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Post fire chief Page 8

Gift-wrap booth
helps Redstone,
Page 10



Patent attorney
skis slopes,
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Redstone Rocket

VOL. 44 No. 52 Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL December 20, 1995

Streamlined system takes bite out of travel rat race

By Skip Vaughn

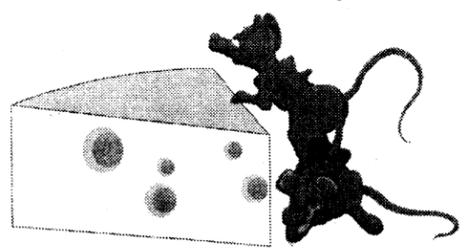
The Missile Command is testing a streamlined travel pay system which should reduce paperwork and speed the process.

MICOM is among 29 test sites throughout the Defense Department. They had the option of testing commercially-available software or devising their own.

"MICOM chose to build a local program. We had an automated 1610 travel process which has been used at this command for two and a half years. What we did was take the automated 1610 MICOM Automated Travel Order System (MATOS), and we have expanded it to include the new concept of operations for reengineered travel," Doris Cantrell, chief of pay and examination division at Defense Finance and Accounting Service, said.

"The concept of operations for reengineered travel streamlines the process, making it more timely and efficient for the traveler, and eliminates numerous steps in the original travel application," she added.

US Army Missile Command Re-engineered Automated Travel System (RATS)



We Can Do It!

The Corporate Information Center built the new system from July through November under the leadership of Lorraine Young, lead programmer. MICOM's test plan was sent Oct. 9 to Department of Army; and the plan was approved. Modification to the Commercial Travel Office contract is being negotiated. The first travel order under the new system was cut Thursday.

Two organizations are testing the system through May 31: the Threat Simulator Management Office, and the Integrated Materiel Management Center. About 130 people within those or-

ganizations have been trained on this Reengineered Automated Travel System (RATS). "This system has been built by the Corporate Information Center, and our computer support has been tremendous," Cantrell said. "Major players in the development of this system have been the Defense Accounting Office, Resource Management Directorate, local transportation office, and the Corporate Information Center."

An office in Washington, the Travel Reengineering Transition Team Office, will

See RATS on page 18



Making toys...

Santa Claus and all his helpers have been busy making toys and surprises for children everywhere all year, and has workshops throughout the world. SFC Robert Stutzman, 473-A Tripp Drive, decided to

give Santa a helping hand and built a workshop in his driveway. Inside are several animated characters along with a miniature railroad track, complete with train.

Primary standards laboratory receives national accreditation

By Skip Vaughn

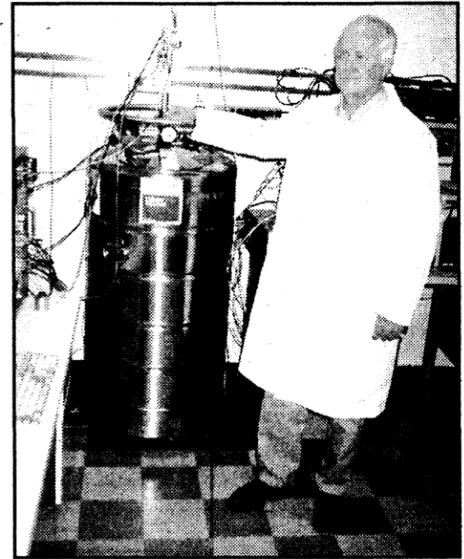
The Army Primary Standards Laboratory at Redstone has become the first military measurement lab to receive accreditation.

The lab, part of the Missile Command's TMDE Activity, was accredited by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program. It is the fourth to receive such status since the program began accrediting standards labs last year; and the others are in private industry.

"We are the most accurate of the government (measurement) laboratories at this time," Troy Ellis, the lab director, said.

The lab received a two-year accreditation in five basic measurement parameters: DC voltage, frequency, microwave power, thermometry, and large-area alpha radiation measurements. This was based on technical expertise, competency testing, and the laboratory's quality control procedures. "It was very much a team effort," Ellis said.

Part of the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, the lab serves as the Army's center of excellence in the field of metrology (measurement science). It provides primary level calibration services using state-of-the-art facilities and



MEASURING VOLTAGE— Electronic engineer Brian Moore shows parts of the Josephson array voltage standard measurement system.

metrology expertise. "Our ultimate customer is the soldier in the field," Larry Tarr, chief of the electrical standards laboratory within the Primary

See TMDE on page 20



The Redstone Rocket is taking a two-week holiday break so today's issue is the last one until Jan. 10.

The Rocket staff wishes you and yours a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Letters to the editor

Protecting veterans

The Redstone Rocket Washington article "President wins protection for vets in budget agreement" (Dec. 13) is certainly "politically correct," but factually untrue.

As I mentioned in my Dec. 3 letter in The Huntsville Times, President Clinton's proposed budget would cut \$337 million more from the Department of Veterans Affairs than the GOP budget and close six additional VA hospitals....

Howard Stearns
Disabled WWII vet

Remember soldiers

On the upcoming eve of Christmas, let us not forget our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines in Bosnia.

"THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS"

*Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.*

*I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And to see just who in this home did live.*

*I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.*

*No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.*

*With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought came through my mind.*

*For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.*

*The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.*

*The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.*

*Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?*

*I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.*

*Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.*

*They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.*

*I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.*

*The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.*

*The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;*

*I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."*

*The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.*

*I kept watch for hours, so silent and still
And we both shivered from the cold night's chill.*

*I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.*

*Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, all is secure."*

*One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night.*

Maj. Bruce Lovely,
("Adopted from a similar poem,
Anonymous")

Shutdown blues

*'Twas the month before Christmas, I'll always remember,
when the Government shut down in the month of November.*

*We showed up for work with all our credentials,
and were then sent back home for not being essential.*

*We got into our cars, and away we did go.
What would we do? We did not know.*

*We could go shopping, since Christmas would come soon,
but we may not get paid until May, maybe June.*

*Maybe the shopping we should just postpone,
and find something productive to do at home.*

*Some decided to go straight home that day,
but others went shopping anyway.*

*We listened to the news every night,
every detail of the big budget fight.*

*The President said it might be two months, maybe three,
until on a budget they all could agree.*

*We became more concerned and started to think
that all our careers might be on the brink.*

*When we went back to work, we were really quite glad,
and decided our jobs were not really so bad.*

Melba Martin

Retiring worker will miss friends in project office

By Gloria Barone

Betty Matkin received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award at a ceremony in the Army TACMS-BAT Project Office on Nov. 30. The award was presented by George Williams, program executive officer for tactical missiles.

Matkin, a special assistant to the deputy project manager, Army TACMS-BAT, will retire Dec. 29 with 42 years of government service. Williams recognized Matkin for her service as chief of the Program Management Division and

acting deputy project manager, for being a team leader, independent thinker, and for managing heavy workloads in the accomplishment of numerous major project activities.

Matkin began her career in 1953 as a GS-2 clerk typist in the Quality Control Branch (now known as Product Assurance Directorate). She has held numerous positions throughout her career, progressing to her present title of program/acquisition manager, GM-15. She has worked in several projects, including Corporal,

Sergeant, MARS II, P&P Directorate, Safeguard, Lance, CSWS, Systems Development Office of the Army Missile Laboratory, JTACMS, Army TACMS, and Army TACMS-BAT.

While working diligently in her career, she balanced career with family and community work. The Valhermosa Springs native and resident is married to Pat Matkin, and they have three daughters: Marcia Riedberger, Michele Matkin, and Tricia Stevens. The Matkins have four grandchildren.

When asked what she plans to do after retirement, Matkin says that she has not really decided, except for about the first 10 days of retirement. She and one of her daughters look forward to a planned tour of Israel. Matkin said, "I will enjoy

having time to sit and plan what to do, and I would like to travel more."

Matkin said that she has always enjoyed her career and has met a lot of wonderful people. She said, "The only downside to retiring is not getting to see those people every day. Other than that, I am really looking forward to my retirement." Matkin feels fortunate that she and her husband have been able to work their entire careers without ever having to leave home for a different assignment.

Friends and co-workers honored Matkin with a retirement luncheon at the Marriott Hotel on Dec. 6. Don Barker, acting project manager of Army TACMS-BAT, lauded Matkin for her dedication and service to Army TACMS-BAT and other project offices and for



CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD— Matkin receives the Meritorious Civilian Service Award from George Williams, program executive officer for tactical missiles.

her valued assistance. TACMS-BAT Project Office.
(Editor's note: Barone is vice.)
a program analyst at Army

Correction

The phone number for the automated prescription refill system, at Fox Army Community Hospital's pharmacy, was incorrectly listed in an article in the Dec. 13 Redstone Rocket. The correct number is 842-7337.

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office.....876-1500
Advertising office.....539-9828

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 Missile Command, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is The Advertiser Company, located at 3311 Bob Wallace Ave. Suite 102, Huntsville AL 35805.

The deadline for display and commercial classified is 4 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

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Celebrities entertain acquisition division revelers

By Ondrea Neal and Deborah Goodson

The Acquisition Center Major Items Division B awards ceremony/Christmas luncheon was held Dec. 6 in the Officers Club. The Twickenham Room was beautifully decorated for Christmas; and Terry Andrews, from the division, provided all the background music to complete the festive mood.

The agenda included lunch, an awards ceremony, entertainment provided by the branch chiefs, and the division chief, and a white elephant auction. The proceeds from the white elephant auction were used to

sponsor the Division B Charity, "Pick an Angel" Program.

The white elephant auction items were donated by attendees and were auctioned to the highest bidder. Some of the typical or not so typical items auctioned included cookies, toys, critter chips, picture frames, a cordless phone, cat scratching posts, rag rug, foot massager, tuperware items, and Christmas decorating items. This auction proved to be a very successful charity contribution, along with a crowd pleaser. The division's contributions will help make a wonderful Christmas for several "angels." The special guest

auctioneer for the afternoon was Judy McMurry, wife of the division chief, Jerry McMurry.

The following awards were presented to members of the Acquisition Center's division B:

Performance awards—
Lisa Armes, James Ganoë, Deborah Goodson, Linda Hall, Sarah Kerry, Charlotte Masucci, Betty Phillips, Randy Roper, Belinda Ruf, Jeannie Sharpe, Leroy Williams.

- 30 Years Service award — Betty Phillips
- 20 Years Service award — Terry Neal
- 15 Years Service award — Randy Roper
- 10 Years Service awards

— Felicia Jones, Leslie Lancaster, Ondrea Neal, Paula Rooks.

- On-the-Spot cash award — Deborah Goodson.

The division attendees were entertained by several well-known celebrities. To begin the entertainment, they enjoyed a surprise visit by David Seville, and Alvin and the Chipmunks who sang a Christmas favorite, "Here Comes Santa Claus," performed by the committee members: Deborah Goodson, Lois Kennemer, Ondrea Neal and Michelle Taylor. As the afternoon progressed, Eston Lovingood Jr. presented and performed a one-act, one-word play titled "Ah," written while he attended Auburn University. The plot included a cheating wife (Ondrea Neal), a murdered boyfriend (Maj. Ben Jester), an arrested husband (Jim Ganoë), and a soon-to-be-insurance-rich lover (Eddie Thomas). Several other members from his team contributed their talents acting out the plot. Following the play were none other than the West's all-time favorite cowboy and cowgirl, Roy Rogers (Jim Ganoë) and Dale Evans (Charlotte Masucci), who performed several familiar Christmas tunes ending with "Happy



THE KING— Dan Parker, TOW branch chief, does his Elvis Presley imitation.

Trails."

If you think Jeff Foxworthy is funny, you should hear his sister, Sarah Kerry Foxworthy. She performed a side-splitting standup comic routine that had several attendees wiping tears.

The next performer, straight out of Nashville, good ol' Jerry McMurry sang and played the guitar to a song he wrote himself which we hear is climbing the charts and is sure to be on somebody's hit list.

As a perfect ending to a memorable day, a very special guest, straight from heaven, the "King" himself, Elvis Presley (Dan Parker) performed Blue Suede Shoes, Blue Christmas and several more No. 1 hits. His music inspired and excited so many that some were falling out onto the floor, some begged for scarves, and others just wanted to hug him.

Editor's note: Neal and Goodson work at the Acquisition Center.



HAPPY TRAILS— Singing "Happy Trails to You" are, from left, Jim Ganoë, Judy McMurry, Jerry McMurry and Charlotte Masucci.

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Automated services on-line at MICOM Civilian Personnel Office

(Editor's note: The following article on a new service was submitted by the Civilian Personnel Office.)

The Civilian Personnel Office is offering a new directory service for its customers. It is just one of the many new automation products designed to enhance customer relations. The CPO Directory program was developed to aid our customers in identifying their organization's servicing personnel members.

To access this program, simply type "cpodir" at the \$ prompt. The program will prompt you for a selection to view either:

- Classification, staffing, personnel actions, TSP, MER and insurance inquiries;
- All other personnel services;
- CPO management.

The next step is to scroll to the desired organization or program, and press enter. Once a selection is made, the names, phone numbers, office symbols, and fax numbers of your servicing representatives will appear on the screen. We hope that this program can assist and direct you to the appropriate members of the Civilian Personnel Office.

The Civilian Personnel

Office also offers a number of other customer based programs for your convenience:

CARES—Candidate Automated Referral and Evaluation System designed by MICOM is an integrated referral and evaluation system that civilian employees and other eligible individuals can use to apply for positions serviced by the MICOM Civilian Personnel Office. MACES, MACARS, RAMPS, APPS, ROADS and Talent Bank programs have been replaced by CARES.

EMR—Employee Master Record developed at MICOM to allow customers to review and submit changes to their personnel record. At the \$ prompt, type "emr" and enter a four digit pin number that you establish.

JSAP—Job Supervisory Access Program developed at MICOM to allow supervisors to edit and/or revise job descriptions. JSAP contains numerous prewritten job descriptions that are available to be edited and resubmitted to the Civilian Personnel Office. If you are a supervisor and have access to the program, type "jsap" at the \$ prompt.

MERIT—A MICOM

developed program containing both local and DoD-wide vacancy announcements. To access this program, type "getmerit" at the \$ prompt. Press 1 for local vacancies or 2 for DoD vacancies.

GETMERIT—A MICOM developed program similar to MERIT, however, GETMERIT allows customers to actually view and print the full vacancy, not just the

announcement.

* **COREDOD**—A Department of Defense job description program developed to aid managers in writing quick and accurate job descriptions. This PC based program resides on the GOPHER server and is available for downloading.

* **CIVCOST**—A Department of Defense management program designed to control the civilian person-

nel budget. This PC based program is currently being tested by the Civilian Personnel Office and should be released shortly.

* **PERSACT**—A Department of Defense initiative to eliminate the routing of SF50 actions. PERSACT is a paperless SF50 routing program. Currently the Civilian Personnel Office is testing the application with a few organizations and have

received considerable acceptance.

* Designates a Functional Improvement Process by DoD, and is identified to be implemented universally by DoD.

For more information on any of the Civilian Personnel automated systems, contact the appropriate representative identified in the Civilian Personnel directory program.

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Scholarships available to Space Camp

The Army Space and Missile Defense Association is again offering scholarships to dependents of active duty military and civilian personnel at any location of the Space and Strategic Defense Command or the Program Executive Office, Missile Defense, for the Spring 1996 U.S. Space Camp or U.S. Space Academy session.

Space Camp (at two levels) is for students in grades four, five, six, seven and eight; and Space Academy is for grades nine, 10, 11 and 12. Scholarships will be awarded based on financial need and scholastic achievement.

Those interested should apply right away for an application package, which includes an ASMDA application, a financial needs statement, and a U.S. Space Camp/Space Academy application.

Copies of the application forms are available from the SSDC library, 106 Wynn Drive. When completed the applications should be mailed to the following address in time to arrive by Jan. 15: Paul Freeman, ASMDA Scholarship Committee; c/o Quality Research Inc., 150 West Park Loop, Suite 302, Huntsville, 35806.

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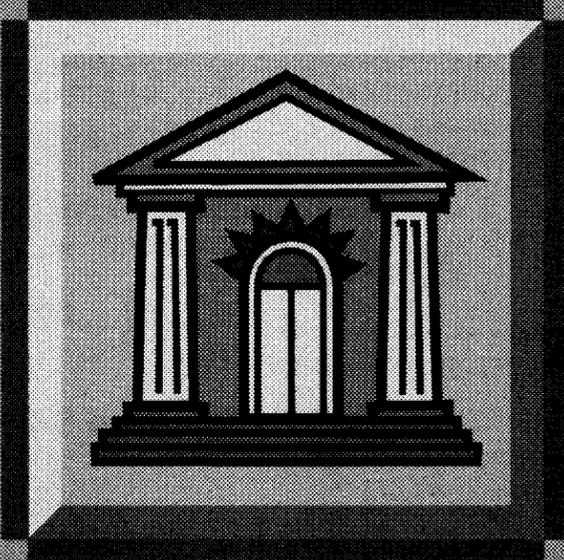
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Just doing his job at Redstone Arsenal: Santa Claus

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles on everyday people who work on the Arsenal and perform jobs that are sometimes overlooked.

By Kathy Harkleroad

In the spirit of the holiday season, Santa Claus graciously took time out of his busy schedule and consented to an interview for this series. While Santa Claus does not actually have an office on Redstone Arsenal, his presence is felt by all.

As every adult knows, Santa is a very busy person and has helpers throughout the world who visit with children (and sometimes adults) and listen to their Christmas wishes. George Stewart, one of those helpers, plays Santa to children on the Arsenal each year.

"I have been doing this off and on for the past 40 years, and really enjoy it," Stewart said. "I actually look forward to seeing the children and hearing their wishes. I also play Santa for different Christmas parties, both on the Arsenal and off."

Stewart began playing Santa in 1955 at Fort

Leavenworth, Kan., and really took to the part. He said he wasn't really sure why they asked him, but his wife, Carol, had the answer. "He fit the physique," she laughing said. Carol has helped George in his holiday efforts and took over the role of Mrs. Santa Claus four years ago.

Stewart has played Santa on Army installations around the world, from China to Korea and from different locations in the United States to several locations in Europe. "I have enjoyed them all," he said.

He takes his role seriously and said he never promises children they will receive the gifts they ask for. "We always tell them that we will try hard to fill their list, but might not be able to get everything. We also tell them to remember Santa loves them. You can't have a child disappointed on Christmas morning when he finds a gift missing that Santa promised would be there," Stewart said.

One of the delights both he and Carol experience when they play the role of Santa and Mrs. Claus, is the innocence and joy expressed by each child. "Their eyes are filled with



SANTA (STEWART)

such wonder and love, and heart to see them," Stewart said. "It really touches your heart to see them," Stewart said. "While Santa is somewhat of a stranger to the children, it really makes us feel good," Carol said.

they quickly open up and tell Santa all about their lives. When asked about some of the wishes the children express, Stewart said they are varied and heart touching. "One of the things the children want the most is to have their daddy home for Christmas. I have many tell me they wanted to make sure their dad arrived home safe for Christmas, and that is a really hard one to answer," he said.

"They also tell us all about their families, and about school," Carol added, "and the majority want to know if we are real. We never claim to be the real Santa, we tell them we are just helping him."

Stewart must be pretty good at playing the role of Santa, and has faced the test. His then 6-year-old daughter visited Santa and left a lasting memory for the whole family. "Patricia was 6 when she came through the Santa line with all the other children," he said. "When she got off my knee she walked over to her mother and said 'Santa sounds a lot like my dad.'

"Nothing else was ever said until about three years ago. As the family sat around talking about our roles at Christmas and Christmas past, Patricia found out I was the one who was playing Santa Claus. She never knew it was me," Stewart laughingly continued. "Thirty some-odd years later she found out and was really surprised."

Stewart not only plays Santa during the holiday season but is also very active in the Shriners organization and dresses like a clown for parades and private parties. "All the money that is collected from either the Santa or clown appearances, is given in its entirety to the Shriners burn and crippled children's hospital," he said.

At the age of 76, Stewart said he is getting down off the fire truck as Santa a little slower these days, but has no plans of giving up the job. "I have had the suit for the past 10 years and plan on playing Santa as long as I can get around. I enjoy it very much, too much to give it up."

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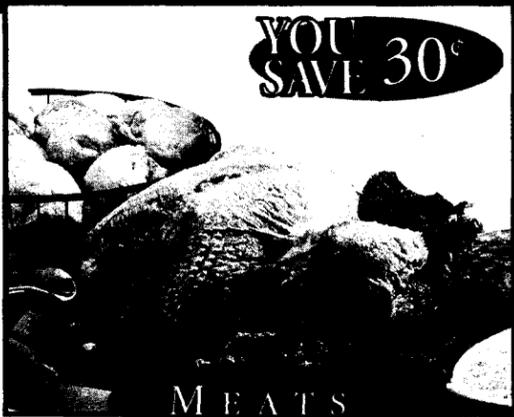


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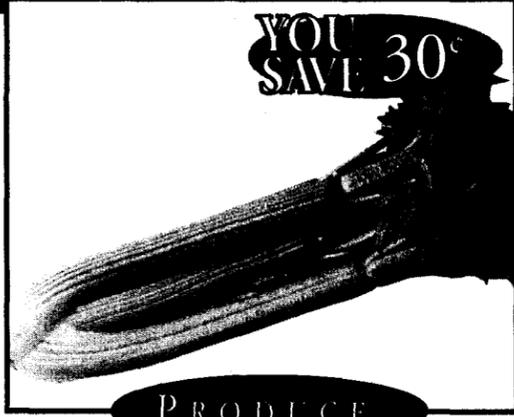
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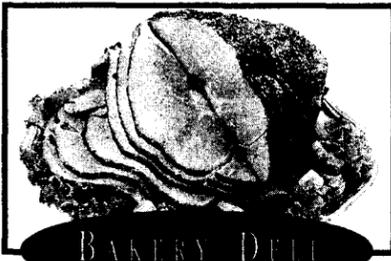


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THAAD interceptor misses target

A THAAD interceptor did not achieve the planned intercept of a target ballistic missile in a flight test Dec. 13 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and the Army said afterward that analysis of flight data was continuing to determine the cause of the miss.

If the test had gone as planned the flight, the fourth for the new Theater High Altitude Area Defense missile, would have ended with a contact hit on a Storm target vehicle.

The test, the first in which the THAAD missile engaged an actual target, was another in a continuing series to verify the THAAD design and the performance of the prototype system components.

Unlike earlier air defense missiles, THAAD uses hit-to-kill technology and destroys its target by crashing into it.

The THAAD missile was destroyed in flight a few seconds after the missed intercept. The Storm target flew a normal ballistic trajectory and impacted as planned on the national missile range. Other elements of the THAAD system participating in the test—the Ground Based Radar and the Battle Management Command and Control system—performed as planned.

Fire drills play important role in workers' safety

By Peggy Hays

"My main concern," Fire Chief Thomas Stephens said, "is for people to go to their assigned assembly areas so that their supervisors can check and see that everyone is out of the building."

Thomas' concerns for the employees' rapid and immediate response to any fire alarm is twofold. First, the streets approaching the building must be clear of employees for the fire equipment to proceed directly and quickly and secondly, a search and rescue operation must be undertaken for any unaccounted workers. "If they (the employees) are not at the assembly points and three people are missing, I've got three people searching for them. Then, I've got my people in harms' way."

Thomas outlined several procedures that will assist employees in responding to a fire alarm, beginning with the Emergency Action Plan. "Every building on the Arsenal has one," Thomas said. "Every person on the Arsenal is supposed to sign a statement that they are aware of the plan and what they are to do in an emer-

gency." Emergencies, Thomas reminded, can also include bad weather and bomb threats.

A floor plan is also posted in each building indicating the "fastest exit route," Thomas continued. "The fire alarm system is so noisy that people must evacuate. Then, they need to go to their assigned areas which are all located outside."

Further, the Emergency Action Plan is to be reviewed yearly and a minimum of one evacuation drill is to be conducted each year. "We're present at the yearly drill," Thomas said, "and, we score the response." The evacuation drill, however, can only be used when the fire department is present, but Thomas suggested that walk-through drills could be conducted by individual departments thereby facilitating awareness and response time for an actual drill or a real emergency.

The Redstone Fire Department responded to 1,405 emergency calls in fiscal '95 with a total loss due to fires of \$41,180. No lives were lost. "Smoke, of course, is the No. 1 killer," Thomas said. "Smoke leads to disorientation and eventually displaces the oxygen.



FIRE CHIEF— Stephens stands next to one of the trucks that respond to fire alarms on the Arsenal.

A buildup of smoke in the grill area in the cafeteria is what occurred in the recent fire at the Sparkman Center. That's what the majority of fires will do."

Thomas stressed that the No. 1 rule in any fire is "once out, don't ever go back in. People are not equipped to go in. We are equipped to go in and are trained to do so."

One of the reasons that

employees may not respond quickly to a fire alarm could be a defective smoke detector. "Sometimes you have a bad smoke detector and the alarm is constantly going off," Thomas said. "It goes off one time this week, then two times the next week, and three times the next. Then, you're saying, 'it's just the same old thing. I'm staying in my place.'

"We try our best to see

that all the detectors are working properly," he said. "We'll even get the alarm contractor to come out with us. We'll tear apart whatever we need to to fix the problem."

If your area has a defective smoke detector, call the fire department 876-2117. Thomas urged, "I want everyone to feel comfortable to call at anytime if there is any question."

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Military families share Christmas holidays, traditions with others

By Kathy Harkleroad

When it comes to celebrating the Christmas holidays, families everywhere have traditions that are passed down through time.

Since most military families are away from their extended families during the holiday season, Christmas is usually celebrated with immediate family members and friends who have also stayed behind. Single soldiers are also brought into the family fold during the holidays and are taken care of.

SSgt. Scott Thomas and his wife, Ginger, always make it a point to include others. "We always invite any of the single soldiers in the unit to Christmas dinner and try to make sure they have a nice day also," Ginger said.

The Thomas' have a traditional Christmas with their three children, Lucia, 7, Laura, 5 and Patty, 2. "Our parents are in New York state and can't see them at Christmas, so we concentrate on the girls," Ginger said. "We always make sure we call our relatives after the presents have been open Christmas morning though, so they can be with us."

The Thomas family has

traditions that have been passed down through both Scott and Ginger's families, and have blended to make traditions for their children to follow. "Each of the girls writes a letter to Santa and we post it on the refrigerator for them to see. Christmas Eve the girls bake cookies for Santa Claus and make sure they leave him a plate with a glass of milk," Ginger said.

The family also gets the Christmas tree together and each of the girls hangs their own special ornaments, Ginger said. "That is a really special time for them and we enjoy watching them take part in the tree decorating."

SFC Scott Bartow and his wife Julie, vary where they spend their Christmas, as their families are a little closer than New York. "All of our relatives live in Ohio and we have traveled to see them the last two years. This year we are staying home though and will celebrate here," Julie said.

Scott has carried a tradition from his childhood into his home and reads a story from the Bible to his children on Christmas Eve. "My dad used to do that for me and I thought it was a nice

thing to do for my kids. I read the Christmas story to them and remind them why we are getting presents," Scott said. Another tradition that was carried to his family is the decorating of the tree. "I do the lights and tinsel and Julie does the bulbs. We decorated the tree like that for years in my family and it just felt natural to do the same now."

The Bartows have two children, Bobby, 6, and Destinee, 18 months, and have included them in getting ready for the holidays. "In my family, my mom always baked Christmas cookies, and it was up to the kids to decorate them. Now I bake the cookies, and Bobby has the fun of icing them," Julie said.

The family has also made a tradition of going out to look at Christmas lights on Christmas Eve. "Destinee is just getting to the age where she can realize what is going on, but Bobby and I have looked at lights on Christmas Eve for many years. I still enjoy doing that myself," Julie said. "I feel like a kid again."

Pvt. Matthew and Carrie Ketchum are celebrating their second Christmas



GINGER THOMAS



CARRIE KETCHUM



JULIE BARTOW

together this year and have only begun to start traditions. They also have a new son, Zachary, which will make the holidays that much brighter. "We really haven't done much yet as far as getting ready for Christmas," Carrie said. "Matt has been away at school and has only just returned. We are going out to get the tree together and will decorate it with special ornaments that were given to us. Zach even has a few to put on there."

The Ketchum's family lives in Idaho which is too far away to visit. Matthew and Carrie will be spending

the day with friends here on the Arsenal and will have a special dinner.

"Since we have only been married a year, we are just starting traditions," Carrie said. "And we have plans to do some things that have been done in both of our families. We used to bring cookies around to friends and neighbors back home, and we plan to do the same here."

Carrie said like other families on the Arsenal who will be here for Christmas, they will be phoning family members across the United States Christmas Day. "It's

hard being away from family, especially during the holidays. But it's also nice having friends around to spend the day with, as well as our own immediate family. At least we can call our parents and family members and be together that way," she added.

No matter where you look on the Arsenal, families will either be together in person or by phone on Christmas. Miles may separate them, but at Christmastime family members and traditions remain close at heart.

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NCO Spouses Club's gift-wrapping booth benefits Redstone Arsenal community

By Kathy Harkleroad

Has the holiday rush got you down? Rushed for time and need to get those presents wrapped in a hurry? The Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club has the answer. Each year they sponsor a gift wrapping booth in the Post Exchange mall and donate the proceeds back to the community.

According to club member Gerry King, the booth has been there since "pre-historic time." "Seriously we have had the booth a very long time, and longer than anyone can remember," she said.

The price is right for the gift wrapping and is very reasonable, according to Liz Stangel, who volunteers her time at the booth. "We have very competitive prices and are 20 percent below our closest competitor. Also all the money we collect, including the tips, goes back into the community," Stangel said.

Prices start at \$1.20 for a jewelry box and go up to \$8.40. All of the gifts are wrapped in holiday paper



MAKING IT PRETTY— Members of the Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club have once again opened their gift wrapping booth in the Post Exchange mall. All of the proceeds from the booth are given back to the community. From left are Dallas Tranimell, Gerry King, Ken Way, Sue Martin and Liz Stangel.

and topped off with a homemade bow. "We really enjoy doing this and look forward to it each year," King said. "We have quite a few repeat customers who wait for us to open to get their presents wrapped."

The booth is located

inside the mall just outside the Post Exchange and will open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. The booth is manned by volunteers from the spouses club as well as members from the Officers Wives Club and the Better Opportunities for

Single Soldiers (BOSS) committee.

"All of us have the same goal, helping the community," King said. "The OWC offered to help, as did the BOSS committee, because they want to see the booth be a success."



Charitable worker...

For the past two years Vickie Prentiss, secretary in the Unmanned Ground Vehicle Project Office, has led the project office's efforts to donate gifts to families through the Salvation Army's Christmas Angel Tree program. This year the project office sponsored two families with a total of seven children. "Her willingness to give wholeheartedly is very much appreciated by the project office personnel. She truly exemplifies the spirit of Christmas," Gaylon Branam, deputy project manager, said.

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- **PHYSICAL FITNESS: Civilian Wellness Center**— This facility is open to civilian government employees. The classes are open to both civilian and military personnel. For membership information, call Sharon Guynes 955-6845. Upcoming activ-

ities include a weightlifting class Dec. 20, with exercise physiologist Paula Copeland; call 955-6844 to register.

• **DEC. 20: Challenger Bingo**— Santa's special free bingo will be held tonight at the Challenger. Everyone in the Redstone community is invited to this annual special. Each player will be given one free packet to play 10 free games. There will also be special games at \$2 per card. Mrs. Claus will be the bingo caller for the evening and her helpers will be selling cards. The doors open at 4 p.m. and cards go on sale at 5. Early bird games start at 6:15 (\$3 per packet); and the four early bird games have \$50 prizes each game.

• **NEW YEAR'S EVE: Officers Club**— Tickets are on sale for the Officers Club New Year's Eve Ball. Seating is limited, so call today. Cost is \$26.95 per person and includes musical

entertainment (Four on the Floor), prime rib buffet and continental breakfast. For reservations or more information, call 830-CLUB.

• **YOUTH SERVICES: Winter day camp**— Dec. 21-22,

Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 2-3 at the Youth Center. Cost is \$45 per week, \$10 per day, or \$3 per hour on available space. Restrictions do apply: Children must be Youth Center members, pre-

teen ages 6 to 12; parents either furnish lunches, or the children eat from the snack bar for \$2. For registration information, call 876-KIDS.

Retiree planning military museum in Las Vegas

An Air Force retiree in Las Vegas is looking for military memorabilia for a museum he wants to start.

Retired SSgt. Ken Briggs seven years ago began putting together a collection of military memorabilia from all branches of the armed services worldwide. His planned museum in Las Vegas is to include photographs, patches, badges, crests, medals, models, uniforms, various dummy rounds of ammunition and condemned or obsolete materials.

Briggs hopes to soon open this museum, called "Enlistment Without Commitment— A Historical Journey Through the Armed Services."

"My purpose for opening this museum is to preserve the heritage of our country and to better educate the civilian population on the history of our coun-

try and our armed services, as well as the history of other countries and their armed services," Briggs said.

Almost all items contained in his collection have been donated to Briggs. All donated items will be displayed in secured showcases, and each will be accompanied by a plaque identifying the donor, he said. All items are for display only.

To contribute memorabilia or for more information contact Briggs at 2950 Clifford St. B-3, Las Vegas, Nev., 89115-3149, phone (702) 643-3700. His daughter, Kimberly Schaffner, can be reached at (702) 453-1350.

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Center of Excellence concept addressed by team at SSDC

By Gerda Sherrill

The Space and Strategic Defense Command (and its predecessors) has been a leader in ballistic missile defense technology for almost 40 years. Now the command's Missile Defense and Space Technology Center (MDSTC), under the leadership of Dr. J. R. Fisher, wants to become the Center of Excellence for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) and all services in several key areas.

Today's downsized budgets and personnel shortages do not allow unnecessary redundancy. Expertise — like that found at the center — is a resource that is costly to duplicate and validate as all services begin to investigate missile defense technology. A Tiger Team, formed recently, is working hard to prove that point and sell the BMDO director on the "center of excellence" proposal.

The Tiger Team consists

of Lt. Col. Stephen Hesler, George O'Reilly and Kay Ward, all from SSDC; James Diehl, Daniel Buchanan, Larry Becker and John Regner, from Teledyne Brown Engineering in Huntsville; and David Hemingway from DESE Research.

The team identified at least five areas in which MDSTC is the undisputed world leader in missile defense technology: Kinetic Energy Hit-to-Kill Weapons; Lethality; Discrimination/Phenomenology; Targets Development/Range Support; and Radar/Ladar. In these five mission areas, the MDSTC would serve as the BMDO missile defense lead technology agent and thus assure existing expertise within the BMDO community is exhausted before new alternatives are approved and funded. The cost savings for using MDSTC's demonstrated performance and expertise are easily envisioned to be in the tens of millions of dollars annually.

As the BMDO Center of Excellence for Missile Defense, SSDC's MDSTC would form joint product teams, evaluate service needs, and recommend to BMDO how future work should be performed. The Center would report to the BMDO director through an executive advisory group.

In each core competency area, a single senior point of contact would assume the technology lead and interface with the services and the BMDO team. Richard Bradshaw would be responsible for Weapons; Jess Granone for Discrimination/Phenomenology; Dr. Robert Becker for Lethality; Col. Gregory Stolt for Targets/Range Support; and Dr. Bernard Vatz for Radar/Ladar.

"We hope the whole BMDO community will use this Center's expertise and capabilities to act as the honest broker in the five areas for ongoing and new programs," Hesler said.



HONOREES— Retired Col. Paul Tanguay presented many of his former employees at JTUAV the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service. Seated, from left, are Donald White, Carolie Worsham, Tanguay, Donna Hairell and Tanna Herchenhahn. Standing, from left, are Beverly VanOostrum, Phillip Tucker, Jeffrey Bagwell, James Miller, Ronald McClung, Larry Myres, John Switzer, Ray Sellers, Patricia McInnis, Lisha Adams, James Alexander and William Smithson.

People

- The Joint Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Project Office presented the following awards Nov. 14:
- Lisha Adams, Performance Award
 - LaWanda Allison, Certificate of Achievement
 - Robert Bainbridge, 15 Years Civilian Service
 - Louis Beaufait, Performance Award and 10 Years Civilian Service
 - Roxanne Beggs, Performance Award
 - Sharon Clodfelter, Certificate of Achievement
 - David Easterling, Performance Award
 - Eric Edwards, Performance Award
 - Tanna Herchenhahn, Performance Award
 - Karen McCutchen, Performance Award
 - Linda Payne, Certificate of Achievement
 - Pamela Rembert, Performance Award and 10 Years Civilian Service
 - Ray Sellers, Performance Award and Special Act
 - George Smith, Performance Award
 - William Smithson, Performance Award
 - John Switzer, Performance Award
 - Ann Thomas, Certificate of Achievement, 15 Years Civilian Service, and Performance Award
 - Christine Waldrup, Performance Award
 - Donald White, Performance Award
 - Mary Jane Yost, Certificate of Achievement

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MICOM worker receives award posthumously for 50 years of service

By Skip Vaughn

A MICOM worker was honored posthumously Monday morning in a ceremony at the Sparkman Auditorium.

The family of Jack Forbes, who worked at the Integrated Materiel Management Center, accepted in his honor a 50-year pin and the Superior Civilian Service Award. Forbes, who was 68, died Nov. 19 at his home.

The awards were approved before his death and a presentation ceremony was being scheduled, according to Britt Kerbo, a protocol assistant at the Missile Command.

Forbes' wife, Nancy, who works in the Legal Office, and two sons attended Monday's ceremony. Maj. Gen. James Link, commander of MICOM and Redstone Arsenal, presented the awards.

"He was eligible for retirement some time ago but he kept working because he really wanted to earn his 50-year pin," Nancy Forbes said. "He said before, he'd pass up the \$25,000 bonus to go out if he could earn that pin. He knew he'd earned it (Oct. 21) but he didn't see it.

"That was what he was working for—that was that pin," she added. Forbes had signed his retirement paperwork and was looking forward to retiring Jan. 3.

He planned to continue his hobby of refinishing furniture. Forbes also liked to bowl; and he was in the IMMC mixed bowling league.

Forbes was an equipment specialist at the Integrated Materiel Management Center.

"He got along with everybody," Nancy Forbes said. "He looked for good in all people. He was never critical (of others)."

He was born Jan. 25, 1927 in Gardena, Calif., a suburb of Los Angeles. Forbes entered the Army in April 1945; and trained in the Infantry and Military Police.

He served in Korea from July 1950 to September 1951. Forbes established and ran collection points for enemy prisoners of war in Korea. He served as the primary control for POW food and clothing distribution.

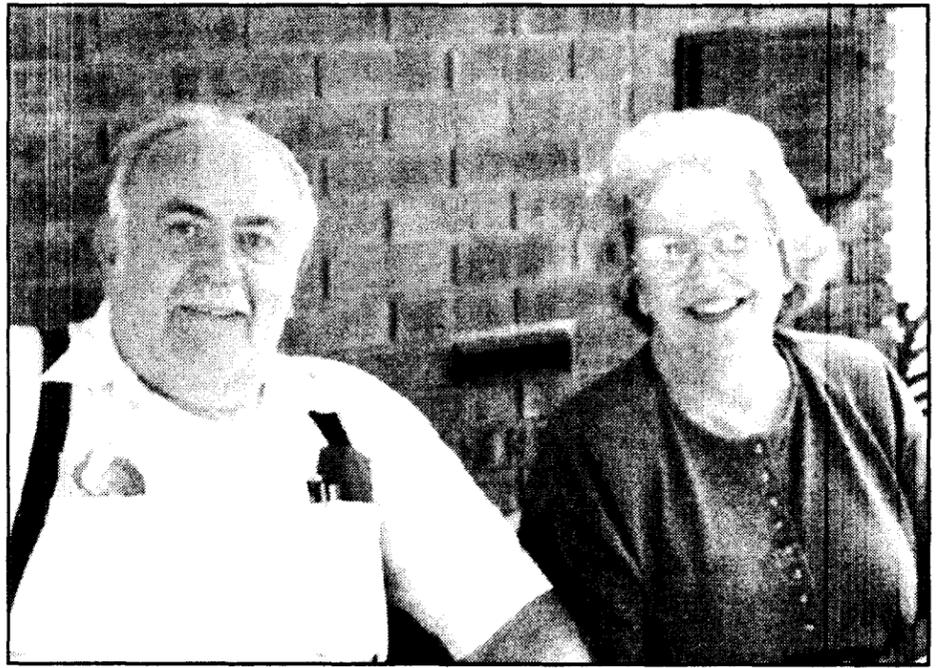
Forbes was trained in Nike Ajax radar/computer repair and served as an enlisted maintenance repairman.

He accepted an appointment as a warrant officer in Air Defense Artillery and served as a maintenance officer on Nike sites in Chicago and Los Angeles.

From 1959-62, Forbes taught Nike system electronics maintenance at the Air Defense School, Fort Bliss, Texas.

From 1962-65, he participated in the early development of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense System—at that time called Zeus, later known as Safeguard. He functioned as the point of contact for all matters dealing with the decoy/warhead discrimination techniques and radar subsystem.

Forbes retired from the military as a



THE FORBES— This photo of Jack Forbes, shown with his wife, Nancy, was taken on Labor Day, Sept. 4. He died Nov. 19.

chief warrant officer 3 in August 1965 at Fort Bliss.

He began his civil service career in March 1966 as an electronics instructor in the Hawk division of the Ordnance School at Redstone.

Forbes moved to what is now the IMMC in November 1978 as an equipment specialist in Initial Materiel Support Division (Provisioning).

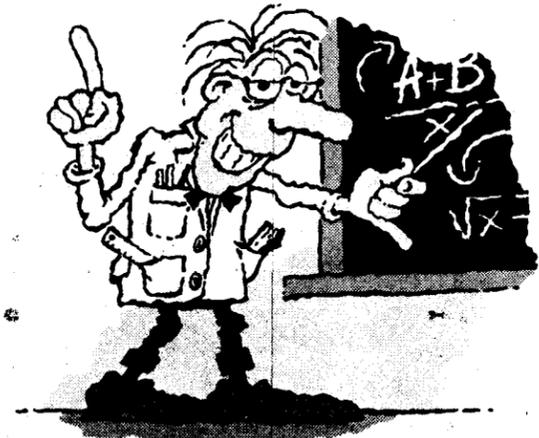
He was married 35 years to Nancy, secretary to the chief counsel of the MICOM Legal Office.

Their twin sons, Edwin and Earl, 27, are both graduates of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Edwin is a floor manager at Delphi Saginaw Division of General Motors in Athens. Earl, who earned an MBA and juris doctorate in 1994, is a practicing attorney in Huntsville.

The funeral was held in Huntsville. Forbes is buried in Maple Hill Cemetery.

Besides his wife and twin sons, survivors include three nieces and a nephew who reside in the Los Angeles area.

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Sports

Soldier volunteers as youth basketball commissioner

By Heather Haring

If you are a parent, then you probably know how hard it is to juggle career and family. SFC Keith Hall knows the hardships of juggling the role of soldier, father and Youth Services volunteer; he's been doing it for 20 years. This season Hall has been appointed basketball commissioner for Youth Services. He readily accepts the appointment and the challenges ahead.

Hall feels that he couldn't balance everything without the great staff at Youth Services along with the tremendous support he receives from his wife, Sandra. "I'm really pleased

with Youth Services here at Redstone; they really do work very hard to put out a quality program," Hall said. "My wife is even a part of this now that she has been placed on the Sports Committee."

You may be wondering just exactly what a basketball commissioner does. Hall will spend the basketball season helping coaches help the children learn the value of instructional, developmental and recreational sportmanship. Shelby Williams, Youth Services director, emphasizes that Hall's position is more essential than merely teaching the coaches and children the game of basketball. "Learning the skill of bas-

ketball is only the by-product of becoming involved," Williams said.

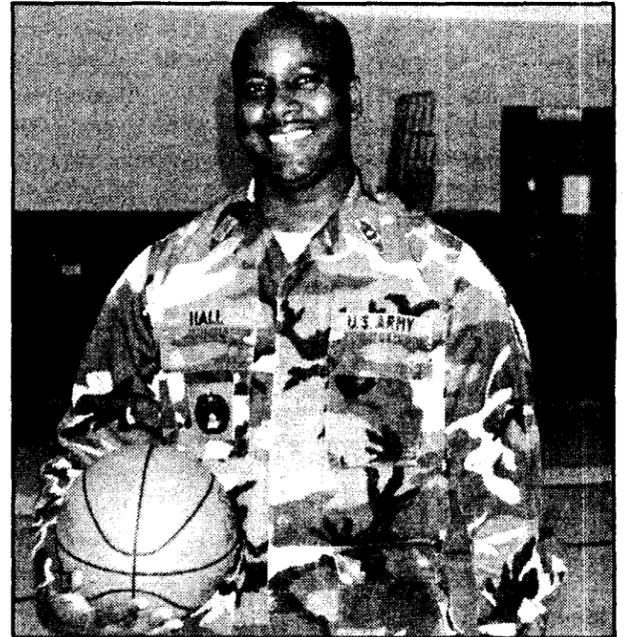
Hall, a native of Miami, Fla., has been in Huntsville for about eight years working in missile maintenance as inspector general of OMMCS. He and his wife have devoted their time to raising their now college-aged fraternal twins and volunteering in the communities where they have lived.

When asked what he felt would be the most important aspect a parent should remember about youth sports, Hall said, "I just cannot overemphasize the importance of supporting the children at their games and practices."

If it isn't possible for the parents to attend because of work, they should really try to work with another family member to show that the family is behind the child. It really gives the children a great sense of pride and security. Home basketball games will be held at the Youth Center so check the Redstone Rocket and/or the Youth Center for times and dates.

For more information on becoming a Youth Services volunteer for any of the Youth Sports, call 876-KIDS.

(Editor's note: Haring is a marketing assistant at the Directorate of Community and Family Activities.)



HALL

Channel Cats invite servicemembers

Huntsville's professional hockey team is providing free entertainment for soldiers and Marines who are here during the Christmas holidays.

The Channel Cats and their general manager, Ted Cox, have donated 300 tickets to the 832nd Ordnance Battalion for their game 7:35 p.m. Saturday at the Von Braun Civic Center. The first sergeants have received

tickets for soldiers and Marines who are away from their families.

SSgt. Vernon Martin, an instructor at the electronics technology training department at Toftoy Hall, coordinated the donation and distribution of tickets to the units. Soldiers and Marines interested in tickets should see their first sergeant.

"I think it's a great opportunity for

the soldiers who are separated from their families," Martin said. "I think it's very generous of the Cats to support the Arsenal, for these (servicemembers) who could have less things to do."

The Cats will be playing the Jacksonville Bullets at the VBCC.

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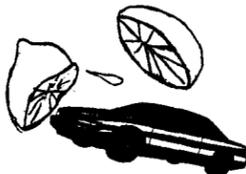
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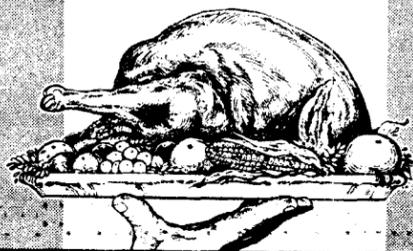
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Sports

Patent attorney stays in shape by skiing the slopes

By Peggy Hays

Hugh Nicholson's quest for a gold medal began 15 years ago. This year he achieved his goal.

"I've got other medals," Nicholson, the chief patent attorney for MICOM's Legal Office, said. "But this is my \$50,000 gold medal."

Nicholson, who began skiing 30 years ago, won his gold medal with a season

best handicap score of 33 for the 1994-95 skiing season in the Budweiser Challenge NASTAR (National Standard Race). The handicap system allows racers to compare themselves to other NASTAR racers across the U.S. "Skiers can compete from all over the U.S. It's slalom racing, that's skiing around poles, and it's timed racing," Nicholson explained. "If

your time is good enough, you can win a medal. I got a 33 and I got me a medal. I had to break 35 to get a gold."

Nicholson's feat, accomplished while skiing at Grand Targhee, Wyo., also placed him second in the state of Alabama in the 60-69 age group for males in the Bud All-Stars NASTAR end-of-season rankings. Nicholson was ranked against U.S. Ski Team member and 1994 Olympic gold medalist, Tommy Moe, along with approximately 190,000 other recreational ski racers. "A pacesetter, an expert skier, goes down the slope first," Nicholson said. "Our handicap is based on how fast the pacesetter goes."

For Nicholson, skiing is a "way of life." "Skiing is one part of a kind of total athletic-type life," he said. "It's kind of funny. When I was a younger guy, a teenager and in my early 20s, I was the least athletic person in school. When I hit my 30s, I became athletic-minded."

In fact, as a youngster growing up, Nicholson described himself as over-weight. A native of Collins-

ville, Nicholson had a penchant for visiting the soda fountain and confectionary counter at his father's drug-store. But now, the attorney runs 3-4 times a week, lifts weights, does flexibility exercises, plays tennis, and prefers being a participant rather than an observer. "I'm a sports-minded person," he said. "I'm always doing something. Now, I work out all the time. I'm always concerned about my weight, what I eat, and how I exercise. I need to be in good physical shape."

He states he's always cognizant of the current research on healthy lifestyles. "When I read things in the paper now, I pay attention. I used to eat steak all the time. But now, I've adjusted my diet."

"The whole attitude about health and age has changed since I was a boy," he said. "For a grown man of 25 or 30 years old to be doing anything in sports, or to be seen running down the street, was just not done when I was a boy."

Through the years, Nicholson's love of skiing has grown, and he believes his skiing skills are better. "There's something about



STATE WINNER— Nicholson shows a NASTAR (National Standard Race) poster ranking the top men and women racers by age groups in Alabama. He placed second among Alabama's 60-69 year-old males in the Bud Challenge public ski racing program.



SKI RACING— Nicholson competes in a 1993 slalom race at Grand Targhee, Wyo.

the mountains that keep me calling," he said. "I've gotten more cautious about skiing as I go along but this is the best score (33) I ever got even when I was younger. My skiing has not diminished really; I think it has

gotten better." "I like the physical conditioning of it. I don't think any one part about it is better. I like being in open areas, in the mountains, in

See SKIING on page 17

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Sports



WELLS



GUDAITIS

December a good month for two golfers

Two golfers hit personal milestones in December at the post golf course.

Ray Gudaitis, a Redstone Golf Course employee, sank a hole-in-one Dec. 1. Carroll Wells, a retired war-

rant officer 4, made a double eagle Dec. 13.

This was the second hole-in-one for Gudaitis. It occurred on hole six, 131 yards; and he used a 9-iron. His playing partners includ-

ed Roy Ponder, Greg Walker and Scott Tillery.

Although he's never had a hole-in-one Wells, 63, has accomplished an even rarer feat: a double eagle (three under par on a hole). Playing from the gold (senior) tees, on a par five, No. 11 hole, Wells hit his second shot 170 yards into the hole with a 6-iron. His playing partners included Jim Waltress, Lloyd Wright and Wade Mordecai.

"There may be others that I am not aware of, but this is only the second double eagle that I am aware of during the 20 years that I have been at Redstone. In comparison, we have 10 to 12 holes-in-one annually," Chip Enlow, the course pro/manager, said.

In other golf news the Redstone Arsenal Support Activity (RASA) Scramble was held Dec. 14. This tournament had a scramble

format, ABCD player mix. The winning team consisted of Gudaitis, Lee Hicks, Helen Roadarmel and Scott Youngmans; they had a score of one under par, 71.

"Although we had a small turnout for this one (4 teams), everyone seemed to have a great time," Enlow said. "We plan to have at least two of these tournaments each year. The winners' names will be inscribed on a plaque that will remain in the clubhouse."

The only charge for the tournament was greens fees and cart fees. There was a post-tournament social with hors d'oeuvres.



Getting in the act...

Everyone seems to be involved with different Christmas activities, including reindeer. The fire station on Vincent Road put a display complete with wooden cut-outs of Santa caught in different situations. This reindeer seems to be taking his job of a volunteer fireman seriously as he puts out a fire in Santa's sack.

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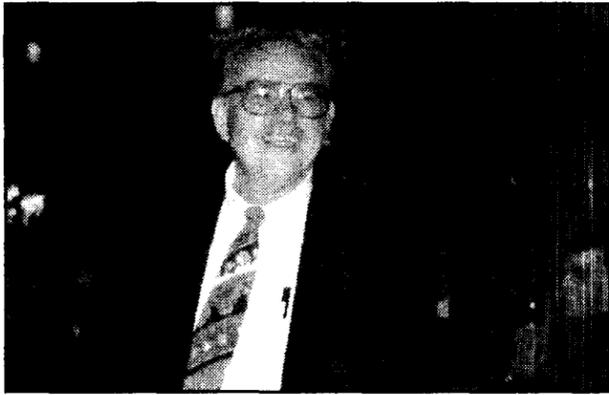
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CIC folks make Christmas donation to Salvation Army

Members of the Corporate Information Center have helped make Christmas bright for many needy families by donating more than 200 new toys and \$200 to the Salvation Army.

CIC people presented their donations at their Christmas luncheon Dec. 5 at the Holiday Inn, Madison Square. Judy Gooch, representative from the Salvation Army, accepted the gifts and thanked the attendees for the largest amount of toys ever donated to the Salvation Army.

Gooch expressed her appreciation that the CIC chose this means of contributing since the gifts can be used to supplement the Angel Tree. She said that



BEST WISHES— Watson wishes everyone in CIC a merry Christmas.

sometimes Angels are adopted but in the midst of the busy season, their gifts are neglected and the Salvation Army must rush at the last minute to fulfill the obligation.

Donated toys, like those given by CIC people, are set

up to be viewed by parents for selection of three toys on a child's wish list.

Max Watson, the corporate information officer, thanked the 200-plus workers for their generosity in making this Christmas special for others.



FOR THE ANGELS— The more than 200 new toys donated to the Salvation Army will supplement the Angel Tree.

SKIING

Continued from page 15

the snow. To me, that is great. It is a feeling unto itself. It's great just being there."

How about the downhill? Is he now or has he ever had a desire to be a downhiller? No, never. "Downhill is much more dangerous because of the speed," Nicholson said. "You don't get that speed with the angles you take in slalom. Downhill can get you killed."

Nicholson will be returning to the slopes in January for about a month-long stay. Look for his return to the rankings next year as he still takes ski lessons and seeks improvement. "I took a lesson just before my (winning) run," he said. "I think that really helped. Without taking a lesson once in awhile, you drift into bad habits."

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RATS

Continued from page 1

review the various test systems and select one for implementation Defensewide beginning January 1997.

"Our RATS system has been briefed and demonstrated several times in the last several months and it's receiving some very favorable comments and recognition. We're hopeful it can be used as a DoD system; but in any respect, it will definitely benefit MICOM," Cantrell said.

Under the old travel order process, a traveler had to use three forms: SMI 1305, DD 1610, and DD 1351-2. Form 1305 was issued to the transportation office with the traveler's requirements; and it was necessary to get the airline schedules and to make reservations. Form 1610 went through at least three signature authorities, in addition to the budget office, in most organizations. Form 1351-2 was initiated by the traveler, reviewed by his or her supervisor, and sent to the finance office for computation and payment.

Under the RATS system, the traveler initiates his or her request on a personal computer; and routes it electronically to the Commercial Travel Office which provides should-cost data for airlines, lodging and

rental car. The travel request is sent electronically to a single signature authority for approval. Based upon approval, the Commercial Travel Office receives notification electronically to confirm reservations. Data goes directly back to the traveler through the automated system and generates a trip record which will be used as a final product for reimbursement after completion of the trip.

Once the traveler returns from the trip, he will submit his actual itinerary and expenses electronically to his approving official.

Under the old process, a traveler had to keep all receipts in excess of \$25 and forward all receipts to finance. Under the new process, a traveler is responsible for maintaining all receipts in excess of \$75 other than lodging—all lodging receipts must be kept regardless of the cost. The traveler will forward these receipts to his approving official in order for him to validate expenses claimed. After approval a check or electronic funds transfer (EFT) payment is then automatically processed for the traveler.

The traveler is responsible for keeping his receipts for three years as an auditable record. There will be random prepayment and postpayment audits per-

formed by the Defense Accounting Office. Claimants audited will be required to send receipts to the finance office for audit purposes.

"The new travel process reduces the number of steps required for a traveler to be reimbursed for his travel payments," Cantrell said.

Government travelers are urged to use their American Express credit cards. "Under the new process, all reservations will be charged to the traveler's individual American Express cards to include airline reservations," Cantrell said. "Major emphasis is being placed on electronic funds transfer for all travel payments.

"Effective Nov. 1, EFT became mandatory for all military travel payments. They're encouraging maximized usage of EFT for all civilian travel payments; and it is being negotiated with unions at the national level to make it mandatory for civilians also," she said.

Another feature of the new system is that the traveler can elect a split payment which enables him to have his American Express bill paid directly to American Express, and any additional amounts of entitlements sent to him.

"This system interfaces with numerous data bases

See RATS on page 19



Tree Trimming..

Trimming the Christmas tree at Resource Management Directorate are, from left, Tina Bragg, Col. Kent Miller, Carolyn Collier and Judy York.

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RATS

Continued from page 18

to extract data and prevent the traveler from having to manually insert onto the new forms; to include both the military and civilian personnel systems, local security files, a traveler's profile, signature card file, the SOMARDS financial data base, American Express, and AFES (Automated Financial Entitlements System)—that's the system that computes your travel payments," Cantrell said.

The Defense Accounting Office processes about 65,000 travel vouchers each year from MICOM and tenant organizations. Cantrell, who has worked in finance for 22 years, said the new system is "fantastic."

"This is a major system," she said. "It's the greatest challenge I've ever had in my career."

Members of the MICOM Reengineered Travel Team responsible for the design and development of the RATS system include Young of the Corporate Information Center, Gary Paseur of Resource Management, Margie Wallace of Directorate of Logistics, and Cantrell.

Programmers from Corporate Information Center involved in this tasking included Mark Sommers, Dave Miller, Wayne Kostencki, Michael Lang, Mike Timberlake, Susan Caldwell, Joan Poma, Sherman Spencer, Kathy Yocom and Donna Givens. Ann Howard, chief of travel

pay at Defense Finance and Accounting Office, has interpreted new regulations and certified the computation module in the new RATS system.

Test sites for the new DoD travel system, besides MICOM, include the following:

- Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington; Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Headquarters, Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Ga.; Headquarters 6th Area Support Group, Stuttgart, Germany; Army Corps of Engineers' Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Miss.; Army Corps of Engineers' Ohio River Division, Cincinnati; Army Audit Agency, Alexandria, Va.; Army Materiel Command, Alexandria, Va.
- Navy Personnel Support Activity, Norfolk, Va., and commander in chief, Atlantic Fleet; Naval Air Systems Command, Arlington, Va.; Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center, Research Development Test and



FIRST REQUEST— Lorraine Young, left, of Corporate Information Center, assists as the first travel request through RATS is entered by Irene Garoppo, chief of the internal program management team at Integrated Materiel Management Center.

Evaluation Division, San Diego; Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, Calif.; Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport, R.I.; Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort,

S.C.; Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans; Dover Air Force Base, Del.; Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; Petersen Air Force Base, Colo.; Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.; Air Combat Command Headquarters and 1st Wing, Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Services; Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Kansas City Center, Kansas City, Mo.; Defense Commissary Agency, Headquarters and Operations Center, Fort Lee, Va.; Defense Logistics Agency, Administrative Support Center, Fort Belvoir, Va.; Defense Mapping Agency (multiple locations); and the Defense Nuclear Agency, Alexandria, Va.



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- House Construction
- House Wiring
- HVAC I
- Machine Shop
- Microstation 32, CAD
- Small Engine Repair
- MS-DOS 6.0 Introduction
- Microsoft Power Point 4.0, Intro
- C Programming

Wednesday

- Heart Healthy Cooking
- Auto CAD, (Rel. 12.0 Windows)
- Mechanical Drafting, Board
- Microsoft Windows, Intro
- Word Perfect for Windows 6.0, Intro
- Electronics/Soldering, Basic
- Applied Communications (Language Improvement)
- Computer Keyboarding
- C++ Programming

Thursday

- Intro to Accounting
- Auto Body Repair, Advanced
- Auto CAD (Rel. 12.0 Windows)
- Basic Cabinetmaking
- Microsoft Word, Intro 6.0
- Healthy Gourmet Cooking
- HVAC II
- Welding Practice, II
- Microsoft Windows

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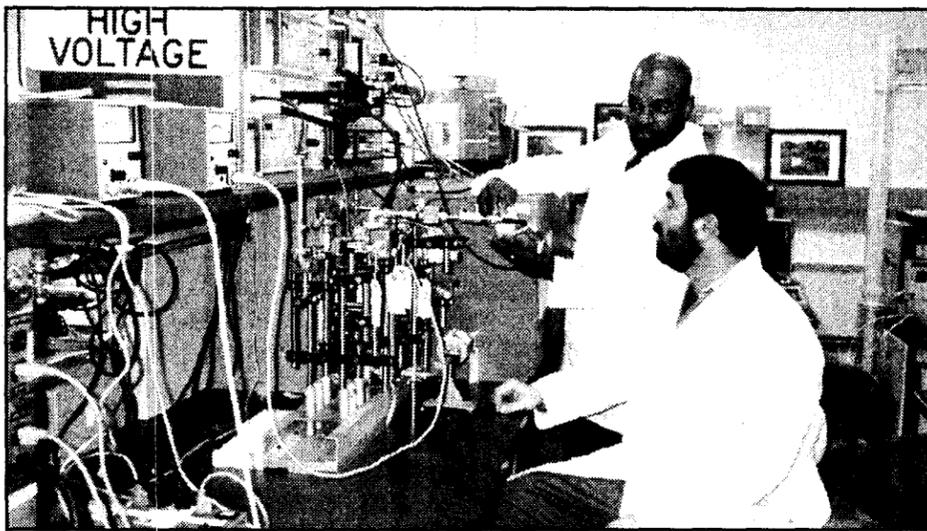
Tuesday

- Auto Body Repair, I
- Autocad, (Rel. 12.0 Windows)
- Auto Tune-up & Gen. Maintenance
- Brick & Block Masonry
- Cabinetmaking, Advanced
- Welding Practice, I
- Microsoft Excel, Intro
- Intro Automated Accounting, Window
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TMDE

Continued from page 1

standards laboratory within the Primary Standards Lab, said. "All the weapon systems that he uses depend for their overall accuracy on the basic measurement or calibration support that we provide here."

The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, dates back to 1976. "Last year is the first year they began accrediting standards laboratories, such as us, in these basic measurement parameters," Tarr said.

Private industrywide, there are more than 700 metrology laboratories in the United States. The government has an additional 100 measurement labs including the military's three primary standards labs: Army, Navy and Air Force.

"Basically we calibrate a test instrument to make sure that instrument is reading to

a certain degree of accuracy," David Hargett, a mechanical engineer in the physical standards lab, said. "Accreditation puts a stamp of approval on your basic qualifications."

The accreditation process was "no easy task," according to Rusty Kauffman, a physicist in the physical standards lab. An initial briefing in November 1994 led to the creation of the lab's two-volume Quality Manual. An on-site inspection team visited for three days in late September.

"It's also an ongoing thing," Kauffman said. "We have entered into an agreement with NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) through the accreditation program. They make annual reviews. Also, every few years they review our calibration processes." In addition, the standards lab here may be called on to inspect laboratories elsewhere.

The Primary Standards Lab consists of about 100

Army civilian workers including scientists, engineers and technicians. Division chiefs include Tarr, electrical standards; John Ball, physical standards; Patrick Kuykendall, radiation; and Tommy Robinson, production and control.

"We do about 17,000 calibrations per year, and these items come in from Army users all over the world," Tarr said. The entire TMDE Activity performs 650,000 calibrations of Army items worldwide each year.

Items calibrated at the primary standards lab include a standard platinum-resistance thermometer, thermistor mount-power standards (to measure microwave power), DC voltage standards, frequency, large area alpha sources, mass (weights) and length (gage blocks).

Announcements

Thrift Shop— The Thrift Shop will be closed for Christmas Dec. 22 and will reopen Jan. 3. The staff at the Thrift Shop wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

PX hours— Post Exchange facilities will operate with the following holiday hours: Dec. 24, all facilities will close at 6 p.m. Dec. 25, One-Stop (Shoppette/Class Six/Gaslines) open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and all other facilities closed. Dec. 31, Main Store 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; One-Stop 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Burger King, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Theater closed; and Car Care closed. Jan. 1, Main Store 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; One-Stop 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Burger King 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; MCSS closed; and Car Care closed.

Saint Barbara Day— The annual Saint Barbara Celebration will be held Jan. 12 at the Officers Club from 6:30-10:30 p.m. For more information, call Renee McArdle 842-2682.

Christmas trees— All offices, day rooms, military personnel on active duty, and other activities requiring Christmas trees, are authorized to cut trees on a self-help basis in the area north-east of the Ammunition

Supply Point (ASP) area which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees shall not be cut for commercial or unauthorized use. Travel will be limited and controlled by daily check-in with ASP personnel at building 2592. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Trees should be cut by Dec. 24 during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information and location map, contact personnel at Outdoor Recreation building 5132, 876-4868.

RSIC holiday hours— The Redstone Scientific Information Center, building 4484, has the following Christmas holiday schedule: Dec. 22, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Dec. 23, 25 and 26, closed; Dec. 27-29, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.; Dec. 30 and Jan. 1, closed. Regular hours, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., will resume Jan. 2.

Alcoholics anonymous.

— The Redstone Arsenal Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Wednesday at noon and Friday at 5:15 p.m. in room 11 of the Bicentennial Chapel.

Quarterly post run— The CG's Quarterly Post Run will be held 5:30 a.m. Jan. 19 at the parade field. In support of the run, the Child Development Center will open that morning at 4:15. For more information call SFC Walter Jones, of Redstone Arsenal Support Activity's support operations, 842-2500.

See ANNOUNCEMENTS page 22

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REGIONAL RESTAURANT GUIDE

The Rack Cafe combines sports and food

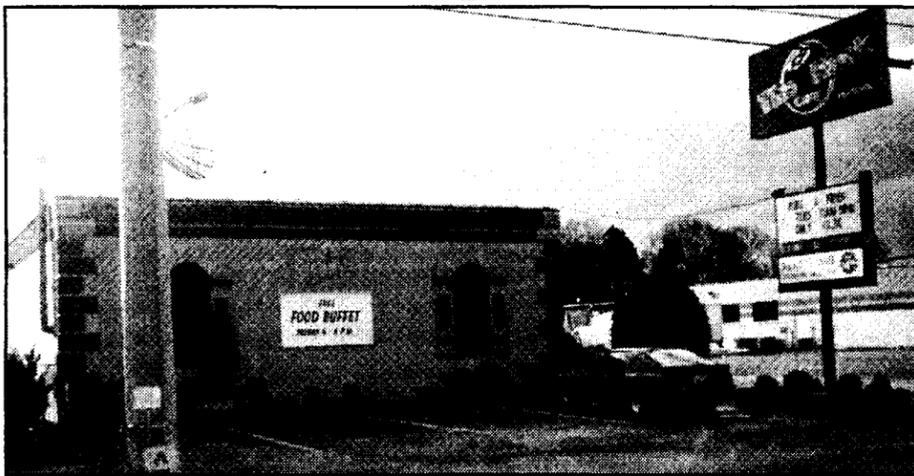
Huntsville sports fans have a place to go and enjoy the game, as well as grab a bite to eat. The Rack Cafe, 2703 N.W. University Drive, features a 12 ft. television, as well as a total of 35 televisions strategically located throughout the building, including the restrooms.

The Rack not only features televisions and top of the line pool tables, but has a wide variety of menu items sure to please everyone.

Included on the menu are daily specials, sandwiches, hamburgers, complete dinners and appetizers.

"We have a little bit of everything," manager John Bzdell said. "Our best selling item is the seven ounce rib eye steak dinner we have on special every Thursday." The steak dinner sells for \$4.95 and according to Bzdell, several hundred are sold each Thursday.

Other daily specials include sizzling fajitas, pool room burg-



er, catfish dinner, steak and shrimp, and a 12 ounce hamburger steak.

The specials are offered daily from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. and range in price from \$2.95 to \$7.95.

If you are in the mood for a game of pool, The Rack Cafe can also satisfy your needs. Ten Peter Vitalie pool tables are located in the restaurant and a game can always be found in

progress.

The Rack Cafe also features live music every Friday night, with bands such as the Cosmic Mama's, Ground Level Sound and Microwave Dave and the Nukes playing until midnight.

"We always have something going on here," Bzdell said. "We have a giant Super Bowl party planned in January, compete with a disc jockey calling football fowl-ups. We will play musical

chairs at half time, and will generally have a good time." All of the money raised at the party will be donated to Muscular Dystrophy. According to Bzdell the restaurant donated \$5,000 to MDA last year from monies raised at various events held at The Rack.

The restaurant is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 2 a.m. and Saturday and Sunday 4 p.m. until 2 a.m.

Come to this party, and you won't go home 'til next year

We regretfully typed the wrong price on 12/13/95. Ad. The correct price is \$169.00 per couple & Season's Restaurant Dinner \$12.96 Per Person

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• SEASONS RESTAURANT. Steak and Shrimp Dinner
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Announcements

Continued from page 20

Red Cross blood program— Here is this month's schedule for the Red Cross Blood Program: Dec. 21, building 5250, from 7-noon, Judy Hullett 876-0789. Dec. 22, SSDC (Wynn Drive), from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Al Longhi 955-4164; and Corps of Engineers from 7:30-11:30 a.m., Nancy Villasana 895-1233.

NCO spouses— The Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club will conduct its gift-wrapping booth in the PX mall hallway through Dec. 24. The times are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays. Proceeds go toward scholarships and charity organizations both on and off post. Thelma Way is chairman; and Mary Parrish is co-chairman. For more information, call 772-3342 or 859-0340.

Firewood cutting— Although firewood availability is scarce on Redstone Arsenal this year, \$10 fuelwood permits with location map to cut firewood on the installation may be purchased at the Directorate of Public Works, installation management office in building 111, room 231, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday

through Friday for the day of cutting only. Permits to cut wood on weekends and holidays can be purchased the day before the holiday or weekend. Present a military ID or civilian badge to purchase a permit. For more information, call 876-3122 or 955-0296.

Post Theater movies— Friday, "Pocahontas," G, 81 minutes. Showtime is 7 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.25 for children. The Post Theater will be closed during the Christmas holidays Dec. 23-31.

Christmas services— Christmas services at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will begin on Sunday, Dec. 24 as follows: 8:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist; 10:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, lessons and carols; 5 p.m., children's Eucharist, children's pageant; and 11 p.m., Midnight Mass. St. Stephen's is located at 8020 Whitesburg Drive. The public is invited to attend the services.

Christmas play— Theatre 'Round the Corner presents The Farndale Avenue Housing Estates Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of "A Christmas Carol" through Dec. 31. Ticket prices are:

Wednesday \$10, Thursday and Sunday \$13, and Friday and Saturday \$15/\$13.50. Costs for children under 10 are \$8. For more information, call 539-PLAY.

Rape survivors— HELPLINE's Survivors of Rape support group meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. For more information, call 539-6161.

OWC merit awards— Applications for merit awards offered by the Officers Wives Club are now available in the following categories: high school senior, college level, or military spouse. The applicants must be family members of officers and hold a military ID card, with primary residence in the Huntsville area. Deadline to apply is March 9, 1996. Applications can be obtained by written request to Helen Hickman, 14374 Hunter Road, Harvest 35749.

Speechcraft— If you fear public speaking, Speechcraft can teach you how to construct and deliver a speech. The Tennessee Valley Toastmasters Club will con-

duct Speechcraft during eight consecutive Thursday evening sessions, beginning Jan. 18 at 6:30, at the Crestwood Hospital cafeteria training room. Total cost is \$15. For more information, call Nell Donlin 859-0034 or Mike Lindsey 551-0774.

Cajun dance— Cajun-Zydeco Dance will be held 7-9 p.m. Dec. 27 at Gorins Ice Cream Shop, 101 Washington St.

Newcomers club— The Greater Huntsville Newcomers Club will hold its monthly get-acquainted coffee at 10 a.m. Jan. 2 at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library auditorium, 915 Monroe SW. Any new resident to the area within the past three years is invited. There is no fee, and reservations are not required. Mothers with young children who are new to the area meet at the same time in rooms A and B at the library. For more information, call 430-0535 or 880-1798.

Reenlistment NCOs— Redstone will host the Army

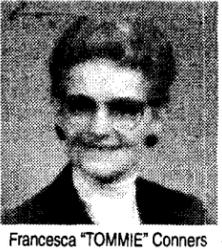
Recruiter and Retention School, Additional Duty Reenlistment NCO Training seminar, from Jan. 16-19. All reenlistment NCOs are encouraged to attend. Commanders and leaders are encouraged to attend the class titled "America Army Retention Program" from 1-2:30 p.m. Jan. 18. For more information, call your battalion career counselor or 59th Ordnance Brigade 876-1869/6813.

MICOM hail/farewell— The second quarter 1996 MICOM Hail and Farewell will be held 4-6 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Officers Club. With the theme "Bon Voyage," this event will welcome new employees and officers assigned to Redstone during October

through December 1995. It will also send off personnel scheduled to leave the command or retire through April 1996. Honorees for this last category include GS-11s and above, and officers assigned to Redstone. Reservations with the \$4 fee may be made no later than noon Jan. 3 to the MICOM Protocol Office, AMSMI-PR, Attn: Sarah, room 5590, building 5300, fax 876-4864 or by e-mail to lmobile@cmdgrp. Cost is \$4 per person and includes entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, and spirits at the cash bar. To submit honorees from your directorate, division or section, call ISD's Mae Hargrove or Peggy Adams 876-4678/3701 or fax 876-1958.



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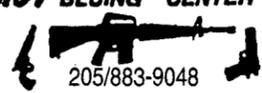


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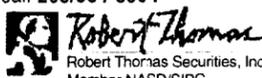
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According to the Inspector General, the use of office phone numbers in classified advertising is contrary to regulation. Please submit home phone numbers only.

• Auto •

'94 Tercel, 4 sp., 2 dr., stereo, 21K mi. \$8000. (205) 586-6937 after 5 pm.

'93 Eagle Talon ES, white, 5 sp., PW, PDL, cruise, 54K mi. \$10,200. 650-0717.

'93 Ford Explorer XLT, perfect cond., auto, green, low mi., 4 dr., new tires. \$17,500. 772-4178.

'93 GMC Tiara conv. van, white 28K mi., rear a/c, all power. Under warranty. \$17,200 obo. 895-0101, lv. msg.

'93 Toyota Camry LE, gold pkg, garaged since new. Perfect cond. NADA value \$16,100, asking \$14,300. 883-6894.

'92 Dodge Grand Caravan, \$9900. Honda 70 Fourtrax four-wheeler, \$1100. Yamaha Timberwolf 4W, \$2850. (205) 233-1038.

'91 Eagle Talon, blue, auto, PW, PDL, 67K mi., one owner, well maintained. \$7500. 852-5046.

'90 Chevy Lumina Euro Sport, 3.1 Litre V6, auto, loaded, orig. owner, 66K mi., (205) 350-6181.

'90 Geo Prism LSI, white, auto, PW, PDL, tilt, cruise, AC, stereo, 95K mi. \$4800. 828-9430.

'89 BMW 325is, red/tan leather, 121K mi., exc. mech./cosmetic cond., \$10,500 neg. 830-9463.

'88 GMC full size hi-top van, 71K mi., TV, wired for VCR. \$12,000. 536-4718 after 5 pm.

'84 Honda Civic, 4 dr., a/c, stereo, 140K mi. and still going strong. \$1200. 852-9537.

'79 Cutlass Supreme, exc. int., new exhaust, stereo, runs good. \$1100. (205) 233-2924 after 5 pm.

• Miscellaneous •

Baby items, stroller, high chair, monitor, toys, playpen, girls clothing (0-24 mo.), many more items. 461-6013 or 852-5622.

Bart Starr prime fit exercycle. Like new, \$75. 650-4644 after 5 pm.

Commodore 64 computer, 13" GE color TV as monitor. Commodore 1525 printer, 1541 disk

drive, all in exc. cond., books and programs. \$150. 881-7477.

Conn Alto saxophone, \$350, exc. cond., (615) 937-8944.

'85 Sunline 15 1/2'. Heater, air, oven, shower, toilet, awning, one owner, exc. cond., \$4000. 837-7573.

18 Cu. ft. deluxe whirlpool refrig., almond, 225 spill glass shelf, exc. cond. \$225. 883-9774.

Dog, Shih-Tzu poodle, spayed, 3 yrs. AKC sire/dame. \$10. Kenmore washer/dryer. \$75. Robert 851-7815.

Electric water heater, 50 gal, new elements & thermostats, works good, must pick up, \$30. 883-2757.

Figurines. Private collection of Ispanky, Boehm and Kaiser porcelain. Wonderful holiday gifts. 461-0899, Madison.

486-22 PCIII portable computer. 8MB RAM, 210/420 MB HDD, 1.4 MB FDD, plasma display, SVGA port, 5 expansion slots, \$900. 830-5097 after 6 pm.

For your special lady, white gold bridal set with .33 ctw pear-shaped diamond. Appraisal \$1250, asking \$750 obo. 461-0384.

General XP 2000 tire. Size P235 70R15 (102T), \$25. Sharp Microwave, \$50. 837-6911.

Gorgeous wedding gown with cathedral train. Size 4. Jennyn Lynn maple crib & Sealy baby mattress, good cond. 461-0110 after 5 pm.

IBM PC compatible computer, 25 MH, 3.5 and 5.25 disk drive, 5 MB RAM expandable to 16. 680 hard drive, modem, super VGA monitor, color printer. \$750. 882-2950.

King size water bed, semi-waveless mattress, pad, heater, liner, fill kit, pillow cases. \$100. 461-8843.

Little Tykes beauty salon w/ acc./swivel chair, \$40. Girls 20" Barbie bike and helmet, exc. cond., \$40. 430-0943.

Peavy Classic Chorus 212 guitar amp, \$250. Marshall JCM 800 100w guitar amp, exc. cond. \$700. 721-0725 after 7 pm.

Scuba Gear. Mens USD Calypso BC, \$190. Women's (M) wet suit, \$89. Booties, \$20. Gloves, \$15. S.E. Divers appraised. 883-1510.

Sofa, \$195. Dark mink fur jacket, \$295. Men's brown leather car coat, 42R, \$60. All in exc. cond. 883-7012.

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3 way spkrs, \$40. Microwave stand, \$60. Video tape storage, \$10. Cassette storage, \$5 and \$1. 464-0568.

2 end tables, ivory lacquer/brass and glass. 721-0614.

Want to buy Leggos or similar items, don't need instr., just pics, for little boy's Christmas, 539-5462.

Want to buy Super Nintendo games for 5 yr. old boy. Specifically Tom & Jerry and Mickey Mouse Mania. 828-6057.

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