

Soundoff!

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE FORT MEADE COMMUNITY

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FTMEADE.ARMY.MIL

First Strike



Christian Spear, 14, of Hanover, practices his technique Saturday morning at the Fort Meade Youth Bowling Leagues program at the Lanes. More than 80 youths participate in the program's four leagues, which provide volunteer coaches, the opportunity for competitive play and the chance to earn college scholarships. For the story, see Page 10.

PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

COMING TOGETHER

County police meet with community

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, 4:30-6 p.m.: Facebook Town Hall - facebook.com/ftmeade

Monday, 10:30 a.m.: Tax Center grand opening - 4217 Morrison St.

Feb. 3, 10:30 a.m.: Cooking Matters Commissary tour - Commissary

Feb. 7: Super Bowl Party - The Lanes

A SHOT IN THE DARK

Laser-based firing range opens at McGill

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Soundoff!

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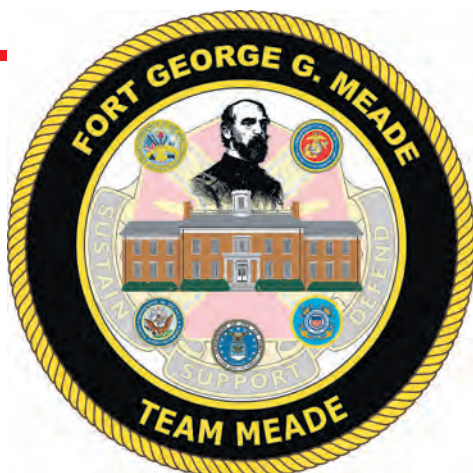
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GUEST COLUMN

Updated NCO Evaluation Report rating forms available online

By DAVID RUDERMAN

Human Resources Command Public Affairs

U.S. Army Human Resources Command announced Monday the availability of the DA Form 2166-9 series, the revised Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report and its activation in the web-based Evaluation Entry System, or EES.

As detailed in Military Personnel, Message 15-395, the effective policy date for use of the 2166-9 series is Jan. 1. Activation of the revised NCOER forms now allows Soldiers and raters to immediately begin to prepare NCOERs with a through date of Jan. 1 and later.

The 2166-9 series consists of three revised NCO rating forms based on grade plate that mandate distinct rater and senior rater roles, and incorporate a senior rater profile and rater tendency assessment.

Soldiers who are due to receive a mandatory report between now and Dec. 31 of this year will continue to receive that report, whether it be an annual, an extended annual or a change of rater report, using the DA Form 2166-8 series of report forms.

Sergeants first class who are eligible for the FY 2016 Regular Army and U.S. Army Guard Reserve Master Sergeant Promotion Boards will also employ the 2166-8 series NCOER form, said Sgt. Maj. Stephen McDermid of HRC's Evaluation Branch.

Details were published in MILPER

15-340, Oct. 27. For board eligible NCOs, who have not received a mandatory report as outlined in MILPER 15-340, he or she will receive an HRC-directed Code 19 Evaluation with a through date of Dec. 31.

"This will ensure those individuals eligible for that board receive a close-out evaluation," McDermid said.

Training modules for proper use of the revised NCOER forms and an Evaluation Entry System test site have been and remain available on the HRC website for Soldiers and raters to practice with.

Detailed training modules have been posted to HRC Evaluations Branch website as well as SINET and are available for download on DVIDS at <https://www.dvidshub.net/tags/video/ncoer>.

The training modules lead NCOs and raters through the process, section by section, in an easy-to-understand manner, McDermid said.

In addition to the activation of the NCOER forms, MILPER 15-395 also announced an update to the Officer Evaluation Report forms that incorporate the use of DoD ID numbers in place of Social Security numbers.

The new NCOER forms will also use DoD ID numbers in place of Social Security numbers. The DoD ID, which appears on Soldiers' Common Access Cards, is being phased in as part of the federal government's effort to remove Social Security numbers from as many documents as possible.

Commander's Open Door

Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley has an open door policy.

All service members, retirees, government employees, family members and community members age 18 or older are invited to address issues or concerns to the commander directly by visiting Foley's office on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at garrison headquarters in Hodges Hall, Bldg. 4551, Llewellyn Avenue.

Visitors are seen on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call 301-677-4844.

Town Hall addresses police-community relations

BY ALAN H. FEILER
Staff Writer

Alluding to well-publicized incidents around the country recently between police officers and community members, Bishop Eric Wright Sr. says it all comes down to the tone of the conversation during such confrontations.

"It's not about *what* you say but *how* you say it," said the pastor of Rhema Word Worship and Praise Center in Brooklyn, Md. "The dialogue often goes to becoming an argument and sometimes gets violent. We're trying to bridge that gap."

Wright was among the panelists at a Town Hall meeting held Jan. 12 at Meade High School that focused on community and police relations in Anne Arundel County. Approximately 50 people attended the gathering, which was sponsored by the county's Human Relations Commission.

Moderated by security consultant Derek Matthews, the panel featured Anne Arundel County Chief of Police Timothy J. Altomare and Deputy Chief Jerard Flemings; Rev. Stephen Tillett of Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church in Annapolis, who is president of the Anne Arundel County NAACP; Carl B. Brooks, president of the Northern District Police-Community Relations Council; Rusty Bristow, president of the Western District Police-Community Relations Council; and Bascom D. "Dit" Talley III, faculty member at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education, Division of Public Safety Leadership.

Welcoming audience members were Cynthia Robichaud, commission president, and Anne Arundel County Executive Steven R. Schuh.

"I'm proud to be county executive of a community that treats its police officers with respect and dignity," said Schuh.

Schuh said the county added 20 public safety professionals last year, and 180 new police vehicles will be acquired this year. The county is also planning the construction of a new police academy and central booking facility.

"We understand the importance of keeping you, your families and properties safe," Schuh said. "We pledge to keep an open dialogue between police and those they protect, educating both sides about the perceptions and responsibilities of one another."

Altomare praised the forum for bringing together police and civic leaders.

"We're willing to be part of the solution and proactive and communicative," he said. "With the national backdrop, there's been a lot of ugliness. By the grace of God, Anne Arundel County has avoided much of that."

When a complaint is filed against an officer, Altomare said, the county has an accountability system ensuring the concern goes before supervisors, and is documented with a tracking number. He said repeated complaints against an officer, even if unsubstantiated, remain in the system and additional training is provided if necessary.

"Public trust is a bank account in which we have to put a deposit every day so that on the eventual day I have to make a withdrawal, I still have a positive balance," Altomare said.

In 2014, 197 use-of-force incidents were reported out of over 400,000 interactions between police and community members, Flemings said.

He said officers are only allowed to use force to control an incident, make an arrest, or protect themselves and others.

"Once the incident is over and under control, anything that goes beyond what's required is excessive force," Flemings said.

He said officers are trained to de-escalate conflicts by using verbal warnings, slowing down volatile situations if possible, and considering if the lack of compliance is deliberate.

Flemings said officers accused of excessive force are subjected to internal affairs reviews and can go before the Deadly Force Review Board.

As faith-based leaders, Wright and Tillett said they act as "a partition" between police leaders and the community.

"We've partnered with the police and done some really wonderful joint events that let people see the versatility of the police department," Wright said.

Ongoing dialogue between police and faith-based leaders, he said, has helped "bring us together ... so Anne Arundel can be a model and not another statistic."

Tillett said a lot of troubleshooting goes on behind the scenes.

"I do not view the police as adversaries but partners," he said.

To avoid racial profiling situations, Tillett said police need to be more invested in communities.

"Police need to be careful not to assume everyone is a bad actor," he said. "Get out of the squad car and meet people



PHOTO BY ALAN H. FEILER

Anne Arundel County Chief of Police Timothy J. Altomare (right) and Deputy Chief Jerard Flemings address audience questions about police-community relations at the Town Hall meeting held Jan. 12 at Meade High School.

and engage. It will help you do your work, and your community will be better for it."

Altomare said police leaders are working diligently to teach officers about "good, old-fashioned community policing — human interaction. We're trying to get back to an equilibrium of trust."

Bristow and Brooks advised community members to join police-community relations councils and help plan events that honor officers and show them in a non-threatening light.

"Interact with the police and have your child meet an officer," Bristow said. "It's nicer to meet an officer when he's not on a call."

Talley said officers generally need more leadership training to gain better communication and interpersonal skills.

"You must hear people out and respond with empathy and integrity," he said. "What you're doing in this county is so important."

Among those who attended was Fort Meade Transformation Director Bert L. Rice, who said he was impressed with the overall tone of the meeting.

"It was a good exchange of information, and no one pulled any punches," he said. "There's a system in motion to address things before they get out of hand."

"I've been around this area for 40 years, and I've always thought the relationship between the police and community is pretty good."

Editor's note: Town Hall meetings also will be held Tuesday and Feb. 9 in the county. For more information, call 410-222-1220.

COMMUNITY CRIME WATCH

COMPILED BY THE FORT MEADE DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Jan. 15, Assault consummated by a battery: The victim stated that she was involved in a verbal dispute with her husband that turned physical when he picked up the car keys and threw them at her, striking her on the left side of her face.

Jan. 16, Shoplifting: Police were conducting routine police presence in the Exchange when the alarm for the antitheft system went off. Police observed the subject walking with two items, a pocket knife and a Moga Gaming System, in his hand. The subject was unable to provide a receipt. The subject later admitted to the shoplifting.

Jan. 16, Shoplifting: AAFES loss prevention personnel at the Exchange stated that she observed, via surveillance camera, the subject select property, conceal it on her person and exit the Exchange without rendering payment.

For week of Jan. 11-17

Moving violations: 66
Nonmoving violations: 22
Verbal warnings for traffic stops: 80
Traffic accidents: 3
Driving on suspended license: 7
Driving on suspended registration: 0
Driving without a license: 1

Diversity is focus of MLK observance

BY LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

The call for diversity and unity that resonated in the speeches of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been made a reality in the Air Force.

That was the message shared by Jarris Louis Taylor Jr., deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Strategic Diversity Integration, Office of the Assistant Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Taylor, who served 20 years in the Air Force before retiring in 2005, was the guest speaker for the garrison's annual Martin Luther King Day observance held Jan. 14 at McGill Training Center.

"In the Air Force, diversity is broadly defined as a composite of individual characteristics, experiences and abilities consistent with the Air Force core values and the Air Force mission," Taylor said. "This accomplishment could not have happened without senior leadership's commitment to diversity."

The 90-minute event was hosted by the 70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing and the Fort Meade Equal Opportunity Office. The observance featured a musical prelude by the U.S. Army Field Band's Jazz Ambassadors, a display of books about King's life, and a display of essays written by fifth-graders at Pershing Hill Elementary School for a contest about

the King holiday.

A catered lunch of sandwiches, chicken wings, fresh fruits and vegetables and a ceremonial cake were provided by the Fort Meade Commissary.

The observance began with the singing of the national anthem by Master Sgt. Marva Lewis, lead singer of the Jazz Ambassadors, and the invocation by Chaplain (Capt.) Manuel Duarte of the 70th ISRW.

Col. Gregory Gillinger, vice commander of the ISRW, welcomed the audience and introduced Taylor.

"Forwarding Dr. King's dream within our United States Air Force is not easy, definitely a complicated problem and complex issue, but Dr. Louis is on the forefront of building our policy in this United States Air Force."

In his remarks, Taylor noted that Jan. 15 would have been King's 87th birthday.

"I am sure he is smiling and nodding his head with approval of this historic event," Taylor said of the King holiday. "And I can hear him speaking as he did in Washington, D.C. 'We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.'"

"Dr. King would be pleased that you are here at McGill Training Center to remember, celebrate and act upon the unfinished business that we must continue as a nation and beloved community as this is a day on — not a day off," Taylor said.

Taylor spoke of the efforts by Congress to



PHOTOS BY PHIL GROUT

A Soldier reflects on the portrait of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the many books on the life of the slain civil rights leader.

legislate a holiday for King's birthday — beginning with Michigan Rep. John Conyers Jr. and the late Sen. Edward Brooke of Massachusetts — four days after King's assassination in 1968. Indiana Rep. Katie Hall continued with a bill in 1983, which was eventually signed by President Ronald Reagan in the Rose Garden of the White House on Nov. 2, 1983.

On Oct. 13, 2010, the U.S. Air Force published its first-ever diversity policy directive, which Taylor said, states that "diversity is a military necessity."

"I tell folks we have a methodical diversity drumbeat, a methodical diversity drumbeat with a consistent strategic communication message that emphasizes the importance of leadership at all levels throughout this wonderful organization," Taylor said. "I am most proud of the foundational governing documents we have established to sustain our diversity and inclusion initiatives."

"Long after today's members are in retirement, it is incumbent upon the next generation to pick up the torch and carry it onward and upward."

Taylor said that diversity is a "national security imperative" as the Air Force "continues to institutionalize, attract, recruit, develop and retain a highly qualified workforce representative of the American population eligible to serve on our team, in the world's greatest military."

In closing, Taylor quoted one of King's speeches from 1959:

"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a

greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."

After Taylor's presentation, Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley and Gillinger presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

Foley encouraged the audience to "consider Dr. King's words and judge the human beings that you interact with on an everyday basis on the content of their character and not any other physical trait. If we choose to prejudge them based upon any other physical trait, then we do so at great, great risk."

Staff Sgt. Ian Stockton of the 70th Operations Support Squadron and emcee of the event later announced the winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest at Pershing Hill Elementary School.

The fifth-grade winners, who were not in attendance, are: Tannar Fife, first place; Dohnoven Dixon, second place; and Alexia Robbins, third place.

Chaplain (Col.) James Palmer of Army Cyber Command, said he thought Louis' remarks were "great," especially for the younger generation that may assume that King's holiday is a recent achievement.

"His words remind us that we should work toward diversity and making things inclusive," Palmer said.

Master Sgt. Sean Fitzwilliam, also of Army Cyber Command, said that the slain civil rights leader made an impact on the world "in a significant way."

Fitzwilliam said that King taught the world that when we "fail to treat people with dignity and respect, we are a dishonor to God."



Guest speaker Jarris Louis Taylor (left), deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for the Strategic Diversity Integration, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, talks with Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley (right) and Air Force Col. Gregory Gillinger, vice commander of the 70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing.

Corvias installing solar panels on 1,800 homes

BY LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

Last year, Corvias Military Living entered into an agreement with a renewable energy development company to install solar panels on 1,800 homes in residential communities on post.

In November, Onyx Renewable Partners, located in New York City, began installing solar panels that are expected to generate 9 megawatts of solar power in the first year.

"Installing solar panels as a clean energy source allows us the opportunity to better manage utility expenditures over the long term and do something good for the environment by reducing annual carbon emissions," said Scott Kotwas, business director for Corvias.

This effort supports the Department of Defense Privatized Housing Solar Challenge initiative to install solar power at partner military installations across the country at no cost to the military.

The challenge encourages private companies to provide solar power to more than 40 military bases across the country to save military families money on energy bills and make military communities more energy secure, according to the White House website.

"When the White House announced the DoD solar challenge, we gladly took



PHOTOS BY BRYAN SPANN/MEADE TV

A contractor works to install solar panels on homes in Potomac Place. The houses were selected according to their location and their ability to generate the most energy from the sun to maximize the effectiveness of the panels.

the opportunity to support our military partner in achieving their long-term renewable energy goals," Kotwas said.

The houses that are receiving solar panels were selected by Onyx Renewable Partners according to the homes' location and their ability to generate the most energy from the sun to maximize the effectiveness of the panels.

"Resident's won't see a difference in

their energy bill," said Angela Marcum, public affairs manager for Corvias. "Their bill will combine solar usage and grid consumption for their total energy usage."

Kotwas said the solar panels are likely to reduce energy costs in the years to come because the energy rate is set at a fixed price.

"When everyone else is paying higher



Solar panels have been installed on the roof of houses in Potomac Place. Corvias Military Living has an agreement with Onyx Renewable Partners to install solar panels on 1,800 homes in residential communities on post to reduce utility costs and reduce Fort Meade's carbon footprint.

utility rates off post, we have a locked rate and that's where we will be able to hedge our utility costs for years to come," he said. "So instead of paying more for utilities five years from now, we'll be able to take that savings and reinvest it in the housing."

In addition to reduced energy costs and a reduction in the installation's carbon footprint, Fort Meade also will receive renewable energy credits toward its overall renewable energy usage goal.

Corvias partners with National Military Family Association to offer scholarships

BY CORVIAS MILITARY LIVING

Corvias Foundation, a private charitable foundation and the charitable arm of Corvias Group, has been committed to supporting military families in the pursuit of higher education since 2006.

This year, Corvias Foundation and Corvias Military Living, the military housing division of Corvias Group, have partnered with the National Military Family Association to support scholarships in excess of \$20,000.

These scholarships are geared for NMFA-registered military spouses seeking professional funds, including licensure and certification.

Applications for 2016 scholarships are now available on the NMFA website.

To confirm eligibility and fill out an application, spouses should visit the Certificate + License Money page found on the NMFA website at www.militaryfamily.org/spouses-scholarships-professional-funds-partners.html.

Applicants must apply online by midnight on Jan. 31.

"Our first year partnering with NMFA afforded us the honor of awarding six well-deserving military spouses with the financial means to continue the journey toward their professional goals," said Maria Montalvo, the foundation's executive director. "The success of our inaugural participation has inspired us to significantly increase our contributions to the NMFA's wonderful mission."

"The foundation takes great pride in providing the families of service members with a support network that follows them in their pursuit, and we're excited to welcome more faces to our family."

More than 100,000 military spouses visited the NMFA's scholarship pages last year and 9,436 applied for funding, an increase of 33 percent over 2014, the

inaugural year of Corvias' participation.

In total, NMFA distributed \$535,250 to 446 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, NOAA and Coast Guard spouses, up 43 percent from 2014.

This year, Corvias has pledged to patron a \$20,000 grant, making them the largest sponsor of the NMFA's professional support initiatives.

In addition to Corvias, support for this year's NMFA scholarships comes from the Fisher House Foundation, Samsung Electronics America, United Health Foundation, GEICO, Lockheed Martin, May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, and Northrop Grumman Foundation.

Due to the frequency of moves and changing family dynamics due to deployments experienced by military families, Corvias is focused on ensuring that military spouses who are qualified to work in a job that they are trained and educated for are able to continue that work

regardless of location.

This program is intended to support licensing or registration in a new state or the ability to progress in a career with an additional technical certification.

All military spouses residing in the nine states that Corvias Military Living operates in — Alabama, Alaska, California, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and Oklahoma — are eligible for these scholarships.

Since its founding by Corvias Group CEO John Picerne, the foundation has awarded more than \$6 million in annual educational grants and scholarships to the spouses and children of active-duty service members living at military installations across the country.

Online scholarship applications are available each November at corviasfoundation.org.

For more information, call 401-228-2836.

A Shot in the Dark

Laser-based firing range opens at McGill

BY ALAN H. FEILER
Staff Writer

Sgt. 1st Class Donnel Cabanos admits she's never been much of a "gamer," or an interactive games enthusiast.

But she had a good time shooting a mock M4 carbine last week at the new Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 laser-based firing range at McGill Training Center.

"This isn't something I do every day," said Cabanos, who serves as the Equal Opportunity advisor for the U.S. Army Cyber Command. "This is a good way for all of us to practice those skills. Nothing beats shooting live rounds, but the EST is the next best thing."

Cabanos was among the dozen members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, as well as other post employees, who attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 14 for the EST. The 24-by-39-foot room, located in the back of McGill, was previously used as a storage area.

Cutting the ribbon at the ceremony were Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley; Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes; Mary A. Staab, director of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; and DPTMS training support specialist Benjamin D. Rogers, who oversaw the

creation of the EST project.

"Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines at Fort Meade are all expected to defend themselves with a weapon and to serve as the service members they are," Foley said. "It's absolutely necessary and required to have training capabilities to maintain basic service member capabilities."

"To have [the EST] here to train us is key," he said. "I thank Ben and everyone else for their hard work."

With its 13-by-7-foot digital screen and adjacent computer area, the five-lane EST at McGill is similar to the range facility at Building 68 near Rock Avenue, said Rogers. The room is painted black, covered in camouflage netting and Styrofoam soundproofing, and features a platform with sandbags from which to shoot at the high-resolution digital screen.

The new EST utilizes modified simulated Army light weaponry — M4s, M16s, 9mms, M500 shotguns and even M320 grenade launcher modules — with compressed air tubes placed in weapons to provide the sensation of firing.

The weapons also feature laser-mounted barrels for accuracy, while various combat scenarios — forests, urban landscapes and deserts — are depicted on the screen.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

Training support specialist Benjamin D. Rogers, who oversaw the creation of the five-lane Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, fires simulated Army light weaponry. The EST, located in the back of McGill Training Center, is painted black and features a platform with sandbags from which to shoot at the high-resolution digital screen.

An auto-tracking system is used to determine the accuracy and outcome of firing exercises.

Rogers said service members and eligible civilians can use the facility for as long as they want. Replays on the screen are offered so participants can examine their performances.

"It just gives Soldiers an opportunity to fire weapons and build confidence and a foundation" for shooting in an environment without using live ammunition or projectiles, he said of the EST concept, which was adopted by the Army in 2002.

An Iraq veteran who served from 1999 to 2005 with the 82nd Airborne Division, Rogers said excelling at virtual games does not guarantee proficiency at the EST.

"You could be really good at 'Call of Duty' and be rotten here," he said of the video game. "It's similar in being a digital projection, but otherwise very different. [The EST] is very accurate. You really need to know the fundamentals of shooting a weapon to be good at this."

"I'm a former Soldier and I understand how important it is to stay on your game. It doesn't matter what your job or branch of military is, you have to know how to use the weapons. You could be called on to use them."

Rogers said the overriding goal is to make the new EST a venue where operation certification for the oversight of such ranges can be conducted. Currently, the nearest venue to receive EST operation certification is Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown.

"That's about 45 minutes from here. I thought we should have something

closer," said Rogers, who is operation certified and will, at least initially, oversee the new EST facility.

For now, the EST will operate weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. It will be available at no charge to service members of all branches and National Guard and Reserve units, as well as to eligible civilians, Rogers said.

Besides receiving a tour, attendees at the ribbon cutting were given a demonstration of the EST. With Forbes serving as a safety, different waves of service members were offered an opportunity to lay on the floor, put in hearing probes, and fire at virtual enemies approaching from desert and mountainous landscapes.

"I enjoyed it thoroughly," said Marine Staff Sgt. William Shepherd of Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion, Bravo Company. "It really gives us an opportunity to keep our skills sharp."

Airman 1st Class Casey Martin of the 32nd Intelligence Squadron agreed.

"It's been a while since I've shot," he said. "[The EST] is a really well put-together piece of equipment. It'll help me build up my skills."

Rogers emphasized that the EST should be viewed as an accompaniment, and not a replacement, to live indoor and outdoor shooting ranges.

"Nothing replaces live shooting," he said. "But this is here and localized and close to the real deal. It's a real asset."

Editor's note: For more information about the EST 2000 at McGill, call 301-677-6506 or email Benjaimn.d-rogers.civ@mail.mil.



Sgt. 1st Class Donnel Cabanos of U.S. Army Cyber Command fires a mock M4 carbine at the new Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 laser-based firing range after a ribbon cutting and tour on Jan. 14 at McGill Training Center that allowed service members to try their hand at the simulated target range.

Tax-free college savings plans allow earnings to grow

BY JANE M. WINAND
Chief, Legal Assistance Division

Tax-free college savings plans under the Qualified Tuition Program, commonly referred to as 529 college savings plans (for the section of the Internal Revenue Code that authorizes them), are investment plans that allow for earnings to grow tax-free while being professionally managed.

Withdrawals to pay for college (tuition, books and fees) at an eligible educational institution are tax-free. If the student is enrolled at least half-time, then room and board, as determined by the college, are also qualified expenses.

Furthermore, the purchase of computer technology or equipment is also a qualified education expense if required for enrollment or attendance at an eligible institution.

Parents, grandparents and friends are eligible to participate. Tax-free distributions for qualified, higher-education expenses may be made from these funds.

The 529 plans are typically state-sponsored savings plans. All states and the District of Columbia currently have plans.

A majority of these state plans allow nonresidents to participate.

In addition, some 529 plans are sponsored by individual universities or groups of colleges to prepay qualified education expenses. Although contributions to a 529 plan are not deductible on your federal income tax return, such contributions may be deductible on your state income tax.

Since college expenses are on the rise, it makes sense to save now for a child's college education. The 529 plans allow you to save and then take the money out to pay for college without having to pay federal income tax on the earnings.

If nonqualified withdrawals are made, however, the earnings are taxed at regular income tax rates with a 10 percent additional penalty tax, although there are specific exceptions to the penalty tax such as if the beneficiary dies or is disabled.

Although the federal law does not require income or age requirements for investors in these plans, a state may impose such limits. Therefore, it is important to check for such provisions in a plan before you invest.

Federal law requires the states to set a

maximum allowable contribution limit, but each state determines that limit. The maximum amount for college savings plans currently varies from \$70,835 to \$452,210 per beneficiary.

Each 529 plan has a professional financial manager such as a well-known investment company. The money may be invested in mutual funds of different kinds. Some account holders prefer spreading money between funds of different risk levels.

Other account holders select an age-based investment option that concentrates monies in high-risk funds while the child is young and gradually transfers monies to lower-risk funds as the child gets closer to enrolling in college.

Many plans allow the account holder to shift monies to other funds, although this shift may be limited to one or two changes per year.

The investor may change the beneficiary of a fund, so long as the new beneficiary is a member of the investor's family, as defined in the tax law.

The 529 plans should have less of an impact on federal financial-aid eligibility for parents and students than other

college savings plans. Eligibility for federal financial aid is based on income for the year in which withdrawals are taken.

Assets in accounts owned by a dependent student or a parent are considered parental assets on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

When a school calculates the student's Expected Family Contribution, only a maximum of 5.64 percent of parental assets are counted.

In contrast, student assets are counted at 20 percent, which could result in a higher EFC and thus less financial aid.

Many 529 plans are available. A consumer should consider the different investment funds available in a given plan, the past growth rates, administrative support available, and enrollment and other administrative fees.

Read the fine print to determine unique restrictions and features such as state tax benefits and maximum contribution limits.

For more information regarding consumer issues, call the Fort Meade Legal Assistance Division to schedule an appointment with an attorney at 301-677-9536 or 301-677-9504.

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PHOTOS BY NATE PESCE
A youth bowler grabs a ball during practice. The Fort Meade Youth Bowling Leagues program is composed of four leagues of youths ranging from ages 3-20.



Eric Perrault, 16, of Severn (left) and Jarek Lamourt, 15, of Crofton (right) help Sydney Joyce, 16, of Hanover use a ramp to bowl at the Lanes.

On a roll

Youths strike gold in bowling leagues

By LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

When Andrea Gaines was a teenager, her father, then an Airman at Fort Meade, would drop her off at the Lanes to bowl.

"He would drop me off at eight in the morning till noon, and I would bowl and socialize with friends," said Gaines, now a DoD civilian employee.

Today, her 18-year-old son Brandon is a member of the Fort Meade Youth Bowling Leagues at the Lanes. On Saturdays,

Brandon Gaines and other youths bowl competitively as individuals and in teams and receive coaching from adult volunteers.

"I love it; it's easy for me," said Gaines, a freshman at Howard Community College.

Sherry Spause, a lifetime bowler, is director of the Fort Meade Youth Bowling Leagues.

"Bowling combines the best of a lot of sports," she said. "You can compete individually or in teams and even earn scholarship money toward college. And it's all indoors while it's snowing. We're

weatherproof."

The Fort Meade Youth Bowling Leagues are composed of four leagues: Pee Wees for ages 3 to 5; Bantams for ages 6 to 8; Preps for ages 9 to 11; and junior/seniors for ages 12 to 20. Eighty-six young people currently participate.

Members bowl Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon from September through April. The leagues operate under the auspices of the United States Bowling Congress, which is the national governing body of bowling. Youths who bowl at Fort Meade pay an \$8 registration fee that goes to the National Capital's Area USBC Association and the USBC.

Ten adult bowlers coach the youths between 11 a.m. and noon. The coaches are certified by USBC, which offers four coaching levels: Level One, bronze, silver and gold.

Spause is a silver certified coach. The weekly bowling fee is \$7 for Pee Wees; \$10 for Bantams; \$10 for Preps; and \$11 for junior/seniors. Members can provide



Volunteer coach Jorge Yu instructs 9-year-old Kayla Starr of Crofton on a bowler's technique during practice Saturday morning. About 10 adult volunteer coaches work with the Fort Meade Youth Bowling Leagues program at the Lanes.

their own bowling ball and shoes or play with equipment provided at the Lanes.

Among the longtime bowlers is Tamara Stanton, 15, who has been bowling at Fort Meade for eight years.

"I just love bowling – the vibes and energy it gives you," said the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute sophomore. "It puts you in a good mood."

Tamera said the sport gives young people self-esteem.

"It boosts your confidence," she said. "When you get that strike, it's like 'Yeah, I'm that person.'"

Jutus Lewis, a freshman at Anne Arundel Community College, has been bowling for three years. The 18-year-old said he started bowling in seventh grade but didn't take it seriously. He was a recreational bowler.

When he decided to pick up the sport again, a coach gave him a tropical breeze ball that can turn down the alley. Lewis started to learn different techniques to play the game.

"I found that I can excel and I like it – it's a passion," Lewis said. "I just want to get better."

Spause said youths can earn scholarship money for college through USBC. She has opened scholarship accounts through USBC for several youth bowlers who earn money based on their individual and team finishes at the end of the bowling season.

Spause's three children – Matt, 19, Scott, 17 and Jordan, 15 – are bowlers and are earning scholarship money.

Matt Spause, a student at Howard Community College, aspires to become a professional bowler.

"I love the competition," he said. "The challenge it provides makes it different every time you play. It's more than just bowling."

Bowling, he said, teaches discipline.

"You have to practice," he said. "It's a sport that anyone can do. It's not like basketball, where you have to be 6 feet, 5 inches to be good."

Sherry Spause said about nine youth bowlers will participate Saturday in the annual National Capital's Invitational competition for young people. Participants must be invited to bowl.

"They always look forward to it," she said.



From left: Ghavan Willson, 13, of Fort Meade and Jun Aquinde and Jhurianne Aquinde, 11, of Hanover, set up the digital scoreboard for a game.

The competition lasts over three weeks, and the top bowlers can earn scholarship money.

Spause said she hopes Fort Meade's young bowlers benefit from participating in the leagues.

"I hope they look forward to coming to bowling each week, that they make a few friends, learn and learn a new sport," she said. "And if they earn money for college, then that's a win-win for us."

JIBBER JABBER - OPINION

Championship Sunday

It appears I'm not the only one questioning Sgt. 1st Class Chambers' opinions.

The one and only Ms. Marcia Eastland made her initial appearance of 2016 when she sent me a dose of truth sprinkled with some mistaken identity:

"I picked up the *Soundoff!* and immediately turned to your column and read through it," Eastland started. "I was stunned on your comments about Brady vs. Manning. Did you say Manning was the better QB? That guy has thrown ducks his whole career and has had the All-Star Receivers to catch those ducks."

To answer your question Ms. Marcia, I would never disrespect "Tom Terrific" like that. It was your boy SFC Chambers who said Manning was better.

The one good thing about the Brady versus Manning debate is that it is a rivalry we are able to watch play out. This Sunday's AFC championship game will be the 17th time the two best quarterbacks of our generation will step on the field against each other. Brady is 11-5 so far, and all signs point to a 12th win on Sunday.

I know the game is in Denver, and I know that Denver just beat New England 30-24 in November. Moreover, I'm not making the prediction to rub salt in Chambers' wound. Ms. Marcia's already done that. I'm saying it because, like most of the previous 16 meetings, the Patriots are the better team.

Bill Belichick is a better coach than Denver's Gary Kubiak. New England's offense is more efficient, especially with WR Julian Edelman back. And even though Denver does have the best defense in the league, New England's unit is underrated and playing against a weak-armed QB with a sub-500 playoff record and throws ducks in the best of conditions.

With all that in mind, it pains me to say that come Sunday, the Patriots will make it to their NFL-record ninth Super Bowl and win 31-7. In case you were wondering, SFC Chambers feels similarly. He predicted the Pats would win 24-17.

But who will they play? That is the real question.

According to the good sergeant, Cam



Chad T. Jones

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER

Newton versus Carson Palmer will be the first time two Heisman trophy-winning quarterbacks will square off in the playoffs. It's also the ultimate battle between the old-school drop back QB (Palmer) versus the new school, read-option, dual threat QB (Newton). However, the game will not come down to just the QBs.

Actually, I think the game will come down to three key matchups:

1. Wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald versus Panthers cornerback Josh Norman:

The Hall-of-Famer, Fitzgerald, took over last weekend's game against Green Bay, while Norman has been locking up premiere receivers all year.

2. Carolina's defensive line versus Arizona's offensive line:

The Panthers ranked sixth in the league with 44 sacks, while the Cardinals finished seventh in the league by only giving up 27 sacks. If they can provide Palmer similar protection, Fitzgerald and Michael Floyd should be able to get open.

3. Arizona's run defense versus Cam and Jonathan Stewart:

Arizona finished sixth in the league in rush defense while Carolina finished second in the league in total rushing yards and tied for the league lead with 19 rushing touchdowns.

In the end, I think Cam is a whole different breed of man than what Arizona has had to deal with. Cam has proven he can find ways to win, but Arizona has proven to be the most balanced team in the league this year, and Carolina's penchant for stepping off the gas in the fourth quarter will finally come back to haunt them.

Arizona 24, Carolina 21.

SFC Chambers disagrees, and has Carolina dabbing to the Super Bowl with a 27-24 win.

Super Bowl predictions will come in a few weeks, but until then, enjoy the best Sunday of pro football all season.

If you have questions on this or anything to do with sports, contact me at chad.t.jones.civ@mail.mil or hit me up on Twitter @CTJibber.

SPORTS SHORTS

Volunteer coaches needed

Volunteer Youth Sports coaches are needed for the spring season for baseball, softball, flag football, soccer, track, lacrosse and tennis.

All volunteers will receive free training and will be certified through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association.

All volunteers must complete a background check.

To apply, go to the Youth Sports and Fitness Office, 1900 Reece Road.

For more information, call 301-677-1179 or 301-677-1329.

Super Bowl Party

Watch the big game on multiple large screens on Feb. 7 at The Lounge at The Lanes.

Enjoy tailgate fare and friendly rivalries. For more information, call 301-677-5541.

Zumba at Youth Center

The Youth Center is offering two Zumba classes beginning Feb. 1:

- Zumba Kids: Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-6:45 p.m., for ages 6-11

Cost is \$32 for the whole session. Space is limited.

- Zumba Hip-Hop: Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m., for ages 12 and older

Class will focus on various aerobics and energetic including hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue and mambo.

Cost is \$45 for the whole session. Spaces are limited.

Registration for both classes ends Friday.

For more information, call 301-677-1156 or 301-677-1149.

Line dance classes

Gaffney Fitness Center offers line dance classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-2 p.m.

This class will teach line dancing for beginners using a variety of music and simple choreography.

Cost is \$5.

Classes are open to all authorized users ages 18 and older. For more information, call 310-677-2349.

Sunday football

The Lounge at the Lanes features football every Sunday on its big screens for the 1 and 4 p.m. games.

Enjoy food and beverage specials. For more information, call 301-677-5541.

Gaffney fitness classes

Gaffney Fitness center is offering several fitness classes.

Classes cost \$5 and are open to authorized users ages 18 and older.

- Power Core classes: Mondays, 8:45-9:45 a.m.

This is a fast-paced, high-energy class using a variety of exercise equipment.

- Vinyasa yoga classes: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Vinyasa focuses on breathing techniques, flowing poses, increased balance, stretching and relaxation.

All levels welcome.

- Metabolic Effect classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

This high-intensity class can be modified to fit all fitness levels.

- Step-Cardio classes: Thursdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m.

This class incorporates step aerobics and dance moves.

- Interval cycling classes: Tuesdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m.

The program is designed to increase cardiovascular fitness while delivering an incredible calorie burn.

- Full-body resistance-training: Tuesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m.

- Zumba classes: Wednesdays, noon to 12:45 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 p.m.; and Mondays, noon, 5:30 and 6:35 p.m.

The class incorporates Latin dance.

- Zumba Gold for seniors: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.

For more information, call 301-677-2349.

Dollar Days

Dollar Days at the Lanes is offered Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bowlers receive a game of bowling, shoe rental, a hot dog, hamburger, small fries, pizza slice or medium soda for \$1 each.

For more information, call 301-677-5541.

Cosmic Bowling

The Lanes at Fort Meade offers Cosmic Bowling on Saturday nights from 7-11 p.m.

For more information, call 301-677-5541.

Tae kwon do

Child, Youth and School Services offers tae kwon do classes for youths of all ages Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Youth Center.

Classes are broken into different age groups. Cost is \$45 for ages 4 to 6 and \$85 for ages 7-17.

For more information, call 301-677-1149.



Find us on Facebook at
[Facebook.com/ftmeade](https://www.facebook.com/ftmeade)

NEWS & NOTES

The deadline for Soundoff! community "News and Notes" is **Friday at noon**. All submissions are posted at the editor's discretion and may be edited for space and grammar. Look for additional community events on the Fort Meade website at ftmeade.army.mil and the Fort Meade Facebook page at facebook.com/ftmeade.

NEWS & EVENTS

New way to submit announcements

Community members can advertise their upcoming event, meeting or class on the Soundoff! community announcements page by visiting ftmeade.army.mil and clicking on the Press Center tab.

Once you are in the Fort Meade Press Center, click on PA services, story or promotion request and electronic inquiry form.

Inquiry forms should be submitted at least two weeks before the date of the event, meeting or class.

Facebook Town Hall today

Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley will host a Facebook Town Hall today from 4:30-6 p.m.

Participants include representatives from the Directorate of Public Works, Directorate of Emergency Services, Corvias Military Living, Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center and other garrison leaders.

Visit facebook.com/ftmeade for more information.

Tax center opening

The ribbon cutting for the 2016 Joint Installation Tax Center is Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the entrance to the tax center on the first floor of the Fort Meade Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 4217 Morrison St.

Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley, Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes, Lt. Col. Jon Cheney of the SJA and Capt. Benjamin Zeskind, a Legal Assistance Division attorney, will speak briefly before the ribbon cutting and cake.

The tax center will operate weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The first appointments will be available Monday.

Appointments may be scheduled at 301-677-9366 or 301-677-9763.

VCC closure

The Dumps Visitor Control Center will close Jan. 31 at noon for staff training and will resume normal hours on Feb. 1.

During this time, visitors can still enter through the inspection station behind the

VCC building.

For more information, call the VCC at 301-677-1083.

Procedures for visiting Fort Meade

Community members who wish to visit a resident of Fort Meade must follow certain procedures to gain entry onto the installation.

Non-DoD ID card holders must visit the Dumps Visitor Control Center adjacent to the Reece Road gate prior to entering the installation.

If the VCC is closed, guests must go through the inspection station with the phone number and address of the individual they are visiting.

Security guards will call the resident and verify that they are expecting or know the guests. Once the resident has verified the visitor, guards will validate the guest's ID and search the vehicle.

If guests pass inspection, they will be allowed to travel onto the installation to the residence. Guests who do not pass inspection or do not have proper ID will not be allowed on post.

Individuals without ID must be escorted onto post by a valid resident/DoD ID card holder.

Prescription disposal at Kimbrough

Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center has added a new option for medication disposal for its beneficiaries.

Located in the pharmacy lobby, the new MedSafe drop box allows patients to safely dispose of any expired, unused or unwanted medications.

The MedSafe is always accessible and can accept most medications.

Medications should be left in the original packaging when possible.

Genealogical Society

The Anne Arundel Genealogical Society will sponsor the program "Coming to the Table to Address the History and Legacy of Slavery" on Feb. 4 from 7-9:30 p.m. at Severna Park United Methodist Church, 731 Benfield Road, Severna Park.

The program will be presented by Lynda Davis, Jane Carrigan and Ruty Vaughan, who will discuss how their genealogical pursuits led them to this national program.

For more information, call the Kuethe Library at 410-760-9679 or go to aagensoc.org.

Bike gate pass

To obtain a bike gate pass for the Pepper Road gate, call Joseph R. Shinskie, chief of physical security at the Directorate of Emergency Services, at 301-677-6618 to schedule

a date to pick up the pass.

Passes will be available for pickup within two days.

EDUCATION

Cooking Matters tours

The Fort Meade Commissary is resuming its Cooking Matters at the Store tour series.

The next tour is Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The free grocery store tour is designed to help participants learn to shop smarter on a budget.

Learn to: compare unit prices to find bargains, understand food labels, find whole grains, and stick to a budget.

In addition, \$10 in healthy groceries will be available on select tours.

To register, go to <http://fmcommissary-cookingmatters.eventbrite.com> or email apancza@strength.org.

Walk-ins are also welcome, although tour space is limited.

To volunteer, email Alexa at apancza@strength.org.

Employment Preparation Workshop

The SFL-TAP will host its first Employment Preparation Workshop on Feb. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at McGill Training Center, 8452 Zimborski Ave.

Participants should arrive at least five minutes early.

Session I: Social Media: 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Discover important aspects of social media networking and job searching in this hands-on, personal marketing presentation. Learn how and why employers use social media to search for candidates with certain skill sets needed to fill specific job vacancies.

Session II: Image Consulting: 10:30 a.m. to noon

Community partner Sofio Barone will conduct an image consulting presentation such as enhancing visual presence and strengthening business and social etiquette skills.

Session III: Employment Prep: 1-2:30 p.m.

Local employers will spotlight their respective organizations, conduct mock interviews and review resumes.

All participants are encouraged to bring at least three current resumes to present to employers.

For more information, call 301-677-9871.

Homeschool Group

The Fort Meade Homeschool Group meets throughout the year for field trips and social outings.

For information on upcoming events, visit the "Fort Meade Homeschool Group" on

Facebook. Go to facebook.com/groups/FortMeadeHomeschoolGroup.

EFMP workshop

The Exceptional Family Member Program is offering a Special Needs Financial Planning Workshop today from noon to 2 p.m. at the Community Readiness Center, 830 Chisholm Ave.

For more information or to register, call 301-677-5590.

Financial, Employment Readiness

Army Community Service offers Financial Readiness and Employment Readiness classes to all ranks and services and to DoD civilian employees at the Community Readiness Center, 830 Chisholm Ave.

Registration is required for each class. To register, fortmeadeacs.checkappointment-s.com.

Financial Readiness:

- Special Needs Trust & Financial Planning: Today, noon to 2 p.m.
- Basics of Investing: Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- First Term Financial Readiness (online class): Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This eight-hour foundation of financial readiness course is required for all first-term service members.

- Dollars and Sense: Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to noon

Topics include: basic budgeting, financial goals and priorities, saving and investing, and managing your credit.

- Resume Writing Workshop: Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to noon

This workshop will provide tips on winning resume styles, the importance of cover letters and tips on following up on your resume.

- "Slaying the Tax Dragon: Effective Planning to Reduce Taxes": Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn about taxes and how to legally pay less.

For more information, call 301-677-5590.

Joint Services Employment Classes:

- Career Exploration: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon

Learn about your personality preferences, values and interests and how to utilize them to achieve success.

To register or for more information, call 301-677-9017 or 301-677-9018.

Free classes

The Navy Fleet and Family Support Center offers a variety of classes at its facility at 2212 Chisholm Ave.

The free classes are open to DoD ID cardholders including active-duty service members, retirees and their family members, DoD civilian employees and contractors.

See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14



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NEWS & NOTES, *From page 13*

Registration is required for each class.

- Young Women's Enrichment: Thursdays, 9:30-11 a.m.

The group is designed to help empower, promote and support female, active-duty service members under age 22.

Military retirement

- Medical Records Review: Appointment required

To register or for more information, call 301-677-9017 or 301-677-9018.

YOUTH

Kuhn Hall closed Saturdays

The Children's Library at Kuhn Hall, 4415 Llewellyn Ave., is closed Saturdays.

All remaining hours of operation will remain the same.

For more information, call 301-677-5522 or 301-677-4509.

Storytime

The Children's Library offers pre-kindergarten Storytime on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at Kuhn Hall, 4415 Llewellyn Ave.

- Today: "Toys, Toys and More Toys" — stories about toys
- Jan. 28: "Ice Is Nice" — stories about ice-loving animals: penguins and polar bears
- Feb. 4: "Smile!" Dental Health Month — Storytime about the importance of going to the dentist. Event will feature a special guest.

- Feb. 11: "Love Is In The Air" — Celebrate Valentine's Day with stories about love and friendship.

- Feb. 18: "Zoom! Zoom! Zoom!" — Storytime about things that "go"

- Feb. 25: "Quiet As A Mouse!" — stories about mice

For more information, call 301-677-5522 or 301-677-4509 or go to meade.armymwr.com.

Music club

The Teen Center Music Club is open to students in grades nine to 12 on Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

This club will provide instrument lessons and focus on improvising, instrument maintenance and care, and musical creativity and song composition.

Guitar and drums are available for use but all instruments are welcome.

For more information, call 301-677-6054.

Youth Center activities

The Youth Center is offering free activities for grades six to eight:

- Paint Night: Friday, 5-6 p.m.

This event is open to all levels.

Snacks and beverages will be provided.

- Survivor Games on Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to noon

The event will feature two days of Zombie Laser Tag, extreme musical chairs, Twister, mystery food challenge and more

For more information, call 301-677-1437.

Romp 'n Stomp

Romp 'n Stomp playgroup for children ages 5 and younger and their parents meets Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Youth Center gym at 909 Ernie Pyle St.

For more information, call 301-677-5590 or email colaina.townsend.ctr@mail.mil.

Weekly playgroup

Children ages 4 and younger are invited to the weekly playgroup, "A-Z Come Play With Me," that is held every Monday and Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Family Advocacy Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave.

Space is limited. Registration is required for each session.

For more information, call 301-677-5590.

RECREATION

Out & About

- **Horse World Expo** will be held Friday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium.

All activities are indoors.

The annual event will feature a musical equine variety show, a 4H art contest, the Young Rider Learning Center, pony rides and a children's activity area.

Admission costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12. Cash only. No pets allowed.

For more information, go to horseworldexpo.com or call 410-252-0200.

- **The 2016 Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge** will be held Jan. 30 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis to benefit the Maryland Special Olympics.

The Military Plunge for service members is Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants pledge \$75 or more to "Take to the Waters" of the Chesapeake Bay.

Participants will receive a commemorative sweatshirt. The more money Plungers raise, the more Plunge gear they receive.

For more information, go to smdm.org.

- **Black History Month at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum** begins with a concert by the Morgan State University Choir performing traditional African American spirituals and gospel selections. The performance, "Rejoicing in the Spirit," will be held Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition "Ruth Starr Rose (1887-1965): Revelations of African American Life in Maryland and the World."

Rose's illustrations of spirituals use African Americans as the principal subjects in iconic biblical stories. A short discussion about the evolution of African American spirituals precedes the concert.

General admission is \$30. To purchase tickets online, go to lewismuseum.org.

For more information, call 443-263-1875.

- **Better Opportunities for Single Service Members** is sponsoring a ski trip for single service members Feb. 26-28 at the Four Season Massanutten Resort, Va.

Cost is \$175 and includes transportation, lodging, lift tickets and equipment rental. Payment plans are available. Early registration is required.

For more information, contact your BOSS representative or email boss.ftmeade@gmail.com.

- **Leisure Travel Services** is offering its next monthly bus trip to New York City on Saturday, with discounts to attractions. Bus cost is \$60. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

- **Leisure Travel Services** is offering discounted tickets to "Disney on Ice" for the Feb. 5-7 shows at the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore for \$19.25.

Tickets also are available for the Feb. 11-15 shows at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C.

Tickets are limited. Sales end Jan. 27.

For more information, call 301-677-7354.

- **Leisure Travel Services** is offering discounted tickets to Monster Jam on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 27 and Feb. 28 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore.

Tickets are \$17. Pit pass costs \$11.

Patrons must have a pit pass for the 2 p.m. weekend shows.

LTS sales end Feb. 15.

For more information, call LTS at 301-677-7354.

MEETINGS

- **Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda on the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting is today from 1-2 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the America Building, River Conference Room (next to the Prostate Center), third floor.

Spouses/partners are invited. Military ID is required for base access. Men without a military ID should call the Prostate Center at 301-319-2900 at least four business days prior to the event for base access.

- **Marriage Enrichment Group**, sponsored by Army Community Service, meets the second and fourth Monday of every month from 3-4 p.m. at the Community Readiness Center, 830 Chisholm Ave. The next meeting is Monday. For more information, call Celena Flowers or Jessica Hobgood at 301-677-5590.

For more information, call retired Col. Jane Hudak at 301-319-2918 or email jane.l.hudak.ctr@health.mil.

• **Protestant Women of the Chapel** invites the community to join in fellowship while learning together through interactive Bible study. The PWOC meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Argonne Hills Chapel Center.

Starting in February, PWOC will begin a series of Bible study. Topics include: "What happens when women pray," "Beloved Disciple," "Her Name is Woman," "Sacred Marriage," "Seeking Him" and "Traveling Light."

The evening PWOC meets today from 7-9 p.m. and will begin the study of Daniel.

Learn how Daniel strengthened his faith and how to live with integrity through dealing with cultural pressures and temptations.

For more information or to contact the PWOC president, call 301-677-6703.

• **Families Dealing with Deployment** meets the first and third Monday of every month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. Children welcome. The next meeting is Feb. 1.

The group is for families experiencing an upcoming or current deployment, or the service members who have recently returned from deployment. For more information, call 301-677-5590 or email colaina.townsend.ctr@mail.mil.

• **Calling All Dads**, for expecting fathers and fathers with children of all ages, meets the first and third Monday of every month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave.

The next meeting is Feb. 1. Children are welcome. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-677-4118.

• **Retired Officers' Wives' Club** will meet Feb. 2 at 11 a.m. at Club Meade. The program will feature a concert, "The Voices of Artistry," presented by the award-winning students from Archbishop Spaulding High School under the direction of their music teacher Beth Hough.

Cost is \$18. Reservations are required by Jan. 28 at noon. Call your area representative or Betty Wade at 410-551-7082.

Regular membership in the ROWC is extended to spouses, widows and widowers of retired officers and to retired officers of all branches of the military. Associate membership is also extended.

Annual membership dues are \$25, but starting in February, you may join through May for half-price. Members may bring guests to the luncheons, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except June, July, August and January.

For more information, call Lianne Roberts, ROWC president, at 301-464-5498.

• **Monthly Prayer Breakfast**, hosted by the Garrison Chaplain's Office, is held the first Thursday of every month at 7 a.m. at Club Meade. The next prayer breakfast is Feb. 4. There is no cost for the buffet. Donations are optional.

tions are optional.

Menu features eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy, grits, Danish pastries and fruit.

All Fort Meade employees, family members, and civilian and military personnel are invited. For more information, call 301-677-6703.

• **Exceptional Family Member Program** hosts "Sip and Share" on the first Thursday of every month from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Exchange coffee shop in the food court. The next get-together is Feb. 4.

The event is designed to allow participants to share their stories to encourage and inform one another about resources available in the local community. For more information or to register, call 301-677-4779.

• **Meade Rod and Gun Club** meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Perry's Restaurant and Odie's Pub at 1210 Annapolis Road, Odenton, in the banquet hall in back of the building. The next meeting is Feb. 4. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. For more information, call Charisma Wooten at 240-568-6055.

• **National Alliance on Mental Illness of Anne Arundel County** offers a free support group for families with a loved one suffering from mental illness on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Odenton (West County) Library, 1325 Annapolis Road. The next meeting is Feb. 4. For more information, visit namiaac.org.

• **Society of Military Widows** meets for brunch the third Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. at Club Meade. The next meeting is Feb. 16. For more information, call Betty Jones at 410-992-1123.

• **Moms Support Group** meets Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Potomac Place Neighborhood Center. The group is for mothers of young children up to age 3. Meet other moms with young children and share tips. Children are welcome. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-677-5590.

• **Moms Walking Group**, sponsored by Parent Support, meets Thursdays from 8:30-9:15 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. To register, call 301-677-3617.

• **Project Healing Waters** meets Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. at the Soldiers and Family Assistance Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave.

The project is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of wounded warriors and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying and outings.

For more information, call Larry Vawter, program leader, at 443-535-5074 or email thecarptman@msn.com.

• **Dancing with the Heroes**, free ballroom dance lessons for the Warrior Transition Unit, meets Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Argonne Hills Chapel Center in the seminar room.

Participants should wear loose clothing,

comfortable shoes with leather soles. No super high heels or flip-flops.

• **Spanish Christian Service** is conducted Sundays at 1 p.m. at the Cavalry Chapel located at 8465 Simonds St. and 6th Armored Cavalry Road.

For more information, call Elias Mendez at 301-677-7314 or 407-350-8749.

• **Couples Communication** meets every Monday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave.

The session is aimed at helping couples develop tools to enhance their relationship, gain problem-solving strategies, and create a long-lasting relationship. For more information, call 301-677-4118.

• **Cub Scout Pack 377** invites boys in first through fifth grades, or ages 7 to 10, to attend its weekly Monday meetings at 6 p.m. at Argonne Hills Chapel Center.

For more information, email Cubmaster Christopher Lassiter at pack377_cm@yahoo.com or Committee Chairperson Marco Cilibert at pack377_cc@yahoo.com.

• **Boy Scout Troop 377** meets Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Argonne Hills Chapel Center on Rockenbach Road. The troop is actively recruiting boys ages 11 to 18. For more information, email Lisa Yetman, at lisayetman@verizon.net; Scoutmaster Ed Smith at eksmith91@hotmail.com; or Wendall Lawrence, committee chairperson, at lawrencewendall@gmail.com.

To see what the troop offers, go to www.troop377.retiredguy.net.

• **Catholic Women of the Chapel** meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. for fellowship, prayer and Bible study in the Main Post Chapel, 4419 Llewellyn Ave.

The CWOC is open to all women in the community ages 18 and older. For more information, email Jen Bosko, CWOC president, at ftmeadecwoc@gmail.com.

• **Women's Empowerment Group** meets Wednesdays from 2-3:30 p.m. to provide a safe, confidential arena for the support, education and empowerment of women who have experienced past or present family violence.

Location is only disclosed to participants. To register, call Samantha Herring, victim advocate, at 301-677-4124 or Katherine Lamourt, victim advocate, at 301-677-4117.

• **Parenting With A Purpose** meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. To register, call 301-677-3617.

• **Fort Meade E9 Association** meets the second Friday of every month at 7 a.m. in the Pin Deck Cafe at the Lanes. The next meeting is Feb. 12.

The association is open to active, retired, Reserve and National Guard E9s of any uniformed service. All E9s in this area are invited to attend a breakfast and meet the membership. For more information, go to e9association.org.

MOVIES

The movie schedule is subject to change. For a recorded announcement of showings, call 301-677-5324. Further listings are available on the Army and Air Force Exchange Service website at www.aafes.com.

Movies start Fridays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. PRICES: Tickets are \$6 for adults (12 and older) and \$3.50 for children. 3D Movies: \$8 adults, \$5.50 children.

Today through Jan. 31



MURRAY CLOSE/AP

Friday-Sunday: "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2" (PG-13). As the war of Panem escalates to the destruction of other districts by the Capitol, Katniss Everdeen, the reluctant leader of the rebellion, must bring together an army against President Snow, while all she holds dear hangs in the balance. With Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Julianne Moore.



AP

Jan. 29-30: "Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Road Chip" (PG). Through a series of misunderstandings, Alvin, Simon and Theodore come to believe that Dave is going to propose to his new girlfriend in Miami ... and dump them. They have three days to get to him and stop the proposal. With Jason Lee, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Josh Green.

Jan. 31: "Sisters" (R). Two sisters decide to throw one last house party before their parents sell their family home. With Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph.