

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 55 No. 39

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

September 27, 2006

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Singing praises of charity drive

Combined Federal Campaign kicks off with words and music

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Are you fired up yet for the Combined Federal Campaign?

That was a continuing theme at the 2006 Tennessee Valley CFC kickoff Sept. 19 at the NASA picnic area. There were personal testimonies from Redstone workers, pep talks from agency leaders, music and food.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

NOTEWORTHY— The Blue Notes from Huntsville Police Department sing during the kickoff. From left are Gerald Johnson, Thomas Kelly and Eric Newby.

"We have some folks that are fired up for CFC," campaign coordinator Donna Johnson told the estimated more than 500 attendees.

The charity drive is scheduled from Oct. 9 through Nov. 17. This year's campaign theme is "Compassion in Action"; and the goal is \$1.8 million. Last year's campaign surpassed its \$1.8 million goal with \$1,961,541.

"We would like to thank you in advance for your support of CFC and all that you will do to help this year's campaign," Johnson said.

CFC chairman Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, urged everyone to try for \$2 million in contributions. With tongue in cheek, he threatened to sing if the goal isn't reached.

"I fully support what Donna and her team is doing," the general said.

The Tennessee Valley campaign includes 36 federal agencies and 14,847 employees in six North Alabama counties —



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SUPPORT FROM TOP— Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone, addresses the crowd at the Combined Federal Campaign kickoff Sept. 19 at the NASA picnic area. He serves as the Tennessee Valley CFC chairman.

Cullman, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan — and Lincoln County, Tenn.

Contributions can go to 158 local charities and about 1,800 national and international health, welfare and human services. Only those organizations that employees select or designate will receive their gift. Workers can give through cash, check or payroll deduction.

Engineers reduce obstacles to increase savings

Army sees advantages in new barricade standards for ammunition, explosives

By ANDREA TAKASH
Huntsville Engineering and Support Center

It was standing-room only at the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board seminar when a Huntsville Center engineer announced that her findings on the height of barricades will save the Department of Defense millions of dollars.

"Current requirements for the height of a barricade between two ammunition and explosives stacks are causing construction and operational challenges," said Dr. Michelle Crull, professional engineer, a senior civil engineer in the Advanced Technology Branch, Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville. "The team's findings could save DoD \$1.9 million in soil alone at one site."

Barricades are designed to prevent the simultaneous spread of explosions between two stacks of ammunition and explosives due to low-angle, high-velocity fragments. The barricade height is determined by the



Photo by Andrea Takash

SHARING IDEAS— Huntsville Center engineer Dr. Michelle Crull speaks with Paul Miller, a senior staff scientist with Gradient Technology, at the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board seminar.

line-of-sight between two AE stacks.

"In 1974, DoD changed the barricade height requirements. The new requirement stated that a straight line drawn from the far edge of the top of a bomb at a 2-degree angle above the horizontal must at least pass below the 3-foot wide crest of the standard earth barricade," Crull said.

These requirements are still in place

today and present three major issues, she said.

"There are construction difficulties due to the height of the barricades. One typical site contains pads that are 134 feet by 48 feet and require 13.6 feet tall barricades to store 8 feet tall stacks. There are also real estate issues due to the amount of land required for berms," Crull said. "The cost is also an issue. This site has 54 of these pads requiring 281,000 cubic yards of soil for berms."

Crull joined with several other people in DoD to analyze the requirement for the height of barricades.

"I spent hours brainstorming with the people in the Test Management Division at the U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety," she said. "I also worked closely with Mike Swisdak, Naval Surface Warfare Center — Indian Head, Md.; Kevin Hager, Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center — Port Hueneme, Calif.; and Kevin Carr, Air Force Safety Center, N.M."

After 10 months of studying and testing, the team came up with a proposal for a new design height for barricades.

See **Obstacles** on page 3

An open lane random survey

What would you do for someone considering suicide?

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Staff Sgt. Mark Hill
326th Chemical Company



"I would try to direct them to get the proper help or treatment."

Spc. India Lucious
326th Chemical Company

"I don't know what I would do unless I was actually in that situation."



Timothy Capers
DoD civilian
"I would talk to them and try and get them some help. I'd refer them to an agency for assistance or to a family member."

Lisa Perkins
retiree spouse

"I would call the preacher, stay close to them and just try to be supportive."



Quote of the week

'Happiness is in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.'

— Franklin Roosevelt

Letter to the Editor

Retiring contracting supervisor will be missed

Bud Bowersox's faithful service to the Army has been nothing less than remarkable. After a rewarding military career spanning 24 years on active duty and six years of Reserve duty which included two overseas tours in Germany and Vietnam, he ended his Army career as a lieutenant colonel.

But his love of the Soldier and the mission didn't stop there. Upon his departure from the active duty military, Mr. Bowersox had a brief stint with industry. After completing his personal goal, Mr. Bowersox re-entered federal

service in 1986 at St. Louis as a GS-15 serving as a division chief at Army Aviation Systems Command. He was later reassigned to headquarters Aviation and Troop Command and again served as a division chief. There he prepared and transitioned his organization to move to Redstone Arsenal to be incorporated into the



Courtesy photo

Bud Bowersox

newly formed Aviation and Missile Command.

After his arrival, he served as a contracting supervisor and as the director of contracts. Mr. Bowersox is currently serving as the director of missile logistics directorate in AMCOM.

A retirement celebration will be held Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in building 5303, room 3147, Acquisition Center, Sparkman Complex.

Greg McPherson
contract specialist

Hispanic Heritage Month observance under way

Team Redstone sponsors essay, display contests

Team Redstone joins in the celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

"Hispanic Americans: Our Rich Culture Contributing to America's Future" is the theme of an essay contest. Send essays by Oct. 4 to Sgt. 1st Class Monique Mixon of AMCOM/Garrison Equal Opportunity. Her phone number is 876-8648, fax 876-8947 and e-mail monique.c.mixon@redstone.army.mil.

A unit/department static display contest is also under way. Participants should notify the 59th Ordnance Brigade or AMCOM/Garrison EO of the location and point of contact for their static display. Judging will take place Oct. 5.

Plaques and trophies for both contests will be awarded at Team Redstone's Hispanic heritage celebration to be announced.

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a monthlong celebration. America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting

point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2005 was 42.7 million, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our country," President Bush said in a proclamation Sept. 14. "Through hard work, faith in God, and a deep love of family, Hispanic Americans have pursued their dreams and contributed to the strength and vitality of our nation."

Army achieves recruiting goal

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The active Army met its fiscal 2006 recruiting goal ahead of schedule Sept. 22 when the 80,000th recruit enlisted at the Times Square Recruiting Station in mid-town Manhattan.

Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey conducted the ceremonial enlistment of Shirley Salvi, who enlisted under the 98XL option to receive language training before assignment as a signals intelligence analyst or cryptologic linguist. Because she has a bachelor's degree and enlisted for five years, Salvi received a \$20,000 bonus and joined the Army's ranks as a specialist.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Salvi said she enlisted for the "travel, leadership and experience." (*Army News Service*)

Get rid of that old refrigerator

The Redstone Arsenal Energy Management Office provided the following energy consumption information.

Myth: If you've got an older refrigerator that's still working, don't get rid of it. Put it in the garage and you'll end up saving a lot of money by buying groceries on sale and storing them there.

Fact: You'll probably need to save at least \$150 each year on grocery sales to offset the cost of operating this second refrigerator. Most people would be ahead of the game if they just got rid of the old refrigerator and used the space in the garage for something else. Since old

refrigerators use so much energy (about 10 percent of your household total), get rid of an older refrigerator and replace it with a newer one that will be much more energy-efficient, probably paying for the purchase price quickly in energy savings. Refrigerators more than seven years old are "energy hogs" compared to the models on sale today. This is especially important for refrigerators inside your home — for every 3 kilowatt-hours they use, you'll need another kwh in air conditioning to remove the heat they produce.

For more information, call energy manager Mark Smith 842-0014.

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

The *Redstone Rocket* is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in *The Redstone Rocket* through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the *Redstone Rocket* is *The Huntsville Times*, located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL 35801.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

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Rocket articles are available online at the following:
<http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil/>

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The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for *The Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

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Getting to know you

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

Name: Marine Lt. Col. Mike Dahl

Job: Marine Corps and Navy liaison officer to AMCOM and PEO Aviation

Where do you call home?
White Bear Lake, Minn.

What do you like about your job?

I enjoy working with the Army, both civilian and military personnel, on Army programs, projects, concepts, contracts and services that the Marine Corps or Navy can join in or leverage, giving the taxpayers and servicemembers maximum benefit for their acquisition dollars. My phone number is 876-9804.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

With three young children at home, my wife and I like to go exploring and take advantage of the many attractions and outdoor activities Northern Alabama has to offer families. We have visited the Botanical Garden, railroad museum, petting zoo and the many parks in Huntsville and Madison. (He and his wife, Marge, reside in Madison with



their sons Ryan, 5, Matt, 1, and daughter Lise, 3.)

What are your goals?

In the short term, to help Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen get the best tools and services needed to allow them to accomplish their assigned missions. In the long term, help develop and field future products that will help win the war on terrorism and any other challenges our country has to face.

What's your favorite type of music?

Whatever is playing on the radio. I prefer jazz or blues.

Quit smoking through group support

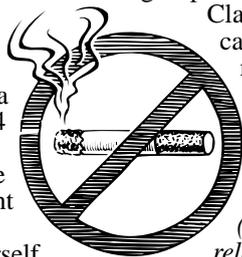
Fox health center offers weekly cessation class

Fox Army Health Center, in conjunction with its Preventive Medicine Branch, will conduct a Smoking Cessation Program beginning Tuesday, Oct. 3. The classes will be at noon each Tuesday through Nov. 14.

Research shows that your chances of success more than double if you talk to a trained smoking cessation facilitator/coach or involve yourself in a group smoking cessation program.

You will learn the following via interactive participation:

- No crave episode will last more than three minutes.
- The average number of crave episodes. By day 10, a quitter is experiencing only 1.4 cravings per day.
- Six reasons that people gain weight and how to prevent it.
- HALT — don't let yourself



get too Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired.

- The stages of change.
- How you will grieve the loss of nicotine.
- Important preparation steps before setting the quit date.
- The importance of juices and vitamins.
- Stress reduction, relaxation techniques.
- Urge surfing.
- Abstinence violation effect.

You will be gently guided into the Stay Quit Mode knowing that you are the prime mover in your quitting but knowing that you have the support of staff and your group.

Class size is limited to 10. RSVP by calling 955-8888, ext. 1443 for reservations.

For individual coaching sessions or to schedule classes at your organization call Rick Stock, health promotion educator, at 955-8888, ext. 1443. (Fox Army Health Center release)

■ Army eyes new barricade standards to save money

Obstacles

continued from page 1

"We concluded that there can be a change to the design height of barricades to prevent a simultaneous spread of explosions between two stacks of AE in the open. The reference point should be at the top of the stack at the far edge of the donor pad from the barricade. The barricade height must be at least 1 foot above the line-of-sight between the reference point and the top of the acceptor stack,"

she said.

Crull said this proposal would save DoD a tremendous amount of money without reducing safety standards.

"At the site discussed above, the current required barricade height is 13.6 feet and requires 281,000 cubic yards of soil. The proposed barricade height is 9 feet and requires only 154,764 cubic yards of soil. This new height would mean a 45 percent reduction in soil alone," she said. Based on this study, the Army plans to request a change to the DoD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standard.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

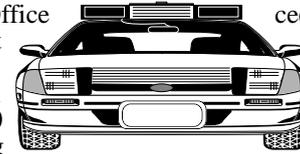
The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

Sept. 14: An individual who stopped at Gate 10 was found to be driving with a revoked license, no insurance and improper registration. He was issued three violation notices and released.

Sept. 14: An individual who stopped at Gate 10 was found to be driving with a suspended license and under a warrant from Jefferson County. He was issued a violation notice and released to Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

Sept. 14: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Sept. 15: Four individuals each took a golf cart from the carnival area, and pro-



ceeded to damage them by driving them in the wooded area. All four were arrested and processed; the two adults were escorted to the gate and released. The two juveniles were released to their sponsor.

Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Sept. 18: An individual stopped at Gate 8 was found to be driving with a suspended license. The subject was issued a violation notice and released.

Sept. 20: An individual stopped at Gate 10 was found to be driving with a suspended license. The subject was issued a violation notice and released.

Traffic accidents reported: one with injuries, three without injuries.

Violation notices issued: 11 speeding, 1 larceny, 1 defective equipment, 1 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 parking, 2 following too close, 3 driving with a suspended/revoked license.

What to do when someone loses all hope

Consider warning signs for suicide prevention

By Dr. DANIEL LAEUPPLE
Fox Army Health Center

How should you handle someone such as a loved one or friend who talks about or attempts to take his or her own life?

Should you avoid the subject because it might make them actually "do it," or blame them that they are "attention seekers," or tell them that "everything will be O.K.?"

These answers are incorrect and for some people these answers are misconceptions that if followed to the end may result in completion of suicide. With such a tragic result, it could be hard to resolve your own guilt or self-blame by rationalizing "I didn't want to give them ideas by talking about it" or "they can't be serious."

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this number does not include the deaths reported as accidental. The highest number of suicides can be found in two groups with the first group among teenagers to young adults in their early 20s, and the second group among senior citizens above 65. For the first group, suicide is now reported to be the third leading cause of death; and this is the primary age group for our military population.

If someone you know is talking about suicide or making threats, your effort to be aware of the warning signs and your concern to take action could make the difference in saving a life, thus suicide prevention.

Warning signs

It should never be assumed that people who talk about suicide will not carry it out. Prior to attempting or completion of a suicide, the person may make direct conversation, threats or statements about their desire to end life as they see it, or indirect conversation about hopelessness, helplessness and despair that they would

See **Suicide** on page 7

Letterkenny saluted for Humvee production

*27 extra vehicles
finished monthly*

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — In a ceremony witnessed by depot employees, Letterkenny Army Depot commander Col. Robert Swenson presented a ceremonial “key to the Humvee”— the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle — to Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal.

Standing amidst a fleet of 27 Humvees, Swenson explained that these are 27 extra vehicles available for use by Soldiers that otherwise wouldn’t have been available.

The overproduction of 27 Humvees results from efficiencies achieved through Lean manufacturing and Lean Six Sigma.

“We found that through efficiencies and savings accumulated through Lean and Lean Six Sigma, without extra cost to the depot, we could raise monthly production from 276 Humvees to 303,” Swenson said. “Our employees should be proud. It meant we could maintain the production line efficiently while overproducing at a rate of about 10 percent. This means that 27 extra recapitalized Humvees will be available to war fighters each month.”

See **Humvees** on page 7



Courtesy photo

READY TO ROLL— Letterkenny Army Depot produces 27 extra recapitalized Humvees each month.

Flying Activity opens doors to friendly skies

Fall open house set to soar Oct. 7

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Come Saturday, Oct. 7, the Redstone Arsenal community will get a chance to fly high over Huntsville.

The Redstone Arsenal Flying Activity will once again host its semi-annual open house, complete with mini-flight lessons that will keep the activity's 11 airplanes soaring above the Huntsville landscape throughout the day.

The open house will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is open to the Redstone community and families as well as the public. It will take place rain or shine.

"This is a great event for anyone who might want to learn how to fly or is just



Photo by Kari Hawkins

READY FOR LIFTOFF— The staff at the Redstone Arsenal Flying Activity are getting ready to welcome the Redstone community as well as the public to a fall open house on Saturday, Oct. 7, where the main attraction is mini-flying lessons over Redstone Arsenal. The staff includes, from left, clerk Mildred Lancaster, maintenance manager Derek Romine, business manager Tim Thompson and maintenance mechanic Telton Tolbert.

interested in flying," Flying Activity business manager Tim Thompson said.

"It's especially a good event for kids who just want to go up in an airplane and teenagers whose parents can use it as a

reward for good grades. This is the best time to come out because the rate to fly is about half of what it costs to fly at any other time."

The cost for a mini-flight lesson with a certified flight instructor is \$30 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under. The lesson includes 20 to 30 minutes of flight time over Huntsville.

The event is being held on a three-day holiday weekend, which could be a plus, Thompson said.

"If you can't afford to travel on that weekend, you may want to come out and do this instead," he said. "If you are staying home, but you want to do something fun and different, this is the place to be. The fall event is the better one to come to because the weather is cooler and it is not as crowded here as it is during our spring event."

There will be much more going on at the RAFA open house besides flying lessons. WVNN will broadcast from the event. There will be an "Ask a Pilot" booth where pilots will answer questions about aviation. There will be aviation videos and simulators. Pictures will be taken of each guest as they get ready to go on their flight. There will also be free pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. And, there will be plenty of pilots around to share their experiences with visitors.

After registering for a mini-flying lesson, visitors will go through a pre-flight briefing.

"We'll get them in the classroom and show them the types of landmarks they will go over when they fly," Thompson said. "We will give them information about flying and let them ask us questions. That way they know what to expect during their flight, and what to do and what not to do."

The briefing will also give visitors an idea of where they will be flying, which will be mapped out a day or two before the event based on obstacles and restrictions that can affect the flight plan.

"No matter where they go, though, they will be able to see the Space & Rocket Center," Thompson said. "When you are in the air and 10 miles away, you can still see the Space & Rocket Center. It is actually used as a landmark by pilots because it stands out so well."

RAFA's open houses attract all types of people interested in flying.

"We have 16- and 17-year-olds out here who want to get their license," Thompson said. "But, the majority are people who have put their kids through school and now it's finally their time to do this. Some may have started to get their license many years ago, but never finished. They told themselves they would do it 'tomorrow.' Now, it's 15 or 20 years later and it's 'now or never.'"

There are many reasons to learn to fly, he said. Some learn for the simple pleasure of flying, others for the desire to use flight as a fast and convenient way to travel or to visit relatives.

"And, others use flying in their jobs," Thompson said. "Some jobs will pay for a

pilot to fly from point A to point B. We have many people out here who go on TDY and fly out to do work at Fort Rucker or at the Air Force base in Destin. It takes an 11- or 12-hour round trip and makes it only a four-hour round trip."

The semi-annual open houses are RAFA's main way of raising funds to maintain its facilities and for recruiting new members who go through pilot training at the flying activity. Last spring, the open house had more than 200 visitors, flying 147 passengers on 89 flights. As a result, RAFA added 12 new members to its 300-member roster.

RAFA is one of only three remaining flying activities on Army Morale Welfare and Recreation installations. It is also the largest flying activity. It was established to provide safe, low-cost, light aircraft, recreational flying opportunities. RAFA offers flight instruction, airplane rentals, equipment and related services.

Sponsors for the open house include WZYP, WVNN, Coca-Cola, Halsey Foods, OfficeMax and Papa John's Pizza. Photos are courtesy of BCOP Federal.

It takes about 45 volunteers to coordinate the open house. Norm Myers is the volunteer coordinator. Volunteers are still needed for registration, dispatch, passenger escorts, supplies/special needs, pilots, ramp-aircraft fueling, food services and the "Ask a Pilot" booth.

"We're doing a lot of recruiting for volunteers among our members," Thompson said. "We'll have a lot of volunteers who will help us throughout the day."

So far, there will be at least 14 flight instructors available to take visitors on mini-flying lessons. All 11 planes are in good working order for the event.

"Right now, everything is physically sound and nothing is expected to go wrong with any of the planes," said Thompson, looking out over the activity's landing area where the planes are parked. The flying activity has a reputation for supplying the best maintained planes in the area.

RAFA's inventory includes four Cessna 152s, four Cessna 172s, two Piper Arrows and one 182 RG Cessna.

"The planes are either four-seaters or two-seaters," Thompson said. "Visitors can have a preference for which plane they want to fly in."

Visitors are guaranteed a mini-flying lesson they will always remember. To commemorate the event, they will walk away with a copy of the picture taken as they prepared to head for the clear blue skies.

Editor's note: The Redstone Arsenal Flying Activity is located at building 4828 on Hale Road. Directions from Gate 9 are: travel south on Rideout Road, turn west on Hale Road, go left at V in road, activity will be on the right. The activity is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 880-9495 or check out the web site at www.redstonemwr.com.

Redstone like second home to Jordanian

Military student completes Radar Repairer Course

A member of the Jordan Air Force says he won't forget his stay at Redstone.

Master Sgt. Zaid Al-Trodi attended the Radar Repairer Course from July 3 through today. The international student was assigned to Headquarters & Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion.

"I have only been here for two months and I already feel that this is my second home," Al-Trodi, 32, said. "I have spent many great times which I will never forget for the rest of my life.

"American people are honest and helpful. They should be respected by anyone that knows them or lives with them," he said. "Before I came to America I imagined many things about it but when I came here I was surprised because it is a fabulous country, which I never see like it even in my dreams."

The International Military Student Office provides activities and field trips for students from other countries.

"The IMSO gave all students any assistance they need," Al-Trodi said. "They helped us solve our problems and helped us find good places to visit and made amazing trips for international students. Finally I appreciate the IMSO and anyone who gave me assistance."



Courtesy photo

GOODBYE, AMERICA— Master Sgt. Zaid Al-Trodi of the Jordan Air Force is graduating today from the Radar Repairer Course.

Teenagers to young adults commit most suicides

Suicide

continued from page 3

be "better off buried or dead," or that they are some sort of "burden" to family and/or friends. These forms of conversation and similar dialogue should always be taken seriously.

Other warning signs include additional risk factors of prior suicidal attempts that may have seemed in the past as "not serious" or not life threatening. Until there is intervention the behavior may continue, and their next effort may result in either serious morbidity or mortality. Of those who have been successful in their suicide, 4 out of 5 have made at least one prior suicide attempt. Remember this is not like the fairy tale "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."

Be observant and be aware of abrupt or recent changes in behavior, personality or attitude especially when there is no obvious reason or these changes progress and intensify. Such behaviors include but are not limited to increased risk taking, new onset or excess alcohol usage, recreational drug usage, avoidance or social isolation, mood swings, loss of their usual interests or importantly unexpected "giving away" of personal items of either monetary value or sentimental value. These changes may all be red flag warning signs of potential suicidal behavior.

Action to take

If a person shares with you that they are feeling or thinking about ending their life or suicide, or if you are aware that they are manifesting the aforementioned warning signs of being suicidal, do not avoid talking to them about it. Discussion does not lead to a worsening of their situation, nor "give them bad ideas," but discussion tends to bring some relief and may even give them a sense that "someone cares" especially if they are a friend, companion or family. Ask direct questions about how they feel and about their reasons for those feelings. Furthermore ask if they have thought about how they may be able to overcome those feelings or cope through their difficulties as this may allow them to freely "open up" about any suicidal thoughts that they may be considering.

However, even if they do not make any suicidal comments, it is best to ask direct questions if they have been considering or thinking about ending their life or suicide. You should then follow up with questions

about their plans as well as any methods or means at carrying out their plans such as weapons as well as their ability to access such items. Finally, you should ask if they have been in the process of carrying out their plans as well as when and where their plans are to take place.

Allow them to discuss the issues and try to remain calm. Do not be judgmental or provide advice such as "you are wrong" or "it is not so bad, life for you is better than you think." This line of conversation will only place them on the defensive and will discourage further discussion. Always be supportive and do not fear that asking direct questions about suicide will make them follow on their plans, for remember you may be saving a life.

Interventions

Obviously when you suspect that a person is either at risk of suicide or contemplating suicide, the best measure of suicide prevention is intervention and seeking help. However, it is best to remember that you are not a mental health professional and attempt to "counsel" them. First, you may want to encourage that they make a phone call to the local Behavioral Medicine clinic at Redstone Arsenal or the national suicide prevention "hotline" to discuss these thoughts and feelings that they are sharing with you as this encouragement will allow them to still feel that they are in control. To simply pick up the phone yourself and call 911 will again place them on the defensive. Even if they first refuse to call either of these agencies, suggest other professionals that they may feel more comfortable with talking to such as the chaplain, their physician or a physician at Fox Army Health Center. Another option if they are active duty personnel is encourage them to contact either their commander or first sergeant.

If they continue to refuse to volunteer, you must then take action. Let them know that you are calling for help and call any of these professionals to gain advice that will further assist in intervening. At this point, fear of breaking trust should not be a concern because most likely their refusal to volunteer may suggest their loss of hope. They may no longer value help as an option and see help as pointless. In a worst case situation, they may attempt to leave and you are not going to help matters by trying to physically restrain them, for remember they may have a weapon or other measures and hurt or injure you as well. Encourage them to stay and attempt

to ask where they are going. At that point, it is best to either contact the Redstone Arsenal security for on-post or 911 for off-post.

The loss of all hope for someone who is suicidal can also follow with a loss of capacity to reason that will lead to irrational behaviors. Therefore, this phone call is the best intervention in handling such extreme crisis situations where force may be necessary to save a life. With the appropriate amount of time and professional treatment, the majority of suicidal people can find recovery and ultimately peace of mind. In the end your compassion and concern of taking action is the first line of suicide prevention.

Editor's note: Dr. Daniel Laeupple, a psychiatrist, is chief of Behavioral Medicine at Fox Army Health Center.

■ Depot produces more through Lean efficiency

Humvees

continued from page 4

Pillsbury saluted the employees. "Rather than slack off, you saw the need and kept your sights on the single purpose that brings us to work each day. Our Soldiers!" Pillsbury said. "These vehicles — in a like new condition — are invaluable to our efforts in the Global War on Terror. I salute each and every one of you. It is no secret to me why Letterkenny was the only Army depot to win the Shingo Prize Public Service two years running."

The Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing is named for Japanese industrial engineer Shigeo Shingo who distinguished himself as one of the world's leading experts in improving manufacturing processes. Dr. Shingo has been described as an "engineering genius" who helped create and write about many aspects of the revolutionary manufacturing practices which comprise the Toyota Production System.

Letterkenny has won the Shingo Prize Public Service Silver Award two years in a row. The 2005 prize was awarded for Patriot while the 2006 prize was awarded for efficiencies introduced to the Humvee line.

Letterkenny deputy commander Dr. John Gray and director of maintenance Michael Murray traveled to Reno, Nev., to attend a workshop and accept the 2006 Shingo Prize. (Letterkenny release)

Festival delights with rides, Chicken Dance

Oktoberfest weekend draws nearly 15,000

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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From screams of delight as children slid down slides and rode fast rides to the spirited singing and dancing in the German tradition under the fest hall tent, the 11th annual Oktoberfest on Redstone Arsenal offered plenty of fun for festival goers of all ages.

The festival, which took place Sept. 14-17 at MWR's Activity Field off Patton Road, began with the traditional German tapping of the keg by Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski.

"We have the best sponsors in all the U.S. Army," Olshefski said before tapping the keg. "Thank you for taking care of us. This is all about the Soldiers."

Even if they didn't attend the festivities, Soldiers on Redstone



Photo by Kari Hawkins

OPENING TAP— Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski taps the keg with the help of Bob Howard, manager of the Officers and Civilians Club. The keg tapping is the official opening of Oktoberfest on Redstone Arsenal. It was held Sept. 14 under the Papa John's Fest Hall Tent.

Arsenal benefit from the funds raised by Oktoberfest, which go back into Morale Welfare and



Photo by Kari Hawkins

CHICKEN FUN— David Chenu, wearing a chicken on his head, and Terry Cavanagh perform the ever-popular Chicken Dance song at Oktoberfest. Behind them is drummer Jeff Ryder. They are members of Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express, a band that has played German favorites at Oktoberfest for several years.

Recreation to support Soldier and community quality of life programs.

"The paid attendance was 14,554," Adrian Baker, of MWR marketing, said. "That's up from last year. We had a great turnout. And it went very smoothly as well."

Festival sponsors were: Papa John's Pizza, News Channel 19, The Huntsville Times, WZYP, Bill Heard Chevrolet, Knology, the Home Depot, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Supreme Beverage Co., Crestwood Medical Center, Coca Cola, Sprint and

Tom Jeffries' Sign and Banner.

The festival actually began an hour before the keg tapping when the gates were opened and local resident families mingled with military families to enjoy rides like the Phantom Fury, Sizzler and Tornado, to try their chances at carnival games or to see the world's largest rat.

"This is a tradition for us," said Steve Zamdrycki of the Huntsville Fire Department who attended the festival with his wife, children and their friends.

"We like to come out here on Thursday night and have fun on



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SLIDE FULL OF FUN— Seven-year-old Hayden East, left, and her cousin Julie Norman, 9, both of Huntsville, slide down the giant slide on opening night at Oktoberfest. They were at the festival with their aunt, Tina Bragg of New Market, who works in the PM TMDE office. Hayden is the daughter of Stephanie East and Julie is the daughter of April East, who works at Research Development and Engineering Center.

rides like the Tornado."

That fun continued into Friday night and throughout the weekend. Teenagers and partygoers of all ages enjoyed the festival's nightly activities, including the local rock band 4 Door Rambler, while many families brought their children during the day to ride kiddie rides, make take-home projects at the Home Depot tent and play games.

See Fest on page 10

Fest

continued from page 8

Seven-year-old Hayden East and 9-year-old Julie Norman slid down the big slide several times while their aunt, Tina Bragg of PM TMDE, watched. Eight-year-old Austin Keel of Huntsville tried his skill at Climb The Ladder in hopes of winning a stuffed toy, 8-year-olds Griffin Schrimsher and Cody Sitton had a great time crashing into each other as they drove the bumper cars, and 5-year-old Mikala Galvin, the daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Reginald and Linda Galvin, took her balloon for a ride down the sack slide.

Three-year-old Dylan Summers, the son of Sgt. Jerry Summers, enjoyed the slower pace of the kiddie train while pre-teens Diamond Merritt, Taijase Merritt, Courtland Parker and Dallin Woodley, all of Huntsville, hoped they were tall enough to

ride the speedy Sizzler.

Angela and Hilario Lugo of Decatur laughed as they watched their sons manhandle the prizes they won while playing Fish-Till-U-Win. Six-year-old Raoul had a big plastic Superman while 3-year-old Matthias carried a Spiderman that was nearly his size.

Five-year-old Cody Brooks of Hazel Green said his favorite ride was the "big strawberry ride," better known as the Berry-Go-Round. But his family was able to convince him to take a break long enough to make a flower pot holder in the Home Depot tent with his sister, 14-year-old Shelby, and his mom Donna Brooks.

"We've been coming out here ever since Shelby was little," Donna Brooks said.

Gail Henson of Grant had no trouble keeping her grandson, 8-year-old Blaine Brown, off the rides. He wanted to spend his time in the Home Depot tent



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TASTY TREAT—Asia Walker, 8, of Madison, bites into a funnel cake she is enjoying with 11-year-old Delietric King of Harvest as they listen to entertainment in the Papa John's Fest Hall Tent at Oktoberfest. Asia is the daughter of Renata Walker of Logistics Support Activity; and Delietric is the son of Dominique Christopher of Aviation and Missile Command.

making a tool box.

"I get sick on the fast things," he said. "I like building best."

"We've had a great time," added his grandmother.

Connie Perry of Owens Cross Roads had a good time, too, at the festival. But he probably wouldn't have attended if it hadn't been for his grandson, 2-year-old Jessie Perry.

"I had no reason to come to something like this until I got my grandson," he said, as he helped Jessie off the Merry-Go-Round. They then went on to ride the kiddie boats and the kiddie dinosaurs.

While the Perry family was beginning a new tradition at Oktoberfest, the Miller/Anderson family was continuing a long-running tradition with 8-year-old Landon and 2-year-old Griffin Anderson.

"We come every year," said Rena Anderson, who works for the United Way of Madison County and whose mother, Cathy Miller, works at NASA.

"This is a tradition for us to meet grandma here. The kids love all the rides. We only have to pay one admission price and we get to have a ball. There's something for everyone here."

While her sons love the rides, Anderson has the most fun under the fest hall tent.

"I love a good oompah band," she said. "I love the Chicken Dance. We are a mother/daughter polka team."

After the kids rode the kiddie rides, Anderson and Miller headed over to the Papa John's Fest Hall Tent, where they met their friend Tracy Young and her husband, retired Lt. Col. Gary Young. The couple, who met each other while serving in the military in Germany, are both members of Huntsville's German Club.

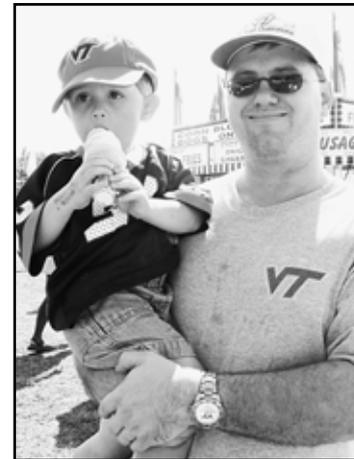


Photo by Kari Hawkins

FESTIVAL FAVORITE—Richard Laube, 3, of Huntsville, enjoys an ice cream cone at Oktoberfest while carried by his dad, Paul Laube, a contractor. Richard's mom, Lisa Laube, works as a contractor in support of the Missile Defense Agency.

During an earlier performance of the Chicken Dance, Tracy Young was called out by the band for trying to do the dance where she sat.

"I had just gotten my bratwurst and I couldn't just leave it," she said. "So, I was doing the Chicken Dance in my seat. That got me in trouble with the band."

As the band started up again, the Anderson/Miller/Young party were looking forward to polka dances and, especially, the Chicken Dance.

"I can't sit still when they play German music," Tracy Young said. "I clean house to German music."

Nearby, 11-year-old Delietric King and Asia Walker, 8, were enjoying the music, too. But they were more interested in the funnel cake they were sharing.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HAMMER TIME—Blaine Brown, 8, holds onto his tool box as his grandmother, Gail Henson of Grant, pounds a nail into its side. Brown preferred the Home Depot building projects to the rides at Oktoberfest. "I get sick on the fast things," he said. "I like building best."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SERVICE WITH SMILE—Angela Grimes of Sherman Concessions serves up nachos and cheese with a smile at one of the concession stands at Oktoberfest.

Young students see engineering at work

Huntsville Center has annual event

By ANDREA TAKASH

Huntsville Engineering and Support Center

The Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville participated in the sixth annual Adventures in Engineering Day Sept. 20.

The event was geared for high school juniors who are interested in pursuing college degrees in science and engineering. More than 150 students from Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, Limestone County and Arab high schools attended.

Huntsville Center employees, Tommy Hunt, the Geographic Information Systems team leader; and Scott Rider, an Ordnance and Explosive safety specialist, volunteered to teach the students about locating munitions.

“After a brief explanation about unexploded ordnance and the equipment we use to locate the munitions, we set the kids on a path with a magnetic locator called a schonstedt to locate buried timber spikes. Their mission was to locate the items and mark the area with a flag,” Hunt said. “I think they really enjoyed the hands-on-experience. I stressed to them the importance of pursuing a career field that they like because they will spend one-third of their life at work.”



Photo by Andrea Takash

TEAM LEADER— Tommy Hunt, Huntsville Center's Geographic Information Systems team leader, explains his professional background to area high school students during Adventures in Engineering.

The Space and Missile Defense Command, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Marshall Space Flight Center, Missile and Space Intelligence Center, and Junior Achievement of Northern Alabama also participated.

Missile defense system passes flight test

The Missile Defense Agency on Sept. 1 successfully completed an important exercise and flight test involving the launch of an improved ground-based interceptor missile designed to protect the United States against a limited long-range ballistic missile attack.

MDA director Air Force Lt. Gen. Trey Obering announced the flight test results will help to further improve and refine the performance of numerous Ground-based Midcourse Defense elements that will be used to provide a defense against the type of long-range ballistic missile that could be used to attack an American city with a weapon of mass destruction.

The interceptor missile was launched from the Ronald W. Reagan Missile Defense Site, located at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. For this exercise, a threat-representative target missile was launched from the Kodiak Launch Complex, Kodiak, Alaska.

The exercise was designed to evaluate the performance of several elements of the Ballistic Missile Defense System, and mission objectives included demonstrating the ability of the Upgraded Early Warning Radar at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., to acquire, track and report the target warhead, and also to assess the performance of the interceptor missile's rocket motor system and exoatmospheric kill vehicle. The exoatmospheric kill vehicle is the component that collides directly with a target warhead in space to perform a “hit to kill” intercept using only the force of the collision to destroy the target warhead.

Initial indications are that the rocket motor system and kill vehicle performed as designed. Program officials will evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test. Although not a primary objective for the data collection flight test, an intercept of the target warhead was achieved. The test also successfully exercised a wide variety of components and subcomponents as part of the evaluation of system performance, including improved missile silo support equipment, booster/kill vehicle separation, kill vehicle sensor cooling, kill vehicle orientation and positioning and several more.

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense system has interceptor missiles deployed at Fort Greely, Alaska, and at Vandenberg AFB. Other components of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense include the upgraded Cobra Dane radar in the Aleutian Island chain of Alaska and the upgraded early warning radar at Beale AFB. A forward deployed air-transportable X-band radar is stationed in Japan, and several Navy Aegis-class cruisers and destroyers with the advanced SPY-1 radar have been modified for integration into the command control, battle management and communication element of the ground-based interceptor system. The new Sea Based X-band radar mounted aboard a large sea-going platform will be integrated into the system later this year, and for this exercise it was used to track the target missile as part of its ongoing radar calibration process. (*Missile Defense Agency release*)

Wise choice for young children and their parents alike

Kids play together, parents also bond at ChildWise

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Three-year-old Jazmyn Jackson's brother is 11. While he is at school or doing homework or playing with kids his age, Jazmyn is left to entertain herself.

Except, that is, on Tuesdays or Thursdays, when her mom has the time to take Jazmyn to ChildWise on Redstone Arsenal. There she and other children play on toddler size playground equipment, run with a large ball, swing and slide, make crafts and share snacks together.

"We try to make it at least once a week," said Jazmyn's mom, Rosa Jackson.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TICKET TO RIDE— No matter how hard he tries, Anthony Jimenez, 3 1/2 can't seem to push the car that his friend, Jack Henry Doty, 4, wants to drive. Two-year-old Pierce Sword doesn't know how to help. With a little help from an adult in straightening out the wheels, Anthony is able to push the car across the playground. Anthony is the son of LOGSA employee Edward and Denise Jimenez, Jack Henry is the son of Air Force Reservist Shane and Suzanna Doty, and Pierce is the son of JAG Soldier Jim and Valerie Sword.

"It's a nice environment. The kids play really well together. And, we moms can

See **Child** on page 13

Family looks forward from back defect

Child with spina bifida living active life

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY
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Among the blood tests a woman undergoes while pregnant are several designed to detect birth defects and medical conditions, such as Down syndrome and spina bifida. While most have heard of Down syndrome, many know little about spina bifida unless they are affected by it directly. Trish Switzer and her husband, Lt. Col. Mike Switzer,

were no exception. They learned about it from their doctor seven years ago.

Spina bifida is an opening in the spine, exposing the spinal cord and nerves. There are three different types. Occulta, in which there is no opening in the back itself, is just a gap in the vertebrae. Many people who have this kind never know or experience any symptoms. In the meningocele variety of spina bifida, the spinal cord is pushed through the vertebrate opening like a bulging sac. The most severe variety, called myelomeningocele, is when the spinal cord and nerves come

through the opening in the spine. Without the protection afforded by the vertebrae, damage to the spinal cord occurs through normal movement and exposure to the womb environment, according to the Spina Bifida Association.

During a routine ultrasound exam, doctors found indicators that something was wrong with the Switzers' unborn baby girl. Their baby had myelomeningocele which commonly leads to full or partial paralysis, learning disabilities and bladder/bowel control problems.



Courtesy photo

ANOTHER DAY— Sarah, 7, enjoys a fairly normal life with her parents, Lt. Col. Mike and Trish Switzer. She was born with spina bifida, an opening in the spine.

See Family on page 16

Child's play isn't just for kids at ChildWise

Child

continued from page 12

keep an eye on them when they are playing. We've only been here three months, so it's nice to have a playground like this and kids for Jazmyn to play with."

Nestled under trees behind on-post apartments on Nike Road, the house where ChildWise is located is kid friendly. A fence surrounds the outside playground where there is a toddler-size castle, playhouse, dinosaur, jungle gym, play cars, a merry-go-round, swings, slides and picnic tables.

Inside, the ChildWise house has been converted into rooms filled with toys, mats, blocks, a cooking center and play areas. The walls are covered with kid-friendly artwork including bears and a horse with a rainbow. There are parent-friendly sayings painted on the walls, too, such as "Our beautiful children ... the little people who make it all worthwhile" and "Parenting with love and loving to Parent."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

CALMING MOMENT— Rebekah McMullan gives her 22-month-old daughter Reagan a comforting kiss to make her feel better after a tumble on the ChildWise playground. McMullan is holding her 2-month-old son Jake on her lap while her 2-year-old daughter Rachel plays nearby. McMullan's husband, Air Force Maj. Jeff McMullan, works in missile defense.

"The ChildWise program encourages bonding between different children and gives parents an outlet to meet other parents, share ideas and make friends themselves," said Esther McDaniel, coordinator of ChildWise, which is offered through the Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program.

Recently, more toddler-sized playground equipment has been added to the ChildWise environment, both inside and out. New equipment was put together with the help of volunteers from the NCO Academy.

"We've been getting in new things so the kids have more equipment to play on and more ways to play," McDaniel said.

All that new equipment is needed for a program that is popular with parents and their children. On a recent Tuesday, about 20 children were in attendance with their mom or dad. About 25 families are signed up to use the ChildWise service.

The parents and children who attend ChildWise playtimes are often the spouses of Soldiers, some who are deployed. ChildWise can help keep parents from feeling isolated after moving to a new post or after being left to raise the children while their spouse is deployed.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PLAYGROUND FUN— Moms Alisha Collins, left, and Talitha Workman, talk together as they watch over several toddlers playing around the jungle gym during playtime at ChildWise.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TOPSY-TURVY TIME— Four-year-old Hayden Ottum has fun hanging upside down from the jungle gym at ChildWise during a Tuesday morning playtime. Behind him is 3-year-old Jazmyn Jackson. Henry is the son of retired Staff Sgt. Dennis and Meagan Ottum, and Jazmyn is the daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Kurtrell and Rosa Jackson.

"Primary caregivers need the support of other parents who have been through a similar situation to let them know they can do it and that their feelings are natural. The parents and children they meet through ChildWise can really be a good support system for them," McDaniel said.

Rebekah McMullan often brings her three children to ChildWise. Her family moved to Huntsville in April when her husband, Air Force Maj. John McMullan, transferred with his job in missile defense as part of base realignment and closure.

ChildWise is a great way for a mom with three children under the age of 3 to get out of the house and relax a bit in the friendly environment of other moms of toddlers and babies, she said. She has met several other moms new to the area, including Talitha Workman, wife of Staff Sgt. Gary Workman and mom of 3-year-old Annabelle, and Alisha Collins, wife of Spc. Nathan Collins and mom of 3-year-old Scheeli and 22-month-old Bronwyn.

Collins' family moved to Redstone Arsenal about six weeks ago from Kansas. Army Community Service provided Collins with information about ChildWise.

"The first thing we did when we got here was come to ChildWise so that I could meet other moms and the kids could play," she said.

Meagan Ottum is one of the group's repeat moms, having brought her oldest son to ChildWise on her husband's tour of duty at Redstone Arsenal about four years ago. After leaving for two years, she and her family have returned to live in Harvest, with her husband, retired Staff Sgt. Dennis Ottum working at Redstone Arsenal for AEPCO. These days, she brings her two youngest children to ChildWise.

"My eldest son Dylan is now 6 and in school, but my other two children (4-year-old Hayden and 19-month-old Ellie) still play at ChildWise," Ottum said. "It's good for the kids not in day care because it gives them other kids to play with."

While the moms talk, the children run and play. Anthony Jimenez and his buddy, Jack Henry Doty, spent a recent Tuesday morning trying out all the playground equipment. They and two other boys — Hayden Ottum and Daniel Irizarry — used the equipment for their own brand of imaginary play.

"Hurry, let's get in here before the dragon gets us," Daniel yells at his friends as he climbs into the turret of a play castle.

"There's the dragon!" he says, pointing to a dinosaur nearby.

But, seeing the dinosaur makes the boys shift gears from playing "castle" to playing "dinosaur."

"Let's go to the purple dinosaur," Anthony yells.

The boys yell "Yeah" and all four run to the dinosaur, jumping on its back to go for a ride.

"All aboard!" Anthony yells, switching play to "train."

Anthony's mom is not surprised that his imagination changed the dinosaur and a big plastic caterpillar into trains. The family recently visited the Long Island Railroad in New York partly because of Anthony's fascina-

tion with trains.

"I've been bringing Anthony here since he was 18 months old," said Denise Jimenez of her now 3-year-old son, whose dad, Edward Jimenez, works for Logistics Support Activity.

"Tuesday and Thursday mornings are a time to share and play with friends."

Nearby, Robert Crawford is pushing a swing for 22-month-old Bronwyn Collins.

"Be careful, Robert. Watch her while you are pushing her," directed Robert's mom, Jessica Crawford, wife of Chief Warrant Officer Robert Crawford II.

As the children and their parents move inside for snacks and craft time, two moms — Meagan Ottum and Rosa Jackson — are talking about the weather.

"Is it cold here?" Jackson asks.

"It's not too bad," Ottum replies. "There's no snow on the ground. It goes by fast."

Other moms congratulate each other on losing weight after childbirth and share stories about the trials of raising babies, toddlers and preschoolers.

During craft time, the children work with all kinds of medium — paper, paint, glue, clay and other items — to make things like trains, caterpillars, hats, mobiles and tie-dyed T-shirts.

As its coordinator, McDaniel helps parents supervise the children, prepares the craft and snacks for the day and provides assistance to keep playtime running smoothly.

"I enjoy having a place like this for the children to run and play. And, I enjoy seeing the moms bond with each other, establish relationships and help each other. It's really heartwarming to see the mothers helping each other with their children."

ChildWise is open from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. It is located at 1412 Nike Road. Parents and their children can become a part of ChildWise at anytime. They should bring a copy of their children's birth certificate and immunization record. For more information, call 876-5397.

Turning 70 like day at the beach

Birthday honoree has creative friends

Alice Foster's co-workers took her to Florida for her 70th birthday. Well, not exactly.

But they did decorate her cubicle with plenty of beach-related stuff to draw memories of the Sunshine State. Foster, a senior analyst with Data Inc., a contractor for Cargo Helicopters Project Office, was surprised when she came to work Thursday at building 5678. Actually, her birthday was Friday but the women of the office did their handiwork the day before because some have Fridays off.

"We have some creative people in this room," said Foster, who loves going to Florida.

Thanks to her co-workers, she was already there.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CHEERS— Senior analyst Alice Foster enjoys visiting the Sunshine State in the comforts of her cubicle on her 70th birthday.

Traditional missile becomes weapon of choice

Former TOW project manager recounts lessons learned

By DAN O'BOYLE

For the Rocket

With its venerable history and combat-proven record as a backdrop, the Von Braun Center's North Hall was filled to capacity recently as TOW alums and current missile system supporters gathered in reunion.

One of those alums, retired Col. John Weinzettle, reflected on his two years as TOW project manager.

"I was the Javelin PM in the summer of 2001, and we merged PMs in August 2001," Weinzettle said. "During that time we fielded the Improved Target Acquisition System to war fighters in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom."

It was also during the former project manager's tenure that the TOW Bunker Buster and the TOW Aero debuted.

"It was important that we were able to field these two new weapon systems to support the Global War on Terrorism operations," Weinzettle said. "TOW is a great system that has evolved over time. The TOW Bunker Buster and the TOW Aero provide new capabilities never envisioned before."

He also praised the Close Combat Weapon System Project Office for helping sustain the international sales market.

"The wartime utility of the TOW was quickly realized, and we ended up firing more than 3,000 missiles," he said. "Because we had a strong pro-



Photo by Dan O'Boyle
John Weinzettle

duction line, we were able to continue buying missiles and replenish our stockpiles, without needing to start a new system-development process."

In terms of the nation's earlier experience in Operation Desert Storm, the Army learned a valuable lesson. Specifically in 1991, TOW was primarily an anti-armor weapon. Now, it is used as a multipurpose weapon.

"As a result, we learned how to train Soldiers better," Weinzettle said. "We

learned that Soldiers need to actually fire missiles, and that we could not do all the training by simulation. We saw the utility of that training because the gunners who took down the house of Uday and Qusay Hussein.

"In an urban environment, you cannot bring in a 500-pound bomb, risking collateral damage. The TOW has become the weapon of choice for our light forces. You can guide that weapon to hit a door or a window, for example, keeping collateral damage to a minimum. What's more, TOW can be used to attack bunkers, buildings and caves, as well as armor targets."

Weinzettle also mentioned a major accomplishment.

"The Improved Target Acquisition System was one of the first life-cycle, performance-based logistics efforts," he said. "We actually used that initiative to support OEF and OIF Soldiers, keeping all equipment at a high operational rate. That is an effort that had not occurred before."

"That's another example of a great project effort and a model for how things should be done, in terms of evolution and keeping things affordable."

■ Spina bifida focus of October awareness month

Family

continued from page 13

"They used nonmedical terms like lemon-shaped head and banana sign in the brain," Trish said. "It made it hard to search for information with terms like that, but we were able to put it all together."

Doctors recommended that they terminate the pregnancy and start over. Had they taken that advice, Trish believes they would have been giving up more than just Sarah.

"We conceived quickly and easily with Sarah," she said. "We've never been able to have another child. If we had terminated, that might have been the only chance we had to have children."

Instead, they began studying the condition and seeing what their options were. They were told by their doctor that a hospital in Philadelphia was doing experi-

mental surgery to correct the problem while the baby was still in utero.

"We found out they were also doing it at Vanderbilt and they had done more of them," Trish said. "Children's Hospital in Philadelphia had done the surgery, but hadn't delivered any of the babies yet."

Vanderbilt University Medical Center agreed to do the surgery. Sarah would be its 51st operation. Doctors would lift Trish's uterus from her abdomen, cut it open and attempt to repair the tiny baby's spine. While everything to this point was scary, Trish said she was not afraid of the surgery or its risks.

"I just didn't feel like anything was going to go wrong. I just knew it was going to be OK and it was," she said.

Their story made national headlines with a story in Life Magazine's December 1999 issue. The photo accompanying the article, of a doctor seeming to hold the

hand of the unborn baby, spread throughout the print and television news. Today, they lead a much quieter life at Redstone.

While Lt. Col. Switzer is stationed here, working within PEO Aviation, Trish serves as president of the Spina Bifida Association of Alabama. Its primary goal is to get as much information out to the public as possible. October is Spina Bifida Awareness month. To that end, SBAA is hosting a bowl-a-thon at Plamor Lanes on Leeman Ferry Road on Oct. 21 from 1-4 p.m. in an effort to raise awareness and funds.

"I think it's sad that spina bifida is equally as common as Down syndrome, but nobody knows anything about it," Trish said.

It is impossible to definitively say how much Sarah, now a first-grader, was helped by the surgery because the range and severity of disabilities caused by spina bifida vary on a case by case basis.

"You can have a hundred people with the same defect in the same spot on their

spine and they would all be different. It just depends on which nerves came out," Trish said. "We feel strongly that her hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain) was stopped by the surgery. She does have some, but it never created any intracranial pressure on her brain, which is what the real problem is with hydrocephalus."

What can be known for sure is that Sarah is doing great. While she must wear braces on her legs, she hasn't let them keep her from what she wants to do. Sarah horseback rides, swims, bicycles and has become quite a marksman while shooting targets. Her only complaint was that sometimes her physical limitations slow her down.

"It's hard to get around and you can't do everything that normal people do," Sarah said.

For more information on spina bifida visit the national web site at www.SBAA.org. To participate in the bowl-a-thon or to make a donation, call Trish Switzer at 325-8600.

Close-knit team running for the gold in D.C.

Redstone's Army Ten-Miler entry prepares for 22nd annual race

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

After Redstone's Brett Addington won the Tupelo, Miss., marathon early this month, his Army Ten-Miler teammates applauded.

Addington is among 16 runners who will represent Redstone Arsenal in the 22nd annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 8 in Washington, D.C. The team has been training since mid-August.

Half the team will compete in the all-comers category and the other half in the government agency division. This is a cross section of the Redstone community — including civilians, active duty and retired Soldiers. For the first time in years, the team includes a female Soldier.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WARMUP— Taking off on a group run are, from left, Steve Rice, Brett Addington, William Alvarez, Steve Solomon, Maj. Morris Bodrick, Tim Vinson, Nathan Graham, Maj. Chris Hackett and Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs.

"I think this team has an excellent chance of finishing first or second in all-comers, and I believe at least the top five in government agency," head coach Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs said. "It's a veteran, seasoned team. Any running team is more about the journey than the race. Just getting to know one another and all of us having a love of running, and just getting to represent Redstone. It's an honor and a privilege. And I'm just appreciative of the support from Col. (John) Olshefski, the Garrison commander, that he allowed us to field a team. And MWR (director) Derrick Gould. And AUSA, I thank the president Miss (Emily) Vandiver for the uniforms and everything.

"And we don't plan on coming home empty-handed," Hobbs added. "We plan on coming back

with something — win, place or show. I never ran on a team that didn't win, place or show in eight years."

Hobbs, of Headquarters & Headquarters Company 59th Ordnance Brigade, will compete in his eighth Army Ten-Miler and third with Redstone's team.

Among the other returnees is Addington, who works in the Integrated Materiel Management Center's Scout Observation Directorate. In his second year on the team, he won the Tupelo Marathon on Sept. 3 in

two hours, 50 minutes and 51 seconds.

"I was happy I achieved what I wanted to," Addington said.

Now he wants to help Redstone in the 10-mile race which begins and ends at the Pentagon. "I think we have a good chance of doing well in our category. We seem to be faster than last year," he said.

Nathan Graham, of Lower Tier Project Office, competed for Redstone from 1999-2003 until he missed the last two years because of medical problems. He looks forward to this year's race.

"We've got a real good, deep team," Graham said. "It's just exciting to get back and race in Washington."

Maj. Morris Bodrick, of Close Combat Weapon Systems, is in his fourth year with the team. "I think this year's team, we seem to be a lot closer," he said. "We've got some guys that have some good tryout times and we're going to be all right. We always compete well. And I think this is going to be a good year for us."

First-year member Tim Vinson is a



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LOOKING AHEAD— Members of Redstone's Army Ten-Miler team include, seated from left, Dale Cox, Maj. Chris Hackett, Nathan Graham, William Alvarez; and standing, Steve Rice, Alexander Steel, 1st Lt. Wade Preston, Tim Vinson, Brett Addington, Steve Solomon, Rob Jones and Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight. Not pictured are Randy McFarland, Maj. Morris Bodrick, Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs and Skip Vaughn.

recently retired major who works for the Product Manager Apache Sensors office. "I just feel honored to represent Redstone Arsenal in Washington, D.C., for the Army Ten-Miler," he said. "It's pretty cool."

The female member is Maj. Chris Hackett of Lower Tier Project Office. She ran on the Fort Leavenworth, Kan., team in 2003 and will compete in her fifth Army Ten-Miler.

"Next year I'd like to see a ladies team," Hackett said. "There are some outstanding women runners in the Redstone community."

Rob Jones, a Soldier in the 902nd Military Intelligence Group, will run his first Army Ten-Miler.

"I think it's great, good experience," Jones said. "I've always heard the Army Ten-Miler and Marine Corps Marathon are the two best things to do as a runner in the military. And so I'm really looking forward to it."

Other members of the team include Randy McFarland, Dale Cox, William Alvarez, Steve Rice, 1st Lt. Wade Preston, Steve Solomon; and assistant coaches Alexander Steel, Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight and Skip Vaughn.

Gators have too much bite for Alabama

Florida favored at home over Crimson Tide

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Skip's Picks went 84-27, 76 percent, for the first three weeks of the college football season. Here are my predictions this week:

- New Mexico at Air Force — **Air Force**
- Alabama at Florida — **Florida**
- Washington at Arizona — **Wash.**
- Oregon at Arizona State — **Oregon**
- Rice at Army — **Rice**
- Auburn at South Carolina — **Auburn**
- Arkansas Tech at North Alabama — **UNA**
- Kansas State at Baylor — **Kansas State**
- Boise State at Utah — **Utah**
- Brigham Young at TCU — **TCU**
- California at Oregon State — **Calif.**
- Louisiana Tech at Clemson — **Clemson**
- Colorado at Missouri — **Missouri**
- Virginia at Duke — **Virginia**
- Colorado State at Fresno State — **Fresno**
- Furman at Wofford — **Furman**
- Georgia at Ole Miss — **Georgia**
- Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech — **Va. Tech**
- Houston at Miami — **Miami**
- Illinois at Mich. State — **Mich. State**
- Wisconsin at Indiana — **Wis.**
- Ohio State at Iowa — **Ohio State**
- Kansas at Nebraska — **Nebraska**
- Miss. State at LSU — **LSU**
- Tennessee at Memphis — **Tenn.**
- Michigan at Minnesota — **Mich.**
- Navy at Connecticut — **Navy**
- Northwestern at Penn State — **Penn State**
- Purdue at Notre Dame — **Notre Dame**
- Rutgers at South Florida — **Rutgers**
- Stanford at UCLA — **UCLA**
- Temple at Vanderbilt — **Vandy**
- Texas Tech at Texas A&M — **Tech**
- Troy at UAB — **UAB**
- USC at Washington State — **USC**

HHC 59th rises to occasion in final

'Raise up' bunch beats NCO Academy for troop volleyball championship

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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HHC 59th lived up to its "Raise up" motto Thursday night.

The 59th, which advanced from the losers bracket, beat the NCO Academy in the post-season volleyball tournament final at Pagano Gym. First, the 59th won 25-13, 25-21; and then it took the title 25-18, 25-8.

"Just a lot of good teamwork, paying attention to what we're doing," 59th player/coach Jason Wryn said. "And that's basically it — just teamwork."

Leading the way in the final were Felix Knight, Bryant

Burdell and Damon Geist. "Those are probably the key ones that made key plays (Thursday night)," Wryn said.

Other members of the 59th team included Warnie Stokes, Chetoria Jackson, Greg Henderson, Jonathan McDougal, Billy Clark, Michael Ortiz and Darren Hester.

The 59th finished at 11-5 overall, including 5-1 in the postseason tournament. The NCO Academy finished at 8-6 overall, 2-2 in the six-team, double-elimination tournament.

Here are the postseason tournament results:

- **Sept. 11** — Headquarters & Alpha def. HHC 59th 25-16, 25-15. 326th Chemical def. Marines 25-18, 25-22.
- **Sept. 13** — Bravo def. 326th Chemical 25-21, 25-10. NCO Academy def. Headquarters & Alpha 25-20, 25-8.
- **Sept. 18** — HHC 59th def. 326th Chemical 25-21, 25-18. NCO Academy def. Bravo 25-18, 25-20. Headquarters & Alpha def. Marines 20-25, 25-16, 16-14.
- **Sept. 20** — HHC 59th def. Headquarters & Alpha 23-25, 25-18, 15-13. HHC 59th def. Bravo 27-25, 16-25, 15-11.
- **Sept. 21** — HHC 59th def. NCO Academy 25-13, 25-21 and 25-18, 25-8.

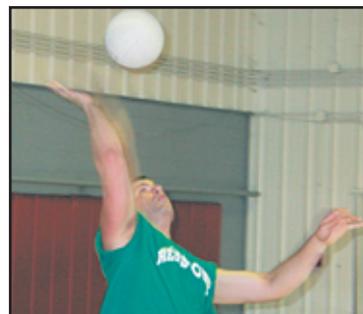


Photo by Skip Vaughn

GOOD SERVICE— HHC 59th player/coach Jason Wryn, serving during a win over Bravo Company on Aug. 16, sees his team win the championship over the NCO Academy on Sept. 21.



Sports & Recreation

Madison Police classic

The third annual Madison Police Foundation "Golf Classic" is Thursday with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. at the Links at Redstone. Proceeds benefit the foundation. For more information, call 679-2506.

Hunter safety

Outdoor Recreation is having a Hunter Safety Orientation this Thursday, Oct. 5 and 19, and Nov. 2 and 16. All classes will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711 on Aerobee Road. You must attend one of these classes to be eligible to hunt on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, call 876-4868 or 876-6854.

Youth basketball

Child and Youth Services' Sports is registering youngsters through Nov. 3 for the 2007 Youth Basketball League. Practices begin the week of Nov. 13. A preseason tournament for ages 7 and up will begin in December. League play starts in January and runs through February. Fees are \$45 plus \$18 CYS fee, if not already registered. The fee includes the uniform. Volunteer coaches are always needed and greatly appreciated. A current Sports Physical must be on file at CYS CER or presented at time of registration. Confirmation of a Physical appointment from Fox Army Health Center at time of registration is also acceptable.

Pineapple open

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold its 12th annual Pineapple Open Charity Golf Tournament on Friday at the Links at Redstone. The format is a four-person scramble with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The event is open to the public. The individual entry fee, which covers breakfast, lunch, golf and a cart, is \$50 for Morale Welfare and Recreation golf members and \$65 for non-MWR golf members. Sponsorships are available at various levels, and all proceeds from this event benefit the OCWC Welfare and Scholarship Committees. Last year, the OCWC returned more than \$5,000 in scholarships and donations to organizations and individuals on Redstone Arsenal and around Madison County. In addition, door prizes donated by local businesses will be awarded to participants. "If you aren't in the mood for golf that day but would still like to be involved, the club is seeking volunteers to help out with tournament activities," a prepared release said. For more information on sponsorships or participating individually in this fun day of golf, call Kirsten Germonprez 325-6967.

CFC golf tournament

The 2006 CFC Golf Tournament is 8 a.m. Oct. 27 at the Links at Redstone. Proceeds

will benefit the Big Oak Ranch. The format is 18 holes, four-person captains choice. It costs \$50 per person which includes the cart, greens fees and lunch. Entry cutoff is Oct. 20 with a 30 team limit. For information call tournament director Taylor Vinson 313-1196.



Conferences & Meetings

Aviation summit

Corpus Christi Army Depot is hosting the fourth annual Luther Jones Aviation Summit Oct. 18-20 at the American Bank Center, Corpus Christi, Texas. The keynote speaker on Oct. 18 is Gen. Benjamin Griffin, commander of Army Materiel Command, with Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of Aviation and Missile Command, scheduled to speak Oct. 20. The exhibit hall will feature an unmanned aerial vehicle static display. Detailed information, to include registration forms, agenda, and lodging information can be found at www.ccad.army.mil. Click on the fourth annual Luther Jones Aviation Summit block in the center of the web page to access information.

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel have Bible studies each Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. The morning Bible studies are at 9:30 a.m., the lunch Bible study at 11:30 a.m., and the evening Bible study at 6:30 p.m. Nursery care is provided for all Bible studies. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 489-3018 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

Toastmasters

Tennessee Valley Toastmasters meets the first and third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Radisson Inn, 8721 Highway 20 West, Madison. For information call 876-8706 or e-mail amy.donlin@us.army.mil.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Dave Jones, administrator, Crestwood Medical Center, is scheduled speaker. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows are invited to attend. For more information, call retired Maj. Steve Crawley 883-2323.

University women

American Association of University Women will have a dinner meeting Oct. 3 at the Bevell Center, University of Alabama-Huntsville. Social is from 5:45-6:30 p.m., and dinner — chicken \$17, vegetarian \$16 — at 6:30. Dr. Joan Williamson is to speak on "The New Skinny on Weight Loss." There are seats available for non-eaters. For more information, call Lois Guendel 880-8643.

See Announcements on page 19

Artillery defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association invites all active and retired ADA officers, members and friends of the association to its annual Dinner Dance Honoring the Army Air Defense Artillery Branch on Nov. 4 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The chapter will salute the Air Defense Artillery Branch and honor significant contributors to ADA through Order of Saint Barbara Award presentations. The scheduled speaker is Maj. Gen. Kevin Campbell, chief of staff for the commander of U.S. Strategic Command. The cocktail period begins at 6 p.m. with a pay-as-you-go bar. Dinner is served at 7:15. Dancing follows dinner. For those with special dietary concerns, an alternative vegetarian meal is available upon request. Cost is \$30 per person for members and their guests or \$60 per couple, and for non-members \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Payment options are either by check payable to ADAA RSA/HSV Alabama Chapter or by credit card against the RSA Club Card Account. Payment must be received by noon Oct. 24. No cancellations will be accepted after Oct. 27. Phone or e-mail your reservation by Oct. 20 to Janett Beasley 837-5282 ext. 1524, fax 830-0287, and e-mail Janett.Beasley@sparta.com.

Engineering society

IEEE Huntsville Section, Engineering Management Society will meet Thursday from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University of Alabama-Huntsville Engineering Building, conference room 258. Daniel T. Chang of Adtran Inc. is to speak on "Team Learning and Knowledge Creation." If planning to attend, call Sonya Hutchinson 544-3312.

Genealogical society

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. The topic is "Introduction to Family Tree Maker, Video." For information call 883-5650.

Parliamentarians

American Institute of Parliamentarians, Region 5, will meet Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. at Eleanor E. Murphy Library (Meeting Room), 7910 Charlotte Drive. There is no cost, but RSVPs are desired. Call 541-4395.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Elks Club, 725 Franklin St., north entrance. Professor Robert Scott Davis is to speak on "Defending Atlanta From itself, Col. G.W. Lee's 'Civil War' Against Subversion." The meeting is free; and visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 for \$6.95. Call 858-6191.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer Users Group will meet at 10:45 a.m. Oct. 14 at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Glenn Nettleton is to speak on digital photography. Preceding his presentation, HPCUG president Kevin Wangbickler and Ron Schmitz are to present a preview of Microsoft's latest version of its operating system, Vista. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 830-2232.

Science education

HATS-STEDTRAIN Committee will meet at 5 p.m. Oct. 3 at DMS Technology, 2905 Westcorp Boulevard, Suite 220. The committee's mission is to enhance K-12 science and technology education in the north Alabama-south central Tennessee area. Past year's activities and plans for the coming 2006-07 school season will be reviewed. Anyone interested in serving on the committee is welcome to attend. For more information, call 837-1391.

Federally employed women

You are invited to join the members of the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women for a networking matinee during lunch today at 11:15 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Have lunch and get to know other federally employed women who work at Redstone Arsenal and in the Huntsville area. For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Business leaders

Young Business Leaders for North Alabama, a group for men in business, will have its fall breakfast Oct. 6 at 6:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. Scheduled speaker is Jeff Struecker, the Humvee captain who went into Mogadishu and saved the pilots in the now famous movie "Black Hawk Down." The pilot that Struecker helped rescue, Mike Durant, lives in Huntsville and plans to attend. Cost is \$12 per person or \$96 for a table of eight. RSVP required by Oct. 2 by calling Bob Boerner 882-6003 or e-mailing ybl@arilion.com.

Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators and 42A human resources specialists. For 25B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt. 1st Class Harold Cook 876-8710 or Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. Go to www.gsaauctions.gov, search by State of Alabama; and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-4667.

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Carl Washington 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9-5 Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-12:45. The shop will be open Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10-2. It is now accepting fall/winter items. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

Water cooler refills

The Thrift Shop has begun to stock water cooler refills as part of its goal to raise more money to give back to the community. Water cooler replacement bottles, 5-gallon jugs, are available at good prices at the shop. For more information, call Christi Graves 881-6992.

Computer classes

Self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service to assist military spouses in learning or enhancing their computer skills. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Publisher and Windows XP. All classes are free and are offered Monday through Friday anytime between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Certificates will be given after successful completion. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

Chapel services

Weekly services at Bicentennial Chapel, on Goss Road, include: Weekdays (except Friday) - noon Catholic Mass. Saturday — 5 p.m. Catholic Mass. Sunday — 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, 10:45 a.m. CCD, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, 11 a.m. Protestant Worship Service. Many Bible studies are throughout the week. For information call 876-2409.

Merit awards

Don't stop thinking about tomorrow in continuing your education for a brighter future. The Officer and Civilian Women's Club's Merit Award Program is here to energize you to be all you can be and aim high in pursuit of your education. Merit Award application forms will be available at all OCWC monthly luncheons, the Redstone Arsenal Education Center and Army Community Service. Applicants for OCWC Merit Awards must be a member, spouse or the dependent of a member in good standing as of Oct. 17, 2006 to be eligible. Merit Awards are based on the applicant's scholastic achievements, citizenship and desire to pursue higher education. Applicant categories include: one, High School/GED — Must be a graduating high school senior or have obtained a



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Sweet deal

Adrian Baker and Andrea Mattox, both of Morale Welfare and Recreation marketing, visit the Sparkman Center to cultivate support for the Sept. 21 half-price day in the cafeterias, which was sponsored by the Civilian Welfare Fund. Workers expressed udder delight.

GED; two, College — Must be pursuing an undergraduate/graduate degree; and three, Member, Dependent or Spouse — Must be pursuing an undergraduate/graduate degree. Applicants must live within a 50-mile radius of Huntsville. The deadline for OCWC Merit Award consideration is Feb. 3. Remember that previous winners may compete in succeeding years; however, they may only win once in each category. In addition, students receiving full scholarships (defined as a scholarship that covers tuition, books and related expenses) are not eligible to apply for a Merit Award. Applicants must provide proof of enrollment in an accredited college or vocational school prior to April 13, 2007. For more information on the Merit Award Program, call K.C. Bertling 325-0490, or e-mail samnkc@knology.net.

IMMC picnic

The entire Integrated Materiel Management Center family is invited to the 2006 IMMC Fall Festival Picnic on Oct. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area. There will be food, games, live entertainment and sporting events throughout the day. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children (under 12). Tickets may be purchased by calling Eric Cowan 313-1572 or Jan Pickard 842-6625.

UAH alumni benefit

"Alumni bucks" will be the medium of exchange at the annual UAH Alumni Association Casino Night fund-raising event Saturday at Huntsville Country Club. Proceeds will benefit the association's scholarship and program funds. Everyone is welcome. The event begins at 7 p.m. and also includes a buffet supper and silent auction. Items up for bid include a collectible Honda 1974 CL125 Scrambler motorcycle, dinner for six at the home of Maj. Gen. Jim and Becky Pillsbury, an original watercolor by Janet

Rocket Announcements

Milly, a three night ski package including lift tickets at Peek'n Peak Ski Resort, Findley Lake, N.Y., as well as a host of local services ranging from restaurant dinners to grooming for Fido. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased at the Alabama Credit Union, Regions Banks, at the Alumni Office, 300 Shelbie King Hall on campus; or from alumni board members. Or, purchase online at www.uah.edu. Click on "alumni association." The non-profit association serves more than 25,000 University of Alabama-Huntsville graduates and awards grants and \$30,000 in scholarships annually.

Union web site

AFGE Local 1858 invites everyone to visit its web site at www.local1858.com. Besides information regarding labor issues, the web site has many useful links to include MyPay, Army Benefits Center, Thrift Savings, RFCU, etc. The union is open to suggestions for improving the site. Call 876-4880.

Meal fund-raiser

The Hyun's Korean Garden Restaurant will donate 10 percent of gross sales earned during the week of Oct. 3-8 to the Combined Federal Campaign. The restaurant is located at 7500 South Memorial Parkway in the Main Street Shopping Village. For more information, call K.C. Bertling 876-1195.

Diabetes walk

The American Diabetes Association is sponsoring a Walk for Diabetes, themed "Together We Will Find a Cure," on Sat-

urday at UAH-Lakeside. Check-in time is from 8:30-10 a.m. Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion are encouraging Team Redstone personnel to walk for the cure. Every 21 seconds someone is diagnosed with diabetes. A study of about 2,900 adults with diabetes indicated those who walked at least two hours a week had a 39 percent lower risk of death from any cause than adults who didn't walk at all. People who walked more — at least three hours a week — had a 54 percent lower risk of death from any cause. Another study found that walking for 30 minutes per day is twice as effective as the prescription drug Metformin in preventing diabetes, according to a Fox release. "Please join us for the Walk for Diabetes on Saturday, Sept. 30," the release said. There will be a fitness and wellness festival along with free health screenings and free vendor promotional items. Also, along with children's activities, breakfast and lunch will be provided. You may register individually or as a work group team directly with the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org/walk or (888) DIABETES. The local ADA representative is Doris Lewis 539-4404.

Employment briefing

The Federal Employment Briefing is designed to give an understanding of the federal application process. A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct this session Thursday from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Topics will include recruitment sources,

Resumix procedures, candidate evaluation and the referral process. Call ACS at 876-5397 to reserve a seat.

Newcomers' orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation on Oct. 10 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338 on Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

Missouri-Rolla scholarship

The North Alabama MSM-UMR Alumni Section announces its annual scholarship to prospective students who intend to enroll at the University of Missouri-Rolla. This is an annual \$1,000 renewable scholarship that is contingent on the student maintaining a 2.75 grade point average. Any prospective UMR student desiring to apply for this scholarship and who meets the UMR qualifications for admission should begin the process by contacting either the UMR Office of Admissions, 106 Parker Hall, 1870 Miner Circle, Rolla, MO 65409, phone 1-800-522-0938 (toll free) or 573-341-4166 (direct), e-mail admissions@umr.edu or Cathy Tipton at crowell@umr.edu. Prospective students can learn more about UMR at www.umn.edu.

Youth transition expo

The Youth Transition Expo, a resource information fair for teens with disabilities, will be held Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Children's Rehabilitation Service, 3000 Johnson Road in southwest Huntsville. For more information, call Rita Cobbs 1-800-283-9352.

Home alone class

Child and Youth Services is holding a Home Alone class for ages 10-13 today from 4-5 p.m. at the ChildWise building, 1413 Nike St. This class will include discussion on Internet safety, taking telephone calls, handling visits from strangers, activities to do when home alone, and preparing snacks and meals. There is no fee to attend this class. Youth must be registered in Child and Youth Services in order to attend. For more information, call 313-3609.

CID recruitment

The Army Criminal Investigation Command is responsible for investigating felony-level crime of Army interest and is headquartered on Fort Belvoir, Va. The Redstone Arsenal Criminal Investigation Division is currently screening and recruiting prospective applicants. CID applicants must meet strict qualification standards. The minimum qualifications for a Soldier to become a special agent are to be 21 years old; have at least two years of military service and not more than 10; have a General Technical score of at least 110; meet the Army physical fitness standards; and be on active duty with a rank of spe-

cialist or higher. Applicants should also have two years or equivalent of college; six months military police or one year of civilian police experience or no police experience, but able to successfully complete a six-month internship with a CID unit. After a demanding 15-week training course at the Army Military Police School, special agents spend their first year as apprentice agents and must agree to a service obligation upon completion of the CID Special Agent Course. Applicants are not accredited until successful completing the apprenticeship. Those interested should call special agent Patrick Jones 876-9682 or Richard Browning 876-2037 or visit building 3623.

Security awareness week

All AMCOM, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, PEO Aviation, and Missile Defense Agency employees are invited to fulfill their annual security awareness training requirement by attending the AMCOM G-2 Security Awareness Week from Nov. 6-9 in Bob Jones Auditorium. This year's theme is "Protecting Your I's from Thieves (Information and Identity)"; and it will focus on protecting professional information and personal information from identity thieves. Signers for the hearing impaired will be available at the 1-4 p.m. sessions on both Nov. 6 and 8. Any security related business that would like to set up a display during the week, or for more information, call Susan Bradshaw 842-6552.

Travel security

Employees traveling on official or unofficial business outside the continental United States are required to receive a country specific threat briefing within 60 days of their departure, according to Army Regulation 525-13. Employees are also required to complete annual Antiterrorism Level 1 training whether or not they are traveling OCONUS. This training can be accomplished either online at <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/> or received from a certified Level II instructor. This requirement includes Department of the Army civilians, contractors and military. For more information, contact your local Force Protection Office.

Counseling opportunity

The Directorate of Human Resources, Army Substance Abuse Program, Garrison will provide a special employee assistance counseling and training opportunity today from 9-11 a.m. at building 3301 auditorium. For more information, call Ruby Turner 842-9895.

Civil War re-enactment

The 51st Alabama infantry will provide a "living history" of a Confederate soldier's life in the 1860s Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the park at the Clay House Museum, Main Street in Madison. The public is welcome; and admission is free. For information call Robin Brewer, director of Clay House Museum, 325-1018.

9/11 documentary

After multiple requests from the public, the Huntsville Museum of Art will offer one final showing of the 9/11 documentary film "In Memoriam: New York City, 9/11/01" on Sunday at 2 p.m. in the art museum's Great Hall. This film viewing is in coordination with the opening of the

