

Redstone Rocket

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Taking on challenge of leukemia

Soldier battles disease by putting body to test

By KARI HAWKINS
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During a lunch meeting earlier this year with his then longtime girlfriend, Lt. Col. Timothy Talbot mentioned a bad reading on lab work he had done as part of a routine aviation physical.

Talbot, the deputy commander of clinical services at Fox Army Health Center, is used to dealing with medical conditions involving his patients. But when his girlfriend asked him what that meant, the situation got personal.

"He said his lab work showed that his white blood cell count was high," recalled Kelly DeWitt, a retired master sergeant who now works in Public and Congressional Affairs for the Army Materiel Command.

"I replied 'How do you mean high? Is it just high or is it more like appendix burst high?'"

Talbot told her, "It's either an anomaly or a quirk in the test or a leukemia."

More testing led to confirmation – Talbot was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia in March.

"I was a little shocked," said the 47-year-old war veteran of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

"The average age for this cancer is 65. But in retrospect over the last year there had been signs. I did a lot of mountain climbing. When I climbed Mount McKinley in Alaska, I had trouble with the climb and I never made it to the peak. And my running times were getting longer and I was having more shortness of breath. I also had some night sweats."

DeWitt had also unknowingly noticed a few subtle signs of the disease.

"In February, when we went to the Association of the U.S. Army meeting in Florida, Tim tired out easily and went to bed early. He ended up getting pneumonia on that trip," she said.

With a diagnosis, it didn't take long for the couple to make a plan. They approached Talbot's disease with the strategic practicality of well-trained Soldiers, doing what needed to be done to move forward and meet the health challenge head on. Today, Talbot is the picture of health, training for long distance bike rides and a marathon, taking on the challenges of serving as a doctor at Fox who is also responsible for the Arsenal's aviation pilots, and enjoying time with his family in Huntsville and Guntersville.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Col. Timothy Talbot and retired Master Sgt. Kelly DeWitt, now his wife, enjoy biking and other outdoor activities together. Talbot is able to maintain his active lifestyle because of a medication that keeps his chronic myelogenous leukemia at bay.

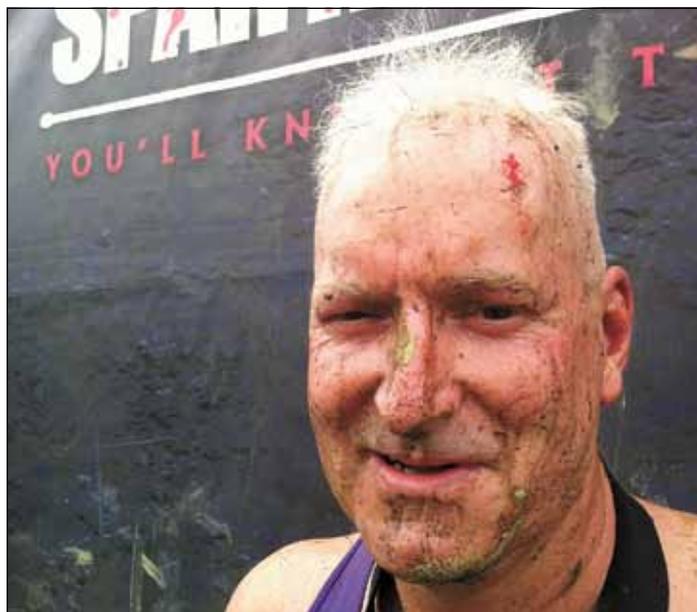


Photo by Kelly DeWitt

Despite his leukemia, Lt. Col. Timothy Talbot is able to take on the challenge of the physical endurance tests that Spartan obstacle races are known for across the country.

See Fight on page 4



COMMUNITY NEWS

New faces of country ready for concert.

PAGE 5

PEOPLE PROFILE

Car enthusiast wins national.

PAGE 13



TECHNOLOGY TODAY

Mexico attorney general visits explosives training.

PAGE 19

SPECIAL SECTION

School year previewed in stories, pictures.

PAGE 23



WIN OR LOSE

Got the Runs team advances to final.

PAGE 39

RocketViews

Who's your best teacher ever?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Willie Watson

AMCOM G-6 (Chief Information Office)
"Mine was Mr. Sunday. That was the 11th-grade at Woodham High in Pensacola, Fla. He was a good listener and communicator. He listened to the students and communicated well."



Mark Dille

Garrison Directorate of Logistics
"Really, there are too many to single out just one person. I have been fortunate in my life to have several great teachers and mentors who held me to the higher standard; they truly cared about me and my success in life. They challenged me to give my best."



Terese Penix

AMC G-3/5 (Force Development)
"It would be when I did my master's program (in adult and continuing education) at Kansas State University. Her name was Dr. Jane Fishback. She taught us how to view the world with a critical eye. She taught us critical thinking and critical reasoning, and to challenge yourself – challenge your thinking."



Phyllis Ballard

AMC G-4 (Industrial Base Capabilities)
"My best teacher ever was my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Morris, at Atkinson Elementary, Griffin, Ga., because I was her pet. She let me erase the board."

Letter to the editor

Army makes strides in energy management

This week (of Aug. 10), I joined Heather Zichal, deputy assistant to the president for energy and climate change; Lt. Gen. Tom Bostick, Army's chief of engineering and commanding general of the Army Corps of Engineers; Maj. Gen. Ken Cox, deputy commanding general of USACE, and Stuart Hazlett, director of contracting, USACE, in announcing the release of a \$7 billion Multiple Award Task Order Contract request for proposal.

This is truly a week for the Army to take pride in the strides it's making toward managing its energy resources and developing new, clean, renewable energy. The release of this MATOC RFP by the Army Corps of Engineers demonstrates the Army's commitment toward installation energy security, mission readiness and resilience. This MATOC's \$7 billion in contract capacity will procure reliable, locally generated, renewable and alternative energy through Power Purchase Agreements for up to 30 years.

This past April, the White House announced that the Department of Defense was making one of the largest commitments to clean energy in history, by setting a goal to deploy three gigawatts of renewable energy – including solar, wind, biomass, or geothermal – on Army, Navy and Air Force installations by 2025 – that is enough energy to power 750,000 homes. The Army's goal is one gigawatt of that total. These goals support the broader DoD goal to enhance installation energy security and reduce installation energy costs.

You might be asking why do we have

Quote of the week

"The school is the last expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt



Army photo

Katherine Hammack is assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment.

these goals? By diversifying our installation's energy sources to include sustainable, renewable energy, we improve our ability to fulfill our missions during energy interruptions and to better manage energy price volatility. Energy budget assurance is energy security, just as is providing for the continuity of operations. Army energy security and sustainability are operationally necessary, financially prudent and mission critical.

The \$7 billion MATOC RFP will help us fill those goals. This MATOC is a key contracting vehicle that will be used to procure reliable renewable and alternative energy through establishing a pool of qualified firms and contractors with solar, wind, biomass and geothermal technologies to compete for individual PPAs.

Our approach allows the Army to purchase the energy that is produced; no generation assets will be required. Selected contractors of the MATOC will finance, design, build, operate, own and maintain the energy plants. The government will then contract to purchase the power for up to 30 years in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in project specific agreements. That will result from task orders competitively awarded under

the MATOC. Project locations may be on any federal property located within the U.S. including Alaska, Hawaii, territories, provinces or other property under the control of the U.S. government.

By awarding the contract, the Army increases its agility through streamlining acquisition processes to develop large-scale renewable energy projects using private sector financing. This approach will help speed overall project development timelines to ensure the best value to the Army and private sector.

Last year, Secretary McHugh established the U.S. Army Energy Initiatives Task Force, which opened its doors on Sept. 15, 2011. The EITF now serves as the Army's central management office for partnering with Army installations to implement cost-effective, large-scale, renewable energy projects, leveraging third party financing. The MATOC is one of the contract vehicles that will help support the EITF in its efforts to meet its mission.

Back then the Secretary announced that "you'll see the Army will leverage opportunities through existing contract authorities, such as PPAs, enhanced-use lease agreements, energy savings performance and utilities service contracts."

The MATOC RFP is a good example of this commitment and the Army's budgeting stewardship. We are leveraging an existing authority, 10 USC 2922a, which gives the DoD the unique authority to contract for renewable energy Power Purchase Agreements for up to 30 years.

We believe this MATOC RFP – Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for DoD Installations – will be a major contributor to achieving the Army's renewable energy goals and ensuring the Army of tomorrow has the same access to energy, water, land and natural resources as the Army of today.

A pre-proposal conference for interested bidders will take place at the end of August. The location and registration will

See Letter on page 3

RedstoneRocket

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Getting to **know you**

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Name: Jim Wesser

Job: Education services specialist,
Army Education Center

Where do you call home?
A little town called Winthrop Harbor, Ill.

What do you like about your job?
I love helping Soldiers, their family members – but especially Soldiers – get their education.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I am a scuba instructor. I love teaching scuba diving. And I love riding my motorcycle, my Harley.

What are your goals?
I want to be an education services officer. That's my ultimate goal. I want to have my own education center. That's my ultimate goal career-wise, so I can have an impact on the future of the Army education system.



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

I want to dive the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. I think that's got to be on everybody's bucket list if you're a scuba diver. I want to see it before it all goes away.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Aug. 5-11:

- Police arrested a man on a Calhoun County traffic warrant when he attempted to enter the installation.
- Police investigated a multiple-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident east of Gate 1 on Martin Road.
- Police and Fire responded to a vehicle fire at building 5224.
- A driver was cited for driving without a driver's license when he arrived at Gate 9 lost. He was also detained for Immigration and Customs Enforcement on a failure to appear for deportation warrant.
- Police received a report of a car being damaged in the parking lot of building 5301.
- A driver was cited for a suspended license at Gate 8 after being selected for a Random Antiterrorism Measures inspection.
- A driver was cited for a suspended license at the visitor center after being stopped by police for identification.
- A driver was cited for a suspended license on Patton Road after being

stopped for speeding.

- Another driver was cited for a suspended license on Patton Road after being stopped for speeding.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the Commissary parking lot.
- A contractor reported he found contraband in the smoking area of building 5222.
- Police arrested a driver, who was lost, for DUI when he was observed driving the wrong way on Rideout Road north of Gate 9. He was also cited for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and an open container.
- After police arrested a driver for DUI on Rideout Road north of Gate 9, the passenger was cited for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and an open container.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Rideout Road at Toftoy Thruway.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Goss Road in the channelized right-hand turn onto Rideout Road.
- Twenty-six U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.

Redstone Arsenal open to renewable energy



Photo by Terri Stover

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton addresses a group of business representatives and energy innovators at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

By **TERRI STOVER**
For the Rocket

When addressing gatherings in the local community, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton points out that Team Redstone includes the citizens of the Tennessee Valley.

At Thursday's meeting of Energy Huntsville, at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, he spoke to a group of area business representatives and energy innovators. Hamilton said Redstone Arsenal "needs you as partners, we are always open to new ideas."

Energy Huntsville began in 2011 as a way to develop the energy business base in the local area to allow for education, training, project development to support energy independence, and a marketing strategy to boost economic development in the Huntsville community. Energy Huntsville's collaborative structure includes academia, utility companies, industry and government.

Hamilton showed the three main points of Redstone's energy strategy to meeting energy needs on the Arsenal: se-

curity, sustainability and cost.

"It's not an easy task to achieve renewable energy production and ensure energy security while remaining cost-neutral to our bottom line, but it can be done," he said. "We are becoming more aggressive and are looking at all the alternatives."

The Army's Energy Initiatives Task Force is interested in Redstone's energy strategy. Members of the EITF visited Redstone recently to learn firsthand about the current efforts toward renewable energy.

Hamilton told the audience that not all energy projects may work at Redstone, but there are numerous other installations looking to become more energy efficient and those projects may work elsewhere.

"The EITF is in a position to better leverage opportunities, they are very engaged at Redstone," he said.

The EITF will have representatives at today's "Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for DoD Installations" meeting at Bob Jones Auditorium.

opportunities website for more information about the MATOC RFP.

I am proud of the work we've done.

Katherine Hammack
Assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment

Letter

continued from page 2

be announced at a later date.

I encourage you to visit the EITF's website and the Federal Business Op-

Logistics summit scheduled Aug. 30

The Garrison Directorate of Logistics will have a meeting this month on its move from the Installation Management Command to the Army Sustainment Command, a subordinate to Army Materiel Command.

The Logistics Summit is Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden

Mountain Road.

"The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the support changes generated by DOL's transition from IMCOM to the Army Sustainment Command (AMC) effective Oct. 1, 2012," a prepared release said. "Included in these discussions are: new support agreement requirements, and how to select DOL support and procedures for

collecting reimbursable charges."

DOL's services include: SSA operations, ammunition and surveillance support, CIF, HMMP, property book, fuel support, vehicle and equipment maintenance support, and transportation services, to include non-tactical vehicle support, bus and taxi services, household goods shipments and storage, and official passport services.

"Target audience (for the summit) are key logisticians that coordinate DOL support for their RSA organization," the release said. "Additionally, resource management personnel responsible for submitting invoices, and/or performing GFEBS user roles associated with logistical functions are encouraged to attend the last hour of the meeting (11-noon)."

Fight

continued from page 1

Talbot's bounce back from what seemed like devastating news is, in part, due to the type of leukemia he is fighting and that it was caught at an early stage.

"Of the four types of leukemia, this one is the rarest form. But it's also seen the most advances in treatment," Talbot said.

"Five years ago, I would have been given the news that I had two years to live without a bone marrow transplant or a stem cell transplant. The survival rate after five years has gone from 30 percent to 95 percent. Today, this cancer is treated with targeted chemotherapy treatment that only affects the cancer cells. It works and there are very few side effects. All I had were some headaches that quickly went away."

As the treatment destroys the cancer, Talbot's white blood cell count will dip until it is stable at around average levels. His body is expected to reach that point in about six months after beginning treatment.

"Ninety-seven percent of my bone marrow cells were bad when I got the diagnosis. I'm not quite into remission yet, but I'm getting close. In October, they will take another blood test to see if the cancer cells are still detectable," Talbot said.

Another reason for his quick turnaround, according to DeWitt, is his attitude.

"Tim has this amazing warrior spirit. When the rest of us would be inclined to give up, or curl up in a ball and bemoan our fate, he's taking on challenges that few healthy people would even attempt," DeWitt said.

After diagnosis, the couple assessed the situation and decided there were three things they had to do right away. First, they went ahead with an already planned vacation with Talbot's 12-year-old and 15-year-old sons to Costa Rica, where they enjoyed bike rides, kayaking and lots of outdoor adventures.

"It was important to show them you don't quit. When negative things happen in your life, you don't quit," Talbot said.

Second, Talbot started his chemotherapy treatment, which involves taking a daily dose of medicine. And, third, the

couple got married.

"We'd been together nearly seven years. We're both pragmatic people who said we wouldn't get married," DeWitt said.

They each have children from previous marriages. When they moved to Huntsville, they bought a house together and settled in with jobs at Redstone Arsenal, intending to continue their partnership as an unmarried couple.

But Talbot's health situation changed that. With the possibility of hospital stays and long-term health care, DeWitt needed to have power of attorney in case she would have to make health decisions for Talbot at some point. The easiest way to get that legal authority was to marry.

Their marriage was a celebratory affair at A.M. Booth's Lumberyard in downtown Huntsville, with the couple asking for donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in lieu of gifts. A few weeks later, they enjoyed a 337-mile bike ride honeymoon from Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh, Pa.

The leukemia society has also played a major role in Talbot's health.

"The fund-raising that the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society has done to fund drug research and development has resulted in the production of the drug I am taking. That development was funded all with private donations," he said.

Talbot has also become active in the leukemia society's local chapter, joining their Team in Training program where he raises funds and awareness by training for and participating in health-related events.

"Through the North Alabama chapter you commit to a specific race, usually a marathon, triathlon or bike race. You work together with others through Team in Training to get ready for your event. They provide a training schedule, nutrition advice and mentoring," he said.

Each participant has a website where friends, family members and other supporters can donate to the race. In his first fund-raiser event – a Spartan Race in his hometown of Amesbury, Mass. – Talbot raised \$4,000 for the leukemia society. Of the 12,500 participants in the five-day competition, Talbot came in at about 1,100.

"It was a great race, very challenging,"

he said.

"It challenged you mentally and physically. It had a little bit of everything. There was sprinting up steep hills, jumping into mud pits, crawling under barbed wire, climbing ropes, flipping over tires and all sorts of big obstacles. It was 20 obstacles in three miles. We had to work together to climb 8- and 9-foot walls, and at the end we had to fight past Gladiators who tried to beat us with sticks. We motivated each other along the way. Everyone was racing against the time."

Although many of the participants in the local Team in Training are leukemia society fund-raising volunteers, very rarely do they actually have a leukemia patient racing with them. For them, having Talbot in the group was an inspiration.

"They had a mission moment before the race," DeWitt said. "They asked Tim to speak to the group. Just having him there was a reminder to them of why they were doing this race. It motivated them to finish the race."

Talbot was only too eager to oblige. "If it wasn't for the drug I am taking, I wouldn't be able to do this. This group raises money for the research needed to make drugs like this. I'd be a lot sicker if it wasn't for that research," he said.

The only drawback concerning Talbot's treatment is that he will always have to take the medication. And there is always a possibility that his leukemia will become resistant to the medication, which would then force him into a health situation that would require a bone marrow transplant for recovery.

But Talbot is holding out that he will be able to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle for many more years with the help of his medication.

"I've been an adventurous, outdoor guy all my life," he said. "I've run marathons, played rugby, and gone back-packing and kayaking. I've climbed four of the world's highest mountains in the Seven Summit Challenge. I want to keep doing those kinds of things."

The Seven Summit Challenge involves summiting the highest mountain peaks on each of the seven continents. Talbot has reached the summit of Kilimanjaro in Africa, Elbrus in Europe and Aconcagua in South America. He has at-

tempted Mount McKinley (also known as Denali) in North America. Others include Everest in Asia, Vinson Massif in Antarctica and Kosciusko in Australia.

"We'll see how well the medication works and how it treats me, and maybe I'll be able to summit these other mountains," Talbot said.

Talbot and DeWitt spend many of their weekend hours riding their bikes in various local events. They are planning their first 100-mile ride in Clarksville, Tenn., over Labor Day weekend.

In September, they will cycle in the Viva Vegas Gran Fondo in Las Vegas, with Talbot cycling 122 miles and DeWitt cycling 102. They have raised \$4,953 toward their goal of \$5,500 for that race. They also plan on participating in the Light the Night fund-raising walk for the leukemia society at Bridge Street in October.

"We love doing this stuff together. It gets us in better shape. It gives you a sense of accomplishment when you can set these goals and then reach them," DeWitt said.

For Talbot, it's a way to beat back, at least psychologically, the disease that threatens his way of life.

"When you have a disease that is going to change the way you live possibly, you do what you can to continue with the life that you want. You can't affect how your body responds to the medication, but you can control how you as a person respond to it," he said.

"There's nothing you can do to prevent what's happened. There are no genetic factors to leukemia. It develops after some exposure to a chemical or radiation that has changed a cell. Research is doing what it can to find a cure. They have a drug now that can stabilize this leukemia. But they haven't found a cure yet."

Editor's note: For more information on the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Alabama/Gulf Coast chapter, visit the website at <http://www.lls.org>. For more information on the Spartan Race, visit <http://www.spartanrace.com/> and for more information on the Viva Vegas Gran Fondo, visit <http://www.rtcsvn.com/vivabikevegas/>. The Talbot/DeWitt team page can be found at <http://pages.teamintraining.org/vnt/vbvegas12/teampigasus>.

New faces of country music shine Sunday



By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Country music fans will converge Sunday on the Redstone Activity Field. “Brantley Gilbert and New Faces of Country” is this year’s show from the Army Concert Tour. This is part of the Army Entertainment concert series.

“Ticket sales are going well, quite well,” Mark Germonprez, business operations officer for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said. “In the neighborhood of 7,000” people are expected.

The event, which begins at 2 p.m. and continues until around 9:30, is open to the public. General admission is \$20, \$25 on Sunday. For more information, call 313-5224.

Performers include headliner Brantley Gilbert, Drake White, Sonia Leigh, Casey James, Eden’s Edge, Kip Moore and Easton Corbin.

“He (Brantley Gilbert) is one of the hottest new faces in country music,” Germonprez said. “Kip Moore, Easton Corbin and Brantley Gilbert have all had No. 1 hits. I think there’s five or six No. 1 songs between them.”

Casey James appeared on American Idol. And Drake White, an aspiring singer/songwriter residing in Nashville, is a native of Hokes Bluff, Ala.

“It’s a great opportunity to see some of the new faces of country music that most country music fans haven’t seen yet,” Germonprez said. “And all money we raise from this event goes toward programs for Soldiers and people who support Soldiers.”

File photo

Brantley Gilbert is the headliner for Sunday’s show, part of the Army Entertainment concert series.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Ready for new year

Representatives of the Redstone Arsenal Community Women’s Club are ready for a new year of socializing, fund-raising and personal development. One of the year’s fund-raisers will be the Pineapple Open golf tournament on Oct. 26 at the Links. From left are Lana Barshinger, community assistant co-chair; Stacy Prater, merit awards chair; Tiffany Kraus, president; Michelle Nash, second vice president; and Michal Turner, adviser.



In this section...

YOUTH AWARENESS EVENT KICKS OFF SCHOOL YEAR	PAGE 6
CROWD CELEBRATES VETERANS MEMORIAL DOWNTOWN	PAGE 8
DISEASE PREVENTION ADVICE FROM FOX CENTER	PAGE 9
RTC WORKERS ENJOY ORGANIZATIONAL DAY	PAGE 10
READ ABOUT WHAT’S NEW AT POST LIBRARY	PAGE 10
VETERANS MUSEUM ENLIGHTENS FUTURE CIVILIAN LEADERS	PAGE 12

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

The Garrison’s Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provided the following list of upcoming events:

Army concert tour

The 2012 Army Concert Tour, featuring “Brantley Gilbert and New Faces of Country,” is Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Activity Field. General admission is \$20, \$25 on show day. For more information, call 313-5224.

Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest, Redstone’s annual German festival, is Sept. 13-16 at the Activity Field off Patton Road. As always the public is invited. Hours are 5-11 p.m. Sept. 13, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sept. 14, noon to 1 a.m. Sept. 15 and 1-8 p.m. Sept. 16. Prices are \$12 for Sept. 13 and Sept. 16,

and \$15 for Sept. 14 and Sept. 15. That covers admission and all the rides, but doesn’t include the chance games. Entrance will be through Gate 10 on Patton Road. In case they’re asked, people should have their vehicle registration, proof of insurance and a valid driver’s license. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit redstonemwr.com.

Rhythms/Brew/Barbecue

“Rhythms, Brew and Barbecue” will be held Sept. 29 at the Activity Field. Doors open at 2 p.m. with the show at 3. Performing in concert are Eric Benet, Mint Condition, Frank McComb and Rick Ward. Tickets are \$25 advance, \$30 day of show and \$65 premium. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit redstonemwr.com.

Youth awareness event kicks off school year

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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This was the highlight of the final weekend before the start of the school year.

Youngsters from throughout Madison County had a day of family fun and education Saturday at the second annual Community Awareness For Youth held at the Jaycees Building and Fairgrounds off Airport Road. The Huntsville Police Department presented the event to build relationships with the youth of Madison County and foster a positive environment for their success.

“We’re so excited about this event,” Dr. Harry Hobbs, HPD’s communications relations officer, said in welcoming the crowd. “We’re going to have a great time. We’re going to enjoy ourselves.”

Among the kickoff speakers were Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and a Huntsville native; and Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton.

“It is truly a community,” Collyar said, “and we’re proud to be a part of it.”

Said Hamilton, “It’s a real honor and a privilege to serve in a community that has such a great sense of community.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

A color guard from the North Alabama Young Marines presents the colors at Saturday’s event. From left are Lance Cpl. John Moravits, right rifleman; Sgt. Sean Herron, flag bearer; Lance Cpl. Johan Ridzelski, flag bearer; and Gunnery Sgt. Blaine Brown, left rifleman.

The event was targeted to ages 12-18, school grades 7-12, but was open to all ages. The program was designed to make youth aware of the four pillars of success – health, physical fitness, education and careers. There were children events, free food, live entertainment and special guests.

Miranda Weaver, 7, a second-grader at Riverton Elementary in New Market and daughter of Melody and Troy Weaver, shared her thoughts about the event.

“I think it’s so kids can get ready for school,” she said. “It’s exciting.”

Crowd celebrates Veterans Memorial downtown

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Thursday brought an open house event at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville.



Rick Somers tells some visitors about his fellow re-enactors.

At right, re-enactor Debra Bartlett meditates at the memorial.



Below, members of the AMC Band take a break from playing their music to view the memorial. From left are Staff Sgt. Russell Bundy, Staff Sgt. Mike Agee, Staff Sgt. Jason Paul and Spc. Stephen Fahrlander



Disease prevention advice from Fox center

Fox Army Health Center release

The Madison County Health Department has notified Fox Army Health Center's Preventive Medicine service that there has been an increase in reported Shigellosis cases recently. Since June, there have been 15 cases of Shigellosis reported in Madison County.

Educational information about Shigellosis, how to protect yourself and your family against Shigellosis, how to determine if you have Shigellosis, and instructions concerning what to do if you believe you have Shigellosis, is provided in this article.

Individuals with Shigella are said to be infected with the Shigellosis bacteria. Most that are infected with Shigella develop diarrhea, fever, headache and stomach cramps starting a day or two after they are exposed to the bacteria. Shigella usually resolves in 5 to 7 days. Persons with Shigella in the United States rarely require hospitalization. Some persons who are infected may have no symptoms at all, but may still pass the Shigellosis bacteria to others.

Every year, about 14,000 cases of Shigella are reported in the United States. Shigella is particularly common in settings where poor hygiene occurs. It is more common in summer than winter. Children, especially toddlers aged 2 to 4, are more likely to get Shigella.

Shigella is spread through the fecal-oral route. Shigella bacteria are present in the diarrheal stools of infected persons while they are sick and for up to a week or two afterward. Most Shigella infections are the result of the bacterium passing from stools or soiled fingers of one person to the mouth of another person. This happens when basic hygiene and hand-washing habits are inadequate.

Shigella infections may also be acquired from eating contaminated food. Infected food handlers who forget to wash their hands with soap and water after using the bathroom may contaminate food. Vegetables can become contaminated if they are harvested from a field that contains raw sewage. Flies can breed in infected feces and then contaminate food. Water may become contaminated with Shigella bacteria if raw sewage runs into it or if someone with shigellosis swims in or plays in splash tables, untreated wading pools, or shallow play fountains. Shigella infections can then be acquired by drinking, swimming in, or playing with the contaminated water.

Here are some basic tips for preventing the spread of Shigellosis:

- Wash hands with soap and water carefully and frequently, especially after going to the bathroom, after changing diapers, and before preparing foods or beverages.
- Dispose of soiled diapers properly
- Disinfect diaper-changing areas after using them.
- Keep children with diarrhea out of

child care settings.

- Supervise hand washing of toddlers and small children after they use the toilet.
- Do not prepare food for others while ill with diarrhea
- Avoid swallowing water from ponds, lakes or untreated pools.

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent Shigella. Frequent and careful hand-washing, with soap and water, is important among all age groups. Hand washing, with soap and water, among children should be frequent and supervised by an adult in daycare centers and homes with children who have not been fully toilet trained.

If a child in diapers has Shigella, everyone who changes the child's diapers should be sure the diapers are disposed of properly in a closed-lid garbage can, and should wash his or her hands and the child's hands carefully with soap and water immediately after changing the diapers. After use, the diaper changing area should be wiped down with a disinfectant such as diluted household bleach, Lysol or bactericidal wipes. When possible, young children with a Shigella infection who are still in diapers should not be in contact with uninfected children. Daycare centers should not provide water play areas.

Basic food safety precautions and disinfection of drinking water prevents Shigella from food and water. People with Shigella should not prepare food or drinks for others until they have been shown to no longer be carrying the Shigella bacterium, or if they have had no diarrhea for at least two days.

Persons with mild infections usually recover quickly without antibiotic treatment. Appropriate antibiotic treatment kills Shigella bacteria, and may shorten the illness by a few days. However, some Shigella bacteria have become resistant to antibiotics. This means some antibiotics might not be effective for treatment. Using antibiotics to treat shigellosis can sometimes make the germs more resistant. Antidiarrheal agents such as Imodium or Lomotil can make the illness worse and should be avoided. A negative stool culture is usually required before children are allowed to return to daycare and/or school. Contact your local child care center and school district for their specific policy.

If you believe you, a family member, or someone you are caring for has Shigellosis and would like to see a healthcare provider or you want information concerning Shigellosis, call Fox Army Health Center at 955-8888 or toll free at (888)-223-9531. If calling after 4:30 p.m., Fox's "Advice Nurses" are available at 955-8888 or toll free at (888)-223-9531, then press "2" at the prompt. The "Advice Nurse" will provide health information and guidance based on your specific condition and/or question. For all emergencies, dial 911. For a complete listing of Fox services, visit its website at <http://www.redstone.amedd.army.mil/>.

RTC workers enjoy organizational day



Photos by Ellen Hudson

About 1,000 members of the Redstone Test Center on Friday celebrated their Health and Safety Day and the center's third birthday as the RTC.

They enjoyed games, sports, a dunking

The Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area was filled Friday with workers from the Redstone Test Center.

booth and food in a family atmosphere at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area. The skies were overcast but fortunately without the predicted rain.

"We've got a perfect day out today," RTC commander Col. Steve Kihara said.

E3 Division's Mark Waller, left, battles RTC Slammers' Kenny Smith at the volleyball net.



Read about what's new at Post Library

The Post Library, building 3323 on Red-eye Road, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10-4. Its phone number is 876-4741.

To see the library's catalog, visit www.redstonemwr.com, click on Recreation, click on Library and then click on online catalog.

The library has the following new items:

Adult fiction: "15 Seconds" by Andrew Gross - After a random act of violence, Henry Steadman, a successful surgeon accused of murdering two people, must clear his name and discover who is trying to destroy him. ... "Whispers Under Ground" by Ben

Aaronovitch - When the son of a wealthy, politically powerful family is found dead, London constable and sorcerer's apprentice Peter Grant investigates the case, which is linked to a rogue magician known as the Faceless Man.

Adult nonfiction: "Mayo Clinic Diabetes Diet" by the Weight-loss Experts at Mayo Clinic - Outlines five habits to follow and five habits to lose in order to lose weight and manage blood sugar with a healthy diet and exercise. ... "The Sun's Heartbeat: And Other Stories From the Life of the Star That Powers Our Planet" by Bob Berman - Provides facts about the star at the center of our

solar system and describes the life of the sun, from its birth and anticipated death.

Children fiction: "What Color Is My World?: The Lost History of African-American Inventors" by Kareen Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld - While twins Ella and Herbie help handyman Mr. Midal, he tells them about inventors such as Granville Woods, Dr. Henry T. Sampson, James West and others, giving them a new view of their heritage as African-Americans. ... "The Accused" by John Grisham - When Theodore Boone, kid lawyer, is accused of robbery, he vows to do whatever it takes to prove his innocence.

Children nonfiction: "Grow Your Own Monsters" by Nicola Davies and Simon Hickmott - Provides step-by-step instructions for growing monster plants, including Venus fly traps, squirting cucumbers, and walking-stick cabbages.

DVDs: "Eureka. Season 5" ... "Falling Skies. The complete first season" ... "Mirror Mirror" ... "Warehouse 13. Season three."

Audio books on DVDs: "Believing the Lie" by Elizabeth George (reader - Davina Porter) ... "Bloodhound" by Tamora Pierce (reader Susan Denaker) ... "Gideon's Corpse" by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (reader David W. Collins).

Veterans museum enlightens future civilian leaders

By MEGAN COTTON

For the Rocket

For the members of an AMCOM leadership training program, Thursday's field trip visited the past.

The Upward Leader Investment for Tomorrow participants toured the Veterans Memorial Museum to learn more about Army history and how the seven Army core values played into it.

The leadership group includes civilians from throughout Team Redstone. One of UPLIFT's purposes is to teach each Army value and how it applies to a civilian work force.

"We wanted to reinforce the seven Army core values to our members and use the museum to see how they have been displayed throughout the Army's history," Jamie Candelaria, the program administrator for LIFT, said.

The seven Army core values were established after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Before that the Army had three core values, Duty, Honor and Country established by Gen. Douglas MacArthur in a speech he gave to West Point in 1960, said museum staff member, Larry Bayer. Today the seven core values are Duty, Honor, Loyalty, Selfless Service, Respect, Personal Courage and Integrity.

At the museum Duty is represented by the military uniform. The museum has an entire hallway full of uniforms from every branch and era.

"Duty is best represented by the uniform that the men and women of our armed services wore," Bayer, who served in the Vietnam War, said. "It is a visual symbol of fulfilling your obligation."

Next on the tour was Honor, represented by the medals given to those who have served in the military. This included the Purple Heart, which is the oldest military decoration established by George Washington.

"There is no more fitting example of honor than the medals we bestow on our military members who serve our country," Bayer, a Purple Heart recipient, said.

Selfless Service was represented by the Flying Tigers. According to Bayer, the group known as the Flying Tigers consisted of military pilots that left the service for a tour of duty in China. They helped the Chinese defend themselves from the Japanese. This was selfless service because the group did not know if they would be allowed to re-enter the U.S. military and the U.S. had not yet entered into a war against Japan in 1941, Bayer said.

The 40 and 8 Boxcar was the symbol of Respect. In 1949 after the end of World War II the French government sent 49 boxcars to the United States as thank



Photo by Megan Cotton

Veterans Memorial Museum staff member Larry Bayer shows a picture to UPLIFT member David Jones during the tour.

you for the U.S.'s sacrifice in both the world wars. The boxcars were given to each state and the territory Hawaii, leaving out Alaska, and were filled with gifts from the people of France, said Bayer.

"They were a sign of respect and thank you for the American sacrifice in both of the wars," he said.

The cars got their names because they could fit either 40 men or eight horses.

The core value Personal Courage is represented by the names of the men and women in the North Alabama area that have joined the military since Sept. 11, 2001. The museum has a section where the names of those who've joined are etched onto a plaque.

Integrity is shown by the Command Company A whose contributions to the Battle of the Bulge were not recognized by the U.S. until 2001, Bayer said.

"It shows the integrity of the Army to recognize and fix their mistake," Bayer said.

The seventh value, Loyalty, is represented in the museum by the POW bracelet. These bracelets showed the loyalty of the people at home and those overseas, Bayer said.

"The bracelets were a sign of camaraderie and loyalty to the military and the individual during a very turbulent time," he said.

UPLIFT member Danielle Pollard said she loved learning about our military history and how things have changed over the years.

"It is really interesting how they can restore items so our generation and future can see how things used to be," Pollard said.

Robert Mitchell said he enjoyed the trip and especially learned a lot about the 40 and 8 Boxcar.

"I'd never heard that story before and I think I'd like to do a little research about it and find out about the other boxcars around the country," Mitchell said. "The museum had such a wide variety of artifacts and displays that it could really take you a long time to get through everything."

Car enthusiast wins national meet with perfect score



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Car enthusiast Ken Bernhardt, a logistics management specialist for foreign military sales in the Aviation and Missile Command's Security Assistance Management Directorate, achieved a perfect score for his 1987 Buick Regal turbo at the 2012 Buick Club of America National Meet held June 27-30.

By **BETH SKARUPA**
For the Rocket

Achieving a perfect score at a premier auto show is an impossible dream for most car enthusiasts. But Ken Bernhardt did just that at the 2012 Buick Club of America National Meet held in Concord, N.C., June 27-30.

The day of the judging was extremely hot – 105 degrees Fahrenheit, 115 with the heat index. According to Bernhardt, it was 154 in the parking lot with no air movement in the infield of the Charlotte Motor Speedway where the judging was held.

“Talk about sweltering, I mean it was punishment being out there,” he said.

He and his son Ryan worked on readying the car for judging. At this show, all cars had to be in good working condition and able to drive onto the show field and drive off on their own power.

“To get it ready you have to clean it thoroughly and detail it. Put it this way, I was down to toothbrushes and Q-tips on the engine,” he said. “When they sit, cars that sit deteriorate. So you’re basically going from scratch. It took two solid days of cleaning it thoroughly.”

All his hard work paid off when the judges awarded his white 1987 Buick Regal turbo with burgundy interior and exterior chrome a 400 out of 400 possible points, earning it a senior gold award. The concourse judging consisted of a team of four judges. Earning a senior gold award did not require a perfect score, but that is what the car received. No deficiencies were noted.

“I was shocked. Four hundred total points. I was like, woo-wee,” he said.

He knew his Buick Regal turbo deserved the high score. Just eight months before, the car earned 397 points out of

See Car on page 15

First female four-star general retires from Army

By **C. TODD LOPEZ**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The first woman to serve as a four-star general in both the Army and the U.S. armed forces, Gen. Ann Dunwoody, retired Aug. 15 after 38 years in uniform.

“Ann is a leader who lived our Army values, who always led from the front, who dedicated herself to the profession of arms,” said chief of staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno, who hosted the retirement. “In my mind, Ann Dunwoody is the epitome of the Army professional.”

Dunwoody joined the Army in 1974, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Women’s Army Corps in 1975. Her first assignment was as supply platoon leader, 226th Maintenance Company (Forward, Direct Support), 100th Supply and Services Battalion (Direct Support), Fort Sill, Okla. Since then, she’s served at every level of command.

“Her true legacy and reward will be the thousands of Soldiers and civilians whose lives she has touched through the span of her career,” Odierno said during a ceremony at Summerall Field at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., near the Pentagon.

Most recently, Dunwoody served as commander of the Army Materiel Command, one of the largest commands in the Army. The command employs more than 69,000 employees across all 50 states and 145 countries.

“It was Ann’s most recent role, as commander of the AMC, in which she unified global logistics in a way (that has never) been done,” Odierno said. “She capitalized AMC’s fundamental logistics functions to maximize the efficiency and services they provided of supply, maintenance, contact support, research and development, base and installation support, and deployment and distribution. She connected AMC not only to the Army, but ensured the joint force was always ready and supplied as well.”

Odierno assured Dunwoody that she has left a mark on the Army, and changed it for the better.

“You have shown pride in your units, you have challenged your subordinates, you have been loyal to your leaders, you have been a friend to your colleagues,



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

Col. James Markert, 3rd Infantry regimental commander, and Gen. Ann Dunwoody inspect Old Guard Soldiers during her retirement ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., Aug. 15.

and you have been a selfless servant to those who have been placed in your charge,” Odierno said. “You have made every

unit you have been in a better unit. Your legacy is clear.”

In 2008, Dunwoody was promoted to general. She was the first woman in the U.S. military to be promoted to that rank. Odierno said that while the promotion is significant for women, Dunwoody didn’t get it because of her gender, but because of her performance.

“It wasn’t because you were a woman, it was because you were a brilliant, dedicated officer, and you were quite simply the best logistician the Army has ever had,” Odierno said. “You have set the shining example for all Soldiers, especially our young leaders.”

An Army brat, Dunwoody said she moved all over the world with her father, who was also an Army officer and who retired as a brigadier general.

On the occasion of her retirement from

See Retirement on page 18

In this section...

‘ALLOWED TO HAVE WHAT YOU WANT IN LIFE’

PAGE 14

'Allowed to have what you want in life'

Keys for success shared by First Lady of Boxing

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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Those simple sayings that children hear so often from their parents – “Always wear a smile,” “Don’t let them see you sweat,” “Don’t say anything if you can’t say something nice” and others – became real-life adult lessons in one woman’s success in the male-dominated field of boxing.

In a career laced with tales of male chauvinism, street violence and strong-armed intimidation, Jackie Kallen today is known as one of the first females to have successfully climbed to the top of the boxing world as a manager and publicist of championship fighters. The “First Lady of Boxing” told her inspirational story to a Team Redstone audience who attended the Women’s Equality Day Observance Program on Aug. 14 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Describing it as a story for “anyone who is a minority or who doesn’t feel they fit in,” Kallen said she grew up in Detroit fighting against the societal boundaries set for girls. She learned how to stand her own ground in a neighborhood filled with boys, acting as a warrior nurse in the make-believe battles where all the fighters had to be boys, and negotiating her way into getting access to the “Boys Only” tree fort for herself and her girlfriends.

“I learned at an early age to follow my own path,” she said. “We learn these life lessons and I was fortunate enough along the way to take advantage of them.”

From that childhood, Kallen, 67, learned lessons that began to lead her path toward a career in journalism and, later, management and marketing. Those lessons included:

• **Your gender, ethnicity and other physical attributes aren’t what’s important.**

“It’s how you present yourself that’s important,” Kallen said. “If you act fearless and brave, then as long as you don’t show your fear, others will think you have control. I control what you are going to see. I decide how you will view me.”

• **She thought she had no talent until it was discovered.** She couldn’t dance, sing, play an instrument, paint or act. But, at age 9, she happened to write a complaint letter to her mom, who became convinced that she could write. Her mom entered her into creative writing classes and competitions that she actually won.

“I felt so successful because I found what I was good at. Through the written



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Jackie Kallen, who is known as the “First Lady of Boxing” for her career as a manager and publicist of championship fighters, speaks about the childhood lessons that have followed her throughout her professional and personal life during Team Redstone’s Women’s Equality Day Observance Program on Aug. 14.

word I could create whatever I wanted to create,” she said.

She started a neighborhood newspaper that became the beginning of a journalism career. “People love to read about others and themselves,” she said.

• **Being true to yourself will lead to opportunities that you will love.** At age 13, Kallen won a radio contest to meet teen heartthrob, singer and TV actor Ricky Nelson. She ended up spending an evening with the star with two blonde 16-year-olds. Realizing she had no chance to pursue her crush on Nelson, she relaxed and started an evening-long conversation with him that further solidified her destiny.

“Being fearless, I didn’t think talking to him was any different than talking to anybody else,” she said. “At the end of the evening, he said to me ‘Wow! You’re a little pistol. You should be a reporter. You seem to have no fear talking to anybody.’ And that was it for me. I thought to myself ‘This is what I can do and can do well, and why not take advantage of that opportunity.’”

Kallen went on to work for her high school paper and then professionally for a Detroit newspaper. Twenty years later, she and Nelson met again, and she told him about the influence he had on her life.

• **The things you do will come back to you, even if it takes years.**

As an 18-year-old writer for her high school newspaper, Kallen was determined to get an interview with the Rolling Stones, who were coming to the U.S. for the first time and had a Detroit appearance on their schedule. But her credentials as a

See Kallen on page 16

Car

continued from page 13

400 at the Buick Grand Sport Club of America Nationals in Bowling Green, Ky. He originally bought the car in February 2011 in Milwaukee in 4 feet of snow.

“They call this car a sleeper. You don’t think it’s fast until it flies past,” he said. “The thing to know about this car is it was the fastest American production car produced in 1987 along with the Buick Grand National. This was a basic Regal. Only 5,512 were produced I think, so there’s not a lot of them out there.”

So where does he go from here? A perfect score is hard to beat, so he said he plans to keep it preserved at its present level and perhaps enter it in the occasional car show. Just keep-

ing in its current condition will be a challenge. But that is why he has a climate controlled garage.

He and his wife, Rae Ann, cannot park the cars that they drive daily in the garage because it is full. In addition to the car that won the perfect score, Bernhardt also has a 1987 Buick Grand National with 38,000 miles on it. He also recently purchased a turbo charged 1987 Buick Regal limited.

He has been showing cars on and off since he came back from a 1990-91 tour in Egypt. He is a retired Soldier.

“I didn’t really start messing with cars until I saw one in Fort Meade (Md.) when I was in the Army and I said hey that’s my car,” he said.

When he is not busy with his cars, he spends time with his wife and his two sons Lance and Ryan. He has a ski boat and a Sea-Doo and his son Ryan just got his vessel license. He also is looking forward to football season. He is a big New Orleans Saints fan.

“I like getting out and doing fun



Ryan Bernhardt, 14-year-old son of car enthusiast Ken Bernhardt, waits for the judges to inspect his dad’s 1987 Buick Regal turbo in the infield of the Charlotte Motor Speedway at the 2012 Buick Club of America National Meet.

Courtesy photo

things. And I like to get my kids involved. If I can keep them interested in boating and cars, I can keep them out of trouble,” he said.

“They call this car a sleeper. You don’t think it’s fast until it flies past.”

Ken Bernhardt

Kallen

continued from page 14

high school newspaper reporter didn't get her access to the group.

Kallen created a scheme for a new magazine that she planned to launch and was able to get into the group's media event. Immediately, Kallen felt out of her comfort zone among the more experienced group of reporters. She waited quietly and when the opportunity presented itself she invited lead singer Mick Jagger, who was 20 at the time, to her home for dinner. She convinced him with the promise of one of her mom's home-cooked meals, the experience of having dinner with an All American family and a little fun with friends. The next night, Kallen and a girlfriend picked the band up at their hotel for the hometown date.

"We had such a good time. When we see each other even today we laugh because who would have had the nerve to ask the Rolling Stones for dinner? We had a blast," she said. "Later, that evening was mentioned in an autobiography of the group. I was shocked that after all those years I still had made an impression on him."

In the 1970s, Kallen decided she wanted to be a sports writer in Detroit, reporting on professional sports. And that's when the adult lessons of a female making it in a male-dominated field really came to bear.

"You have to establish your place and you have to show that nothing is going to intimidate you," she said. "I didn't want people to see me as a female reporter. I wanted them to see me as a pretty good writer. I wanted us to have mutual respect for each other. ... And the only barriers I had were the barriers I put there. It never occurred to me that I couldn't do it. If it's something you can learn and do physically

then there is no reason you can't do it."

Ten years into her sports writing career, Kallen realized the real money was in sports management. And she chose to pursue that career in the boxing arena.

"I knew I could manage fighters if I had the opportunity," she said. "They were a tough bunch of kids, macho, just off the streets. It was 'What do you know?' I always had to prove myself. But where are you in society where you don't have to prove yourself? ... I learned to handle it with confidence and I learned about knowing what stage they are in to match up with a certain sparring partner. I learned because I wanted to, and because I loved it and have a passion for it. If you love what you are doing and you feel comfortable and confident, then you will succeed."

From 1978-98, she actively managed boxers while also taking on the duties of marriage and motherhood. It was during those years when she relearned the adult version of that old childhood lesson to "always wear a smile."

"You need to have patience when people talk about you, when they underestimate you. You have to suck it up, smile and treat them like they are morons," she said, winning laughter from her audience. "You have to substantiate your value."

She recalled one incident with a boxer who was angry that she didn't get him more money for a fight.

"He pulled a gun on me," she said. "With that gun in my face, I had to explain to him that if he pulled the trigger he wouldn't get more money, he would no longer have a manager and he would go to jail. I had to smile at him and wait for him to put that gun down. If you don't validate someone's intimidation, it doesn't exist. You have to learn to develop patience with people who are ignorant."

Other childhood lessons she relearned as an adult – "We all make mistakes and the key is to learn from them"; "Be careful what you say because you don't know who's listening"; and "It's not always how good you are, but who you know who can put you in a good position at the right time."

Today, her 33 years in the boxing world have included managing six champion boxers, serving as commissioner of the International Female Boxing Association and continuing today as a mentor of young women hoping to work in the boxing field. She spent a decade as the publicist for well-known boxer Thomas Hearns, managed her first champion in 1991 with boxer James Toney, and was nominated twice for manager of the year. Kallen's life was the inspiration for the Paramount film "Against the Ropes."

Kallen is now a well-known author, publicist, TV journalist and host, radio personality and motivational speaker. She is the author of "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" and is now writing a second book. She appeared on NBC's "The Contender" with Sylvester Stallone and Sugar Ray Leonard, and is currently producing a boxing film with Sugar Ray Leonard.

Now living in Los Angeles, Kallen is active with charities dealing with battered and abused women, and the homeless. She also serves as the youth sports coordinator for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. She is known of setting up boxing gyms in areas where there are kids at-risk, and then working to help kids leave the area's gangs and join one of her gyms. She also produces boxing events to raise funds and awareness for various charities.

During the Summer Olympics, Kallen enjoyed seeing women fight for the first time, with the U.S. represented by three fe-

male boxers. One won gold, another won bronze.

"It shows how far we've come but also how far we still need to go," she said.

Despite the gains of equality for women, Kallen feels society still "sells us short" in sharing female accomplishments. In the movie "Against the Ropes," Kallen's character was changed from a married mother with two children to a single woman, diminishing the accomplishments she made both personally and professionally.

Even so, she believes anyone can achieve their aspirations despite the naysayers.

"You can do it all," she said. "You absolutely can do everything. You don't have to pick this or that. You're allowed to have what you want in life. There are tremendous rewards when you believe in yourself and hang in there."

She also feels that successful women should make it a point to extend a hand of support to other women.

"In boxing, I had nobody, no other woman who had been a boxing manager that I could look up to and learn from," she said. "It's important to have other women who you can talk to. Men don't deal with the things we go through emotionally and physically."

"I didn't have a female mentor as a boxing manager. But I've become one. Being a role model is just as great as having a role model. I am so very appreciative of that opportunity."

During the program, Team Redstone announced the winners in the Women's Equality Day Observance Program. They are: Essay contest – first place, Nate Smith of the Logistics Support Activity; second place, Jacqueline Martin of the Missile Defense Agency; and third place, Maureen Trainor of the Aviation and Missile Command; and display contest – Missile and Space Intelligence Center.

Retirement

continued from page 13

the Army, she said, it's been easier for her to think about leaving than to talk about it.

"Thinking about it is fun, talking about it is very hard," she said. "And the reason it's so hard comes down to one word: Soldiers."

Referring to those Soldiers on the parade field from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), she spoke more broadly of all the Soldiers in the Army.

"These Soldiers represent the finest in our Army, the Army that I love so much," she said. "It's a profession and an institution that has been a part of me since the day I was born.

"From the very first day that I put my uniform on, right up until this morning, I know there is nothing I would have rather done with my life," she said. "Thank you for helping me make this journey possible."

Dunwoody's husband, retired Air Force Col. Craig Brotchie, along with many of her family and friends, some going back as far as the fourth-grade, attended the retirement ceremony.

"I promise now that I'm retired, I have a lot more time to be a better sister, a better grandma, and a better friend," Dunwoody told them. "I can't wait."

The outgoing general also thanked her husband.

"I won't even try to put in words what our life together has meant," she said. "Thank you. I love you. And I know you, me and Barney (their dog), have plenty of more miles to go."

According to Odierno, a member of the Dunwoody family "has served in every great conflict since the Revolutionary War."

Her great-grandfather was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and a Signal Corps officer. Dunwoody's own father, Brig. Gen. Harold Dunwoody, was a veteran of World War II, the Korean War

and the Vietnam War.

Dunwoody thanked her father, who could not be in attendance, for the influence he had on her.

"My own personal hero is my dad, he is a proud World War II, Korea, Vietnam veteran," she said. "And he was a real Soldier's Soldier. And much of who I am is founded on what I learned from my dad, as a Soldier, as a patriot and as a father."

Also thanking her mother, Dunwoody said "I got my faith, energy, and my love of sports from my mom."

Dunwoody said during her military career, she's never worked for a female boss.

"I've always had male bosses who have coached me, mentored me, and influenced my career as a Soldier," Dunwoody said. "(They) gave me opportunities that I know if left to the bureaucracy would have never happened. (They are) leaders who opened the doors for me, leaders who looked beyond gender, leaders who could see something in folks that didn't look like they do. Without their help, I know I would not be standing here today."

When Dunwoody first became a Soldier, women served in the Women's Army Corps and "it was not equal," she said. But much has changed since then.

"Over the last 38 years I have had the opportunity to witness women Soldiers jump out of airplanes, hike 10 miles, lead men and women, even under the toughest circumstances," she said. "And over the last 11 years I've had the honor to serve with many of the 250,000 women who have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan on battlefields where there are no clear lines, battlefields where every man and woman had to be a rifleman first. And today, women are in combat, that is just a reality. Thousands of women have been decorated for valor and 146 have given their lives. Today, what was once a band of brothers has truly become a band of brothers and sisters."

Dunwoody and her husband will retire to Florida.

Mexico's attorney general visits explosives training

Mexican police officers take weeklong class

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The busiest summer in ATF's two-year history at Redstone Arsenal culminated Friday with a visit by a top foreign dignitary.

Mexico Attorney General Marisella Morales visited her police officers undergoing explosives training at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research. This weeklong class, conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, typically has 30 students.

"This is one of the premier facilities in the world for post-blast investigation," Brad Earman, chief of the explosives enforcement and training division, said.

Morales visited the students at Capano Range where she saw the damage results on vehicles from using explosives that are typically found in Mexico.

"And for this class we've got (ATF) agents that are stationed in Mexico along with police officers," Earman said. "This helps us build relationships, helps us work as a team."

ATF has agents in several cities throughout Mexico to provide technical assistance.

The National Center for Explosives Training and Research has been operational about two years, but "this summer

we've hit our stride," according to Earman.

Carl Vasilko, director of the NCETR, described the facility's increased operation.

"The growth this summer has been pretty significant," Vasilko said. "The training courses that we deliver: we've been able to increase the number of each of the courses that we deliver, some more than others. For example, the Advanced Explosives Disposal Techniques, this summer we doubled the number of courses we put on last year. I would say that we went from approximately 80 students to approximately 200 students this summer. We have another course called Homemade Explosives Training: this year we delivered 11 classes. Starting Oct. 1, we are going to double that to approximately 22 classes next year. Those two courses are two of our premier training courses that we offer here.

"In addition to the classes and training we offer, we've also significantly increased our explosives research here on the Arsenal," Vasilko said.

Morales' visit represented the first time since this training has been conducted that a foreign official of her rank has visited the NCETR.

"I'm really impressed with what I've seen for the training," Morales said through an interpreter. "It's very important for our country, especially to try to determine the kinds of explosives that are used and how to dispose of them. The training and the type of materials that they're using, it's very important. And this is very funda-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Mexico Attorney General Marisella Morales tours ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research.

mental for the investigation to try to ensure justice is served.

"And we're very, very thankful of the help that the United States is giving us. The ATF, there have been different agen-

cies in our country to take care of these type of events. It's one of the many things our countries are doing that give results. And it's going to improve investigations in this type of crime."

Seventies era exciting in Army Materiel Command

By CHERISH WASHINGTON
AMC Public Affairs

This was the era where disco was all the rage, M*A*S*H was a hit television show, and "Star Wars" hit theaters. Yes, it was the '70s.

It was also an exciting time for the Army Materiel Command.

From 1970-75, Gen. Henry Miley commanded AMC during the fielding of a major weapon system, the culmination of AMC's first decade in business and its first building relocation.

AMC historians recorded that AMC supplied and supported the most advanced radios, switches, typewriters and telephones the Army had ever seen up to that time. The M-16 rifle was fielded to Soldiers and night vision devices began to emerge.

Most notable in military history was the

Tube-launched Optically tracked Wire-guided, or TOW, missile system fielded in May 1972. This was the first American-made guided missile to be fired in combat by U.S. Soldiers; and the Soldiers and civilians of AMC made it possible.

To celebrate the decade of success in November 1972, then Army chief of staff Gen. Creighton Abrams, AMC's first commander Gen. Frank Besson and more than 750 civilian and military personnel attended a gala held at Fort Meyer's (Va.) Officer Club. Shortly after the celebration, change would emerge.

See AMC on page 20

AMC: Then and Now
Fifty years of history
Part 4 of series



Army photo

Leaders of the Army Materiel Command gather in July 1977.

In this section...

SPACE MISSILE DEFENSE FOCUS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE	PAGE 21
FLYNN: INTEGRATED INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM GIVES ADVANTAGE	PAGE 22
CONTRACT AWARDED FOR MISSILE SYSTEM	PAGE 22
SMDC/ARSTRAT CITED FOR SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS	PAGE 22

AMC

continued from page 19

The first building relocation occurred in early 1973, which moved the headquarters work force from what is now Reagan National Airport to 5001 Eisenhower Ave. in Alexandria, Va. The command held a contest for the naming of the headquarters. The winning entry was "The AMC Building."

But more change would occur within the walls of AMC.

"The secretary of the Army and the chief of staff of the Army were not very happy with the way people in AMC were interfacing with the rest of the Army," reflected Gen. John Deane, AMC commander from 1975-77. "It was two separate entities that didn't speak to each other very much. They wanted to bring AMC closer to the combat arms side of the Army."

In an effort to do that, Deane was appointed as commanding general and the first combat officer to hold that position. His first directive from the secretary of the Army was to rename the command.

It was changed to the Army Development and Readiness Command, or DARCOM, on Jan. 23, 1976.

"We wanted to change our philosophy of how we do business and also change

the attitude of the people in the command," Deane said during a 1976 interview with the Army magazine, *Soldiers*. "We wanted to emphasize that readiness is a part of our business. We have a very definite responsibility for the combat readiness of the Army so we have to get out and do something about it. The re-naming of the command was designed to point out this philosophy – to indicate there is change going on now, change that will continue to go on. We're not going to do business as we have in the past."

In the midst of changes within AMC, a culture of efficiencies was emerging in society and the Army began to scale down its activities worldwide. The secretary of the Army designated the Army Materiel Acquisition Review committees to recommend improvement in the acquisition process in 1974, which began a reorganization of the entire command and personnel cuts.

The commodity commands that were once managed by AMC were broken into separate commands for research/development and readiness and extensive personnel cuts occurred in 1976.

From the late 1970s through part of the '80s, AMC began focusing its attention on what became known as the "Big Five": the Apache, the Black Hawk, the Abrams tank, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Patriot missile system.

Army photo

In early 1973, the Army Materiel Command headquarters moved to its new home at 5001 Eisenhower Ave. in Alexandria, Va. It included a 450-seat cafeteria, a 122-seat area for formal dining, a barber-shop, a hair stylist, dry cleaner and a full service bank. It was used as AMC's headquarters for 30 years.



Space missile defense focus for annual conference

By SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

The 15th annual Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition held Aug. 13-16 at the Von Braun Center saw more than 600 paid attendees, more than 6,000 receiving access badges for the conference, and more than 11,000 walking through the conference exhibit halls.

The lineup of speakers included Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; Air Force Lt. Gen. John Hyten, vice commander, Air Force Space Command; Brig. Gen. Timothy Coffin, deputy commander for operations, SDMC/ARSTRAT; as well as a plethora of various high-level speakers, including Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

“Missile defense is definitely a part of the strategy,” Kendall said Aug. 14.

Kendall spoke about how defense officials have come up with a new strategy to create a smaller, agile, more “joint” force that retains key capabilities in part by leveraging technology. The strategy was crafted to avoid critical cuts in training programs, arms and supplies that followed the Vietnam War and Cold War that left the U.S. unprepared for other contingencies.

“I refer to this as more of a ‘correction’ than a reduction of force or the American industrial base,” Kendall said. “There is a strong desire to not have a ‘hollow’ force.”

“The defense budget submitted to Congress was built around this new strategy,” he said. “And it’s very tight.” Conference chairman Robert Dowling said, “Today, we face numerous emerging threats from a combination of state and not-state actors spread across multiple regions, and that reality will drive our space and missile defense planning for the coming decades.”



Photo by Carrie E. David

Brig. Gen. Timothy Coffin, deputy commander for operations at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, introduces himself during the space panel Aug. 15 during the 15th annual Space and Missile Defense Conference at the Von Braun Center.

Formica spoke on the last day of the conference offering an update on his “three hats” as the commander of SMDC and ARSTRAT, and as commander of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense.

Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of the U.S. Strategic Command, could not attend the conference. As the senior leader of the Army Service Component Command to USSTRATCOM, Formica gave an update on the mission and campaign concept of the USSTRATCOM’s responsibilities, which include nuclear forces, space, cyber, joint electronic warfare, global strike, missile defense, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, conventional weapons of mass destruction and targeting and analysis.

“USSTRATCOM brings a menu of capabilities to support our nation and our geographic commanders and is organized in order to best deliver those with a focus on deterrence and assurance. Gen. Kehler is also quick to say – and he’s been around the block a time or two – that the operating environment in which we operate today and in which we’ll operate in the future is like none other we’ve ever seen before,” Formica said. “It’s different in time, distance, battle space and in USSTRATCOM’s area of responsibility because it really is a global command. The enemy threat doesn’t limit itself to our geographical areas of responsibility or even necessarily to our national boundaries. And so we have new weapons – both ours and theirs. Along with its other responsibilities, missile defense is a very high priority in Gen. Kehler’s USSTRATCOM.”

Following Formica’s presentation was a cyber panel of speakers who addressed the ongoing and future threats associated with cyberspace operations. That presentation preceded a closed and classified session at the Missile and Space Intelligence Center’s auditorium on Redstone Arsenal in the afternoon bringing the conference to a close.

Flynn: Integrated intelligence system gives advantage

By **CHERYL PELLERIN**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn has become Defense Intelligence Agency director at a time when 17 intelligence agencies and organizations – an enterprise whose transformation began on 9/11 – are maturing into an integrated community that Flynn calls a strategic advantage for the nation. The Missile and Space Intelligence Center at Redstone is a DIA subordinate.

Flynn became DIA director July 24 in a ceremony at the agency's headquarters, where he also was named commander of the co-located joint functional component command for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance that is part of U.S. Strategic Command.

"For the United States intelligence community, (the lesson from the tragedy of 9/11) was about transforming ourselves into something much better for the nation," Flynn told American Forces Press Service.

He also quoted National Intelligence Director James Clapper, who said in his vision statement that a fully integrated intelligence community makes the nation more secure.

"I believe that we failed the country because we lacked what we know we have today, and that's a much more integrated community," Flynn said. "That lack of integration was the part-and-parcel reason why we were surprised."

The idea of integration has always been around, Flynn said, "but over the last decade we have matured as a community into what I believe is a strategic advantage for this country. And we are far better today than we have ever been."

Many challenges remain, the director said. After assuming the agency's helm, he wrote a letter to the men and women of DIA in which, among other things, he warned of a world driven by accelerating rates of change and increasing complexity.

Contract awarded for missile system

The Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, in conjunction with the Aviation and Missile Command, has awarded a contract to Lockheed Martin Corporation for the Joint-Air-to-Ground Missile Guidance Section.

The contract has a not-to-exceed \$64.15 million value for the Extended Technology Development Phase.

The Joint Attack Munition Systems Project Office is also in ongoing technical discussions with Raytheon for a parallel effort in this Extended TD Phase.

The adverse weather capable JAGM

"But I think the machinery of the U.S. intelligence community, and certainly the Defense Intelligence Agency as a major part of that in general (is) rowing together now," Flynn said.

Flynn's priorities at DIA, detailed in his recent director's guidance to the agency, include growing tomorrow's leaders, strengthening human intelligence through DIA's Defense Clandestine Service, established in April, and providing timely, responsive and relevant analysis as fast as a customer needs it.

But Flynn added that he's also focused on other agency needs: to understand a new kind of enemy, disseminate intelligence to the widest possible audience, support the Defense Department's rebalance of resources to the Asia-Pacific region, and engage international partners in new ways for an uncertain future.

For DIA, a new kind of enemy has arisen from some of the popular revolutions that have burned across North Africa and the Middle East since December 2010, from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen to the ongoing and deadly civil war in Syria.

In Yemen, for example, which has 26 million people, high unemployment and an unstable government infrastructure, money from narcotics and other criminal enterprises can buy the services of young men who have nothing else to do, Flynn said.

"That's a fundamentally different kind of enemy to understand," he said. "Somebody who feels no hope is different (from) someone who puts on a uniform and decides he's going to be your enemy. It's completely different, so we have to have a different mindset to deal with it. We have to be able to go into these environments – Afghanistan being one, as well as future environments – with a much different level of preparation."

system will enable war fighters to attack critical, high-value, fixed and moving targets day or night while remaining effective against a variety of countermeasures. When fielded, the JAGM system will provide an improved air-to-ground missile for use on rotary-wing aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems for the joint services.

The JAGM Extended TD Phase will address affordability and reduce overall risk before entering the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase by adopting an incremental strategy for qualification of the JAGM Guidance Section.

On another issue, Flynn said DIA improved significantly over the years at disseminating intelligence to the widest possible audience.

"It's an open world and we're a closed society, especially the intel system," he said. "So we have to drive our knowledge to a level where it's much more open."

If 10 years of war and conflict have taught the intel community anything, Flynn said, "it's ingrained into the DNA of the work force that we have to disseminate information to the lowest (classification) level possible as fast as we can ... and not allow the bureaucracy to get in the way of (giving) those Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines ... the information they need to save lives."

DIA also is moving to support the Defense Department's goal of rebalancing resources to the Asia-Pacific region, as outlined in the Defense Strategic

Guidance released in January.

"I think that we participate (in the rebalance) through the missions we have in terms of our collection, our analysis ... (and) how we put a footprint out into that theater in the right places," working with military and international partners, Flynn said.

The director described an opportunity he had in March to represent the director of national intelligence during the 2012 Jakarta Defense Dialogue, a meeting of Southeast Asia security specialists and military officials.

"Everybody talked about the importance of that part of the world and how we can better work with each other in partnership and collaboration," he said. "The guy who spoke before me was ... a three-star (general) from China. The presentation that he gave – he could have given

SMDC/ARSTRAT cited for small business programs

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command in its role as the Army service component command to U.S. Strategic Command received the Woman-Owned Small Business Program Award presented by the Army's Director Office of Small Business Programs in Washington, D.C., during the Department of the Army Small Business Conference Aug. 2.

The award illustrates the team effort of SMDC/ARSTRAT technical offices and contracting office supporting the Army's Small Business Programs. It also illustrates the caliber of woman-owned small businesses that contribute in providing critical capabilities to the war fighter.

"I am proud to represent SMDC/AR-

en mine and I could have given his. They were that similar in theme and message."

Before becoming DIA director, Flynn was assistant director of national intelligence for partner engagement. He was used to thinking about U.S. partnerships. He noted that the idea of partner engagement is highlighted in the May 2010 White House National Security Strategy and especially in the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance.

"We will only win as a coalition," Flynn said, adding that a coalition is defined as a group of nations that participates in a series of operations or campaigns or in war.

"We have to rely on our partnerships internationally and they have to rely on us," he added, "so if I learned anything (in the previous position), it's that there's a much greater need (to improve) how we do that."

The United States must determine how to innovate and create new forms of partnerships, how to sustain the long-term strong partnerships that exist today, and how to build better processes, he said, including the one that governs intelligence sharing.

"Intel sharing in the 21st century is like money was in the last century; intelligence is a currency," the director said, adding that a kind of quid-pro-quo practice has existed in the community – "I give you some intel, you give me some intel back."

But moving into the future, "maybe we engage partners in new ways by sharing intel, and what we really want (in return) is their political support or physical support," he added.

"If we want forces to participate in some coalition, we may want basing support or we may ask for help in some other effort, ... and they provide us a footprint where we can operate from," Flynn said. "Maybe intelligence is the currency we use among others to gain their trust and confidence."

STRAT at the Army wide level," Christine Ryan, associate director for small business programs at SMDC/ARSTRAT, said. "I believe that what we do assists in providing trained and ready Space and Missile Defense forces and capabilities to the war fighter and the nation."

SMDC/ARSTRAT received one of the possible five Army Small Business Program Awards. The award was competitively awarded among nine other Army major commands (ASCCs, DRUs, ACOMs). The DA OSBP director, Tracey Pinson, annually recognizes Army commands for excellent goal achievements and continuous improvement in the overall Army's Small Business Program. (*SMDC/ARSTRAT release*)



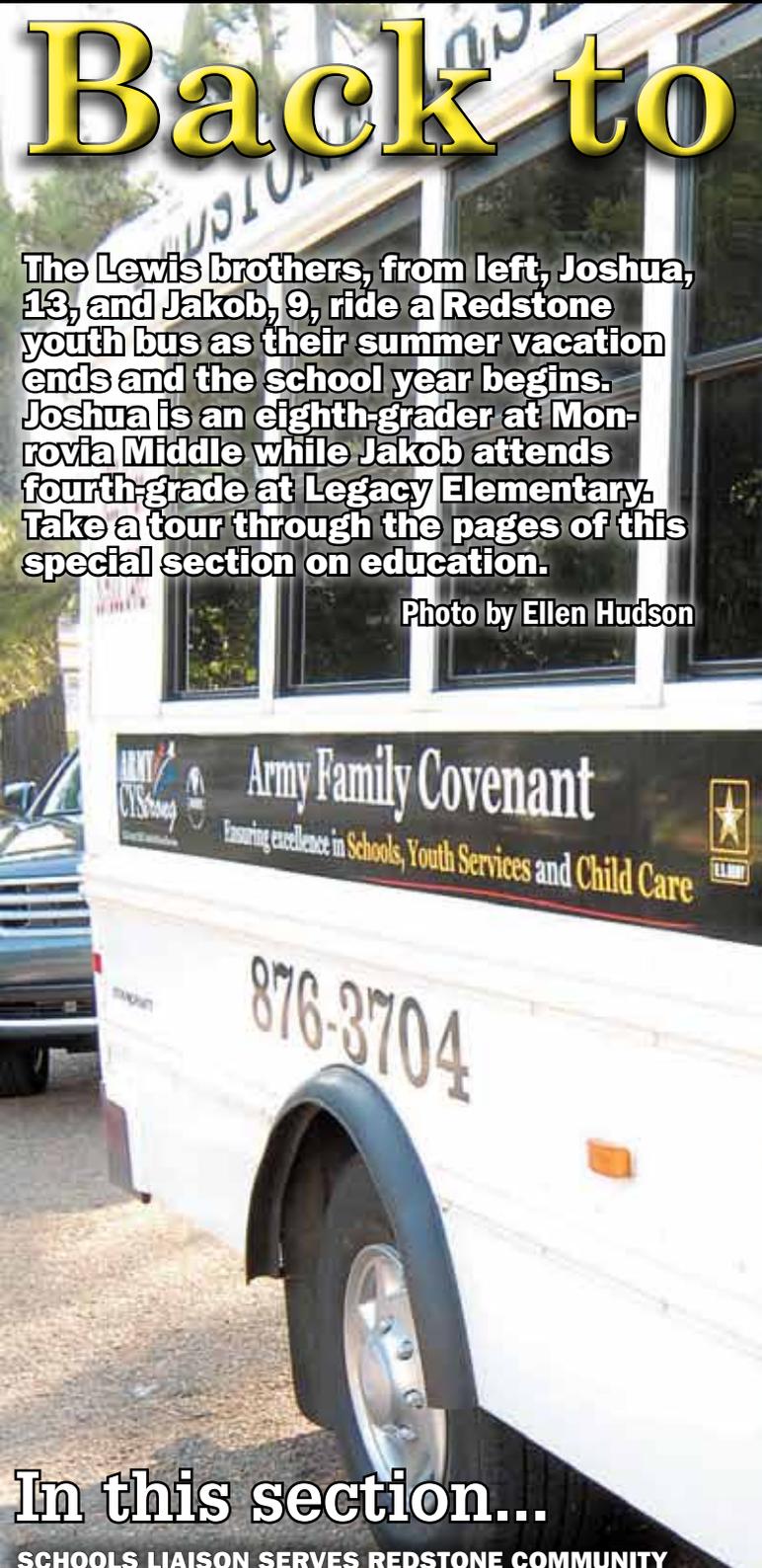
Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn

SpecialSection

Back to school days

The Lewis brothers, from left, Joshua, 13, and Jakob, 9, ride a Redstone youth bus as their summer vacation ends and the school year begins. Joshua is an eighth-grader at Monrovia Middle while Jakob attends fourth-grade at Legacy Elementary. Take a tour through the pages of this special section on education.

Photo by Ellen Hudson



In this section...

SCHOOLS LIAISON SERVES REDSTONE COMMUNITY	PAGE 24
SKIES UNLIMITED ADDS NEW PROGRAMS	PAGE 25
QUARTERLY MEETINGS CONNECT SCHOOLS, REDSTONE	PAGE 26
NONPROFIT SHOWS SUPPORT THROUGH FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES	PAGE 27
NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS NEW METHODS OF TEACHING	PAGE 28
PROGRAMS PROVIDE AFTERSCHOOL PEACE OF MIND	PAGE 29

REDSTONE REACHES OUT WITH EDUCATION PROGRAMS	PAGE 30
GETTING IN SHAPE FOR SCHOOL SPORTS	PAGE 31
PROVIDING THE BEST ADULT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE	PAGE 32
COALITION LIVES TO SERVE THE MILITARY CHILD	PAGE 32
HERE'S ADVICE FOR BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY	PAGE 33
GOOD GRADES PAY OFF AT REDSTONE EXCHANGE	PAGE 33
TECHNOLOGY PAVES THE WAY FOR FUTURE OF EDUCATION	PAGE 38

Schools liaison serves Redstone community

By MEGAN COTTON

For the Rocket

When a family moves to new area, there is a lot to consider but nothing may be as important as researching what school your children will attend. To help members of Team Redstone understand the options, there is Barbara Williams.

Williams, the Garrison's youth education support services director, links new families and the local community school systems.

Williams' job description involves coordination, oversight and integration of all Child Youth and School Services issues involving public schools and their relation to the military community. As education liaison, she serves as an adviser to Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton on education issues and as a problem solver for parents and families who have questions and issues related to education.

Anyone on Redstone Arsenal from active duty, retirees, National Guard, reserves to Department of Defense civilians can use Williams' services.

A former educator, Williams has more than 32 years experience in the Huntsville school system before taking her new role at the Garrison more than three years ago.



Barbara Williams

Her background with the education system gives her insight.

"I am well-abreast of not only what each school offers in curriculum but also what each school specializes in," she said. "I know the variety of issues that parents can have when they move and I have solutions to those problems that comes with firsthand experience and points of contacts with the schools."

She will hear from people all over the world as they call to find out information for their children before they move to Redstone. She said the biggest concerns normally cover what curriculum is offered,

extracurricular activities and special needs.

Assisting with moves is not Williams' only duty though; she works through several programs to help Redstone children and their families.

Impact Aid

Federal Impact Aid is an annual education grant program that provides funds to school systems that are financially burdened or impacted by federal activity populations. Local school systems are entitled to certain federal monies if either a parent or guardian of a student works or lives on certain federal properties.

Local areas eligible include not only Redstone Arsenal, but also Tennessee Valley Authority properties such as Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and Guntersville Dam and Reservoir, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, and the Air Traffic Control Tower at Huntsville International Airport.

Williams helps to get the word out and encourage people to fill out the form and return it to their children's school. She supports the local school systems by helping with the annual Impact Aid Kickoff and by encouraging the Redstone work force to turn in their forms.

"In today's economy, schools need money. Impact Aid is a way for schools to generate additional funding for programs

that could be cut," Williams said. "By filling out Impact Aid forms, parents can directly influence funding for their schools and gain reassurance that additional funding will help provide their children with a quality education."

This year's Impact Aid kickoff will be Sept. 12 at 9:30 a.m. at James Clemens High School in Madison.

Garrison Education Meetings

One of Williams' proudest partnerships with the community is the Garrison Education Meeting. The meeting takes place quarterly and allows the three geographically closest school districts, Madison County, Madison City and Huntsville, along with representatives from other surrounding counties to discuss issues that relate to education and Redstone Arsenal. It allows a time for updates and sharing information.

Adopt a School

A new and growing program, Adopt a School will help connect Redstone employees who wish to volunteer in local schools. Williams hopes that eventually every command and organization will get involved and support the Adopt a School program.

See Liason on page 28

SKIES Unlimited adds new programs for kids



Photo by Ellen Hudson

SKIES Unlimited Martial Arts students practice their moves during class. New this school year, SKIES will add drumline, piano, guitar and art to its lineup of class offerings, which already includes Taekwondo and drivers education.

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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The sky apparently isn't the limit when it comes to afterschool educational offerings on Redstone Arsenal.

Learning in the 21st century doesn't just happen in the classroom – it's everywhere – and the SKIES Unlimited program, Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills, provides educational opportunities to military connected children that they may not otherwise get during school. Here on Redstone Arsenal, those opportunities have expanded.

"Students are more involved when they're enrolled in the Redstone programs," said Karvellis Lee, SKIES director. "These programs are helping them in arts and crafts and other hobbies, and bettering their learning skills as they deal with individuals versus a videogame. It's enhancing their life and enhancing the quality of life on Redstone Arsenal."

In addition to martial arts, which has become a staple for the Child Youth and School Services program, SKIES now also offers classes in drumline, piano, guitar, art and drivers education, all at

an affordable fee for families. Music and art classes are \$60 a month; drivers education \$360 per session. Dance has currently been removed from the program's list of classes, but will return once a professional dance instructor is found to teach the class.

Anyone with access to the Arsenal is welcome to enroll their child in the program; enrollment is done through Central Enrollment at building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Drive. Drumline classes, for ages 4 to 19, and art, for ages 3 to 19, are already in session. Piano, currently for children at the Child Development Centers is already in session for children ages 2 to 5, classes for students age 6 to 19 will begin Sept. 7. Guitar lessons, for ages 8 to 19, will also begin Sept. 7. Drivers education sessions are year-round, with slots open every month. Since its creation this spring, 41 students have completed the course.

The SKIES Unlimited program is located in building 3153 on Youth Center Drive, near the Youth Center and School Age Center. Registration for the program is completed through Central Enrollment. For more information about the SKIES program, call 876-6844.

Quarterly meetings connect schools, Redstone

Garrison education sessions keep educators informed

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

As the Garrison's youth education support services director, Barbara Williams uses several meetings and events to foster partnerships with the communities' education leaders. One of her favorite events is the Garrison Education Meeting.

"It is one of our biggest accomplishments," she said about the quarterly meetings.

The meetings bring together representatives from the surrounding school districts, Madison County, Madison city, Huntsville, Scottsboro, Arab and more. About 30 people attend each meeting ranging from superintendents to high school principals with a high military children population.

The meetings provide a fo-

rum for the members to share information with each other. The Garrison gives updates on Redstone changes, available support programs and partnership opportunities.

"It is a two-way exchange of information between the schools and the Garrison," Williams said. "We will bring in



Photo by Megan Cotton

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton speaks on behalf of Team Redstone at February's education meeting.

speakers from Army Community Service to the Military Child Education Coalition to talk about partnerships and services Redstone offers that the schools can use."

This school year's first meeting is expected to be a big success. The members of the group will be invited on to the Arsenal for a Team Redstone update, tour

and a meet-and-greet with education outreach coordinators.

"It is going to be very special and very different from everything we have done before," Williams said about the meeting scheduled for early October. "They will get to see where everything is located and get a better understanding of what we do and what services we offer them."

Huntsville city schools by the numbers

The Huntsville city schools system provided the following statistics on its new year:

180 school days for students

187 school days for teachers

23,140 students enrolled

44 schools

Nonprofit shows support through free school supplies

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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They give their time, their talent, and sometimes even their own money to molding the nation's future generations. As a thank you, one Tennessee Valley organization is giving those devoted teachers something in return.

The name says it all – Free 2 Teach – and the nonprofit wants to do exactly that for educators in Huntsville City Schools, Madison County Schools and Madison City Schools, by providing them with the basic supplies they need for their classrooms, at no cost to them.

“They’re not going to spend any of their money on the products they get,” said Nancy Jones, co-founder of the nonprofit. “If you want the schools to be good you need to give them the tools that they need. By providing these items, there will be money available for other things.”

Housed in West Huntsville Elementary School, which closed in 2009, the Free 2 Teach store will serve as a one stop for teachers where they can shop for all the basics they need for their classroom, including the seven core items that will always be on hand: No. 2 pencils, crayons, glue sticks, loose leaf paper, pens, washable markers and copy paper. Other items, such as binders, backpacks, highlighters, scissors and construction paper will be available as they are donated.

While teachers receive \$300 from the state for classroom supplies like pencils, crayons and paper, at times that amount doesn't cover all their expenses, forcing them to pay out of pocket for those items. Sixty percent of teachers spend between \$100 and \$500 on classroom supplies each year, according to the Alabama Education Association, with 18 percent spending more than \$500 annually. Free 2 Teach would relieve teachers of that financial responsibility.

“Once it gets started and teachers know what’s in here, they can stop here instead of going to Walmart and spending their own money,” said Gina Dyer, a first-grade teacher at Morris Elementary.

The organization aims to become an affiliate of the Kids in Need Foundation, which provides free school supplies to students and teachers across the nation, through the support of donors such as Target, 3M and Walgreens, but must first be in operation for a year to apply. While Jones hopes to open the store for teachers sometime in September, it must first be stocked with an adequate level of school supplies. Once that happens, the store will become available to schools based on need, determined by the number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, with



Photo by Ellen Hudson

From left, volunteers Patti White, Barb Moore and Gina Dyer, a teacher at Morris Elementary, sort through donations at the Free 2 Teach store in their warehouse at West Huntsville Elementary School in Huntsville, now closed, where the store is located.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Seven core items will always be available for teachers at Free 2 Teach, including No. 2 pencils, crayons, glue sticks, loose leaf paper, pens, washable markers and copy paper.

the long-term goal of serving all 84 schools, 3,500 teachers and the more than 50,000 students in the three local school systems.

The nonprofit accepts monetary donations, as well as donations of supplies, including items like water bottles, backpacks, portfolios and other complimentary gifts companies give to attendees of conferences that are leftover when the event is said and done, which teachers can use as rewards for children. Time is another valuable resource, as the store and warehouse are completely volunteer run.

“This is our opportunity to show teachers that we value education,” Jones said. “We value what they’re doing in the community and how important it is that the kids have the tools that they need to be successful in school.”

Just knowing a store is in the works already solidifies the community’s commitment to area teachers, Dyer said.

“It makes us feel important, worthy, all nine yards,” Dyer said. “We are very grateful.”

For more information about Free 2 Teach, visit www.free-2-teach.org.

New school year brings new methods of teaching

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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More than 50,000 students across the Tennessee Valley returned for another year of reading, writing and arithmetic Monday, but as local school leaders will tell you, education in 2012 goes far beyond the three R's.

As students of Huntsville City, Madison City and Madison County schools begin a new year, education leaders are ramping up the rigor and creativity in the classroom in a variety of ways. From a new high school, to awarding winning programs and the latest advances in technology, educators have dedicated the 2012-13 school year to ensuring area students are excelling in the classroom, and are ready to succeed once their school days are over.

"We come from a community that has very high expectations," said Madison city schools superintendent Dee Fowler. "Those expectations are manifest in the school district, they're manifest with the parents and they're manifest with the children as well. We're very pleased that these high expectations have allowed many of our students to excel academically, athletically and in the arts. There's an old saying that success breeds success, and we're trying to build on our

past successes, and then keep going to the next level."

Huntsville schools

The days of backpacks bursting at the seams with textbooks and teachers proclaiming, "turn to page 22" are over in Huntsville city schools – the district's 23,140 students have gone digital.

Each student in grades 4 through 12 received an HP Pro-Book 6460B, valued at \$1600, equipped with Windows 7 Office Professional and their digital curriculum for the 2012-13 school year. While the shiny new laptops are what's exciting students, the technology is merely the means of connecting with the content they'll be learning in class. Only now instead holding a physical textbook in their hands, that curriculum will be on their computers, making Huntsville city schools the first school system in the nation of its size to go paperless, according to superintendent Dr. Casey Wardynski.

"The digital curriculum is always current, because as it's updated on the Internet, we get the current version. Textbooks are stale the minute they are printed," Wardynski said.

Third-graders each received a Netbook and students in first- and second-grade will each have an iPad to use in class; kindergartners and pre-K students will share iPads. While all Apple prod-

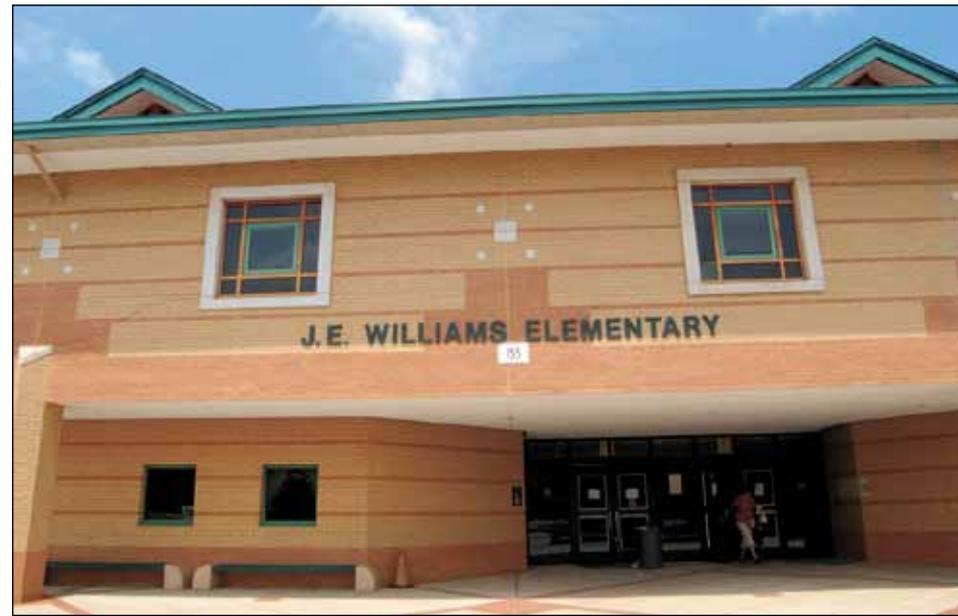


Photo by Ellen Hudson

Campuses at J.E. Williams Elementary and schools throughout the area are busy with classes that begin this week.

ucts stay at school, the older students are welcome to take their laptops with them wherever they go, including on the school buses, which are now equipped with Wi-Fi.

"I think it's very informative since we're living in a digital age," said Sherrie Bridgeforth, whose son Nicholas is a

seventh-grader at J.E. Williams Middle this year. "It's just appropriate for the kids to be using laptops. It will help in the business world so that he'll be able to connect, because those are the things we are currently using in the working world."

See Overview on page 36

Liason

continued from page 24

"In a number of ways we are growing that partnership program," Williams said. "We are already working with schools in a number of ways and a number of agencies are involved.

"My philosophy is how would a child know what they want to be when they grow up if they have never been exposed to it."

Williams said they will need mentors and tutors to help the children. Her email address is barbara.w.williams.naf@mail.mil.

Student 2 Student

A program Williams supports is Student 2 Student and its counterpart for younger kids, Junior Student 2 Student. The students involved in these programs are specifically trained about how to integrate military children into their new school. S2S is offered at five local high schools and JS2S is in 13 middle schools.

"They've learned to identify what a new student would need to know such as the layout of the school, different courses,

friends to eat lunch with, extracurricular," Williams said. "They've also learned how to make them feel comfortable and help them to relax so they can quickly transition. This way new students are connected immediately with a positive peer group and have a better start to the school year."

The program is sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition to establish and sustain peer-based groups in each school to help military children transition from school to school nationally or internationally.

"It's a wonderful partnership that the Army is investing in," Williams said.

Youth Sponsorships

Similar to S2S and JS2S, Youth Sponsorships are based out of the School Age Services Center and Youth Center. The children participants are trained in how to make a new member feel connected. The Youth Sponsorships will recognize birthdays, farewells and other major milestones in the member's life.

"Essentially they help make new families feel welcome," Williams said.

As the education liaison, Williams will teach a variety of workshops monthly at the centers. These range from careers,

study skills, how to apply for college and more. These workshops are not limited to the Youth Sponsorships; anyone attending the centers can go to the workshops.

Home School Support

Another service offered by Redstone Arsenal is the Home School Support. Members of the program come out to Redstone one day a week and take classes with the CYSS employees in computer and technology, physical education and arts and crafts.

"We have a great core group of students that come consistently every week," Williams said. "It's a time for them to socialize with other Home School kids and learn skills. It's not all just fun and play. They build on skills from a small project to something larger."

After School Programs

Williams helps the CYSS distribute information about their afterschool program to local schools in Madison County, Madison city and Huntsville. To do this she attends open houses and PTA meetings to answer questions about the program.

In the last few years they have added

about a 120 families to the afterschool programs. It has also grown to 12 shuttle buses.

"I would say that it is very successful and a great service we offer," Williams said.

Workshops for Parents

As a former teacher, Williams knows the value of continuing to build on your education. So she offers workshops once a month for parents. The topics include Kindergarten Readiness, Home School Orientation, and Chart Your Course which shows how to build on middle school and high school classes in order to achieve in college.

Williams said the most challenging part of her job is that there never seems to be enough time in the day to do everything she wants to do. She offsets this with her passion for helping children and their families and her love of education.

"To meet new families and learn about their school's experiences and then turn around and help connect them to the same services here at their new school is my favorite part," she said. "I feel like I'm really blessed in that way. I feel like this is a whole new career for me."

To contact her, email barbara.w.williams.naf@mail.mil.

Programs provide afterschool peace of mind

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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The school year has begun and Redstone has a full curriculum for afterschool.

The School Age Center program is for grades one through five; and the middle school and teen program is for grades six through 12. Registration, free of charge, is done at Parent Central Services (phone 876-3704) at building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road.

A bus shuttle program is also available which delivers youngsters from 20 schools within the Madison city and Madison County districts to both the School Age Center and the Youth Center.

“Parents can be at work with peace of mind that their children are being supervised by trained staff, assisted with homework and provided a light snack daily when the parent picks them up,” Andre Terry, chief of Child Youth and School Services, said. “And they can have peace of mind that their children are being safely transported from their school to our programs (via the shuttle buses).

“And when you look at it from a mission standpoint, the mission is not interrupted. It’s seamless,” Terry said.

The afterschool programs are available to children of military members, govern-

ment civilians and contractors. “Basically if they can get through the gate they can use our programs,” Terry said.

Rates for the School Age Center program are based on total family income. The middle school and teen program is free because the government subsidizes the cost for that older age group. “They’re considered an at-risk group and that’s why they’re subsidized,” Terry explained.

The School Age Center program provides supervised activities and staff who have a background check. They provide recreational activities, social activities, homework lab with a teacher, technology lab with instructors, afternoon snacks, physical activities and agricultural activities.

“And all of these things we provide in a way that challenges children after school,” Terry said. “One of our philosophies is we don’t babysit – we have lesson plans with a trained trainer who plans out weekly activities.”

The center, with about 85 participants, can take up to 140; so there is space available for more youngsters. The Myra M. Garriott School Age Center, building 3155 on Youth Center Drive, is open 1-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mary Washington, the director, can be reached at 955-6114.

“It’s a safe place for the children to be while their parents are at work,” Washing-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Dajsia Fortenberry and Jakob Lewis, both 9, play air hockey at the School Age Center.

ton said. “Their parents want their children to do their homework while they’re here. We have a homework instructor, we have a computer lab and they do sports every day.

“Our biggest thing for afterschool is our homework lab,” Washington said. “The parents want them to go to homework lab. The first thing the parents ask when they pick them up is ‘Did you do your homework?’ And I don’t blame them.”

The middle school and teen program is offered 1-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Youth Center, building 3148 on Youth Center Drive. Scott Shuffler, the director, can be reached at 876-5437.

The Youth Center’s afterschool program

includes social and leisure activities, recreational activities, gross motor activities, afternoon snacks, technology lab with instructor and a homework lab with teacher.

“Our average daily attendance in that facility is like 70 youth,” Terry said. “And we can take up to 140 in that program as well so spaces are available.”

This is the fourth year for the bus shuttle program which has grown to 12 buses. It originally started with three buses, then five the next year, eight the third year and from 10 to 12 within the last 12 months.

“I would have to say our shuttle bus program is very, very successful and huge to the success of our afterschool programs,” Terry said. “We have 147 children riding that bus that otherwise would not be in our programs because the parents have no other way to pick their children up from school or get off from work.”

Parents interested in the bus program can call Rosalinda Scarborough, Terry’s administrative assistant, at 876-3704. The 12 buses have 20 schools on their route but the list changes each year based on demand.

Besides the afterschool offerings, SKIESUnlimited – which stands for School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills – is an instructional program for grades 1-12. Its phone number is 876-6844.

Redstone reaches out with education programs

By SHARONDA PEARSON
For the Rocket

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." In addition to being a logistics management center of gravity and technological hub for the Department of Defense, agencies across Redstone Arsenal are using education outreach to change the world.

"Education outreach programs are important because it fosters relationships and builds connections with local schools while maximizing opportunities for educational enrichment and academic support for youth," Barbara Williams, youth education support services director, said. "In addition, it exposes youth to various careers, ensures quality educational opportunities and nurtures the intellectual, emotional, social and physical growth."

Team Redstone's commitment to education and partnerships with the local community is changing the lives of children, according to Williams.

"Together, we can make a difference in the lives of today's youth and tomorrow's leaders by building on their foundation for a successful future," she said.

Her sentiment is an ongoing theme for

many Team Redstone organizations – to include the Army Materiel Command, Missile Defense Agency, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, NASA, the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville, and the Aviation and Missile Command – all of which have thriving education outreach programs.

John Pearson, AMCOM Army education outreach program coordinator, believes that education outreach programs are an effective work force development resource because they inform youth about all the potential career opportunities on the Arsenal.

"A lot of the smartest and sharpest students think they have to look elsewhere to find a career path," Pearson said. "The AMCOM Education Outreach Program lets them see that the possibilities are endless and that, yes, they can find a job somewhere but if you want a career, AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal are amazing options."

Jo Anita Miley, who manages the community relations and educational outreach program at the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville, agrees.

"Due to the makeup of our organiza-

tion, we think it is especially important to share career experiences with students who are interested in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math with the federal government," Miley said. "We're investing in our future work force."

Education Outreach programs at Redstone range from adopt-a-school programs, to job shadows and internships. Pearson believes that opportunities for

Team Redstone representatives to engage students by speaking at local schools are particularly effective.

"The incredible part of this is the speakers all take this seriously and are passionate. The detail and personal touch that they all put into it does not escape the students. Plus, it is great to have a chance to talk passionately about the work in service of the war fighter," Pearson said.

Education Outreach Programs

U.S. Army Materiel Command

Adopt-A-School
Army Materiel Command's Band partnerships with local schools
Classroom Speakers
University Minority College Relations Program (MCRP) Partnership Agreement



Missile Defense Agency

Adopt-A-School (Partners in Education)
Classroom Speakers
Math Challenge Week
MDA Engineering in Art
MDA Target...? College!



U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command

Adopt-A-School (Partners in Education)
Classroom Speakers
Tours
Special Olympics



NASA

Digital Learning Network
Educator Resource Center
FIRST Robotics
Marshall Space Grant Research Internship Project
NASA Electronic Professional Development Network
NASA Explorer Schools



U.S. Army Aviation and Life-Cycle Management Command

Adventures at AMCOM
Job Shadow Day
Lecturers Program
Read Across America



U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Research, Development & Engineering Center eCYBERMISSION

Career Talks for Middle & High School Students

Elementary School Reading
Gains in the Education of Math & Science
Interactive Presentations to High School & College Students
Job Shadow Day
Science and Engineering Apprentice Program/College Qualified Leader
Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics Summer Experience
STEM Teacher Training Collaboration Workshop



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

Alabama Science Fairs
Classroom Speakers
Earth Day
North Alabama Junior Achievement
National Engineers Week Mentoring Activity
School Career Days
Tours



U.S. Army Garrison - Redstone

Adopt-A-School
Chart Your Course: Planning a Successful Journey through High School and Beyond
Classroom Speakers
Earth Day
Education Tours
Impact Aid
JROTC Awards Program
Parent 2 Parent
Read Across America
Resiliency Training for Children and Teen
Student Career Experience Program
Student Temporary Employment Program
Student Passports
The Ultimate Career Guide
Transition Counselor's Institute
Tutor.Com
Volunteer Services



Getting in shape for school sports

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Some teenagers played basketball at

the Youth Center on Aug. 14 during the last days before school.



From left are Tyresse Collins, 13, who plays basketball at Monrovia Middle; Julian Miley, 16, who does baseball and track at Madison County High; Jeffery Freeman, 15, who plays JV basketball at Columbia High; Marcus Taylor, 17, who plays baseball at Columbia High; Landen Collins, 16, who plays baseball at Columbia High; Michael Bailey, who plays basketball at Buckhorn High; and Jaylen Johnson, 14, who plays basketball at Columbia High.



From left are Tyresse Collins, Jeffery Freeman, Julian Miley, Marcus Taylor, Landen Collins, and Jaylen Johnson.



Landen Collins and Michael Bailey seek control of the basketball.

Providing the best adult educational experience

Education Center serves community

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Since opening its doors some 40 years ago, the Army Education Center at Redstone Arsenal has been in the business of changing lives.

From assisting Soldiers with their educational needs and ensuring they obtain their full Army educational benefit to helping Army civilians search out higher educational opportunities to providing higher education satellites on post, the Army Education Center can have a lasting positive impact on their customer's career potential.

And that's the kind of business that Charles Williams and his staff enjoy being a part of every day.

"We have tremendous job satisfaction," said Williams, who is the Garrison's education services officer and, unofficially, the dean of higher education on the Arsenal.

"The people make it all worth it. Knowing that we can help them with their educational needs makes this a great job. The help we give them can lead to a better job or career opportunity for them, and that can affect their entire life."

The Army Education Center is located on Snooper Road in building 3222. It can be reached by calling 876-9761. The staff, which provides service to about 470 customers per month, includes Jim



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Jim Wesser, the Army Education Center's deputy education services officer, provides educational information to Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Packard, a trumpet player in the Army Materiel Command Band. Packard just arrived at Redstone and hopes to continue his pursuit of a bachelor's in music at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Wesser, deputy education services officer; Angelica Cole, administrative services manager; Misty Calhoun, test examiner; and Phil Olin, multi-use learning facility. In addition, five colleges on post have a combined staff of 14 plus teachers for about 40 courses a term.

All the members of the Army Education Center staff are former military and have used the military's tuition assistance program. Williams, himself, used the Army Education Center when he was an active duty Soldier in the 1970s. He knows what a difference it can make in a young person's life.

"Our primary target is the highly mo-

tivated American Soldier," he said. "But we provide services also to adult family members, retirees and veterans, DA civilians and anyone who works on Redstone Arsenal.

"People think that when the Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School left that we lost our main customer base. But that really didn't impact us because those Soldiers couldn't start a college degree program while here in advanced individual training. Rather, the 1,200 permanent party Soldiers now assigned here – the enlisted and junior level officers – are the ones who are our main Soldier target."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

In his job as the Garrison's education services officer responsible for oversight of the Army Education Center on Snooper Road, Charles Williams is the unofficial dean of education at Redstone Arsenal. The center provides higher education services for Soldiers, Army civilians, retirees and veterans, and their family members.

In addition, the center's geographical service area includes Soldiers, Army civilians, and retirees and veterans, and their family members located in the 45 counties of North Alabama and North Mississippi along with Soldiers throughout the region who report to the Redstone headquarters of the 2nd Recruiting Brigade and the 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion, and to other commands located at Redstone. Soldiers assigned to Fox Army Health Center, the Army Materiel Command, the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit and all organizations on post

See Center on page 34

Coalition lives to serve the military child

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**
Staff writer
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The typical military child will move six to nine times during their educational careers, and while their schools, teachers and classmates may change, one thing remains the same – the Military Child Education Coalition's commitment to ensuring that no matter where they are, the quality of education and support available to them remains the same.

Founded in 1998, the Military Child Education Coalition's sole reason for existing is to serve the military child throughout their educational careers, ensuring that wherever the mission takes the Soldier, a devoted community is ready and waiting to welcome their children and assist them in making their school years as successful as possible, both in

and out of the classroom. Whether a student moves three times or seven, MCEC serves as their bridge as they go from one school system to another.

"We work with education systems trying to level the playing field so that those kids who move from place to place don't lose out," said Nancy Jones, project assistant for partnerships and development for MCEC.

While students have come to expect reading, writing and arithmetic no matter where their parent's military career may take them, the environment in which those subjects are learned is different everywhere they go. One sport or activity may be the cool thing to do at one school and the opposite at another, and even choosing something as simple as where to sit at lunch or the football game can make a new student feel like part of the club or an outsider. They're lessons that

can't be found in the classroom or taught by a teacher, but MCEC has come up with a solution for that – the Student 2 Student and Junior Student 2 Student program.

"It's kids helping kids," said Raymona Bevel, a retired Madison County school system administrator. "They can come in and show them around and tell them how things work so they feel a little bit more at home. They don't have to sit at lunch by themselves, or wonder where their classes are. It's good just to know there's somebody there that will show you the ropes."

Essentially a peer based welcome committee, students that have been around the school long enough to know everything there is to know that can't be found in a textbook or school handbook pair up with new students to show them around

See Coalition on page 34



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Nancy Jones serves as the project assistant for partnerships and development for the Military Child Education Coalition, which helps military children as they navigate through their educational careers.

Here's advice for back to school safety

From the Garrison Safety Office

Summer is behind us and school has just begun. Now our focus will shift from safety around the pool and barbecue to school safety for kids. Whether your child walks to school, rides a bus, or you are just driving to work each day, there are things to remember to help keep all of us safe.

When we think of kids being hurt or injured at school, we often think of the recent increase in violence in schools. According to Reader's Digest, school aged children are nine times more likely to be injured unintentionally on the playground or in associated school activities than in a violent incident in school. To help you keep your kids free from harm, here are some safety tips from SAFE KIDS, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Traveling to and from school

Plan a walking route to and from school or the bus stop with your child. Take the most direct route and cross as few streets as possible. If crossing is required, ensure only those with crossing guards or illuminating cross indicators are used when possible. Obey all traffic signals. Remind your child to avoid stopping on the way to and from school (e.g. parks, vacant lots, fields and isolated areas with low traffic). If possible walk with your child along the path so that everyone is familiar with the safest route.

If biking/boarding/walking to school, make sure that your child is with as many other people as possible. Teach them to never talk to strangers. This will deter chances of strangers from approaching and will increase eye witnesses in case of an accident or incident.

When biking/boarding/walking, be sure your child wears all required protective equipment (which may include safety approved helmet, reflective gear, knee/elbow pads, gloves). These items will reduce the chances of injuries to your child's head, hands, elbow and knees. It is also recommended to have reflective stickers or material on their bikes, boards, and back packs, this will increase the visibility of drivers as well as pedestrians around them.

Teach your children to be aware of their surroundings, e.g. intersections and parking lots. They should stop at all crossings and look both ways.

Ensure that the students know how to call 911, as



Courtesy photo

Crossing guards help keep youngsters safe on school days.

well as his/her phone number and know their address in case of an emergency.

Bus/car riders

Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early, stay out of the street, and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street. They should watch for cars and avoid the driver's blind spot.

Remind your children to be seated properly in their seats at all times and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding. When exiting the bus, children should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls and cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus.

When children are at the bus stop, they should stand at least 6 feet away from the curb to avoid being hit.

When driving kids, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible. Don't leave until they are in the schoolyard or building.

Ensure everyone in the vehicle is wearing seatbelts. If kids use car seats, the driver should make sure all seats and kids are buckled in properly.

Drivers should follow all traffic laws especially in school zones and residential neighborhoods. Make an extra effort to give the right-of-way to pedestrians. Make a mental note of school hours in your area.

Be conscious of crosswalks. Be sure to stop in front

of all crosswalks. Avoid blocking the crosswalks, as well as running through them when trying to make a turn at a stop light.

Backpacks

According to the American Chiropractic Association, backpacks are the leading cause of back and shoulder pain for millions of children and adolescents. When purchasing a backpack, it is important to purchase a backpack suitable for your child's size. Ideally, the backpack should not hang over 4 inches below the child's waistline. Many times the child is forced to lean forward due to the added weight placed on the child's shoulders, which can cause pain and/or injuries to the back. The following characteristics are recommended for distributing weight properly:

- Wide thick straps
- Multiple compartments
- Hip and chest belts
- Adjustable shoulder straps

After purchasing the correct backpack, it is recommended to monitor your child and their use of the backpack. Ensure that your child uses both straps; failure to use both straps can lead to lower back pain. The weight of the backpack should not exceed 15 percent of the child's body weight. Ask your child if the backpack is causing discomfort. If the school work load regularly exceeds 15 percent of their weight, talk to the teacher about a compromising solution, such as using a locker, extra books for use at home use, or some other alternative.

Playground

According to the CPSC, more than 200,000 children are sent to the emergency room every year for injuries caused on the playground. A playground can help develop a child physically, intellectually, socially and emotionally, but it needs to be a place with as few hazards as possible. The goal of the CPSC is to provide guidelines to reduce serious injuries and playground related deaths. The following are a few tips from the CPSC that can help reduce serious injuries:

- Check for sharp points and protruding bolts
- Ensure spaces, such as guardrail openings or openings between ladder rungs, are less than 3 1/2 inches or exceed 9 inches.
- Ensure guardrails are in place to prevent falls from elevated surfaces.
- Monitor the playground's surfacing regularly.
- Ensure children are properly supervised.

Good grades pay off at Redstone Exchange

According to the Military Child Education Coalition, an estimated 80 percent of military connected children are forced to move between 6-9 times as they complete their K-12 education. And along with geographical moves, comes changes in educational settings and curriculums.

With these unique challenges in mind, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service rewards military students who excel. In fact, schoolchildren who receive a report card with an overall "B" average or better can pick up an array of free and discounted products through the Redstone Exchange's "You Made the Grade" program.

Now in its 12th year, "You Made the Grade" offers include a free Burger King hamburger kids meal, Subway 6-inch combo, a magazine of their choice and even a complimentary haircut, to name a few.

Students "making the grade" can also register for a drawing to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 Exchange gift card.

"Military students who excel in the classroom despite multiple moves and deploying parents deserve to be recognized," Redstone Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "While good grades are their own reward, this program recognizes the hard work and dedication required of pupils at the head of the class."

To receive a "You Made the Grade" booklet, eligible students can simply present a valid military ID and proof of an overall "B" or better average to the Redstone Exchange. Students may receive one coupon package for every qualifying report card, but may enter the gift card drawing only once per grading period.

Military families can contact the Redstone Exchange for more information about "You Made the Grade" at 883-6100. (Exchange release)

Center

continued from page 32

are welcome at the center.

"We have a pretty big footprint," Wesser said. "It's an interesting concept because you can utilize any educational center in the Army, but you also have one assigned to you based on geographic areas. We get calls even from Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are either assigned to us through a Redstone organization, are from this area or have had service provided by us before. And if you get good service from a particular center, that's the one you are going to call again."

Although local Reserve and National Guard Soldiers have their own educational resources within their units, when they are mobilized they are able to use the center's resources.

The Army Education Center offers programs and services that are somewhat different depending on whether a customer is a Soldier, Army civilian, retiree or family member.

"Our Soldier Development Program is designed to help the Soldier to excel and be the best Soldier he or she can," Williams said.

The program consists of basic skills education and functional academic skills training.

The other Soldier-oriented program is a self-development program that "helps prepare Soldiers for life after the military. It also helps them sharpen their competitive military edge," Williams said.

While Soldiers are the beneficiary of those two programs, anyone with access to Redstone can take advantage of the services the Army Education Center pro-

vides, including educational counseling, job exploration, testing services and college courses taught either online or in a Redstone classroom.

"We can assist in finding the correct school for whatever career field someone wants to pursue. We can ensure that whatever their pursuit of happiness is we can match it with the correct educational path, whether that is a college degree, an associate's degree or a certification," Williams said.

In the area of testing, the center provides Army Personnel Testing as well as educational and academic testing. In addition, the center can provide a test proctor and Defense Language Proficiency Testing for foreign language certification. Testing, which can cost between \$30 and \$125 per test, is provided at no charge at the Army Education Center.

"All the services that we provide are at no charge," Wesser said. "Keep in mind, military in uniform are our priority, and then their adult family members. But if you work on base or you have access you can use our services."

The Army Education Center is probably best known within the civilian community for the college courses taught at its five facilities. While its staff offices close at 4:30 p.m., the weekly night classes offered in its buildings are just beginning and continue until 10 p.m. Through its colleges, the center offers about 40 classes per term.

"The Garrison provides classroom space for the schools that operate on base," Williams said. "We serve as a liaison between the colleges and the students we serve to ensure the quality of education our military and our civilians receive is comparable to the education they would receive on a college campus."

"These colleges must follow the rules

of academia, have a state license, be accredited and meet installation requirements to provide educational services here."

Williams works to make sure the colleges on post do not offer the same classes on the Arsenal. He also ensures the classes they do offer fulfill an educational need of the Arsenal work force.

Colleges housed in Arsenal facilities are: Alabama A&M University, located in buildings 3222 and 3445, offers a bachelor's degree; Athens State University, located in building 3200, offers multiple bachelor degrees; Columbia College, located in buildings 3218 and 3324, offers associate's, bachelor's and master's; Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, located in building 3222, offers bachelor's and master's, and certifications; and Florida Institute of Technology, located in building 3324, offers master's.

Alabama A&M has been the most recent addition to the center's college roster. It offers the logistics and supply chain bachelor's degree program on the Arsenal.

"Every year, we do a needs assessment to see what programs we need and if the programs we have are filling the needs," Williams said. "If we identify a need, we first see if we already have a school on the Arsenal that can provide what we need. If not, then we go to the outside and see if we can bring another school onto the Arsenal to provide what we need."

"We don't have the population to support every bachelor's degree program and we don't want two schools to offer the same thing on the Arsenal. But if there is a need that's not being met and that can be supported by the Arsenal community, then we will try to fill it."

Adding Alabama A&M's logistics and

supply chain program is essential to the changing footprint of the Arsenal.

"Logistics is now a major tract in the military and corporate America, and it's a career field that offers plenty of opportunity and good salaries," Williams said.

Another change coming for the Army Education Center will be its move in April 2013 from its somewhat hidden location in building 3222 on Snooper Road to a much higher profile in the renovated Toftoy Hall, building 3495, at the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads near Gate 10.

The first floor of the building will provide administrative space for the Army Education Center while the second floor will offer about 20 classrooms for its colleges.

"We will consolidate all the colleges in one building," Williams said.

"We are really looking forward to this move. We use education as one of our major Army recruiting and retention tools. We house excellent programs. So, we want to have a wonderful facility to go along with those programs and our great customer service. Everything is just going to come together in that particular location."

And that plan is perfect for an Army Education Center whose staff is focused on providing the best educational experience for the Arsenal community.

"Our loyalty is with the students who come to us for the best possible educational programs that can be offered," Williams said. "We are looking out for our students and for the government's interests. We want to make sure our students are getting the best quality education so they can advance in their careers, perform better on the job and be accepted as a professional with credentials by corporate America and the government."

Coalition

continued from page 32

the school and help them navigate their new social stratosphere.

"Going to football games are a big deal, but if you don't know anybody, you don't know how it works, and that's not something a teacher can tell you. But another kid can say, 'this is where we go, this is where we sit,'" Bevel said. "It's very comforting for the kids to have that ready made group."

MCEC's outreach doesn't end with the students, it's about educating parents, school administrators, counselors and teachers as well, so they understand not only where the military child is coming from, but also advocate what is best for them.

"If you think about a child, 11-year-olds have only lived in a world where there's a war going on," Jones said.

"How does that affect them? Your parent, the Soldier who's been gone – how many years? How many times? How many birthdays have they missed? People who lived through Vietnam say, 'My dad missed my birthday because he was in Vietnam.' That's one year. We have friends that are on their sixth deployment. You have to think about how are we helping these kids adjust to what's going on in their lives, letting teachers and counselors understand the strain, the problems that these kids might have. When their parents come back, they come back changed. How do kids deal with that? That's the training that we try to provide."

Accredited graduate-level professional development institutes are available for educators to help them better understand the life of a military child, as well as an annual conference for military leaders, educators and families alike. Parents can log on to MCEC's website

www.MilitaryChild.org to link up with resources such as School Quest, which provides information for families moving about the sending and receiving school and what that means for their child's academic progress, the Education Resource Center, which provides academic information about all states, and Ask Aunt Peggie, a column that answers questions about the military and education. In addition to the technology tools, parents can attend Parent to Parent workshops that teach them how to be the best advocates for their children.

"That is our job as parents," said Dana Trulock, who presents the workshops at area libraries, PTA meetings and wherever there is a need. "We know our children better than anyone else and it is our job as parents to advocate them and to know how to help them. With the right tools, we can help them do that."

Workshops conducted by Trulock only last 15 or 30 minutes and are free,

making them easily accessible for parents, and cover a variety of topics, such as avoiding homework hassles, learning styles, preparing for successful parent teacher conferences and back to school basics.

"They can give you that helping hand, that little step up," Trulock said. "Really they're just take-home little tidbits that are very easy to use and incorporate into their daily lives."

For parents and students age 4 through 12 alike, MCEC also coordinates Tell Me A Story, which uses an age appropriate book to open up family discussions on hard topics, like deployments, moving to a new duty station and being separated from the ones you love. Parents sit with their children as the story is read, and get a copy of the book so they can continue the conversation at home.

For more information about the Military Child Education Coalition, visit www.MilitaryChild.org.

Overview

continued from page 28

Paired with the digital conversion, Huntsville city schools are putting the educational programs in place to start students on a path to success from day one, not when the finish line is in sight. New this year, all elementary schools will have a full day pre-Kindergarten program designed to foster early literacy, a big move on the district's part as such programs are not funded by the state. Each pre-K classroom will consist of 18 students, a certified teacher and an aide.

Once students hit middle school, they will partake in pre-AP courses to amp up the rigor in the classroom right on through their sophomore year of high school, so that once they've reached the AP courses, they can succeed in the AP courses, and on the exam, by scoring a 3, 4 or 5. The district made a big push for AP courses last year, a move that was successful as enrollment in the advanced placement classes not only went up 30 percent, but qualifying scores on AP exams also increased by 30 percent, an anomaly.

"We're looking to build on that," Wardynski said. "AP is important for the military kids because it is a global thing. They're going to want to go to school at a lot of places other than just Alabama, and it's well-understood that if you took AP and did well, you've got something on the ball."

High school students will also benefit from the ACT QualityCore Curriculum, which aligns with the common core in English, math, science and social studies, increasing a student's readiness for both college and their career, by ensuring they've received the essential skills they need to succeed in the working world. The district has received a waiver from the state to utilize the end of course exams to qualify students for high school graduation as opposed to taking the Alabama Graduation Exam.

"We want our kids here to be at national standards, so we measure them that way," Wardynski said. "We want them, particularly military kids as they move around the country, we want when they leave Alabama for them to be ahead, not behind, and to set them up for success in applying to college and so forth."

Madison city

For some Madison city high schoolers, their school supplies and wardrobes aren't the only thing that's new this school year — their high school is too. Monday marked the first official day of classes at James Clemens High, located off County Line Road.

The school joins Bob Jones High, what had been Madison's only high school before this week. Madison is the fastest growing city in the state, and with that growth has of course come more students, overcrowding Bob Jones, which combines students from the district's two middle schools. James Clemens will change that, giving students at

both high schools a little extra elbow room.

"The new R's in education are no longer reading, writing and arithmetic. It's relevance, rigor and relationship," Fowler said. "We feel that at Bob Jones relationship was getting harder and harder, just because there were so many kids there, even though the staff did an admirable job, an outstanding job. This will help and it will take all of our high school student activities and multiply it times two."

Now instead of 12 spots on the boys' basketball team there's 24, 60 on the school newspaper instead of 30, and even the school district's military presence is increasing, as James Clemens adds an Army JROTC program to complement the Air Force JROTC at Bob Jones. While James Clemens will boast classrooms engineered for a 21st century curriculum, and Bob Jones has its tried and true academic reputation, school leaders emphasize that doesn't make one better than the other, but rather, equal partners in ensuring that students receive the best education possible.

"One of the biggest challenges we face is that we have a vision in Madison city schools that we will have one community, one vision, but two high schools," Fowler said. "We're going to work as hard as we can to have Bob Jones and James Clemens be collaborative brothers and sisters. There's no older brother, no younger sibling, they're siblings. Period. There's probably not a more acclaimed school in the nation than Bob Jones High School. Bob Jones has the credibility of academia on its side, but we expect the same with James Clemens."

"It should not and it will not matter what school you go to in the city of Madison, you're going to have a wonderful opportunity, and that's what our team always strives for. That's not bringing one down, that's raising everybody up," added Dennis James, coordinator of safety, security, communications and student services.

With the school's opening, the district's ninth-graders that had been moved into the middle schools due to limited space will be returned to the high schools, a move that will enrich their high school experience, Fowler said, and eliminate crowded conditions at the middle schools. In addition to simply more space at the high school level, James Clemens is piloting a Green Construction Academy and Bob Jones a Microsoft certification class, and school leaders are exploring an introduction to foreign language in middle school, potentially even in elementary school.

Regardless where the 8,600-plus students go to school in Madison, Fowler promises they will receive a quality education, a fact that is apparent in the district's long list of awards and recognitions for both the schools and teachers alike.

"What makes Madison unique is that there are 11 schools, and it doesn't matter which school you go to," Fowler said. "There is no have school, there is no have not school. There are only schools in the

city of Madison, and it doesn't matter which of the seven elementary schools you go to, it doesn't matter which of the two middle schools, or which of the two high schools you attend. You will receive the same outstanding education at any of the eleven schools."

Madison County

2012 was a banner year for many Madison County schools and its 20,100 students, and superintendent David Copeland expects the same as the system heads into another school calendar.

Three elementary schools — Central, New Market and Walnut Grove — all received the distinguished Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Award for 2012. Three of six schools across the nation selected for the honor, Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence selected the Madison County schools based on their student focus and support, school organization and culture, challenging standards and curriculum, active teaching and learning, technology integration, professional community, leadership and education vitality and school, family and community partnerships. The three schools will be honored in December, and will serve as a training ground for other educators from across the country as they are brought in to tour the schools.

"You're not awarded the awards they've been given just happenstance," Copeland said. "These groups don't come around and award these honors without something really great being put on, and that's a direct reflection of those individual schools."

Legacy Elementary is also receiving national recognition for its Project Pond, an outdoor learning laboratory for students where they learn through 10 learning stations where they can garden, interact with animals such as ducks, rabbits and bullfrogs, fish, canoe and more. The school is an Intel School of Distinction finalist, and will find out if they have been selected as a "Star Innovator" for their excellence in science education in September.

"These kids are learning things they've never thought of learning because it's hands-on," Copeland said. "It's neat to see that they're also addressing different learning styles, it's not just your typical classroom."

Inspired by his award-winning schools, Copeland aims to keep the educational standard high in the 2012-13 school year. A new IT academy will be put in place at New Hope High in January which will grant students the certification needed to work in the field of technology, and the system will continue to grow its Career Technical Center.

"We want to continue our framework of excellence," Copeland said. "I'm really going to push 21st century learning styles for teachers. There's certain characteristics that I really want our students to obtain before they graduate from Madison County. Technology is a huge area that I'm interested in."

As part of that, this year the school system will begin to explore the steps they need

to make before they go paperless, in what Copeland anticipates will be one to five years.

"Hardware in itself I don't think is the answer," Copeland said. "We've got to have meaningful staff development for teachers. Teachers need to be trained well in advance in how to use this. It is different. If you hand them a laptop and say, 'OK, do your lessons,' it's just not the same as a book. I want to slow down and make sure we have everything in place before we do introduce whatever."

Copeland and staff will begin to explore three main areas — how the switch will enhance learning, what updates need to be made to the infrastructure to make the technology possible, and teacher training — before the switch will be piloted in populations in the elementary, middle school and high school levels, potentially in 2013-14.

"Hardware in itself is a wonderful thing, but how do you know learning is taking place?" Copeland said. "We've got to come up with a way that we know this will enhance learning. At the same time we're doing that, we need to get the buildings prepared, and then work on professional development with the teachers."

"It's not a matter of trying to keep up with people. We're in the kid business. We're not competitive in the sense of our districts. But with our tax base and our money, we're going to have to think through things a little slower than perhaps the other two districts."

Private schools

In addition to the public school system, a variety of private schools are also available for students in the Madison County area. They are:

- Big Cove Christian Academy
- John Paul II Catholic High School
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Country Day School
- Covenant Christian Academy
- Faith Covenant Academy
- First Baptist Child Development School
- Grace Lutheran School
- Greengate School
- Holy Family Parochial School
- Holy Spirit Regional School
- Huntsville Achievement School
- Huntsville Christian Academy
- Janice Mitchell Isbell Academy
- Islamic Academy of Huntsville
- Madison Academy
- Montessori School of Huntsville
- North Alabama Friends School
- Oakwood Adventist Academy
- Pinnacle Academic Resource Center
- Premier School
- Providence Classical School
- Randolph School
- St. John's Catholic School
- St. Peter's Academy
- Union Chapel Christian Academy
- Valley Fellowship Christian Academy
- Westminster Christian Academy
- Whitesburg Christian Academy
- Whitesburg Baptist Christian School

Technology paves the way for future of education

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Huntsville and Madison County leaders have discovered there in fact isn't an app for that, at least not when it comes to predicting the future of education in the Tennessee Valley.

"We're getting kids prepared for jobs that aren't even created yet," said David Copeland, Madison County schools superintendent. "That's a tough challenge. We're not even sure what the jobs are going to be, so we've got to do the best we can to get to that point."

The best school systems have to offer does, however, seem to be pointing in the way of technology, according to local leaders, as classrooms across the country are beginning to look much like today's business world, where paper is going by the wayside and technology is king.

"I think it's probably the future of education period, not just in Madison County," Copeland said.

If that is the case, then the future is already here for one valley school district. Huntsville city schools is making the switch in 2012-13, becoming the first system of its size to digitally convert, according to Casey Wardynski, Huntsville city schools superintendent. The 1:1 initiative provides students in fourth- through 12th-grade with their own laptop, an HP ProBook 6460B, that houses their textbooks, all digital, and provides them with the technology to complete their homework. Students in third-grade each received Netbooks to accomplish the same tasks. Younger students will use iPads that remain in the classroom. To prepare for the switch, the district distributed more than 17,000 laptops, 2,000 netbooks and 5,000 iPads, an undertaking many school systems across the nation may be completing in the years to come.

"We are at that tipping point now," Wardynski said. "Districts are going to start flipping to digital. The day of paper textbooks and the way folks used to learn, my guess is they'll be gone in five years. We're at the leading edge."

It's not so much the computers, which Wardynski describes as simply the vehicle that connects students with the content, that's innovative, but the idea of going paperless, removing the traditional textbooks from the classroom, that has placed Huntsville at the forefront of the discussion. With the click of a button students

will be able to learn the definition of their key vocabulary words and have them pronounced in both English and Spanish. The computer will be able to identify whether or not a student can write a paper with proper grammar, structure, verb usage and more, and identify for teachers what areas they may be struggling with, or if they're ready to move on to the next concept. And since it's all online, as the subject matter is updated with the most recent information and research, so is the textbook.

"The digital curriculum is always current, because as it's updated on the Internet, we get the current version," Wardynski said. "Textbooks are stale the minute they are printed."

And the cost, Wardynski said, is minimal to the district.

"People are focusing a lot on 'it's money, it's technology, it's so different,'" Wardynski said. "We spend \$10,000 a year on educating children. The computer is \$200 a year. That's two percent. If it gives us a lift, it's money well-spent."

Parents of Huntsville city school students agree.

"I am really excited," Valerie Bryson said as she picked up her son Psalm's laptop. "I believe it will help him a great deal, and I think it will take us to the next century as far as where we need to move into for technology."

Going paperless however, isn't as easy as buying a bunch of computers and you're done. Before schools can make the switch, they must first make sure the infrastructure is in place to support increased Internet use, as well as provide the electrical outlets for students and teachers alike to charge the devices they're learning on. All the secondary schools in Madison city are bringing their own device schools, and with the newly opened James Clemens High School equipped to handle the 21st century learning styles, attention will now be paid to Bob Jones High School, so as technology in the classroom evolves it can meet those growing demands.

"Bob Jones High School is aesthetically pleasing," said Dee Fowler, Madison city schools superintendent. "It's a very serviceable building. But as technology changes, we want to do a renovation to make Bob Jones more sustainable. If you've got 20 kids in a room and four plugs, you've got a problem."

Evaluating the infrastructure in Madison County schools is a priority for Copeland this school year, as he prepares to transition the district to



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Learning the basics of the Huntsville city schools laptops from Shane Shell of Tek Links are, from left, Alison Archer and her 10-year-old daughter Jamie Archer, who attends Jones Valley Elementary; Micah Leslie, 13, who attends Westlawn Middle; Derreka Lowe, parent of 12-year-old Dharan Albuoy, a student at J.E. Williams School; Westlawn student Grace Leslie, 14,; and Valerie Bryson, parent of J.E. Williams student Psalm, 11.

paperless in what he said could be one to five years, if the research the district is doing proves favorable. Huntsville city schools increased bandwidth substantially in preparation for the conversion, going from 10 mbps to 50 at the elementary level, and from 30 to 130 in the high schools, but going into the school year, educators still won't know if it's enough to handle the load until students are actually in session this week. Pearson, the largest educational solutions provider in the world, who is transitioning Huntsville to paperless learning, gave the district \$10 million worth of free textbooks, so as problems crop up throughout the yearlong conversion, such as the Internet running too slow, learning can still happen, the old fashioned way.

"Textbooks will always have a place, but I do think we need to get more technology based because kids grow up with that," Copeland said.

Copeland anticipates that if Madison County converts it will follow a similar path as Huntsville city, distributing laptops and iPads to its students, but it is a plan that will evolve as the district explores the options and the research, including how the technology will enhance learning and what training needs to be provided for teachers. Huntsville city school

teachers completed three days of professional development last week, and have 28 days embedded during classroom time to help both them and their students through the conversion.

"Who knows with technology?" Copeland said. "Two years from now, who knows what will be the greatest thing for kids."

Huntsville city schools chose to provide students with laptops so that they wouldn't run into problems with having to troubleshoot a variety of devices if a student's personal computer doesn't work, or if their battery dies. It also guarantees the district is compliant with the Child Internet Protection Act, which provides filters for students whether they be at home or school, so they don't end up on any websites they don't belong on. Each computer is also equipped with a LoJack security system, so if thieves do get their hands on one, it can be tracked. The system was tested just days after early distribution of the laptops, when a student reported his stolen from his home.

"They took the wrong one, because that one is no good to them. It's reported stolen. If it goes on the Internet, they'll be met by the police. And if they don't, we'll get a check to replace it," Wardynski said.

Win or Lose

Got the Runs reaches softball championship final

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Got the Runs has lived up to its team name all year.

The only unbeaten team in the NASA/Army softball league improved to 12-0 by beating rival Hit Circus 18-11 Thursday night at the NASA field. Got the Runs will play for the Division A championship Aug. 27 at 5 p.m.

After finishing 10-0 in the regular season, Got the Runs is 2-0 in the postseason tournament. This is the third year for the team, which is an even mix of NASA and Army players.

Against Hit Circus, it scored six runs

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Kitchen Sinks third baseman Charles Foster awaits a throw as the Expendables' Kyle Crawford rounds third and scores during their game Aug. 14 at the NASA field. Kitchen Sinks won 16-13 to advance in the losers bracket in the Division A tournament.



in the first inning and four apiece in the second, third and sixth innings.

"That's our league rival so we always have a good game against them," Got the Runs coach/left center Jay Hollenbeck said. "We've played them for the championship the last two years and they've beat us."

Hit Circus won the championship in 2010 and 2011. Last year Got the Runs was unbeaten in the regular season before falling to its nemesis.

"And we went undefeated again this year so we're really getting after it, trying to get back," Hollenbeck said.

He had an RBI double in the first inning and drove in another run with a groundout in the sixth and last inning.

Leadoff batter Brett Eckley went 3-for-3 with a walk, two RBIs and scored three runs. Paul Prichard also went 3-for-3 with one RBI and one run. Travis Garrett had two hits with a double, one RBI and three runs.

Elton "Gator" Grissom pitched the first three innings for the win and Prichard went the rest of the way. Prichard was the original coach of this team which



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Jeff Hollenbeck slams a run-scoring double for Got the Runs in its 18-11 win Thursday night over Hit Circus.

started in 2010 as Team Excess. Its former name reflected its collection of extra players – "new recruits or new employees, the league excess," Hollenbeck explained.

Hit Circus (8-4) scored four runs in the first, one in the fifth and six in the sixth. Jeff Klop had two hits with an RBI double

and scored twice. Al Mayer, the pitcher, hit a double, walked and also scored twice.

"We hit the ball in the first inning and we hit the ball in the last inning but we didn't score in the innings in between," Hit Circus player/coach Andy Young said.

Boaters use checklist before getting under way

By DAVID ELLIOT

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

WASHINGTON – Keeping track of appointments or events has become more complex in a very over-scheduled world. A list of reminders added to the calendar on the refrigerator or in the smartphone can help make sure nothing is forgotten. When it comes to leisure time, a checklist is still valuable especially when heading out onto the water.

Create a pre-under-way checklist like the Coast Guard Auxiliary has for their boat crews. Each time before an

Auxiliary boat leaves the dock, the entire crew reviews a standardized checklist together. Once all the items on the list are checked off, it is time to get under way.

It does not have to be complicated; this is just an example of a pre-under-way checklist you could use:

- Driver's license
- Current registration papers and boating safety course completion card
- Check fuel supply and oil level
- Working proper navigation lights for night operations
- Enough lifejackets, the right size for all

- Marine radio
- GPS
- Float plan left in your vehicle or with a friend
- Other emergency equipment such as flares, first aid kit, signaling devices and tools

If something does not add up, it is OK not to get under way. It is always better to choose safety than take a risk with your life or the lives of your passengers.

Editor's note: David Elliot is the USCG Auxiliary assistant national commodore for response and prevention.

Postseason softball tournament results

Here are last week's results from the postseason tournament in the NASA/Army softball league:

Division A: Kitchen Sinks def. Expendables 16-13 ... RTC def. Rotorheads Too 20-10 ... Got the Runs def. Hit Circus 18-11 ... RTC def. Kitchen Sinks 26-7.

Division B: Redstone Step-Children def. Spaceballs 15-5 ... WYLE Coyotes def. TBE Integrators 14-13.

Division C: EVengers def. ET Throw Home 7-0 ... Misfits def. Rotorheads 14-10 ... Hard Noc Hitters def. Renegades 10-1 ... Guns N Hoses def. Put em in Boots 15-5.

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting Saturday mornings to jog together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. For meeting locations and times, call Charity Watral 542-1208. Members are encouraged to wear royal blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from <http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org>.

Golf tournament

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its inaugural Retiree Day Golf Tournament on Sept. 27 at the Links. This is a shotgun scramble. The \$50 entry fee includes golf cart, golf, lunch and door prizes. For information and registration, call Arno Hoerle 837-6253. All profits will go toward scholarships for military dependents.

Rocketman triathlon

The 19th annual Rocketman Triathlon will be held Sunday at the Col. Carroll Hudson recreation area. This Olympic distance triathlon will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a 1,500 meter swim in the Tennessee River, followed by a 40 kilometer bike and 10K run. More than 500 participants are expected. For more information, visit the website <http://teamrockettri.org/content/races/rocketman-triathlon>.

Benefit at Colonial

The Limestone County Chapter of NAACP will hold its inaugural Golf Tournament fund-raiser Sept. 29 at the Colonial Golf Course. Onsite registration starts at 6:30 a.m. The tournament will be a four-man scramble and cost is \$60 per player. Prizes will consist of first, second and third place, longest drive and closest to the pin. For more information, call Robert C. Bess Sr. 278-8347, email bess_robert@hotmail.com or Douglas Smith 808-561-8526, email dshank4@yahoo.com.

Babe Ruth baseball

The Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registration for the fall season Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of May 1, 2013 are invited; and 12-year-olds are eligible to sign up as well under the "Local Swing Player" option. Registration forms will be accepted after Saturday on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. A copy of the player's birth certificate is required for all new players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply as well. Contact one of the following park representatives for registration information: Northern Division, Mastin Lake Park, Emile Jones, phone 990-5902 or email ejones@wilsonlumber.net; Southern Division, Sandhurst Park, Tim Harrison 544-3180 or tth3180@bellsouth.net; Eastern Division, Optimist Park, Jeff Abbott 653-5752 or jeff.abbott@adtran.com.

tration information: Northern Division, Mastin Lake Park, Emile Jones, phone 990-5902 or email ejones@wilsonlumber.net; Southern Division, Sandhurst Park, Tim Harrison 544-3180 or tth3180@bellsouth.net; Eastern Division, Optimist Park, Jeff Abbott 653-5752 or jeff.abbott@adtran.com.

Football officials

The North Alabama Football Officials Association is accepting new officials. The group has more than 90 officials who work games under contract to high schools in Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, Limestone County and Lawrence County. Members will meet each Sunday at 7 p.m. starting July 8 in the Red Cross building at 1101 Washington St. To apply call Bob Arnone 763-1796 or visit the website <http://www.nafoa.biz>.

Sergeants major tourney

Redstone Arsenal's Sergeants Major Association third annual Golf Tournament will be held Sept. 14 at 8:30 a.m. at the Links. Open to the public, the cost is \$60 per person which includes lunch, team and hole prizes. For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 509-2473 or email reginald.c.battle.ctr@mail.mil.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Bicentennial Chapel fellowship hall. For more information, call 842-2964.

Catholic mass

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel invites the Redstone community to its mass services noon Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday. For baptisms, weddings or any questions, call 842-2175.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit. 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 Marva Morse 430-0860. 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 Claudette 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.

Men's ministry

Men's Ministry, "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.

Meeting professionals

The 2012 Society of Government Meeting Professionals Southeast Regional Conference, "Navigating through Government Meetings," will be held Sept. 16-19 in Mobile. Information regarding the educational workshops can be found at <http://sgmpcentralflorida.com/srec>. The conference is geared for administrative/technical professionals who plan/execute meetings, seminars, tutorials, etc. TIP information is: course title, SGMP Southeast Conference; vendor, Society of Government Meeting Professionals; catalog number, F124SGMP. For more information, call Barbie Baugh 876-7135 or Sherry Hilley 479-0198.

Special Forces chapter

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. Sept. 8 at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant, 209 West Grand Ave. (Highway 77), Rainbow City. All Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are welcome. For more information, visit <http://www.chapter92sfa.com/>.

Parent council

The Parents Advisory Council supports the Child Youth and School Services "Parents as Partners" program at Redstone Arsenal. The PAC helps with activities such as classroom parties, field trips, Teacher Appreciation Day, Month of the Military Child activities, school pictures, book fairs, fund-raisers, and

other activities that encourage parents to stay involved in their child's education. PAC encourages all parents who have children enrolled in CYSS child-care facilities – Mills Road Child Development Center, Goss Road CDC and School Age Services to enroll annually as a member of the PAC and to attend its next meeting which will be held Aug. 28 at 11:15 a.m. in building 4488, room D103. If you plan to attend the meeting, call Caneeka Miller 346-8244. The PAC is a private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army. Its officers for 2012-13 include president Bernadette Paschel, vice president Patrick Nelson, secretary Jennifer Guerrero, treasurer Erika Baldwin, publicity Caneeka Miller, Goss Road CDC representative Whitney Craig, Mills Road CDC representative Kemah Barnes and School Age Center representative Corey Jordan.

Parkinson's support

Parkinson's Disease Support Group will meet Sept. 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Willowbrook Baptist Church's Youth Building, 7625 Bailey Cove Road; there is parking in the back lots. Patients, family and caregivers are invited. The speaker is Nancy Robertson, director of aging programs, TARCOG. For information call 837-6577.

Missile launcher alums

The Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office (formerly known as the Multiple Launch Rocket System Project Office) invites all past alumni/retirees, former MLRS unit personnel, and close program associates to a ceremony and reception commemorating the MLRS M270 Launcher's 30 years of service and retirement from the Army. The brief ceremony (which includes an M270 Launcher display dedication) will be held Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. outside the PFRMS Project Office, building 112. A small reception will follow at the neighboring Firehouse Pub, building 114. Inclement weather plans are in place. RSVP to Christina Hall 876-4809 by Sept. 12.

Rolling Thunder chapter

The Alabama 2 Chapter of Rolling Thunder, a non-profit organization formed in Huntsville, is among 100 chapters nationwide. Their collective mission is dedicated to maintaining public awareness and education of continuing POW/MIA issues as they relate to all military personnel left behind and forgotten. They also provide support and assistance to local veterans from all wars wherever and whenever there is a need. The chapter meets the second Sunday of each month at VFW Post 2702, corner of Sparkman and North Parkway, at 2 p.m. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Membership is open to any individual who is willing to donate their time

See Announcements on page 41

in support of veterans issues and welfare. For more information, visit the website <http://www.rollingthunder-al-chap2.org>.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will have its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:15 a.m. in the Loft room of The Summit. This month will be a business meeting. All members and friends are invited. For more information about the chapter or how you can join, email chapter president Kenya McLin at kenya.mclin@us.army.mil or membership chair Cheryl Hickman at cheryl.hickman@us.army.mil.

Research summit

The Huntsville Advanced Defense Technology Cluster presents an Emerging Technologies Summit on Aug. 29 at the Huntsville Museum of Art to help small and large businesses identify emerging technologies and their potential markets. Participants will find opportunities for collaboration, learn about potential research avenues to enhance product value, and identify the best fields for targeted research and development. For more information, visit collaboration-exchange.com.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will hold its 2012 Sesquicentennial Dinner on Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. at the Roundhouse, Historic Huntsville Depot, 398 Monroe St. Keynote speaker Edwin C. Bearss, a Civil War historian, will discuss the "First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas – A New Face on the War." A reception and social begin at 5, followed by a catered sit-down dinner at 6:30, period music and keynote speaker. Cost is \$30 per person. Business casual attire, but period dress, is encouraged. Visitors are invited but tickets are limited. For more information, call 539-5287 or email jha@knology.net.

Miscellaneous Items

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

Thinking of changing your military occupational specialty or entering a commissioning program and need to take an Army Personnel Testing examination? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764. Tests offered include the Armed Forces Classification Test, Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery test. If you speak a language and want it annotated on your records, call and make an appointment to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test. All Soldiers and qualified DA civilians are eligible to take the DLPT. In addition to APT exams, the Education Center offers the ACT, SAT, Test of Adult Basic Education and GT Improvement exams. If you are taking college classes and need a proctor, proctoring services are free and available to the Redstone Arsenal community (military/government ID card holders). Call 876-9764 to see if you are eligible to test and to schedule an appointment.

Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior Volunteer program is partnered with various nonprofit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P. recruits, places and trains individuals who are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email rsvp.dir@seniorview.com.

NASA surplus

NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales website. Go to www.gsaauctions.gov, search by state of Alabama, and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-1774.

Re-entry information

Just back from an overseas assignment and new to the Redstone Arsenal community? Feeling like a stranger in your own homeland? Contact the Relocation Readiness Program, Army Community Service, for a re-entry briefing to learn about community programs and services. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden, relocation readiness program manager, 876-5397 or email mary.breedden@conus.army.mil.

Lending closet

The lending closet is stocked with basic household items to use before your household goods arrive or after you have been packed for your new assignment. Items may be borrowed for 30

Rocket Announcements

days. ID cards and a copy of your PCS orders are required. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden 876-5397 or email mary.breedden@conus.army.mil. Stop by Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Computer classes

Free self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, QuickBooks and SharePoint. Each class has about three levels and will take about three hours to complete each, but you can work at your own pace. Certificates of completion are issued after you successfully complete each course. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

A&M logistics registration

Alabama A&M University is now on Redstone Arsenal. Office hours are every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Army Education Center, building 3222 in room 13 on Snooper Road. Available is program information leading to the undergraduate Logistics and Supply Chain Management Degree, advising, evaluations (prior academic and military), registration and information for other degree programs offered at Alabama A&M University. The Logistics and Supply Chain Management Degree is available to active duty servicemembers, their spouses and adult children, retirees, civilians employed on Redstone Arsenal, and on a space-available basis for all others. Classes are taught in the evenings to allow working professionals the opportunity to earn their degree without career interruption.

For more information, contact retired Lt. Col. Samuel Scruggs at samuel.scruggs@aamu.edu or 372-8216 or 479-2730 and Kris Reed at kris.reed@aamu.edu or 372-5753. Interested persons may also visit <http://www.aamu.edu/business>.

Reserve openings

The 375th Engineer Company (Army Reserve) in Huntsville offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing project management, construction and leadership skills. The unit has immediate openings for sergeant through chief warrant officer 2 and first lieutenant (Engineer specialties preferred) who want to make a significant contribution to the readiness of the Army. The 375th conducts vertical construction operations in CONUS and OCONUS during Extended Combat Training Exercises. All prior servicemembers are welcome to contact the unit. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Walker at miranda.walker@usar.army.mil, phone 535-6232 or Sgt. 1st Class Stumpe at roy.marcus.stumpe@usar.army.mil, phone 535-6229 or Capt. South at william.south@us.army.mil.

Photo contest

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table is holding its first photo contest through Nov. 1 with categories for middle and high school students, and for adults age 19 and above. Winners will be announced in January. Individuals may enter two of their photos in each category – print and digital – with potential subjects pertaining to the Civil War. For more information, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/tvcwrt/>.

College evaluation

Columbia College is seeking comments from the public about the college

See Announcements on page 42

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Melinda Garcia

Promotion honors

Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commander of the Security Assistance Command, promotes 1st Lt. Erin Neal to captain during the Security Assistance Training Management Organization annual picnic Aug. 10. Neal is USASATMO's S2 military intelligence officer. USA-SATMO, a subordinate command of USASAC based at Fort Bragg, N.C., deploys teams from its engagement and aviation branches throughout the world to provide training tailored to a country for equipment and other services purchased through the foreign military sales program.



Rocket Announcements

in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a visit Oct. 1-3 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Columbia College is accredited by the commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation. The public is invited to submit comments regarding Columbia College to: Public Comment on Columbia College, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411.

Veterans job fair

"Hiring Our Heroes Career Fair" – a job fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses – will be held Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. For more information on this free event, call Sheila McFerran of Still Serving Veterans 883-7035 or email sheilamcferran@stillservingveterans.org.

Breast cancer awareness

As part of its vision to realize a world without breast cancer, the North Central Alabama Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure is encouraging people to show their true colors by participating in Worship in Pink, a simple education program that inspires breast cancer advocacy and honors those affected by the disease. Worship in Pink Weekend will be held Saturday and Sunday throughout north central Alabama. The Worship in Pink program

encourages and empowers places of worship to spread the life-saving message of early detection and honor survivors in their communities. Participants are encouraged to wear pink and get creative to make the day fun and educational. After registering at komenncalabama.org, groups will receive a free participation kit that includes ideas and promotional materials for Worship in Pink Weekend. Groups host their own events and incorporate breast cancer education into their weekly service. For more information, visit komenncalabama.org.

Contract managers support

The Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will participate in the 2012 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's disease is the nation's sixth-leading cause of death and this annual walk is held in more than 600 communities nationwide to raise awareness, funds for care, support and research. The Huntsville Walk will take place Sept. 15 at the Botanical Garden and NCMA is seeking participants of all ages and abilities to join in on this walk. If you wish to walk or volunteer with NCMA in support of this cause, call Amy Donlin 876-0500 and Kevin Powell 450-4675.

Artifact collection

The Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation is collecting historical and military artifacts for a time capsule that will be buried at the veterans memorial on or near Veterans Day. Artifacts are being collected at the SmithStoreIt at Church Street and Cook Avenue on the following dates: Saturday for member organizations of the

North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, and Sept. 15 and 22 for all Madison County residents. Artifacts can include items such as military medals and ribbons, personal letters, hats and clothing, photos and books. Items not chosen to be placed in the 2-foot-square capsule will be returned to their owners.

Island theme benefit

The Rotary Club of Madison will hold the 10th annual Parrots of the Caribbean, an outdoor evening of live music, food and libations, Saturday from 6-11 p.m. at 58 Martin St. in downtown Madison. All guests must be 21 or older and are encouraged to bring their IDs, blankets and lawn chairs. This event is held rain or shine. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the night of the event and can be purchased from Madison Rotarians or online (<http://madisonrotary.org/parrots>) with an additional online ticketing service charge of \$2.09 per ticket. Tickets can also be purchased over the phone using a credit card; call 564-2075 and leave your call back number. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Madison Rotary Club's local and international projects. For more information, call the Rotary Club of Madison 564-2075 or email madisonrotary@gmail.com.

Ordway awards breakfast

The Association of the United States Army, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, will hold the annual 1st Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Awards Breakfast on Friday from 7-8 a.m. at The Summit. Cost is \$10 for this buffet breakfast. For reservations call Bill Tillman 783-8838 or email bill_tillman@man.com.

Back-to-school party

Jump start the school year at the Pin-

nacle Affairs Youth Day, Back to School Block Party on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Roundhouse, 398 Monroe St. Food, fun and giveaways will be provided. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, visit www.backtoschoolblockparty.com or call 656-8651. Pinnacle Affairs is accepting school supply donations at Knology, 2401 10th St. southwest, and Playball Sports, 596 Plummer Road.

Senior care workshop

A lunch-and-learn workshop on senior care options will be held Aug. 28 from noon to 1 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The presenter is Brenda Hinshaw, assisted living sales counselor for The Redstone Village. Topics include Help at Home; When living at Home is Not an Option; Veteran Aid and Attendance Benefits for Veteran/Spouse of Veteran/Widow of Veteran; What Does My Insurance Cover?; and Healthy Care Giving. Lunch is provided. For reservations, call ACS at 876-5397.

Fraud prevention

Medicare fraud is big business for criminals who steal more than \$60 billion of Americans' tax dollars every year. Protecting personal information is the best line of defense against con artists that depend on Medicare numbers to make false claims. Another safeguard is remembering to review Summary Notices for possible mistakes or errors in billing. TARCOG Area Agency on Aging and the Senior Medicare Patrol program are working hard to protect seniors and beneficiaries by investigating suspected forms of fraud and abuse. If you suspect errors, fraud or abuse, report it to your local SMP office at 830-0818.

See Announcements on page 43



Photo by Stephanie Johnson, PM UAS

Product charter

Unmanned Aircraft Systems project manager Col. Tim Baxter presents Lt. Col. Nickolas Kioutas with the charter for the Small UAS Product Office during a ceremony Friday at Bob Jones Auditorium. Kioutas had previously served as an assistant product manager for the Gray Eagle and as officer in charge of the Forward Operations Center in El Mirage, Calif.



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Reception line

Chaplain (Col.) Douglas Kinder, right, of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and his wife Kay greet well-wishers following Kinder's retirement from the Army in a ceremony Aug. 7 at Von Braun III. Kinder retires with more than 30 years of service.

Food collections

Army Community Service has a food donation box for the Fed's Feeds Families 2012 food drive. Non-perishable food items collected will be donated to the local area food bank for families in need. Drop off donations through Aug. 29 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at ACS, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The Commissary also has a donation box. For more information, call Natalie Taylor of ACS at 876-5397.

Vietnam veterans' tribute

A Vietnam Veterans Tribute will be held Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Veterans Memorial. The names of 1,223 Alabama Vietnam veterans, 1,207 killed-in-action and 16 missing-in-action will be read by various community and Redstone Arsenal leaders during the event. Everyone is invited to attend and take part of this tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice as the Huntsville community marks the 50th anniversary since the United States' entry into the Vietnam War. Community members are encouraged to respectfully walk around the memorial as the names are being read. The Association of the United States Army is hosting the event. Details on parking and street closings will be available at a later date. For more information, call Jeff Wishik 468-9499 or email jwishik@yahoo.com.

USASAC ceremony

The public is invited to an assumption of responsibility ceremony Friday at 9 a.m. at the AMC parade field, 4400

Martin Road, to mark the arrival of Command Sgt. Maj. Rodger Mansker to the position of USASAC senior enlisted adviser to the commander. Mansker will be the first command sergeant major to be assigned to this position in the 47-year history of the organization. He previously served as the command sergeant major of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, call 450-5637.

A&M athletic banquet

Alabama A&M University Athletic Hall of Fame will hold its 21st Induction Ceremony and Banquet on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Ernest Knight Center on campus. The tickets are \$40. To purchase tickets, call Shirley Alexander 372-5654. For banquet information, call Sandra Lyles-Jackson 426-5458.

Logistics achievement award

Nominations for the Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award are being accepted for deserving individuals (civilian or military) assigned to Team Redstone who have made significant contributions to the logistics community and whose leadership and expertise have made a major, positive impact on the Army's logistics program. The 2012 "Ernie" format will include two awards – the Management/Executive Award for GS/GM-13s and above (or military equivalents), and the Professional/Technical Award for GS/GM-13s and below (or military equivalents). Nomination

Rocket Announcements

packages must have a cover memorandum signed by the nominee's director or deputy director. Nominations should be submitted by Aug. 31 to Barbara A. Harris, logistics management specialist, IMMC Business Management Directorate, at 876-3805.

Fox health center

Fox Army Health Center will close Aug. 31 and Sept. 3 in observance of Labor Day and a training holiday. On Aug. 31, the Primary Care Clinic will open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments. The Pharmacy, Pathology, Radiology, Medical Records Window, Call Center and the Tricare Service Center will be open until noon. All other clinics and services will be closed the entire day for a training holiday. On Sept. 3, the entire facility will be closed. As a reminder, the health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Bodybuilding competition

The third annual Military Challenge, sponsored by Bodybuilding.com and MusclePharm, is open through Aug. 31 for entries to all active and Reserve military, veterans and their spouses. Whether someone is already in great physical shape or wants to utilize this 12-week challenge to transform their body, the most important factor is showing that an individual physical fitness goal can be met while being a top motivator for others. For more information, call Allison

Kim (208) 377-3326, ext. 309, email allie.kim@bodybuilding.com or visit <http://www.bodybuilding.com>.

Special-need families

"Emergency Planning for Families with Special Needs, a program for special-need family members, will be held by the UAH School of Nursing and Huntsville/Madison County EMA on Sept. 12 from 4-6 p.m. at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Building, 3000 Johnson Road. Registration is free but attendance is limited. You must pre-register by emailing wcheeks@phoenixhsv.org, or by calling 880-0671, ext. 100. Registration is limited to 40 families. The workshop will include planning guidance for disasters and breakout sessions where participants will begin to write their personalized disaster preparedness plans including emergency "Go" Bag contents with assistance from UAH nursing staff/students. This program is sponsored by Phoenix.

Exchange news

The Redstone Exchange will have the following hours on Labor Day: Main Store open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Concessions – Alteration Shop closed; Barber-shop open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barbershop at VBC closed; Flower Shop closed; GNC open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry closed; Nail Shop closed; Firestone open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optical Store closed; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman closed; Beauty Shop closed ... Food Court – Anthony's Pizza/Sub open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Charley's closed; Cinnabon closed; American Eatery closed; Burger King closed; Cafe' (Fox) closed; and HR closed.

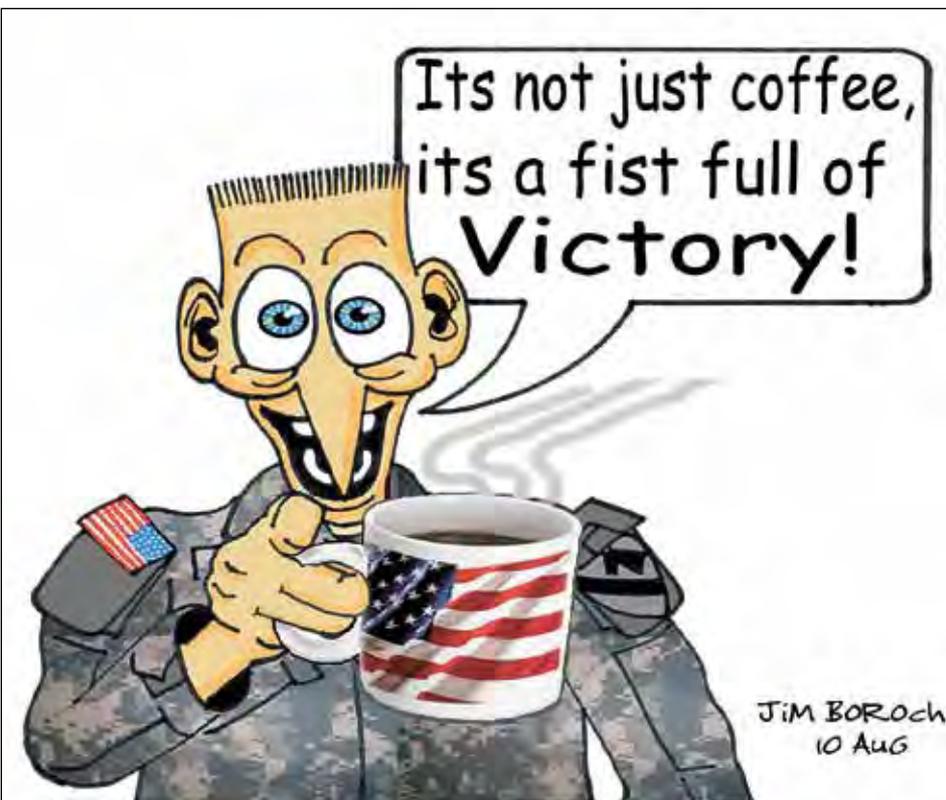


Photo by Marco Morales,
SMDC/ARSTRAT

Four-star visitor

Col. James Jenkins, chief of staff of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, leads Gen. Robert Cone, commander of the Training and Doctrine Command, into SMDC's lobby for a visit Aug. 7. Cone received a briefing on the command as part of his visit. He was visiting the installation for the Army Materiel Command change of command ceremony earlier that day.

