

Soundoff!

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE FORT MEADE COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, JAN. 28, 2016 | 68th Year Number 3
FTMEADE.ARMY.MIL



Its name was Jonas

Sean Carter shovels out his driveway in Heritage Park on Monday in the aftermath of Winter Storm Jonas that dropped more than 2 feet of snow in the region. Much of Fort Meade was operational by midweek. *For more coverage, see Pages 6-11.*

PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

HIGH HOPES

Post employee to
climb Everest ... again

PAGE 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 10:30 a.m.: Cooking Matters Commissary tour - Commissary
Feb. 7, 5:30 p.m.: Super Bowl 50 Party - The Lounge at The Lanes
Go to facebook.com/ftmeade for to get updates after the historic snow, and on your phone by sending "follow ftmeadealert" to 40404

MILITARY CHILD CARE

New DoD website to
improve process

PAGE 4

Soundoff!

EDITORIAL STAFF

Garrison Commander

Col. Brian P. Foley

Garrison Command

Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes

Public Affairs Officer

Chad T. Jones 301-677-1301

Chad.T.Jones.civ@mail.mil

Assistant Editor & Senior Writer

Rona S. Hirsch 301-677-1438

rhirsch@tribpub.com

Staff Writer

Lisa R. Rhodes 301-677-1432

lrhodes@tribpub.com

Staff Writer

Alan H. Feiler 301-677-5159

afeiler@tribpub.com

Design Coordinator

Timothy Davis 301-677-1431

trdavis@tribpub.com

Supplemental photography provided

by The Baltimore Sun Media Group

DEADLINES

Community notices

Friday, noon

rhirsch@tribpub.com

CIRCULATION

If you would like information about receiving Soundoff! on Fort Meade or are experiencing distribution issues, call 877-886-1206 or e-mail TP@baltsun.com.

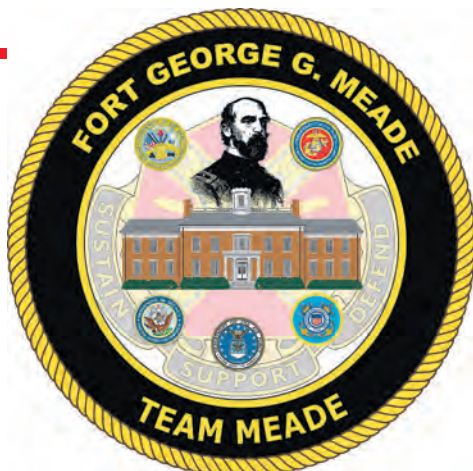
Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon.

Printed by offset method of reproduction as a civilian enterprise in the interest of the personnel at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, by The Baltimore Sun Media Group, 501 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21278, every Thursday except the last Thursday of the year in conjunction with the Fort Meade Public Affairs Office. Requests for publication must reach the Public Affairs Office no later than Friday before the desired publication date. Mailing address: Post Public Affairs Office, Soundoff! IMME-MEA-PA, Bldg. 4409, Fort Meade, MD 20755-5025. Telephone: 301-677-5602; DSN: 622-5602.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, handicap or sex of purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

Printed by The Baltimore Sun Co., LLC, a private firm, in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by the publisher and writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an official expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisers in the publication does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised.

Guaranteed circulation: 11,285



**www.ftmeade.army.mil
or ftmeadesoundoff.com**

Like Fort Meade on Facebook

at facebook.com/ftmeade

Follow Fort Meade on Twitter

at twitter.com/ftmeademd

View the Flickr photostream

at flickr.com/photos/ftmeade

Get text alerts from Fort Meade

by texting "Follow FtMeadeAlert" to 40404

And view the Fort Meade Live Blog

at ftmeade.armylive.dodlive.mil

ADVERTISING

General Inquiries 410-332-6300

advertise@baltsun.com

Death Notices: 410-332-6781

deathnotices@patuxent.com

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Soldiering through the snow

Happy New Year, Team Meade!

We knew it was only a matter of time. Seventy degrees on Christmas, and 2.5 feet of snow on the ground a month later. Clearly, Mother Nature was saving this up!

As I write, Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny. The hard-working road crews have been going nonstop for well over 24 hours already, and we have a lot more work to go.

We all owe them a great debt of gratitude for their hard work and service.

I also want to thank our emergency services professionals (security guards, police and firefighters) and all who remain working around the clock to keep us safe, regardless of the weather conditions.

Speaking of around the clock, our power crew once again proved themselves heroes of our community. This time it was for the folks living in Midway Commons who lost power Saturday due to a large tree fall.

Our team worked around the clock, in partnership with base operations and Corvias road crews, to restore power to the affected families. I was very glad to hear power was restored to the majority last night, and thank all who stepped forward to work hard and care for each other in a time of need.

The year 2015 was a year of huge progress for Fort Meade. And I am happy to report that 2016 is starting off no different. The 2016 budget was passed by Congress, and as expected included \$35.5 million to begin working on widening our roads and gates.

The Army Corps of Engineers has begun pre-design work, and over the next several years we will see road infrastructure expanded to support our growth.

Installation Management Command also approved our request for \$55 million in restoration and maintenance funds for



**Garrison
Commander
Col. Brian P.
Foley**

2016. With this money we will resurface Mapes Road as soon as the asphalt plants open in the spring (and the snow melts!), completely renovate our two oldest Child Development Centers, and complete renovation of Hale Hall.

The spotlight of cyber growth remains on Fort Meade and will for a long time to come.

We are also working hard to increase the size of our garrison staff, so we have enough employees to support our community and its growth. We are working with Installation Management Command to shift additional personnel authorizations to Fort Meade and are making very good progress.

But we all must remain aware that the Army as a whole is still downsizing and may have to reduce or eliminate some services provided by Installation Management Command across the entire Army community.

The garrison's job is to enable the operational missions of all 118 partner organizations assigned here, and provide high quality services to the entire Team Meade community. To do this we need help from all to quantify the needs of this installation — your needs.

We will work together with all to ensure these needs are coordinated and voiced by the senior leaders who live and work here.

Thank you all again for your hard work and dedication to our great nation. As we move through the winter, please continue to be safe. Plan extra time to get to your destinations, walk carefully to avoid slipping on wet and frozen surfaces, and take a few moments to enjoy the beauty of Fort Meade after a fresh snowfall.

So here's to a great 2016 ahead! Many big events are just around the corner, and the Foley family looks forward to sharing them with you.

We'll see you around campus!

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.

High Hopes

Post employee aims for second climb up Mount Everest

BY LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

In 1997, Nicky Lowry decided to give up a 15-year smoking habit.

To accomplish her goal, she started climbing mountains to kick her habit and get fit.

"I smoked at least a pack of cigarettes a day for 15 years," said Lowry, 48, Fort Meade's Health Promotion Program assistant. "I realized I was approaching my 30th birthday and I had been smoking for half my life. ...

"I could see mountains from [my] apartment window, and standing there having my coffee and cigarette I thought, 'Maybe I'll just put down my cigarettes and go climb those mountains. I've got to quit smoking.'"

On Lowry's 30th birthday — Nov. 4, 1997 — she successfully climbed the volcano Cotopaxi, the second highest summit in Ecuador, at 19,347 feet.

After years of progressively more difficult climbs, Lowry reached the summit of Mount Everest — the world's highest mountain at 29,029 feet — on May 27, 2008.

"I still struggle to find the words for it," Lowry said of her accomplishment. "As you see, I'm grinning from ear to ear. It was unbelievable. I didn't expect it. It was so beautiful."

By then, Lowry hadn't smoked a cigarette in more than a decade. When she first made her commitment to be healthy, Lowry was married to her first husband, who worked in the oil industry. The couple lived in Quito, Ecuador. Lowry was not working at the time and was 15 pounds heavier than she is today. Although she had no apparent health issues from smoking, she just grew tired of the habit.

"There was nothing consistent in my life except smoking, and that kind of disgusted me," she said.

Lowry hit the gym, taking aerobic classes. Then in the summer of 1997, she made her first attempt up Cotopaxi.

"I failed terribly. ... I had no idea what to expect," Lowry said. "I was exhausted in an hour. I didn't get very far."

Lowry said that years of smoking had impacted her cardiovascular capacity. So she hit the gym again and focused on cardio for the next three months. On her

"Dig deep, because you can do it. People are a lot stronger than they think they are."

Nicky Lowry, Fort Meade's Health Promotion Program assistant

30th birthday, she made it up Cotopaxi.

"I did have a sense of accomplishment, even though I hated it," Lowry said. "I still didn't have the fitness level that I wanted. I swore I wouldn't do it again."

But she did. Six years later, in 2003, Lowry made a commitment to her first mountain expedition and joined a group of climbers up Mount Aconcagua, the highest mountain outside of Asia at 22,841 feet.

Lowry traveled to Argentina for the climb and spent three weeks with an expedition group.

"I absolutely loved it," Lowry said. "I carried all my supplies in my backpack. My backpack weighed about 60 to 65 pounds. I didn't care how dirty I got, how cold it got, how heavy my backpack was. I loved the personal challenge."

"It's really hard work, really physically difficult. I enjoyed the accomplishment."

From then on, Lowry completed about six mountain climbs. In 2008, she made the big decision.

"I never dreamt as a kid that I would climb Mount Everest; it just by default happened," she said. "Each mountain you climb gets higher and higher and higher, until one day, you think 'Can I climb the highest? Sure, why not? I'll give it a try.'"

By this time, Lowry and her husband were living in Houston. Lowry worked out with a personal trainer for about three months, focusing on cardio and resistance training. She also completed a half-marathon to get ready.

Lowry invested about \$40,000 and joined International Mountain Guides, a company based in Ashford, Wash., that organizes mountain climb expeditions, for her climb up Mount Everest.

Her trip began in March 2008. The feat took two months to complete.

Lowry climbed the standard route up



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nicky Lowry, Fort Meade's Health Promotion Program assistant, stands on the summit of Mount Everest on May 27, 2008. Lowry began mountaineering in 1997 to kick a 15-year smoking habit. She hasn't smoked a cigarette in 18 years.

the mountain from southeast Nepal. Mountaineers are helped along the journey by the Sherpa, an ethnic group that lives in the area and makes a trail up the mount, establishes the four required base camps, cooks food and tends to any other needs.

"They're phenomenally strong people and carry a lot of the weight of supplies, up and down the mountain," Lowry said. "They do a great deal of the work to make the expedition a success."

The climb requires four journeys up and down the mountain to base camps at certain elevations to acclimate to Everest's altitude. At Base Camp 3, which begins at 24,000 feet, the climbers start using oxygen. From Base Camp 4 at 26,000 feet, climbers make a bid for the summit.

On May 27, Lowry successfully climbed Mount Everest.

"It's overwhelming; you cry," Lowry said. "I was lucky to have fantastic weather. I could see for hundreds of miles."

Although it was a tremendous accomplishment, Lowry said there are some harsh realities involved with the climb. A lack of oxygen, exhaustion, extreme cold and the descent back down the mountain have resulted in the deaths of prior climbers.

Lowry recalled that as she made her way to the summit, she encountered the frozen bodies of about six climbers who didn't complete the climb.

"People push so hard, they don't have what it takes to get back down," she said. "It's a brutal fact: if you die up there, you stay up there."

Also, climbers carry plastic bags to carry their waste with them along the way.

"Human waste doesn't decompose at those altitudes," Lowry said. "You pick it up and take it with you."

Lowry and her second husband, Bob Lowry, whom she met on her Mount Everest climb and remained friends with for several years, are planning another climb to the summit in the spring. The climb will cost the couple, who live in Washington, D.C., \$54,000 each.

"We're returning because Bob didn't make the summit," Lowry said. "I'm really excited to climb with Bob. It's so good to have a partner. We're going to have a good time. This is so much fun."

Lowry has not smoked in 18 years. She said if she can stop smoking and climb Mount Everest, anyone can achieve their health or life goals.

"Dig deep, because you can do it," she said. "People are a lot stronger than they think they are."

Tax refunds: Should you adjust your withholding?

BY JANE WINAND

Legal Assistance Attorney

It's tax time, and if you're like most Americans, you are probably expecting a refund. This is a perfect time to evaluate why you may or may not be getting a refund.

For most Americans, at least some of their federal income tax refund comes from withholding more income than is required by the Internal Revenue Service from their paychecks throughout the year.

When we elect to have more money taken than the required withholding amount, all we are doing is providing an interest-free loan to the federal government. We send them money to hold onto throughout the year, and then they send it back to us a few weeks after we file our return.

No interest is paid, we lose access to this money until we file and receive the refund, and we actually lose purchasing power due to inflation under the circumstances.

It's not free money, as many believe. Instead, we are just getting our own money back.

Additionally, many service members

with families actually owe no federal taxes, especially if the military paycheck is the only income in the household. With deductions, exemptions, and tax credits such as the Child Tax Credit, often the family's tax liability ends up being \$0.

Even more, with refundable tax credits (such as the Earned Income Tax Credit), they may receive money back that was not initially withheld. This means that every penny that is withheld from a service member's paycheck will be returned when he or she files a tax return.

Instead of over-withholding, I recommend an approach I call the "Goldilocks Approach to Withholding": Do not withhold too little, do not withhold too much, instead withhold just the right amount. This way, your withholding throughout the year will match your tax liability. You won't get a tax refund, but your paycheck will be larger each payday. Also, you will still receive refundable tax credits, if eligible.

What many do not realize is that each of us determines the amount that is withheld from each paycheck based upon the information collected on our Form W-4 that we file with our employers.

This form identifies whether a service member is married or single and how many allowances he or she would like to claim. The more allowances, the less the employer will withhold for federal taxes.

A common misconception is that the allowances should match the number of people in the household, but this is not accurate. The number of allowances should be determined by the expected tax liability for the year.

"But I like my refund. It forces me to save."

I hear this often. But does it really force you to save? What are you doing with your refund?

For some, the refund is truly forced savings, and they use the money on things like big-ticket purchases and vacations.

But for others, the refund allows them to catch up from the previous year by paying bills that are overdue or for debt they incurred, which is accruing interest (average credit card APR is 15.38 percent).

In either case, there are better ways to save. Instead of forced savings with the federal government, use a savings account. Your savings might actually earn a little interest, and you can access the funds during the year if you need the money.

Instead of using a refund to catch up, adjust your withholding so your paycheck is larger. With planning, this can help keep you from getting behind or adding to existing debt.

Use the IRS Tax Withholding Calculator (<http://apps.irs.gov/app/withholdingcalculator/>) to determine the appropriate amount of withholding and file a revised Form W-4 with your employer. For service members, this can be done on MyPay in a matter of seconds.

Free income tax preparation services are available at the Fort Meade Joint Installation Tax Center at 4217 Roberts Ave. Staff members are specifically trained in military-unique tax issues.

The tax center serves active-duty service members, retirees, and family dependents with ID Cards. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments are limited.

To schedule an appointment, call 301-677-9366.

Editor's note: The opening of the tax center was postponed due to the snowstorm. For updates on its grand opening, check the next issue of Soundoff! as well as facebook.com/ftmeade.

Website provides single online gateway to Military Child Care

BY MILITARY CHILD CARE.COM

Families at Fort Meade will have access to a new DoD website on March 16 designed to simplify and improve the child care request for care process.

MilitaryChildCare.com provides a single online gateway for families to access military-operated or military-subsidized child care options worldwide across all military services.

The site enables families to create a household profile, conduct child care searches, submit requests for care, and manage their requests at any time and from any location.

The new DoD site, which is being introduced worldwide in phases, offers a more streamlined approach to finding and requesting care; expedites placement through a standardized request process and wait-list management tools; and provides reports that help programs better plan for future placement needs.

Through MilitaryChildCare.com, eli-

gible families can search and request care for full-day and part-day options in facility-based and home-based programs for children from birth through age 12.

Families may remain on a preferred program's wait list even after being offered care or enrolling in another program.

Families at Fort Meade currently on wait lists will be automatically transitioned to the new web-based system. These families will retain the original date of their requests for care, and all program enrollment processes will remain the same.

For more information, go to MilitaryChildCare.com; call the Help Desk's toll-free number at 855-696-2934; or email FamilySupport@MilitaryChild-Care.com.

Families also may call Parent Central Services at 301-677-1149/1156/1104 or email usarmy.meade.imcom-fmwrc.mbx.dfmwr-community-outreach@mail.mil.

Model aircraft operations may be restricted on post

INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND

Installation Management Command has issued guidelines on model aircraft operations on Army installations.

Installation commanders may prohibit model aircraft operations conducted on installation property.

However, they cannot legally prohibit flights over the installation that originate outside the installation boundary.

Aircraft of any size without a pilot onboard is considered an unmanned aircraft system by the Federal Aviation Administration. The three categories of UAS operations are public (government), civil, and model aircraft (hobbyist). The first two categories require FAA approval.

To be considered a model aircraft operation and not require FAA approval, it must fall within the scope listed in Section 336 of Public Law (PL) 112-95.

The main requirements are that the

aircraft weigh less than 55 pounds, flown strictly for personal (non-business related) use, operates within a nationwide community-based organization set of safety guidelines, not interfere with manned aircraft, and coordinated with airport management or air traffic control if flown within 5 miles of an airport.

As of Dec. 14, these aircraft must be registered with the FAA.

The Academy of Model Aeronautics is a community-based organization with nationwide membership. As a result of its lobbying efforts, the FAA has been restricted by law from imposing regulations that restrict model aircraft operations.

However, the safety guidelines established by the AMA minimize the impact of model aircraft operations on manned flights.

If there is FAA-designated restricted airspace, model aircraft operations are prohibited within that airspace when activated without installation approval.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Enlisted Marines walk down Mapes Road on Monday to the MacArthur Road Shoppette.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Alexandria Schnitzer (right) and her 6-year-old brother Corwin have a good laugh while throwing snowballs Monday.

Calm after the storm

Team Meade cleans up after historic snowstorm

BY ALAN H. FEILER

Staff Writer

Don Manuszewski Jr. was all set to start his new job on Monday morning in the Public Affairs Office at the Defense Media Activity.

But Winter Storm Jonas had other plans for him.

"Hopefully, I can start tomorrow," Manuszewski, who previously worked at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, said Tuesday afternoon. "I came on post last Friday to do a couple of errands before the storm, but I've been hunkering down at home ever since. It's a funny way to start a job.

"I'm ready to get going already," the Ellicott City resident said. "But it could be worse. It's just something you can't control."

Manuszewski was among the thousands of post employees ordered not to come to work since late Friday morning, due to Jonas. A record-breaking 29.2 inches of snow was officially recorded at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, according to the National Weather Service.

Garrison leaders were emphatic that post employees who were not classified as essential remain off the installation, as snow plows and emergency vehicles labored to make Fort Meade fully operational again.

"We maybe could have done more, or will do more, to deal with snow. But right now, we have a pile of snow," said Installation Safety Office Director Kirk M. Fechter on Tuesday afternoon. "You can help yourself and others by minimizing your driving. Pedestrians are in the street because of



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

Residents walk to their home Monday in the Heritage Park neighborhood.

snow-covered sidewalks. Drivers must not exceed 10 mph passing pedestrians. Start your car periodically to ensure reliability. Please pace yourself shoveling snow.”

As of Tuesday, federal offices in the Washington, D.C., area remained closed, as did schools in the nation’s capital, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

At least 48 people died in the historic snowstorm, a quarter of a million customers lost power, and hundreds of crashes were reported.

Preliminary estimates contend that the economic impact of Jonas may top \$850 million, although with flooding that figure was expected to exceed \$1 billion.

As for Fort Meade, main arteries on post were largely cleared by the start of the week, but parking lots and neighborhoods were still in need of being dug out and cleared. Parts of the Midway Commons neighborhood lost power over the weekend.

The commissary and the Army & Air Force Exchange Service resumed normal operations Tuesday, although both Gaffney Fitness Center and Murphy Field House

remained closed.

“Our team worked around the clock, in partnership with base operations and Corvias road crews, to restore power to the affected families,” Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley said. “I was very glad to hear power was restored to the majority last night, and thank all who stepped forward to work hard and care for each other in a time of need.”

Police Chief Thomas W. Russell Jr. of the Fort Meade Directorate of Emergency Services said there were several accidents and “fender benders” on post and along Routes 175 and 32 while traffic flowed out of the installation Monday afternoon and evening.

In addition, Russell said emergency crews were called in to residential neighborhoods on post for several ambulatory situations and transported patients to nearby hospitals.

After the storm, Russell said, DES officials have constantly been on post roads with Foley and Garrison Command Sgt. See **SNOW**, page 8



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Mike Gura of Bethesda uses a newly designed shovel to clear a sidewalk Sunday afternoon in front of the Defense Media Activity.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

(From front left:) Lucas Duran, 5; Gabriel Duran, 8; Andre Campbell, 11; and Camara Campbell, 10, (rear, in pink) shovel out the end of a driveway in Patriot Ridge on Monday.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

A snow plow contracted through the Sons of Veterans is driven by Tommy Mullikin down the streets of Fort Meade on Monday.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

A group of workers from Ground Breaking Landscape in Fairplay, Md., work together to clear snow Sunday afternoon from a walkway at the Defense Information Systems Agency.

SNOW, *From page 7*

Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes to survey and address the situation.

"DES has [operated] 100 percent" during the storm, said Russell, with some employees staying at Candlewood Suites, the post's new hotel. "The guys are pretty tired, but a lot of people just went home and re-energized. I think our response has been excellent."

Russell, who lives in the Eastern Shore town of Ridgely, said on Tuesday morning that the installation was "somewhat of a ghost town" at the start of the week, "but there's now a little bit of life, mainly snow operations and intelligence personnel. Maryland has done a fine job of clearing the roads [leading to Fort Meade]."

Kristin G. Hammontree, a Midway Commons resident, said Tuesday she felt lucky that her home never lost power during the storm, even though there were sewage problems and a carbon monoxide detector went off.

"I think things have improved a lot. I made it to the commissary today," said Hammontree, an Anne Arundel County Schools substitute teacher who has lived on post for nearly three years with her husband, Sgt. 1st Class James Hammontree of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, and their 11-year-old daughter.

"I'm thankful to the fire department and everyone on call. It's not an easy job to do," she said. "They've done a decent job with the roads, although some places could be better."

Faye Jones, a manager at the MacArthur Road Shoppette, said things were slow but starting to pick up at her store by Tuesday afternoon.

"The roads are pretty clear and drivable, so people are coming in and able to get around," she said. "But it's still just a bit slow."

Xandria Boettcher, a supervisor at the GameStop store on post, said business was already brisk by Tuesday.

"The roads on post weren't too bad, and I didn't have trouble getting in," the Glen Burnie resident said. "Business has been pretty good today. People are coming in. My manager said it's been busy since he came in this morning."

Staff Sgt. Shawn Cassatt, the 704th MI's Public Affairs Office noncommissioned officer, said things were gradually returning to normal at his workplace.

"We're functioning and haven't had any issues, such as injuries or anything," said Cassatt, who lives near Midway Commons. "We're monitoring the weather constantly, with only essential personnel here. It's not advisable to drive around here yet. But they're trying to clear the roads and doing their best. It's all just going to take a while."



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Cyrus Toravian of Clarksburg clears snow Sunday afternoon from the bike racks at the Defense Information Systems Agency.

Krista Watenpuhl Carnicom agreed. "I'm from Alabama, [and] we don't ever get snow like this," said Carnicom, who lives at Potomac Place and is a stay-at-home mom. "I live on post and saw how hard people were working on getting the snow plowed."

Revised trash pickup schedule

As a result of the snowfall, trash pickup for this week is delayed. Normal trash pickup will resume Monday.

Trash pickup schedule:

Today: Meuse Forest

Friday: Midway Commons
7000-7300 area

Saturday: Normandy Bluffs and
Patriot Ridge

Monday: Potomac Place

Tuesday: Heritage Park and Midway
Commons 7400-7700



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Five-year-old Lilly Pepper takes off for another slide down the large mound of snow in front of her house in Potomac Place.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT

Amir Hall, 14, of Potomac Place puts some extra oomph in his shoveling as he and his mother Cara (not pictured) dig out Sunday after the whopping snowfall.



Support the American Red Cross

Your gift supports the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross of the Chesapeake Region—whether it's responding to a disaster, teaching skills that can save a life or assisting our military members and their families.



American Red Cross

Visit redcross.org or text REDCROSS to 90999 to give \$10.*

*\$10 donation to the American Red Cross. Charges will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance. All purchases must be authorized by account holder. Must be 18 years of age or have parental permission to participate. Message and Data Rates May Apply. Text STOP to 90999 to STOP. Text HELP to 90999 for HELP. Full Terms and Privacy Policy: redcross.org/m

The Proven Program for

Leaders

Central Michigan University

Central Michigan University's
Global Campus
at Fort Meade

301-621-9796 or
toll free 877-268-4636
Fort.Meade@cmich.edu
cmich.edu/FortMeade

Earn your master's degree from Central Michigan University's Global Campus at Fort Meade

- Over 155 flag officers have used a CMU degree for career progression
- The MSA is an excellent choice for both military and civilian executives
- It prepares you for new responsibilities, promotion, and more career choices

Master of Science in Administration degree

- General Administration
- Public Administration

Also available as a **5-course Graduate Certificate!**

Central Michigan University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. CMU is an AA/EQ institution (see cmich.edu/OCRIE). 40005 7/14



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT
Jonel Rodina of Midway Commons gets in an afternoon jog Sunday on Cooper Avenue after the road was cleared of heavy snow.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE
Fort Meade youngsters walk in the mounds of snow along MacArthur Road.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT
Capt. Rick Dickson, an instructor at the Defense Information School, climbs a snow-covered hill for another sled ride on Sunday.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT
Children sail down a hill in Patriot Ridge on Monday, taking advantage of the record snowfall.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE
A front-end loader removes snow Monday in the Patriot Ridge neighborhood.

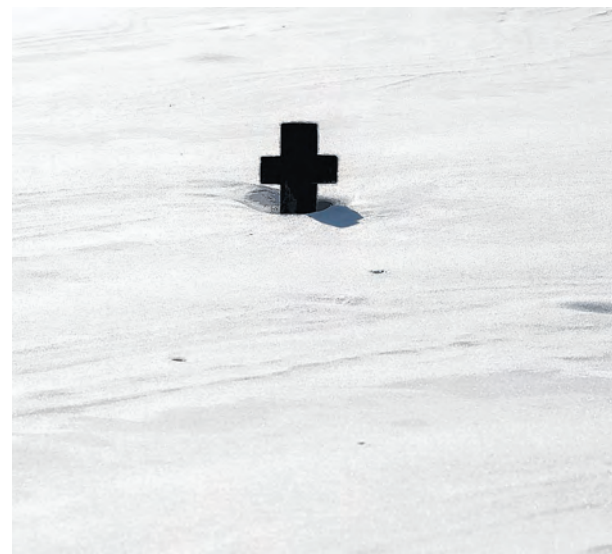


PHOTO BY NATE PESCE
A single cross grave-marker sticks out in the snow at Bethel Cemetery on post.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE
Footsteps mark a trail through the unplowed snow near the Exchange and commissary Monday.



PHOTO BY PHIL GROUT
A snowman watches over Joe Muse and Crystal Skinner on Sunday as they finish cleaning up their street in Patriot Ridge.



PHOTO BY NATE PESCE
Tech Sgt. Anthony Haylock of Defense Courier Service and his brother-in-law Walter Josephs (right) shovel out parking spaces Monday in Heritage Park.

JIBBER JABBER - OPINION

Someone call me a Whaaambulance

As I sit here alone in my office on Llewellyn Avenue, typing on my keyboard and listening to soundtracks (currently it is the opening of " Fargo"), I can't help but think: Hot dang, we got a lot of snow!

It's been four days since Jonas opened its mouth and engulfed the region in white stuff, and in spite of all the yeoman work to clear things up, I'm still hiking through snowdrifts higher than Everest (See Nicky Lowry's story on Page 3) just to bring you this week's dose of Jibber.

It's true, I could have "phoned it in" aka teleworked. But as a father of three kids 12 and under, I would have run through the Arctic "Last of the Mohicans" style bit.ly/1TnL3UC to get some peace and avoid going all Jack Nicholson in "The Shining" on the family. "Here's Daddy!"

All right, enough of the movie references for now, though I'm sure you have a better idea of what I've been doing the last few days.

Well that and handling queries on the Facebook page.

Overall, I was impressed with how people handled themselves online during this storm, especially the folks from Midway Commons. Those poor folks seemed to get the brunt of the trouble this week: power outages, gas leaks, trees falling. Not to mention, they were farthest away from the installation's last bastion of hope, microwaveable food and booze — The MacArthur Express.

Of course, there were some yokels who couldn't help but use the Facebook page as their personal Whaaambulance. People were upset that Maryland and the fort didn't have the same capabilities to clear snow as Chicago.

A few others did their best to make our DES seem more like the Gestapo because of the temporary restrictions of travel on the roads.

Then, when the restrictions were lifted, some of the same people complained there were too many people



Chad T. Jones

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER

driving on the roads.

But such is life during a potential crisis. TBH, I even lost my cool a bit during a teleconference Monday night. I was so disgruntled my boss pulled me aside after the call to make sure I was getting enough sleep.

With all of that, here we are: Me writing your dose on Wednesday, and you, hopefully, reading it today.

We're 10 days from Super Bowl 50, and it is clear my Championship Sunday predictions were as wrong as they could be.

I've been pretty hard on Peyton Manning this year. For some reason, I've relished in his struggles — if you can call going 9-1 as a starter struggling. Manning wasn't great on Sunday, but he was pretty dang good. Now he's going to his fourth Super Bowl, and I'm pulling for him to do well.

Of course, he's going up against the best player on the planet, not named JJ Watt, in Cam Newton. He's brash, he dabs, and to some he smiles too much. But that dude is playing chess, while the rest of the league is stuck playing checkers.

Speaking of playing, YDJ and I got to watch Steph Curry play this weekend, and if there is anyone who thinks he's not the best shooter ever, raise your hand. You got them up? OK, now slap yourself because you are silly. bit.ly/1ZSVtM3

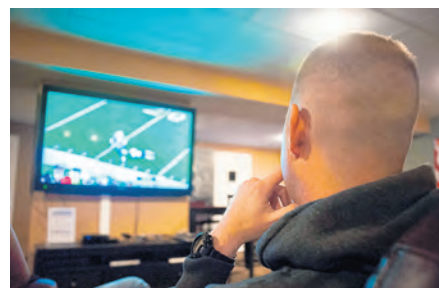
All right, "The Magnificent Seven" theme is playing, and I've got a meeting to discuss services — literally. Aren't you jealous? So let me get my boots on and trudge through the snow like my grandpa did going to and from school way back in the day.

But before I do, I need to thank the Soundoff! staff for their effort getting this week's outstanding edition of the paper done, mostly from the friendly confines of *The Baltimore Sun*.

Thanks a lot, staff. You are the best.

If you have comments 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



FILE PHOTO BY NOAH SCIALOM

Super Bowl Party

The Lanes is celebrating the 50th annual Super Bowl with a party on Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lounge.

Watch the big game on multiple screens.

The party will feature a tailgate buffet, free bowling and shoe rental, and door prizes.

Cost is \$20 for ages 13 and older, and \$10 for ages 4-12.

For more information, call 301-677-5541 or go to meade.armymwr.com.

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.

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.

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.

VCC closure

The Demps 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 Demps 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 aagenso-c.org.

Toastmasters Club

Kritikos Toastmasters Club offers an opportunity to service members and civilian residents in the Fort Meade community to improve their public speaking skills in a supportive environment.

The club meets on the first three Mondays of every month at 6:15 p.m. at Perry's Restaurant, 1210 Annapolis Road, Odenton.

The next meeting is Monday.

For more information, go to 1686.toastmastersclubs.org or call 410-305-9190.

EDUCATION

Military Saves Week

Fort Meade's Military Saves Week will be held Feb. 22-26.

The free classes are offered to DoD ID cardholders in the entire Fort Meade community.

The following classes will be held at Army Community Service, 830 Chisholm Ave., or the Fleet and Family Support Center, 2212 Chisholm Ave.

- Feb. 22, 9 a.m. to noon: "Transitioning to Retirement"

- Feb. 23, 9 a.m. to noon: "Getting Out Of Debt"

- Feb. 24, 9-11 a.m.: "Raising Money-Smart Kids"

- Feb. 25, 9-11 a.m.: "Credit Manage-

ment"

- Feb. 26, 9-11 a.m.: "Financial Planning for Care Givers"

Registration is required.

For more information, call ACS at 301-677-5590 or FFSC at 301-677-9014.

Voting Assistance Officer Training

The Directorate of Human Resources is offering Unit Voting Assistance Officer Training on Feb. 24 from 1-3 p.m. at 2234 Huber Road in Start Right Classroom 004.

Richard Lee and Sarah Ballard are the installation's voting assistance officers.

For more information, call, at DHR at 301-677-2506.

OSC applications

The Army Human Resources Command Officer Candidate School Board is scheduled May 9-13.

The Fort Meade local OCS Board is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 18.

OCS packets must be turned in by Feb. 12 to the Military Personnel Division, Personnel Actions Office, 2234 Huber Road, Room 203, Fort Meade, MD 20755.

For units not physically on or near Fort Meade, OCS packets will be accepted until Feb. 16.

Requests for a waiver or exception must be received at HRC no later than Feb. 1.

Point of contact for this action is JoLyn-da Thompson, Personnel Actions officer, at 301-677-7036 (DSN: 622-7036).

Cooking Matters tours

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

The next tour is Friday 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.

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.checkappointments.com.

Financial Readiness:

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

- "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.

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.

Registration is required for each class. See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14

NEWS & NOTES, From page 13

• 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: "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 provides 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.

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**

• **Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge** will be held Saturday at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis to benefit the Maryland Special Olympics.

On-site registration opens from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Military Plunge for service members is Friday 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 plungemd.com.

• **Baltimore Boat Show** will be held today through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center, 1 W. Pratt St.

Admission is \$14. Free admission for ages 15 and younger with a paid adult admission. For more information, go to baltimoreboatshow.com.

• **Annual Bridal Show** will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. at Linganore Winecellars, 13601 Glissans Mill Road, Mount Airy.

The free event will feature a selection of wedding vendors as well as music, wine tasting and vendor samples.

For more information, call 301-831-5889 or go to linganorewines.com.

• **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 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 this week.

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

• **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 Monday.

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 Monday. Children are welcome. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-677-4118.

• **Retired Officers' Wives' Club** will meet Tuesday 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

Spalding High School in Severn under the direction of their music teacher Beth Hough.

Cost is \$18. Reservations are required by noon today. 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.

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.

• **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 Feb. 8. 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.

• **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 Yet-

man, 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.

• **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."

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

• **American Legion Post 276** is open to veterans and active-duty service members at 8068 Quarterfield Road in Severn. Breakfast may be purchased beginning at 9 a.m. Lunches may be purchased from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Happy Hour is 4-6 p.m. Dinner may be purchased at 6 p.m. on Fridays and the fourth Sunday of every month.

Membership discounts are offered for active-duty military. For more information, call 410-969-8028 or visit americanlegionpost276.org.

• **Odenton Masonic Center**, located at 1206 Stehlik Drive, invites the community, local military, fire/emergency services and local businesses to enjoy its breakfast and specialty dinners.

The center offers an "all-you-can-eat" breakfast every second Sunday from 7-11 a.m. Specialty dinners are held the third Friday of the month from 5-7 p.m.

Menus vary and are listed on the cen-

ter's website at odentonlodge209.net.

• **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.

• **Meade Branch 212 of the Fleet Reserve Association** meets the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at VFW Post 160, 2597 Dorsey Road, Glen Burnie. The next meeting is Feb. 13. Active-duty, Reserve and retired members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are invited. For more information, call 443-604-2474 or 410-768-6288.

• **The Retired Enlisted Association** meets the third Tuesday of the month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Perry's Restaurant, 1210 Annapolis Road, Odenton. The next meeting is Feb. 16.

For more information, visit trea.org or call Elliott Phillips, local president, at 443-790-3805; Charles M. Green, local president at 443-610-4252; or Arthur R. Cooper, past national president, at 443-336-1230.

For more information about becoming a TREA member, go to trea.org or call Charles Green, the local chapter president, at 443-610-4252 or email Cgreen151@verizon.net.

• **Military District of Washington Sergeant Audie Murphy Club** meets the third Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Dining Facility in Virginia. The next meeting is Feb. 17.

All members and those interested in joining the club are welcome. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Erica Lehmkuhl at erica.lehmkuhl@us.army.mil or 301-833-8415.

• **Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 254** meets the third Wednesday of every month from 3-4 p.m. in the auditorium of the Airman Leadership School, 8470 Zimborski Ave. The next meeting is Feb. 17. For more information, call 831-521-9251 or go to AFSA254.org.

• **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 Feb. 18 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.

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 Feb. 14



AP

Friday-Saturday: "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.

Sunday: "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.

Feb. 5, 7, 12 & 13: "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (PG-13). Three decades after the defeat of the Galactic Empire, the First Order attempts to rule the galaxy and only a ragtag group of heroes can stop them. With Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Harrison Ford.

Feb. 6 & 14: "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.