

Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

March 28, 2012

Vol. 61 No. 13

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Soldier and family assistance

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Turner and his active family love being a part of the Redstone Arsenal community and enjoy all the family-friendly amenities of the installation. Learn more about Soldier and family assistance in today's special section beginning on page 21.

Photo by Ellen Hudson



COMMUNITY NEWS

Fitness centers help reduce stress levels.

PAGE 4

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Federally Employed Women presents outreach awards.

PAGE 12



PEOPLE PROFILE

Senior enlisted Soldier prepares for retirement.

PAGE 37



WIN OR LOSE

New season awaits little league teams.

PAGE 40

RocketViews

How interested are you in March Madness?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Jerome Walker

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation
“I’m not too much into it. I have to work a lot, so sports is a good thing but it doesn’t excite me.”



Danuta Zaremba

The Summit
“Well, I don’t even know what it is. Is that where they’re raising money for some charity?”



Sgt. Corey Walton

AMC Band
“I’m somewhat interested, I’m not all the way there. The school of music is up in Norfolk, so I had a chance to hang out on campus. After I saw them win (against Missouri), I was kind of rooting for Norfolk State. I was kind of rooting for them to beat Florida but I kind of knew it wasn’t going to happen.”



Jody Denney

AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center

“I’m more interested than my bracket’s showing – than it reflects. I’m more of a college fan than NBA, especially this time of year when it picks up. I’m not as interested since the bracket went to the toilet.” (Laugh)

Letter to the editor

First teacher in space McAuliffe set example

Mr. Zuniga’s music appreciation class was usually boring but not today. Instead of listening to some opera from the 19th century, all of us were going to watch the space shuttle Challenger launch and we were all excited. A big television on a cart was rolled right in front of the chalkboard and our seats were perfectly arranged so that even the shortest person in class, like me, could see.

It was Jan. 28, 1986.

A few minutes before the launch, Mr. Zuniga told us that a woman named Christa McAuliffe was on the Challenger space shuttle and that she was not only an astronaut but was also going to become the first teacher in space. Mr. Zuniga also said that McAuliffe planned to conduct experiments in space but more importantly she planned to give students a tour of the Challenger from space. I wasn’t too interested in soil samples or Newton’s laws. Instead, I was imagining a woman with outstretched arms and legs floating in a white, sanitized environment where she would be

opening a can of tuna to make a sandwich. I daydreamed a little more and envisioned a weightless jar of mayonnaise and Tang floating around her head; and I even imagined a football being tossed in the air by her and another astronaut. Live footage would record these common activities and everyday objects in orbit, and these images would be televised from millions of miles away and beamed into our own televisions at home. Then the teacher would come back from space and she’d tell us in class how something as ordinary as making a sandwich would be extraordinary in space. Across the whole nation, she’d travel from school to school telling kids like us that eating and playing catch in the Challenger felt funny but neat.

But McAuliffe never came back. In less than 90 seconds, the space shuttle Challenger disintegrated. Only a white plume in the shape of a wayward corkscrew appeared on our screen.

Later that evening President Ronald Reagan gave the entire country his condolences. Reagan expressed our nation’s loss of

the Challenger crew and of the teacher Christa McAuliffe who epitomized NASA’s Teacher in Space Project. “There will be more shuttle flights and more shuttle crews and, yes, more volunteers, more civilians, more teachers in space. Nothing ends here; our hopes and our journeys continue.”

McAuliffe never got to tell us what it felt like to be in space but in her short lifetime she taught American history, law, economics and “The American Woman,” a class she designed herself. McAuliffe taught traditional subjects but also educated students about women who made historical contributions to America. Intentional or not, McAuliffe was as innovative as the women she introduced to her students. For McAuliffe, a classroom could be a room with four walls but could also be the upper limits of space and NASA’s Teacher in Space Project made her quest possible. McAuliffe said, “... this opportunity to connect my abilities as an educator, with my interests in history and space is a unique opportunity to fulfill my



Catherine Gong

early fantasies.”

McAuliffe’s dream of teaching students from space seemed to capture both NASA’s mission and Reagan’s vision. In 1984 Reagan “announced plans for a permanent human presence in space ... and he tasked NASA to ... be a part of a project designed for the benefit of everyone on earth.” McAuliffe’s life carried out this message and she did it with love. According to Reagan, McAuliffe, like the other crew members, “had that special grace, that special spirit that says, ‘Give me a challenge, and I’ll meet it with joy.’” I don’t think McAuliffe ever set out to be the first teacher or the first female teacher in space. More importantly, McAuliffe committed her life to showing the world and its children that anything is possible on this planet and beyond. President Reagan seemed to understand that Christa McAuliffe embodied this pioneering spirit and was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice like the others. “The crew of the space shuttle Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives. We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, this morning, as they prepared for their journey and waved goodbye and ‘slipped the surly bonds of earth’ to ‘touch the face of God.’”

Catherine Gong

Missile Defense Agency

Editor’s note: This essay won Team Redstone’s Women’s History Month observance essay competition in March. The theme for the cultural recognition was “Women’s Education – Women’s Empowerment.”

Quote of the week

‘Basketball is like war in that offensive weapons are developed first, and it always takes a while for the defense to catch up.’

— Red Auerbach

RedstoneRocket

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

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., located at 201 1st Ave., SE, Decatur, AL 35603.

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

Email: skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Editorial office: 256-876-1500 Editorial Fax: 256-955-0133 Retail Advertising: 256-340-2463 Classified Advertising: 256-260-2218 Advertising Fax: 256-260-2211

Rocket articles are available at:
<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>
<http://pao.redstone.army.mil>

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The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley

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The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of Redstone Arsenal Public Affairs Office.

Published by Tennessee Valley Printing, a private firm

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The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to any personnel at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates for off post for the Redstone Rocket are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. “Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time.” (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual). We do not send subscription renewal notices.

IRS social media tools help at tax deadline

With the April 17 tax deadline approaching, procrastinators may be in a rush to find the tax information they need. Businesses, media, web masters and others may also be looking for creative ways to help their own website's visitors find official IRS tax information and tools.

Let these social media tools from

IRS help you or your website visitors navigate last-minute tax-time tasks.

- **IRS2Go** – The IRS's smartphone application can help you get your refund status and tax updates. IRS2Go is available for the iPhone or iTouch and the Android.

- **YouTube** – The IRS offers video tax tips on a variety of topics in English,

Spanish and American Sign Language at www.youtube.com/irsvideos.

- **Twitter** – IRS tweets from @IRSnews include tax-related announcements and daily tax tips. Other IRS Twitter accounts tailor information for tax professionals and Spanish speaking taxpayers – @IRStaxpros tweets IRS news and guidance for tax professionals and @IRSenEspanol tweets IRS news and information in Spanish.

- **Podcasts** – These short audio recordings offer one tax-related topic per podcast. They are available on iTunes or through the Multimedia Center on www.irs.gov.

- **Widgets** – These tools, which others can place on websites, blogs or social media networks, direct users to the relevant page on the IRS website. The 2012 widgets feature often overlooked tax credits, free file services, common tax transactions and the popular dead-

line countdown widget. Marketing Express hosts the IRS widgets.

So far this tax season, more than 1 million taxpayers have viewed the IRS's popular YouTube video tax tips, about 500,000 have downloaded the IRS phone app and more than 188,000 have viewed the IRS widgets. More than 23,000 Twitter followers get daily tax tips and IRS news at their fingertips. You can too.

Remember: The IRS uses these tools to share information with you. Do not post confidential information on any website or through social media channels, especially your Social Security number. The IRS will not be able to answer personal tax or account questions through any of these services.

To find links to all of IRS's social media tools, visit www.irs.gov and click on "Social Media." (*Taxpayer Advocacy Panel release*)

Mortgage relief announced for servicemembers

By MINNIE RHODEN

Housing management specialist

Troops victimized by unfair mortgage practices could see hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments, and other homeowners could see mortgage refinancing costs cut in half, under plans outlined March 7 by President Barack Obama.

Obama said the moves would help protect struggling homeowners and pay back troops whose service was not respected by mortgage companies.

Federal officials will review thousands of military mortgages started since 2006 for any irregularities. They're looking for troops who were wrongly charged interest in excess of 6 percent on their mortgages in violation of federal protections for servicemembers. Military homeowners will not have to apply to be eligible for the new program or payouts.

Servicemembers who believe they may have been victims of wrongful foreclosure should call the Justice Department's hotline at 800-896-7743.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for March 15-21:

March 15: An unexploded ordnance was found at a construction site adjacent to building 7280. The area was evacuated and secured. EOD removed and disposed of the material.

March 16: A civilian who approached Gate 9 lost was found to be operating her vehicle with a suspended license. She was issued a violation notice and released.

March 18: An undocumented person approached Gate 9 lost and could not produce any identification. He was found to be operating his vehicle without a license. A check through NCIC and ICE found no records or warrants on him. He was issued a violation notice and released.

March 19: A contractor reported that someone removed construction equipment valued at \$9,500 from a work site at building 3494.

March 19: A Soldier reported that someone removed the hard drive from his Xbox game system while it was in

his room at lodging.

March 20: A contractor reported that someone cut the lock on a storage trailer at the construction site of building 3466 and removed scrap copper and other equipment valued at \$2,800.

March 20: An employee at the cell phone kiosk inside the Redstone Exchange was apprehended for removing 53 cell phones over several months. Total value of the phones is \$25,711.

March 20: A Soldier was apprehended for desertion by the Tennessee State Troopers. He was being held in the Bradley County (Tenn.) Sheriff's jail pending release to the Bell County (Texas) Sheriff's Department on a felony murder warrant.

Traffic accidents reported: Five without injury, none with injury.

Violation notices issued: 35 speeding, 1 inattentive driving, 2 failure to yield right of way, 1 driving while unlicensed, 1 driving while license suspended, 5 failure to obey a traffic control device, 2 parking violations.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Grace Bennett

Job: Senior travel clerk, FMWR Community Activity Center

Where do you call home?

Huntsville

What do you like about your job?

It's always nice to hear when people come back from their trips. People come back and tell me what they did. And it's fun to plan vacations because everybody likes to go on them. So you get to help people plan on something that's exciting and fun.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to go out on the river. We have a boat so that's something we like to do when it gets warm.

Also gardening, landscaping – doing things in the yard. I also like to travel. I like to go places so I can come back and share what I've learned with people. So I've taken a couple of trips to Hawaii. I also like to plan trips that I can take later. I like to look forward

to having some trip planned, like we're going to Cancun in June. That way I can have insider information for people planning their vacation. It's a pretty good job for somebody that likes to travel.

What are your goals?

I want to finish up my degree. I'm working on getting a bachelor's degree in acquisition and contracting from Athens State. Getting my kids through school. My son Benji (age 18) is at Alabama on a scholarship in computer engineering. I have another son (Noah, 14) who's at Williams Middle. This summer we're totally renovating our backyard.

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

I think because I have a fine arts degree and art history minor from

UAH, I want to go to Italy. And I want to see the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's work. I really want to see that in real life. Art's always been real important to me. It'll be really cool to see things in real life that you've read about in books.



Redstone fitness facilities build healthy lifestyles

By BETH SKARUPA

Staff writer

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Exercise combats stress. That's why the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation directorate makes four fitness facilities available to all of Team Redstone.

"I think everybody knows that living a healthy lifestyle makes you happier, healthier, and you can live a longer life," Gaylene Wilson, FMWR sports and fitness director, said. "So many people get caught up in their day-to-day activities and we have a lot that goes on on the installation. We have jobs that are high stress, so it's important to be able to offer them this type of benefit on the installation."

Pagano Gym, building 3474 on Honest John Road, is the largest fitness facility. It includes a full line of strength equipment, free weights, cardio equipment, steam and dry sauna, as well as basketball and racquetball courts and space for fitness classes.

Mike Haider, a contract program manager with QinetiQ who works at the airfield, has used both Pagano Gym and the Redstone Fitness Center. He is a retired Army officer as well as a member of The Summit, so he also has a FMWR card. He usually exercises at Pagano Gym ev-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Cha Cha Sealy, in foreground, works out with personal trainer Angie Smith, a recreation specialist.

every day that he can.

"I like that it's new and the climate control works real well. Even on hot days, it's not the stinky old sweaty gym that you always fear," he said. "All of the equipment is functioning and you can get caught up on the news. I come here to de-stress, get the cholesterol lower, lose a couple of pounds. ... I've given up food for Lent. Haven't we all?"

Dean Tripp, whose wife works on the Arsenal, said that he works out five days a week at Pagano Gym. He recently had surgery because he tore his bicep tendon, so he needs to use the gym's strength

equipment.

"I like it here, it's nice and open," he said. "I live in south Huntsville. It's a good drive for me, but this is a good deal and I like the staff here. They're great."

Redstone Fitness Center, building 3705 on Aerobee Road, includes a full line of strength equipment, free weights, cardio equipment, and a dry sauna. It also has basketball and racquetball courts.

The Sparkman Fitness Center, in building 5302 at the Sparkman Complex, also is available to Team Redstone. However, eligible users who do not normally have access to the complex will need to contact Wilson at Pagano Gym to initiate a procedure to gain access. This fitness facility features a full line of strength equipment, free weights and cardio equipment, as well as space for fitness classes.

The Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center, building 4460 on Digney Road, features strength, weights and cardio equipment.

"Each facility has a different clientele base and you know, you create a family atmosphere," Wilson said. "It's really nice. It's been great for us, too, because

we get to meet a lot of people, a very diverse group of people, which is fun and interesting."

All four fitness facilities have showers and locker rooms. Recreation specialists who are certified trainers also are available, free of charge, to assist with developing an exercise program as well as proper use of the equipment. It is best to call or come by a fitness center to make an appointment with one of the specialists.

"We love to help people. Sometimes people are just a little bit unsure where to get started and feel a little lost too, so the trainers help them feel comfortable with

FMWR focus Part 8 of series

the equipment," Wilson said.

Fitness classes such as yoga, pilates, toning, step, circuit, kickboxing and Zumba are offered at Pagano Gym and the Sparkman Fitness Center. Some classes start as early as 5:30 a.m. Classes are free to eligible users. Check the website for a schedule or call the fitness centers for more information.

An FMWR membership is not necessary for those who have access to the

See Fitness on page 9

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:

Rock, paper, scissors

The "Rock Paper Scissors Tournament" is 4:30 p.m. Friday at the Firehouse Pub. This is single game elimination with first, second and third place prizes. Call 842-0748 today to register.

Easter egg hunt

The CYSS Easter Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt is April 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Activity Field, off Aerobee Road, behind the Community Activity Center. This is open to the Redstone community. Please bring your own basket; it's for ages 10 and under. Visit the USAA booth to register for a door prize. There will be free food, prizes and the Easter Bunny available for pictures. For more information, call 955-6114.

Desserts and jazz

The Sights and Sounds of Redstone present "A Sweet Affair" on April 13 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, building 3711. Come out and sample a variety of desserts featuring some of the Tennessee Valley's hottest bakers and cookie and cake makers while listening to smooth jazz by Rick Ward and Company. Also featuring coffee, teas and sandwiches from FMWR's Java Café. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Community Activity Center. There will be free hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. For more information, call 842-3070.

Summer camp

CYSS Summer Camp will be held June 4 through Aug. 3 at the School Age Center, building 3155, for grades 1-5 and at the Youth Center, building 3148, for grades 6-12. Registration begins April 2. For more information, call 876-3704.

Turkey season

Turkey season is April 1-30 from dawn to noon at Outdoor Recreation. Turkey season is open to all Redstone Arsenal hunters with a permit. For more information, call 876-4868.

Easter brunch

Easter Sunday Brunch will be held April 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Summit. Costs are \$12 for children ages 7-11, \$22 for club-member adults and ages 12 and over, and \$30 for non-member adults and ages 12 and over. Children under 6 eat free. When tickets are purchased, the patron must give the cashier the time they plan to eat. Buffet will contain breakfast and lunch items. For more information, call 830-2582.

Golf tournament

The Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers Spring Kickoff Golf Tournament, four person scramble, is April 7 at 8 a.m. at the Links. Cost is \$50 per person plus greens fees if applicable. Breakfast will be provided by the Weeden Mountain Grill, and lunch provided by Carrabba's. For more information, call 883-7977.

Veteran experiences AER's helping hand

Army Emergency Relief prevents foreclosure

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

Over the last few years, the country and Huntsville have been hit by an economic downturn that has created many hardships. For Soldiers, Army Emergency Relief is there to help.

"We are in really disparaging economic times and all of us are suffering in some aspect," Mike Sheehy, the Garrison's director of emergency services, said. "Just as you are willing to support those in need, you need to recognize that there are people out there to support you, too."

Sheehy knows firsthand about getting people help. As a former Soldier, he's had lots of experience with AER. So when one of his DES employees (who choose to remain nameless), a veteran, fell on economic hardships and the bank was threatening foreclosure on his house, Sheehy did what he could to get him connected with AER's support.

"By the time we were alerted about the situation it was very hard to recover with the creditor," Sheehy said. "We started our dialogue with Kerrie Branson and Kathleen Riester and they were phenomenal. They asked all the right questions to make sure this was the type of situation where AER would help. They worked to make sure that this would be a success through and through."

After going through the proper paperwork, Branson and Riester of Army Community Service filed the request with AER on the national level.

"The AER process was a blink of the eye," Sheehy said. "We had a response in lightning speed, less than 12 hours."

After that the hard work began. Less than a day after Sheehy and ACS got involved, the creditor foreclosed on the house and the group was left having to get the creditor to accept the money and reverse the foreclosure.

"The creditor gave us the runaround and actually foreclosed on the house while we were trying to work with him," Sheehy said. "We ended up passing through the gate keepers and went straight to the regional office.

They were very supportive and sympathetic to our veteran and effectively they canceled the foreclosure and reinstated the individual in good standing.

"This is exactly the reason AER exists. It is there to help people in a number of different circumstances and it is a great program – all about Soldiers helping Soldiers,"

Sheehy said. "If you are having problems you shouldn't hesitate to talk with people like Kerrie and Kathleen, they work every day to help Soldiers."

Today the DES employee is still in his house.

"He is a remarkable individual, the kind of person you want to be there for," Sheehy said. "If there is anyone who merits AER support it's him. It is very sobering to think about where he could have ended up."



Photo by Henry Norton/Apache Project Office

Administrative honoree

Lt. Col. Steven Van Ripen, product manager for Apache Sensors, PEO Aviation, congratulates his administrative assistant, Christina McClain, on receiving the 2012 Administrative Professional of the Year award. The award was presented March 22 by the Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. McClain will compete in June for the statewide title.



Spring blossoms on Redstone Arsenal



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Springtime arrives at Marshall Space Flight Center's building 4200.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The Sparkman Center at sunset sees a splash of spring scenery.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The Army Materiel Command headquarters provides the backdrop to a blooming dogwood tree.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

A butterfly rests atop a flowering branch outside building 4207.

Summer job vacancies open for students online

Three Student Temporary Employment Program Summer Hire announcements are open through Friday.

The following announcements will be listed on the Army Civilian Personnel website at <http://www.armycivilianservice.com>:

- SCBK12000802625265SH – Engineering aide
- SCBK12000326626103SH – Office automation clerk
- SCBK12000303626107SH – General clerk

In order to be considered for any of the summer positions, applicants must be students who are at least age 16 and accepted for enrollment or currently en-

rolled in school.

Applications will only be accepted through the electronic USAJOBS Application Manager system. To apply, students must complete an electronic resume containing required information and submit an application package for the desired announcements. Students who are selected will be contacted by phone and/or email. Those not selected will continue to be referred as summer vacancies become available. Questions can be directed to your Redstone Arsenal civilian personnel specialists or points of contact Sandra Drinkard at 876-7401 or Tammy Bourgeois at 842-7733. (*Civilian Personnel Advisory Center release*)

Fitness

continued from page 4

installation and are military servicemembers or Department of Defense civilians. Military and DoD dependents can get a dependent card through the FMWR membership office free of charge that will allow access. Contractors can sign up for a FMWR membership that will allow use of all four fitness facilities for a nominal monthly fee. Call the FMWR membership office at 313-4006 for more information.

“I don’t think they could find the services and the facilities and the programs that we offer anywhere off post, I know they can’t, for that price,” Wilson said.

According to government regulations, the fitness centers age policy is that children age 16 and older may sign themselves in and use all areas of Pagano Gym and the Redstone Fitness Center. Children age 13-15 may use all areas of these facilities only when accompanied by a parent and the youth must remain with parent at all times. Children 12 years and younger are only permitted in the basketball courts

and racquetball courts at these facilities and they must remain with a parent.

Only patrons 18 years old and older may sign themselves in and use all areas of the facilities at the Sparkman Fitness Center and the Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center.

Hours of operation and contact information for the four fitness facilities are as follows:

- Pagano Gym, open Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and some federal holidays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone 876-6701 or 876-2943.
- Redstone Fitness Center, open Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Phone 313-1201 or 313-1200.
- Sparkman Fitness Center, open Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone 313-6096 or 313-6091.
- Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center, open Monday through Friday 5 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Phone 955-6844 or 955-7508.

A monthly fitness newsletter and information about classes and upcoming events is available at <http://www.redstonemwr.com/recreation/sports&fitness.html>.

Photo by Megan Cotton

Guest reader

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton reads to the J.E. Williams Elementary first- and second-grade classes March 21 as the school celebrates “Wild about Reading.”



Month of Military Child marches up with parades



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Youngsters march during the Month of the Military Child kickoff parade April 1, 2011 at the Mills Road Child Development Center.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Military children take center stage during April's Month of the Military Child.

Kickoff parades will be held Monday, April 2 at both Child Development Centers.

The Mills Road CDC's parade is 9 a.m. at its facility, according to director Karen Luckie. For information about the facility's activities during the month, call 842-5862.

The Goss Road CDC's parade is 10 a.m. at the facility's Goss Road circle, according to Shellie McDonald, the Goss Road center's training and curriculum specialist.

"Play, Where Learning Begins" is this year's theme for the Month of the Military Child.

"We celebrate the Month of the Military

Child to spotlight children and focus attention on the needs of young children and how they learn and grow," McDonald said. "Because that's really what we do. That's why our theme is 'Play, Where Learning Begins.'"

The Goss Road parade will be led by a Redstone fire truck. The parents, children and Child Youth and School Services management staff will participate.

Some of April's activities at the Goss Road Child Development Center include an open house April 13 from 4-5:30 p.m.; Olympic Day at 10 a.m. April 20 at the youth baseball field at the intersection of Hughes and Goss roads, in which the children will do a mock torch run; and Western Day at 11:30 a.m. April 27 which will have barbecue for the children and parents.

For more information about the Goss Road CDC's activities, call 876-7952.

Programs and Events

Federally Employed Women presents outreach awards



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Georgia Thomas, FEW's national vice president for diversity, speaks during the North Alabama Chapter's luncheon March 21.

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Federally Employed Women represents more than its name implies.

Men as well as women are invited to the professional organization that promotes leadership, equity and advancement of women.

"We are open and welcome men in our organization," Georgia Thomas, FEW's national vice president for diversity, said. She was the guest speaker at the North Alabama Chapter's 2012 Women's History Luncheon and Outreach Awards

Program held March 21 at The Summit.

Thomas discussed the importance of interacting with people of different age groups and ethnic backgrounds. Such conversations can improve organizations.

"Everyone needs to know what you're thinking and what's going on, and understand your point of reference," Thomas said.

Thomas, a FEW national board member in Washington, D.C., began her affiliation with the organization in 1991 by becoming a member of the Greater Houston Chapter 50 in the Southwest Region.

"I would encourage you to be vocal,"

she said.

About 100 people attended the luncheon, including Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal.

The North Alabama Chapter, the second oldest existing chapter in the national organization, has about 26 members. Its officers include president Mary Peoples, vice president Kenya McLin, secretary Erica Thompson and treasurer Jackie Meador.

"We're trying to get the word out (about FEW)," Peoples said.

See Awards on page 14

Soldier recognized as role model in community

Lt. Col. Martha Brooks is this year's recipient of the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women's Military Meritorious Service Award.

Brooks, public affairs officer for the Expeditionary Contracting Command, was recognized during the chapter's luncheon March 21 at The Summit.

Chapter president Mary Peoples said Brooks was selected in recognition of her exemplary career of selfless service as characterized by her commitment to duty and inspirational leadership of Soldiers. FEW is a private membership organization working as an advocacy group to improve the status of women

employed by the federal government.

"She has promoted a positive understanding of the armed forces between women and members of the military and civilian population," Peoples said. "She has served as a role model in the community and the armed forces by reaching out to others, mentoring younger officers and working to

improve interaction with other staff agencies, supported units and sister services."

Brooks said she was "really touched at being recognized for something I think all our Soldiers do daily and that is to take care of each other."

A native of Huntsville, Brooks has

See Model on page 14

SMDC employee receives management award

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

A Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employee was honored March 21 by the Federally Employed Women.

Kevin Nash, SMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center Concepts Analysis Laboratory supervisory general engineer, was recognized by the North Alabama Chapter of FEW during its luncheon at The Summit. FEW presented Nash with the Outstanding Management Award during the 2012 Women's History Luncheon and Outreach Awards Program.

"This is an honor," Nash said. "What is great is that someone thought enough about me to nominate me for this. And to be nominated by those who work with me is an even higher honor."

Nash was recognized for distinguishing himself as a leader, role model and mentor for promoting the advancement and development of women in the Department of Defense. Nash helped found the CAL in 2004 to bring in high school and college students to perform hands-on tasks for government projects and to serve as a training ground to prepare young engineers to enter upper-level government positions.

In the CAL, Nash helped create an en-

vironment that lacks division between men and women, treating them as equals in every capacity.

"I had no idea this was going to happen," Nash said. "The best part is to know that someone thought enough about me to nominate me for this award."

Nash was recognized for also mentoring women in government service and making significant efforts to close the gap of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields by stimulating interest in youth and hiring women in non-traditional underrepresented occupations.

"And to be nominated by ladies makes See SMDC on page 15



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Kevin Nash, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Technical Center Concepts Analysis Laboratory supervisory general engineer, receives the Outstanding Management Award from Mary Peoples.

Awards

continued from page 12

The chapter's outreach awards recipients included Mona Neal, procurement analyst team lead in the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville, Outstanding Career Advancement Award; Kevin Nash, supervisory general engineer in the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Outstanding Management Award; and Lt. Col. Martha Brooks, public affairs officer for the Expeditionary Contracting Command, the Military Meritorious Service Award.

March is observed as Women's History Month.

Model

continued from page 12
been in the Army for 22 years.

"I am only doing what I have been taught to do by my family and by my many military mentors," she said. "To have an organization like FEW single me out is a tremendous honor and a blessing."

Peoples said when you look at Brooks' career, "she has used her professional skills to promote diversity and equal opportunities

Lt. Col. Martha Brooks receives her award from Mary Peoples, president of the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women.

for military and civilian populations in her assignments. We are proud to recognize her for supporting overseas contingency operations, where she has best displayed the ideals of duty, honor and country and has epitomized the core values and the citizen warrior attributes of her command." (*Army Contracting Command release*)

Photo by Larry McCaskill



Unmanned aircraft systems focus at annual symposium

By **RANDY TISOR**

PEO Aviation Public Affairs

The Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International's Pathfinder chapter 2012 symposium held March 14-15 at the Von Braun Center allowed industry participants an opportunity to get on the same unmanned aircraft page.

The theme for the symposium was exploring the unmanned systems roadmap to the future.

For participants from the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, the symposium was clearly valuable, especially considering the tightly budgeted procurement environment.

"I look at it as an opportunity to bring industry up to speed on what's going on with the Army PM UAS," project manager Col. Tim

Baxter said. "From an Army perspective, the platforms we have right now in terms of UAS are the platforms we're going to have for the next eight to 10 years. So, the key for us is keeping up with technology, monitoring technology, and incorporating those pieces of technology in terms of improvements on our platforms that make sense."

Baxter added that as unmanned aircraft technology advances and matures, the importance of selecting and applying the right technology is important to the overall mission.

"It's important to work with only the best as technology is maturing. We've got to be smart about what we do (and what we) integrate into our platforms," he said.

The world of UAS, he said, is growing by leaps and bounds. In particular, he cited systems that unmanned aircraft carry. Payload capabilities have greatly added to the role unmanned aircraft play in theater.

"Resolutions on cameras increased in civilian industry, we're also seeing it on



Photo by Randy Tisor

Greg Beckett, left, a business development manager with Ultra Electronics, discusses one of his company's products with fellow exhibitors Eric Corban, center, and his son, Lawrence Corban, both of Guided Systems Technologies, in the VBC North Hall exhibit area during the Association of Unmanned Vehicles Systems International local Pathfinder chapter symposium.

the military side," Baxter said.

The event also allowed for better communication across the services.

"The Marine Corps is here, Navy is here, the Air Force is here," Baxter said. "For me, it's a great opportunity for PM UAS to bring industry and our leaders within DoD up to speed with what's going on in my shop. It's also an opportunity for these other folks to share information with us."

The spotlight was on interoperability and being able to operate among the various systems fielded within the services. The goal was to achieve operational transparency for the war fighter regardless of where ground support comes from. A UAS video feed from an Army Gray Eagle or Shadow is just as valuable as video from an Air Force Predator.

"At the end of the day," Baxter said, "it's about supporting the guy on the ground."

In addition to military and government agency representatives, nearly 50 vendors participated in the symposium.

SMDC

continued from page 14

this even more special," Nash said. "This is about equality for women and to ensure everyone gets a fair chance, and to think that I am helping contribute to that means a lot to me.

"It is just a real honor to be selected and I am very grateful."

Acquisition fellowship program welcomes new inductees



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Renee Kelly, center, on developmental assignment with the Army Acquisition Support Center, poses with Dorothy Huston and Daniel Farmer, both of the Technology Management Training Group Inc. Huston, president/CEO, and Farmer, executive vice president/COO, were among the presenters at the March 21 training sessions.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Members of the acquisition work force gathered last week in Huntsville for their annual networking opportunity.

The Army Acquisition Support Center held the Competitive Development Group/Army Acquisition Fellowship program 12th annual orientation, induction and graduation March 20-22 at the Westin. This event enabled the acquisition community to welcome the incoming Year Group 2012 as well as celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating YG 2009.

“This has been a very exciting time,” Renee Kelly, a year group 2011 Competitive Development Group Army Acquisition Fellow, said. “This is the one time of year where all the CDGs get to mingle and share experiences, and give advice. We all serve as mentors for each other.”

Kelly is on a six-month developmental

assignment with the Army Acquisition Support Center at Fort Belvoir, Va. She assists the program manager, Chandra Evans-Mitchell.

Competitive Development Group/Army Acquisition Fellowship is a three-year leadership program that offers competitively selected GS-12/13s (or broad/pay band equivalent) expanded leadership training and experience opportunities. The program’s 70-person annual event consisted of Year Group 2012 orientation and YG 2009-12 training sessions, followed by a dinner and graduation and induction ceremony.

The Year Group 2012 selectees include Aladrian Crowder, Chenxi Dong-O’Malley, Timothy Hoy, Adam Morse, Craig Riedel, Stephen Roberts, Karen Short and Matthew Whitworth.

The Year Group 2009 graduates included Tamera Balch, Alvin Bing III, Jeffery Burgess, Danny Davis, Peter Degenaar, Gloria Hemphill, Jeffrey Hensley, Ryan Johnson, Darold McCloud, Phillip McDonald and Joel Price.

Community remembers, honors von Braun

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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To the world, Wernher von Braun defined the term rocket scientist, becoming the father of the American space program, but to the von Braun children, he was just dad.

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center joined with the von Braun family, as well as the Huntsville and worldwide community to celebrate what would have been the German scientist's 100th birthday in a special party at the Davidson Center Friday night.

"To the enduring spirit of exploration in all of us, and to continue the dream that space exploration offers to bring people of all nations together in the peaceful pursuit of knowledge and wisdom," his daughter Margrit von Braun said in a toast to her late father.

While the celebration was as much a tribute to all von Braun accomplished under the Saturn V Rocket, the very vessel he created, the evening was as much about remembering the man that was a husband, father, team member and friend.

"He was open minded. He was funny, he was focused, he was determined, he was curious and he was a consummate team builder," von Braun said. "I believe that his spirit lives on in everyone who is an explorer, whether they're exploring outer space,

science, culture, religion, art. His spirit is alive in every person who wonders how to reach beyond perceived limitations."

Sharing family pictures, von Braun recalled her favorite stories of growing up in Huntsville, like when her father taught her and her friends how to wind rolls of toilet paper around a rock to improve the aerodynamics of the toilet paper stream as they rolled houses in their neighborhood, the day he brought home proposed astronaut meals for the kids to test that proved to be atrocious, and the time he helped his daughters break into the Randolph School to retrieve the homework that had been left behind. As well-known as he was for his work, to eldest daughter Iris he was her sail mate, for Margrit her scuba diving buddy, and for son Peter, the man that taught him how to hunt and fish. Sundays were always family days in the von Braun family, when they'd spend the day on Lake Guntersville.

"The race to space was busy, but not that busy. On those days we had his complete attention," von Braun said. "The briefcase stayed home. This was probably the best thing I learned from my father. When we were with him, we were the center of his universe."

In addition to Margrit's remarks, and a performance by the Huntsville Community



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Marshall Space Flight Center director Gene Goldman speaks during Friday night's celebration.

Chorus of musical pieces composed by von Braun when he was a teenager, Deborah Barnhart, U.S. Space & Rocket Center CEO, and Marshall Space Flight Center director Gene Goldman honored the contributions von Braun and his family made to the Rocket City, and the mission of both NASA and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

"Dr. von Braun had great vision and he pursued it until he succeeded," said Goldman, who now holds the position von Braun inaugurated at Marshall. "He believed this country was one of destiny, capable of great things, and he did all in



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Margrit von Braun and her sister, Iris, the daughters of Wernher von Braun, cut the Saturn V cake. The cake was created by Jay Qualls, a celebrity cake designer from Nashville.

his power to make that happen."

Through May 15, individuals can learn more about the man that changed the course of American history at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center exhibit, "100 Years of von Braun: His American Journey." For more information, visit www.ussrc.com.

GFEBs resource accountability goes live April 2 at Redstone



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Members of the GFEBs Transition Office include, from left, deputy director Dr. Felicia Williams, data coordinator Tim Dozier, master data capturer Terry van derMerwe, functionality coordinator Carol Coatney, security manager and training coordinator Spencer Cunningham and administrative assistant Andrea Cheyne.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Redstone is ready to join the General Fund Enterprise Business System.

Team Redstone goes online April 2 with GFEBs, which has been adopted throughout the Army in waves since 2008.

"Deployment is April 2nd," Dr. Felicia Williams, deputy director of the GFEBs Transition Office, said. "April 3rd starts sustainment. We've got to learn how to continue your mission for using GFEBs."

Twenty-five organizations at Redstone will go live with the system April 2. It will replace the Standard Operations and Maintenance Army Research and Development, or SOMARDS, system and it will interface with the Logistics Modernization Program. This will change how the Army does finance, cost management, logistics and acquisition.

The Logistics Modernization Program/General Fund Enterprise Business System interface has been done.

"The test module for the LMP/GFEBs interface is completed and successful," Spencer Cunningham, security manager and training coordinator in the transition office, said.

Training with the LMP/GFEBs interface is ongoing and will become part of the sustainment efforts. Also ongoing are the site readiness activities.

Said Williams, "We've got activities to do every day before go-live (April 2)."

GFEBs will be deployed that day throughout Redstone's Army organizations, including the Army Materiel Command, Aviation and Missile Command, Corpus Christi Army Depot (Texas), Letterkenny Army Depot (Pa.), the Program Executive Office for Aviation, PEO Missiles and Space, the Garrison, Medical Command, Test and Evaluation Command, and the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Describing Redstone's deployment, Cunningham said, "It has been tedious but it's progressing well."

Redstone represents wave 8. The Security Assistance Command will be part of the last deployment, wave 8B, which is scheduled July 1. That will also include the Communications Electronics Command in Aberdeen, Md., and the Tank Automotive and Armaments Command in Warren, Mich.

"When it's fully operational it will have 79,000 end users," Williams said. "And it replaces 200 legacy systems."

The transition office, located on the second floor of building 5304, represents a combined effort with the Aviation and Missile Command, PEO Missiles and Space, and PEO Aviation.

The Army decided about 10 years ago that it wanted to have one financial system. And the system has been implemented in waves since its first deployment at Fort Jackson, S.C., on Oct. 1, 2008. Some 400 sites have adopted the system so far.

Local organizations support Soldier readiness

By **KARI HAWKINS**

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Providing support for Soldiers and their families is the sole purpose of existence for some local military organizations.

Of those, the one that is most influential in its support is the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army. Its support of Soldiers and their families is so well-known that the chapter has been named AUSA's best chapter overall in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011.

"That's exactly what we do," chapter president Paul Elliott said. "We are here to support Soldiers and their families, and that support also extends to retirees, veterans and Department of the Army civilians, and all their families. We are here to support the entire Army family."

Yet, the Soldier does take the front seat in that support network, especially when that Soldier deploys.

"Whenever the Soldier leaves their family for a deployment – whoever that fam-

ily may be – we want to be there to show our support," Elliott said. "If the Soldier knows their family is being taken care of then that's one less thing they have to worry about when they are defending our country. For Soldiers, the Army is more than a job. It's a family, and we want to be there as part of that family."

Elliott said AUSA chapters around the world have an effect on the Army's bottom line.

"By taking care of Soldiers and families, we support retention. If the family is happy, then the Soldier is happy. If the family is

happy about their Soldier's service, then we will keep that Soldier in the Army," he said.

There are several military organizations in the local community that support Soldiers and Soldier families, and that rely on volunteers to provide services and activities. The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans all have local chapters as does such professional groups as the National Defense Industrial Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Military Order of World Wars.

Major local organizations supporting Soldiers and Soldier families include:

Association of the U.S. Army, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter – The local chapter furthers the aims and objectives of AUSA with a range of programs that promote the Army and support Soldiers (Active, Army Reserve and Army National Guard), their families and Army civilians, veterans and retirees in north Alabama and the southern counties of Tennessee. The chapter region includes Huntsville, Birmingham, Florence (University of North Alabama sub-chapter)

and Anniston (satellite-chapter). Annual chapter events include the Team Redstone Army Birthday celebration, the Tactical Missiles Conference, the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Dinner, Veterans Day Dinner and Parade, participation in Junior and Senior ROTC Award ceremonies, "Welcome Home" ceremonies for Soldiers and units returning from deployments, sports event sponsorships providing free tickets to Soldiers and their families, and the First Sergeant John Ordway Award recognizing the best first sergeants (active, Reserve and National Guard) in the chapter area. The Redstone-Huntsville chapter has about 3,000 members and 300 corporate members. Website: www.ausaredstone.org.

North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition – The mission of the coalition is to serve as a venue and communication conduit for local military organizations by providing information; serving as a common voice for the member organizations on matters of common interest; and coordinating and sponsoring events and activities of interest to the member organizations. Each

See Support on page 30

**Military community
by the numbers**
**120 members of the Military Retiree
Council.**
447,000 veterans in Alabama.
13 VA outpatient clinics in Alabama.
2,900 chaplains Armywide.

Community based outpatient clinics serve veterans

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Veterans in north Alabama can find medical care at VA outpatient clinics throughout this region.

Nine of Alabama's 13 VA outpatient clinics are in the northern part of the state. There are 447,000 veterans in Alabama.

"Our mission is to provide primary care and mental health services to veterans in their community," Rekena Davis, nurse manager for the Veterans Affairs outpatient clinics in the Huntsville area, said. "We provide patient centered care. Along with the services that we offer, we offer services for women veterans. We also offer laboratory services as well."

A registered nurse, she is responsible for

three clinics – Huntsville, Decatur-Madison and Muscle Shoals.

Many veterans from Huntsville also travel the approximately 40 miles to the newest clinic, which is located in Guntersville. The clinics are under the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

The Huntsville Community Based Outpatient Clinic, 301 Governors Drive, is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Its phone number is 535-3100.

Its 45-member staff includes physicians, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, social workers, clerks, nutritionists, psychologists, two psychiatrists and one optometrist.

"The Huntsville clinic has been in existence since 1990," Davis said. "The Decatur-Madison clinic has been here since 2005. And the Guntersville clinic opened in 2010."



Photo by Tim Teran

This is the staff of the Decatur-Madison CBOC, among nine Veterans Affairs outpatient clinics in north Alabama.

The Decatur-Madison CBOC, 8075 Madison Boulevard in Madison, is open

from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with extended hours for mental health services (7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday). Its phone number is 772-6220. The clinic's 18-member staff includes physicians, psychologists, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, clerks, two audiologists and one psychiatrist.

The Guntersville CBOC, 100 Judy Smith Drive, is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and can be reached at 582-4033. Its 15 people include physicians, psychologists, one psychiatrist, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and clerks.

"At the Huntsville clinic, we have over 5,000 veterans enrolled," Davis said. "In Decatur-Madison, we have over 3,000 veterans enrolled. And in Guntersville, we have about 2,000 veterans enrolled – smaller clinic."

VA office ready to assist veterans, families

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Madison County veterans service officer Harley Goble Jr. wants veterans to know he can help them.

"I am a state of Alabama employee,

and my mission is to serve as the advocate for veterans and their families and survivors in Madison County," Goble said.

"I inform them of their VA benefits and I assist them in applying for those benefits. And if they're wrongly denied of their claim, I'll even help them do an appeal all the way to Washington, D.C."

Each month at Redstone, Goble presents the state benefits portion of the Transition Assistance Program briefing at the retirement services office.

Services provided by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs include the following:

- Help for veterans with their compen-

sation claims for injuries resulting from their military service.

- Help for veterans with pension claims for non-service connected injuries. A veteran qualifies for a pension if he has 90 days of active duty with one day during a wartime period. This pension is given to

See Veterans on page 24

Caring for the military in both mind and body

Counseling, group therapy available at Fox center

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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When life hands you lemons, and you just can't seem to find the strength to make lemonade, Fox Army Health Center is there to help you through it.

"We know military, so we understand what the active duty Soldier is going through and how that's affecting the family, and how the family is affecting the active duty Soldier," Jeannie Johnston, a social worker with the behavioral medicine division, said. "But it's also the retirees, because we understand what they've gone through and how they've gotten to where they're at. We have perspectives with both life issues and the military on top of that."

At Fox it's not just about caring for the body, it's about taking care of the whole person. In addition to the medical services provided, including those by the Patient Centered Medical Home Blue Team, a team of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals dedicated to active duty and special populations which celebrated their ribbon cutting last week, the behavioral medicine division is there to help when life gets difficult.

All Tricare Prime beneficiaries are eligible to use services available through the behavioral medicine division at Fox, whether it be one-on-one counseling for anxiety or depression, screening for ADHD, or group therapy to help one deal with life's stressors or PTSD. Re-

gardless of the reason for their visit, Fox is a support system for individuals and families in need.

"The military community is unique in that they're moving so they lose their support system everywhere they go," Johnston said. "They have to start over. Some of them really struggle with creating support systems and that's huge."

Behavioral medicine offers three group therapy classes on a regular basis, a 10-week women's support group that meets Thursdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m., a 10-week female adolescent group that meets Thursdays from 4:30 to 6 p.m., and a 12-week PTSD group that meets Tuesdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. All groups are closed, meaning an individual cannot join in the middle of the course, but must start from the beginning. To sign up for a group, call 955-8888, ext. 1930.

For Soldiers and retirees dealing with the aftereffects of a trauma, the PTSD group, based on curriculum developed by the military specifically for PTSD, can help individuals learn to manage it, and diminish their symptoms. The next group is anticipated to start in April. The sooner an individual living with PTSD can address it, the better, Johnston said.

"It gets worse and worse," she said. "The more they avoid it the more it builds anxiety. PTSD is an anxiety disorder, so the more it builds, the more anxiety it builds. It feeds itself."

The women's group follows the ACT program – acceptance and commitment therapy – which teaches individuals how to deal with life's stressors when they come up, including anxiety and depression.

See Fox on page 29

Veterans

continued from page 22

a veteran who is 100 percent disabled and in financial need.

- Education benefits such as the Montgomery GI Bill, the 9/11 GI Bill, and vocational rehabilitation.

"I help the dependents file claims, too," Goble said. "There's education benefits for dependents of veterans who are rated 100 percent. And there's education benefits for dependents of veterans who entered service from the state of Alabama. The veteran has to be rated 20 percent or higher."

The VA office will also help the veteran file formal appeals if his claim was

wrongly denied. It will help a widow file for a burial benefit if the veteran was receiving a check from the VA or if he died in a VA nursing home or a VA hospital.

The office helps veterans fill out an application for the local Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home. It helps veterans file for VA health care enrollment to be able to use VA's Huntsville Outpatient Clinic.

"And of course we help all the survivors file for benefits," Goble said.

The Madison County office of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, located at 115-B Washington St. downtown, near the Madison County Courthouse, is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Its phone number is 532-1662.

Military retirees served by dedicated team effort

By **BETH SKARUPA**

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Military retirees, despite numbering in the thousands in North Alabama, expect the best when it comes to their retirement services. That's why the people who provide retirement services and casualty assistance here, in conjunction with the Military Retiree Council, work so hard.

"Under retirement services you branch out and work with retirees and the survivors benefit," retirement services officer Ed Adams said. "The casualty and the survivors benefit sort of coincide with each other, so we work with each other. We provide assistance to retirees dealing with their finances, dealing with death, spouses, the annuitant. If I don't know it all, I go to John (Hawkins) or Barbara (Moudy). We all connect and sort of work it as a puzzle to piece it together."

His co-workers include John Hawkins in the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs office, Barbara Moudy, Transition Point chief and assistant retirement services officer, and Jean Manley, retirement services/casualty assistant. They also work with Military Retiree Council co-chairs



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Seated from left are John Hawkins, casualty assistance; Jean Manley, retirement services/casualty assistance; and Barbara Moudy, Transition Point chief/assistant research services officer. Standing are Clay Newton, Military Retiree Council co-chair; and Ed Adams, retirement services officer. Not pictured is Henry Oldham, Military Retiree Council co-chair.

Henry Oldham and Clay Newton on the annual Retiree Appreciation Day.

"We deal with retirees across the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, civil service, it doesn't matter who it is.

We point them in the right direction," Adams said.

Any benefit to which the military retiree is entitled is dealt with through the retirement services office or the military personnel office or Army Community Service. The National Guard and Army Reserve also are assisted with their retirement benefits.

"The key is the TAPS (Transition Assistance Program) workshop. That's where it starts. And what we hope will happen is that, even the Reserves and the National Guards who have retired can attend the TAPS workshops because all the agencies come out and speak and that's part of the what retirement services does," Adams said.

"We deal with all the agencies that have anything to do with retiree benefits," Moudy added. "We help them get their benefits."

Military Appreciation Day is an annual event that, like the TAPS workshops, brings all the agencies together to convey information to the retirees. One of the biggest challenges for Military Retiree Council is getting the word out about it to the thousands of military retirees in the area.

"That's one of our primary issues and concerns, right up front, getting the word out and ensuring that the retirees who live in the area are notified promptly of Retiree Appreciation Day event and that we all collectively work very hard to make sure we put on a good program for them that is both informative to them and provides services to them," Newton said.

Retiree Appreciation Day happens annually in the fall. Although the date changes each year, the event usually takes place in September, October or November.

Hawkins emphasized that military retirees need to ensure that their personal affairs are updated regularly. Update "anything and everything that the widow would need."

For Retirement Services only, call and/or email the following for appointments: Adams, 876-2022, edward.adamsjr2@us.army.mil; Moudy 313-6481, barbara.moudy@us.army.mil; or Manley, 842-2418, doris.manley@us.army.mil. The Casualty and Mortuary Affairs service are available both by appointments and walk-in: Hawkins, 876-4252, johnny.d.hawkins@us.army.mil.

Chaplains meet Army community's spiritual needs

By BETH SKARUPA

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The stained glass image of one hand helping another in a window of the Bicentennial Chapel is symbolic of what an Army chaplain does every day.

Throughout the world, chaplains are committed to nurturing the living, caring for the wounded, and honoring the fallen. Chaplains provide religious support to America's Army while assisting commanders in ensuring the right of free exercise of religion for all Soldiers.

They consider themselves privileged to serve the men and women who serve their country, and that service extends to the entire Army family.

"We will help Soldiers, family members, DoD personnel, DA civilians, with any of their needs that we can assist them with because we're all part of the Army family here at Redstone and we're here to assist," Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie said.

"DA civilians deploy, go down range ... families can get separated, depressed, and we're willing to help through that situation through counseling, religious services, any of those needs that the Army family, whether they be civilians, dependents, or active duty personnel, Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines that we have here on post. We're here to help."

Chaplain services include religious sacraments, counseling, and a Helping Hands fund which allows the chaplains to help people in crisis. Although no money is given directly to a person in crisis, the Helping Hands fund can pay bills or provide food vouchers.

As Garrison chaplain, Luckie's primary responsibility is to facilitate the religious programs and services for Redstone Arsenal in order to ensure



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie serves as the Garrison chaplain.

that everyone has an opportunity to practice their religious faith. He is senior pastor for the Protestant service, so he alternates preaching at 11 a.m. Sunday at the traditional service and the contemporary service held in the youth building.

Several other chaplains are stationed here: Chaplain (Col.) Michael Coffey and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tim Sowers with the Army Materiel Command; Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Len Kircher with the Aviation and Missile Command; Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chip Fields with the Army Acquisition Corps; Luckie, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jose Herrera and Chaplain (Maj.) John Sutton with the Expeditionary Contract Command; Chaplain (Col.) Doug Kinder with the Space and Missile Defense Command; and Chaplain (Maj.) Doug Gibson with the Recruiting Brigade Com-

mand.

Fields preaches at the contemporary service when Luckie is preaching at the traditional service. The other Protestant chaplains regularly take turns preaching at the traditional service when Luckie is preaching at the contemporary service. Father Herrera, the Catholic chaplain, is responsible for all the Catholic masses. When he is not available, a priest from Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Huntsville takes his place.

"We give an opportunity for the different commands to be emphasized and to participate in the traditional service," Luckie said. "Obviously in the Catholic Church the priest is the officiant, so Father Herrera does those mainly."

Several of the chaplains will be away from the Arsenal at times visiting Soldiers from their commands who are stationed in other parts of the world such as Afghanistan.

Luckie often works with Virginia Dempsey, a social worker at Army Community Service, to help any person who comes to him in crisis.

"I am the conduit to help them find assistance. We can help pay for food, rent, whatever is needed to help them get through this crisis. We give them the opportunity for assistance, whether it be domestic violence, separation or divorce. We are here to sustain the family," he said. "When a person comes in, we treat it as confidential but we do try to get them to get engaged with the right services that can help them, like JAG. They do have rights as a dependent for assistance from JAG."

Often, Army Emergency Relief is limited in its ability to assist. The chapel's Helping Hands fund is broader in its capabilities in assisting people in a time of crisis, in being able to help

them with their rent or their bills.

"And again, we don't give them money directly but we can get the address or the billing account and pay those bills in a time of crisis to help them get through the day or the week or the month," Luckie said. "If it is a legitimate concern or a legitimate need, then we're willing to help."

Although the Helping Hands fund is set up to help the Army and DoD civilians, contractors can always go to a chaplain for help.

"I never turn a person away who's in crisis and I'm willing to assist them through the crisis. We're not able to help them (contractors) financially with a lot of their need, but if you're on Redstone Arsenal and you're in a crisis we will help you get in the right direction and help you get through this situation - both with counseling, spiritual support, family support, and by helping you get in contact with the right person to assist you," Luckie said.

The best way to contact Luckie for counseling or assistance is to call 842-2965 or email marvin.luckie@us.army.mil.

The chaplains will soon have more help in serving Team Redstone. Rad Reavis, the chapel's religious education coordinator, and Judy Strange are coordinators for Stephen Ministry. This ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals in the congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Several people in the congregation have gone through training to become Stephen Ministers and will soon be assigned care receivers.

For more information about Stephen Ministry, religious services, programs and upcoming events, call the Bicentennial Chapel's office at 842-2176.

Still Serving Veterans helps in job hunt

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Despite his ability to call himself a clinical psychologist, Tazewell Jones is starting his own lawn care and landscaping business.

For the Vietnam veteran, there is no work for him as a clinical psychologist, so instead, he is turning to a career field where he sees the potential for work. Jones attended the career seminar, expo and job fair, "Empowering Our Veterans: Entrepreneurship and Employment" organized by Still Serving Veterans and the Women's Business Center of North Alabama, March 20 at the Embassy Suites in Huntsville to prepare himself for his new venture.

"This is fantastic, especially for the veterans who are now in their 60s through their 70s and who served in Vietnam and never got thanked, we're so grateful to know that veterans are not only being thanked, but helped," Jones said. "There were no programs like this for us."

Still Serving Veterans, an organization devoted to helping veterans find meaningful careers and lives after they've served their country, is working to make sure assistance is readily available for veterans that find themselves in the same situation as Jones. Around 8.3 of all veterans are without jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the unemployment rate for veterans who served on active duty in the military at any point since September 2001 at 12.1 percent in 2011.

"We are committed to helping as many veterans as possible, so we are stepping up to take our service to the next level," said Will Webb, president. "Unemployment is a critical problem for veterans, so SSV has stepped up to focus on work force development."

Around 120 job seekers and 36 veteran friendly employers attended last week's event, which is just one facet of Still Serving Veterans' outreach to unemployed veterans. In 2011, SSV helped 127 veterans find



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Curtis Lewis, a veteran with the National Guard, meets with prospective employers at the WBCNA and Still Serving Veterans "Empowering our Veterans: Entrepreneurship and Employment" job fair March 20 at the Embassy Suites in Huntsville.

meaningful new careers. With projected cuts of 80,000 Soldiers and 20,000 Marines, the organization anticipates their role in helping unemployed veterans find work to increase, not decrease, as they strive to assist the more than a million veterans that are unemployed. While the numbers are startling, SSV encourages veterans not to lose hope.

"One of the things that makes you a great Soldier is perseverance – use that. Don't give up," Webb said. "Seek expert advice with an experienced advocate and professional counselors like Still Serving Veterans. Your competencies, skills and values are amazing and will have a tremendous impact on the bottom line of companies fortunate enough to hire you. Remember, the same warrior ethos that yielded success on the battlefield will yield success with your new team and company: mission first,

never quit, never leave a fallen comrade."

Starting with one-on-one counseling to explore the needs and desires of each veteran, SSV helps individuals assess their skills and provides them with advice on how to conduct a comprehensive job search. In addition to group training in areas such as networking, interview skills and navigating the government hiring system, the organization also critiques resumes and cover letters and gives out tips on how to dress for success. For many veterans, translating their military careers into the civilian world can be the first challenge in finding a job.

"Most young Soldiers join the military right out of high school and have never had to put a resume together or do a job interview," Webb said. "The military jargon and vernacular servicemembers learn when they serve is hard to translate into civilian lan-

guage, and job descriptions in the military do not easily match job descriptions in the civilian sector."

Once the translating is done however, it can at times be challenging to get veterans to promote themselves in a competitive job market.

"Many veterans are humble in their accomplishments and skills and it is hard to get them to market themselves," Webb said. "Many in the private sector don't 'get it' when it comes to the outstanding capabilities, trainings, expertise, motivation, commitment and other awesome qualities of veterans."

To combat that, Still Serving Veterans has partnered with organizations across not only north Alabama, but the country at large, to make sure businesses know and understand what an asset an employer has when they hire a veteran.

"These great Americans are the 1 percent of the population who volunteered to serve our country in time of war," Webb said. "There are many good skill sets that veterans bring to the table. They are trained and trainable, they are disciplined – it is ingrained in every servicemember since their first day of boot camp. Veterans are team players who depend on one another in the most adverse of conditions. Veterans are mission focused and are taught to complete the mission. They bring leadership skills, a central tent of military service. They perform well under pressure and are dependable and honest. They are problem solvers, and have displayed judgment, often in life and death situations with millions of dollars on the line. Generally, they communicate well. They respect others and are used to diversity."

Since its founding in 2005, Still Serving Veterans has helped more than 4,500 veterans reintegrate into civilian life, through counseling, career development, referrals to federal, state and local support services, and assisting veterans in obtaining Veterans Affairs and other benefits and services. For more information, call 883-7035 or visit www.stillservingveterans.org.

Army Community Service lends helping hand

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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The bank account had hit rock bottom and Elaine Harrah had nowhere to turn.

With her husband, Spc. Eric Harrah, a GS-13 when he's working as a civilian, deployed to Afghanistan with the Army National Guard as an E-4, times were already tight. But when a problem occurred with his differential pay, the bottom all but dropped out for the family. Having gone through their nest egg during Eric's basic training when a month's salary wouldn't even cover their mortgage, and the financial hardship of paying for a chimney repair, and medical and burial expenses surrounding the loss of their stillborn daughter Brielle a year ago, when the glitch couldn't be fixed before the bills started piling up, the mother of three didn't have enough money to feed her children, let alone pay the mortgage and utilities.

At the advice of another Army wife at church, Elaine turned to Army Community Service for help. Through the generosity of Army Emergency Relief, the family was able to obtain a no interest loan to help them get by until Eric's pay issues could be sorted out, placing phone calls and emails to get everything straightened out for the family.

"The level of stress we were under prior to their help was not sustainable for any kind of duration," Eric said. "They were able to alleviate that stress and help us focus on what we had to do. That took a huge weight off my shoulders just knowing that stuff was taken care of. They gave me a great deal of peace of mind knowing that someone was there taking care of my family while I wasn't able to, and they did a great job."

Since obtaining the loan, Elaine has found respite with other services at ACS, such as the new parent support program, which allows for program manager Charlene Cox to visit the family at their home in Madison to check on the children and give Elaine a listening ear. Knowing what the family was going through, ACS staff members made sure that when Christmastime came Santa's sleigh had plenty of presents for under the Harrah tree.

"They were the only people that advocated for me," Elaine said. "Because we're not active duty, a lot of people treat us like we're not an Army family, like I'm not an Army wife. I'm sorry, but if my husband is gone to a foreign country for a year fighting for our country, I'm an Army wife."

The Harrah family is not the first, and certainly won't be the last family to find hope at ACS. Whether it's help managing the budget, finding a job, parenting advice, or grieving the loss of a Soldier, Army Community Service is there for Team Redstone.

"Because of the economy and the world situation right now, it's more important than ever to support Soldiers and families,



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Elaine Harrah feeds her 1-year-old daughter, Evie, at their home in Madison. While her husband, Spc. Eric Harrah, has been deployed to Afghanistan she has sought help from Army Community Service.

and the total Army family, including civilians, who are faced with challenges in their lives, whether they've lost their job or they're getting back from deployment for the third time," Sue Paddock, ACS director, said. "Today's world is challenging and we're here to work with them and meet their needs."

Serving as the Garrison commander's principal family readiness agency, ACS provides comprehensive, coordinated and responsive services that support the readiness of Soldiers and civilian employees and their families during peace and war, Paddock said. At no cost, the free services provided are tailored to the needs of the community, whether it's Soldiers, National Guard, Reservists and their families, retirees or civilians.

"One of the goals for ACS is to prepare families for tomorrow's challenges," Paddock said. "Many of our programs and services help to build resilient Soldiers and families."

Programs that fall under ACS address topics such as emergency relief, parenting and families, deployment and mobilization, domestic violence and sexual abuse, finances, relocation and grieving the loss of Soldiers, all life stressors that can impact a person's well-being and way of life, and the mission they are called to carry out for their country.

"It's all about readiness," Kathleen Riester said. "Families, especially on the active duty side of the house, have to be ready to deploy, that's what it's all about. If we can strengthen families and help them become

resilient and self-sufficient, then the active duty member can fulfill that mission."

"For civilians, it's the same thing, so that they can complete the mission and not worry about family life and everything else that's going on," Kerrie Branson added.

Instead, let staff members and the approximately 20 volunteers that give their time to support the organization, do the worrying and work for you. Having all been there as military spouses or veterans themselves they know what it's like to walk a mile in their customers' shoes, and are ready to stand by them for as long as their services are needed.

"ACS' focus is on linking eligible patrons with the right services or information when they are needed," Mary Breeden said. "Satisfied customers will come back and repeat business keeps our doors open. When someone comes in for a welcome packet, they are told how our other ACS programs can improve their lives. After a visit to ACS that could save them financially or help them through a crisis, they begin to expect great service and return to use other ACS programs."

With a wide variety of programs offered, whatever the need may be, ACS is ready to help, just stop by building 3338 on Redeye Road or call 876-5397. Here's a look at the free services available for Soldiers, retirees, civilians and their families.

Army Emergency Relief

A Soldier never leaves one of his own behind, a statement that rings true not just on the battlefield, but when times get tough at home as well. Army Emergency Relief, a private non-profit organization, exists to help Soldiers and their dependents by providing interest free loans or grants to those in need of financial assistance. "There is no other program that offers interest free loans and case by case grants to Soldiers, retirees, National Guard and Reserve activated for more than 30 days, dependents, widows and orphans," said Branson, AER program manager. "Our goal is to provide assistance when unforeseen events happen in their lives so that ultimately they can focus on the mission of the Army/work force and reduce their stress."

Emergency financial assistance is available for Soldiers, retirees, National Guard and Reserve on title 10 orders for more than 30 days, and their dependents, widows and orphans. Through the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program, children of Soldiers are also able to obtain financial assistance when pursuing a four-year undergraduate degree. For information and to complete an application, visit www.aerhq.org.

Parent support

There's no more important job than being a parent, but it's a role that doesn't come with an instruction manual. Enter the New Parent Support Program, a place for new moms and dads, and not so new ones as well, to turn to for assistance in raising their little ones. Any military family (active duty, retired, National Guard and Reserves) that is pregnant or has children through age 3 is eligible to utilize NPSP services, which include ChildWise play mornings, parenting classes, and home visitations with a registered nurse who can talk you through your parenting concerns.

"The NPSP home visitation program offers assistance in the concerns of raising children in today's military world," Charlene Cox, program manager, said. "It is often the only adult contact for some stay at home moms, who don't have family near and just need to voice some concerns. It helps parents know what to expect from their child and to know when they might need extra help. The play mornings give stay at home moms and dads a place to network with other stay at home parents. It gives those 'little people' a chance to learn to interact with other children, learning to play together, share toys and helps with speech development. The parenting classes have something to offer to new parents as well as those who are more seasoned. Things change every day and parenting is becoming more of a challenge in today's world. There is always room for new ideas and ways to do things. That's what we want to offer families."

Play mornings are free and open to all active duty, retirees, DoD civilians and contractors with children ages 5 and under, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the newly redecorated ChildWise building, 1413 Nike St. Upcoming parenting classes include "Positive Discipline" April 10, "Just for Dads" (fathers only) May 8, "Keeping Your Kids Safe" June 12, and "Positive Discipline" July 10. All classes are free and held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. upstairs in the ChildWise building. Childcare is provided with preregistration; to register call 876-5397.

Deployment and mobilization

For those families preparing for, currently experiencing, or finishing a deployment, deployment and mobilization assistance is available to help them through all stages of the process. Information, training and assistance with Soldier Readiness Processing is available in addition to the Hearts Apart support group, which supports Soldiers and their loved ones during their time away through free events, updates on community news and other support services. Soldiers do not need to be assigned to Redstone Arsenal for their families to participate in the Hearts Apart group.

Employment readiness

Finding a job in this economy can be difficult enough, but when you're military and



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Kathleen Riester, standing, helps client Carrie Smith at ACS.

Equal opportunity adviser ensures fair environment

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Soldiers have someone to turn to when they have concerns about fairness.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cundiff is the installation equal opportunity program manager and SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) program manager.

His mission is to ensure equal opportunity and serve as an adviser to the commander on pertinent regulations and procedures. He promotes human relations, getting the word out for the commander about equal opportunity, doing training and educating the work force through observances. He's there for Soldiers when they need him.

"If they feel like they've been harassed or discriminated against, I'm there for them," Cundiff said.

His education role includes planning Team Redstone observances such as the Days of Remembrance event May 3, remembering the Holocaust, and the Asian Pacific Heritage Month event May 22.

Cundiff arrived at Redstone at the end of September. He grew up in Hartford, Ky., and joined the military as a human resources specialist to expand his options after high school.

"Where I'm from there weren't many job opportunities. All the coalmines were shutting down. Either you're a farmer or you moved somewhere else, so I joined the military," he said. "The recruiter came down, told me I could do better with myself. So I did. I joined and then I found out that I loved it."

Twenty years later, Cundiff has fallen in love with the teamwork, camaraderie and following in his grandfather's footsteps, "actually doing things for your country that your ancestors and your forefathers did be-



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cundiff is the installation equal opportunity program manager and SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) program manager.

fore you," he said. "I feel really honored. My grandfather served in WWII. To hear about some of his stories and talk about things that he talked about doing that I'm doing today makes me feel really proud."

A father of three, Cundiff's wife and three children live in Clarksville, Tenn., where he spent eight years in the 101st. While a geographical bachelor, it is through the support and love of his family that he's able to do his job as a Soldier.

"I have a great supportive family who support me in what I do," said Cundiff, who's able to visit them as the mission allows on weekends. "It makes it really easy as far as still continuing on with my career, for all the deployments and being away from home. It makes it easier for me to do my mission."

Editor's note: This includes information from Amy Guckeen Tolson's article published Dec. 7.

Fox

continued from page 24

"It really focuses on managing your life the way it is," Johnston said. "You can't fix everything. You can't fix anything really, it's all about how you deal with it that matters."

The female adolescent group follows the same model, instilling the coping mechanisms and behaviors in the young women from an early age, to help them avoid risky behavior down the road, Johnston said.

"If you can learn to manage the stressors while you're young and understand that bad things happen all the time to everyone, and they always will, bad things are always going to happen, it's how you manage them," she said. "It's how you look at them and deal with them and how you get through it, not can you fix it or run away from it. It really teaches you not to avoid your problems

and not to run away, because that's when you start to get promiscuous, you get into drugs and drinking, because you're avoiding something, whether it be problems at home, school or with your friends. If you can get a grip on that when you're young, we might not see you when you're 40."

Even though reaching out for help can be difficult, Johnston reassures anyone in need of assistance to simply give behavioral medicine a try, they may be surprised at how well the staff of social workers and psychologists understand what military families are going through.

"What they're doing right now isn't working," Johnston said. "This is one way to try something different. If what you're doing isn't working then you have to step out and try something different, and this might be it. You don't have to come back again, just try it."

For more information about the behavioral medicine division at Fox, call 955-8888, ext. 1930.

Turner family finds game at Redstone

Post offers activities, services to build strong, active families

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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The Turner family enjoys Redstone Arsenal's sports and outdoor programs.

With two young sons full of energy and their own commitment to personal fitness, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Turner and his wife Christina feel blessed to be living at Redstone, where there are plenty of choices when it comes to sports participation.

Turner, who enjoys coaching youth sports, is a coach for the Alabama Hammers Arena Football youth 10-and-under sports program while his wife Christina is coaching their youngest son's T-ball team on Redstone.

"Physical fitness is a must in this family, and that's all around," Turner said. "And youth sports in the Army is a Class A act. The benefit of utilizing the youth sports programs offered here on post and throughout the Army is that you know your child is begin coached by someone who is following Army regulations. They have received training in both safety on

the field and in good coaching."

Since joining the Army in 2006, Turner has discovered a wide range of Army services that benefit both his own professional and personal development along with his family's well-being. The Army's approach to Soldier and family assistance was much different than what he and his wife both experienced during their service as Marines.

"It was definitely a big transition going from the Marines to the Army," said Turner, who served in the Marine Corps Reserves from 1999 until 2006. "It was the first time in my entire career when I was able to concentrate on me instead of focusing on the shop. The Army looks at bettering the Soldier, which will benefit the Army. Because the Marines is such a smaller organization they are more focused on what is happening right now.

"With the Marines, the question was 'When can you start?' or 'When can you come to work?' With the Army, it's been 'How is your family? How are they adjusting?' and 'Have you gone to see your academic counselor?' It's about me and my family, not let's hurry up and go to work. The Army has definitely been better for my family."

And for Turner. When he transitioned

to the Army, Turner wanted to make sure there was no lapse in his pay, that his family remained stationed somewhere on the east coast and that he would make staff sergeant within a year. That has all come to fruition. And with the Army's help, Turner has taken college courses online and just recently graduated from Troy University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

See Turners on page 34



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Redstone Communities provides housing for the Turner family on post while the installation provides several family-friendly activities for them to enjoy. The active family includes Staff Sgt. Jonathan Turner and wife Christina, mother-in-law Maria Butterworth, and sons Justus, 4, and Kyle, 10.

Support

continued from page 21

year, the organization sponsors Operation Christmas Bear for the families of servicemembers deployed to a combat zone, the YMCA Prayer Breakfast in conjunction with Veterans Day activities and Blue Star Banner/Gold Star Banner ceremonies. The coalition represents about 75 local military organizations. Website: <http://navfoc.org/node/4>.

Army Aviation Association of America (Quad A), Tennessee Valley Chapter – This organization works to preserve and foster a spirit of good fellowship among military personnel and civilians who's current or past duties affiliate them with the field of Army avia-

tion. The local chapter sponsors conferences to encourage the exchange of idea and to disseminate information pertaining to Army aviation and hosts events to recognize the accomplishments of the local aviation community. It was recognized nationally as the chapter of the year in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2006 and 2010. The local chapter has about 1,900 members. Website: <http://www.tvcaaaa.org/>.

Semper Fi Community Task Force – The Semper Fi Community Task Force is an organization composed of Marines, their families, and friends who have come together to continue to apply the core values of courage, honor, and commitment to the service and growth of our community through volunteerism. The task force hosts several events during the year for wounded Marines and Soldiers. Website: <http://semperfiactf.org/>.

Army offers ways to provide for family

Soldier builds better future with experience in Guard

By KARI HAWKINS

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The Army has led the Harris family to opportunity.

Alabama Army National Guard Spc. William Harris is deployed to Afghanistan with the 115th Signal Battalion. But while the separation from his family is a hardship by any standard, his service is allowing this Soldier to provide for his family in a way he has never been able to before.

Harris joined the National Guard at age 42, an accomplishment born from a long-held desire to serve his country.

"He had been told he couldn't join because he had broken his leg in several places years ago and he couldn't pass the physical," his wife Christina said. "When we moved to Alabama, he decided to try one more time. This time he was able to get a waiver for his leg so he could join the National Guard."

With Christina's support, Harris went to boot camp at Fort Benning, Ga., in 2009. On the way to becoming a Soldier, he found a military career that will also lead to new employment opportunities when he returns from Afghanistan in October. "Before he left, Bill was working at Home Depot," Christina said. "Now, he's doing signal work. He has obtained his computer networking securities plus and A-plus certifications by Cisco through the Alabama National Guard.

"He hopes to work in the information technology field when he comes home and he will have the GI Bill to finish his college education. There are a lot of positives with him being in the National Guard, a lot of positives."

While he is deployed, Christina and their two children, Zachariah, 12, and

Sara, 11, are taking advantage of Army services that have allowed her family to move on-post, shop at the Exchange and Commissary, use the Youth Center and other kid-friendly services, attend community events in honor of their Soldier's service and benefit from a host of programs offered by Army Community Service.

Christina, who has also lived through previous deployments with her former husband and with her oldest son, shared her family's journey with the military while sitting in the spacious living room of the Harris family's three-bedroom rental house on the Arsenal. The family moved in just two months ago.

"We moved three times right in a row," she said. "Our lease on a home in the Maysville area was ending right at the time Bill's deployment started. So, we decided we would live with my mom. But we quickly found out that we preferred our own space.

"I inquired about base housing and in a couple weeks we were in. We moved here while Bill was deployed. We really like living here because it makes us in some way feel connected and safer. I realize bad things can happen anywhere, but I feel we are way, way safer here."

Feeling safe, especially at night, is important when your Soldier is deployed. Living in a community that provides that safety along with other amenities makes life without your partner easier to manage.

"The kids have stepped and they help. They're learning to cook dinner and Zachariah has fixed the computer network," Christina said. "But when you are a spouse of a deployed Soldier, you miss him more because if he were here things would be so much more simpler.

"My brother came up from Florida to do my husband's honey-do list. He fixed the lawnmower and hooked up the dryer vent. He's shown our son how to do a lot

of stuff. But you miss having that someone to talk to, to hold your hand or to give you a big hug. You miss having somebody to say 'It will be better.'"

At Redstone, Christina and her children have found a neighborhood that offers them a lot of ways to make the time go by faster until their Soldier returns.

"With Redstone Communities, you've got parks everywhere. There are ball fields everywhere. And I've been told the swimming pool (provided by Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation) is fantastic," Christina said. "Everywhere you look in the neighborhood there are children playing. And a lot of those kids are military kids who understand what my kids are going through."

Home schooling keeps the kids busy at home most of the day, but they also make full use of the Youth Center for home schooling activities. And the kids hang out at the Youth Center when Christina needs time to unwind on her own or time to take care of the business of running a family as a single parent.

"They go there for home school classes in PE, computers and art on Thursdays, and that's all free for us," Christina said. "The Youth Center is so convenient because the kids can walk there. I wouldn't have known about it if we didn't live on post."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Harris family – Sara, mom Christina and Zachariah – are enjoying the benefits of being a military family while their Soldier, Alabama Army National Guard Spc. William Harris, is deployed to Afghanistan. With them is their dog, Brewster.

The threesome is also taking advantage of the local YMCA's offer of providing free memberships for the families of deployed Soldiers. They frequently visit the YMCA, swimming or working out there to fulfill their physical education requirement for home schooling and to help them "keep busy and forget how lonely we are without our Soldier," she said.

See Guard on page 34

Wounded warriors have home at Redstone

Community Based Warrior Transition Unit speeds recovery through personal care

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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It's a well-known fact that being at home with family and friends can encourage healing and recovery from an injury.

So, it's not surprising that the Army has implemented this concept in its recovery programs for Soldiers. At Redstone Arsenal, the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit is ensuring that the wounded Soldiers it serves are benefiting from a combination of at-home care, and professional medical treatment and rehabilitation services.

"We mostly work with National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who are from the four-state area of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee," the unit's executive officer Capt. Andrew Lewis said.

"We have very few active components because they often choose to recover at their assigned duty station because that's where their families – spouses and children – live. But with National Guard and Reserve units their assigned duty station is close to their home, so that's where they want to go to recover."

The Community Based Warrior Transition Unit at Redstone Arsenal was established in 2004. Since then, the unit's 43 employees – who are primarily mobilized Reserve component Soldiers – have helped in the recovery efforts of 847 Soldiers. Of those, 620 have either returned to duty or been released from the Army. Currently, there are 159 Soldiers assigned to the Arsenal unit, with on average their assignment lasting 365 days. Some Soldiers recover in 90 days or less while others may take two to three years to recover from injuries.

"The ultimate goal of the unit is to take care of whatever injury or illness the Soldier has," Lewis said. "Most active duty and some Reserve component Soldiers stay at the Warrior Transition Unit at an installation because of their diagnosis and the type of care they need. Those that come here are assigned here because the quality of life of being with their family will help them heal faster."

Community Based Warrior Transition Units primarily provide outpatient care management and transition services for Soldiers who don't need the day-to-day medical management provided by medical facilities at Army installations.

"The CBWTU allows Soldiers to recover and transition at a location closest to their home as long as it can be supported medically," Lewis said. "Most of the medical treatment for their injury must be available within a 50-mile radius of their home."

While receiving treatment, the injured Soldier also performs work duties at a local armory or reserve center.

When a Soldier is assigned to a Community Based Warrior Transition Unit, they meet with a case manager, nurse and platoon sergeant who develop their medical recovery plan. Care for each Soldier is managed on a case-by-case basis.

"Some either go back to the units where they came from prior to their injury or they get out of the Army," Lewis said. "If they don't meet the retention standards, then they go to a physical evaluation board where it is determined if they are fit for duty. If they do stay in the Army, there may be some limitations even though they can still do their job or they may need to do a different job."

Lewis said the only Soldiers that the unit has not been able to return to health have been the few terminal cancer patients that they've been assigned.

"In those cases, we care for the Soldier until the inevitable happens and we make sure the family is taken care of," he said.

With most Soldiers, the opportunity to be home with family during the healing process is important to their recovery. That may be even more important when the Soldier is dealing with a behavioral health issue.

"It always makes you feel better if you can be home with your family when you have a medical issue," Lewis said. "Keeping Soldiers away from the people they really want to be with does not help with healing. And, with some healing taking longer than others, that separation can become a serious, long-term problem. If we want to ensure that Soldiers get the best care they can get, then we will make sure they can be with their families."

Soldiers assigned to the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit are required to report in to their platoon sergeant by phone every day. They are required to attend the medical appointments set up for them by their case managers and they are required to participate fully in their recovery. The unit also is using a pilot program called Mobile



Photo by Kari Hawkins

A team approach is used to manage the health care of wounded Soldiers who are assigned to the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit. On a recent afternoon, the unit's executive officer Capt. Andrew Lewis, at right, discusses Soldier cases with, from left, medical officer Col. John Loose, and patient administrators Master Sgt. Terri Costa and Staff Sgt. Janet Tucker.

Care (or MCare) where Soldiers receive phone calls reminding them of medical appointments, which is beneficial especially for Soldiers dealing with memory loss.

Being based on an Army installation gives Soldiers assigned to Redstone's Community Based Warrior Transition Unit the advantage of being able to use Fox Army Health Center for their medical treatment and to use such amenities as the Arsenal's gyms, walking trails and sports programs for rehabilitation.

"We are actually in a little bit better position than other CBWTUs because we are on a post. We have things on post that are Soldiers can get involved in. And, being in this military-oriented community gives our Soldiers a chance to participate in community programs that can help with their well-being and encourage their healing," Lewis said.

The unit uses a team approach of medical and military personnel, including doctors, social workers and case managers, to fully treat a Soldier's injury or illness.

"We take care of all aspects of the recovery care the Soldier needs," Lewis said.

"The Community Based Warrior Transition Unit system is allowing us to keep the promise to our Soldiers that we will not leave them behind. We want to avoid what happened during the Vietnam era when Soldiers did not get the care they needed and were forgotten about. We check on our Soldiers every day. They don't leave this program until every issue they have is addressed."

Courtesy photo

Team dedication

Fox Army Health Center's Patient Centered Medical Home White Team celebrates their ribbon cutting March 10. Members of the team include Alicia Hightower, Stacy Houston, Linda Froehlich, Dr. Vidya Alapati (with scissors), Billy Davidson, Paula Lara, Stacy Zimmerman, Lindsay Murphree and Jackie Frith.



Turners

continued from page 30

Even when he was deployed in 2007-08, Turner was able to continue his college studies online while serving on a personal security detail in Iraq's western province of Al Anbar, which included the cities of Fallujah, Al-Qa'im and Ramadi.

"I had really good leadership, outstanding leadership during that deployment," Turner said. "It was successful and rewarding. I was driving a lot for the brigade commander at that time."

During his deployment, Turner was confident his family was being taken care of by the bigger Army family at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"We lived off-post then in a community where most of the neighbors were the spouses of my fellow Soldiers. My wife was pregnant and a stay-at-home mom, and a lot of the families in our neighborhood either had babies or were having babies," Turner said.

"Most of my support came from the spouses of Soldiers in our neighborhood," said Christina, who also served as the treasurer for her husband's unit's family readiness group.

As a transportation Soldier, Turner is now assigned as the driver for Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers.

Since August 2010, the family, which includes the couple's two youngest chil-

dren - 4-year-old Justus and 10-year-old Kyle - and Christina's mom, Marie Butterworth, have enjoyed the family friendly amenities of Redstone starting with Redstone Communities housing and the lending closet at Army Community Service. The family had only a two-week notice of Turner's new assignment, making it a quick move.

"We were able to borrow some small appliances, and pots and pans from the lending closet because our household goods were about three months behind us," Turner said.

The active family spends a lot of time outdoors at the various parks the Arsenal has to offer, one of which is right behind their own home. They have also participated in reading time at the Redstone library, and have enjoyed the ChildWise Mommy and Me program and, most importantly, youth sports.

"The Start Smart program was really good for Justus. He learned all about basketball, soccer and baseball from that program. It's for kids ages 3 to 5, and it is really fun for them," Turner said.

Besides coaching at Redstone, Turner has also coached in the Huntsville City sports program and is looking forward to his upcoming season as an Alabama Hammers youth coach.

"We are a sports family," Turner said. "It's great coming to an area that has so many different opportunities to play sports. In a community like this, no matter what you say, the face of the community is sports. And on Redstone Arsenal, we have coaches that act professional, look

professional and coach professional. Our teams are very well-coached. There are so many opportunities and so much availability on Redstone for youth sports."

Turner and his wife work out regularly at Pagano Gym. The family has enjoyed being able to launch their boat directly onto the Tennessee River from the Arsenal's boat ramp, they love the well-maintained swimming pools in the summer, and they are thankful for the convenience of the Exchange and Commissary. They also enjoy "unofficial" Redstone activities.

"The kids love going out to the program executive offices for Aviation and for Missiles and Space, and look at the static displays in front of the buildings," Turner said. "We also like to go out to the airfield, and watch helicopters and other aircraft take off and land. That's a Saturday event for us. We can go out there and have a blast. There's always something going on out there."

Besides coaching sports, the Turner family has found other ways to give back to their Army family, to be a part of a community that looks within to enrich its own members. Christina's mom, Maria, is the "neighborhood grandma, the post grandma," Christina said.

When she visits her grandsons at Williams Elementary, she can feel the love she has sown in the hearts of the Arsenal kids that she happens to see in the hallways.

"I will hear 'Hi Gram! Hi Gram!' all through the school," Maria said. "It's from kids I don't even know sometimes. There's no lack of love."

Guard

continued from page 32

Their Soldier will come home soon for two weeks of leave, and the family is looking forward to sharing their new home with him as well as a few other surprises.

"We've had so many changes. It's been crazy while he's been gone," Christina said.

One of those surprises is parked in their driveway. Actually, the new royal blue Dodge Journey was a Christmas gift from Harris, who was able to buy it tax free while deployed due to the Exchange Sales program at his post in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The ability to buy the new vehicle came at just the right time.

"The car died three times in a row," Christina said. "Army Emergency Relief helped us fix our car right after he deployed.

"We did not see this new car or drive it until it was delivered. We are very happy with it. There's room for the kids and their karate equipment and swimming bags and the dog. We've never owned a new car before. We've been married since 1991 and we've always had a used junker."

The family added their Labrador-border collie mix dog, Brewster, to the family shortly after Harris found out he was deploying. They also have a cat.

"Bill said we couldn't have a dog until we bought a house," Christina said. "But I asked him if we could get a dog because it would help take the kids' minds off of missing him. They can take the dog for a walk and do other things that help them get over missing dad."

They are still working to teach their rambunctious pup his manners. Christina is doing volunteer work editing and writing for the Tennessee Valley Bugle, a local online military publication. They've also joined the Zion Academy home schooling program, and the kids have taken up karate at Alexander's Martial Arts.

Christina said she is often baffled by negative feelings that some spouses have about their Soldiers' deployment.

"We're all going to make it through this, and we need to smile. I realize it's your attitude that can make a difference," Christina said. "If you have an idle mind, the first thing you do is think about what's going on over there. I can't function with that. So, I keep busy and I

don't watch the TV news. I'm trying to make the best of it.

"Bill would want us to keep on going and keep on being happy. He wants us to be involved in things, just like we want him to be happy and involved in things with the other Soldiers he is with. Neither of us wants the other to be just moping around."

She knows her husband participates in activities on the installation where he is living. He plays the popular Dungeons and Dragons game with several Soldiers during their off hours.

With today's technology, it's easier for families to stay in touch during deployment separations, she said.

"We have the technology now, and the Soldiers have the ability to call home or to Skype (which uses computer technology to provide a telephone video so that both parties can see each other while talking). We can Skype with Bill anytime he is not on a mission," Christina said.

"We have Skyped him as frequently as twice a day and then sometimes we haven't Skyped in a couple weeks. I also look for him on Facebook. I just about cry whenever I get on Facebook and find out I just missed him."

On a more practical note, the Turner family has taken advantage of the free income tax service for military, and Turner is a member of AMCOM's motorcycle mentorship program while Christina has used Army Community Service's resume writing class in her now successful search for her first civilian job.

Within the community outside Redstone, Turner is a member of the Huntsville chapter of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

The Turner family hopes to remain at Redstone for at least another year or maybe longer. Turner recently changed his military occupational specialty to contracting. He will go through contracts training this summer at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, while his family remains at Redstone.

"For longevity in the Army, 51 Charlie (contracting) is a new MOS, so there's a lot more chance for growth and advancement. It's a career that will offer better opportunities for me and my family," Turner said.

He hopes to hold acquisition positions during the rest of his military career and eventually in a civilian career. He is thankful for the time both he and his family have had at Redstone.

"We love being here," Turner said. "This is one of the hidden secrets of the Army."

"No matter where we go in the Army, we definitely want to come back here. This is among the top places we would look at to finish our military career and finally settle down."

Christina has to get up early in the morning or stay up way past a normal bedtime if she wants to catch her husband on the Internet.

"We may be looking at the same moon, but we're not in the same time zone. He's looking at the other side of the moon," she said. "Every morning, I get up and turn the computer on. If he's there, I will say 'Good morning, I love you but I need coffee. Can you hang on?'"

The family has also been involved with the 115th's family readiness group. Christina is one of the more experienced members of the group.

"For the majority of the families, it's their first deployment. Our FRG is really learning and growing with us," she said.

The Harris family has also been enjoying the support from community organizations, such as a March 3 group video teleconference hosted by WeCare, the City of Huntsville and Lockheed Martin.

"Most everyone you meet wants to help and be supportive. They'll do things for us that remind you that most everybody really does care," Christina said. "Most people are loving, caring and want to show they're thankful."

Service

continued from page 28

have spent a bulk of your life on the move, the quest can be all the more challenging. The Employment Readiness program is there to help, providing assistance to active and retired military personnel, Army civilians, their spouses and youth in their job search efforts.

“The Army knows that employment is one of the most significant issues for military families,” Debra Jefferson, program manager, said. “The goal of ACS Employment Readiness is to assist families with the challenges associated with the job search, particularly as they are impacted by a mobile lifestyle.”

While it's not a job placement service, the program still provides individuals with a variety of employment related information and referral services, including skill identification, resume development, interviewing tips, computer classes to enhance skills and allow customers to become more marketable, and other employment related workshops. Six computers in the Employment Resource Center are available to offer access to an unlimited number of automated databases that list employment opportunities. Job search literature is also available for pick up and checkout.

Representatives from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct a session on the federal application process April 5, from 9 to 11 a.m. If interested, email debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil to reserve a seat.

Exceptional family members

For those families with members that have medical, educational, developmental or intellectual impairments, the Exceptional Family Member Program is there to provide referral information for medical, educational, housing and community and personnel support, advocating on behalf of the family concerning special needs issues. Annual events, in conjunction with the Special Olympics organization and local schools, are held for exceptional individuals and their families, including bowling outings, track and field event, resource fairs, campaign awareness months, and child-find activities. In addition, EFMP Respite Care is available for qualifying military families enrolled in the EFMP. For military families with a child on the autism spectrum, be sure to contact Tricare and ask about the ECHO program. ACS and the Post Library have a variety of books on special needs available for free checkout services.

April is National Autism Awareness Month. For information, stop by the Redstone Exchange during April or call EFMP program manager Natalie Taylor at 876-5397.

Family advocacy

The life of an Army family can be challenging, but the Army's Family Advocacy Program is there to help manage those stresses by providing a variety of services to prevent abuse, strengthen Army families and enhance resiliency. Anger and stress management classes, in addition to parenting classes on topics such

as strengthening your stepfamily or parenting your adolescent, are available, in addition to ensuring that when abuse is present it is reported, investigated and treated. For more information, or assistance, call 876-5397.

Financial readiness

It's something we all strive to have – money – but how well we manage it once we get it can be a challenge for some. The financial readiness program is there to help, offering education and counseling to help you better manage your money, whether it's setting a budget, or managing your debt and credit. Free monthly financial lunch and learns are held at ACS, the next of which will be April 4, on how to repair your credit report and understanding the Department of Defense Homeowner's Assistance Program, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is due Thursday; to register email Riester at kathleen.riester@us.army.mil. Bring your own lunch.

“The importance of the Financial Readiness Program is that finances touch all aspects of peoples' lives,” said Riester, financial readiness program manager. “DoD civilians do not realize that the DA conducts periodic background checks on employees which includes a thorough review of their credit report. If any derogatory information appears, such as past due debt, on the credit report the clearance will be suspended.”

Free financial counseling services are available not only to active duty Soldiers and their families, as well as retirees, but also DoD civilians. In addition to one-on-one counseling, and monthly classes held at ACS, weekly financial classes from 11:30 to 12:30 will be held at Bicentennial Chapel on Tuesdays, beginning April 10. To register, email Riester. Seating is limited.

Relocation assistance

When it comes to relocating to Huntsville, ACS rolls out the welcome mat to make sure the transition is a smooth one. To help familiarize you with the installation, newcomer orientations and welcome packets are provided to show you all the important stops and history of the Arsenal. Pre-arrival, as well as pre-departure counseling is also available, in addition to automated destination information through the Military Installations program, home buying and home selling advice, and sponsorship training, among many other services.

“Relocation services provide Team Redstone and their family members practical and emotional assistance before, during and after a move as well as the same services when they prepare to leave Redstone Arsenal,” Breeden, program manager, said.

The Lending Closet provides temporary loan of basic household goods, such as futons, bedding, pots, pans, high chairs and car seats until your household goods arrive. And for those families that aren't all in one place, Hearts Apart, a support group for military and DoD families geographically separated due to deployment, hardship or TDY tour, gives families the opportunity to attend free events and learn about news of interest to help them integrate into the community.

Quality of life

At Redstone Arsenal, it's not just about proclaiming mission accomplished, it's ensuring that the Soldiers, civilian work force, retirees and family members that strive for that common goal every day have an excellent quality of life as well. Three ACS programs work to maintain a high standard in living and address the needs of the community – the Team Redstone Action Plan, Team Redstone Team Building and Installation Volunteer Program.

Redstone action plan

The Team Redstone Action Plan aims to provide all members of the Arsenal community the opportunity to take a proactive stance in making sure their needs are being met.

Community forums designed to share ideas on best practices and things Team Redstone members would like to see improved will be held every three months on hot topics. Everyone with access to the installation will have the opportunity to take a survey regarding the quality of life on the Arsenal prior to forum, to determine what areas are of interest or concern, so they can be discussed at the forum. The survey will be available at the FMWR website, www.redstonemwr.com.

“The goal here at Redstone is instead of trying to come up with new ideas and programs, we'd like to enhance and build on the ones we have,” Carie Green, program manager, said.

Team building

Army Strong doesn't just apply to the Soldier, but to the entire Army family as well, including the civilian and retiree population, and through Team Redstone Team Building, individuals that are part of Team Redstone are able to better their skills and themselves to help build a stronger Army. Lunch and learn classes are provided to teach information and skills on topics such as military knowledge and resources. Other classes include communication, time and stress management and managing group conflict for those wanting to better their middle management skills. Computer classes are also being offered through the TRTB classes. For an updated schedule of classes, call 876-5397.

Volunteer program

Want to give back to the installation or the community but don't know how? Give your time and talent through the Army Volunteer Corps, which coordinates and facilitates volunteer activities both on and off the Arsenal, allowing volunteers to enhance their skills, reinforce their positive work habits, and achieve personal fulfillment. To volunteer, call 876-5397.

“Volunteering is so important right now because there are so many people who are unemployed but want to maintain their skills,” said Green, program manager.

Green coordinates with organizations both on the Arsenal, such as the Redstone Community Women's Club, and those that are off post, such as Huntsville Hospital, to provide interested volunteers, whether they be retirees, civilians, spouses or children, a

place to make a difference. Not only are individuals that volunteer through the program giving back to north Alabama, but they're building stronger bonds between the Arsenal and the communities that surround it as well.

“It's a part of community relations because people outside the gate know that Team Redstone supports them, and vice versa,” Green said.

Survivor outreach

While a Soldier may be gone, they are never forgotten, and neither are the loved ones that remain to mourn them. Survivor Outreach Services gives families a place to turn during their time of grief. Whether it be through the support group for young widows held the first Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m. or quarterly outreach events that not only provide fun for the kids, but the chance to bond with others that know exactly what they're going through, SOS is there for the family, all the while honoring their Soldiers that so honorably gave their lives for their country.

“Surviving families' lives are never the same after the death of a loved one,” said Branson, who also serves as SOS program manager. “SOS support services are critical to their recovery process. Many times what helps the most is providing opportunities for them to gather with others who have gone through similar experiences. It's also important to embrace them as a forever part of the Army family by providing outreach events on the military installation with military and civilian volunteers. There are opportunities for civilians employees to get involved and show their support and ensure the families that their Soldier will never be forgotten.”

Support and educational classes on entitlements, finances, taxes and other topics of importance are also available, in addition to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors seminar and grief camp, which will be held April 13-15. If you are or know of someone mourning the death of a Soldier and need assistance, call Branson at 876-9579. Due to no funding allotted for outreach events, volunteers are invited and encouraged to participate to make SOS a successful program.

Victim advocacy

If you are the victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, help is available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling the Victim Advocate Program at 508-6613. The voluntary program allows for active duty military, retirees, their families or intimate partner the opportunity to receive support and assistance, whether it be crisis intervention, emotional support, obtaining protective orders, or securing emergency food and shelter, with complete confidentiality.

Victims may either receive unrestricted reporting, which allows them to receive medical treatment, counseling and support services, while reporting the incident to the appropriate legal and command authorities for investigation. Restricted reporting allows the victim to disclose details on a confidential basis to only specified individuals, while still receiving support and medical services.

AMCOM workers encouraged to improve processes

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

If it's true that "there's no such thing as a free lunch," then the Office of Continuous Improvement put a twist on that bromide. Its brand – "We put change back in customers' pockets" – was in vogue during last week's Brown Bag Lunch with AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers.

The change, in this case, was an exchange between the boss and six command employees.

"As developing leaders, the process improvements that you all put in place will last you throughout your careers," Rogers said. "You are the hidden jewels that will figure out we optimize and come up with ways to do things better."

Rogers mentioned two topics for the

employees to heed: unliquidated obligations and backorders.

Invalid unliquidated obligations can occur when materiel has been ordered and received, but the logistics systems show that the assets have not been received or the accounting systems show that the vendor has not been paid for the services specified in the contract.

Backorders are critical to the command so that additional materiel is not being bought when it does not have to be bought. And with limited Obligation Commitment Authority funding and invalid backorders in the system, funds are not available for valid requirements.

"We need to achieve a band of excellence, a level of confidence, in these two areas, so that item managers can support Soldiers in a reasonable and successful way," Rogers said. "When we



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, has a lunch and learn session with, from left, Jose Figueroa, Tiffany Johnson and Javier Manzano. Scott Valent, Matt Rhodes and Jeff Jenkins also spent an hour with Rogers discussing current and future challenges.

achieve that band, that level, we need to install the monitoring metrics, and the

self-policing mechanism that keeps us where we want to be."

LOGSA signs pact with acquisition university

By ROBERT SALINAS
Logistics Support Activity

With the focus on more efficiently and effectively supporting the needs of the defense acquisition work force, the Defense Acquisition University and the Logistics Support Activity on March 13 signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on DoD/Army weapon system product support, life cycle logistics, systems engineering, and life cycle management training, work force

professional development and curriculum development.

The intent of the agreement is to establish a partnership that will "enhance support to the acquisition community, promote the use and ongoing evolution of Life Cycle Logistics Decision Support Tools, expand access to DAU and LOGSA logistics and subject matter experts, and provide both organizations with information and feedback in the areas of acquisition policy, tools, standards, and program management, with the intent of

Photo courtesy of Defense Acquisition University

Logistics Support Activity commander Col. Pat Sullivan shakes hands with Dr. James McMichael, vice president of the Defense Acquisition University.



bolstering support and development of the defense acquisition work force."

The agreement allows both organizations to more easily collaborate and leverage each other's products and services to advance DoD, Army and organizational goals and objectives.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Lifting safety

Nearly 150 construction employees under contract with the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works undergo three days of forklift training provided at Redstone Arsenal by Construction Management Inc., Hardiman Remediation Service, H&E Co. and the Garrison's Base Safety office. Trainee Rusty Anders of North American Video and Sound goes up in the boom lift while CCI safety manager Todd Teilking, at left, and H&E equipment and field trainer Earl Colwell instruct from the ground.



Courtesy photo

Student visitors

Students from Faith Christian Academy in Athens visit Redstone Test Center's exhibit booth during the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International's Pathfinder chapter 2012 symposium held March 14-15 at the Von Braun Center. From left are Cecil Bowen, Randell Jackson, Joyce DeWitt, Vincent Bowen, Connor Brown and James Crossland.

Senior enlisted Soldier reflects with pride

Retiring command sergeant major part of military oriented family

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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With the Army's tradition of moving its green-suiters every two or three years from assignment to assignment, it's rare to find a Soldier who has served with three consecutive commanding officers at the same organization.

In fact, it has only happened once in the military history of the Aviation and Missile Command – and that's with current Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates.

Besides being home to the Army's acquisition, management and sustainment programs for its fleet of helicopters, a host of missile systems, and test measurement and diagnostic equipment services, AMCOM has also been Yates' work residence for six years. This 35-year veteran came to Redstone Arsenal during then Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury's last two years in command at AMCOM, remained on staff during Maj. Gen. Jim Myles' three-year command and continued to serve with current commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers. He will bring an end to his long-running assignment when he retires April 12 at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Rogers will be the ceremony's officiating officer.

"It has been an honor to serve all three J's – Jim, Jim and Jim. Each and everyone had their own personality," Yates said of the three AMCOM commanders. "But they have all cared about taking care of every Soldier, and especially the Soldiers who are fighting in Afghanistan and who have fought in Iraq and throughout the world.

"Because of our Army values and our training, it's meant for us to take care of Soldiers. At AMCOM, it's not just the Soldiers, we are also taking care of the civilians."

Yates hopes he has had a lasting impact on the civilians of AMCOM and Team Redstone through his example of what a Soldier stands for and through his mentoring of the civilian work force, whose No. 1 priority is to support the Soldier.

"I had the support of (previous AMCOM deputy) Dr. Richard Amos and (current AMCOM deputy) Mr. Ronnie Chronister to teach me also about the civilian work force," Yates said. "In ad-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates will retire April 12 after 35 years in the Army.

dition, with these two as work colleagues we became personal friends, and the chiefs of staff – Robert (English), Tom (Newman), Jeff (Young) and Skip (Sherrell) – made me even better."

Yates was part of the AMCOM team through the implementation of life cycle management command strategy and today's enterprise approach to the management of military systems. He also helped to ensure a smooth transition of organizations – the Army Materiel Command, Space and Missile Defense Command and Missile Defense Agency, among others – as they established their headquarters at Redstone.

"I've been here as the Arsenal tenant population has grown and new partnerships have been established. I've been here as partnerships have strengthened between AMCOM and the program executive officers for Aviation, and Missiles and Space," he said. "With the enterprise approach we've used during the last two years, there's more of a team effort and more continuity between the organizations."

Yates, 52, was the oldest of five siblings raised by divorced parents, his childhood spent partly in Blount County with his father and partly in Chattanooga with his mother. He joined the Army in 1977, seeing it as an opportunity to become independent and to escape the rigors of farm work.

"It just seems like it was yesterday," he said. "My mom had to sign a waiver because I was only 17. She was a typical mother not wanting her child to join the Army."

Soon after he enlisted and while still in high school, Yates received a track scholarship from the University of Tennessee. He turned it down.

"I had already raised my hand and taken the oath. So I felt I was obligated to do my time," Yates said. "I was cutting timber, working in chicken houses and working in cotton fields. That was not what I really wanted to make out of my life. I wanted to experience another way of life and see if I could become a better person."

Those three years quickly turned into multiple enlistments as Yates was promoted and took on more responsibilities. He served as a cook for his first 1 1/2 years and then found what he really wanted to do as an aviation maintenance technician, technical inspector, first sergeant and command sergeant major. Twenty-four years of his career were spent at Fort Bragg, N.C., with assignments also taking him to Hunter Army Airfield at Savannah, Ga.; Germany; Fort Hood, Texas; and Hawaii.

Along the way, Yates was involved with a task force organized to design, develop and deploy for the first time the Kiowa Warrior to the Pershing Gulf in 1987 to Operation Prime Chance in 1987-91. In 1998, he attended the Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

He also took on the responsibilities of raising a brother and sister, who were 13 and 12, respectively, when his mother died in 1982. They spent three years with Yates in Germany. All of the Yates brothers – four in all – have served in the military along with several other family members. The Army became Yates' family and each assignment gave him an opportunity to test himself and put his Soldier skills to work.

"I can't really say I had one favorite assignment over another," he said. "The Army was a place where I felt more accepted and where I fit in, and that was with every assignment. I liked knowing I was serving a bigger purpose."

Yet, with every career Soldier, there is a time when you come to a crossroads.

"The first 20 years of service, I knew the path that could get me to this level. But once you get to this level, the path just isn't as clear," he said.

"Inside our field, there are not many positions you can move up and around in. Just being a battalion command sergeant major made me feel like I had succeeded above anything I had ever thought I would accomplish in the Army."

During his years of service, Yates has

seen a lot of changes in the Army, in its uniform, in the way it cares for its families and its professionalism. He has also seen changes in the way society views its military.

"Since the Gulf War kicked off, there have been a lot of changes. I've seen this country, this community, throw its arms around the military. It's just unbelievable," he said.

"We continue to see Soldiers volunteer for the Army who want to be part of this Army and its values and its beliefs, and who are willing to uphold those standards. I think there's a place for everyone who wants to serve in the Army or any branch of other services."

Even though he doesn't have a favorite assignment, Yates' most rewarding assignment, both personally and professionally, has been his six years at AMCOM.

"When I first learned about this job opening, I didn't know what AMCOM was. But, boy, I do now," Yates said.

"Even though I was from Blount County and had a house in Blount County (bought in 1997), I didn't actually visit Redstone Arsenal until 2000. I had come in at Gate 8 and I had seen the PX and the Commissary and the old buildings over there, and I wasn't too impressed. But in December 2005, when I came to talk to General Pillsbury about this job, he didn't have to sell me on it. I think it was more I had to sell myself."

As with his other assignments, AMCOM was a good fit, a place where he could learn about the civilian side of the Army and where he could represent for civilians the Soldier side of the Army and help the Soldier on programs.

"The Army places Soldiers throughout units where they are best needed and where their Soldier skills benefit the most," Yates said. "Coming from the Forces Command side to AMCOM was a good experience for me. But it did take me about six months to really understand the civilian work force and how to work within a civilian community, and what AMCOM did for the war fighter."

Yates hopes he has made a difference with AMCOM employees.

"Have I influenced some of the decisions? Have I influenced some of the caring and involvement of civilians here with the Soldiers they support? I think so. I hope I've taught and mentored the civilian work force," he said.

"I genuinely feel that most employees here come to work to help the Soldier

See Yates on page 38

Army the right choice for program manager

By **MICHELLE HARLAN**
USASAC Public Affairs

Women's History Month, recognized annually during March, celebrates women and their achievements. This year's theme, "Women's Education – Women's Empowerment," is exemplified by Vanessa Williams, a country program manager at the Security Assistance Command and colonel in the Army Reserves, who relies on lessons she learned throughout her education and career to be a role model.

Williams attended the University of Houston on an athletic scholarship, but when a friend told her she could earn extra money by joining the Army, her military career began. In addition to a full scholarship, attending basic training over a couple summers helped pay for textbooks. According to Williams, she had found a win-win situation of earning an income as a Soldier and being able to afford the things her scholarship didn't provide. Williams completed basic training at the top of her class and enlisted in the Reserve Officers Training Corps Sim-



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Vanessa Williams, a country program manager at the Security Assistance Command and colonel in the Army Reserves, attributes her success to leading by example.

ultaneous Membership Program so she could complete her college degree while becoming an officer. Once she completed her degree in management information systems, Williams joined the Army Re-

serves.

"The Army has given me my foundation of structure and balance. Without the military I wouldn't be where I am today," she said. "I was a team chief at the Pentagon during Operation Iraqi Enduring Freedom. I was able to make full-bird colonel, which is a huge achievement for a Reserve officer."

After her promotion, Williams was given the mission of establishing a new Expeditionary Sustainment Command in Wichita, Kan., a unit consisting of 262 Soldiers.

Williams attributes her success to leading by example and believes you earn more respect if you are willing to do something yourself, no matter what the task.

Williams was also influenced by other women, such as Gen. Ann Dunwoody, the first female four-star general and commander of the Army Materiel Command, poet Maya Angelou, Emma Wilson, fellow reservist and USASAC G3/5 operations contractor with Sigma Tech, and her mother.

"My mother is my number one influence. She propelled me to do anything I wanted to," Williams said.

Williams and Wilson worked together at the G4 headquarters at the Pentagon under Dunwoody. Coincidentally, their careers have crossed paths numerous times. They met in the Reserves in Florida and both were certified teachers there. They also worked together at CENTCOM and most recently at USASAC.

"Vanessa is the epitome of professionalism in everything she does," Wilson said. "She is definitely a role model in many ways."

Eventually, Williams hopes to return to education as a school principal.

"Everything she has done with her career, she has done as single mom, and that speaks volumes," Wilson said.

Williams' 11-year-old son, Kamron Josiah, is the driving force behind her decisions.

"My son is the reason I do what I do. I want him to see me succeed," Williams said. "He wants to join the military and follow in his mom's footsteps."

Harris cited as science spectrum trailblazer

Dr. Juanita Harris, chief of the Technical Management Division in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, was recognized as a Science Spectrum Trailblazer during the 26th annual Black Engineer of the Year in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Global Competitiveness Conference Trailblazers Luncheon in February.

The BEYA STEM Conference, held in Philadelphia, Pa., focuses on the contributions of America's diverse science talent and addresses the challenges of recruitment and retention in STEM, pro-

moting opportunities in technical and scientific careers.

"I was humbly surprised by the selection," Harris said. "There are so many capable engineers and scientists who work hard every day to improve processes and push the envelope. To be recognized among them is truly a blessing."

Harris was recognized for her numerous career achievements over her 26-year career and her efforts in strengthening the STEM pipeline. She has served with distinction as the Technical Management Division chief, leading and mentoring

Dr. Juanita Harris is recognized as a Science Spectrum Trailblazer during the 26th annual Black Engineer of the Year in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Global Competitiveness Conference Trailblazers Luncheon. Harris is the chief of the Technical Management Division in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office.

more than 138 scientists, engineers and technical staff with financial responsibility of more than \$110 million. (PEO Aviation release)

Courtesy photo



Yates

continued from page 37

and everyone involved in Army Aviation and Missile Command."

The AMCOM assignment also helped him become family oriented. He is married and loves spending time with his wife and kids who are also from the local area. He is enjoying being with family members, many of which are in the area. He credits the Army and AMCOM for making him the family man he is today.

"From the beginning, the Army made me mature more. It made me a better person, a better family member," Yates said. "It taught me how to deal with separation, of being away from my family.

"Coming here to AMCOM has helped me re-bond with family. I didn't know my family. I didn't see my brothers and sister. I didn't really see my family and understand what my family really meant to me. All during my service, I was busy adjusting and adapting to deployments, and being away from my family

and doing what I had to do for the Army and for the nation. Now, I'm enjoying my family and being part of a family. For me, AMCOM is part of my family too, along with two brothers being here."

The brother Yates raised served eight years in the Army and is currently a U.S. marshal.

"I am really proud of him and I'm proud of my other brother who retired from the National Guard," he said. "I am also proud of my own children who have joined the military and served and continue to serve, including my daughter-in-law who is a HH-60 Black Hawk pilot."

As the longest serving Soldier at AMCOM, Yates has definitely put down roots that will keep him here during his retirement years. He will miss the day-to-day contact with his AMCOM family, especially with his best friend, administrative assistant Sheila McCrary-Crutchner. And he hopes to return to the Army family on the civilian side.

"I've had a fun time ever since I entered the Army and went to basic," he said. "As a young 17-year-old, I already had discipline, caring and responsibility. But the Army made me even better."

Air defense association hears from SMDC commander

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Leaders in the Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville communities came together to show their support during a "Fires" luncheon.

Members of the Air Defense Artillery Association, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, met March 20 for a luncheon where they were given an insight into what is happening in the air defense artillery and field artillery branches.

"I thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today," Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, said. "I am honored to join you. Today's luncheon is an opportunity to bring two important associations together; members of the Air Defense Artillery Association as well as members of the Field Artillery Association.

"I would continue to encourage each association to reinvigorate its interests while also finding new ways to work together and leverage the synergy going on between air defense artillery and field artillery."

Formica spoke of the growing contribution of the Fires capability areas such as: air and cruise missile defense; global and theater ballistic missile defense; counter rocket; artillery and mortar; precision FA Fires; and a new emphasis on Fires in support of combined arms maneuvers as well as wide area security.

"Last May I had the opportunity to speak at the Fires Symposium at Fort Sill, Okla.," Formica said. "I saw firsthand the benefits of the merged air defense ar-

tillery and field artillery branches, and it dawned on me that this could have been hard, but leadership embraced it.

"The focus is on the Fires functional area; optimizing the strengths of both branches. Leaders have created an environment, with conditions set by the previous commandants and commanders of air defense artillery and field artillery that allows this merger to flourish."

Formica said he visited units at Fort Bliss, Texas, and witnessed the same kind of synergy there is at Fort Sill. He said leaders, Soldiers and civilians are embracing the Fires merger and seeking ways to bring more capability to the Army, even in challenging times.

"We're acutely aware of the fiscal challenges we face as a nation," Formica said. "We are already seeing impact – force reductions and program changes – which are spelling a different future for us.

"We can handle it two ways: Sit and wait – hand-wringing and worrying about the impact on the Army; or, see what ADA and FA units can do to make a difference even as these strategic decisions are being made. My message to them was to focus on unit readiness, inculcate a notion of selfless service and shape the future Fires force. When it comes down to it, our ADA and FA leaders and Soldiers will determine the future of this Fires force."

Formica said he wanted to acknowledge the exciting things going on in the ADA and FA Fires community and let the Redstone and Huntsville communities know about them.

"There is a lot going on here at Redstone that is supporting the Fires mission," he said. "We are providing capa-



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica speaks during the Air Defense Artillery Association, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, "Fires" luncheon March 20.

bility for today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. I encourage you to look for innovative ways to bring Fires for the future Force – our Soldiers' lives depend on it."

Formica discussed the benefits of the two associations coming together. He talked about how the Fires functional concept will operate and the interaction of the Fires Center of Excellence and Department of the Army as well as with the other elements in the Army.

He said he could see it in the actions and hear it in the words of those who serve. Formica talked about how unit commanders, command sergeants major, Soldiers and Army civilians have embraced this new partnership.

Formica said he was also encouraged by the active participation by retired senior mentors. He told how they generate

vitality, offer sound guidance on how best to employ capabilities and develop leaders, and continue traditions and lineage that each association brings.

"We have a saying at SMDC; 'The Sun Never Sets on SMDC/ARSTRAT,'" Formica said. "It applies equally to the Fires community, whether here in the Tennessee Valley where we are developing capabilities, or for our Fires Soldiers – ADA and missile defense Soldiers on point in Qatar, Kuwait, Alaska, California, Japan, Korea and around the world – or FA and ADA Soldiers and Marines deployed and serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Together we are making strong contributions that are relevant and also appreciated in our Army."

The local chapter has been in existence for more than 20 years and is sponsored by the Army's ADA in Fort Sill. Annually, they sponsor a Saint Barbara's Day dinner dance, a golf tournament and several luncheons and social gatherings.

The chapter also provides scholarships to students for colleges and Space Camp for local students.

"Today is a big step forward for our association," Jody Maxwell, ADA Redstone-Huntsville Chapter vice president, said. "To have the SMDC commander spend his time with us and lay out what he sees as the steps to integrate and collaborate between the two associations is tremendous.

"Today's event was terrific," Maxwell added. "We had a great turnout and we want people to know we serve military families. We are honored to serve those who continue to serve, and we are proud to be here for them."



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Strategic meeting

Col. James Jenkins, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command chief of staff, stands and answers a question posed by the work force during the command's town hall March 20 at the Von Braun III auditorium. The command also held a town hall March 23 in Colorado Springs, since its headquarters are dual-located.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Leadership Alabama

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sean Magonigal, an experimental test pilot, shows the CH-4/F Chinook to the Leadership Alabama group which toured the Rotary Wing Center of the Redstone Test Center at the Airfield on Friday.

Win or Lose

Little league baseball rolls in during April

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

It's almost time to play ball on the youth baseball fields.

Redstone's little league baseball teams will play from April through June with the Huntsville city teams. Child Youth and School Services has three T-Ball teams for ages 4-6, two coach-pitch teams for ages 7-8 and two minor league teams for ages 9-12.

"We're practicing," Mike Gates, CYSS sports and fitness director, said. "We haven't started playing games yet."

Games will be played with the City of Huntsville Recreation Services at

the CYSS sports complex on Goss Road and at the city's sports facilities.

Huntsville's opening ceremony for baseball and softball is April 21 before the Huntsville Stars game at Joe Davis Stadium.

The youth baseball season will continue until mid-June.

Registration is under way for flag football for ages 5-17; and the signup deadline is April 30. If interested, call Gates at 313-3699.

"We pretty much plan on practicing (flag football) in May and playing games in June and July," Gates said.

Registration for the Launchers swim team for ages 5-17 is scheduled April 4 through May 14. Call Gates at 313-3699.

Courtesy photo

Josef Bradford Steelman picks up a groundball during Redstone little league action.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Lacrosse practice

The Tiger Lacrosse team gathers for practice March 20 on a Redstone field at the corner of Patton and Gray roads. The team, in Huntsville's Lacrosse League, has players from the southeast district including Grissom High and Randolph School.

Sports & Recreation

Ten-Miler tryout

Redstone Arsenal's Ten-Miler Team, which will compete in the 28th annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 21 near the Pentagon, will hold an open tryout for runners Saturday at 7 a.m. The course begins at the Sparkman Fitness Center, continues south on Patton Road past Buxton Road to the five-mile point and then back to the fitness center. Redstone is the five-time defending champion in the government agency division and three-time defending champ in the all-comers division. The team has members from the entire post community – including active and retired military, civilians and contractors. For more information, call assistant coach Skip Vaughn 876-1500 or coach Harry Hobbs 425-5307.

AER 5K run

AMRDEC's AER 5K run and fun walk, benefiting Army Emergency Relief, is April 19 at 8:30 a.m. Registration deadline to receive a T-shirt is April 4. Plaques will be awarded to male and female age category winners and division/group winners. Entry fee is \$20. Cost for a T-shirt only (not running or walking) is \$15. Military, civilian or contractor employees and their family members are welcome. To register call the following people at building 5400: Mary Gail Fairchild 842-2775, Mary Ann Brothers 876-1216, Deadra Hereford 876-3289 or Jessica Glover 876-2781.

Bass tournament

The third annual Homeland Security Bass Tournament is May 18-19 at Ingalls Harbor, Decatur. The entry form is available at <http://www.the-boat-house.com/>. For more information, call David Whitman 652-3446 or Ed Whitman 337-0909.

Senior baseball

The local Huntsville/Decatur men's recreational baseball organization, the Southern Senior Baseball League, is looking for new players to participate in its upcoming season. The SSBL has two age divisions: Veteran's Division, with players from age 25 to early 40s, and Master's Division, with players from age mid-40s through 60s. Its weekly spring training practices are being held each Sunday afternoon at Butler High through late May (start times vary). The league plays a 20-game season from late-May through August, normally with two games played per week (one weeknight and one Sunday afternoon or evening game). Games are played in the Huntsville/Decatur area. For more information, call Bill McArdle 876-9867 or email joinssbl@comcast.net.

Senior softball

This is an opportunity for men 55 and over, of all skill levels, to participate in slow pitch softball. Practices are 10 a.m. Mon-

day, Thursday and Saturday and 5:30 p.m. Monday at field 4, Brahan Spring Park. The regular season starts April 7 with games being played Monday and Thursday at 6 and 7:30 p.m. For more information, call David Camp 468-2913 or Gary Wilkison 880-9663.

Golf benefit

Delta Zeta Sorority seventh annual "Tee Off With Delta Zeta," benefiting speech and hearing impaired, will be held April 21 at the Becky Pierce Municipal Golf Course. Morning and afternoon tee times are available. For more information, email Shelby Lindley, Delta Zeta annual philanthropy chairwoman, at Shlooo2@uah.edu.

Bowling benefit

AMRDEC's Industrial Operations is holding a Singles "No Tap" Bowling Tournament at Redstone Lanes at 1 p.m. April 12. Cost is \$15 for three games of bowling. There will be trophies and medals for the top three male and female High Series and High Game. To register call Paul Sieja 842-9408, email paul.sieja@us.army.mil, by April 10. There will also be some door prizes so come on out and support Army Emergency Relief.

Girls junior golf

The LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Huntsville is holding registration for its eighth annual season Sunday from 2-5 p.m. at Richland Golf Center, 10028 North Memorial Parkway. LPGA-USGA Girls Golf is a developmental junior golf program, for girls ages 7-17. The clinics begin April 16 and end June 25; they are held at Richland Golf Center on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. and on six scheduled Sundays from 2-4 p.m. The clinics include the basics of the golf swing, on course instruction and rules of the game. Registration fee is \$85 and it covers all clinics and a LPGA-USGA Girls Golf membership kit. For more information, call site director Marie Maksimowski 881-2924 or visit www.girlsgolfhuntsville.org.

Ladies golf tourney

Still Serving Veterans will host its first Ladies Golf Tournament to honor women warriors April 23 at the Huntsville Country Club. The tournament will be a four-women scramble with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. To register or be a sponsor of this event, call Lupi Rodriguez 883-7035 or email Irodri-guez@stillservingveterans.org.

Basketball bus trip

Bus trips are planned to the Atlanta Hawks games. Games included are April 20 vs. Boston Celtics, April 22 vs. NY Knicks, April 24 vs. LA Clippers and April 26 vs. Dallas Mavericks. Price is \$155 per person which includes roundtrip transportation to the game and ticket into the game. Total cost needs to be paid as soon as possible. First come, first serve. For group rates or more information, call 693-2004.

Rocket Announcements

Boating safety

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 082-24-06 will offer the Boating Skills and Seamanship class April 12 through May 24. Classes will meet Thursdays from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Garrison Safety Office, building 3687 on Neal Road. There is a \$25 charge for the course textbook. For information call Tom Kunhart, flotilla public education staff officer, at 830-6621 (home) or 527-4475 (cell) or email tkunhart@knology.net.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. For more information, call 842-2964.

Protestant women

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

Catholic mass

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel invites the Redstone community to its mass services, set for noon Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. For baptisms, weddings or any questions, call 842-2175. Here is the Holy Week and Easter Schedule: April 1, 9:15 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass and 7 p.m. Youth Presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross; April 5, 6 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper; April 6, 5 p.m. Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord; April 7, 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass; and April 8, 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass.

Good Friday observance

The Military Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies able to access Redstone Arsenal to its Good Friday spiritual retreat April 6 at 9:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. For more information, call Phyllis Gibat 842-2175 or Beverly Thetford (254) 371-2265.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit club. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the associ-

ation 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 Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

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.

Space society

Huntsville Ala. L5 Society (HAL5) will have a free program April 5 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Main Library downtown. Richard B. Hoover, of the University of Buckingham, United Kingdom, will speak on "Microfossils, Biomolecules and Biomarkers in Carbonaceous Meteorites: Evidence for the Existence of Extraterrestrial Life." For more information, visit www.HAL5.org.

Section meeting

The ASME North Alabama Section will meet April 4 at 11:30 a.m. at the University of Alabama-Huntsville's Von Braun Research Hall. Lane McCollum will talk about the military use of robotic systems for the clearing of explosive devices. For information and reservations, visit <http://sections.asme.org/NorthAlabama> or email rpgetman@asme.org.

Meeting professionals

The Rocket City-Alabama Chapter, Society of Government Meeting Professionals, has extended its membership drive through March. Membership fee for government planners is \$30 (a reduction of \$25). Get your membership application form from

Rocket Announcements

membership chair Marie Arighi at marighi@vonbrauncenter.com. If you have questions regarding the chapter, email Barbie Baugh at barbie.baugh@us.army.mil. You can also view the website at <http://www.rocketcity-alabamachapter.org/>.

Unmanned aircraft systems

The 2012 UAS Symposium, "Breaking Through the Barriers of Fielding the Technology," will be held May 14-16 at Mississippi State University. Symposium topics include "Policies and regulations of operations" and "Flight demonstrations." For more information, email Jo McKenzie at mckenzie@raspet.msstate.edu.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet April 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. "West Point on the Eve of the Civil War" will be presented by Richard Barlow Adams, West Point Class of 1967 and author of "The Parting: A Story of West Point on the Eve of the Civil War." Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. Call 541-2483 for more information.

Simulation conference

Retired Rear Adm. Fred Lewis will headline the AlaSim International 2012 Modeling and Simulation Conference and Exhibition, May 1-3 at the Von Braun Center. Pre-registration is encouraged with low rates available through April 20. Visit www.AlaSim.org.

Federal employees

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet April 14 at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. This will be a membership breakfast. Breakfast by Creative Catering will be served at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance by calling Kay Lindsay 880-7721. Invite a prospective member who will receive a free breakfast. If you do not reserve breakfast, come for the business meeting at 10. There will be no refreshments. Angela Rawls, director of Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program, will speak. Guests are always welcome – active or retired. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

University women

AAUW Huntsville Branch and The Schools Foundation will present "A Report Card from Our Local School Superintendents" at AAUW's April dinner meeting April 3 at 5:30 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. Superintendents Dr. Casey Wardynski, Huntsville City Schools, Dr. Dee Fowler, Madison City Schools, and Dr. David Co-

peland, Madison County Schools, have been asked to speak. For dinner reservations – cost is \$16 (\$15 vegetarian) – call 880-8643 or email herb.guendel@knology.net by noon Friday.

Parkinson's support

Occupational therapist Karen Allen Hislop will speak to the Parkinson's Support Group on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the youth building at Willowbrook Baptist Church, 7625 Bailey Cove Road (enter from the back parking area). Family, friends and caregivers are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Rono Prince 837-6577.

Foreign military sales day

The Security Assistance Command will hold its first Foreign Military Sales Relationships Day for industry and business representatives April 16 from 1:15-5 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County. The meetings, to be held quarterly, will focus on facilitating interaction between the military and industry, and the benefits of developing relationships with foreign countries. The April 16 meeting will also highlight foreign military sales cases being conducted in the geographic area of U.S. Forces Central Command. Subsequent meetings will focus on other geographic combatant commands and their respective sales cases. There is no cost to attend the meeting, but advanced reservations are requested as spaces are limited to no more than two representatives from each business, company or corporation. Reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. The cutoff is April 12. Reservations can be made by visiting <http://www.naita.org>.

Union lunch and learn

AFGE Local 1858 will sponsor a Lunch and Learn cookout Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 3202 on Mauler Road. They will be serving barbecued chicken, hot dogs, baked beans, sodas, chips and more. "So come out and learn about your rights, what AFGE is doing in Washington, and get all of your questions answered while eating a free delicious meal," a prepared release said. For more information, visit www.local1858.com.

Small business forum

The Small Business Regulatory Fairness Forum, featuring Esther Vassar, national ombudsman and assistant administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration, will be held April 19 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Boeing Auditorium, 950 Explorer Boulevard. Members of the small business community, trade organizations and media are encouraged to attend this free event. Seating is limited to the first 150 registrants. For

more information, call Sharon Adams 533-5789, ext. 271. RSVP by emailing sadams@LogiCorehsv.com.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or <https://apdw.redstone.army.mil>. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors or military personnel cannot be considered. Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Cindy Gordon 313-0369 or Nicole Massey 313-0365. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract companies, government employees or government agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name – all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any follow-up 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 Pamela Donald 513-8290 or email pdonald@seniorview.com.

AER book sale

The AMCOM G-3/Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for Army Emergency Relief will be held April 16-27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Sparkman Center's building 5300 on the first floor, in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. They are accepting donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotapes until April 25. If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563.

Korea veterans fund-raiser

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation, 501 (c) (3), is a non-profit organization that will hold its inaugural charity fund-raising event with a MASH theme April 13 from 5:30-9 p.m. at The Summit at Redstone. The wine and whiskey tasting event will also feature live/silent auction items including signed MASH memorabilia, signed footballs, a patriotic quilt handmade by a group of ladies in the New York Quilters Guild, gift baskets and a room full of items that will be waiting for your bid. For more information, or to purchase event tickets, call KC Bertling 541-0450, Anna Pastorelli 489-5673, Still Serving Veterans 883-7054 or The Summit at Redstone 830-2582. All proceeds will be used for the sixth annual luncheon honoring the Korean War veterans and their guest, provide assistance to those veterans wishing to participate in the "Korea Revisit Project 2012" and to support the Korean War veterans and their families, and veterans organizations within the Tennessee Valley.

Program manager course

PMT401 Program Manager's Course is designed to improve DoD acquisition outcomes by strengthening the analytical, critical thinking and decision-making skills of potential leaders of major defense acquisition programs and program support organizations. Students come from all services, DoD agencies and industry. Class will be conducted in Huntsville April 16 through June 22. For more information, email Ann.Lee@dau.mil or apply at www.dau.mil.

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

See Announcements on page 43

agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-1774.

Association scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Army Warrant Officers Association will present two \$1,000 scholarships in 2012. The application deadline is April 29. For details, eligibility and an application form, visit www.redstonewarrants.com.

Civilian of year awards

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will sponsor the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year awards dinner April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. This award and dinner recognizes local Army civilians who have demonstrated exceptional performance as members of the Army team. Plan to support these outstanding civilian nominees by attending the awards dinner. Individual ticket cost is \$38; corporate tables of eight are \$304. Make your reservations by visiting www.ausaredstone.org/Events.aspx. Reservations must be made by April 3. For more information, call the AUSA event coordinator Jerry Hamilton 652-7437 or email AJH72US-MA@mchsi.com.

Symphony auction

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild's 39th annual Crescen-Dough Auction is April 13 from 5:30-11:30 p.m. in the Von Braun Center's South Hall. More than 500 items will be yours for the bidding, including fine jewelry, one-of-a-kind parties, vacations and local merchandise. The event's theme is "Under the Big Top." Tickets are \$60 per person.

Vietnam veterans

Vietnam veterans and the public are invited to the first Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans program Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial, located in downtown Huntsville on Monroe Street between Jefferson and Washington streets. The program is being organized by the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Steering Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America-Huntsville Chapter. The event will consist of a wreath laying ceremony and a ceremonial firing. The Army Materiel Command Band will perform. For more information, call Chris

DeCourley 313-0783 or visit <http://www.vietvethsv.org>.

JROTC awards dinner

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its first Gary L. Littrell JROTC Leadership Award Dinner on April 12 at 6 p.m. at The Summit. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Littrell, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam era, will present an award in his name to 13 top cadets from local high schools. For more information, email Michael McSwain at mike.mcswain-sr@us.army.mil or Deitra Floyd at msstang92@hotmail.com.

Ride wanted

Curtis Tucker and his dog guide are looking for someone to ride with to and from work. His hours at building 5304 are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and he resides at Whitesburg Estates in southwest Huntsville. If interested call 842-9289 or email curtis.tucker@us.army.mil.

IAAP scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals, will award two scholarships of \$500 each, one to a graduating high school senior and one to a college student majoring in business. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. The deadline for applications is April 13. For more information or a scholarship application, call Elise McWilliams 313-1709, email elise.mcwilliams@us.army.mil, or call Ellen Mahathey 842-9888, email ellen.mahathey@us.army.mil, or visit the Redstone Arsenal Chapter website <http://www.iaaprsa.org>.

Comedy show

McCloud Enterprises will present a comedy show Saturday at the Holiday Inn-Research Park. It features comedian Cocoa Brown, from Tyler Perry's hit show "For Better or Worse," and will be hosted by Bo P from BET's Comicview. The show also features G. Quinney. The night's two performances are scheduled at 7 and 9:15. Advance tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$25 VIP. Buy 10 tickets and get two free. Ticket outlets include Mr. Shoes or James Records & Tapes. For group rates, VIP and more information, call 693-2004.

Omega cruise

The Omega Q-Rooze with the Ques was established in 1998 as an excursion for the members and their guests to have a weekend getaway. Since its inception it has always been held in downtown Chattanooga during the local venue called Riverfest. Traditionally, attendees stay at the Marriott Chattanooga Hotel and Conference center. This year's event is June 9-10. Cost is \$80 per person and the hotel cost is \$109 plus tax. It includes transportation to and from Chattanooga, food and drinks en route, a 2.5-hour midnight cruise, heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks during the hotel hospitality hour and light hors d'oeuvres during the cruise. For more information, call Mike Sims 599-6612 or Gerald Vines 682-1071.

Sheriff's rodeo

The Morgan County Sheriff's Office will hold its annual Morgan County Sheriff's Rodeo this year at the Morgan County Celebration Arena, 67 Horse Center Road, Highway 67 in Priceville. The rodeo will be Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. For ticket information, call the Sheriff's Office 351-4800.

Rocket Announcements

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.breeden@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 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.breeden@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.

Green to gold

Sunday is the deadline for interested enlisted Soldiers to apply this year for Green to Gold, which enables enrollment in Army ROTC. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.army.mil/article/75305/>.

Car show benefit

The Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners Car Club will hold the eighth annual Charity Car Show on April 21 at the Bridge Street Town Centre. All proceeds from this event go to benefit the Wounded Warriors program, Survivor Outreach Services, and Toys for Tots. The entry fee is \$20 and is open to all makes of cars, trucks and motorcycles with the first 200 entries receiving a T-shirt and dash plaque. For more information, visit the club's website at www.vetswithvettes.us.

Operation smile

A lunch to raise money for Operation Smile, an effort to repair the facial deformities of children, will be held May 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Beverly Marchelos' rose garden, 3818 Holmes Ave. Cost is \$10, which is tax deductible. The menu features peanut butter sandwiches with a choice of 15 jellies, drink and dessert. RSVP by calling 534-3639 or email bevandgeo@knology.net.

Signal battalion reunion

The next Triennial 279th Signal Battalion Reunion Dinner is April 20 from 6-9 p.m. at Logan's Restaurant, 4249 Balmoral Drive. All members of the 279th Signal Battalion to include spouses are welcome to attend. Prospective attendees should call Robin Grubis 313-1501 or email robin.k.grubis.civ@mail.mil.

Big giveaway

The Gethsemane House of Prayer of Meridianville will hold a Big Give Away Event on May 12 for needy families. The church is gathering donated clothing, appliances and household goods to give to these families. Donations of items will be accepted. For more information, call 450-7082.

Parent workshop

Huntsville City Schools will present a parent workshop on "Parenting with a Plan: Behavior Strategies" April 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the executive dining room at the Annie C. Merts Center. For more information, call Greg Graham 428-6872 or email ggraham@hsv.k12.al.us.

Parenting classes

"Parenting 101," free classes presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center, will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. upstairs in the ChildWise Building, 1413 Nike St. Topics include Positive Discipline, April 10; Just for Dads (fathers only), May 8; Keeping Your Kids Safe, June 12; and Positive Discipline, July 10. Space is limited; child care is provided with reservations. To pre-register call Army Community Service 876-5397. This is sponsored by the New Parent Support Program, for birth through age 3.

Breakfast fund-raiser

A Sarcoidosis Search for a Cure Pancake Breakfast is Saturday from 7-9:30 a.m. at Applebee's on South Parkway. The \$5 ticket can be purchased at the door and is tax deductible. All proceeds will go toward Sarcoidosis research. Sarcoidosis is a potentially fatal inflammatory autoimmune illness that can attack any organ in the body. There is no known cause and no known cure. The Greater North Alabama Sarcoidosis Awareness Group is sponsoring this fund-raiser.

Special camp

Camp "We Can!" is a program of Operation: Military Kids Alabama and is specifically designed to provide service to military families who have a child or children with special needs. The luau-style camp is April 13-15 at Jackson's Gap. Sunday is the registration deadline. For information, call Rachel Simpson (334) 844-2294 or email bradfra@auburn.edu.

Rocket Announcements

Women's support

Choose Life provides support services to women with unplanned pregnancies. These include an annual walk, and community baby showers. For more information, call Rhonda Lancey 425-5341 or email r.lancey@yahoo.com.

Employment briefing

A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct a Federal Employment Briefing on April 5 at 9 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The briefing will help participants understand the federal application process. Topics will include recruitment, resume process, veteran and spouse preference, candidate evaluation and the referral process. This session is open to all who have access to the installation. To reserve a seat, call 876-5397 or email debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil.

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.

Commissary news

The Commissary is open Easter Sunday, April 8, from noon until 5 p.m.

Easter egg hunt

Bicentennial Chapel will hold an Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday for children 10 and younger. An added attraction this year will be a train ride after the egg hunt. Darrell Good and members of his youth group will supervise the train ride. Plan now to be there for the egg hunt, train ride and refreshments.

Federal contractors

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will hold a free event for federal contractors in Huntsville on May 10 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. David White, Montgomery's employment services program services manager, will present this seminar. Space is limited. For more information, call OFCCP compliance officer John Ambrose (205) 731-0820 or email ambrose.john@dol.gov.

Autism workshop

The third annual Summer Help Autism/ASD Workshop is April 27 from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Whitesburg Center, 7300 Whitesburg Drive. The workshop is provided free for parents, teachers and professionals dealing with ASD. Bring a sack lunch. The church will provide water, drinks, coffee and snacks. To pre-register call 1-877-4AUTISM, ext. 2, or visit www.autism-alabama.org.

Procurement course

The University of Alabama-Huntsville's Procurement Technical Assistance Center will present "AS9100 Executive Overview" on April 27 from 8 a.m. to noon at the UAH Wilson Hall, room 168. The speaker is Michael Shelton, president of CI Concepts. Cost is \$129 payable at the door by cash, check or credit card. For directions call 824-6422 or visit www.sbd.edu.

Retirement reception

Master Sgt. Kurtrell Jackson is retiring after 22 years of service. A reception in his honor will be held today at 11:30 a.m. at building 111, room G3 (AMCOM IG Office).

Thrift shop

Spring has sprung at the Thrift Shop. "Hop" on over and see all the Easter items. Come in and find a new spring outfit. Consignments are taken at the shop from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10 to 2. Put April 7 on your calendar for the next Saturday they're open. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible. If you have access to the Arsenal, you can shop at the Thrift Shop.

Spring musical

Huntsville High School's spring musical

"Oklahoma!" will be presented April 12-14 and April 19-21 at 7:30 p.m., and April 15 and 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale at www.hhs.panthertheater.com. They are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, military and seniors. Tickets for military are \$5 for the April 19 show at 7:30 p.m. and the matinee show on April 21 at 2 p.m.

New employee orientation

New Employee Orientation will be held April 24 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Summit. All new employees and Soldiers are welcome. For more information, call Latoya Ragan 313-0667.

Space Camp scholarships

The Air, Space and Missile Defense Association is offering 16 scholarships for selected children to attend a one week Space Camp this summer at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. These scholarships are open to any child ages 9-11 of a parent or guardian assigned to SMDC/ARSTRAT, JFCC IMD, AMCOM, PEO Missiles and Space, MSIC, Marshall Space Flight Center, AMRDEC or MDA (military or civilian), including matrix personnel, and those that are contractors working for corporate members of ASMDA. Government and military personnel must apply for free membership to ASMDA to be eligible. The scholarship includes one week at Space Camp (July 1-6), roundtrip airfare to and from the parent's work location, Space Camp flight suit, Space Camp clothing package, phone card, small amount of spending cash and any unaccompanied minor travel fees. Applications are due by 5 p.m. May 2. For application forms, visit www.ASMADA.us.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Years service honorees

A group of Aviation and Missile Command employees receive recognition from AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers and deputy commander Ronnie Chronister during a length of service awards ceremony March 19. Pictured with the two leaders and holding their certificates are, from left, Cynthia Janes of IMMC, Celyvne McCaulley of the Ombudsman's Office, Benjamin Myers of IMMC, Alisha Ryan of G-6 (Information Technology) and Cindy Stevens of IMMC, all with 30 or more years service; Lucinda Edwards of G-6 (35 or more years) and Sharion Menefee of IMMC (40 or more years). "With hard work and putting your best foot forward, you can succeed and have a great career," Menefee said.