test bed and the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system consist of four major project offices – the Upgraded Early Warning Radar located at Hanscom AFB, the X-Band Radar and Ground-Based Interceptor both in Huntsville, and the Battle Management, Command, Control and Communications located in Washington, D.C. – in addition to the staff elements throughout the country.

"One major criticism the program has received has been that testing is not done in operationally realistic environments," Holly said. "The test bed will help answer those concerns."

Getting from here to there will not be easy. Not only is there a very compressed timeline, there is also the challenge of changing mind-sets and perspectives.

"We have to change the way we view the situation," Holly said. "This is a different way of looking at the problem. We have become a capabilities-based program, not a threat-based program. We have a fixed completion date – Sept. 30, 2004. We now have an excellent plan to accomplish our mission. Getting the plan correct was key to reorienting the program."

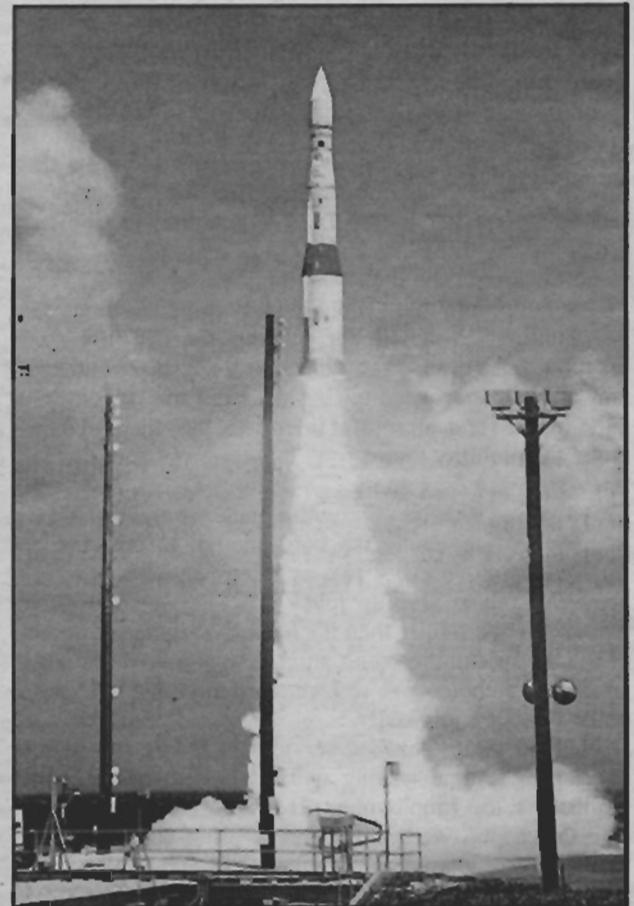
In the Huntsville area, about 1,000 people work for the Joint Program Office – 420 government and 580 support contractors. An additional 1,550 people work on the program for Boeing, the prime contractor.

"We have a very large budget," Holly said. "The payroll for the current fiscal year is about \$150 million and the research and development effort is about \$3.3 billion. But even with this budget, we have unfunded requirements.

"The organization will spend more than \$1 billion this year in the Huntsville area," he added.

Holly, who took command of the Joint Program Office last November, said he is excited about the program. "This is a national priority program that we must successfully accomplish. The people are phenomenal; they are focused and motivated. That is what will allow us to accomplish our mission on time.

"We are leveraging technology to turn geographical dispersion into an advantage. We can easily tap into assets anywhere we have people," he said. "We're not limited to just the talent base here. We can go outside the



Army photo

LIFTOFF— A prototype Ground Based Interceptor is launched from Meck Island, Kwajalein Atoll to intercept an intercontinental ballistic missile. The test was the fourth successful intercept for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System.

area to bring world-class talent to bear on any problem."

According to Holly, a teaming relationship exists with Boeing and its subcontractors. "If you ever want to see a model IPT (integrated process team), come to this organization and see how government and industry work real-time problems," he said.

During the past four months, the program has experienced two major intercept successes, one major integrated ground test, a major program and strategy change and a restructuring of the entire program.

"It is important to our country that we get this program right — and we will," Holly said.

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BLACK HAWK DOWN (R) DTS 1:00 7:00	SORORITY BOYS (R) DTS 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15
GOSFORD PARK (R) DTS 4:00 9:45	BIG TROUBLE (PG-13) THE DTS 1:30 3:30 5:20 7:30 9:30
ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS (G) DOLBY 1:20 3:20 5:20 7:20 9:20	DEATH TO SMOOCHY (R) DTS 1:00 4:05 7:05 9:45
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Program can help Army spouses in competitive job market

Build computer skills at ACS with free self-paced classes

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

True story. With the goal of being hired as a receptionist for a local professional company, a woman walks into an interview wearing a pair of flip-flops and chipped red polish on her toe nails. The interviewer couldn't remember anything else about the woman, just the shoes. Needless to say, she didn't get the job.

Job hunting in these economically turbulent times can be daunting, even without making the flip-flop mistake. The hunt is especially difficult for military spouses. Not only do they have to find the right job opportunity and prepare for a successful interview, they have to overcome the mobility factor.

"Army families move — a lot," Debra Jefferson, Employment Readiness program manager at Army Community Service, said. "It's hard enough to pick up the family and move every two or three years but working spouses have to give up jobs, too. They get the move over, settle the family then it's back to looking for another job. Some families can't survive without two incomes so it's not a choice. We're here to do anything we can to make finding a job easier."

Beyond the established services including job search assistance, resume writing workshops and interviewing workshops, the Employment Readiness Program at Redstone has added two new features — a self-paced program to brush up or learn new computer skills and a self assessment test to help find an employment field of interest.

The self-paced program offers instruction on five Microsoft Office skills software programs for 2002 — Word, Access, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. The program is installed on two of the computers in the ACS computer lab. Each software program is divided into three learning sessions. Once a person completes the three sessions in all five software programs, a certificate of completion is awarded.

"We have a lot of younger military spouses here," Jefferson said. "Many of them don't have a lot of education or experience yet. Huntsville has a large population of college students and graduates. Competition is tough. Anything you can add to your resume, like computer skills, is a benefit."

There are no time requirements to complete the program. Computers are available on a first come, first served basis but customers can reserve computer time by calling ahead. Parents can bring their children with them. Some toys are available for quiet play while Mom or Dad



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

LAB WORK— Employment Readiness Program Manager Debra Jefferson, standing, works with Shella Baker, administrative assistant at Army Community Service, in the computer lab installing a series of self-paced Microsoft programs to help customers brush up on or build new computer skills.

works on the computer.

"A lot of families need to hang on to as much of their money as possible, especially while one parent isn't working," Jefferson said. "They can't afford to get a sitter while they come to build their skills or search the Internet for job listings."

While some are looking for jobs, others still grapple with the question: "What do I want to be when I grow up?" Maybe they've had a few starter jobs but haven't managed to find a field that suits them. Or they've had success in a job but they don't like doing it.

Employment Readiness now offers a self-assessment test called the Career Exploration Inventory. It's a simple, self-scoring test that looks at not only skills but hobbies and life interests and ties it all together to identify career field choices that fit the whole person. It takes about two hours to complete and can be done individually or in a group setting.

Once a person finds a career field or job category to pursue, the ERP offers services across the employment spectrum to land the job. Counseling can be done one-on-one or in groups (workshops).

The ERP has a variety of reference materials to help people first understand the definition of each type of work, thus allowing them to search under the correct occupational title for the job they want and get a feel for the salary range. Job listings are posted on a bulletin board

and computers are available to search the Internet sites.

Once a job listing is selected, it's important that the resume reflect skills pertaining to that job. Resume writing workshops are offered periodically by ERP. Free child care is provided for people attending workshops.

The next Interview Tips workshop will be April 29 at ACS.

"We cover the types of questions to expect," Jefferson said. "How to dress, interview etiquette, all aspects of the interview process."

Diane Samsonavicius, trainer for the Quality Institute, and Nancy Hodges, program administrator, Redstone Educational Support Services Contract, both in the Personnel and Training Directorate, offered some advice about the dos and don'ts of interviewing.

"Don't wear flip-flops," Hodges said, referring to the woman she'd interviewed for the receptionist position. "Most people know that. Don't chew gum. Keep the jewelry to a minimum. Dress conservatively. Make good eye contact. Present yourself with confidence but don't slide over into arrogance. That's a major turnoff."

"Be very specific when you answer questions," she added. "If you're not sure what the interviewer is asking, ask for clarification. Know how to relay your past experience to feed into what you are applying for. Use specific examples to show how you acted as a team player or the type of work you performed that required attention to detail. And avoid making negative comments about your last or current job. No office politics."

Try to do some research on the company before the interview. Check the company's web site, if it has one, to find its mission statement, vision, goals and values. Go into the interview prepared, taking some written notes if necessary. Relax as much as possible.

"And whatever you do, don't show up late," Hodges said. "Even if you have to drive out there the night before to make sure you can find the place."

For military spouses, finding a new job in a new location can be tough but Jefferson encourages anyone who needs help to call.

Jefferson also has packets available to help youth prepare for the summer job search. The youth Job Fair will be April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville High gym. Huntsville and Madison County employers will be on hand to conduct interviews and provide summer job applications for youth ages 16 through college (part or full time).

"The packet will have information about what employers are looking for, how to dress, what kinds of questions to expect, what information to bring with you, how to fill out applications and tips for successful job seekers," Jefferson said.

For more information on the free services provided by the ERP, call Jefferson at 876-5397.

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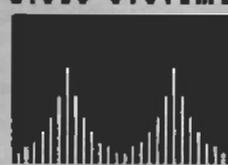
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■ Intelligence center audience finds Jewell inspiring

Differences

continued from page 1

have irons in the fire, always."

In her speeches, "the main message is to value oneself," she said. "And we all have differences; to honor diversity; that we all have something to learn from one another. Self respect, respecting others. And most of all, to have a sense of humor. Lighten up."

Jewell flashed her sense of humor for an estimated 75 people in the Shelby Center auditorium in a Disability Employment Awareness Program sponsored by the Missile and Space Intelligence Center. The program was originally scheduled for last Sept. 19 but was postponed after Sept. 11. Using humorous anecdotes, Jewell described how she entered show business and was inspired by comedienne Carol Burnett. "The Facts of Life" was on NBC from 1981-84.

When she's away, she has a "cat nanny" who takes care of her three cats - Norma Jean (named after Marilyn Monroe), Max and Joey. She's an avid reader who also likes movies. She watches television when she has the time. "And like I said, there may be some projects coming up," she added in the interview.

Jewell, 42, led her audience on a personal journey down the roads of prejudice she has encountered through the years. She was born with cerebral palsy, a condition that affects the motor part of the brain. The roads of ignorance she has encountered include those who assume that someone with CP has a drinking problem, chemical dependency, mental retardation, mental illness, requires pity, or overachieves. The true road is how someone with cerebral palsy views himself or herself, according to Jewell. "My challenge to you is to believe in yourself,"

she said.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it doesn't matter what people are. The only thing that matters is who people are," Jewell said. "What I will ask you to value is who I am as a person and what I can bring to the table of life by having cerebral palsy. We all have strengths, we all have weaknesses, we all have something to learn and something to teach. I think the value is who we are as people."

Clyde Walker, director of MSIC, thanked Jewell for sharing her story. "You really have I think brought a new perspective to us here today," he said.

Among those in the audience, Rick Gray said he found her words inspiring. Gray, a supply technician in the Integrated Materiel Management Center, has cerebral palsy. His 3-year-old daughter, Lauren, has arthrogryposis which is a muscle and joint disease.

"She really did a good job of explaining how she was able to deal with different situations," Gray said. "I think this was absolutely wonderful."

"I'm going to turn her name into my son's school," Rebecca Horkman, an intelligence analyst in MSIC's offensive systems office, said. "She is so motivational. And I really would love to have her speak to the young people in the community."

MSIC's Deaf and Disabled Persons Employment Program Council, under chairman Dorothy DeLoach, sponsored the program with the theme "Technology and the Disabled: Emerging Equality in the New Millennium."

Brenda Wood, equal employment opportunity specialist at MSIC, said the Missile and Space Intelligence Center has the following six special emphasis programs each year: African American, Asian American, Native American, Deaf and Disabled Persons, Federal Women, and Hispanic Employment.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SPECIAL GUEST— Guest speaker Geri Jewell, left, is helped down the stage steps in the Shelby Center auditorium by Dorothy DeLoach, chairman of the Deaf and Disabled Persons Employment Program Council at the Missile and Space Intelligence Center.

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Jazz band on tap for Army Emergency Relief fund-raiser



Courtesy photo

IN CONCERT— The University of North Alabama Jazz Band will perform a benefit concert for Army Emergency Relief at the Rustic Lodge April 27 at 5 p.m. Big band music will headline the show. Tickets, \$10 each, should be purchased in advance because of limited seating.

University of North Alabama band to perform April 27 at Rustic Lodge

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

It's the concert that keeps on giving and giving...

It all started back in September when the University of North Alabama's marching band came to Redstone to perform for the Combined Federal Campaign kickoff ceremony. So encouraged by the warm welcome and opportunity to support the troops, band director Lloyd Jones offered a jazz band concert for the CFC silent auction.

AMCOM's command group snapped up the concert for just under \$250.

"Once we got it, we started thinking about how we could best utilize the concert," Shelley Feltmeyer, executive assistant to the chief of staff, said. Feltmeyer consulted Claus Martel, AMCOM historian who assisted with the CFC campaign, and yet another fund-raising idea was born.

"The bid money for the concert has already been given to CFC," Martel said. "Shelley and I thought it would be a great idea to use the concert to benefit AER as

well — piggyback one fund-raiser onto another."

The inaugural Army Emergency Relief Spring Fling Jazz Concert featuring the University of North Alabama's Jazz Band will be April 27 at the Rustic Lodge beginning at 5 p.m. Ticket sale proceeds will be donated to AER.

"We'll have a combo band, made up of members from the jazz band, that will provide background music for the reception," Jones, director of bands at UNA, said. "The 'real show' with the jazz band will feature a lot of big band favorites like Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Jimmy Dorsey. Of course, we're prepared to play many different types of dance music if we get the requests."

But the dancing comes after dinner. Soldiers from the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School will provide food and beverages for purchase, with the proceeds going to the soldiers' unit fund.

"This is going to be a great night," Martel said. "For \$10 you'll be getting a full evening event with a first class concert and yes, there will be room for dancing."

In appreciation for the National Guard soldiers deployed to Redstone to augment security, concert coordinators presented 30 free concert tickets to Capt. Danny

See Concert on page 7

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■ Command group sponsors toe-tapping fund-raiser

Concert

continued from page 6

Pugh, commander of Charlie Company, 1/167th Infantry Army National Guard, to distribute among the soldiers in his unit.

"We wanted to do something to let them know how much we appreciate their service here," Feltmeyer said. "They've left permanent jobs, had to take salary cuts, had to leave their families behind to come here and protect us. It's a tough job. And I've never come through the gate without one of them saying, 'Have a great day, Ma'am.' They do a great job out there."

"The people of Redstone have really welcomed us with open arms," Pugh said of his company's deployment to the Arsenal. "We're proud to be here, doing our duty. And I'm thankful for the group of guys I'm fortunate enough to command. The tickets to the concert was a very nice thing to do for us."

Seating for the concert is limited. Tickets, \$10 each, should be purchased in advance by calling either Martel at 876-2334, or Feltmeyer at 842-0044. Due to heightened security, names of concertgoers without regular access to the Arsenal will be put on a list and given to the gate guards the evening of the concert to allow entry through the gates.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE— Capt. Danny Pugh, Charlie Company commander, 1/167th Infantry Army National Guard, is given 30 free tickets for soldiers in his unit to attend the AER Jazz Concert at the Rustic Lodge April 27. Concert coordinators Claus Martel, AMCOM historian, and Shelley Feltmeyer, executive assistant to AMCOM chief of staff, hope to raise at least \$1,000 for Army Emergency Relief through ticket sales.

Variety of activities planned for AER fund-raising

Fund-raising activities for the Army Emergency Relief campaign include the following:

April 18 — from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Car wash/bake sale/barbecue/hot dog sale, building 5301 (parking lot). For information call Sandra Dargin 313-1070 and Roosevelt Pitts 313-1063, IMMC Air Defense.

April 15-29 — from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Book Sale, building 5300, second floor. For information call Brian Barry 842-9908 of Command Analysis Directorate.

April 18 — from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bowl-a-thon, Rocket Lanes. For information call DeShannon March 842-9144, IMMC.

April 24 — from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Car Wash, building 5250 (rear). For information call Maj. Field 876-4380, PER&MS.

April 25 — Bake Sale, Military Personnel Office, building 3494. Call Sgt. Crewse 876-0972, HHC AMCOM.

April 25 — Plant Sale, Sparkman Center (cafeteria parking lot). Call Romona Rice 313-1641, IMMC.

April 27 — Band Concert, Rustic Lodge. Call Claus Martel 876-2334, Command Group/NCOA.

April 30 — from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., RASA Fun Day, building 4488. Call CWO 2 John Cage 876-2317 or Donna Johnson 876-9675.

May 1 — 1 p.m., Fun run/walk at Sparkman Center area. Call Kellie Mayfield 876-9236, Sparkman Center Management Office.

May 2 — from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Car wash/barbecue/hot dog sale, building 5301 (parking lot). Call Stanley McCrary 313-1094, IMMC Short Range Missile Directorate.

May 3 — 8:30 a.m., Golf tournament, Redstone Golf Course. Call Ron Walton 876-4336 or Nadine Manderson 842-0172, IMMC.

May 8 — from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Celebrity car wash, AAFES Garage. Call SFC Vasquez 876-0972, AMCOM EEO and HHC AMCOM.

■ Town hall meeting describes springtime offerings

Meeting

continued from page 1

giveaways. Times will be announced later.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund is still sponsoring the RSA Treasure Hunt. To download your treasure map, go to www.RedstoneMWR.com.

Child and Youth Services will hold a "Block Party," April 20 from 1-4 p.m. behind the Youth Center, building 3148. Events include a band, DJs, dancers, martial arts demonstrations, military displays, bingo, inflatable games and food. Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities, said.

The Child Development Center has new hours of operation. The center is now

open from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The back brief for the Army Family Action Plan is scheduled May 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center. The public is invited.

All three swimming pools are scheduled to open May 25. Season passes go on sale May 1 at the Recreation Center and Outdoor Recreation.

The MWR Library, building 3323, will hold an open house April 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to celebrate National Library Week. Refreshments should still be available for those arriving from the Soldier of the Month luncheon that day.

Rock bands Styx and Kansas are scheduled for a summer concert Aug. 24, with details to be announced, Ahern said.

Support your local Children's Miracle Network during CMN days on Sat. & Sun. April 27 & 28, during our Baby Back Ribs Sale! All proceeds from the sale go to Children's Hospital of Alabama.

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Apache rotor heads overhauled ahead of schedule

Corpus Christi workers credit depot teamwork

By LOIS CONTRERAS
CCAD Public Affairs Office

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas — The CCAD directorate of maintenance's rotor hub shop employees recently enjoyed a noteworthy accomplishment. The seven AH-64 (Apache) rotor heads scheduled for overhaul during March were successfully completed ahead of time. The center hub on this most critical component has been an inhibitor due to parts shortages in the past.

When asked what the biggest factor to which the success the shop experienced in March could be attributed, Bud Foreman,

supervisor, said "We have been able to get the parts and the overtime required to accomplish this. All the credit goes to the employees. I have some excellent mechanics in the shop. They all had a hand in this, Ruby James, our production controller, Larry Estrada, pre-shop analysis, Tommy Trujillo, quality control inspector, Rosie Quillen, program manager, Rachel Soliz, aircraft data technician, and, of course, the shop employees who were willing to put forth the extra effort required."

"What's good in this is we helped ourselves," added Zelda Graves, program manager. "We moved employees around where we needed them, from assembly to disassembly, and they have been great about working where we needed them most. And we had an inspection program

set up to work 'F' condition (unserviceable, but need repair) parts in DLA. The parts were inspected and many were found to be repairable. This definitely helped in meeting our schedule."

"Our process shops certainly played a big part in this. We rely on them to get the parts to us in the right condition," Foreman said. "The paint shop, plating shop, they all contributed to the success. This is a CCAD-wide success story, possible only through CCAD employees working as a team."

"I give a lot of the credit behind our success to Ruby James, because he is able to see the big picture as far as planning for the right parts to be available for a project," Graves added.

This is another example of CCAD teamwork that takes place throughout the depot

on a daily basis and how full utilization of available assets, to include employees, means the difference between success and not quite meeting production schedules. But the teamwork did not only involve CCAD employees. Since this component was critically needed for our forces in Afghanistan, as soon as a rotor head was completed it was moved to DLA for packaging and shipping. Close coordination between CCAD material management personnel and DLA resulted in the rotor head transaction being processed off-line. Direct coordination between DLA and AMCOM produced a material release order and the item was typically packed and shipped via airfreight on the same day DLA received it from CCAD. Again, another example of teamwork to support the soldier in the field.

'Memories of Courage' theme for April 7-14

By SFC ADRIANO VASQUEZ
AMCOM equal opportunity adviser

"Days of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust" is a special observance that has been set aside to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust as well as to remind Americans of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign.

The principal message is that another Holocaust must never be allowed to happen again.

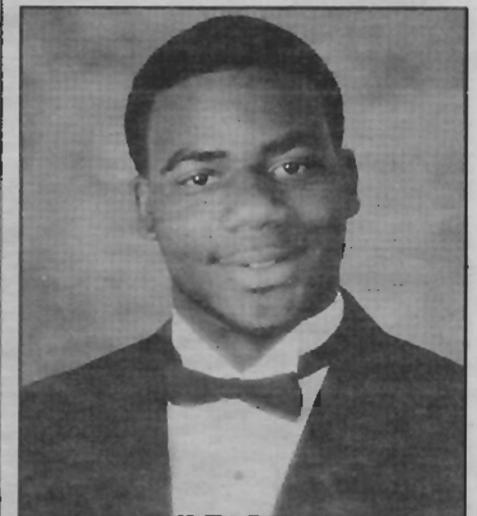
The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council was charged to build the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and to encourage annual, national, civic commemorations of the Days of Remembrance.

While there are obvious religious aspects to such an observance, it is not a religious observance as such. The internationally recognized dates for this year's observance are from April 7-14; these dates come from the Hebrew calendar and correspond to the 27th of the month of Nissan on that calendar.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has designated "Memories of Courage" as the theme for 2002.



NEVER FORGET— This historic photo shows some of the victims of concentration camps during World War II.



Courtesy photo

All-American Scholar

Irvin Isbell, a senior at J.O. Johnson High, has been named an All-American Scholar by the United States Achievement Academy. His mother, Janice Isbell, is a test and evaluation engineer in the Apache Project Office. His name will appear in the All-American Scholar Yearbook, published nationally.

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The vehicle was named in honor of two Medal of Honor recipients: PFC Stuart Stryker, who served in World War II, and Spec. Robert Stryker, who served in Vietnam. Spec. Robert Stryker, who served with the 1st Infantry Division, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for saving the life of his fellow soldiers near Loc Ninh, Vietnam. PFC Stuart Stryker, who served with the 513th Parachute Infantry, posthumously received the Medal of Honor for leading an attack near Wesel, Germany that captured more than 200 enemy soldiers and freed three American pilots.

The Army is purchasing 2,131 Strykers that will be fielded to six designated IBCTs.

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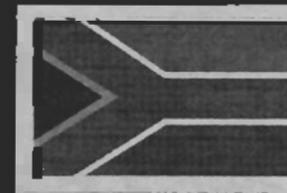
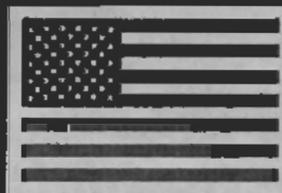


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Energy efficient products on market should have star quality

Voluntary labeling program designed to help consumers

By MORTON ARCHIBALD
AMCOM Energy Team

Whenever you buy something new — whether it is a light bulb, a new car, or even a home — you are just beginning to pay for it. Throughout the life of that product, you must install it, fuel it, maintain it, repair it, and eventually dispose of it. You usually even have to pay interest on other purchases because of the capital you have tied up in this item. You can calculate the total Life Cycle Cost considering all of the above factors and more, but most people would find calculating the LCC for a light bulb not worth the potential savings. Isn't there some short cut we can use to find the best deal without a lot of tedious calculations? Yes, there is, and that is one reason the government began the Energy Star program.

The Environmental Protection Agency introduced Energy Star in 1992 as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy efficient products, in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. EPA partnered with the Department of Energy in 1996 to promote the Energy Star label, with each agency

taking responsibility for particular product categories. Energy Star has expanded to cover new homes, most of the buildings sector, residential heating and cooling equipment, major appliances, office equipment, lighting, consumer electronics, and more product areas.

Most of you have probably seen the familiar Energy Star logo on computers, copiers, fax machines, even telephones. Look for this label whenever you buy office or electronic equipment. To learn more about special features, estimated savings, procurement sources, and much more visit the Energy Star office equipment web site at: <http://yosemite1.epa.gov/estar/consumers.nsf/content/officeequipment.htm>.

When I bought a new dishwasher for my home last year, I chose not to buy one with an Energy Star label. Two factors influenced my decision: the model I chose had some features I wanted that were not available on the one with the Energy Star rating; and the annual energy use of a dishwasher is relatively low compared to the cost of other household appliances such as a water heater.

I choose Energy Star rated products whenever they meet my needs. You do not need to do without something you really need in the name of saving energy. It is more important to buy the most energy-efficient product that meets your needs and then use it properly.

Not all products are even available with Energy Star ratings. Suppose you want to buy a microwave for your office. Now what? This is where the Federal Energy Management Program recommendations come in. Visit the FEMP Product Efficiency Recommendations web site at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/procurement/begin.html>, or order a complete FEMP's Buying Energy Efficient Products binder of the recommendations by calling 800-363-3732. There is no charge for the binder.

This web site includes a list of FEMP's Product Energy Efficiency Recommendations. By clicking on the description of a product, you can view the recommendation on the web. You can also download the printed version of the recommendation (in pdf). The full set of recommendations is available in the binder mentioned above. You can even order it online from: <http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/ordermaterials.html#procurement%20>.

The Energy Star label guarantees you energy-efficiency products, but the term "energy-efficient" is a lot like "low-fat" — some products are better than others. FEMP'S product energy efficiency recom-



mendations can help you make the distinction. Check either the web site or the binder for specific information to help you make your decision. While Energy Star products are better than average, they may not be the best available. Choose new products wisely and then use them properly.

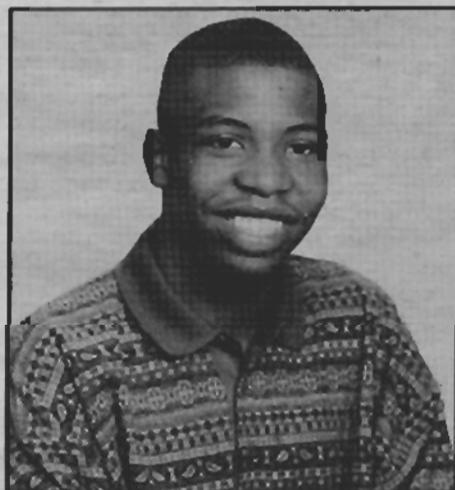
If all consumers, businesses, and organizations in the United States made their product choices and building improvement decisions with Energy Star over the next decade, the national annual energy bill would be reduced by about \$200 billion. With that would come a sizable contribution to reducing air pollution and protecting the earth's climate for future generations. With Energy Star, money isn't all you're saving.

The typical American business with 100 computers, 10 laser printers and three copiers spends more than \$4,700 each year to power its equipment. If the equipment were Energy Star labeled with the power-down features enabled, energy use would be cut in half. Energy Star labeled office equipment saves energy by powering down and "going to sleep," making it

easy for businesses to save money and protect the environment. Redstone Arsenal — with tens of thousands of computers and thousands of copiers and fax machines — could realize enormous savings. If Directorate of Logistics can provide me with a more accurate count of computers, copiers, and fax machines, I can then make a better estimate. For this purpose, I plan to assume half the equipment we now own is Energy Star, so savings would probably be more like 25 percent rather than half.

Many Energy Star products have special energy saving features such as automatic standby power reduction and recovery, two-sided copying, etc. Smart users — and we have plenty of those at Redstone Arsenal — can easily bypass features designed to save energy. While it may take a few extra seconds to wait for the system to power back up after standby, please think of all the money you are saving the taxpayer. Keep energy-saving features enabled to the most efficient settings with which you can effectively function.

You can improve the performance of even the most energy efficient equipment by turning it off when you are not using it. Look for more information on why this is so important in upcoming articles. Now take a few moments to look around your work area and see what you can do to save taxpayers' energy.



Courtesy photo

Student executive

John Everett IV has been named vice president of external affairs for the Student Government Association at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, N.C. A 1994 graduate of J.O. Johnson High he is the son of John Everett III, a contract specialist in the Acquisition Center. He will graduate in May with a mechanical engineering degree.

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ChildWise staff tries to make families feel at home



Photo by Beth Skarupa

PLAY TIME— Alexia Pamplin watches over her son Gregory Lawrence Pamplin, 1, as he plays at a magnetic toy table during a ChildWise playgroup.

Outreach program provides caring, sharing and support

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
beths@himes.com

Young children run and jump on brightly colored mats in one room, while others duck into a tent that looks like a school bus or play with toy horses in the next. Two mothers stand in a doorway talking as they keep an eye on their small children until a ChildWise staff member interrupts them, asking if they'd like their car seats checked for safety.

Twice a week more than 25 mothers and their young children fill several cheerfully decorated rooms at the ChildWise building to play with toys, make new friends and enjoy some time away from home. The playgroup is just one of the ways ChildWise, an outreach program of Child and Youth Services, assists military families.

ChildWise is a free, voluntary participation program that offers support and information to expectant parents and families with children ages newborn to 5 years old. Eligible participants include active duty and retired military as well as Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

"It's really hard (for military families) to be away from home. Grandma and grandpa are not here, so we try to provide the support that family and friends often

do when they're back home," Linda Greene, outreach program specialist, said.

A variety of ChildWise programs help families learn to cope with stress, isolation and the everyday demands of parenthood. ChildWise offers a play group, parenting and infant care classes, home visits by a registered nurse and referrals to assist parents in finding the appropriate services to meet their family's needs. Another service that will be offered to families as soon as it's complete is a resource library of books and videos on parenting skills and child development.

The ChildWise playgroup is designed to teach parents developmentally appropriate play and to help children improve their social, cognitive and motor skills. The mothers also benefit from the free advice and support they get from each other, Greene and Terre Corley, the new outreach services clerk for ChildWise.

Tamra Blackwell has attended the playgroup for almost two years. She and her husband, Spec. David W. Blackwell, have three children: Makenna, 3, Riley, 22 months, and Nadya, 3 months. Since she's a stay-at-home mom, Blackwell finds that getting her children out of the house to play with other kids keeps them from getting bored with being at home.

"I recommend it to everyone I meet, especially stay-at-home moms. I tell them to go to it because it's nice to get out and meet other moms," she said. "You make

See Support on page 13



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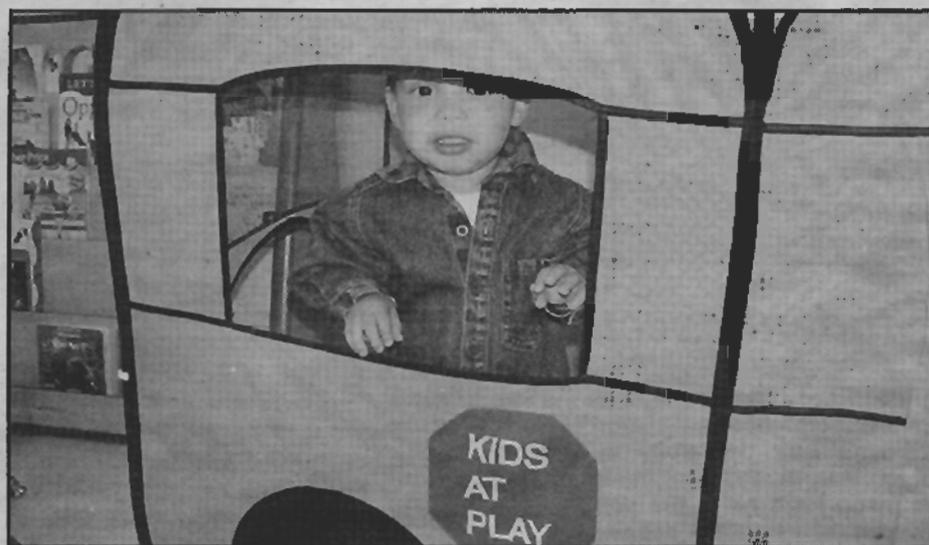


Photo by Beth Skarupa

PEEK-A-BOO— Gregory Lawrence Pamplin, 1, peeks out the window of a ChildWise play tent designed to look like a school bus.

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■ Home away from home is idea behind ChildWise

Support

continued from page 12

friends and also sometimes... well, I wanted a different bed for my daughter and one of the moms had one like I wanted and she wanted what I had. So we switched. It's nice to meet people you can do that with."

ChildWise also houses other services including WIC, a program that provides supplemental foods and nutritional information to pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women as well as infants and children up to age 5 who meet certain income requirements and are considered at nutritional risk. Short-term alternative childcare also is offered to authorized organizations and clubs on

Redstone Arsenal that hold meetings in the conference room at the ChildWise building.

After giving a tour of the ChildWise facilities located in a completely renovated, newly decorated apartment at 1413 Nike St., Greene said she hopes it shows the military families what kind of place she and those involved with ChildWise want for them.

"This is what they are worth and what they deserve," she said. "We want a home-like, friendly atmosphere where they feel welcome. We hope that's what we've accomplished. It's a place where they can feel at home and where they can belong. That's really important."

For more information about the playgroup, upcoming classes or the other services offered at ChildWise, call 876-2798.

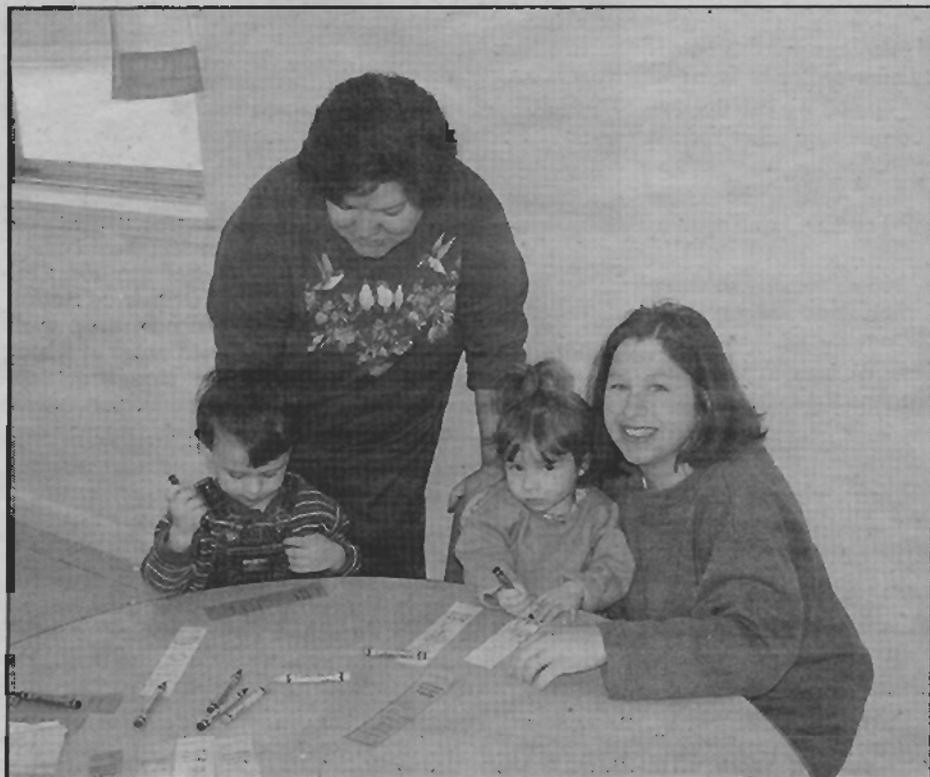


Photo by Beth Skerupa

CRAFTY KIDS— From left Terre Corley, the new outreach services clerk for ChildWise, shows Ryan Beckham, 2, Skylar Chaney, 2, and her mom Sonja Chaney how to complete a craft project during a playgroup session last week. Ryan is the son of Capt. Russ and Kristina Beckham.

■ New equipment planned for fitness facilities

Wellness

continued from page 2

the point of economical repair.

"Unfortunately, a lack of sufficient appropriated funding in the program area which funds fitness and recreation facilities has prevented us from buying all the new and replacement equipment we would ideally have to meet our needs, and fitness equipment is very expensive. But coincidentally, the Army Materiel Command allotted us funds (by a MIPR received just last week) to help rectify some of our equipment shortcomings. Specifically, the allocation was made to bring our self-rating on fitness equipment in our four facilities

from a 'red' to 'amber' rating. Over the next two months we anticipate purchasing some new equipment for at least three of our fitness facilities, and planned replacements will include treadmills and the addition of some elliptical cross-trainers for the Wellness Center. So you'll be seeing some very nice improvements soon. We are hopeful this plus-up along with some yearend funding will get us to the 'green' state in fitness equipment this year, whereby we will actually have spare treadmills or other equipment on hand to 'DX' (direct exchange) when one goes down in the future. Thanks again for the comments and for your continued patronage."

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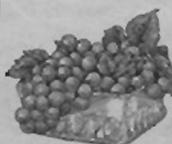
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Parents get lift from earlier hours at Child Development Center

Quality of life issue results in change

By SSgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer
sharon.mcbride@redstone.army.mil

The Child Development Center has new hours in response to requests made by representatives attending the Army Family Action Plan Conference earlier this year.

In the past the center was open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center is now open from 5 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We found out we were missing the mark with our hours," Myra Garriott, Child and Youth Services coordinator, said.

It's good news for soldiers who have early work call or formations to get to, she said. Soldiers who are responsible for students at the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School or help run Fox Army Health Center sick call seemed to be the most impacted by the lack of early morning hours at the center, according to Garriott.

"I'm very happy about the new hours," SFC Shawnette Richardson of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion said. Richardson and her husband are both soldiers assigned to the 832nd.

"It finally allows my husband and myself to get to formations and training on time," she said. "Before the change we were having to alternate weeks in order to drop the baby off (Ananda, 3). It really has been a blessing for us and a lot of other soldiers."

The Child Development Center offers care for chil-

dren who are 6 weeks to 5 years old. At the CDC children get breakfast, lunch and snacks and enjoy things like art projects, computers and field trips.

"Our main focus is learning by playing," Garriott said. And those parents who have children in the School Age Services program can also take advantage of the early opening.

"Parents with kids in that program can drop off their children as well and the school age staff will pick the children up, transfer them plus make sure they get breakfast and get on the bus on time," Garriott said.

"I can now finally make it on time to PT," Spec. Nicole Hopkins of 832nd said. "When we have early morning training it's really convenient. Especially now that I can drop both of my kids at the same place."

Hopkins, a single mother, has 6-year-old Deion and 2-year old Xavier.

"We determined the hours of the CDC were not meeting the needs of our parents," Garriott said. "We also wanted to support mission requirements of our soldiers too."

"We can also now do special openings, for example if there's a commandant's run (which typically starts at 4:45 a.m.) all we need is a heads-up and we can open as early as 4 a.m. And we can accommodate other special events on the weekends."

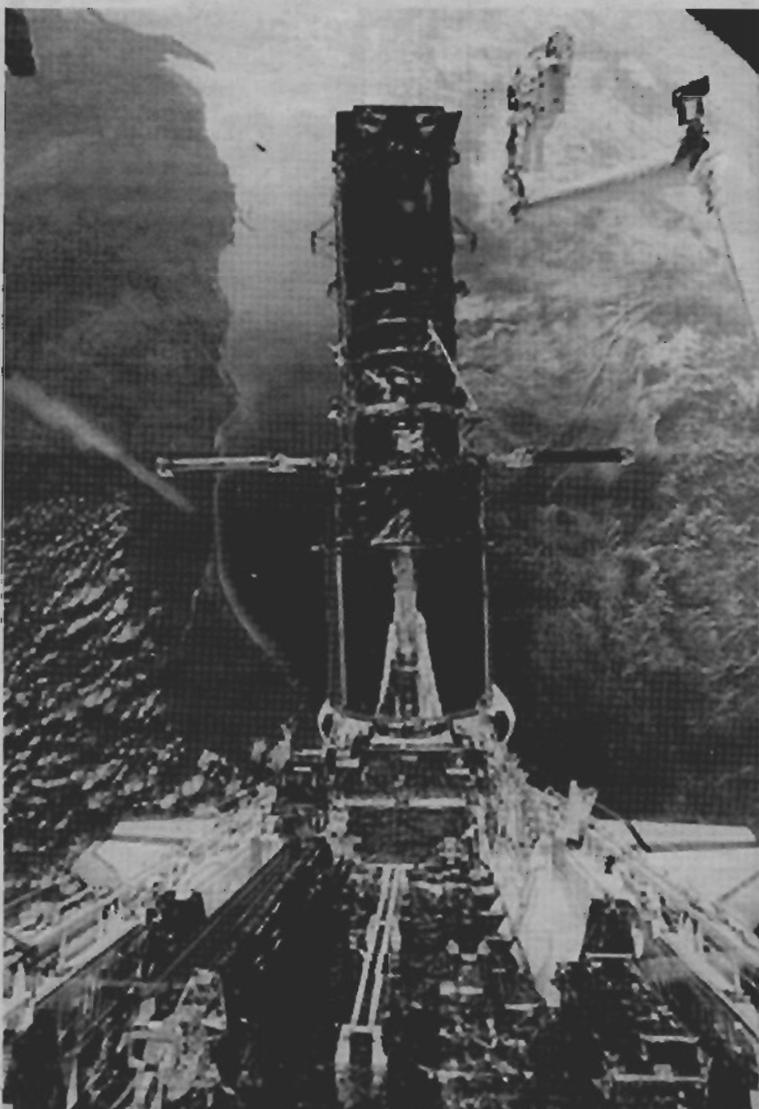
For example, on the weekend of April 6 the 832nd held an orienteering competition. The CDC was open to help the parents that day.

"We hope that if the parents need these early morning hours that they please use us," Garriott said. "Right now we are tracking and watching to make sure the hours are being utilized. We're here for our soldiers. We hope to take away some of their stress — not add to it. And if a soldier has any

feedback, comments or suggestions they are always free to e-mail me at mgarriott@redstone.army.mil."



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride
GOING HOME— Ananda, 3, kisses her mother, SFC Shawnette Richardson of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, before going home. Parents can now drop their children off at the Child Development Center at 5 a.m. Monday through Friday. The center closes at 5:30 p.m.



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Win or lose

Troop volleyball teams ready to dig in for preseason tournament

NCO Academy pegged as early favorite for title

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Troop sports don't have a spring break. Right after basketball ends, the units get ready for volleyball. And then comes softball.

Volleyball gets under way April 15 with a double-elimination preseason tournament. Next comes the regular season and then the double-elimination championship tournament.

"We anticipate (having) about nine teams in volleyball," sports director Ted Compoc said April 3. "We anticipate volleyball ending by early June."

The regular season should start by April 29. Games will be played Monday through Thursday nights beginning at 6, 7 and 8 at Pagano Gym.

The best-of-three matches use the rally scoring system where there's a point on every play. The first two sets go up to 25 points; and the third set, if necessary, goes up to 15. The winner of each set must have at least a two-point lead at the end. The troops use a let serve which means a serve is good if it lands fair, even if it

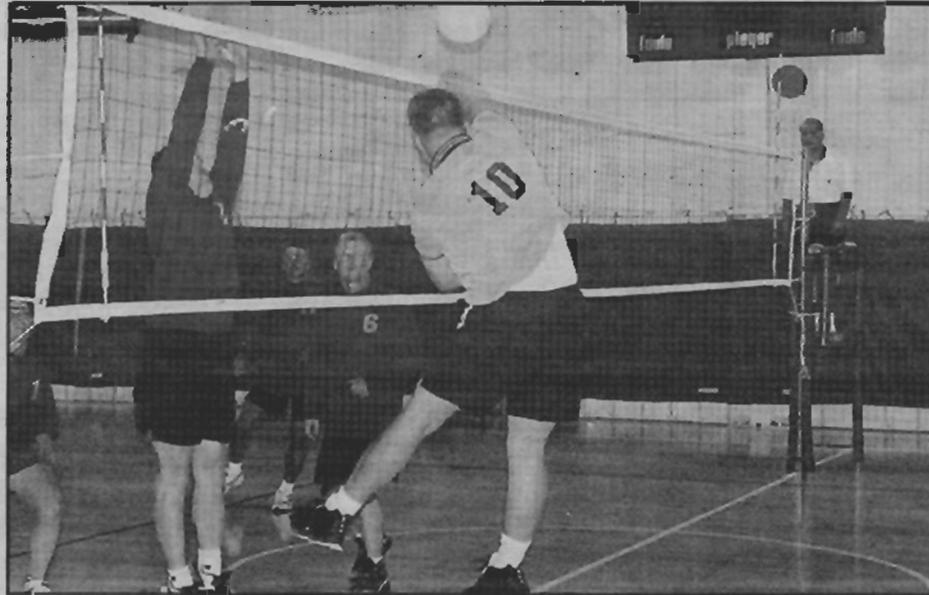


Photo by Skip Vaughn

SPIKE TIME— Dan Munn (10) makes a point for the NCO Academy during the first set of last year's post championship. The NCO Academy beat the Marines 25-20, 25-23 for the title.

touches the net.

"It's a fast-paced game because of the scoring system," Compoc said. The rules changed about two years ago.

The preseason tournament, used in all troop sports here, helps provide insight on the teams.

"It gives coaches a chance to evaluate their teams plus the opposition because Commander's Cup points are critical," Compoc said.

He already has an idea of this year's favorite. The NCO Academy finished 12-0 and beat the Marines for last year's vol-

leyball title.

But the NCO Academy's only returnee is player-coach Edward Sasan. The other players graduated; and star William Kelly has retired.

"They're expected to repeat," Compoc said. "(Sasan is) not only a good coach and player, he's a good organizer. They seem determined to defend their crown."

"My prediction is it's gonna be a good year," Sasan said. "I can tell you that we're still gonna have that championship trophy in my office. It isn't gonna go anywhere."

Tom Lettis, first sergeant for Bravo Company, has a different view. Bravo Company won the Western Conference title last year before losing to the NCO Academy in the postseason tournament.

"We're gonna be in the hunt. Looks like we've got a pretty good team," Lettis said. "You can tell Sergeant Sasan he's gonna be playing for second," he added, laughing.

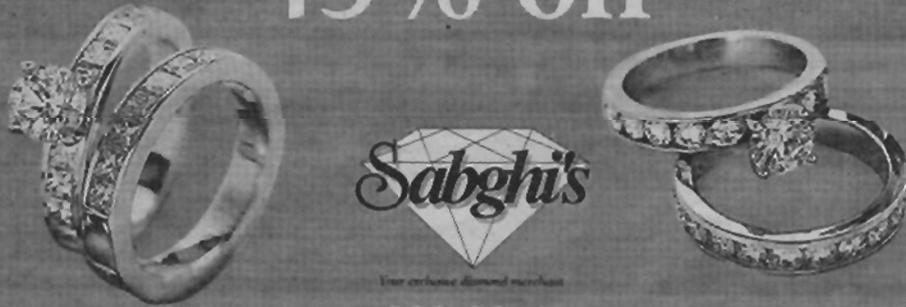
Bravo team leaders include Luis Billingslea, Howard Jones and Joseph Heliminak.

Other teams that have signed up so far include HHC AMCOM, Delta, Charlie 832nd, HHC 59th, Charlie 1/167th (the gate guards), and the Seabees Detachment. To enter a team, call Compoc at 842-2574.

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Obesity carries heavy risk for adverse health conditions

Dietitian prescribes lifestyle changes

By ROSEMARY GATES
Fox Army Health Center

Research suggests that even modest lifestyle changes can dramatically delay the onset of many health conditions such as Type 2 Diabetes and obesity, now considered by some to be a national epidemic.

In a recent study, researchers followed overweight participants with impaired glucose tolerance. This is a condition that often precedes diabetes. Those participants who followed a low-fat diet and moderate exercise program — like walking for 150 minutes per week, that's 20

minutes per day — lost 5 to 7 percent of their body weight and decreased their risk of developing diabetes by 58 percent. Those treated with medication alone reduced their risk by only 31 percent. The study found that lifestyle changes were particularly effective in people over the age of 60.

In a phone survey of adults in the U.S., being overweight was found to have a more debilitating effect on health than smoking, drinking or poverty. According to the survey, which was performed by the RAND Institute, healthy weight individuals had an average of 1.1 chronic health conditions such as cancer, arthritis, diabetes and heart disease, compared to 1.3 conditions in those classified as over-

weight, 1.7 in those who were obese and 2.0 in those who were severely obese.

Take the time to consider how you can make changes to improve your health. If you're overweight, examine your eating habits and activity level. Keep a food record for a week, then sit down and compare your food choices with those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Guide Pyramid. Try to select the recommended number of servings (pay attention to the serving sizes) from each of the food groups. Fruits and vegetables are naturally low in fat and thus low in calories. Limit meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts to 6 ounces per day. Eat 6-11 servings (six if you're sedentary, 11 if you're very active) of whole grain breads,

cereals, pasta and rice. Use low-fat milk, cheese and yogurt. Remember the foods at the top of the pyramid (sweets and fats) are highest in calories. You don't have to eliminate them, just eat them sparingly or in small amounts. Seek assistance from qualified professionals if you're not able to lose weight. Your health is worth it.

National Nutrition Month, an annual nutrition and education campaign in March sponsored by the American Dietetic Association, is designed to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

Editor's note: Rosemary Gates is a registered dietitian at Fox Army Health Center.

Great Moonbuggy Race tests young students' ingenuity

Annual competition slated at Space & Rocket Center

Students from across the United States and as far away as Puerto Rico and South America will come to Huntsville for the ninth annual Great Moonbuggy Race at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Friday and Saturday.

Sixty-eight teams — representing high schools and colleges from 19 states, Puer-

to Rico and Colombia — will race human powered vehicles over a lunar-like terrain. But the competition requires more than physical endurance because students must use a wide range of skills as a team to design, engineer and build their vehicle.

The Great Moonbuggy Race is inspired by development some 30 years ago of the lunar roving vehicle, a program managed by Marshall Space Flight Center. The LRV team had to design a compact, lightweight "all-terrain vehicle" that could be

transported to the moon in the small Apollo spacecraft. The Great Moonbuggy race challenges students to design and build a human-powered vehicle and in the process overcome engineering problems similar to those faced by the original Marshall Center lunar rover team.

For instance, the students must design a vehicle that occupies a space no more than 4 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet before it is assembled prior to the race. During the race, two team members — one male and

one female — power and drive each vehicle over a half-mile obstacle course of simulated moonscape terrain.

Winners in each category — high school and college — are determined by the fastest vehicle assembly time, plus time through the course. An additional prize is awarded to the team with the best technical approach to solving the engineering problem of navigating

See Buggy on page 18

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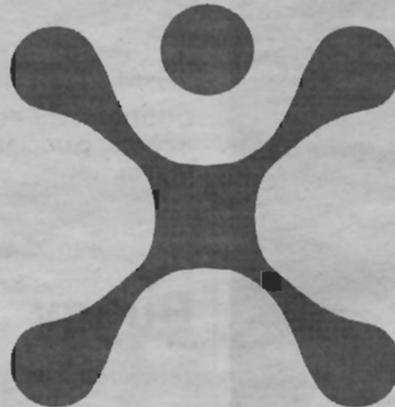
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Children get egg-cited over Easter event

Annual egg hunt turnout sets record on rainy day

By SSgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer
sharon.mcbride@redstone.army.mil

There were hundreds of eggs under tables, in potted plants, under chairs and just as many children scrambling to find them.

It was chaos as they scrambled to grab as many eggs as they could before their playmates. In many cases all one could see was flashes of color as children snatched up the brightly colored Easter prizes.

Youth Services sponsored the annual Easter egg hunt March 30 that had record attendance despite rain that forced the event indoors.

"We'd never miss this," one parent said as her toddler loaded up her basket.



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride
GO GET 'EM— Shyann Johnson, 2, gets a little help from Mom to find eggs during the hunt.



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride
DON'T TALK TO STRANGE BUNNIES?— Kendell Smith, 4, isn't sure if she should talk to the Easter Bunny. Grandpa, Larry Smith, assures her that it's OK.

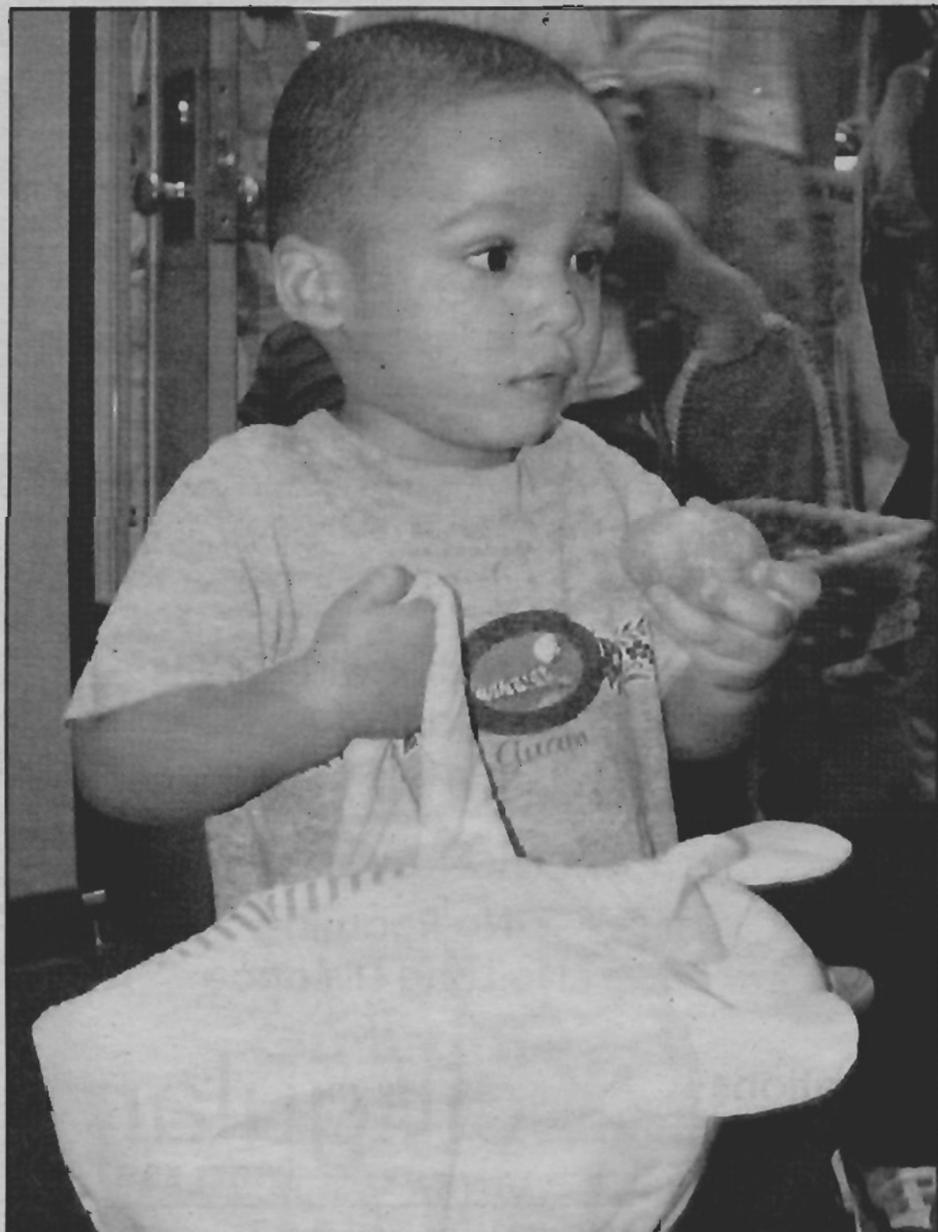


Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride
EASTER PRIZE— Elijah Beale, 2, shows off one of several eggs he collected during the Youth Services sponsored Easter egg hunt March 30.



Photo by SSgt. Sharon McBride
DOUBLE THE FUN— Lelani Connolly, left, and her twin sister Mellina, both 23 months, participate in the Easter egg hunt. The event was held indoors because of rain.

Human-powered vehicles race on 'lunar' surface

Buggy

continued from page 17

the "lunar" surface.

"This is the greatest participation we've ever had for the races," said Jim Pruitt, manager of the education programs department at the Marshall Center. "We have teams that have participated for several years and we have new teams that will be here for the first time. We expect to see some innovative designs and fantastic competition."

The annual event is sponsored by several Huntsville organizations: the Marshall Center, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Alabama-Mississippi Section, the Aerospace Development Center of Alabama, Sci-Quest North Alabama Science Center and television station WAFF.

Event details, a full listing of the competing teams, race rules, information on the course and photos from previous competitions can be found at the Great Moonbuggy Race web site at: <http://moonbuggy.nasfc.nasa.gov>.