

Redstone Rocket

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Redstone energy tab surges to \$4M



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Quality assurance engineer Patrick Holmes, left, and energy manager Mark Smith, both of the Energy Management Office for the Garrison, stand in front of generators which supply backup power for one of Redstone's tenants.

More incentive to save power

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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How would you like to get a \$4 million utility bill?

Redstone's electric bill for July from the Tennessee Valley Authority was a whopping \$4,070,793 and 83 cents. Energy manager Mark Smith of the Garrison confirmed that this was probably Redstone's largest monthly utility bill ever – “until we get August” – but it doesn't compare with previous bills because the rate schedule changed this year.

“You're opening up a can of worms when you start comparing them to previous months because we're on a time of use rate schedule,” he said. “That means that during the summertime, during specific times of the day, we spend more on energy than we might do for the wintertime. It's more expensive in the summertime during the peak times than it is in the wintertime during your peak times, so

your summer bills are going to be higher.

“July of last year we weren't on the time of use rate, so we changed rate schedules. We just started this FY (fiscal year) on the new time of use rate schedule.”

Redstone officials hope the \$4 million bill will serve as an incentive to conserve energy.

“That's a bunch of money,” Smith said. “But this time of use rate schedule is conducive to energy savings. It incentivizes us to save because of the higher rates during those specific time periods. It incentivizes us to save during those (peak) times, and to do load shifting. That means if you're consuming energy during the peak periods – 1 to 7 p.m. (in the summer) – if you can shift the task to a time period that's off of that peak, then we can save demand charges on that bill.”

Last year's total utility cost for Redstone Arsenal amounted to about \$53 million. That fiscal 2010 price tag included \$29.7 million for electricity, \$2.7 million for gas, \$17.4 million for steam, and accompanying expenses for water and sewage.

The bills are paid out of the Garrison budget from the Installation Man-

agement Command, but ultimately of course by the taxpayers. Each month, the Tennessee Valley Authority charges for power. And the Defense Energy Supply Center manages a contract for Redstone with BP, or British Petroleum, for natural gas. Redstone buys steam from Huntsville's Solid Waste Disposal Authority.

The utility cost can fluctuate from year to year because of two factors: how much energy is consumed, and the price of the commodity. Both attributed to last year's more than \$6 million reduction from 2009.

“We saved a good bit on our steam through a project we did,” said Smith, whose office is in the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works. “But I think the price fluctuated too somewhat on electricity.”

Redstone's energy conservation goal is to reduce consumption 3 percent annually, based on a baseline year 2003. That's mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independent Security Act of 2007.

But the reasoning for energy conservation goes beyond federal statutes and executive orders.

See Power on page 7

CENTER STAGE

Mary Wilson, an original member of the legendary Supremes, performs on Women's Equality Day.

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AT EASE

Redstone Rocket cartoonist Jim Boroch is featured in a new book, “The Best of Military Cartoons.”

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HELPING HANDS

The Combined Federal Campaign celebrates its 50th year.

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WIN OR LOSE

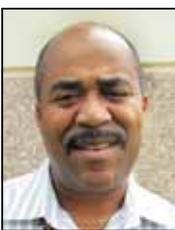
See who's favored for the first weekend in college football.

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RocketViews

What's your favorite comic strip?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Mike McSwain
AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center
"I guess it would be Spider-Man. I used to read the comic books and see the little cartoons and stuff.

And then they made the movie. One of my favorite characters, I guess."



Lisa White
Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center
"Probably 'Family Circle.' Because I can relate to so many of the things they write about in it with the kids and all."



Andrew Swindle
Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center
"I guess I'll go with Dilbert. I really never look at comic strips. It's honestly one of the only ones I really remember. If I look at a newspaper I tend to

read it. It's not normally stupid humor, I guess. If I were to look at all the comic strips in a newspaper, it's one I'd typically read."



Anner Lynch
SMDC/ARSTRAT
"I think Blondie. It just keeps my attention. The other ones don't."

Letters to the editor

Army civilian spouses eligible for ID card

Since there is a commute to work, I would like to carpool with my wife to save gas. But, after checking with MILPO and both Visitor Centers, I have been told there is no way to obtain an ID card for my spouse that will allow her to drive on the Arsenal to pick me up. I have a CAC (Common Access Card) and work in the Sparkman Complex. There are many DA civilians with spouses who have such IDs, so how can I get one for my wife?

Gary McPherson

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for your question concerning the issuance of Department of the Army Civilian Identification cards. We apologize for any eligible spouse who was turned away from receiving a card and the appropriate corrections immediately implemented. In accordance with the

Garrison commander's policy, spouses of Department of the Army civilians are authorized to be issued a DA Form 1602 (Department of the Army Civilian Identification) card which will allow them access to Redstone Arsenal. To obtain a card, please go on the web at <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil> (click on "make appointment"; select state - AL; select city - Huntsville; select building 3494 MPD; select date on calendar; select time; and complete your personal information) to schedule an appointment with the MILPO, building 3494. This website is dedicated for CAC card appointments only, but we'll service any other type of card requested through the appointment system. Sponsor must accompany spouse and must bring the following documents: sponsor's CAC card, marriage certificate, and spouse must have a picture ID. For additional questions on eligibility, please call 842-2413."

Concertgoer didn't appreciate singer's comments

I had the great pleasure of attending the recent Blues Festival on Redstone Arsenal. The weather was perfect, the crowd was enthusiastic, and the music was excellent. Five groups played. The first four were outstanding. Then the feature act came on - Leela James. It was the first time I had heard the lady sing and she was not too bad, if you like the Milli Vanilli thing.

What really stuck in my mind, and it

is still stuck in there, were the comments she made to the crowd after only performing a few songs. She told us that she was going to have to cut her performance short because she had other places to go and (I quote), "besides they ain't paying me all that much."

Well, Miss James, I must tell you that I took great offense at that remark as did most of the other people around me in the

crowd. Although what they did pay you to perform was obviously not up to your standards, I am quite certain that you make lots more than the Soldiers who were risking their lives for their country even as you Milli Vanilled your way through a 30-minute show. You said this was your first time on a military base. Let us hope it was your last.

Chuck Shadle
Huntsville

Newspaper's return pleases volunteer

Thrilled to be able to pick up copies of the *Redstone Rocket* again. I said "copies" because my husband, who volunteers at the Veterans Museum on Airport Road, always makes sure copies are available at the museum for the public. The *Rocket* has always been a part of our military connection, so kudos and thanks to the hardworking staff for always doing such an outstanding job.

Demy D. Robley
Community volunteer

'A Short Welcome Back Poem' for the Rocket

Redstone Rocket, Redstone Rocket.
I'm sorry you were out of pocket.
We missed going to the stands.
I'm one of you major fans.
I loved reading about Redstone community.

In and around the vicinities.
You've been through storms after storms.
We've embraced you with open arms.
We're glad you're back, in the community, for all to see.

Not charging a fee.
Professionalism and dedication to your staff standing tall
We welcome you back, with a smile, and joy by all.

Rosie Douglas
Redstone employee

Quote of the Week

Just a daily reminder to assist us in maintaining our daily vigilance. Vigilance is key for detecting or preventing potential plots. Everyone is a vital sensor, keep your head on a swivel and avoid complacency. By doing these little things we can continue making Team Redstone a hard target thus keeping our work force and families safe.'

— Daniel W. Huber
Antiterrorism program manager, Garrison

RedstoneRocket

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Building 5681 safety assured for occupants

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Occupants of building 5681 can breathe the easier now.

The precautionary test on employees who exhibited symptoms of pneumonia or respiratory illness were completed and the results were negative for legionella. Samples that were collected from building 5681's cooling tower also tested negative.

"We are confident that there's no connection between legionella and 5681," Rusty Weiger, deputy program executive officer for aviation, said during a press conference Aug. 24. "And PEO Aviation is back to operation as normal."

Independent tests, analysis and assessments were conducted by medical experts from the Southern Regional Medical Command and Winn Army Community Hospital (Fort Stewart, Ga.). Those results also returned negative for legionella.

Redstone officials were informed Aug. 4 that a Program Executive Office for Aviation employee in building 5681 had

been diagnosed with pneumonia for several weeks and had his diagnosis revised to Legionnaires disease.

Immediately after finding out the employee's Legionnaires diagnosis, Fox Army Health Center was contacted and conducted testing on 5681's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system, a common place for legionella bacteria to reside. Additionally, the entire building was inspected for any conditions that could be conducive to the growth of the legionella bacteria. The test results came back negative, the building was cleared for occupancy, and PEO Aviation resumed normal day-to-day operations.

Several days later it was brought to the command's attention that there were a few employees that had experienced upper respiratory type symptoms. As a precaution, those employees were advised to be tested for Legionnaires immediately to rule that out. All employees' test results came back negative.

"We find nothing to link legionella to the building," Scott Bentley, regional industrial hygienist for the Southern Regional Medical Command, said.

Throughout the investigation PEO

Aviation, in partnership with the Garrison and Fox, held town halls with building 5681's more than 500 employees to advise them of the situation, allay fears and allow for questions and answers. Additionally employees were granted liberal leave as a precaution until the test on the building was completed. Fewer than 20 took the optional liberal leave which was subsequently lifted and operations returned to normal within the building.

Maj. (Dr.) Shannon Ellis, chief of preventive medicine at Winn Army Community Hospital, said eight employees got a urine test and all were negative. "There were only two pneumonia cases and they were negative," he said.

Building 5681, the home of PEO Aviation, was built in the mid-1940s and has served as an office facility for a number of years. The building has the normal maintenance issues associated with its age, according to Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Building 5681, home of the Program Executive Office for Aviation, was built in the mid-1940s and has served as an office facility for a number of years.

Ongoing projects over the next months include life-cycle replacement due on some components of the air-conditioning system, and repairing some leaks in the roof.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Gary Yates

Job: Deployment point of contact for AMRDEC, employed by contractor Wilks & Associates

Where do you call home?
Manchester, Tenn.

What do you like about your job?
It's helping people. That's my primary function really. It's to help and provide information to employees being deployed and traveling overseas.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to play golf, like to travel, and spend a lot of time cruising the Internet. One of my nicknames is 'dot com.' If you want to know something, ask Gary - 'Gary dot com.' And I'd have to add, spending time with my six grandkids (ranging from age 1 to 16). They are so much enjoyment for me. Also I'm an avid college football fan. My team is the Tennessee Vols. And lastly, I love the beach. We try



to go to the beach every chance we have.

What are your goals?

My goal is to continue to stay healthy, and plan for my retirement, so that my wife (Faye) and I can stay on the road nonstop.

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?

Staying healthy enough to see all my grandkids graduate from high school.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Aug. 18-24:

Aug. 18: When a civilian approached Gate 9, it was revealed that the Huntsville Police Department had issued a warrant for her arrest. She was released to Huntsville police.

Aug. 19: A contractor received violation notices for impeding traffic and driving under the influence on Patton Road.

Aug. 20: A family member reported that her truck was damaged while parked at the horse stables.

Aug. 21: A suspected counterfeit one hundred dollar bill was passed at the Exchange. Investigation continues by CID and U.S. Secret Service.

Traffic accidents reported: one with minor injury, three without injury.

Violation notices issued: 48 speeding, 1 driving under the influence, 1 impeding traffic, 11 parking violations, 6 handicap parking, 2 no driver's license, 4 stop sign violations, 2 expired tag, 3 no proof of insurance, 3 failure to use signal, 2 failure to observe traffic control device.

Soldier court-martialed for assault

A Redstone Soldier has been court-martialed for spreading the HIV virus.

Sgt. Brandon Clarett appeared before a general court-martial Aug. 18. He was found guilty of multiple counts of assault with means likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm. He assaulted his victims when he had unprotected sexual intercourse with them and did not first inform them of his positive HIV status.

A military judge sentenced Clarett to reduction to the rank of E-1, confine-

ment for 30 months and a bad-conduct discharge. He will serve his confinement at the Joint Regional Correctional Facility located at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. This new facility supports the relocation and consolidation of DoD corrections operations from Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Knox, Ky., and Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Following his release, Clarett will return to his home of record. (*Office of the Staff Judge Advocate release*)

Knowledge best defense against fraud

State securities commission works to inform against bad investments

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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Daniel Lord has a big warning for financial advisers in Alabama: If you or the investments you are selling are not registered with the Alabama Securities Commission, you are breaking the law.

Lord, the commission's education and public affairs officer, brought that message to the Financial Matters Workshop hosted by Army Community Service on Aug. 24 at the Officers and Civilians Club Overlook facility.

Although the law does not apply directly to investors, Lord said investors should ask their financial advisers about their registration with the state before they do business with them. It is one basic step that an investor can take to ensure their investments are protected from fraud.

Such registration "enhances the credibility of financial professionals and products," Lord said. "We have eight to 10 special agents who enforce the Alabama Securities Act and associated laws to protect the investors of Alabama."

That protection is much needed in an environment rife with fraud and securities violations, he said. Statistics show that one out of five people over the age of 65 are financially exploited. And no one – the rich or poor, the employed or unemployed, the young or the elderly – is immune to fraud.

"The propensity of securities fraud increases with position and financial well-being. All it takes is one mistake," Lord said. "To protect yourself from securities fraud, take the time to learn about products before you invest."

Success with investing relies on 30 percent knowledge and 70 percent discipline, he said, explaining that investors should ensure they don't make hasty investments in products that may look good at the time.

"Before you invest, check it out," he said. "If you don't understand what you are buying, then don't buy it. You've got to make your own decisions in this business."

Besides questioning a financial adviser's registration, investors should also ask questions about the suitability of an investment product, about whether an investment is better for long-term or short-term gains, about early withdrawal penalties and about risk involved in the investment opportunity.

"Everyone wants to know how to invest," Lord said. "There's no magic thing about



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Daniel Lord, the education and public affairs officer for the Alabama Securities Commission, makes a point Aug. 24 during the Financial Matters Workshop offered to the Arsenal community by Army Community Service.

investing where someone's going to give you a tip and you are going to get wealthy ... Study an investment on your own, and don't invest your life savings or your pension."

During the workshop, Lord reviewed actual fraud cases in Alabama, including the Daystar Church scandal in Prattville.

Those having questions about investing and securities fraud, can call the Alabama Securities Commission at 1-800-222-1253 or contact them by email at asc@asc.alabama.gov. Future Financial Matters Workshops are being planned by Army Community Service. Personal financial planning services are also available through Army Community Service, which can be reached at 876-5397.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation upcoming events include the following:

Oktoberfest 2011, presented by Papa John's Pizza, is Sept. 15-18 at the Redstone Activity Field. It's open to the public. There will be authentic German food, beverages, and music by Terry Cavanagh & the Alpine Express. The band plays that Thursday from 6-10 p.m., Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight, Saturday from 6 p.m. to midnight, and Sunday 2-6 p.m. Admission includes free carnival rides, free parking, and free entertainment. The Sports Tent will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday showing college and NFL football and other sports on five HD televisions. Admission is: Sept. 15 from 5-11 p.m., \$12; Sept. 16 from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., \$15; Sept. 17

from noon to 1 a.m., \$15; and Sept. 18 from 1-8 p.m., \$12. Tickets are available at the entrance of the festival. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit www.redstonemwr.com.

9.11K Run, brought to you by Woody Anderson Ford, is Sept. 10 at 7:30 a.m. at the Sparkman Center parking lot. Race day registration (\$20) is open to individuals with Redstone access. For more information, call 313-1201, 876-2943, 313-6091 or 955-7508.

Redstone Hunter Safety Orientation, a mandatory class for all new hunters, will be held Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and Nov. 15 at 4:30 p.m. The class is free. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 876-4868.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Collection site

Natalie Taylor, Exceptional Family Member Program manager at Army Community Service, and Dee Howard, with the summer hire program, organize donations for the Fed's Feed Families campaign. Donations are being accepted through today for the campaign. All donations will go to the Food Bank of North Alabama in Huntsville.

Catholic chaplain grateful for presence at Redstone

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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The call to the priesthood and chaplaincy with the Army has never been about Maj. Jose Herrera, but rather, the connection he can provide others to Christ.

“I’m able to be with people in good times and in painful times,” Herrera said. “I’m glad I can be there.”

Herrera arrived on the Arsenal June 30, to accept his duties as chaplain for the Expeditionary Contracting Command, as well as the Catholic chaplain at Bicentennial Chapel for the Garrison. Herrera will be promoted to lieutenant colonel in a ceremony Thursday at 2 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel.

Originally from Santa Fe, N.M., Herrera was ordained a priest in the diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands in 1989, after spending nearly five years there teaching. It was the experience of daily mass with the Carmelite nuns growing up in the Southwest that moved him in the direction of the priesthood. But it wasn’t until his favorite singer, Johnny Cash, released his album “The Gospel Road” that he knew that was exactly where God was calling him.

“It moved me spiritually,” Herrera said of Cash’s gospel music. “That was kind of like the confirmation. Out of the blue my favorite singer records a gospel album? It got me to say, ‘I need to do this.’ It set off a lifelong journey.”

The Army took that journey around the world. At the request of his bishop, Herrera joined the National Guard, which was in need of a Catholic chaplain, nearly two decades ago. And after six years of experiencing Army life, and thanks to much encouragement from active duty Catholic chaplains, Herrera made the decision to go active duty himself. Over the course of his Army career, he has served at Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Sinai, Egypt, Fort Lewis, Wash., Afghanistan, Vincenza, Italy, and today, Redstone Arsenal. He has moved beyond the typical realm of the priesthood – serving the faithful in a church – to serving right alongside them, wherever duty calls.

“We work side by side and rub shoulders,” Herrera said of his ministry. “The chaplain is there for them whatever the situation might be.”

Whether that’s preparing to jump out of a plane alongside his Airborne unit or waiting to move to another location



Photo by Ellen Hudson

“Really, our ministry of presence is the best thing we do, just being there for people,” says Maj. Jose Herrera, chaplain for the Expeditionary Contracting Command and the Catholic chaplain at Bicentennial Chapel.

in the mountains of Afghanistan, Herrera’s ministry is 24/7. He’s answered concerned parents’ phone calls in the middle of the night who haven’t heard from their young Soldiers in weeks, seen the look of relief on a Soldier’s face at the presence of a Catholic chaplain in the middle of a war zone, and heard the words “Thank you for being here,” from a grieving widow at a funeral. It is the greatest reward Herrera finds in his line of work – being able to be there when he is needed most.

“Those words for me, they reinforce your ministry,” Herrera said. “Really, our ministry of presence is the best thing we do, just being there for people.”

Herrera will split his time between ECC and Bicentennial Chapel, providing his presence and a listening ear in a confidential setting to those who need it and celebrating noon mass Monday through Thursday, as well as the regularly scheduled masses at Bicentennial on Saturday and Sunday. His move to Redstone excites him in respect to how far his ministry will be able to reach across post, as well as the world.

“We have Soldiers all over the world,” Herrera said of ECC. “What we do here, everything these folks do, is impacting people all over the world. What I do here is touching the Army all over the world, touching all the people who are helped by our guys.”

Customer feedback valued at the Redstone Exchange

Customer feedback plays an instrumental role in the Exchange's ability to provide great service while improving the overall shopping experience. Military patrons can play a part in this process by meeting Exchange managers to discuss daily operations and areas of improvement.

"Meet the Manager" is a program in which store and general managers are available to discuss Exchange operations with shoppers. The program seeks to gather information on products, services and any problems experienced.

One of the program's goals is to reduce the time and effort spent on processes while setting reasonable expectations. In order to meet the continuing demand for the best products and services, Exchange managers are eager to engage in one-on-one communication with those they serve.

"By placing a greater emphasis on customer feedback, we can work with shoppers to deliver a stronger benefit for all," Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "We want the best for Soldiers at Redstone Arsenal, and that starts with knowing their wants and need. The only way to do that is to proactively reach out and listen to community concerns."

All feedback and information gathered during "Meet the Manager" discus-



Courtesy photo

Members of the Exchange staff include, from left, services business manager Bradley C. Caldwell, human resource tech Madeline Kenney, general manager Loraine Arbo, computer operator Susan Hagen, military clothing sales services manager Leona Johnson and stockroom manager Troy Jessie.

sions is sent back to Exchange headquarters in Dallas and evaluated for possible future programs and execution.

A booth or area for discussion is designated at the front of all Exchange locations periodically in order for customers to easily recognize where to go to meet with various managers. Prior to the event, signs are posted in-store to alert shoppers when their next session will occur. The next event is scheduled Dec. 8 from 9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. at the Exchange.

For more information about the "Meet the Manager" program, call 883-6100. (*Exchange release*)

Power

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"Just being good stewards with the resources we have available to us, by saving the energy when we don't need it," Smith said. "When you don't need it, turn it off. If you don't need it full speed, slow it down."

Redstone's strategy includes trying to implement its energy conservation contracts through TVA. "We're doing lighting retrofits, HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) improvements, building envelope improvements (insulation and windows)," Smith said.

"But the biggest thing that could help us is for the organizations to simply conserve energy when they can."

This means workers should turn off the lights when they leave the office. And they should turn off their computer monitors when not in use; and shut off their computers for the nights and weekends. Turn off peripherals – such as coffee pots – when not using them. They can also conserve by using a network printer instead of a desktop printer. Laptop computers usually use

less energy than desktop computers.

"This time of the Army facing cuts, we need all the help we can get," Smith said.

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton explained the reasons for energy conservation's importance to Redstone.

"We've got to be smart about how we spend the taxpayers' resources. Utilities represent a huge percent of our budget," Hamilton said. "We also have a responsibility to preserve the environment as best we can."

Arthur Barnette, an electrical engineer for Chugach, has an old-school perspective of energy conservation. He has worked at Redstone since 1964.

"From time to time, you look at it, you'd like to know: Do we have an energy conservation program or is it an energy conversation program?" Barnette said. "Because sometimes it seems we like to talk about it more than we do it. For an energy conservation program to work you've got to start when you buy new pieces of equipment. It needs to be the most energy efficient available."

He later added: "Instead of saying it starts with purchasing, really energy conservation starts when you're designing it."

Stop! In the name of women's equality



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Mary Wilson sings during the Women's Equality Day program Thursday in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Original Supreme speaks on Women's Equality Day

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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While women's voices were speaking up in determination to be heard in the 1960s, Mary Wilson's was carrying a tune above them all.

"We dared to dream at a time when it really was an impossible dream to make our dreams come true," said Wilson, an original member of the popular recording group The Supremes.

For the 67-year-old "dreamgirl," she has spent the past five decades traveling the world and watching her wildest dreams come true. And for many members of Team Redstone, for an hour and half Thursday, their own dreams came true as they listened to the inspiring words and legendary voice of

a woman they themselves have looked up to since the 1960s. Wilson stopped at the Arsenal in the name of Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26, to celebrate the great strides that have been made in women's rights.

"To be three little black girls having achieved what we achieved in the '60s was quite an accomplishment," she said.

Wilson and fellow Supremes members Diana Ross and Florence Ballard were just 16 when they signed their first recording contract, rocketing them out of the Detroit projects and into stardom in the 1960s. Their first number one single, "Where Did Our Love Go," hit the top of the U.S. charts in 1964, the same year of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination against African Americans and women.

"We became divas and citizens all in that year," Wilson said.

See Equality on page 9

Equality

continued from page 8

The Supremes set the standard for success, forging the way for women as their musical talent gave way to 12 number one hits such as “Baby Love,” “Come See About Me” and “Stop! In the Name of Love.” When the group disbanded, Wilson continued to make a name for herself, performing on stage and screen, writing a bestselling autobiography, and touring the world, embracing the fans that have come to love her, and have made great strides toward women’s equality themselves. In 2010, 35 percent of the Department of Defense civilian work force was women, many of whom were in the audience Thursday, cheering on one of their idols.

“In all our travels we noticed there were no women that were CEOs or in the Army or Air Force,” Wilson said of the original Supremes’ travels across the globe in their heyday in the 1960s. “It’s amazing for me to see how far women have come. Thank you very much ladies for moving on up.”

After providing the backup vocals and a few dance moves to Wilson’s rousing performance of “Stop! In the



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Lt. Col. Martha K. Brooks, Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis and Ronnie Chronister join Mary Wilson as backup singers for “Stop! In the Name of Love.”

Name of Love,” AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister presented Wilson with a token of appreciation for her appearance at the packed

Bob Jones Auditorium.

“Every time you look at this, I hope it reminds you how you’ve helped this work force do a better job of support-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

This portrait of Mary Wilson was painted by the Outreach Art Contest winners and instructor John Moore of Butler High School.

ing Soldiers so they can come home and be with their families,” Chronister said.

Dunwoody: 'We truly are bidding farewell to an Army legend'



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Singing the Army Song are, from left, Army Materiel Command's commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody, incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald T. Riling and outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger.

AMC commander gives last salute to retiring senior enlisted Soldier

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Thirty minutes before AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger was scheduled to depart for the ceremony that would officially free him of the duty and responsibilities that made him the man he is today, Mellinger was hard at work, signing papers and doing everything he possibly could to serve the Soldier for one last time.

"It really hasn't sunk in," Mellinger said minutes before finding his seat of honor at his Change of Responsibility and Farewell ceremony Friday at Bob Jones Auditorium.

As he stood before a crowd of those whose lives he has touched over his four decades with the Army, and those who have touched him, a sense of recognition seemed to cross his face that his life as a Soldier was finally coming to a close.

"My time here is through," Mellinger said. "I'm filled with both pride and sadness."

In addition to handing his responsibility as Army Materiel Command's command sergeant major to incoming

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald T. Riling, Mellinger was bestowed the honors and accolades worthy of the sacrifices, hard work and sense of duty that has embodied his life since he was drafted into the Army April 18, 1972, including the Distinguished Service Medal and Gen. Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence.

"If you want to see the backbone of the Army, you don't have to look much further than right there... We truly are bidding farewell to an Army legend," AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody said.

One of the very last of those drafted to still be serving today, Mellinger never imagined 39 years ago that he would still be putting on the uniform, a chapter of his life that will come to a close on his official retirement date Dec. 31. A majority of that career was spent as a command sergeant major, teaching Soldiers and making a lifelong impact on them, thus crafting better leaders for the Army, a legacy Mellinger hopes will live on as he retires.

"That's the Command Sgt. Maj. Mellinger I've come to know," Dunwoody said. "Always teaching, always mentoring, always sharing what he knows with everyone."

Part of that distinguished service included his role as command sergeant major, Multi-National Force-Iraq, from August

See Legend on page 19

Whole lot of shaking going on during earthquake

American Red Cross says stay prepared

By the American Red Cross

A 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck the East Coast on Aug. 23 with aftershocks throughout the day. While reported damage has been minimal, it reminds us of how important it is to be prepared when disaster strikes.

Earthquakes strike suddenly, without warning, and they can occur at any time of the year, day or night. Forty-five states and territories in the U.S. are at moderate to very high risk of earthquakes, and they are located in every region of the country.

Are you prepared for a major earthquake? Stay safe with these earthquake preparedness tips:

Are you at increased risk from earthquakes?

- Contact your local emergency management office, local American Red Cross chapter, state geological survey or department of natural resources.

- Mobile homes and homes not attached to their foundations are at particular risk during an earthquake.

- Buildings with foundations resting on landfill and other unstable soils are at increased risk of damage.

Did you know? Doorways are no stronger than any other part of the structure. During an earthquake, get under a sturdy piece of furniture and hold on. This will provide some protection from falling objects that can injure you during an earthquake.

- Become aware of fire evacuation and earthquake plans for all of the buildings you occupy regularly.

- Pick safe places in each room of your home, workplace and/or school. A safe place could be under a piece of furniture or against an interior wall away from windows, bookcases or tall furniture that could fall on you.

- Practice drop, cover and hold on in each safe place. If you do not have sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.

- Keep a flashlight and sturdy shoes by each person's bed.

- Make sure your home is securely anchored to its foundation.

- Bolt and brace water heaters and gas appliances to wall studs.

- Bolt bookcases, china cabinets and other tall furniture to wall studs.

- Hang heavy items, such as pictures

and mirrors, away from beds, couches and anywhere people sleep or sit.

- Brace overhead light fixtures.

- Install strong latches or bolts on cabinets. Large or heavy items should be closest to the floor.

- Learn how to shut off the gas valves in your home and keep a wrench handy for that purpose.

- Learn about your area's seismic building standards and land use codes before you begin new construction.

- Keep and maintain an emergency supplies kit in an easy-to-access location.

If you are inside when the shaking starts:

- Drop, cover and hold on. Move as little as possible.

- If you are in bed, stay there, curl up and hold on. Protect your head with a pillow.

- Stay away from windows to avoid being injured by shattered glass.

- Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. If you must leave the building after the shaking stops, use stairs rather than an elevator in case there are aftershocks, power outages or other damage.

- Be aware that fire alarms and sprinkler systems frequently go off in buildings during an earthquake, even if there is no fire.

If you are outside when the shaking starts:

- Find a clear spot and drop to the ground. Stay there until the shaking stops (away from buildings, power lines, trees, streetlights).

- If you are in a vehicle, pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses and power lines if possible. Stay inside with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Then, drive carefully, avoiding bridges and ramps that may have been damaged.

- If a power line falls on your vehicle, do not get out. Wait for assistance.

- If you are in a mountainous area or near unstable slopes or cliffs, be alert for falling rocks and other debris. Landslides are often triggered by earthquakes.

- Let your family know you're safe.

If your community experiences an earthquake, or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well website available through RedCross.org to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.

For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit RedCross.org.

Rescue group tries to find forever homes for dogs

By **BETHANY MARBUT**
For the Rocket

Imagine the rest of your life filled with bottomless food and snacks, plenty of friends to play with, an amazingly loving family to mooch off of, and endless belly rubs. Sound like the life? Well, it is for a dog, at least! That's the life that little Barney is living now with his new family in Massachusetts, and it's quite a long way from where he was.

Barney, his three siblings (Pebbles, Fred and Bam Bam), and his mom, Wilma, found themselves in a rural shelter in North Alabama one day away from death. They were scheduled to be euthanized the next day. That could have been the end of that sweet little puppy's life until Friends of Retrievers Rescue stepped in to save him and his family.

Friends of Retrievers Rescue Inc. is a local 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving the lives of all breeds from local area animal shelters. Friends of Retrievers Rescue was originally started to help place golden retriever mixes that local golden retriever rescues were not able to take into their programs. Over time, the rescue has expanded to taking all breeds – everything from Giant Schnauzer to

Chihuahua mixes. After all, every dog is a "Friend of Retrievers."

FOR is a small group – consisting of very few volunteers, all of whom work very hard to save as many dogs as possible. A common misconception is that rescues have a shelter or facility to house the dogs; but FOR, like most other rescue groups, is a foster home-based organization. This means that all of the dogs rescued by FOR are placed in foster homes until they find their FORever homes.

Due to much stricter spay and neuter laws in the Northeastern United States, New England does not have the animal overpopulation problem that the South does. FOR has been working diligently since its creation in 2009 to help get dogs adopted in the North. Dogs are only adopted out to screened adopters, who must first complete an application. Friends of Retrievers' goal is to make sure the rescued animals, who were clearly not committed to the first time around, never have to endure the stress of being abandoned, rescued and re-homed again.

More than 5 million cats and dogs are euthanized in the United States each year, and only 25 percent of animals in Alabama shelters leave alive. Huntsville Animal Services director Karen Hill

Sheppard said her department euthanized 5,600 of the 9,000 animals that went through her shelter last year because adoption and rescue efforts simply couldn't keep up. The general public is becoming more aware of these issues from education efforts made by local rescues and shelters and therefore it seems more people are choosing to adopt through rescues and shelters instead of supporting breeders.

Rescue is very expensive. In fact, in 2010 Friends of Retrievers spent more than \$26,000 in vetting alone. This does not include the cost of dog food to feed dogs while in foster care, or the cost of their preventative medicine such as flea and heartworm prevention.

Being a small rescue, FOR's funds are extremely limited. Adoption fees, which range between \$200 to \$225 per dog, help cover vetting expenses. However, they often do not cover the entire cost spent on each dog with vetting, food and prevention medication. This year, the organization has taken in many heartworm positive dogs, as well as pulling many puppies from shelters that have contracted Parvo – a both very expensive and potentially deadly illnesses to treat. FOR works to raise money throughout the year and relies heavily on donor support. No donation is too small, as even \$10 can help cover dog food for a foster dog.

Friends of Retrievers will be having a rummage sale Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 from 7:30 a.m. to noon at 213 Oakwood Ave. in Huntsville. If you would like to make a donation to the sale, please email us at forrescueal@gmail.com. All donations



Photo by Elizabeth Nixon

Barney sits with Claire Nixon, left, and Claire's sister, Madeline.

are tax deductible. Please shop at the sale, as all proceeds will go to help rescue dogs in danger of euthanasia!

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please check out Friends of Retrievers' website at www.forrescue.net, where donations can be made via PayPal. Check back on the website as it is still under construction. In addition, the group is always looking for volunteers to simply open up their homes to a dog in need of a foster home – this helps save a life and there is no cost incurred by the foster home. FOR's adoptable dogs can be seen on Petfinder at <http://www.petfinder.com/pet-search?shelterid=AL309> and Adopt-A-Pet.com.

Editor's note: Bethany Marbut is a logistics management specialist in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space logistics staff.

Contracting leaders examine Civil War challenges

Chickamauga battlefield site for Army staff ride

By **ART FORSTER** and **MIKE WEITZEL**
Army Contracting Command

Approximately 25 senior leaders from the Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command learned how contracting actions affected the Civil War Battle of Chickamauga.

They participated in a staff ride to Chattanooga, near the battlefield, Aug. 17-18. Jeff Parsons, Army Contracting Command executive director, and Mike Weitzel, ACC historian, led the team-building visit.

The Army staff ride combines studying a battle or campaign from history by traveling to the site where it took place and examining how the decisions and outcomes of that battle affect today's operations.

This trip provided the group a firsthand opportunity to understand and appreciate the challenges of wartime contracting and the importance it played in the battle that marked the end of a Union offensive in southeastern Tennessee and northwestern Georgia. The battle was the most significant Union defeat in the Western Theater of the Civil War and involved the second

highest number of casualties in the war following the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Confederate Army of Tennessee under Gen. Braxton Bragg fought the Union Army of the Cumberland under Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans, to the west of Chickamauga Creek, which flows into the Tennessee River about 3.5 miles northeast of downtown Chattanooga. Although the Confederates were technically the victors, driving Rosecrans from the field, Bragg did not achieve his objective of destroying Rosecrans, nor of restoring Confederate control of East Tennessee. Union forces retreated to and successfully defended Chattanooga. The next spring, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman would use Chattanooga for his base as he began his march to Atlanta and the sea.

Staff ride participants experienced and studied the serious logistical challenges faced by both sides. The staff ride incorporated maps, historic narrative and actual railroad and riverboat experiences to show that although Union supplies had to travel much longer distances, skillful use of railroad and water transport assured Rosecrans' troops had what they needed. Confederate supply depots and transport lines were more often interdicted by Union forces and less capable of delivering need-



Courtesy photo

ACC historian Mike Weitzel, left, briefs fellow staff riders at the Chickamauga battlefield near Chattanooga.

ed food and ammunition.

The Civil War review provided the staff ride participants the opportunity to learn about the development of Army contracting. Union Army contracting officers and appointed civilian officials secured the necessary supplies from citizen merchants, farmers and livestock owners. The staff ride looked at some of the first congressional legislation governing Army contracting.

They also examined some of the

unique difficulties faced by their contracting predecessors. Civil War contractors used telegraph and physical letters for communications, hand wrote contracts, and found the U.S. Treasury Department paying contractors with special war certificates or promissory notes that would not be redeemed for years by the new American government.

The battle also underscored the importance of technology in combat. Though heavily outnumbered, a Union brigade using new Spencer repeating rifles and another brigade using Colt repeating rifles allowed for an orderly withdrawal from the battlefield. The Spencer, with an internal seven-round magazine, could fire as many as 21 rounds per minute compared to three muzzle-loaded rounds by an infantry Soldier using a standard musket.

The staff ride participants walked the ground where these repeating rifles showed their technological prowess versus superior numbers. This provided the final lesson of the staff ride when participants put the contracting, transportation, communications and logistics lessons together to see the importance professional contracting officers played in the Battle of Chickamauga.

Cartoonist tickles funny bone with new book

Jim Boroch publishes
Pvt. Hazard collection

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

Pvt. Hazard is about to become even more famous.

Jim Boroch's weekly comic Pvt. Hazard is included in his newly-published book "The Best of Military Cartoons!" along with five other comics.

The book was published by GIPubs.com, located in Madison, and owned by retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Gerecht. It took about six weeks to be

printed, a fast turnaround time for most books, because the content already existed and just needed to be placed, Boroch said. The book is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/GiPubs> and soon will be sold at Exchanges worldwide.

"The publisher already has a professional military books section to fill so even though this is a new type for them, it will be out there soon," Boroch, an operations specialist at the Army Security Assistance Command, said.

He has been drawing Pvt. Hazard since 2003. While stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, Boroch saw an ad asking for a new cartoonist. The idea for Pvt. Hazard was born with five cartoons that he submitted. Since then Boroch has brought Pvt. Hazard to his various duty assignments. The cartoon runs in Redstone Arsenal's *Redstone Rocket*, the *Mountaineer* at Fort Carson, Colo., and the *Monitor* at Fort Bliss, and totals 55,000 subscribers.

"I never thought I wanted to draw comics," Boroch said. "I used to draw a lot but never had a clear path. I was just drawing what inspired me at the moment."

Now that inspiration is used to create Pvt. Hazard's weekly adventures. Boroch works on

See Hazard on page 15

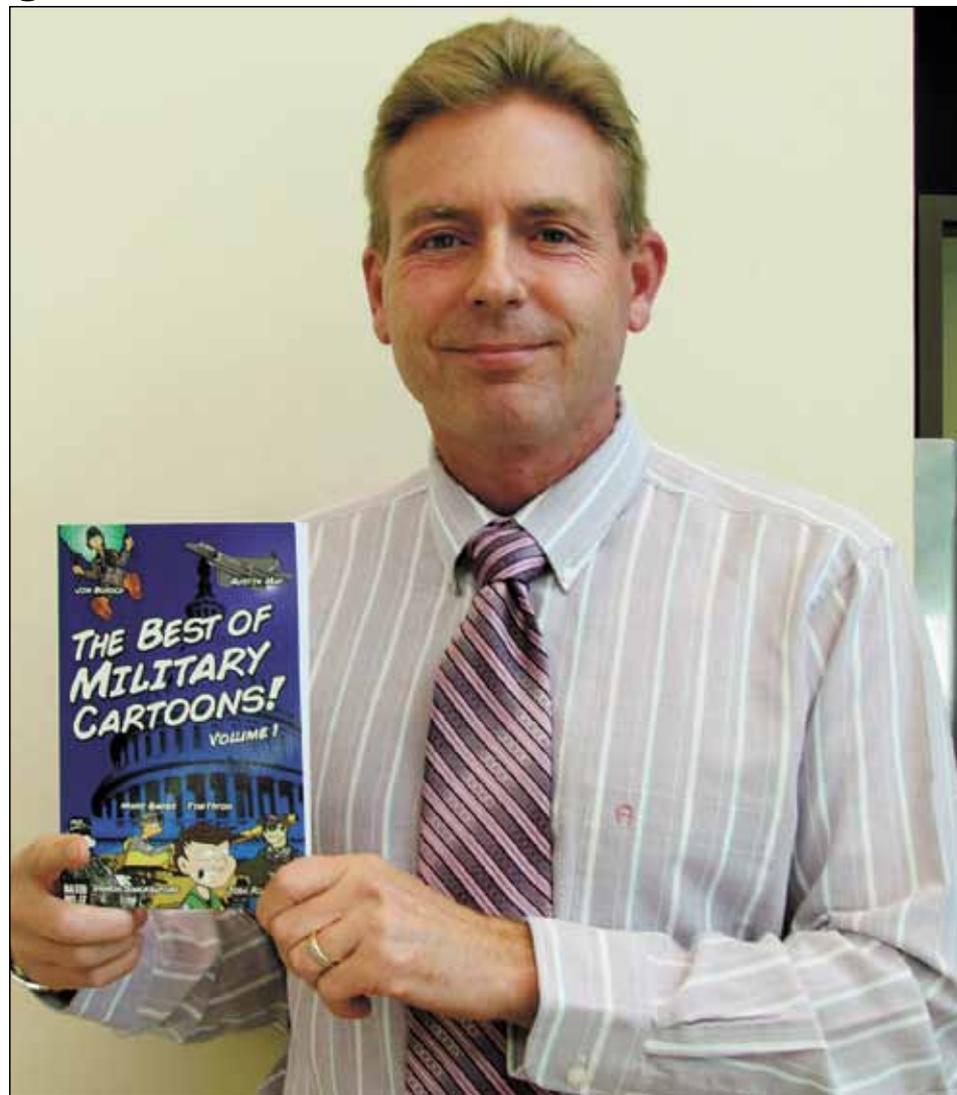
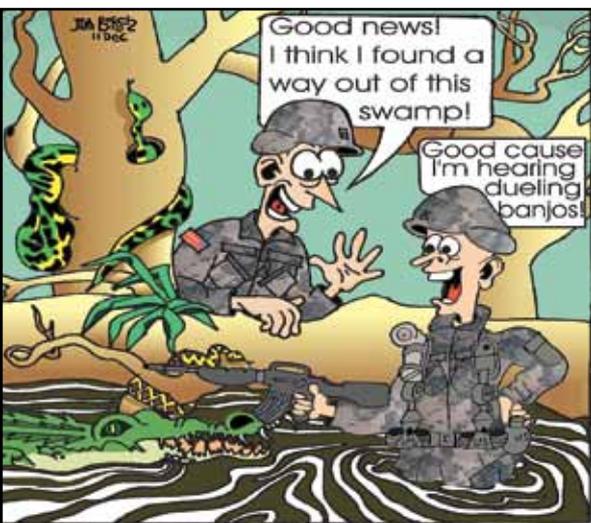


Photo by Megan Cotton

Jim Boroch, an operations specialist at USASAC and a retired chief warrant officer 4, draws the Pvt. Hazard comic strip in his free time.

Hazard

continued from page 14

the comic for about 6 to 8 hours each week, and has done so every week since 2003. He said most of his inspiration comes from his 28 years in the Army, things he hears in meetings or conversations with co-workers.

“Sometimes it’s more difficult and I have to brainstorm with my wife Hope,” Boroch, a retired chief warrant officer 4, said. “She’s a good indicator of if something is funny or not, like if she doesn’t laugh immediately I know I need to keep thinking.”

“It’s funny walking through different areas and I’ll see a number of Pvt. Hazard cartoons up in people’s cubicles. It’s a nice indicator that I’m reaching out to people’s funny bone.”

Boroch said it wasn’t always easy to know what would work and what wouldn’t. He learned over the years what editors liked and what they didn’t.

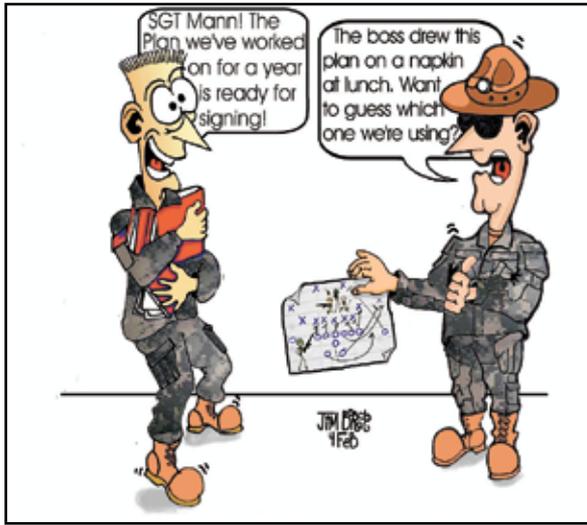
“You have to appeal to everyone without stepping on anybody’s toes, so you have to find the fine line between funny and acceptable,” he said.

As for his other lessons learned, Boroch explained that he still has a constant struggle with finding a good black pen.

“I can’t seem to find a pen I like. I’ve tried just about every type there is out there and they all seem to turn out gray when I scan them in,” he said.

Pvt. Hazard has been published in the *Redstone Rocket* since Boroch moved to Huntsville in 2007.

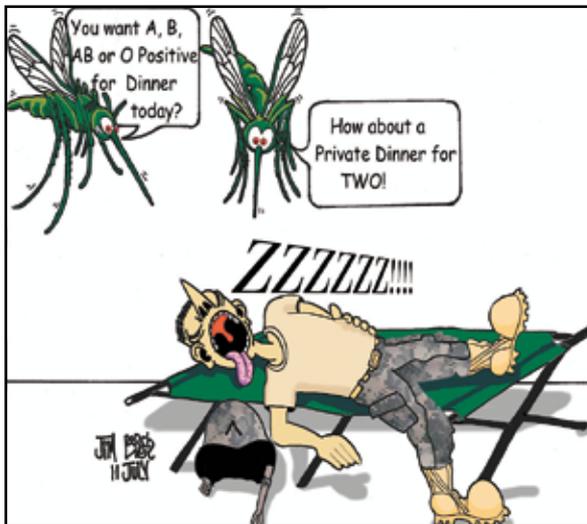
“Jim Boroch is one of the best military cartoonists ever,” *Redstone Rocket* editor Skip



Vaughn said. “His cartoons illustrate his unique blend of humor and artistic skill that transcends the military ranks, entering the realm of entertainment for everyone.”

Boroch said he will continue drawing Pvt. Hazard for his military newspapers and if sales of the first book are strong there will be a volume two.

“As long as fans continue to enjoy him I’ll keep putting him out,” Boroch said. “He will never get a promotion though.”



Redstone taxi service continues rolling

The shuttle service on post has ended with the departure of the Ordnance school to Fort Lee, Va., but the taxi service continues.

“The shuttle service has been discontinued since Aug. 2 for the Soldiers,” Charles Brown, lead dispatcher for contractor Chugach, said.

“The taxi service is still operational from the hours of 8-4 Monday through Friday. And the phone number is 876-2261. We need some riders,” he added.

This free service is available “anywhere on post as long as it’s official business, from one government facility to another,” Brown said.

Chugach taxi driver Norris Holley has been among the drivers since 1989.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Chugach taxi driver Norris Holley has been among the drivers since 1989.

“I really think it’s vital to the community for moving people from building to building,” Holley said of the service.

Patriotism on display in every thread, stitch

Huntsville art museum exhibits quilts of the World War II era

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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Behind every quilt there is a story. That popular saying definitely applies to a quilt exhibit now on display at the Huntsville Museum of Art. The exhibit's 20 quilts, made by U.S. quilt makers during the mid-1900s, tell a story that goes well beyond the quilt as a historical textile art form.

These quilts tell the story of the nation's patriotism, sacrifice, hope and service during some of the darkest days faced by the U.S. and its allies.

"Blood, Thread & Tears: World War II Quilts" is an exhibit pulled from the private collection of quilt maker, author and historian Sue Reich of Connecticut. It was brought to the museum with the assistance of the Heritage Quilters of Huntsville.

"This display is especially important to us because we want to honor not only World War II veterans but also the women who supported them," Carol Faraci, the museum's deputy director, said. "This is a new collection of art by American women that shows what women and girls did for the war effort. Those women stayed at home and worked in factories. Their quilts were a labor of love, and may have even helped them with their mental and emotional state during a very trying time."

Between 1941 and 1945, American women made quilts in record numbers as gifts for their servicemembers, for use by the Red Cross overseas, and as raffle quilts to raise money for the war cause while their sons, husbands, brothers and loved ones were on the battlefield. For 60 years, many of these quilts were packed away in attics and trunks. They are just now resurfacing as both men and women of "The Greatest Generation" pass away, and their children and grandchildren rediscover the quilts that meant so much all those years ago.

"It's important to have an exhibit of textiles and an exhibit of textiles that designate a period of history that is so important," Christopher Madkour, the museum's executive director, said. "We are delighted to present this historical collection of World War II-era quilts that bring to life both folk art and patriotism. Museum visitors are sure to enjoy these artful treasures in time, and we are grateful to Ms. Reich for sharing them with us."

Many of the quilts in the exhibit are designed in the patriotic colors of red, white and blue, and include the "V" for victory symbol, made famous by England's Winston Churchill during the war. Some include the names of servicemembers, military symbolism and actual artifacts from that time.

"This is a very sentimental exhibit," Faraci said. "Women made quilts for their sweethearts, brothers and sons, whoever was at war at the time. There are symbols of patriotism throughout. Most of the women who made these quilts are not known. But we do know a little about their history from the quilts they left behind."

One quilt made by a music teacher in Kentucky includes squares embroidered with the first stanza of patriotic songs, including America, Home Sweet Home, Call Out The Navy and The Star Spangled Banner.

"The handwork on the quilt top is amazing," Faraci said. "How she made the notes is really something to me."

Another quilt includes silk fabric panels that carry the V symbol and the words "Quiet Please Night Shift War Worker Sleeping."

"Workers would hang these silk panels from their door knobs or place them on their doors when they were sleeping," Faraci said. "This quilter took the panels and put them in a quilt along with other fabrics she had on hand. Back then, they used whatever they had to make a quilt."

There's also a Victory Garden quilt with wreaths of embroidered flowers shaped in Vs, a quilt



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Carol Faraci and Christopher Madkour talk about the features of an Army/Navy E quilt that is part of the "Blood, Thread & Tears: World War II Quilts" exhibit now at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Though contemporary in style, the quilt is representative of the patriotic quilts made during the World War II era. Behind them is a quilt made from Navy insignia patches.

The hand pieced, hand quilted and hand embroidered Star of Hope quilt is inscribed with the words "MADE FEB. 1944 BY MOTHER." The quilt maker is unknown.

Courtesy photo



See Quilts on page 18

Family success hits soft spot for patriarch

Jeffersons set example of old-fashioned values

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

When Archie Jefferson talks about his family and the success of his five children, he gets emotional.

And, at those times, his wife, Debra, gives him a quiet, knowing smile and, often, a gentle touch.

She understands how her husband feels. They've been married for 27 years, many of which were spent raising an Army family that includes five children.

But these days, Jefferson is very much in civilian life, retired from the Army and enjoying the additions of grandchildren while working at the helm of the family business.

"They say you're supposed to leave your children something when you pass away. This is what I'm leaving," Jefferson said, referring to J's Special Occasions Event Center as he talks to a visitor about his family philosophy.

He may not realize it, but Jefferson and his wife, who works for Army Community Service, will leave their family with so much more someday. Besides a thriving business, the couple's children and grandchildren have learned from this father-mother team what it takes to be happy and successful – dedication, compassion, discipline, resiliency, determination and the importance of education.

Because of those life lessons, Jefferson and his family were singled out in the front cover story on old-fashioned family values appearing in the July-August issue of *Radar*, a local business and entertainment magazine that spotlights business owners, pastors, churches and prominent individuals who are making a difference in the community.

"When I was in the military, I always wanted to own my own business," Jefferson said. "In 1991, after serving in Operation Desert Storm, I retired. I got my degree (from Alabama A&M University) and worked for the Corps of Engineers. But then I had the amputation of my left leg because of a service-related aneurysm behind my knee. After eight surgeries – two of those at Walter Reed – and after suffering from severe headaches, I could no longer do my job."

About four years ago, Jefferson opened a party rental business in Meridianville. A family wedding in Chicago held at an event center gave Jefferson a new business idea that became J's Special Occasions Event Center.

"There was nothing like this in Huntsville, especially not on the north side of town," Jefferson said. "I put together a business plan and had the drawings made for a facility that could accommodate small events as well as events for up to 350 people."

In 2008, he presented his idea to a couple local banks, and was turned down. But eventually, a 15-minute business meeting at Worthington Federal Bank got Jefferson the loan he needed to purchase a 12.6-acre lot on Meridian Street north of Winchester Road for his event center.

"As we started building, people would stop and ask us what was going on," Jefferson said. "So we had a groundbreaking (in July 2009), and we've had business left and right."

The event center is available for weddings and receptions; birthday, anniversary, retirement and graduation parties; bridal and baby showers; reunions; church events and other gatherings.

And while the event center has addressed a need in the community, it has also provided for Jefferson's family.

"This is a family-oriented business," he said. "My son, daughter and wife are all helping out. We have other relatives that come in and pitch in and give us a helping hand."

The Jefferson family includes daughter Donielle and son Rodney, who both help daily with the business. Donielle also directs the gospel choir at Alabama A&M University. Then there are sons Archie III, who is a social worker in a Virginia school system, and daughter Chelsea who is a social worker in Mississippi and whose husband is a police officer in Florence. A fifth child, Brad, teaches and coaches football at Discovery Middle School in Madison, and also coaches with the Alabama Hammers arena football team. There are also seven grandchildren.

The family settled in Huntsville in 1991 after Jefferson's 21-year career in Army logistics. The area was an easy choice for the family since Debra and their two daughters had already moved back to her hometown when her husband deployed to Desert



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Archie and Debra Jefferson relax in the foyer of the family business, J's Special Occasions Event Center. Jefferson is a retired sergeant and a disabled veteran whose family philosophy was featured in the recent issue of *Radar* magazine. His wife, Debra, works at Army Community Service.

Storm. When he retired out of Fort Bliss, Texas, Debra was working at Redstone Arsenal as a procurement clerk in the Acquisition Center.

Debra eventually joined the staff at Army Community Service while Jefferson worked for the Corps of Engineers at the Arsenal until his leg amputation caused him to retire a second time.

In the *Radar* magazine article, Jefferson is recognized for the strong family values he was raised with, and that he and his wife have now instilled in their own children. Jefferson's father served in the Army for 26 years. But he and his wife still managed to raise a family of eight successful children. In turn, Jefferson and Debra followed that same path to raise their own children amid the hardships and benefits of being a military family.

"When you raise a military family, your life is very structured," Jefferson said. "We were a close family. We did everything together."

The Jefferson couple knew it was up to them to set the example for their children.

"I've always had a philosophy that your parents set the example," Jefferson said. "If your parents lie around and don't do anything, then the kids will lie around and not do a thing."

"The first five years of a child's life are the most important. That's when they learn structure, understanding, and the dos and don'ts. They grow up knowing the rights and wrongs you taught them during those years and that you keep reminding them about as they grow up. Your children are going to fall, they are going to make mistakes. But they will learn from them, and as parents you have to be there to help pick them up."

Parents should also make sure to keep an open line of communication with their children.

"Listen to them," Jefferson said. "It shouldn't only be you who speaks. Let them speak. And if you tell them no, explain to them why you said no. If they get in trouble or make a mistake, make them own up to those mistakes and stick by their side."

Jefferson thinks today's parents often put more emphasis on their children's performance in sports than they do in education. But it's the education that will bring them the most rewards.

"I go to the barbershop and I hear all these fathers talking about their children and their sports," he said. "It's good to pump them up in sports, but not at the cost of their education. There are not too many kids who are going to go on to the pros. They need to be pushing academics. That sheepskin will get you a job interview. And if you can speak well and articulate, then you can get a job."

See Jeffersons on page 21

Task Force Guns descends on Afghanistan, takes on mission

By Staff Sgt. JOE ARMAS
Army News Service

CAMP KUNDUZ, Afghanistan – They started from scratch. Arriving at Camp Kunduz in mid-May, Soldiers from Task Force Guns, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, had their work cut out for them. The Soldiers were tasked to convert an area of operations that was suited for a small platoon-sized element into one in which a battalion-sized element could thrive in.

“We anticipated austere conditions prior to getting out here, and austere conditions are exactly what we found,” said Lt. Col. Jeff White, commander, TF Guns, 1st ACB, originally from Boston.

Despite the challenging conditions and lack of amenities, Task Force Guns hit the ground running. The task force assumed responsibility for its combat mission almost immediately after touching ground, providing ground elements with air weapon teams, air



Army photo

One UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, lands at Camp Kunduz, Afghanistan, as another Black Hawk prepares to touch down Aug. 1.

medical evacuation and air assault capabilities.

The command placed key emphasis, White said, on establishing sound relationships and a high level of trust and confidence with the ground forces, recognizing that supporting those forces

is TF Guns' primary objective in Regional Command North.

The demand for that support is constant in Kunduz. Day and night, seven days a week, TF Guns' aircraft take to the skies, providing air assets wherever needed.

Moreover, building up the area of operations and sustaining combat operations simultaneously has proven to be quite the balancing act, White added.

The brigade commander, Col. John Novalis, credits the task force's motivated Soldiers and engaged leadership with taking initiative and going above and beyond their normal duties to continuously support the combat mission and work to improve living and working conditions at the same time.

The hard work is paying off, as improvements in force protection and living conditions are becoming more evident each and every day, White added.

Furthermore, TF Guns Soldiers are not only contributing to the overall mission success of RC North. Troopers from the task force can also be found flying over the skies of Regional Command South.

Guns' element in the south is currently attached to the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

White touched on what Guns' element in the south has accomplished so far.

“Our team in the south is primarily supporting special operations forces and has already executed a considerable amount of successful combat missions to this point,” White said.

Finally, a recurring theme from both commanders is that the mentality and demeanor of the Soldiers from TF Guns have been key elements to the overall success of the task force in Afghanistan.

“The Soldiers (from TF Guns) attacked their difficult mission from the beginning with a positive attitude, passion and discipline that has exceeded my expectations,” Novalis said.

Quilts

continued from page 16

made from sweetheart pillows of the time, a Red Cross quilt, an aviation quilt and a quilt made from Navy insignia patches.

“The story goes that the men needed their new patches sewn on their uniforms and the seamstress needed patches for a quilt she wanted to make. So, she would trade for a patch with a package of cigarettes,” Faraci said.

One quilt includes the V for Victory symbol along with other patriotic symbols, including eagles, Morse code for the letter V and the words “Remember Pearl Harbor.” And another honors the 8th Armored Division, also known as Iron Snake and Thundering Herd.

An Army/Navy E quilt in the collection has a more contemporary look, although it is original to the World War II era.

“The E award was given to manufacturers who did extraordinary work for the war effort,” Faraci said.

There is also a Roll Call quilt that includes the signatures of servicemembers from two counties in Texas, a Star of Hope quilt made by a mother for her son and even a Russian Army quilt that spells in Russian a message of thanks for liberation from the Auschwitz concentration camp. It is thought that the faded background fabrics may be from the bed ticking of concentration camp prisoners.

“No matter what they did in their quilting, all the women used patriotic colors. Some used them a lot and very strongly, others used softer hues,” Faraci said.

Several of the quilts were made from patterns of the time while others are originals inspired by the hopes of American women during World War II. Along with the quilts, visitors can also view other personal mementos that are historically relevant, such as photographs, ration books, parachute samples and newspaper quilting patterns.

“These quilts show us the role of women and the home front in their support of the war effort. I hope visitors learn about women and history from this exhibit,” Faraci said. “There are so many controversial places in the world right now where there is violence. World War II was a people's war against an awful dictator. You get a feel of that from this exhibit. This is a good history lesson in what everybody contributed to this war effort from their hearts.”

Madkour hopes the exhibit inspires others interested in the nation's patriotic history.

“You can't help but feel the inspiration from these quilts. It's in every thread, in every stitch,” he said. “You can see it. You can feel it. This exhibit just pulls at your heartstrings.”

Editor's note: Blood, Thread & Tears: World War II Quilts is on exhibit at the Huntsville Museum of Art through Nov. 13. Special programs related to the exhibit include two in-gallery quilting demonstrations with the Heritage Quilters of Huntsville on Sept. 11 and Nov. 13, both from 2 to 4 p.m.; an overview with social historian Frances Robb titled Spare Time, Leisure and Recreation in Alabama, 1890-1950, and a Drop-in Family Act Activity: Artful Quilt Squares on Oct. 23; and a closing ceremony Nov. 13 with participation from local veterans. Museum admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for military, students, teachers and seniors with a valid ID; and \$4 for children ages 6-11. Admission for museum members and children under 6 is free.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The “Blood, Thread & Tears: World War II Quilts” exhibit includes 20 quilts made by quilt makers between 1941 and 1945. Many quilts made during World War II are now resurfacing as the descendants of men and women of that era search through family mementos stored in attics and trunks.

Army leaders discuss network strategic vision for 2020

By J.D. LEIPOLD
Army News Service

TAMPA, Fla. – The top generals tasked with bringing the most innovative and current technology into the Army's communications network held a press and bloggers session at the annual LandWarNet conference here Aug. 24 to discuss the network strategic vision moving toward 2020.

Lt. Gen. Rhett Hernandez, commander of Army Cyber Command, which just stood up in December 2010, first briefed that his global organization of more than 21,000 Soldiers and civilians was already heavily engaged in operational planning.

The general said the command has already executed realistic cyber integration into major exercises and is currently growing a cyber brigade to serve as the operational arm for full-spectrum capability to fighting commanders.

Hernandez said the three major lines of effort in Cyber Command's work include operationalizing cyber, growing Army cyber capacity and capability, and recruiting, developing and retaining the right "cyber warrior force."

Army chief information officer/G-6 Lt. Gen. Susan Lawrence said 80 percent of the Army is now based in the continental U.S. and that means an increased focus on stateside-network infrastructure.

"We must have the network empower that CONUS-based Army so they can be better trained and train as they fight," she said adding that the key is having a "single, secure, standard-based network" that is trusted by Soldiers.

"The problem we have today: 15,000 different networks out there. You can't share information across those environments – it has to be a single environment," she said.

Lawrence said the Army would be testing two regional suitcase-sized satellite terminals later in the year – one at Camp Roberts, Calif., and the other on Guam in the western Pacific.

Lawrence said the process of looking to 2020 includes cleaning up applications, determining which applications are relevant, and pinpointing the services and data most needed by Soldiers.

"Access at the point of need, whether in a training environment or operational environment, touching the network is what we're seeking to do," she said.

Maj. Gen. Jennifer Napper said her organization, Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command, was in the middle of implementing all the global network enterprise initiatives such as enterprise email and data consolidation. She said NetCom was also focusing on transforming the way the Army delivers its capabilities globally.

"We've put together a process we're calling Army Baseline IT (information technology) Services by which we can identify what kind of capabilities and resources are needed in a post, camp or station," she said.

Napper said she was also focused on how to recruit young talent to help move toward 2020, recognizing that she expects an average of 34 percent of her force to be retirement eligible in the next five years.

Maj. Gen. Alan Lynn, commander of the Army Signal Center of Excellence, addressed a future vision for the Signal Corps and its role in the network. He said signal doctrine until recently was of the Desert Storm era, where support was just down to the battalion level.

He said that's changed and support the center needs to provide – including communications – is now down to the company level and below. The caveat is that the



Photo by J.D. Leipold

Maj. Gen. Jennifer Napper, Lt. Gen. Rhett Hernandez, Lt. Gen. Susan Lawrence and Maj. Gen. Alan Lynn, the Army's senior network and cyber commanders, discuss the network strategic vision moving toward 2020 at the LandWarNet 2011 conference in Tampa, Fla., on Aug. 24.

Signal Corps will not grow, but will instead have smaller, more capable teams – much like those the special operations forces use.

"That means smaller, more capable systems off-the-shelf as well, so we're looking at small handhelds, including iPhones and Droids that will allow us to cover more area with smaller teams," he said.

"The other thing we're looking at is the way we train the force, because as these systems come in they're going to be multiple different kinds of systems a Soldier will have to operate," Lynn said. He said the plan is teach the theory of satellite, line-of-sight and troposphere scatter, so Soldiers will understand the theory of the systems. Applications are also being developed by the center that will help Soldiers learn how to operate the systems.

"If you give them a proctor and show them a Power Point slide, they'll just look at you like 'are you kidding me?'" he said.

Lynn said Soldiers like to learn by doing – and teaching systems can be designed to let Soldiers learn virtually – allowing them to have the touch and feel of a particular system on a screen.

"Soldiers are interested in gaming, so several of the centers are working at virtualizing some of the training," Lynn said, adding that Soldiers really care about their avatar.

"If they go out and shoot marksman at the range, that score is put into the gaming systems, so that's what their avatar will shoot and when they're out playing on the virtual gaming environment, they don't do as their buddies, so their buddies are yelling at their avatar," he said.

Lynn said the same thing with physical training tests – the avatar only reflects the performance reality and their buddies encourage them to get their scores up, to be a better teammate.

"It's a new paradigm; a new way of thinking, a new way of training and it's pretty exciting," he said.

Legend

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2004 to May 2007, a 34-month tour, where Mellinger, ever dedicated to his Soldiers, traveled the same routes his Soldiers traveled to know exactly what the fight was like for his war fighters. Three of his Humvees were destroyed over the course of his deployment, a small sacrifice considering the 27 IED attacks that occurred as Mellinger traveled the roads his Soldiers traveled.

"He saw the fight through his own eyes," Dunwoody said. "He traveled the same routes that his Soldiers traveled and he saw what worked and he saw what didn't work... He was just able to see things that others couldn't."

As she bade farewell to the Soldier that has been her right hand man for the past few years, Dunwoody grew emotional, aware of the historic moment in Army history, and of the great impact he has made on every Soldier he has touched.

"I can't imagine a more powerful example of our country's tradition of

selective service," Dunwoody said. "Without hesitation he answered the call of his nation."

His nation, and the Army, is better for it. In his final role as AMC command sergeant major, Mellinger touched every Soldier in the Army every day, advocating for everything they needed to proclaim mission accomplished, a sense of duty that permeates his entire being.

"He never forgot what it was like to be cold, hot, tired or wet and he's been a true advocate for the war fighter at AMC," Dunwoody said. "His passion

for the war fighter comes through every action and very word."

Mellinger's wife, Kim, received the Department of the Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, Shield of Sparta-Heroine of Infantry, and a Commanding General Four Star Note from Dunwoody for her special dedication to wounded warriors and their fallen comrades throughout the course of her husband's career.

"I don't come to work for the attention. I don't come to work for the recognition," Mellinger said. "It's been a privilege. It's been an honor."

Helping Hands

Fifty years of giving to others

Combined Federal Campaign celebrates historic milestone

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
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For 50 years, there's been a whole lot of giving going on.

Since 1961, federal employees at Redstone Arsenal and throughout a six-county area have had the opportunity to give back through the Combined Federal Campaign to local and national charities whose causes pull at their heart – and their purse – strings.

“For 50 years, we've been sending out the message that we care about the communities where we live, work and play, and that we are committed to making a difference. We can all join forces with other federal employees to make a difference,” said Donna Johnson, chairperson of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee, which oversees Tennessee Valley's Combined Federal Campaign.

With such a milestone birthday being recognized during the Sept. 14 Combined Federal Campaign kickoff at the Sparkman Center, Johnson has a challenge for federal employees in the six-county area, and especially at Redstone Arsenal. And it's just the right challenge for a campaign using the theme “50 Years of Caring” throughout its four-month fund-raising effort.

“I want to submit a challenge to all federal donors,” she said. “If you've never contributed, make a \$50 voluntary contribution to a campaign that helps our community. If you are a loyal donor who contributes to this very worthwhile cause, give an extra \$50 more in honor of the 50th anniversary so that we can continue to care for our community and our nation.”

Johnson calls her challenge the 50/50 Challenge.

Beyond the 50-year milestone, Johnson feels this year's campaign is more poignant because of the loss and suffering so many Tennessee Valley residents experienced in the wake of the April 27 tornado tragedy.

“I think we have all come to realize that the same help we give may be the same help that comes back to us,” Johnson said. “CFC is so powerful in this area, and we had some of our major CFC agencies out in the forefront after the tornadoes.

“CFC is there to help people in their time of need. It could be someone diagnosed with cancer, a baby born premature, a family who lost their home in a fire or tornadoes that destroyed entire communities. These are things that are not discriminating. They affect poor people and rich people. CFC helps not only those who are needy, but also folks in their time of need. It may be that the help you give today will be the same help you need someday.”

The Combined Federal Campaign was born March 18, 1961, when President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order forming a charitable donation system that allows federal employees to make payroll deductions and/or one-time voluntary contributions to their favorite charities. In the 50 years that followed, the Combined Federal Campaign has raised more than \$6.8 billion for charitable organizations. Also during this time, the campaign has grown to be the most inclusive workplace giving campaign in the world. Today, there are 203 Combined Federal Campaigns and more than 20,000 charities worldwide participate in those campaigns.

The Tennessee Valley Combined Campaign has grown with the national program, making it number 20 on the list of campaigns that have raised the most funds for charity. There are 65 federal agencies in the six-county area, representing 18,400 federal employees.

The 2011 goal is to raise \$2.4 million in the Tennessee Valley campaign. Normally, about half of the money raised is designated to local charities with the other 50 percent designated to national and international charities, all of which are chosen by the federal employee donor.

This year, in the booklet that federal



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Donna Johnson, a Garrison employee who coordinates the Combined Federal Campaign for Redstone Arsenal, is getting materials ready for the 2011 campaign. The Tennessee Valley campaign officially begins Sept. 14 with an event that will include a kickoff celebration at Bob Jones Auditorium and an agency fair in the Sparkman Center parade field.

employees will receive during the Tennessee Valley campaign, there are 198 local charity organizations in the listing of 2,200 national and international charities from which federal employees can choose for their donations.

“Your donation is 100 percent employee designated,” Johnson said. “You give to the charity that means the most to you. It's your choice. It's an opportunity for you to give through payroll deduction over the entire year.”

The national Combined Federal Campaign is held every year from Sept. 1 through Dec. 16. The local campaign follows that calendar, with organizations using the first full week of September to

coordinate their efforts, set fund-raising goals and recruit volunteers.

The Sept. 14 CFC kickoff event, set for 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium, will offer something for everyone. There will be patriotism, brought to the audience through music by local CFC recipient and teenage cancer survivor Lindsey Jones, who will sing the national anthem, and the Army Materiel Command Jazz Band; a sense of duty and responsibility expressed through the words of featured speaker John Nerger, the executive director of Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody, and a bit of motivating exuberance contributed to the event by the Sparkman High School Varsity Cheerleaders.

In addition, all attendees at the kickoff will get a chance at winning the grand door prize – a football signed by 2009 Heisman Trophy winner and former Alabama football player Mark Ingram, now of the New Orleans Saints.

But that's not all. The kickoff will be followed by an agency fair, where Arsenal employees will be invited to visit the information booths of 80 charitable agencies as well as enjoy free pizza, hot dogs, ice cream and cake, a DJ and music provided by *Radar* magazine, and a chance at more door prizes. The agency fair is held annually on the Sparkman Center parade field between buildings 5303 and 5304.

“We want to give federal donors the opportunity to meet with these agencies and find out about the services they provide to the community,” Johnson said. “We want them to actually see some of the benefits of their CFC contributions. That's why we are so glad to have Lindsey Jones as part of our program. She has benefitted from CFC through the Make a Wish Foundation. She is a survivor whose cancer has been in remission for 10 years.”

Following the kickoff, Combined Federal Campaign materials will be distributed by Arsenal organizations to their employees. In addition, all other federal employees throughout Madison, Morgan,

See Campaign on page 21

Small business workshop provides one-on-one training



Courtesy photo

ACC Office of Small Business Programs deputy associate director Christopher Evans presents information to the attendees of the Aug. 23 workshop.

By **BETH CLEMONS**
ACC Public Affairs

Local small business owners got the opportunity to learn more about doing business with the Army during a workshop here.

The Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs hosted the two-hour workshop Aug. 23. The training provided the opportunity to learn more about doing business with ACC and the Army. Approximately 10 people attended and ACC tweeted highlights of the seminar for those who were unable to attend.

"Having a small group allows us to have one-on-one discussions and address the needs and issues specific to their business," Christopher Evans, ACC Small Business deputy associate director, said.

During the seminar, ACC small business specialists discussed ACC's roles and mission, where to find Army small business opportunities, sources sought responses, bid matching services, subcontracting opportunities, company capability statements, federal acquisition regulations and marketing strategies.

Tiffany Noel, district director for U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks' office, also attended to gain some insight into the world of Army contracting. In a statement to the group, Noel stressed the importance of small business on both the local and national level.

This was ACC's third small business workshop; more are scheduled for Sept. 28 and Oct. 26. Registration for the upcoming workshop will be available online at www.facebook.com/USArmyContractingCommand.

The ACC Office of Small Business Programs provides outreach support to the small business community through a variety of methods. For more information about the ACC Office of Small Business Programs, email Redstone-HQACC-OSBP@conus.army.mil, call 955-0369, or visit www.acc.army.mil.

Campaign

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Marshall, Limestone, Lawrence and Cullman counties, will receive the materials. Those charities listed in the campaign's booklet have been approved by the Tennessee Valley Local Eligibility Committee.

"Those charities have to apply every year to be part of the campaign," Johnson said. "We follow guidelines from the Office of Personnel Management for participation in the campaign. The committee determines if the charities are eligible. We have checked and have done all the leg work to ensure they are actually valid 501c3 charities that meet the guidelines."

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander

of the Aviation and Missile Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal, is the honorary chairman of the 2011 campaign. He leads a team of volunteers that includes campaign associates who visit local charities approved for campaign funds.

"We visit a good variety of agencies and see their progress at work in the community," Johnson said. "CFC dollars are making a huge impact in our communities. In these tough economic times, a lot of charities are facing shrinking budgets so they are really depending on our federal dollars. CFC is the only authorized fund-raiser for federal organizations."

In addition, the campaign relies on several volunteers who coordinate campaign efforts within their organizations.

"These financial chairs are also cam-

campaign managers who have to establish a goal, have to find the volunteers who will make sure all employees receive the campaign materials, and then have to make sure donations are deposited and that weekly reports are completed," Johnson said. "It is very important that we have made contact with 100 percent of federal employees during the campaign."

Once contributions are made, they are submitted to the United Way of Madison County, the campaign's fiscal manager, which ensures that funds go to designated recipients.

"Federal employees and leadership take ownership of the campaign. It's our campaign ran by our employees," Johnson said. "But once the donations come in, the Office of Personnel Management says we can't touch the money.

We have to partner up with a non-profit associate that has experience in fund-raising to serve as the fiscal agent.

"Our campaign is transparent. We are audited and we have 100 percent accountability to make sure the campaign is run in accordance with the Office of Personnel Management."

Although working to reach all 18,400 federal employees in the campaign area, coordinating campaign efforts and working with local charities is a job that requires a lot of time, effort and stamina, Johnson said she is driven by the positives she has seen the Combined Federal Campaign accomplish in local communities.

"I love what I do. It makes me feel good at the end of the day. I'm making a difference and helping others to make a difference," she said.

Jeffersons

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As their children grew up, the Jefferson couple made sure they learned about faith alongside reading and writing, manners and discipline. The family has been active in church activities throughout their children's growing years.

"I always believe you can make it with God," said Jefferson, whose family

attends Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. "God has a way of working things out for you. He truly does. I've been disabled, and I've had problems – both physically and mentally. And it was God that helped me get through it and helped me to be here for my family. It couldn't have been anyone else but God."

That faith also helped the family this past April, when son Brad and his family – including his eight-month-pregnant wife, 7-year-old daughter and the family

dog – rode out the tornadoes in the family bathtub. Their house in Carter's Gin was destroyed along with their neighborhood. One of their next door neighbors was killed.

"They lost everything in the tornadoes," Jefferson said. "But they also gained a whole lot. One day after the tornado when we were all together, several cars drove up and out came students and parents and football players, who all wanted to help Brad and his family."

For Jefferson and his wife, their children's victories are also their victories. Their hopes and dreams are with their children and grandchildren.

"The beauty of it is that they show you that you did the right thing by your children. What they do with their lives shows you that you did good," Jefferson said. "I get very emotional. I am just so proud that we did the right thing. When your kids do good, it makes you feel really good inside."

Patented defense against both foreign and personal enemies

Lab's weapon research applied to health field

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Members of the Concepts and Analysis Laboratory are not only researching ways to save lives against terrorists, but also the terror of cancer.

After more than five years, Kevin Nash, CAL supervisor, and Pete Kirkland, consultant and former CAL senior research scientist, received a patent March 1 on the Medical Image Processing Methodology for Detection and Discrimination of Objects in Tissue. The patent is directed to image analysis and to the computerized detection and discrimination of anomalies in breast tissue images.

"The patent is an algorithm for detecting and classifying masses in breast tissue using mammogram data," Nash said. "What is unique about our detection method is it follows along the spiculations, or tentacles, of cancer as it spreads.

Nash and Kirkland started the project in 2004 during their free time after a conversation about the possibility of using algorithms and data in research not only in national defense but also in health matters.

"Someone asked once, 'With all these algorithms that you are developing in the space programs, why can't you come up with a better algorithm for detecting breast cancer,'" Kirkland said. "Kevin then tried one of the algorithms we had at the time and it worked. One of the problems during the first three or four years we worked on it is that we just did it in our spare time because we still had our normal jobs.

"So it was not a fast process. We were interested in it, and we developed a relationship with Walter Reed Medical Center and kept working with them."

As the CAL was working on algorithms to help improve the efficiency of weapons systems such as the Phalanx weapons system, Nash and Kirkland got to brainstorming how they could make health exams more efficient as well.

"After we worked with Counter-Rockets, Artillery and Missiles algorithms we were able to use the software we developed in-house to help with the research," Nash said. "Along with tracking the dispersion of bullets, we learned we could also track the dispersion of cancerous cells. The story of the program is it went from defense research to medical research and is being reapplied back to defense in another area."

According to estimates by the National Cancer Institute, there are approximately 40,000 deaths related to breast cancer annually.

Approximately 23 million mammograms are performed annually; of which, approximately 10 percent require additional testing. This leads to nearly 500,000 biopsies per year at a cost exceeding \$1 billion in the health care system, with only about 30 percent of biopsies indicating malignant findings.

"We embarked on this project in our spare time," Nash said. "We were looking at it – during the beginning – as how can this possibly ease or reduce the suffering of women due to breast cancer – so it has been well worth the time we put into it."

One key issue in breast cancer treatment is the number of patients in which the cancer is not completely removed in the initial surgery. Therefore, there is a need for an improved methodology for the radiologists to better define the cancerous



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Kevin Nash, left, Concepts and Analysis Laboratory supervisor, and Pete Kirkland, consultant and former CAL senior research scientist, discuss the CAL's newest research success after being awarded a patent March 1 on the Medical Image Processing Methodology for Detection and Discrimination of Objects in Tissue. The technique is directed to image analysis and to the computerized detection and discrimination of anomalies in breast tissue images.

margins.

The technique will help overcome limitations by providing improved detection of masses in images, improved discrimination capability that reduces the number of false alarms, and improved digital visualization to aid the radiologist and discriminate between cancerous and non-cancerous breast tissue.

"We know a lot of people in our personal lives who have been diagnosed with breast cancer," Kirkland said. "The thing that gets to me is that we can possibly help with other cancer detection and prevention in the future."

It provides an Anomaly Detection Algorithm module for detection of anomalies in breast tissue and a Genetic Response Surface Methodology algorithm module for classification of detected masses as cancerous or non-cancerous. These two algorithms are integrated into a modular image processing architecture.

In the ADA module, once the intensity of an image pixel crosses a detection threshold, the pixel is detected and linking inputs are provided to its nearest-neighbor pixels, raising their intensities, which may allow the detection of these nearest-neighbor pixels if their raised intensities are greater than the threshold.

Each anomaly in the mammogram detected by the ADA module is tracked and passed to the GRSM module for characterization as cancerous or benign, based on features such as shape, intensity profile and edge spiculation.

"This has been one of the best projects I have worked on here because of the future possibilities and how we were part of something much greater than ourselves," Kirkland said.

Gold Star dad finds support in outreach program

By ELVIA KELLY

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

FORT STEWART, Ga. – The plight of the Gold Star family is something close to home for Survivor Outreach Services at Fort Stewart. The program offers support services to families of Active, Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers who have passed away. Its mission is to provide support services to families of the fallen for however long the family wishes. The term Gold Star is used for all family members of fallen Soldiers.

For Gold Star father, Willie Judon, he thought his family did not fit the criteria to receive services from Survivor Outreach Services or be involved in Gold Star programs. Judon, like most people, thought the program was available only to family members whose Soldier was killed in combat during a deployment.

“The program is here to provide support services for families and Soldiers of fallen servicemembers,” Cheryl Sowell, SOS coordinator, said. “The fallen Soldier could have died for numerous reasons and SOS is here for them regardless of the circumstances.”

In Judon’s case, his youngest son Ke-



Courtesy photo

nya K. Judon was killed in a single car accident. He was not aware that the SOS could assist them because his son died in a vehicle accident.

Kenya was a specialist with Hunter’s Combat Aviation Brigade Detachment. He served as a paralegal specialist with a goal of becoming a lawyer. With his parents’ permission, then 17-year-old Kenya joined the Army and soon after was stationed in Manheim, Germany. He was in training at Hunter to prepare for the upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom before the accident happened.

Judon is no stranger to the Marne Division. He was an armor crewman tanker with 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart from 1977 to 1979 and served with the “2nd of the 9th Cavalry” at Stewart.

But it was not until SOS extended their support that he realized he could receive help and support. He knew then he was not alone.

“Cheryl (Sowell) contacted us and provided information about Gold Star families and the SOS program,” Judon said. “Survivor Outreach Services also sent us a schedule of survivor events to keep us informed.”

“It’s not just my job to assist families, but it is something I feel I’m good at,” Sowell said. “I believe in this program and what we do. Anything survivors need like answers to questions or sometimes just to listen, Meghan Page, SOS financial counselor and I are here for them.”

“I have heard many survivors say that they felt like the military has left them behind and turned their back on them. Our purpose and main goal is to make sure they stay connected and that they are still part of the military family for as long as they want to be.”

Judon said that speaking with SOS

coordinators helps him feel that it keeps his son’s memory alive.

“When my son died, I had never felt this kind of hurt before. Some people said that you can never get over it,” he said. “The SOS program helps me stay focused and see the better side. Instead of the hurt, I feel the gratitude. The Gold Star recognizes the fallen Soldier, and I get the good memories from that.”

The Judon family attended the Warrior’s Walk Memorial Ceremony during the summer. He said that it brought his family together, not just his family but every Gold Star family as one family.

“We had a nice time,” he said. “We went out to eat. We all came together for a good cause, something positive. Survivor Outreach Services has been helping me find my way.”

Sowell said that SOS cares and promises one thing – “we won’t give the families the run-around.”

“When there is a question, we will give a definitive answer,” she said. “If they do not have an answer, they will find an answer.”

For more information about the Fort Stewart SOS Program or Gold Star families, call 912-435-9761 or 912-435-9598.

Small arms support center on Kandahar helps war fighters

By J. ELISE VAN POOL

Army News Service

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – “We will never turn you away,” said Richard Nash, lead weapons repair technician at the Small Arms Support Center at Kandahar Airfield. “We will take care of you right here and now.”

Located on the 401st Army Field Support Battalion Kandahar’s compound, the SASC-KAF is a weapons repair shop that can repair every kind of weapon from a 9 mm pistol to a howitzer cannon. They fix weapons from all over Southern Afghanistan and if they cannot fix it they will do a one-for-one exchange of the weapon.

“There’s not much we can’t do,” Nash said. “This is a one-stop shop.”

Usually repairs can be made in just a few days by the team of armorers, most of whom received training while serving in the Army, Navy or Marines. Every weapon is dissected, repaired and tested to ensure the weapon functions better than when it came in the shop.

“They have the capability to replace almost every weapon in the U.S. arsenal,” Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew Dress, who oversees the center for the 401st AFSBn-KAF, said. “It’s beneficial to have them here to keep the Soldier in the fight.”

“We take care of the war fighter. We all know what it’s like to be on the other side of the counter.”

The center repairs about 400 to 500 weapons every month and is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. They have repaired approximately 4,000 weapons since October 2010.

The SASC-KAF also assists the Army’s Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command with fielding new weapons systems and will often go to units to conduct weapons trainings.

“The crew we have at Kandahar is the best, hands down,” Calvin Coats, TACOM logistics assistance representative, said.

Army photo

The small arms support center at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, can fix all types of weapons from a 9 mm pistol to a howitzer cannon. This howitzer was in for servicing.



Win or Lose

Bama, Auburn, A&M all favored in openers

College football predictions start

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Here are Skip's Picks for the first week of the college football season:

Kent St. at Alabama – **Bama**
Alabama A&M at Hampton – **A&M**
Utah St. at Auburn – **Auburn**
Montana at Tennessee – **Tennessee**
Missouri State at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
Mississippi St. at Memphis – **Miss St.**
Boise St. at Georgia – **Boise St.**
Kentucky at W. Kentucky – **UK**
South Carolina at East Carolina – **SC**
Fla. Atlantic at Florida – **Florida**
Elon at Vanderbilt – **Vandy**
Army at Northern Illinois – **Army**
Murray State at Louisville – **Louisville**
North Texas at FIU – **FIU**
Tennessee-Martin at Jacksonville State – **Jax St.**
Villanova at Temple – **Temple**
West Alabama at South Alabama – **S. Ala.**
Western Carolina at Georgia Tech – **Tech**
Fordham at Connecticut – **Connecticut**
North Carolina Central at Rutgers – **Rutgers**
Wake Forest at Syracuse – **Syracuse**
UNLV at Wisconsin – **Wisconsin**
Montana State at Utah – **Utah**
UC Davis at Arizona St. – **Ariz. St.**
Youngstown State at Michigan St. – **MSU**



TCU at Baylor – **TCU**
Northwestern at Boston College – **BC**
Tennessee Tech at Iowa – **Iowa**
Miami (Ohio) at Missouri – **Missouri**
Akron at Ohio St. – **Ohio St.**
M. Tenn. St. at Purdue – **Purdue**
Indiana State at Penn St. – **Penn St.**
Appalachian State at Virginia Tech – **Va. Tech**
South Dakota at Air Force – **Air Force**
James Madison at North Carolina – **UNC**
La.-Monroe at Florida St. – **FSU**
Troy at Clemson – **Clemson**
South Florida at Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**
Delaware at Navy – **Navy**
Minnesota at USC – **USC**
Southeastern Louisiana at Tulane – **Tulane**
Chattanooga at Nebraska – **Nebraska**

Arkansas St. at Illinois – **Illinois**
UCLA at Houston – **UCLA**
Sacramento State at Oregon St. – **Oregon St.**
BYU at Mississippi – **Ole Miss**
Idaho State at Washington St. – **Wash St.**
San Jose St. at Stanford – **Stanford**
Furman at Coastal Carolina – **Furman**
Buffalo at Pittsburgh – **Pitt**
Jacksonville (Fl) at The Citadel – **The Citadel**
Colorado St. at New Mexico – **Colo. St.**
Alabama St. at Mississippi Valley St. – **ASU**
Indiana at Ball St. – **Indiana**
Richmond at Duke – **Duke**
Northern Iowa at Iowa St. – **Iowa St.**
McNeese State at Kansas – **Kansas**
Eastern Kentucky at Kansas St. – **KSU**
La.-Lafayette at Oklahoma St. – **OSU**
Georgia Southern at Samford – **Ga. Southern**
Rice at Texas – **Texas**
Tex St.-San Mar at Texas Tech – **Tech**
Fresno St. at California – **California**
Eastern Washington at Washington – **Wash.**
Alcorn State at Grambling – **Grambling**
Austin Peay at Cincinnati – **Cincy**
Tulsa at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
LSU at Oregon – **LSU**
Weber State at Wyoming – **Wyoming**
Stony Brook at UTEP – **UTEP**
Louisiana Tech at Southern Miss – **So. Miss**
Cal Poly at San Diego St. – **San Diego St.**
Northern Arizona at Arizona – **Arizona**
Colorado at Hawaii – **Hawaii**
Marshall at West Virginia – **West Va.**
SMU at Texas A&M – **Texas A&M**
Miami (Fla.) at Maryland – **Miami**

Second time the charm for triathlon champion



Last year's third-place finisher captures Redstone's Rocketman

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Bruce Gennari enjoyed Sunday's second visit for the 18th annual Rocketman Triathlon at Redstone Arsenal.

Last year's third-place finisher won in two hours, one minute and 12 seconds. The race at the Col. Carroll Hudson recreation area includes a 1,500 meter swim in the Tennessee River, followed by a 40K bike and 10K run.

"I just put together three solid legs today," Gennari, 45, of Brentwood, Tenn., said. "Weather conditions were perfect."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Bruce Gennari of Brentwood, Tenn., wins Sunday's 18th annual Rocketman Triathlon at the Col. Carroll Hudson recreation area.

He passed collegiate Jacob Shults, 19, of Auburn, within the first mile of the bike leg and won by more than five minutes. Wil Emery, 32, of Nashville, finished second in 2:06:30. Shults won the collegiate division in 2:07:04, followed by Clemson's Justin Arnosky, 23, in 2:08:04.

Deanna Newman, 41, of Birmingham, was the female winner in 2:13:06. Last year's winner, Lesley Brainard, 41, of Collierville, Tenn., took second in 2:15:37.

Newman, a registered nurse at Princeton Baptist Medical Center for Cardiology P.C., vomited within minutes after crossing the finish line.

"I had to use this as a hard workout and I'm not very good at that because I race in two weeks," said Newman, who plans to run the Ironman 70.3 on Sept. 11 in Las Vegas. "And I think I worked too hard, therefore I puked. Hopefully I won't feel sick like today in two weeks."

The top female collegiate finishers were Leah McMillion, 21, of Central, S.C., in 2:35:17 and Liza Roger, 22, of Lilburn, Ga., in 2:39:10.

The race drew 570 total participants, including 495

See Champion on page 25

Champion

continued from page 24

individual registrations, 42 relay teams, 59 collegiate entries and 35 military competitors on a sunny, breezy morning.

"It's kind of blossomed," race director Mike Gerrity said. "Two years ago, it wasn't half this size (with approximately 240 participants)."

Last year he increased the lengths to Olympic distances, and participation grew to more than 400.

The only Olympic distance triathlon in North Alabama drew participants Sunday from Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Ohio. The race in memory of John Masterson was a production of the Team Rocket Tri-Club; and the title sponsor was Nesin Therapy Services P.C.

"Redstone Arsenal is an outstanding venue," Gerrity said. "We get great support from the Morale Welfare and Recreation folks, especially Outdoor Recreation. The Carroll D. Hudson recreation area is a beautiful facility and a great place to put on a triathlon with the Tennessee River, roads with little or no traffic for the bike, and a challenging run that takes athletes through the nature trail, and on hilly paved and gravel roads."

Serving as road guards were members of the 14th Marines, 2nd Battalion, Kilo Battery, who recently returned from Afghanistan.

Here are the age division winners:

Male, overall: 1. Bruce Gennari



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Owens Cross Roads' Christopher Stock, left, and collegiate Tucker McFarlane of Mobile compete on the run.

(2:01:12), 2. Wil Emery (2:06:30), 3. Chad Williamson (2:11:25).

Male, collegiate: 1. Jacob Shults (2:07:04), 2. Justin Arnosky (2:08:04), 3. Carl Eichert (2:08:34). **Masters:** Tim Doescher (2:12:27). **Clydesdale:** 1. Matthew Hames (2:32:51), 2. Ryan Bowerman (2:45:45), 3. Brandon Jones (2:49:32). **Masters Clydesdale:** 1. Andrew Lewis (2:36:28), 2. Shan Carpenter (2:38:57), 3. Scott Traylor (2:45:26).

Military: 1. Thomas Gale (2:28:06), 2. James Hill (2:36:13), 3. Derek Eichholz (2:38:15). **19-under:** 1. Charlie Johnson (2:25:44), 2. Cody Moore (2:32:31), 3. John-Stewart Overton (2:51:55). **20-24:** 1. Kyle Sigman (2:36:46), 2. Ted Zingarelli (2:36:52), 3. Nicholls Nelson (2:37:09).

25-29: 1. Brian Conklin (2:33:59), 2. Adam Hornbacher (2:34:35), 3. Jason Bishop (2:35:05). **30-34:** 1. Christopher Stock (2:14:57), 2. Mark Freeman (2:23:22), 3. Greg Wright (2:25:41). **35-39:** 1. Michael Stephenson (2:25:38), 2. Will Barnwell (2:27:40), 3. Jacob McCleary (2:35:30). **40-44:** 1. Tony Allen (2:12:48), 2. Richard Kenmuir (2:17:04), 3. Rob Laher (2:22:30). **45-49:** 1. Donald Hellen (2:25:36), 2. Travis Self (2:25:46), 3. Conrad Meyer (2:32:08). **50-54:** 1. Tom Horihan (2:24:19), 2. George Dewitt (2:27:05), 3. Russ Arnold (2:36:04).

55-59: 1. John McCrary (2:36:26), 2. Rob Funke (2:41:35), 3. Wayne Patterson (2:44:40). **60-64:** 1. Steve Rice (2:42:34), 2. Gary Backer (2:58:10), 3. Bram O'Steen (3:05:28). **65-69:** 1. Richard Snow (2:59:16), 2. Warren Everett (3:07:49).

Female, overall: 1. Deanna Newman (2:13:06), 2. Lesley Brainard (2:15:37), 3. Michele Kisel (2:35:19). **Female, collegiate:** 1. Leah McMillion (2:35:17), 2. Liza Roger (2:39:10), 3. Kristin Tippey (2:40:39). **Masters:** 1. Brooke Nelson (2:40:53). **Athena:** 1. Kasandra Garner (2:50:49), 2. Christy Bergin (3:12:45), 3. Tana Lieb (3:23:00). **Masters Athena:** 1. Suzanne Erickson (2:51:55), 2. Kendrah Raney (3:04:21), 3. Gayle Reese (3:14:25). **Military:** 1. Laura Brock (2:45:07), 2. Lisa Ansley (2:45:16), 3. Bridget Byrnes (2:55:09). **19-under:** 1. Heather Comensky (2:59:13). **20-24:** 1. Denise Gerrity (2:55:16), 2. Julia Kovalcik (3:00:49), 3. Pamela Evans (3:05:15). **25-29:** 1. Emily Hardin (2:38:19), 2. Rachel Winford (2:47:41), 3. Natalie Westbrook (2:59:46). **30-34:** 1. Colleen Durham (2:43:39), 2. Anne Noble (2:49:42), 3. Sara Daum (2:55:12). **35-39:** 1. Jodi Bump (2:35:40), 2. Sherry Stephenson (2:43:37), 3. Lisi Bratcher (2:44:22). **40-44:** 1. Faye Yates (2:48:06), 2. Stephanie Farrington (2:49:33), 3. Bethany Taylor (2:57:16). **45-49:** 1. Karen Doehrman (2:49:28), 2. Sophia Lal

(2:50:41), 3. Robin Waldrup (2:53:47). **50-54:** 1. Karen Sladick (2:51:59), 2. Leslie Brown (2:52:00), 3. Jeanine Watts (2:54:52). **55-59:** 1. Mary Creel (2:59:42), 2. Genie Vidal (3:23:29). **60-64:** 1. Gayle Marbury (3:02:52). **65-over:** 1. Judith Garrard (3:45:25).

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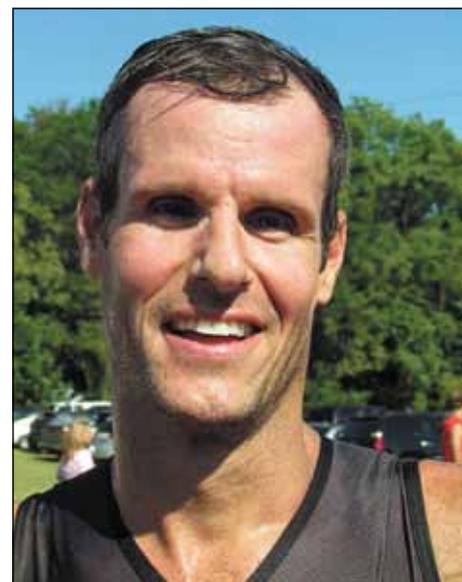
Photo by Skip Vaughn

Auburn's Jacob Shults, left, and eventual winner Bruce Gennari jump into the Tennessee River for the 1,500 meter swim as timer Ron McCrary checks his watch for the triathlon's first leg.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Relay team member Dave Varoujean of Huntsville starts the 40K bike ride. He and teammates Eric Charette and Andrew Hodges won the relay competition.



Bruce Gennari



Deanna Newman

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Football officials

The North Alabama Football Officials Association is in search of new officials. If you are interested, visit the website <http://nafoa.biz/dnn/> or call Bob Arnone 763-1796. New officials can be accepted until the last two weeks of the regular season.

9.11K run

Runners can observe the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by participating in a road race Sept. 10 at Redstone. The 9.11K Run, starting at 7:30 a.m. at the Sparkman Center building 5302, will be 9.11 kilometers in memory of that tragic day. Race-day registration for \$20 is available only to those who have Redstone access. Runners will check in from 6:30-7:15 that morning. The fitness centers and their phone numbers include Pagano Gym (876-2943), Sparkman Fitness Center (313-6091), Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center (955-7508) and Redstone Fitness Center (313-1201). This event, sponsored by FMWR Sports and Fitness, is presented by Woody Anderson Ford.

Youth football competition

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter of Alabama A&M University Alumni Association will hold the fifth annual NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick competition sponsored by the Tennessee Titans on Sept. 17. This competition, at Louis Crews Stadium on the campus of Alabama A&M, is open to all male and female youth ages 6-15 in the Tennessee Valley area. Registration is free starting at 9:30 a.m. with the competition beginning at 10, on the visitors side of the stadium. Only sneakers are allowed to be worn by participants (no cleats allowed). For more information, call C. Lamar Sterns 722-8093 or 679-8961 and Tourischeva Stubbs 372-4059.

Cycling ride

Spring City Cycling Club will hold its "All You Can Eat Century" on Sept. 17 at Madison County High School, 174 Brock Road, Gurley, 10 miles east of Huntsville. Mileage route options include 35, 50, 59, 67 and 106. Registration/check-in opens at 7 a.m., the course is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the 35-mile ride starts at 9 a.m. Meal is served from noon to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 for pre-registration, \$35 after Sept. 12. Register online at [Active.com](http://www.springcity.org/century). For more information, visit www.springcity.org/century.

Party after game

Pinnacle Affairs invites you to cel-

brate the Alabama A&M vs. Tuskegee rivalry Sept. 17 at the Surie in Madison after the Louis Crews Classic football game. Doors open at 10 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20 and limited V.I.P. reserved tables of four are available. "The disc jockey duo, 5D (Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka), will be on the 1s and 2s and special performances will be provided by recording artists Kenn Orr and Rodney Gant," a prepared release said. Call 508-8674, email pinnacleaffairs@aol.com, or purchase tables or tickets online at www.pinnacleaffairs.com.

SAMD golf tournament

The Security Assistance Management Directorate will present the 2011 SAMD Golf Tournament on Sept. 20 with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. at the Links at Redstone. It's a four person scramble format. Entry fees are \$260 per team (\$65 per player). There is a \$5 discount for members of the Links; so their cost is \$60 per player. To register call Joe Anderson 842-1081 or email joseph.m.anderson5.ctr@us.army.mil.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday night at Bicentennial Chapel. Fellowship begins at 5 p.m. followed by Bible study at 5:30. The actual service starts at 6:15. Bicentennial Chapel is located on Goss Road, building 376. For more information, call the Garrison Unit Ministry Team 842-2176.

Protestant women

Beginning Thursday, you are invited to join the Protestant Women of the Chapel on Thursdays at Bicentennial Chapel as they meet for friendship, fellowship and Bible study. Choose from three sessions: morning from 9:30-11:30, lunch time from 11:30-12:30 and evening at 6. Some child care is available at the morning session, upon registration with Youth Services.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said.

"Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

Reserve officers association

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) Department of Alabama Local Chapter 20 will meet Sept. 9 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Overlook Restaurant. The goal of the meeting is to reactivate Chapter 20. For more information, call Lt. Col. Ruby Lardent 799-1246 or email ruby.lardent@us.army.mil.

Men's ministries

Men's Ministries, "addressing the needs of men and planting seeds for spiritual growth in Christ Jesus," meets every second or third Saturday - for exact monthly date, call Harry Hobbs at 425-5307 - at 9 a.m. at the Redstone Links golf clubhouse. Breakfast is served for \$5. For more information, call Hobbs 425-5307.

Losing weight

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter AL 0047, Huntsville, invites all who are interested in losing weight the safe way to its weekly meetings at the First Christian Church, 3209 Whitesburg Drive, at 10 a.m. Wednesday. The purpose of TOPS is to help you follow your doctors' recommendations on losing weight through mutual help. For more information, visit <http://www.tops.org/default.aspx> and http://www.ehow.com/about_5415201_weight-loss-tops.html.

Air defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have a luncheon Sept. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Featured guest speaker is Air Force Maj. Gen. Terrence "Terry" Feehan, program executive for programs and integration, Missile Defense Agency. Cost for the buffet luncheon is \$20. For more information and reser-

vations, call Brittany Jeffers or Melissa Foster 325-4483.

Tricare briefings

Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare managed care support contractor for the South Region, holds informational briefings on Tricare every Monday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tricare Service Center, Fox Army Health Center, second floor.

International women

After its summer break, the International Women's Club of Huntsville resumes its monthly meetings Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at All Saints Lutheran Church, 12100 Bailey Cove Road. The club, formed in 1958, is open to both foreign and American-born women who are interested in furthering international understanding. More than 20 countries are represented in the club. The club meets on the first Thursday of every month, except in July and August. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Demy Robley 882-6064.

Engineer society

American Society of Mechanical Engineers, North Alabama Section, will hold its monthly meeting Sept. 7 at 11:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Research Institute on the UAH campus. Mike Counts of Huntsville Utilities will speak on "April 27 Storm Recovery for Huntsville Utilities Electric System." The meeting is open to the public, and lunch will cost \$10. Reservations are required and can be made by emailing Gordon Bakken at gbbakken@yahoo.com.

Reliability engineers

The Society of Reliability Engineers, Huntsville Chapter, invites you to its fourth annual RAM Workshop, Nov. 1-2 at the Holiday Inn Hotel Downtown, 401 Williams Ave. For more information and to register, call Anna Gamble 922-9300, ext. 100, email anna.gamble@irtc-hq.com or visit the website <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=46uhokgab&oeidk=a07e4acce3be6c3c0d>.

Defense women

Women in Defense, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will present "Leadership Challenges in National Defense," a half day workshop on the afternoon of Oct. 27 at the Marriott in Huntsville. The event will include a luncheon (with keynote speaker), afternoon focus panels and an evening reception. Speaking invitations to high-level government leadership have been extended. Additional workshop details to include agenda, registration information and sponsorship opportunities will be announced soon.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

DA civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or <https://apdw.redstone.army.mil> for your use. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors cannot be considered. Department of Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Lisa Glenn 876-2082. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract companies, government employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it

by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name – all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed.

Education test center

Taking online courses? Need a proctor for your exams? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764 for an appointment. They can proctor exams for most colleges. Proctoring services are free and available to the Redstone Arsenal community (military/government ID card holders).

Ride needed

Julie Jordan, a badge checker in building 5303, works 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and does not drive because of her disability. She lives off Airport Road and is willing to pay. No handicap accessible equipment will be required. If interested call 604-8433.

Safety officer course

The Garrison Safety Office will hold a Collateral Duty Safety Officer Course on Sept. 27-29. Newly assigned CDSOs or personnel that will be conducting duties as a CDSO are encouraged to attend the classroom training. Before coming to the classroom training, personnel should first complete the CDSO online course at the Army Combat Readiness Center, <https://safety.army.mil>. Upon successful completion, personnel will print a copy of the training certificate and place it in

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their CDSO binder. The CDSOs should familiarize themselves with Army Safety Program references. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration provides safety standards in the Code of Federal Regulation 29 CFR 1910 and 29 CFR 1926 for CDSO use. Space is limited. Send the name, organization, phone number and email address of personnel that will attend the CDSO training to Ralph Langford, ralph.langford@us.army.mil, or Jonathan Niedergeses, jonathan.niedergeses@us.army.mil. Individuals will receive confirmation, time and place of training by email once the class roster is complete.

Quarterly retirements

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. Call Sgt. Steven Griffin 876-7969 or Staff Sgt. Marcus Holder 876-7969 to make arrangements for participation. Deadline for signing up is Sept. 1. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled Dec. 6. While it may be appropriate to notify your chain of command, you must notify Griffin or Holder in order to participate.

Training opportunity

The North Alabama Chapter of ASTD will present "The Bottom-Line on ROI (Return on Investment)," Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton, Huntsville. Cost is \$145 per person. Register today at www.astdna.org.

Thrift shop

Full items will be taken for consignment at the Thrift Shop starting Sept. 6. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10-2. It will be open this Saturday, during the Labor Day holiday weekend. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The Thrift Shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible.

The shop currently has an opening for assistant manager. Interested applicants should drop by the shop. Volunteers are always welcome.

Education luncheon

Village of Promise presents lunch with Geoffrey Canada on Sept. 22 at 11:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. In his 20-plus years with Harlem Children's Zone, Canada has become nationally recognized for his pioneering work helping children and families in Harlem and as a passionate advocate for education reform. Cost is \$50 per person. Reservations may be purchased online at VillageofPromise.com, by phone at 536-8052 or by mail with check made payable to Village of Promise, 200 Pratt Ave. Suite B-2, Huntsville, AL 35801. Reservations must be purchased by Sept. 14. Follow Village of Promise on Facebook and Twitter.

Yard sale benefit

A local dog rescue group will have a fund-raiser yard sale Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at 213 Oakwood, Huntsville. It's a yellow house on the corner of Oakwood and Virginia, near Five Points. All proceeds from the sale will go to the vetting of adoptable dogs.

Gifts for needy children

As Huntsville schools opened another year of learning, most parents were shopping for back-to-school bargains using a school-issued supply list as their guide. But this year, Huntsville kids were thinking beyond their own backpacks and buying supplies for kids they had never met. Huntsville residents were stocking up on items for Operation Christmas Child – a massive year-round project of international Christian relief and evangelism organization Samaritan's Purse – where participants fill shoe boxes with school supplies, toys, necessity items and letters of encouragement for kids overseas. You can help enlist families, churches, Scout troops, community groups and businesses to take advantage of back-to-school sales by collecting school supplies for shoe box gifts. Fill shoe boxes with school supplies, toys, necessity items and a letter of encouragement and drop off the gift boxes at a collection site near you

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during National Collection Week. For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, call (770)777-9342 or visit www.samaritans-purse.org/occ. National Collection Week for gift-filled shoe boxes is Nov. 14-21; however, shoe box gifts are collected all year at the Samaritan's Purse headquarters in Boone, N.C.

Humane society event

The Greater Huntsville Humane Society is holding an "Open House" in honor of Patriot Day on Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at its shelter, 2812 Johnson Road. "We will have some special guests - Huntsville Police K-9 Unit teams, HEMSI Search Dog Unit teams, and more," a prepared release said.

Child development center

The MSFC Child Development Center on Redstone Arsenal accepts anyone with Arsenal access and currently has openings for children in the Preschool area and mobile/older infants. For more

information, call Kelli Wright 544-8609 or see the website at <http://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/>.

Scholarship dinner

The Madison County Democratic Women will hold the annual JFK Scholarship Dinner on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the downtown Holiday Inn, 401 Williams Ave. Justice Mark Kennedy, newly-elected chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party, will speak on "New Vision, New Direction." A limited number of no-lunch reservations are available. For more information, call 536-2701 or email marilyn.robertson@knology.net.

Thrift Shop job

The Thrift Shop has an opening for assistant manager. Requirements include Microsoft Office, organizational skills, interfacing with volunteers and paid staff, knowledge in retail sales, and must have dependable transportation. Applications are available from 9

a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at building 3209 on Hercules Road. The deadline is Sept. 15. For more information, call 881-6992.

Physical therapy offer

Mandeville Physical Therapy & Wellness will offer retired and active duty military personnel free membership for September on its Alter-G, NASA developed technology to reduce one's body weight up to 80 percent to allow them to exercise without pain. For more information, call 270-9922.

Latin dance classes

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation is offering basic (beginner) dance classes for adult couples in Samba and Merengue, six Thursdays, Sept. 8 through Oct. 13, from 7:30-9 p.m. at the School Age Services building 3155. No experience necessary. Cost is \$66 per couple. Registration is open until Sept. 6. For more information, call 876-4531; or to register, visit the ITR Office in the lobby of the Community Activity Center, building 3711 on the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads, on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesdays through Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Commissary case lot sale

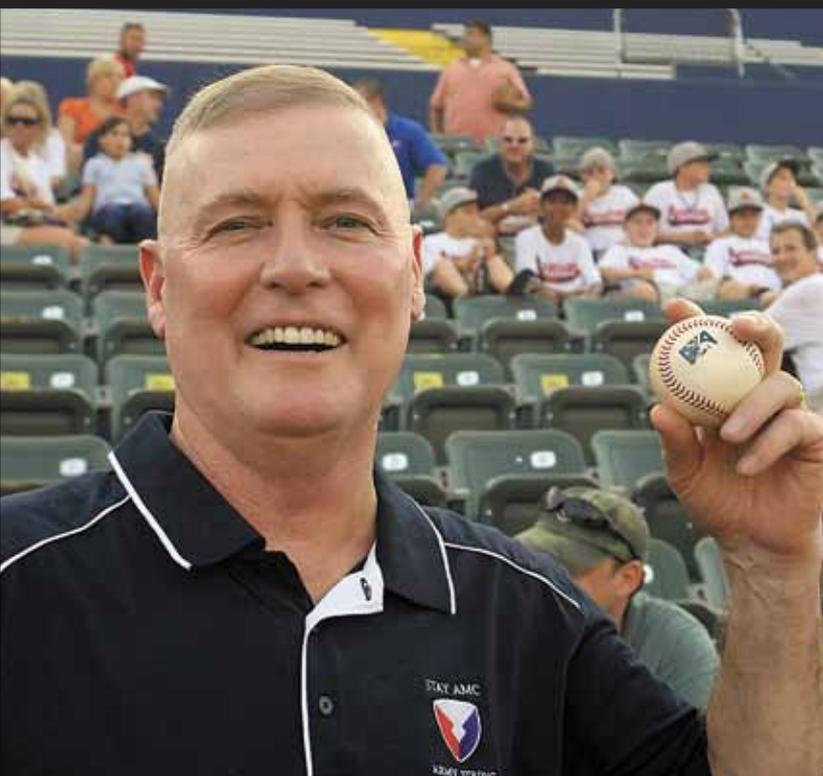
The Commissary will have a case lot sale Sept. 15-17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. "Commissary case lot sale shoppers get 'bargains by the case' and savings up to 50 percent off regular prices on popular items," a prepared release said. Check out the webpage at www.commissaries.com under the "locations" link.

Chinook veterans

The 2011 Vietnam Chinook veterans' reunion is a little over two months away so it's time to get those registrations in and make your reservations. The reunion is scheduled Oct. 21-23 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the St. Louis airport. For more information, call retired 1st Sgt. Tom Wills (304) 237-9670.

Sept. 11th concert

The First Baptist Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra, with the Huntsville Community Chorus, present 9.11.01: A Memorial Concert, Sunday, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive in Huntsville. The concert is free; a special offering will be taken for the needy in the community.



Photos by Ellen Hudson

Hero's day at ballpark

AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger, one of the last Vietnam era draftees on active duty, made the ceremonial first pitch at the Huntsville Stars' baseball game Aug. 21 at Joe Davis Stadium. The AMC Band played "Hero" and the national anthem.