

Redstone Rocket

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November 10, 1999

Energy front lines

Individual efforts encouraged for ongoing war against energy waste

By Sandy Riebeling

The Army is famous for lighting up the night sky during the heat of battle—and usually that's a good thing. But when the theater is Redstone Arsenal and the mission is energy conservation, the cover of darkness may be the best weapon.

Employees seem to be getting the message. Energy usage for fiscal year '99 was decreased by more than \$1 million over the previous year. The Arsenal spent

\$34,833,166 last year and \$35,942,901 for FY '98.

Energy bills for the Arsenal last year included \$18.7 million in electricity, \$14.9 million in steam and \$1.1 million in natural gas. Several factors affected the expenditures for the year, including a milder summer and winter than the year before. Prices per kilowatt hour for electricity increased slightly last year. Offsetting that increase was the improved condensate return of

See Energy on page 16

Hellfire II continues serving after Army's last purchase

By Sandy Riebeling

After a successful test flight of four missiles randomly selected from the lot, the Army is ready to accept the last shipment of Hellfire II missiles from makers Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

"The Hellfire II is a great missile," Lt. Col. Carl Runyon, deputy project manager for the Air-to-Ground Missile Systems Project Office, said. "This last buy in December will end the Army's procurement status but it will still be used by the

Navy, Marine Corps and in Foreign Military Sales. With this purchase, the Army will have 8,758 missiles ready to be deployed. That should meet the need up until the year 2008."

The Hellfire II is a semi-active laser guided missile with point target capability fired by the Army's Apache and other helicopters against tanks or other ground targets. Production for the Hellfire II began in 1993. Program acquisition cost is \$53,000 per missile.

See Hellfire on page 8



Courtesy graphic

FIREPOWER— With this last purchase of Hellfire II missiles, launched here from an Apache, the Army's inventory will exceed 8,500 missiles.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HOMESPUN FUN— IMMC employee Linda Miller-King gets a mini-weaving lesson from Florence Murphy, weaving instructor at the Senior Center, during the CFC bus tour last week.

CFC funds at work

Bus tour to local charities focuses on needs of the community

By Sandy Riebeling

Ever wonder what happens to the money or items you donate to a charity? Twenty some people loaded on a bus Nov. 3 to get an up-close and personal look at two local charities and how they work to meet the needs of the community.

Bus tours sponsored by Redstone organizations are commonplace during the Combined Federal Campaign. The tours allow employees to take a few hours and visit charities in the area that are directly benefited by the donations and support of the CFC.

This particular tour was one of several conducted by the Integrated Materiel Management Center with Christmas Charities and the Senior Center as the designated stops. A couple of people had been to one place or the other but for the most part, this was a new experience.

We pulled into the parking lot of Christmas Charities and off loaded. Wanda Ashby, a representative of the organization, ushered the group into the lobby of a building that warehoused mostly clothing items.

See CFC on page 15



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

SANTA'S HELPERS — Christmas Charities in downtown Huntsville receives approximately 2,500 applications from needy families for a little help during the holidays. Mastin, center, and Flinn, right, help a Christmas Charities employee stuff a bag of toys for a little girl.

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Letters to the editor

Veterans Day thoughts

This issue of the Rocket is on the Marine Corps birthday, one day before Veterans Day. Every time it gets to be this time of year, I reflect on my family. I always remember the Marines because my dad was in the Corps on Iwo Jima in WW II and I was up north with Echo 2/7, 1st Marine Division in the old RVN.

For some reason, my first thought goes to my grandfather's Army experience. Since he was my mother's father, I knew him very well and fished with him until the last few years of his life. He died in 1979.

Apparently his Rebel grandfather talked to him as he talked to me about his war experiences. That made our family history real. His grandfather carried a Yankee bullet in his leg from the Battle of Springfield in 1864. His wife, my grandmother, came from a family who consisted of Yanks from Alabama. Her grandfather had been wounded in the Union Army and her great-grandfather had died in service. Most of my other ancestors from my dad's side of the family were Rebs. Nearly every one of them who survived had a brother or father die in that dreadful war.

My grandfather was in the Rainbow Division in WW I. I think MacArthur commanded it or at least one of the brigades. One of my dad's uncles was in The Lost Battalion. Another of his uncles had been involved in hand-to-hand fighting with the Germans for quite a long period. He had killed men with his trench knife. Both of his uncles were fortunate to have survived.

My grandfather was in the trenches at the front lines when the Armistice occurred. His unit had marched across France and had just arrived at the front as November 1918 approached.

On the way, he viewed some of the 1.8 million French combat dead. They had been in a trench. The Germans had found the range just short of the trench and caved in the dirt over them. Their rifles and bayonets protruded from the ground. That was their grave. The French never dug up the bodies.

As they neared the front, the Germans shelled them and they took casualties. In early November they received orders to occupy front-line trenches. This they did. The shelling increased. The air had a whiff of mustard gas. Small arms fire flew over their heads. They were notified that they would go over the top in a frontal assault on Nov. 11. Then they received rumors of

peace negotiations. Then command confirmed the rumors. Everyone was afraid negotiations would fall apart. Then as the 11th hour approached on the 11th day, everyone tried to be the last man to fire a round in the war. Then it was quiet.

After the shelling and shooting stopped, Germans waved white flags and stood up in front of their trenches. They shouted Kamaraden! They laid down their rifles, and walked into no-man's land. The Americans came out of their trenches and walked to the Germans. Many of the men who had been in the trenches for any length of time hated the Germans.

In 1967 I worked with an old man who lied about his age and enlisted at 14 to fight in the Great War. One of his buddies did the same thing. I once watched them drink a bottle of vodka at work and laugh about the time they had tied a bunch of German prisoners together and shoved an activated grenade down the back of the shirt of one of them. War changes men: their values and humor. Lt. Calley massacre in Vietnam wasn't anything new. These men had been told the Germans were sub-human. They were Huns, destroyers of civilization itself. They supposedly raped nuns, sank Red Cross ships, and murdered Belgium children. Of course the facts were different. The cargo manifest of the passenger ship Lusitania was classified until 1972. The captain of that ship was so afraid that the cargo would become public that instead of beaching the ship after it had been torpedoed, he headed to deep water. The results were catastrophic to the passengers. The ship itself was armed with guns and carried gun cotton in its hold. Gun cotton was used for making artillery shells. If this had been made public, President Wilson, the great defender of democracy, would have been impeached and the U.S. would have probably remained neutral. The newspapers covering the story didn't show pictures of the guns; only pictures of drowned children.

Soon, the survivors of the war thanked God for having survived the war and broke down their hatred. They shared cigarettes with the Germans and looked at pictures of each other's families. After a few minutes, men who had tried to kill each other only a short time before were brothers. At least for a while, sanity prevailed. "Only the dead have seen the end of war." — Plato circa 350 BC

Name withheld by request

Marine Corps birthday

Two hundred and twenty-four years ago, the Second Continental Congress created a Corps of Marines to defend the American Colonies and to fight for the rich blessings of liberty and democracy.

The Marines from the Marine Corps Detachment, Redstone Arsenal, would like to wish all active duty, reserve, retired, and former Marines a happy 224th Marine Corps Birthday. Semper Fidelis!

Maj. Tom Neis

Commander, Marine Corps Detachment

Mutual aid agreements

Redstone firefighters count on local community's support

John 15:13 - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

By Dan O'Boyle

The framed scripture hanging on the wall of the Rideout Road Fire Station not only is the firefighter's motto, but also speaks to a unique community commitment.

"Our community here in North Alabama has been well served over the years by mutual aid agreements and memos of understanding with more than 30 fire departments and agencies," Chief Thomas Stephens, Redstone Arsenal Fire Department, said. "When the four-plex at 507 Walnut Circle went up in flames on April 12th, and a grass fire in Test Area 1

spread on Sept. 14, we sent out mutual aid requests for help. The responses, in both instances, were overwhelming. The level of cooperation we received, and have received, is truly gratifying."

Two pumper trucks and six firefighters from the Huntsville Fire Department responded to the four-plex, while Hazel Green, Monrovia, Huntsville FD, and the State Forestry Department sent a variety of equipment and a number of firefighters to the TA 1 fire.

"Firefighting, in and of itself, is not an easy job," Stephens said. "But having such outstanding community support and cooperation makes the job easier. Whenever we've ever needed anything or required anything, everyone and everything we've ever asked for has arrived — quickly.

See Firefighters on page 24

Savings from AMCOM programs expected to top \$411 million

By John C. Hale

Fiscal year 1999 was another successful year for AMCOM's Operating and Support Cost Reduction program. Four projects were contracted under the program in aviation systems and three were contracted for missile systems. The initial investment required for the seven projects totaled \$3.178 million. Field savings over 10 years are projected to exceed \$154 million, \$110 and \$44 million for aviation and missile projects respectively.

The OSCR program, managed by the Army Materiel Command, counts 10 years of field savings generated by an initiative. It

funds engineering design efforts that reduce secondary item cost, extends the life of an item or improves an item's maintainability.

Fiscal '99 was also another record year for the AMCOM Value Engineering program. The VE Office finalized 97 government generated Value Engineering Proposals and four contractor initiated Value Engineering Change Proposals during the year. The 101 initiatives are projected to save over \$257 million, or 322 percent of AMCOM's FY '99 VE goal of \$80 million. The VE program is only allowed to count the first three years of savings generated by an initiative.

See Savings on page 24

Redstone Rocket

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Army reservist brings unique past to ROTC classroom

By Joe Skoglund

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Growing up in war-torn South Vietnam in the 1960s and '70s, Khanh Pham never dreamed he would someday escape to the United States, graduate from college and be commissioned an officer in the U.S. Army. But that's precisely what he did.

Today, Capt. Khanh Pham is one of 16 soldiers from the Army Reserve 84th Division (Institutional Training) serving as ROTC cadre at Marquette University here. He brings an unusual background to the classroom.

Pham escaped from communist Vietnam in 1979 aboard a small boat and made his way to the United States in 1980. Following his graduation from college, he said, he joined the Army to give something back to the country that had given him so much.

Pham vividly remembers growing up in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War, particularly when he and his four siblings hid under a bed during the 1968 Tet Offensive. The children were not allowed to leave the room or turn on the lights for several days.

He also remembers well the collapse of the South Vietnam government and the fall of Saigon in April 1975. Pham was 15 at the time.

"Bullets and bombs flew everywhere," he said. "The whole city was chaotic. People were on jeeps with guns just shooting — there were no laws."

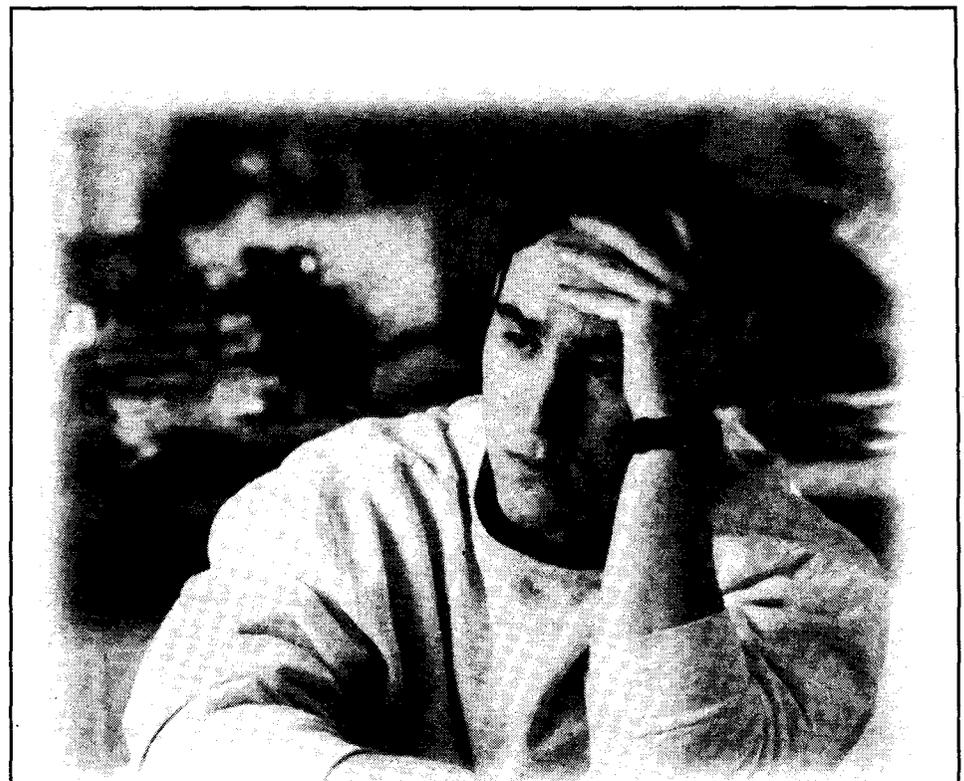


Photo courtesy Capt. Khanh Pham

INSTRUCTOR — Pham of the Army Reserve 84th Division (Institutional Training) is a member of a test program at Marquette University in Milwaukee that replaces full-time ROTC cadre with reservists.

After the fall of South Vietnam, the communists took strict control. "The communist government controlled everything in Vietnam," Pham said. "Whatever the communist party put out was the official version of what the people would hear. There was no CNN running around."

Three years later, Vietnam declared war
See Reservist on page 8



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Tradition rides on

Classic vehicles carry Veterans Home residents in downtown parade

By Skip Vaughn

The antique car rolled up to the Tut Fann State Veterans Home to give three residents a ride in the annual Veterans Day parade in downtown Huntsville. The other residents were upset. They wanted to go, too.

That was 1997; and the image has stuck with SFC Phillips Laboy, who started this

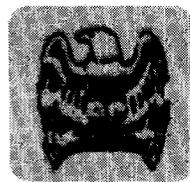
tradition while working at the NCO Academy. From then on he wanted to ensure that enough antique cars were available for as many of the home's residents as possible.

"Every year we try to get more people involved and more cars involved to go down and do this," Laboy, NCO-in-charge of the Ammunition Combat Operations See Parade on page 8



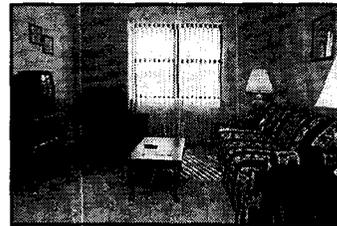
Photo by SFC Darrell Cumpton

RIDING IN STYLE—Laboy, left, and Moore will ride in this 1963 Buick Skylark in the Veterans Day parade downtown.



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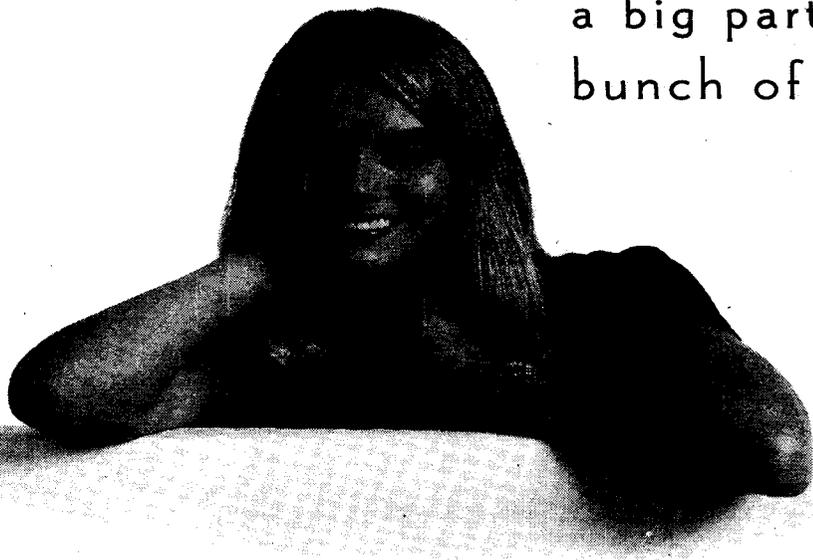
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Team Redstone holiday party scheduled for Dec. 10 at Redstone Club

Ring out the century

By Jim Bowne

Tickets sales are continuing at a brisk pace for "Our Party," and the entire Redstone community is invited to join in the fun. The party will be held Dec. 10 from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Redstone Arsenal Club.

This year, the Deputy for Systems Acquisition and the Security Assistance Management Directorate are serving as co-hosts for the gala event.

According to the Holiday Party Working Group, "Our Party" ticket sales have been going extremely well during the first week. The reason for the steady flow of ticket sales may be attributed to several factors. Perhaps it's because of the fun people had at last year's party, or to the decrease in the cost of this year's tickets. Or perhaps it's just because this is the last time this century the Team Redstone community will have an opportunity to attend "Our Party."

The evening's festivities will begin with a social hour starting at 6, followed by dinner at 7. Ted Cannon's Music Machine will provide background music during both the social and dinner hours. Then, from 8 until midnight, the Music Machine will provide music for your dancing pleasure.

In addition to experiencing the pleasure of the company of good friends, fun, and music, attendees will also enjoy a delicious dinner. Be prepared to eat well as the dinner entrée will include not "either/or," but both filet mignon "and" breast of chicken. The menu also includes tossed salad, new potatoes, green beans almondine, crabapple ring, rolls and butter, and coffee and tea. To top it all off, there will be strawberry and cherry trifles for dessert.

As in previous years, group seating will be available, so why not reserve a table, or tables, for you and your friends. Tickets are \$19 per person, a substantial decrease from last



Photo by Jim Bowne

WORKING GROUP— Members of the decorations committee of the Team Redstone Holiday Party Working Group assemble the centerpieces that will adorn the tables at "Our Party." From left are Kathy McMurry, DSA; Pat Carter, IMMC; and Brenda Reed, SC, CPOC.

year's cost. And this price includes both the meal and the gratuity. For your convenience, too, you may charge your ticket reservations against a major credit card or your Redstone Arsenal Club account.

Also, for those who want a special keepsake of the evening's festivities, "Photography by Jim and Frieda" will be available to capture the memories. Plan now to have your photo taken with your significant other or with friends. The cost for photos is not included in the price of your ticket.

Tickets are available from organizational representatives serving on the Holiday Party Working Group. Or, for information and reservations, call Lisa Chesnutt 313-6834, Kathy McMurry 313-3742 or Gaila Kelso 876-9857.

Dress for civilians is coat and tie; for military, dress is optional — either dress blues or mess.

(Editor's note: This article was submitted by the Publicity Committee, Holiday Party Working Group.)

Finally on course

Post Soldier of the Month for October sets his sights on explosive specialty

By Beth Skarupa

About a year ago, Patrick Simmons wasn't sure what he wanted to do or where he wanted to go. He had left college after waking up one day to the realization that he did not want to be an electronics engineer after all. He worked as many as three different jobs at one time, but was bored. Then he decided to join the Army.

Now a private first class, Simmons has a goal and a direction. He has set his sights on Explosive Ordnance Disposal even though he's been told that it is a very difficult, long course that does not accept many applicants.

"My big thing is becoming an EOD officer. I've talked to everyone I can think of about it," Simmons said. "I found

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Photo by Beth Skarupa

HONOR BOUND—Simmons, left, talks about honor with 1st Sgt. Aubrey Fencher outside the 832nd Ordnance Battalion Charlie Company barracks.

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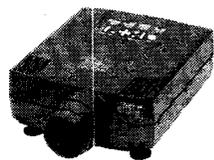
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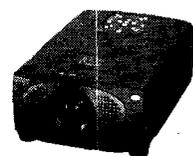


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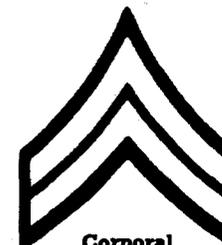
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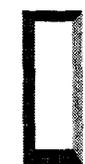
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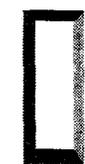
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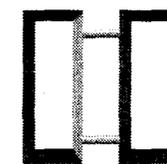
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Reservist

continued from page 3

against China and Cambodia. On his 18th birthday, Pham was drafted into the Vietnamese army. During his three months of training, he was part of a three-man team that shared one AK-47 assault rifle and was issued three rounds of ammunition each time they went to the range.

When his unit went to battle in Cambodia, Pham saw his opportunity to escape. "I would not serve a system that denied my education and sent my father and other relatives to 're-education camps' after the fall of Saigon in 1975," he said. "There was only one gate to our camp, and I crept out the back around 4 a.m. and hitchhiked back home to Saigon."

He hid for months in the homes of different relatives during the day. Army officials and police constantly visited his parents to see if they had seen him.

After nearly a year of hiding, Pham and 10 friends decided to leave Vietnam. They built a small boat they hoped would survive a voyage to the Philippines. By 1979, the government had confiscated all ocean-worthy boats.

The boat was 40 feet long and only six or seven feet wide, Pham recalled. "Very small for an ocean crossing," he said. It had a one-horsepower engine and space for a few hundred gallons of gasoline. With limited drinking water, a compass, an AK-47 and several grenades, the friends set out to sea on Oct. 4, 1979. To avoid patrols, the escapees traveled by night.

"If the authorities thought we were trying to escape, they probably also thought we would die anyway, so they didn't bother

us," Pham joked.

Twice during the 15-day ordeal at sea, the escapees were captured, beaten, and robbed — the first time by Thai pirates and the second, he claimed, by the Malaysian coast guard. The Malaysians strip-searched the escapees, even dumping their precious water supply to search the containers for valuables. After robbing and beating them, Pham said, the Malaysians towed the refugees into international waters and cast them adrift.

"I thought I was going to die," Pham said. "It was so desperate. At sea there is no division between sky and ocean, especially at night. We used ponchos to catch rainwater to drink. After a few days we saw the flame from a Canadian oil platform."

The crew of an Indonesian oil rig res-

cued Pham and his friends. The Indonesians put the ragged crew into a refugee camp and, in March 1980, Pham arrived in the United States. The rest of his story is the stuff of the classic American dream — graduation from college, a commission in the Army, and success in the civilian sector.

In civilian life, Pham works for a Milwaukee investment firm and is an award-winning artist. On the military side, he served with the 1st Infantry Division during Desert Storm. From 1992 until he joined the Marquette cadre, he had served as an Army Reserve Medical Service Corps officer and was a medical detachment commander.

Today, as an assistant professor of military science, Pham is part of the Alternative Staffing Program, a test that replaces full-time

ROTC cadre with reservists. "Everything people here in America may take for granted, I don't," Pham said. "Everything I choose to do now is my destiny. If I had not escaped from Vietnam, this would not be possible. Despite all the bad things, the United States is still the best place on earth and is still the land of opportunities." (Special to the American Forces Press Service)

(Editor's note: Joe Skoglund is a senior at Marquette University and an ROTC cadet in its Golden Eagle Battalion.)

Hellfire

continued from page 1

"The Hellfire II compliments the Longbow missile," Runyon said, explaining the difference in the missiles. "The Hellfire II is semi-active laser guided which means there has to be someone else out there lasing the target. Its mission is anti-armor, surgical point strikes and high-value fixed targets like bunkers and buildings."

The point target precision strike is a capability the Hellfire II offers over the Longbow, which is a fire-and-forget missile that uses a millimeter wave seeker. While both missiles can be used in many circumstances, the Longbow has better performance capabilities in inclement weather such as rain or fog and in a dust or smoke-filled environment.

Filling the canister of the Hellfire II with a new and better missile will be challenging. Several ideas for the new missile are being investigated before the path to the latest and greatest missile gets under way.

"Hellfire II is a great missile— performance, reliability," Runyon said. "It will be around for a long time."

Parade

continued from page 4

Training Area, said.

This year he will lead nearly 20 vehicles which will transport 15-20 of the home's residents in the parade which starts at 11 a.m. Thursday. Laboy will drive resident Tommy L. Moore in a 1963 Buick Skylark. "And believe me, that car's in mint condition," Laboy said.

As usual in this third annual effort, an original Veterans Day poster will be presented to the home for display on one of its walls along with a write-up on the occasion. Judy West, of the graphics department, put together the poster.

"We're not going to live forever and they'll know that they were honored for their past sacrifices," Laboy said. "It's good that we can recognize these individu-

als for their sacrifices because they have given a lot for the freedom that we enjoy today.

"This is the third year. And next year I'm going to drive a 1930 Model A. And every year we'd like to get a different car, a different poster and a different veteran into the parade."

Moore, a veteran of the Alabama Army National Guard and the U.S. Air Force, is this year's honoree. Previous honorees were Charles Carleton, in 1997, and Jack Love last year.

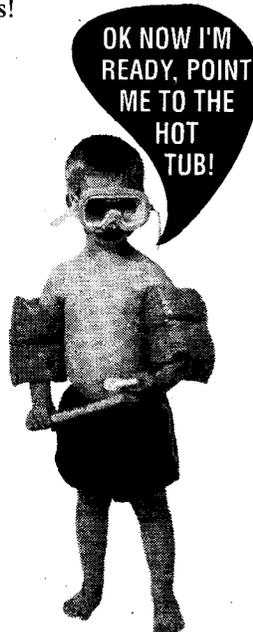
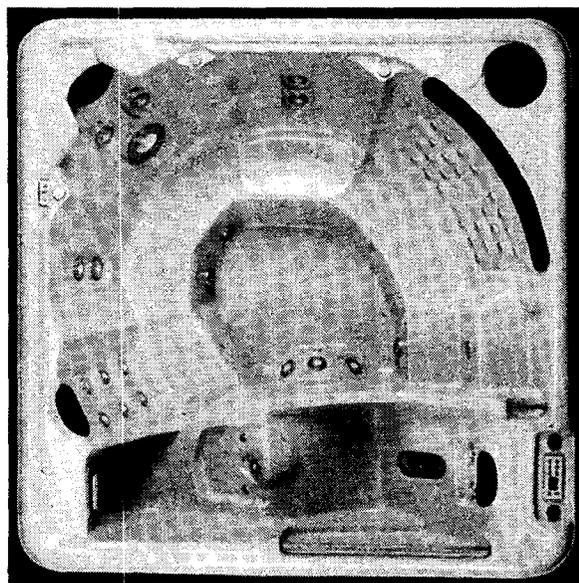
"Veterans Day is much more than a day of parades, speeches and ceremonies," Laboy said. "It is that one time of the year when Americans take time to reflect on past conflicts around the world and honor our nation's military men and women for their past service to our great country."

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Native American Heritage Month celebration begins

The Redstone Arsenal Native American Heritage Committee invites the military and their families, civilian work force, tenant activities and the surrounding communities to help celebrate Native American Heritage Month, Nov. 1-30.

The committee has planned an Intertribal Celebration which will be held Nov. 18 from 2:30-5 p.m. at the Recreation Center, building 3711. There will be sweets sampling, Native American music, displays, vendors and door prizes. As part of the observance, there will be two puzzles in

the Redstone Rocket and three winners for each puzzle.

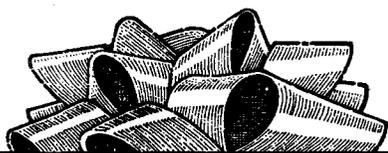
Each winner will receive a prize. You do not have to be present to win; however, you must complete the puzzle. In addition to the three winners, the first person to turn in a completed puzzle will also receive a prize.

Bring completed puzzles to the EEO office in the Sparkman Center, building 5300, or fax completed puzzles to Rafael Boudah, 955-0192, by close of business Friday. Make sure you have your name and phone number on your puzzle entry.

E	R	E	W	T	H	W	T	A	S	R	G	Y	J	Z
K	A	E	F	F	B	L	U	E	C	L	O	U	D	W
A	L	B	H	S	I	F	K	C	A	L	B	N	V	C
N	O	G	E	T	A	S	A	N	A	C	I	F	A	R
S	E	G	A	S	A	G	O	Y	E	W	A	T	H	A
D	C	E	Y	X	S	E	A	F	G	A	S	W	Y	Z
E	S	R	H	E	P	G	F	N	S	N	A	C	V	Y
L	O	O	F	A	W	F	O	E	S	K	T	K	J	H
K	P	N	Q	S	Y	R	M	C	T	W	N	O	Q	O
C	M	I	A	N	T	O	N	O	M	I	O	J	E	R
E	H	M	A	S	J	J	U	C	M	F	H	Y	R	S
P	P	O	N	T	I	A	C	Q	W	J	A	W	T	E
S	O	B	G	Y	E	T	W	X	E	E	C	E	P	L
M	W	A	V	M	D	I	R	F	Y	S	O	B	E	Y
Y	Y	I	O	I	I	S	M	K	Y	O	P	O	I	P

Native American Names

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Black Fish (Shawnee) | Geronimo (Chiricahua Apache) |
| Blue Cloud (Mohawk) | Miantonomi (Narragansett) |
| Canasatego (Onondaga) | Osceola (Seminole) |
| Crazy Horse (Oglala Sioux) | Pocahontas (Powhatan) |
| Pontiac (Ottawa) | Sequoyah (Cherokee) |
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American Education Week events sponsored Nov. 15-19

"Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow" is the theme for American Education Week Nov. 15-19 with several events sponsored by Redstone Arsenal in conjunction with the Madison County American Education Week Committee.

In a proclamation signed by Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, AMCOM's commanding general, American Education Week is approved as an opportunity to raise the level of awareness and build support for education programs and services. Sullivan encouraged each person to utilize the week to focus on the roles of education in the command, as "we prepare students today to become our leaders of tomorrow."

The week will kick off with a luncheon Nov. 15 at the Huntsville Hilton featuring guest speaker Dr. Frank Franz, president of the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Professional development workshops will be held Nov. 15 at UAH on topics including "The Potentially Violent Student" and "Education Law." Participants attending both sessions can earn up to six hours of continuing education units.

Expo 2000, a computer-based educational demonstration sponsored by the Arsenal, will focus on "Education in the New Millennium" on Nov. 17 and 18. The first demonstration will take place in the

electronic meeting room on the third floor of building 5309 in the Sparkman Center. A second showing will take place Nov. 18 at the Army Education Center in building 3222 on Snooper Road.

"Expo 2000 will show how education is changing and will continue to change in the coming years," Jim Campbell, Redstone Arsenal education services officer, said. "Distance learning is making a big impact and so is the Internet because now you can enroll in a class, take the course, and complete the exams all from home through your computer. The expo will demonstrate as well as talk about the new technology."

City and county school Parent Teacher Associations will sponsor a breakfast for teachers Nov. 17. The College Students Mentoring program will give presentations at the schools that day as well. NASA ERC will sponsor a reception for educators that evening.

Finally, a Microgravity workshop will be sponsored by NASA ERC on Nov. 18.

"What we're trying to do is include children, parents, and even those people who are not parents," Campbell said.

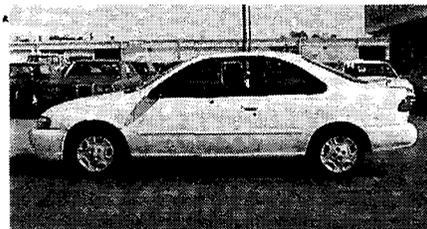
For more information on the American Education Week events, call Campbell at 876-3465.



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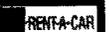
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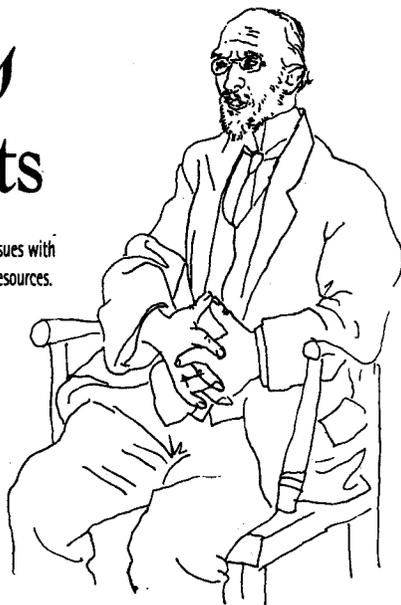


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"SEMINAR ON AGING GIVES ADVICE ON CARE FOR PARENTS"

There is strength in numbers and a number of Madison-area residents met recently to build that strength, to network and to share resources over a common concern: caring for elderly family members.

Morningside of Madison Assisted Living Center recently sponsored a seminar on aging. Speakers first shared their personal stories of anguish, frustration and hope as they told of dealing with the issues surrounding their parents' aging and need for more focused attention. They then offered information and resources that helped them as they helped their parents.

Seminar attendees were encouraged to contact agencies, reach out for support and to make legal and medical preparations for the tough times they are inevitably going to face.

Focusing on options for quality living, legal concerns, transportation issues and housing, the seminar's speakers told of the difficulties in recognizing that a parent needs help from their children in order to function. Gradually fading mental and physical capacities leave grown children confused about what to do.

"The goal of the seminar is to assist adult children with information to ease the situation as much as possible," says Lila Kalnajs, director of program services at Morningside of Madison. "When people don't feel so alone in what they are doing, they can cope better."

"Until you are thrown into the situation of caring for an elderly parent, you don't learn what to do. You don't act until you need to react. By taking a proactive position, you lessen the emotional response and increase the opportunity for coming out ahead."

"When it is time to take action, it

is too late," said Dyanne McCloskey, who has recently coped with the concerns of her father and recently deceased mother. "The most important thing I could tell anyone dealing with elderly parents is to get a power of attorney statement. This enables you to make legally binding decisions on behalf of your parents and gives you the power to make those important choices."

'A role reversal'

McCloskey used phrases that those dealing with the elderly have come to know: private-pay health care, rehab, spousal impoverishment, dementia and long-term care.

"It is a role reversal," McCloskey said. "I had to be the one to care for my parents, when it was them who cared for me years ago. It is extremely difficult and painful to go through."

The attorneys through the Top of the Region Council of Governments will supply attorneys at no cost to draft legal documents for seniors. These documents include power of attorney and wills. They shared how skilled counselors and health-care providers can ease family members through the trials of Alzheimer's disease, repeated surgeries, depression and anxiety, and the stresses of caring for parents who are not always able to recognize that their children are acting in their best interests.

"A very common feeling is to look at the situation and feel 'This is not my parent,' said Barbara Ickes, whose mother has many health concerns. "This is not the person I remember. This situation affects my entire family, from the youngest to the oldest, and we all have to work together to get through this difficult time."

As part of the seminar, attendees received a "Senior

Services Directory," a listing of the many services or referrals for senior citizens' concerns. A free copy can be obtained from the Madison Senior Citizens Center on Hughes Road or the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center on Drake Avenue in Huntsville.

Quality of life

Several panel members noted that a contributing factor to the isolation family members feel is the fact extended families are not what they used to be. If relatives live in the area at all they are often busy or otherwise unable to contribute to the care of an elderly parent. That often leaves one child to do the majority of the work, and that leads to increased frustration. The goal, though, is to provide the best life possible for the parents.

"Our elderly parents need stimulation, good meals, interaction, focused care, attention, structure and security," said Shana Sutherland, executive director for Morningside of Madison. "We are all here to discuss ways to make that happen. There is not one solution that works for everyone. It is a matter of sharing resources and experiences."

The situation is very personal, but many families share common experiences, says Morningside's program service director Kalnajs.

"The gratitude you feel for your parents leads you to feel guilt when you can not take care of all their needs," Kalnajs said. "Forming a network of information, support and caring makes a world of difference. At the end of the evening, there was talk forming a support group for adult children of aging parents. We just might have seen that begin."

Soldier

continued from page 6

out there's a long waiting list for it. There are academic and physical requirements, but I like to think I've already met both of those."

Simmons came to Redstone Arsenal in August for ammunition specialist training. For him, this was just one more step along the way to achieving his ultimate goal of being an EOD specialist. He graduated at the top of his class Nov. 1 and was just one point away from receiving a fitness award. He was chosen to be squad leader for eight weeks before graduation and was selected as Soldier of the Month in October.

Born in Texas, Simmons moved many times with his parents, his brother, David, and his sisters, Andrea and Kara. He has lived in Texas, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Colorado and Arizona. His father was an electronics engineer who took jobs that would allow him to continue his education. Simmons lived in a small suburb outside of Boulder, Colo., for seven years before graduating from Broomfield High in 1996.

In high school, Simmons participated in Boy Scouts and earned his Eagle Scout award. He ran track for four years and was captain of the team his senior year. He also wrote poetry and had two poems published in National Library of Poetry anthologies.

Upon graduating high school, Simmons moved to Phoenix, Ariz., because he had relatives living there. He studied electronics engineering at DeVry Institute for two years before leaving school. He then tried several different jobs in Phoenix. Those jobs included being a lot attendant at a car dealership, a frame designer and builder at Michaels Stores Inc., and an assistant manager at a game store that sold board and role-playing games.

"I had been thinking about going into the Army for a long time, ever since I graduated high school," Simmons said. "My brother's currently a sergeant in the Army. He just got back from a tour in what was the former Yugoslavia. He's in the 10th Mountain Division psychological division and says he plays mind games on people."

When Simmons finally decided to talk to a recruiter in Phoenix, he took about a week to decide whether he really wanted to join the Army, then signed up. Twelve days later he went to Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga.

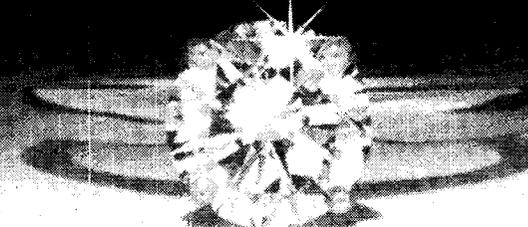
"Yeah, the drill sergeants yell at you and wake you up to roll around in the mud and do pushups, but after a while you get used to it," Simmons said. "For me, the best part about Basic Training was when I was nominated to be the machine gunner for the field training exercise. I got to carry a M-60 around for three days. That was pretty fun."

Now that he has completed his ammunition specialist training, Simmons is scheduled to travel back to Phoenix for "Hometown Recruiting." He hopes to see relatives there and perhaps get an extension to visit his parents in Colorado over the Thanksgiving holiday. Then he will be at Fort Benning again to attend Airborne school. After that, he expects to be assigned to a permanent duty station at Fort Lewis, Wash., or Fort Bragg, N.C., since they are the main Airborne facilities.

"I partly got into the Army to follow after my brother, but also because I got really bored out in the real world," Simmons said. "When I went and talked to the recruiter, I knew exactly what I wanted to be in the Army. I told him I would eventually like to be a Ranger and that I was interested in going into Explosive Ordnance Disposal. Now I just have to make it happen."

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Clearing the air

Smokers urged to kick the habit during annual Smokeout, Nov. 18

By Mary Christal

The American Cancer Society will sponsor the 23rd Great American Smokeout on Nov. 18. This annual event is conducted to help smokers quit cigarettes the entire day and encourage them to stop completely.

The cancer society reports more people stop smoking during the Great American Smokeout than on any other day of the year. The scope of the Great American Smokeout has expanded in recent years. The Smokeout is not just for smokers, but for anyone who uses tobacco in any form. The focus is not only on helping adults quit smoking, but also on helping children and teen-agers understand why they should never start smoking to begin with.

Almost 1 in every 5 deaths in the U.S. is connected to the use of tobacco. Tobacco related diseases kill more than 400,000 Americans each year, about twice the population of Huntsville and Madison combined. This staggering figure equates to over 1,000 deaths per day. More alarming, however, is the fact that nearly 3,000 children start smoking each day.

Over 4 million adolescents smoke and it is believed nearly half of all high school students use tobacco. Combine this number with the adults who smoke and there are more than 50 million smokers in the U.S. alone.

Seventy percent of adults who smoke

want to quit completely. Seventy percent of teen-agers who smoke regret they ever started and 64 percent have tried to quit. Smokers have lower resistance to colds, pneumonia, bronchitis, and sinus infections than non-smokers. This also applies to non-smokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke, especially children who live in a smoker's household.

Quitting smoking may be the best thing people can do to improve their health. And it's never too late to quit, even for a lifelong smoker. However, smokers reduce their risk of getting cancer and other smoking related diseases if they quit sooner rather than later. The U.S. Surgeon General's report in 1988 states that:

- 20 minutes after quitting, the blood pressure drops to normal.
- 8 hours after quitting the carbon monoxide level in the blood drops to normal.
- 24 hours after quitting, the chance of a heart attack decreases.
- 2 to 12 weeks after quitting, circulation improves and lung function increases.
- 1 to 9 months after quitting, coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue, and shortness of breath decrease.
- 1 year after quitting, excess risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker.
- 5 to 15 years after quitting, stroke risk is reduced to that of a non-smoker.
- 15 years after quitting, the risk of

See Smokeout on page 14

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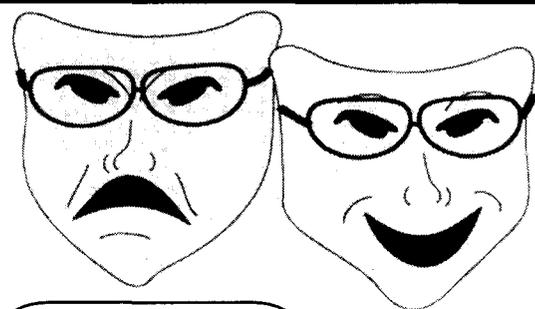
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Bonds available for purchase via new Internet connection

Treasury secretary Lawrence Summers on Nov. 2 unveiled the Savings Bond Connection, an on-line location for purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds over the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Americans have relied on savings bonds for decades as an important tool in their efforts to save for the future," Summers said. "By bringing savings bonds as close as your home computer, this program makes it more convenient for millions of Americans to add to their savings."

"This has never happened before," John Helmke, the Treasury Department's area manager for savings bonds in northern Alabama, said of the on-line service. "Within the first 24 hours, we sold over \$100,000 worth of savings bonds. We don't know if that's an indication of what the sales are going to generate, but that's a very positive indication for us."

Designed for the convenient purchases of savings bonds, the website offers secure on-line purchases of Series EE and new Series I (inflation-indexed) bonds with either a MasterCard or Visa. It takes about five minutes to buy a bond at www.savingsbonds.gov. After entering owner-ship information for the bond, a credit card number and e-mail contact information, buyers get a

confirmation of purchase. Bonds are delivered, by mail, in about one week. In the case of last minute gift purchases, a gift certificate can be downloaded.

Most purchasers will use the Secure Sockets Layer, the current encryption standard for Internet commerce. Secure Electronic Transaction technology is also available for those customers doing business with banks who issue SET certificates.

The Savings Bond Connection on the Bureau of the Public Debt's website was developed in a joint effort with MasterCard International, Mellon Financial Corporation, IBM Corporation and the Treasury Department's Financial Management Service.

The new Series I inflation-indexed savings bonds along with the Series EE bonds are available in the most popular denominations: \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200 and \$500 (\$1,000 for Series EE bonds). There is a \$500 issue price limit for individual orders.

For more information, call Helmke (205) 663-7971. His e-mail address is JHelmke@bpd.treas.gov. (Adapted from a Treasury Department release)

Smokeout

continued from page 13

coronary heart disease is the same as a non-smoker and the risk of dying from lung cancer is only slightly higher than that of a non-smoker.

It isn't easy for smokers to quit because nicotine is an addictive drug. Smoking is also a habit. Many people simply light up without thinking about it. It is important for smokers to identify why, when and where they smoke. This will help them better control their urges once they quit smoking.

Nearly all smokers, even young smokers, who try to quit will experience nicotine withdrawal. Allow yourself at least a month to get over these symptoms. These include bad moods, fatigue, insomnia, depression, tightness in the chest, hunger, coughing, dry throat, dizziness, lack of concentration, and the urge to really want to smoke. Smokers who quit should warn their family, friends and co-workers that they may be cranky, depressed, or anxious but these feelings will soon pass.

There are several methods to help a person quit smoking. These include nicotine replacement therapies such as skin patches, sprays, inhalers and nicotine gum. Other aids include Zyban, a nicotine-free prescription medication, hypnosis and acupuncture. Some people may even choose to go "cold turkey." Support groups also play an important role and improve the smoker's chance of success.

Many times it helps to find a substitute for smoking like chewing gum, sucking on

low calorie hard candy, drinking a glass of water, or exercise.

Half of all adult smokers still living have actually quit. Circle Nov.18 on your calendar and enlist your family, friends and co-workers to help you quit using tobacco for the day.

Non-smokers are encouraged to adopt a smoker for the day. A non-smoker may hold a smoker's cigarettes but must give them back if the smoker cannot last the day.

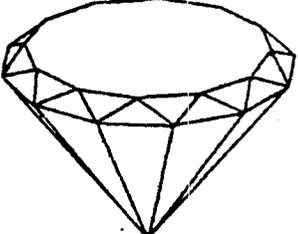
Advice for non-smokers: Show support but don't nag the smoker you are trying to help. Advice for smokers: Appreciate the fact someone cares about you if they happen to go a little overboard in their show of support.

Parents, please set aside some time to talk to your children about the dangers of smoking. Ask them if they smoke or are being pressured by their peers to smoke. Let them know it is OK not to follow the crowd and that you will support them. Real friends will understand and appreciate their decisions not to smoke. If your children admit to you that they smoke, try to understand and help them quit.

The Public Health and Education Center at Fox Army Health Center offers a tobacco cessation program. These classes are open to all military beneficiaries and DoD civilians. Call 842-0196 for information.

Don't allow your future to go up in smoke. Let the Great American Smokeout be your stepping stone to a healthier life.

(Editor's note: Capt. Christal works at Fox Army Health Center.)



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CFC bus tours give glimpse of where donations go

CFC

continued from page 1

"Our primary function here is dressing school children," Ashby said. "Most of our clients are referred to us by DHR, school counselors and the Red Cross." As she continued explaining the needs of the community and the needs of the organization, she led the group through the facility where all the clothing items were separated by size and gender. There was a dressing room for boys and girls. Shoes and some household items were also available, all at no charge to the clients.

"We are funded through United Way and individual donations," she said. "We don't charge for the items. The children come in and can pick out and try on the clothes they want. Parent of the children that are younger than school age can come in and pick out clothes for their children."

The charity also provides food boxes to the needy and elderly through the annual food drive, "Can-a-thon," a drive which students in the Huntsville City Schools help support.

The tour continued as the group left the first building and crossed the parking lot to a warehouse of toys. Toys on the shelves, toys on the floor, toys in the sorting bins, toys everywhere. The more the better, according to Ashby, who said that the charity receives more than 2,500 applications for Christmas assistance each year.

"We fill these net bags with at least one new toy, some used toys in good condition and every child between the ages of 2 and 10



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

CHAIR REPAIR— Recaning chairs is only one of many crafts taught at the Senior Center. Rob Jones, right, comes every weekday morning to work on chairs brought into the center for repair. Leon Bradford from IMMC asked several questions about the project.

gets a stocking stuffed with goodies. So far the Lions Club has donated the material, and the women associated with the group have sewn the stockings but this will be their last year. Next year we will have to buy the material and find someone to sew them."

Volunteers and staff separate the toys by age and gender. Broken toys are put aside for repair or thrown away. Occasionally they have people who will volunteer to fix toys or refurbish dolls. It is a much needed service.

While there are many in need in the city, Ashby and the staff try to ensure that there are no duplications in recipients. If they are on another charity list, they cannot receive from this charity. Deadline for application

is Nov. 18 and deliveries of the presents and food boxes are made the Saturday before Christmas. Ashby said they can use all the volunteers they can get.

Back on the bus, many of the people were discussing the charity and how wonderful the benefits were to the community. Others, like Mark Moe were quiet, reflective.

"When you go to these places and see the process it brings you a lot closer to what the need is in the community," Moe said. "I think it helps you to open your heart and your pocketbook."

Sandra Dargin felt much the same way. "This gives me a chance to see what I can do to help people rise above their dire circumstances. I think because it's local and we can see what they're doing, people are more apt to make a large donation."

While Christmas Charities centered mostly around the needs of children, the Senior Center has a different perspective and mission. The Senior Center is about keeping people active, learning new things, teaching what you already know to others and helping those who cannot help themselves.

The Senior Center has 13-14 craft rooms with courses that include weaving, sewing, needlepoint, painting in water colors and

oils, drawing, stained glass, pottery, ceramics, repairing cane chairs and many other classes. They offer computer classes, exercise classes, pool tables, a card game room, dance lessons and a health room with specific screenings during the month. Master gardeners care for several gardens at the Center. They also have a "Meals on Wheels" program that delivers more than 200 meals each day.

"I was especially impressed with their Adult Day Care center," Jim Flinn, IMMC director, said. "It's just so great that there is a part of our system that provides a way for people who need care to have a nice place to come to, and for such a small effort on our part."

Rick Turner had toured the Center before but again found it heartwarming to see all the benefits it provides. "It helps you to realize what others go through and how good we have it in so many respects."

"I'm probably going to go home and tell my mom and dad about all the great things here," Ted Stokes, of IMMC, said after touring the Center. "They are doing great things for the community here."

Back on the bus there was some talk about the ability of IMMC to reach its

See CFC on page 16

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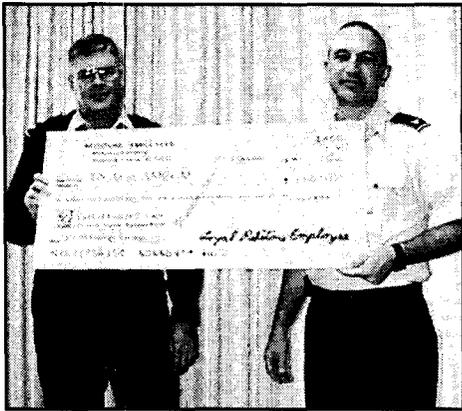


Photo by Morton Archibald

BIG SAVINGS—Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, left, and Col. Steve Hamilton hold a check representing savings from energy consumption this year compared to 1998. Energy usage for fiscal 1999 decreased by more than \$1 million.

Energy

continued from page 1

water to the steam plant which created a savings for the government.

"I think we're still reaping the benefits of our huge energy campaign last year, 'Do the Quick Click,'" Morton

Archibald, AMCOM energy coordinator, said. "Making people aware of how easy it is to save energy was a major goal. Yes, it matters if you leave a light on when you're the last to leave a room. Yes, it matters if you turn off your computer printer and monitor when you go to lunch or leave for the day. Everything each individual can do to save energy makes a difference. We pay the energy bills out of the same pot of money we pay salaries from. Saving money by turning off the lights saves jobs."

There is still much to be done, though, said Archibald. The first is to dispel the energy myths. One of the most popular myths, it takes more energy to turn a light on than it does to leave it on, is not true. The energy consumed by turning on a light is an extra 118th of a second. If you're out of a room for more than a second, it pays to shut off the lights.

Another myth concerns computer monitors. True or false? Turning a computer monitor on and off several times a day wears it out quicker than if left on continuously.

"The only thing that will be affected by a computer monitor being turned on and off is the power switch," Archibald said. "And

way before the switch will wear out, the system will be obsolete and you'll get a new one. A computer monitor uses 300 watts of electricity. Just turn it off when you're not using it."

Archibald noted that among the changes necessary to make a difference on the conservation front, comes the need for an attitude adjustment.

"Supervisors just assume that if a person leaves the lights on or the computer monitor on, even though the employee isn't there, he'll be right back," Archibald said. "Or if a computer monitor is off, the employee isn't doing their job and that just isn't true. Many people don't use their computers constantly but they're still working."

October was Energy Awareness Month and while the Arsenal is saving, Archibald believes there is room for more. By executive order, the installation must decrease energy usage by 1.2 percent a year while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Redstone Arsenal Support Activity took the order one step further and mandated a 1.5 percent total reduction goal. Last year's savings equaled a 2.5 percent decrease, well above the necessary goals but what about next year?

Circling the Arsenal by helicopter one

evening, Archibald noted that while the Arsenal's night sky is not as "bright" as its civilian counterparts there is much room for improvement concerning wasted energy.

"Some of our buildings were like beacons," Archibald said. "I know there weren't that many people in the building at 8 o'clock at night but the lights were left on just the same. The ball field on Patton Road is lit up every night and there's no one using it."

Operation Smaller Footprint will help to bring in the savings by consolidating personnel from the older less-efficient buildings into the newer ones. Demolition of older buildings and rebuilding of energy efficient offices and housing will make a difference. But those are corporate changes that take time and money. The here-and-now changes will come from the efforts of individuals who take the time to turn off the lights and computer equipment when they are not in use.

"We're not asking people to do without what they need," Archibald said. "Absolutely, if you need it, use it. Just turn it off when you're done. It's that simple."

To offer energy saving suggestions or report waste, e-mail Archibald at: morton.archibald@redstone.army.mil

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CFC

continued from page 15

\$90,000 goal set for this year's CFC. While touring the charities was a great motivator, the Kiss a Pig competition also helps to keep the donations rolling in. The competition pits IMMC against the RDEC in dollars collect-

ed, per capita. The director of the organization that donates the lesser amount must kiss a real pig at the CFC awards ceremony.

"We're going to make our goal," Jimmy Mastin, IMMC financial chairperson and organizer of the bus tours, said. "We can do it. And as you've seen today, it's for some great causes."

The CFC officially ends Friday.



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Stepping out to honor veterans

Wal-Mart walkathons will benefit planned World War II Memorial in Washington

By Skip Vaughn

Wal-Mart stores in Huntsville and Madison are taking steps to honor veterans of World War II.

During this week of Veterans Day, the stores are planning benefit walks to help build a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. A two-mile walk will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Big Springs Park in downtown Huntsville. Also Saturday a 2 1/2 mile walk, with registration at 8 a.m., will be held at Discovery Middle School in Madison.

"We'll be walking from Discovery Middle School to City Hall," Renee Moore, department manager for Madison Wal-Mart on Highway 20, said. "It's to raise money for the World War II Memorial."

The entry fee in Madison is \$5; and the walkers receive a T-shirt. Pledge sheets are available at the Madison Wal-Mart. Madison Mayor Chuck Yancura and Triana Mayor Rosemary Ayers are among the expected attendees.

Huntsville's "Two-for-Two" walk— 2 miles for World War II — is sponsored by Wal-Mart and Buffalo Rock Pepsi. A \$10 donation will get you a T-shirt. Hot dogs, Pepsi and lapel pins will also be sold to raise money for the memorial. Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer and City Council member Sandra Moon are among the expected attendees. Registration forms are available at the Wal-Mart Supercenter on

South Memorial Parkway.

"It's to raise funds for the World War II Memorial that's going to be built in D.C.," Anita "A.J." Masters, community involvement director for that store, said. "They're supposed to break ground in May of 2000. They have to have \$100 million raised before they break ground. I believe there's \$60 million that's already been raised, and Wal-Mart has committed to help the last \$40 million."

This week's fund-raising events in Madison begin with a Veterans Day breakfast at 7 a.m. Thursday at the Holiday Inn on Highway 20. Scheduled speaker is Col. Stephen Taylor, commandant of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School. The Butler High School JROTC will post the colors.

Tickets for the breakfast are available at the Holiday Inn and the Madison Wal-Mart. Cost is \$10 per person; and the proceeds go toward the memorial.

"Every bit of that goes to the World War II Memorial," Moore said. "Holiday Inn has been wonderful, donating the banquet room and the food. That was their contribution. So all the proceeds for that will go directly to the World War II Memorial."

A kickoff for the fund-raisers will be held at the Madison Wal-Mart at 9 a.m. Thursday. At 9:30 there will be a fly-by of seven World War II bombers. "And we're real thrilled about that," Moore said. A Patriot missile will also be on display.

The Bob Jones High School band will play that morning. And an Air Force chaplain, Todd Gangl, is to lead the prayer.

For more information on the Madison Wal-Mart events call Moore or Johnny Carter, community involvement chairman, at 461-7403.

2 MILES FOR WW II MEMORIAL



Charlie Company runners get in spirit of Halloween

By Beth Skarupa

Soldiers dressed up as harem girls, cats and other creatures? Was this some kind of trick? No, it was a group of soldiers from Charlie Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, participating in the Boeing Runners Club Spirit of Halloween 5K held in downtown Huntsville Oct. 30.

"We like to go support the community. It's good because there's definitely a reduced presence of Army out there and it improves community relations," SSgt. Kenneth Tincknell, drill sergeant as well as recreation and activity officer for Charlie Company, said. "We were the only military out there as far as I know."

Tincknell and 40 of his soldiers ran in the race. Several ended up placing in their

See Runners on page 18

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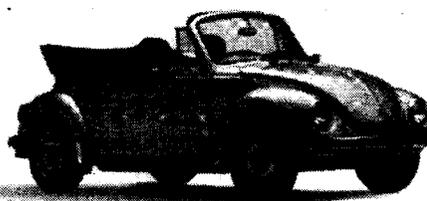
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Disc golf tournament keeps local club on course

By Beth Skarupa

Amateurs and professionals competed in the Rocket City Re-Entry disc golf tournament at four local courses including the newly renovated, championship course at Redstone Arsenal's Vincent Park Oct. 23-24.

Hosted by the local disc golf club, the Rocket City Chain Gang, this regional tournament drew 60 players from Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Michigan. The tournament was called a re-entry because the club had not hosted a tournament in several years.

"We had some very good players come out," Kevin Woodsinger, of the Rocket City Chain Gang, said. "The turnout was slightly less than we hoped, but we did have the defending world champion, Ron Russell, here from Michigan. He said he loved the courses and that it was a well done tournament. Since it was a re-entry, it was good to get back into having tournaments."

Russell won the tournament's Pro Open division before heading to Las Vegas for another competition. The re-entry tournament is being considered a stepping stone to hosting bigger tournaments in Huntsville. A national tournament may be held here in May 2000 and Woodsinger said the club hopes this all leads up to hosting the World Championships in 2003. The club already hosted the World

Championships in 1983 and 1993.

"With Redstone being the signature course for Huntsville, there's talk about expanding to two courses on the installation," Woodsinger said. "Huntsville could become the hotbed for disc golf again. Times are changing and we're on the upswing here."

More improvements already are planned for Redstone's disc golf course this winter. Three holes with alternative pin positions will be added to the current 18-hole course. Land off of Goss Road is being considered for the construction of a new course as well. For those interested in playing the course at Vincent Park, discs are available for free checkout at the Recreation Center, Pagano Gym and Outdoor Recreation.

Woodsinger said he was pleased with the amount of community interest in the tournament. In addition to the 60 participants, more than 40 spectators attended both days. After each round, several spectators went out on the course with some of the participants to learn how to play. Many also had the world champion autograph discs.

"While we didn't have enough participants for a junior division, we had quite a few children out playing. Hopefully they'll become the superstars of the future. It's a game for all ages and very family oriented," Woodsinger said.

Tyler Ledbetter of Huntsville won the

tournament's Advanced Amateur division. Dean Tannock and Lavone Wolf, both local players, won first and second place respectively of the Pro Masters division while Paulee Cothran and Jack White, also local players, tied for third place of the Pro Masters division. Woodsinger said that some younger players need to come out since the local players are getting older. He encouraged anyone interested in playing disc golf, also known as "Frisbee golf," to call Rocket City Chain Gang member Bill Wagnon at 859-2313.

The Rocket City Re-entry division winners were:

Amateur— 1. Jodi Stiglitz (228), 2. Mike Jameson (235), 3. David Farrell (237) and Chad McCormick (237). Amateur Women— 1. Addie Isbul (314). Amateur

Masters— 1. Howard Williams (235), 2. Tim Mitchell (269). Amateur Grand Masters—1. Harold Wegert Sr. (246), 2. Mike Pessony (254), 3. Dale Cook (282). Advanced Amateur— 1. Tyler Ledbetter (209), 2. Fred Hallaman (217), 3. Ernie O-Toole (218). Advanced Amateur Women— 1. Kelli Brown (272), 2. Andrea Hallaman (286). Advanced Amateur Masters— 1. Steve Sloan (219), 2. Mike Pearman (220), 3. Gary Boggs (250). Pro Open— 1. Ron Russell (178), 2. Cameron Todd (190), 3. Mark Norris (203). Pro Women— 1. Lesley Herndon (241). Pro Masters— 1. Dean Tannock (190), 2. Lavone Wolf (200), 3. Paulee Cothran (210) and Jack White (210). Pro Grandmasters—1. Richard Johnston (227).

Runners

continued from page 17

divisions and some received awards for their costumes. Pvt. Jason Sams placed fourth overall and first in the 20-24 males with 17:03. He ran the entire race dressed as a "Harem Girl" and was awarded second best individual costume.

Pvt. Miguel Uriostegui placed ninth overall and first in the 15-19 males with 18:30. Pvt. Arturo Leon placed 27th overall and third in the 15-19 males with 20:17. Tincknell placed third in the 25-29 males

with 22:19.

Pvt. Mac Rothe and Pvt. Kari Ley placed first and second respectively in the 15-19 females, each with 24:37. Pvt. Christina Coppola and Pvt. Kimberley Wesner were awarded third place adult couple costume for their matching cat outfits.

"It's something fun for the soldiers to do. They like getting out. As far as a community event, we ran in formation and cadence during the Fun Run and the people just loved it," Tincknell said. "The weather was beautiful, which made it a really nice event."

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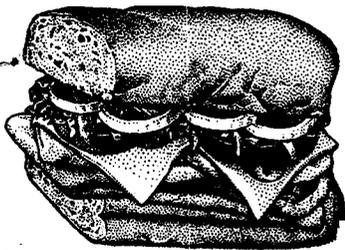
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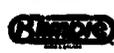
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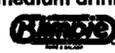
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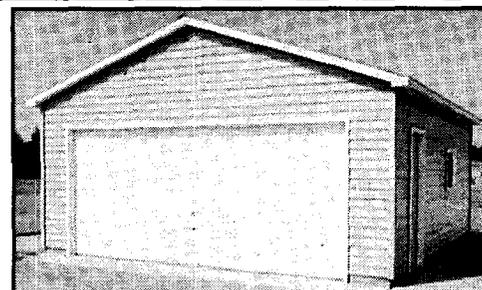
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The Tide should roll past Mississippi State

By Skip Vaughn

Skip's Picks had a 123-50 record after 10 weeks. Here are my predictions for selected games this week in major college football:

- Mississippi State at Alabama—Bama
- Tennessee at Arkansas—Tennessee
- Auburn at Georgia—Georgia
- Florida at South Carolina—Florida
- Kentucky at Vanderbilt—Kentucky
- Houston at LSU—LSU
- Alabama A&M at Alcorn St.—A&M
- North Carolina St. vs. North Carolina—UNC

- Michigan at Penn State—Penn State
- Notre Dame at Pittsburgh—Notre Dame
- Miami at Virginia Tech—Virginia Tech
- UNLV at Air Force—Air Force
- Army at Memphis—Memphis
- Tulane at Navy—Tulane
- Maryland at Florida State—FSU



Ladies golf group elects new officers

By Sally Shepard

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association held its end of season luncheon Nov. 3 at the Redstone Golf Course. Although the temperatures were cold outside and not much golf was played, the 80 ladies had a delightful time with friends. Special awards or door prizes were handed out to everyone—which made it even more fun.

Officers were elected for the next season. They are Bev Van Oostrum, president; Debra Plate, vice president; Dee Thonus, treasurer; and Fran Sullivan, secretary. A

gift was presented to Thonus, the outgoing president. Van Oostrum was recognized as the most improved golfer.

All ladies eligible to play on the Redstone Arsenal Golf Course are welcome to join the ladies golf group at their beginning coffee in March. This year the members will be preparing to help host the 39th annual Dependents Golf Tournament. Military dependents from all over the United States are eligible to play in this tournament. It will be held in September.

(Editor's note: Shepard does publicity for the Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association.)

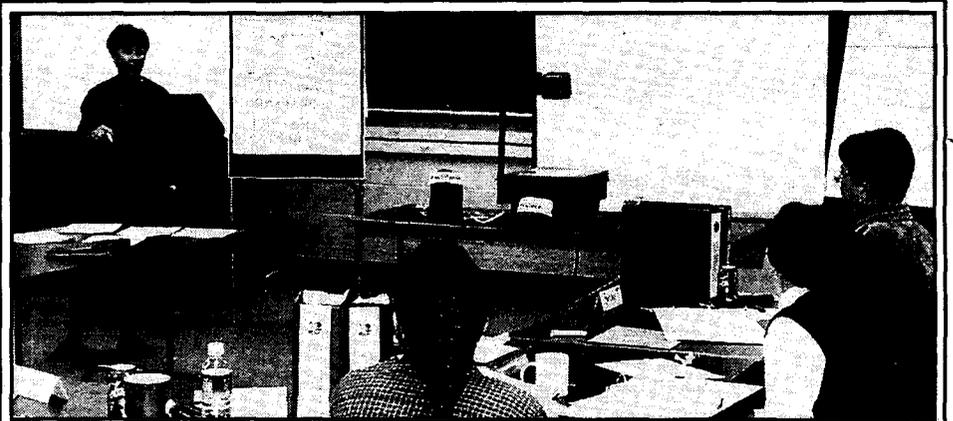


Photo by Beth Skarupa

TEACHING SKILLS— Ryan trains volunteers to lead Army Family Team Building courses.

Building family team

Army family members train to help others through program

By Beth Skarupa

Army family members interested in helping others gain control over stressful situations such as long deployments attended instructor training for Army Family Team Building last week.

AFTB is an educational, self-development program conceived and developed by family members for family members. The courses, taught by trained family member volunteers, promote independence and provide professional development for Army spouses. Topics include awareness of the Army mission, stress management, benefits and entitlements, relationship building, effective communication and many others.

Three levels of sequential and progressive training are offered by AFTB. Level I, "Introduction to Army Life," is designed for family members new to the military. Courses in this level provide basic knowledge and skills to assist with adapting to the military environment. Level II, "Middle Management," helps family members gain or enhance leadership skills. Level III, "Upper Management," helps spouses who have been part of the Army family for 10 years or more to develop and enhance advanced leadership skills.

AFTB courses are offered on the third Saturday of each month from 8:30 a.m.-noon in building 3447. The Redstone
See Family on page 20

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Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Youth basketball

Youth basketball registration continues until Nov. 20 at the Youth Center, building 3148. Eligible are youths ages 5-16 who are dependents of active duty military, DoD, DA, contractors, NASA and retired military. Cost is \$25 per child or \$100 for the family plan which includes all sports for one year. Copies of birth certificates and a current physical are required at the time of registration. Registration is 1-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 876-2255.

Rocket City marathon

Huntsville's annual marathon, rated one of the best in the country, is now The Huntsville Times Rocket City Marathon. The Huntsville Times will be the title sponsor beginning with this year's 23rd annual race on Dec. 11. The marathon was first held in 1977. Since 1981, it has been rated one of the top marathons in America. It is the only marathon on the Running Journal Grand Prix circuit and will again be the Road Runners club of America

Southern Region Championship. The race is operated by the Huntsville Track Club with the help of many volunteers. For entry information on the race call Malcolm Gillis, race director, 828-6207, download entry forms from www.huntsvilletrackclub.org, or register on line at www.RaceGate.com.

Young hunters

There will be a special shotgun deer hunt for youth who have reached their 12th birthday by the day of the hunt and who have not yet reached their 16th birthday. The special hunt is Saturday and will originate at Outdoor Recreation, building 5132. All youth must show proof of having successfully completed a State Hunter Education Course and must be escorted by a non-hunting adult who possesses a current RSA Hunting Permit. Both youth and escort must attend a required briefing the day of the hunt before participating in the special hunt. The briefings will be at 4:30 a.m. and noon, allowing youth to hunt in the morning, or the afternoon, or both. To pre-register for the hunt and for more information contact Outdoor Recreation, building 5132 or 5129, or call 876-HUNT between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily.

Triathletes

The Spring City Triathletes would like to invite you to the November meeting. The meeting will be held 6:30 p.m. at Logan's Roadhouse on Balmoral Drive off Airport Road (across from Wings). The scheduled speaker is Dr. Lori Kaufman on medical aspects of endurance competition. Please go to the far left into "the garage" after entering. For more information, call Bob Mulkey 883-7399 in the evenings.

Registration Form, contact your servicing specialist. Completed forms should be mailed to: South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center, Attn: SFCP-SC-S, Sparkman building 5304, Redstone Arsenal, 35898-6222. For more information, call Betty Duke 313-4790.

Future scientists

Applications are available for the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program for high school students and the College Apprentice Program. The distribution point of contact for applications is the senior counselor at public, private and parochial high schools. Possible career placement areas at the Aviation and Missile Command include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The Science and Engineering Apprentice Program is for students who have demonstrated aptitude interest in science and engineering courses and careers. Eligible students must be U.S. citizens who are at least age 15 by the beginning date of the program, June 15, 2000. The College Apprentice Program is for undergraduate students who have completed the SEAP and are enrolled in a scientific or technical major. Besides school counselors, applications are also available from the Management Employee Relations and Training Branch, Betty Duke, in building 5303, at 313-4790 or Jerrel McCollum 842-8850.

Miscellaneous

Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 in Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For information call the AA central office 885-0323.

Galaxy of lights

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is selling tickets for the "Galaxy of Lights," the holiday light show scheduled at Huntsville/Madison County Botanical Gardens for Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. Cost is \$10; however, through CWFC, tickets are only \$7.50 per car. For more information, call Mary Ann Meyer-Schuck 313-1698.

Health insurance

An open season—in which eligible federal employees may enroll or change enrollment to a new health benefits plan—began Nov. 8 and continues through Dec. 13. During open season, any eligible employee who is not currently enrolled may enroll in a Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plan. The FEHB 1999 Enrollment Information Guidance and Plan Comparison Chart will be made available to employees through their administrative office. Since it contains only a general description of benefits, do not rely solely on this booklet when deciding to enroll in or change enrollment to another plan. If employees need advice and assistance concerning completion of the Health Benefit

Scholarship fund

Army Emergency Relief is a private non-profit organization with the primary mission of providing financial assistance to soldiers and their dependents in time of valid emergency need. The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund administered by AER is a secondary mission to help Army families with the costs of undergraduate level education, post-secondary vocational training, and preparation for acceptance by service academies for their dependent children. Applicants must be dependent children, stepchildren or legally adopted children of

See Announcements on page 21

Family

continued from page 19

Arsenal team is committed to providing training that suits the needs and schedules of the military community. Courses can be offered through family support groups, coffee groups, working lunches and other meetings of family members.

According to Cathy Ryan, an AFTB administrator, volunteers are needed to serve as instructors and to fill administrative positions. AFTB offers free training, child care, and refreshments during meetings. All logistics and supplies are provided for the program.

For more information about the program or to register for courses, call 876-5397 or 876-2896.

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soldiers on active duty, retired or deceased while on active duty or after retirement; must be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Systems (DEERS); unmarried for entire academic year; U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents; under the age of 22 on June 1, 2000 based on 2000-01 academic year. Scholarship applications can be obtained from Ann Owens, AER officer, building 3491, phone 876-9579 or may be printed from AER web site www.aerhq.org through March 1. Completed applications with supporting documents must be mailed to Headquarters, AER and postmarked not later than March 1. To be considered, the scholarship application must be complete, accurate and contain all required documents.

Native American month

National Native American/Indian Heritage Month is Nov. 1-30. OMMCS/59th Ordnance Brigade and AMCOM are sponsoring an essay contest and a unit department static display contest. Essays should be double-spaced, two pages or less and pertain to this year's theme—"Revere the Past, Live for Today, Hope for the Future." Fax or mail entries by close of business Nov. 10 to: Commander, Aviation and Missile Command, Attn.: AMSAM-EO (Kate Love), Redstone Arsenal (fax 876-8947; phone 876-8015); or to Commandant, OMMCS, Attn.: ATSK-AE (SFC Quesenberry), Redstone Arsenal (fax 842-6853; phone 876-9224). Plaques will be

awarded for the top two essays. In the unit department static display contest, call either office location and point of contact. Static displays should be in place by COB Nov. 10; and judging will take place Nov. 11. Trophies will be awarded for the top three displays.

PX news

The Post Exchange will operate with the following holiday hours on Veterans Day, Nov. 11: Main Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Anthony's, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Concessions, closed; Mall Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Furniture Store, closed; One-Stop Goss Road, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Service Station, closed; Burger King, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Military Clothing, closed; and Barber Shop, building 3479, closed.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Nov. 18 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at the Radisson Suite Hotel on South Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Marvin Whitted 842-2879.

Retirement ceremony

The Quarterly Post Retirement Ceremony will be held 4 p.m. Dec. 16 between buildings 5303 and 5304 at the Sparkman Center Parade Field. Rehearsal for the ceremony will be held that morning at 8 in the same location. Retirees who wish to participate in the ceremony should call MSgt. Loew, RASA Support Operations, 876-2819 by Nov. 24.

Master's degree

Nova Southeastern University will hold a registration meeting on its Master of Business Administration program at 6 p.m. Friday at Calhoun Community College, classroom 51 at 102 Wynn Drive. For more information, call William Spade 1-800-672-7223, ext. 5039 or 5056; or call the NSU coordinator in Huntsville, Steve Blackwell 895-2955.

Catholic community

Our Lady of the Valley, Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel announces the following: Rosary is recited daily at 11:30 a.m. followed either by mass or a communion service at noon.

Thanksgiving meal

The Sparkman Cafeteria will offer its annual Thanksgiving special Nov. 18. For \$6.35 this includes turkey with dressing, choice of two vegetables, dessert and drink.

NFFE meeting

NFFE Local 405 will meet today at noon at

the union office, building 3209 on Hercules Road. For more information, call 313-2252.

Holiday party

The 1999 IMMC Christmas Party will be held Dec. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Redstone Arsenal Club ballroom. Tickets are \$10 each. For tickets call Jan Pickard 842-7849, Vanessa Adair 313-1635 or Pat Blackman 842-8101.

Parents council

The Parent Advisory Council will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Activity Room of the Bicentennial Chapel. Anyone with a child enrolled in a Redstone Arsenal child services program is welcome to attend.

Clean-out day

Redstone Arsenal's annual "Classified Information Clean-Out Day" is scheduled for Monday. Have you set aside some time to destroy classified documents you no longer need? In accordance with AR 380-5, paragraph 9-105, and HQ AMC Supplement 1 to AR 380-5, one day in November each year has been established as time to review classified documents and material on hand to make sure we retain only what is necessary and destroy the rest. The documents and information that should be cleaned out are: records more than five years old;

records not permanently valuable; and records you do not have retention authority from the originator or by records management regulations. Records and files that fail to meet retention criteria should be destroyed, returned to the originator, or stored in record holding files. This year security officials request that special attention be given to TOP SECRET holdings. To assist you in clean-out efforts, on Tuesday the Transportation Motor Pool will be making a run to the Huntsville incinerator to destroy classified media such as CDs, magnetic tapes, disks, and software. Carl Pack of the TMP may be reached at 876-3938. All classified or sensitive information stored on paper should be destroyed by use of the shred truck. The schedule for the shred truck remains the same. By close of business Nov. 22 each organization should report to James Pollock, AMSAM-SI-SD, 876-1345, or Clark Lewis, AMSAM-SI-SD, 876-5580, the number of linear feet of classified material destroyed as a result of this effort.

DPW dinner

The Directorate of Public Works will hold its 46th annual Thanksgiving Dinner at noon Nov. 23 at building 5663. The entire Arsenal is invited to attend. Tickets are \$5

See Announcements on page 22



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

Healthy choice...

It's open season for federal employees wanting to enroll or change their health care coverage through the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan. Mailhandlers representative, Cheryl Kirksey, left, assists Blackhawk office employees Julia Moore and Susan Sengewald, right, with questions about health insurance coverage.

Redstone workers advised on inclement weather plans

In the unlikely event that Redstone Arsenal closes or delays its opening due to inclement weather, there are several local media outlets that have agreed to broadcast closure announcements. Employees are encouraged to tune to any of these radio or television stations to receive current information.

Employees should assume the installation is operating on a normal work schedule unless informed otherwise.

Following are the stations to which Arsenal officials will make delayed opening or closure announcements:

Radio stations— WRAB, 1380 AM; WZYP, 104.3 FM; WDRM, 102 FM; WGSV, 1270 AM; WAHR, 99.1 FM; WJAB, 90.9 FM; WLRH, 89.3 FM; WRSA, 97 FM; WTKI, 1450 AM; WNDA, 95.1 FM; WWIC, 1050 AM; WEKR, 1240 AM.

Television stations— WHNT-TV (Ch 19); WAAY-TV (Ch 31); WAFF-TV (Ch 48).

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Announcements

and can be purchased from the following: Mable Brooks 876-1893, Elise McWilliams 876-5578 or Sandy Lawrence 876-1957. Tickets must be purchased by Nov. 17.

IMMC party

The IMMC Christmas Party will be held 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Redstone Arsenal Club ballroom. There will be entertainment, door prizes, and turkey and dressing dinner. Tickets are \$10 each. For tickets call Jan Pickard 842-7849, Vanessa Adair 313-1635 or Pat Blackman 842-8101.

Garden plots

On Monday the ground maintenance contractors will begin clearing and plowing the garden plots in preparation for next year's planting. All users are requested to complete their harvesting and remove all materials used during the planting season. Both Vincent Drive and Wesson Circle will be cleared. Direct questions of concern to MSgt. Jones, the Housing Management NCO, 876-1445.

Admin professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a.m. Tuesday in ballroom 2, Redstone Arsenal Club. Ron Legowik is to present a program on Public Speaking. Membership is open to all federally employed administrative professionals. For more information on IAAP, call membership chairman Jackie Kenner 876-8131.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers luncheon will be held today at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity Personal Growth Center, Airport Road. Scheduled speaker is David Bates, chief financial officer, Marshall Space Flight Center. Cost is \$9 for members, \$10 for non-members. For reservations call Janet Siersma 955-3890.

Prayer breakfast

The November Nondenominational Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the IMMC will be held Nov. 23 at 7 a.m. in the Sparkman Complex, building 5309, east end of the Sparkman Center Food Court. This program will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Prayer Breakfast. The program will feature Frank Tackett and music by Tommie Lockhart, accompanied by Leon Chavers on piano. No food or drinks will be served, but you may bring your own. Everyone is invited. For information call Ronnie Davis 895-4181.

Property managers

Rocket City Chapter of the National Property Management Association will present a seminar Nov. 22 at the Sparkman Auditorium. Scheduled guest speaker is Dr. Douglas Goetz, "guru of government property" from the Air Force Institute of Technology. A continental breakfast (registration) is from 8-8:30 a.m., and lunch will be provided. The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. Cost is \$75 for members of NPMA and sister associations, and \$100 for non-members, or \$125 for attendees receiving automatic new NPMA membership status. Please pre-register via e-mail at william.r.demarco@boeing.com, or fax 461-3699 (attn: Bill DeMarco).

Cajun dance

A Cajun/Zydeco dance will be held Saturday at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Leeman Ferry Road. Thomas Fields and his Zydeco band will provide the music for dancing from 8-11 p.m. Admission is \$12. A free Zydeco dance lesson will be given beginning at 7:15. For more information, call 882-2653.

Rustic Lodge event

The second annual Rustic Lodge Special Events Extravaganza is scheduled for Nov. 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This is a gala event for local merchants to promote their prod-

ucts. Participants range from photographers, caterers, live entertainment to florists, to help you in your party planning needs. Door prizes and free giveaways from vendors are planned. If you are interested in having a table at the Extravaganza, call Michelle Klein 842-0972. This event is open to all Redstone Arsenal employees.

Salvation army

Salvation Army in Huntsville is in need of volunteers—groups or individuals—to ring bells for the Christmas Kettles and to man Angel Tree booths at Madison Square and Parkway City Malls. For more information, call Bonnie Bickerstaff 536-5576.

ARMY MERIT PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND THE HUNTSVILLE AREA

These announcements provided by the AMCOM CPAC can be found on the web at www.cpol.army.mil. This list includes announcements that opened prior to the Friday before Rocket publication date and close on/after the publication date. For a complete list and details on these opportunities go to the web.

Most of these announcements are limited to Army employees.

Other announcements that are open to all U.S. citizens can be found at www.opm.gov

PVA NUMBER	TITLE	CLOSES	LOCATION	PPSERIES	GRADE	POT
00C0109TM	Firefighter	10-Nov-99	RSA DPW	GS-0081	6	6
00C0121FM	Personnel Mgmt Spec	12-Nov-99	AMCOM CPAC	GS-0201	7	11
00C0057FM	Logistics Mgmt Spec	12-Nov-99	LOGSA	GS-0346	11	11
00B0110DF	Medical Clerk(Steno/OA)	12-Nov-99	MEDDAC	GS-0679	5	5
00D0115KH	Financial Systems Spec	12-Nov-99	AMCOM Res Mgmt	GS-0501	11	11
00D0114KH	Financial Systems Spec	12-Nov-99	AMCOM Res Mgmt	GS-0501	11	11
00B0102AC	Lead General Engr.	12-Nov-99	PEO Air Missile	GS-0801	14	14
00B0103AC	Lead General Engr.	12-Nov-99	PEO Air Missile	GS-0801	14	14
00B0141AC	Supervisory Gen Engr	15-Nov-99	PEO Air Missile	GS-0801	14	14
00B0130SH	Chemical Engineer	15-Nov-99	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0893	III	III
BKM94588A	Diagnos Radiolog Tech	15-Nov-99	MEDDAC	GS-0647	6	6
00C0117RC	Supply Systems Analyst	15-Nov-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-2003	12	12
HA99A2643	Training Technician	16-Nov-99	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-1702	7	7
00B0157AC	Program Analyst	17-Nov-99	PEO Air Missile	GS-0343	13	13
00B0125AC	General Engineer	17-Nov-99	USAAESA	GS-0801	13	13
00D0142DB	Secretary (OA)	17-Nov-99	USAOMMCS	GS-0318	5	5
00C0126JH	Logistics Mgmt Spec	17-Nov-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0346	13	13
00B0108AC	Operations Resrch Anal	17-Nov-99	PEO Aviation	GS-1515	13	13
00C127JH	Logistics Mgmt Spec	18-Nov-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0346	12	12
00C01341G	Logistics Mgmt Spec	18-Nov-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0346	11	11
00C0136JH	Logistics Mgmt Spec	18-Nov-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0346	12	12
00B0090KR	Secretary (OA)	19-Nov-99	USAAESA	GS-0318	5	5
00B0090KR	Secretary (O/A)	19-Nov-99	PEO Aviation	GS-0318	5	5
00D0139KH	Program Analyst	22-Nov-99	AMCOM RMD	GS-0343	12	12
00D0116DB	Supv. Security Spec.	29-Nov-99	AMCOM ISD	GS-0080	14	14
00A0111PA	Program Manager	29-Nov-99	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0340	15	15
00D0140BJ	Prog/Acq Mgmt Officer	6-Dec-99	PEO Joint Tact UAV	NH-0301	IV	IV
00D0042DB	Electronics Engineer	31-Dec-99	STRICOM	GS-0855	7	11
00D0041DB	Electronics Engineer	31-Dec-99	STRICOM	GS-0855	12	12
AGM92700	Medical Technologist	12-Jan-00	MEDCOM	GS-0644	5-12	12
NC08699	Criminal Investigator	13-Apr-00	CID	GS-1811	9-12	12

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Flying high

■ JLENS project wins award

By Connie E. Dickey

WASHINGTON— Popular Mechanics has chosen the Joint Land Attack Missile Elevated Netted Sensor System for a 2000 Design and Engineering Award.

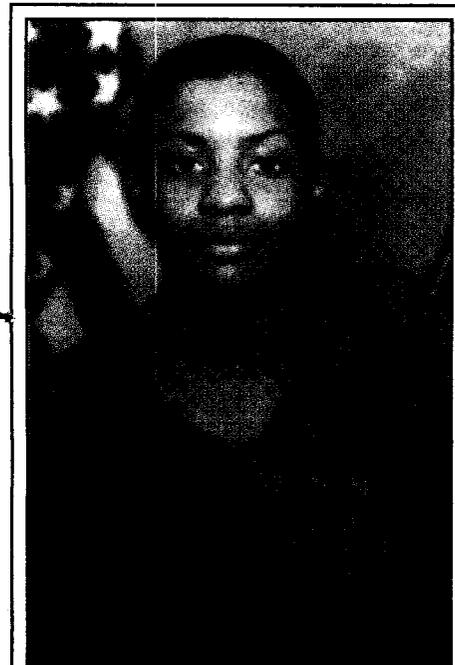
"It was a complete surprise," Mike Grannan, deputy program manager for JLENS, said. "It is a very impressive award from Popular Mechanics."

Jim Wilson, science editor with Popular Mechanics, said the magazine has followed the project for a number of years and was present at the national media presentation of the system in April. "It represented a very clever use of existing technology to solve an extremely difficult problem. It is very forward thinking," he said.

He said this year the magazine has explored about 500 new scientific and engineering projects and JLENS is one of the top three. The magazine selects awards in several categories, Wilson said, and JLENS is one of the winners in the scientific category. The other two are a new genetic engineered drug and a passive permanent magnet bearing.

In 1996 the Department of Defense selected the Army to take the lead in establishing a joint project office with the Air Force and Navy to develop a joint cruise missile defense capability. The Space and Missile Defense Command was given the project and the command chose Huntsville to set up the project office.

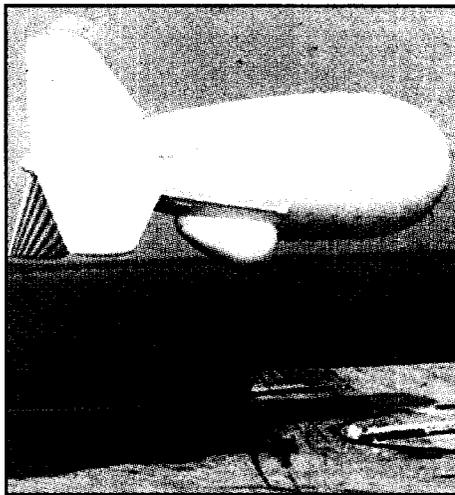
According to Grannan, the project is presently in the radar design phase. He said the JLENS concept includes elevating the radar to 15,000 feet to increase line of site ranges and overcome the obstacle of the curvature of the earth and obstructions such as mountain ranges.



Courtesy photo

Hometown recruiter...

Pvt. Tierra Baker, daughter of Lorenzo and Lillie Baker of Huntsville, is temporarily working with the local Army recruiting station. She will be stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky.



File Photo

AWARD WINNER – Described as "forward thinking," the JLENS project earned top honors from Popular Mechanics magazine.

At that elevation, Grannan said, the radar can track incoming missiles from about 200 miles out. The aerostat platform is used to elevate the radar, which is enclosed in a windscreen under the helium-filled aerostat, or balloon.

"We chose an aerostat for its cost effectiveness. Instead of all the people and fuel needed to keep airplanes up and flying, we only need a ground crew of six to monitor the balloon. No one is on the balloon and it can stay up for about 30 days, instead of the 12 to 16 hours a plane can fly before having to land, refuel and change crews," Grannan said. The balloon is not free-floating though; it is tethered to the ground.

The aerostat is a commercial-off-the-shelf kind similar to what the Drug Enforcement Agency uses on the U.S. southern border, Grannan said.

He said besides the low maintenance for the aerostat, its durability is also cost effective. Grannan cited an example of a ground crew working on the southern border that noticed one of its aerostats losing altitude, so they brought it down and saw it had 12 bullet holes in it. "So, it is durable and obviously can remain aloft from several hours to several weeks with holes in it."

When the radar picks up a missile it will send tracking information through the tether of the aerostat and out to Army, Air Force and Navy units so the missile can be monitored and a fire decision can be made, Grannan said.

According to a Space and Missile Defense Command fact sheet on the JLENS, it was demonstrated during Roving Sands '98 at Fort Bliss, Texas. A German Patriot unit reported killing a cruise missile with JLENS' track number, demonstrating cueing by the JLENS.

It was also used during the All Service Combat Identification and Evaluation Team '99 exercise and proved its joint operational utility by relaying information on a mobile mooring station allowing both the Army and Navy to exchange radar data.

Popular Mechanics will present the award to Lt. Gen. John Costello, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, and to Raytheon Systems, contractor for the system, sometime in December. The JLENS was the lead item in the Technology Watch section of the November issue and will also be featured in the magazine's December issue. (Arnews)

Firefighters

continued from page 2

Similarly, the chief said, the Arsenal Fire Department stands ready to aid surrounding communities as well.

"Our mutual aid agreements work both ways; the firefighting business is a unique family," Stephens said. "We all have to stick together. We have a special hazardous material response unit and trained technicians, who stand ready to render aid if requested. We also have a mobile cascade system to quickly fill self-contained breathing apparatus air tanks. We've had quite a few calls for that support over the years."

In addition to equipment and firefighters, mutual aid agreements are used for training. For example, Stephens said that a

number of communities use the jet-fuel firefighting pit at the Redstone Army Airfield to train and certify firefighters to fight aircraft crash fires.

"Here and throughout the country, mutual aid agreements have saved lives, property and money," Stephens said. "We're truly fortunate to be in such a cooperative, flexible, honor-bound community. A firefighter's life can change instantly, with the sound of an alarm or a pager. One minute you might be celebrating an event with a loved one, and the next minute, you're sweating and peering through smoke. During those times, it's nice to know that you can always call – and get – help."

"There is a special firefighter camaraderie," Stephens said. "Firefighters can't help but develop close relationships."

■ Cost saving programs net AMCOM dollars

Savings

continued from page 2

Aviation, missile, and support systems all contributed significantly to this command-wide achievement. Equally important, many of these initiatives enhanced the performance and reliability of systems used by soldiers in the field.

The success of the two programs is not attributable to any one individual or organization but rather to the entire AMCOM community, the PEOs, Program/Project/Product Managers' Offices, and contractors as well as end users. Combined program savings are expected to exceed \$411 million.

(Editor's note: Hale is a senior analyst with Science Applications International Corporation, a contractor for the VE and OSCR programs.)

The 65th Infantry Regiment cited for Korean War valor

By Rudi Williams

WASHINGTON— The predominantly Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment was honored in a 1992 Army National Guard heritage painting for its record of valor during the Korean War.

The scene depicts the regimental bayonet charge against a Chinese division near Seoul, South Korea, on Feb. 2, 1951. The 65th had been ordered to seize two hills and climaxed a three-day assault by fixing bayonets and launching straight into the Chinese 149th Division. The enemy soldiers fled.

The 65th was organized in 1899, a year after the United States seized Puerto Rico from Spain. At the time, the Army considered the regiment to be "colonial troops" for the defense of the island, according to the Army Center for Military History in Washington. Its nickname, "The Borinqueneers," honors a native Puerto Rican Indian tribe.

The regiment served in Panama and France during World War II, but its record was undistinguished because, some sources say, Army commanders lacked confidence in the Puerto Ricans' willingness to fight. It took the Korean War to prove those doubts were misplaced.

After arriving at Pusan, South Korea, on Sept. 20, 1950, the outfit quickly won respect on the battlefield. Over the next



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Center for Military History
BAYONET CHARGE— This 1992 painting depicts the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment's bayonet charge against a Chinese division during the Korean War.

three years, it participated in nine major campaigns and earning a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations.

Individual members earned four Distinguished Service Crosses and 124 Silver Stars.

The ground war in Korea was fought on some of the most mountainous terrain in the world and many of the bitterest battles occurred during the winter, when extreme cold, snow and ice dogged troops. The 65th's regimental motto, "Honor and Fidelity," exemplifies its gallant service in that difficult war. (American Forces Press Service)