

Soundoff!

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FTMEADE.ARMY.MIL

Staying SHARP

Airman shares her story **PG 3**

Meade hosts Joint Service Run **PG 4**



Team Meade participated in the Joint Service Sexual Assault Awareness and Resiliency Installation Run at McGlachlin Parade Field on Friday morning.

PHOTO BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

ADVENTURE FAIR

Romp 'n Stomp aims to prevent child abuse

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.: Youth Fishing Rodeo - Burba Lake

April 21, 11:30 a.m.: Holocaust Remembrance Day event - McGill

April 23, 8 a.m.: Earth Day 5K & 1-Mile Walk - Burba Lake

April 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Fort Meade Earth Day event - The Pavilion

FIRST PITCH

Local softball game honors military

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Soundoff!

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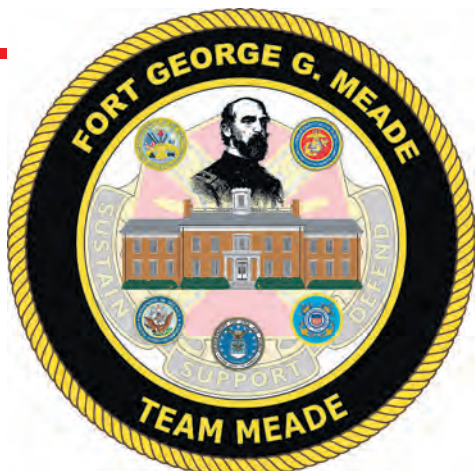
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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Celebrating esprit de corps

Greetings, Team Meade. Spring is certainly in the air and the cherry blossoms are blooming.

April is known for more than just the rain showers that water our plants and flowers. We're reminded that April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM).

Great thanks to all of our partners for signing the proclamation for SAAPM. As a community, we have a vital role to play in serving as leaders on this issue by:

- Creating and strengthening policies to promote safety, equality and respect.
- Assessing the risks in the community environment
- Promoting respectful behaviors
- Providing support for survivors
- Holding those who harm others accountable
- Ensuring that appropriate treatment options are available

Everyone has a part. If you see something, say something and also be willing to do something about it. The time for prevention is now.

Join us in promoting safe behaviors, thoughtful policies and healthy relationships. Your efforts are important and necessary. Together we can create a safe and equitable community where every person is treated with dignity and respect.

What a way to start spring off with the Joint Service Sexual Assault Awareness and Resiliency Installation Run, with almost 2,000 service members, retirees, and civilian adults and children in attendance.

Even though it was still a little chilly, that didn't stop this event from being a great success. To see all of the different colors and guidons held high from the different partner services, while sounding off with motivating cadences and extreme esprit de corps, the event definitely painted the picture of the diversity and partnership we have on Fort Meade.

As the temperature rises, there will be more people running on the roads of Fort



**Garrison
Command
Sgt. Maj.
Rodwell L.
Forbes**

Meade. Here's a snippet from Policy Memorandum #68, Use of Fort Meade Roads for Physical Training:

- All roads south of Mapes Road (Llewellyn Avenue, Rock Avenue and Ernie Pyle Street) — excluding the housing areas and the Architect of the Capitol area — are designated formation and individual, physical training roads.

- No other roads will be used for physical training formations without approval of the director of the Directorate of Plans, Train-

ing, Mobilization and Security.

- These roads shall have a speed limit of 15 mph from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

This policy letter, in its entirety, can be found on the Fort Meade website at www.ftmeade.army.mil/policies/POL-ICY068.pdf.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to all the service members, Navy cadets, and Junior ROTC members who participated in the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Event."

There were more than 100 volunteers who made this event a very memorable occasion with the Welcome Home Honor Salute.

I would like to challenge Team Meade members to not allow this to be a one-day out-of-the-year event. Rather, it should be a lifestyle focus — acknowledging those who have put on a military uniform.

When you see a veteran with the pin, hat or any type of symbol that represents they served, take the time out of your busy schedules and sincerely thank them for their service.

To all veterans, we salute you for your faithful service to this nation. If there's anything we as the garrison can do to help assist you, please let us know. You are a Soldier/service member for life and we thank you for paving the way for so many of us to follow.

I hope everyone enjoyed their time with their family during spring break and enjoyed some well-deserved vacation time.

Have a great Team Meade day!



Find us on Facebook at
**Facebook.com/
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'I will have a voice'

Airman shares her story of surviving sexual assault

BY LISA R. RHODES

Staff Writer

What began as a simple kiss turned into an act of violence that threatened to break a young girl's spirit.

That's what Staff Sgt. Samantha Payne told an audience of service members and DoD civilians as she recalled how she survived being raped as an adolescent, college student and wife to later become an advocate for sexual assault victims.

Payne, a Chinese linguist with the 34th Intelligence Squadron and author, was the guest speaker for the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade's Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention program.

The one-hour event was held Friday at McGill Training Center.

"I'm taking off my rank, I'm taking off all formalities because you know I am a survivor," said Payne, 36. "Take your judgment and throw it away and listen to what I have to say. I'm willing to talk about my story so other survivors can speak out."

In his welcome, Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Hoke, command sergeant major of the 704th MI, told the audience of about 50 people that sexual assault is not "an Army issue [and] is not a DoD issue.

"This is healing for me to talk about what happened. ... I turned what happened to me into something that empowers me."

Staff Sgt. Samantha Payne, 34th Intelligence Squadron and sexual assault survivor

"This is a social issue that we're just now having the courage to deal with publicly."

Hoke said all the years that American society did not openly address the trauma of sexual assault "is criminal for us."

Payne began her 45-minute presentation by recalling how much support she received when she ran a marathon two years ago.

But when she became a sexual assault survivor there was little, if any, support.

As a young girl growing up in Paducah, Ky., Payne attended church regularly and lived with her father and two younger twin brothers.

At 13, she had her first boyfriend and decided she wanted a kiss because she saw it on television.

"That's what you're supposed to do," Payne said. "You're supposed to kiss boys."

One day, she asked her boyfriend if he wanted to kiss and he agreed. He came to her house and they kissed.

It was not what she expected. "It was gross," she said.

But he felt differently.

"He thought the invitation for a kiss was an invitation for other things," Payne said.

Before she knew it, he had pushed her to the floor and raped her.

Payne's father was sick with the flu in bed and her brothers were asleep.

She was scared and devastated.

"I was a church girl. I was taught that you save your virginity for your husband. I was really excited about that," Payne said. "That was over."

When her attacker left, she jumped into the shower.

"No matter how much I rubbed, I still felt dirty," Payne said. "I still felt shame and I still felt it was my fault. I still felt broken, damaged and awful."

Payne said she did not tell her father because she knew he owned a gun.

"I buried it," she said. "I didn't tell anyone."

During the years that followed, Payne contemplated suicide.

"I didn't want to get up in the morning," she said. "Why should I? So people could just take from me? I didn't want to live anymore."

The memories of the attack were buried until she was raped again at age 18 during her freshman year in college.

She attended a music party with a friend and was later raped by a stranger who asked her to select a music CD.

"I did not know him. I was terrified," Payne said. "What did I do that was so wrong that would make someone feel that they could do this to me?"

During the attack, another man opened the door to the room and saw what was happening but didn't stop it. He simply closed the door.

"I thought I guess I really don't matter," Payne recalled.

When she arrived at the college health clinic the following morning, the nurse told Payne that if she had practiced safe sex she wouldn't find her herself in such a predicament.

Payne said she later called a rape hotline



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS FRANK INMAN

Staff Sgt. Samantha Payne, a Chinese linguist with the 34th Intelligence Squadron, shares how she survived sexual assault as an adolescent, college student and young wife during her presentation for the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade's Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month program on Friday.

that was supposed to be anonymous, but they asked her name.

"I hung up," she said.

A year later, she married a minister who told her that God said she was to be his wife.

"I didn't care about anything," Payne said. "I said 'Yes, I'll be your wife.'"

Not long into their three-year marriage, her husband turned verbally, emotionally and physically abusive and repeatedly raped her.

Payne said she realized she was in a violent domestic relationship and had to leave. She moved in with a sorority sister and eventually divorced.

Today, Payne is married to retired Master Sgt. Dwayne Payne. The couple are the parents of a 4-year-old girl.

"I'm good now, by the way," she said. "I'm in a much better place."

Payne is the author of "Tamar's Voice: A Journey from Sexual Assault Victim to Survivor," a book that tells the biblical story of Tamar, who is raped, and how she endures.

To prevent sexual assault within the ranks, Payne said senior leaders must take the time to get to know their troops to watch for changes in behavior and mood that may signal a problem.

"If you don't know them, they're not going to trust you to tell you what's wrong," she said.

Payne works with the nonprofit organization Hope Works, which provides support services to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The Columbia-based organization is starting a speaker's bureau. Payne intends to participate.

"I will have a voice," she said. "This is healing for me to talk about what happened. ... I turned what happened to me into something that empowers me."

After the program, Spc. Kenton Webb of the 704th MI said Payne's story was inspiring.

"It really brings a lot of emotion to you," he said. "It kind of makes you wonder how people can stand strong against these kind of things in their lives."

Capt. Connie DeFazio of the 704th MI called Payne "powerful and brave."

"Traumatic events can affect a person internally, and I think it's very important for them to see that there are others who can help and that they're not alone."

Editor's Note: To report a sexual assault through Fort Meade's 24/7 sexual assault hotline, call (Army) 443-845-0867; (Air Force) 240-752-2773; or (Navy) 301-419-1936.

Staying SHARP

Meade hosts Joint Service Awareness, Resiliency Run

BY ALAN H. FEILER
Staff Writer

Early Friday morning, the garrison and post Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Prevention office hosted the annual Joint Service Sexual Assault Awareness and Resiliency Installation Run.

The goal of the 3.5-mile run, which began and ended at McGlachlin Parade Field, was to promote the education and awareness of sexual assault, in accordance with National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The Army's theme for this year's observance is "Sexual Assault. Sexual Harassment. Not in Our Army."

For information about National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, call the SHARP office at 443-845-0876 or visit www.ftmeade.army.mil/SHARP.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

Soldiers from Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion at Fort Meade assemble at McGlachlin Parade Field for the 3.5-mile run.



Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley leads troops in the run designed to spark awareness and education about sexual harassment and assault.



Troops take part in the Joint Service Sexual Assault Awareness and Resiliency Installation Run early Friday morning.

Volunteer Appreciation Week: Be a part of the Army Volunteer Corps

BY GANESA R. ROBINSON
Editor

Volunteers are the trailblazers in Army Community Service and embody the ACS motto: "Self-help, Service and Stability" across the Army.

Without volunteers, the Army mission would not be fulfilled. Each year, thousands of volunteers devote their time in serving the Army community.

This year, the U.S. Army recognizes Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 10-16, a time to highlight the Army volunteers' contributions and accomplishments.

The Army Volunteer Corps, which falls under ACS, is a program used to find

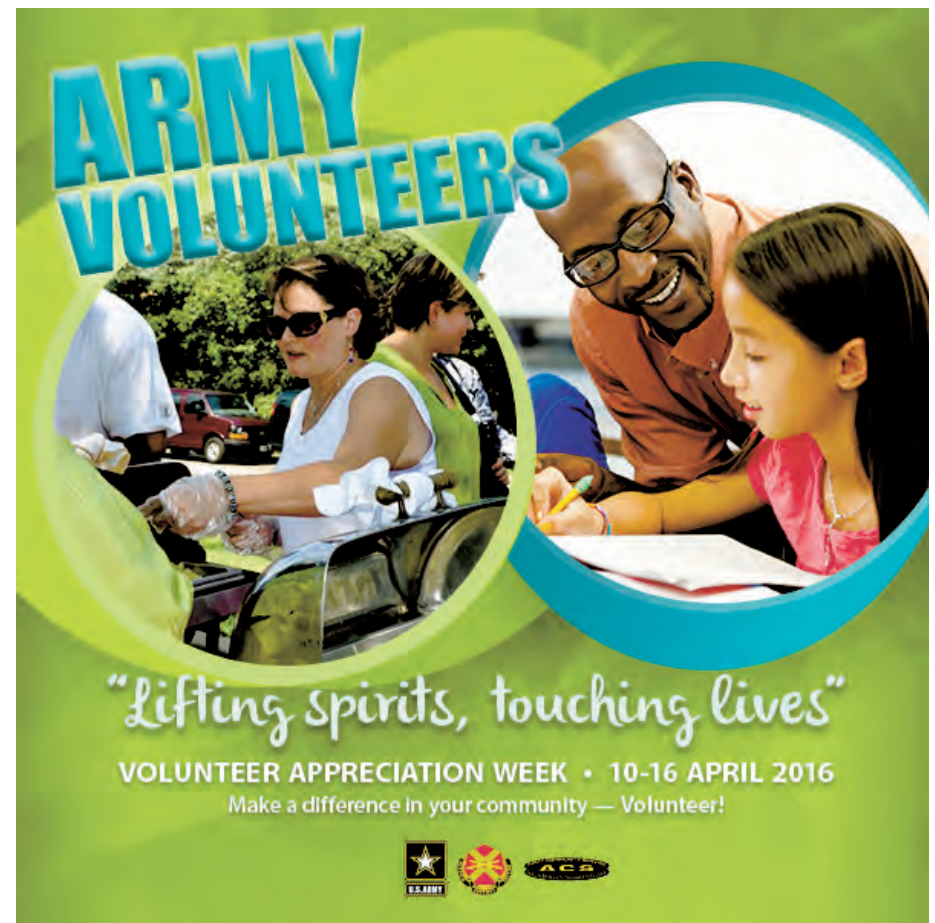
volunteer opportunities, log service hours, and receive support and guidance.

AVC aims to strengthen volunteerism by enhancing volunteers' career mobility, establishing partnerships with off-post organizations and promoting a lifelong commitment to service.

This week, AVC coordinators are planning events to formally show their appreciation to volunteers such as recognition ceremonies with garrison leadership presence.

Fort Meade's annual Volunteer Awards Banquet will be held April 21 from 6-8 p.m. at Club Meade. For tickets, call 301-677-4128.

To register or learn about volunteer opportunities, contact the Army Volunteer Corps at 301-677-4128.



ARMY VOLUNTEERS

"Lifting spirits, touching lives"

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK • 10-16 APRIL 2016

Make a difference in your community — Volunteer!

Logos for U.S. Army, Army Community Service (ACS), and Army Volunteer Corps (AVC) are displayed at the bottom.

Maryland 'same-day' early voting begins today

BY GANESA R. ROBINSON
Editor

If you missed the deadline to register to vote in Maryland, there's still time to cast your vote.

As part of a voting expansion bill passed in 2013, Maryland is offering "same-day" voter registration during early voting.

The new bill allows Marylanders to register to vote and immediately cast ballots at early voting centers. It also provides individuals with the opportunity to obtain absentee ballots online.

How to get started

To register to vote, go to an early voting center in the county where

you live and bring a document that proves your residence.

This document can be a state-issued driver's license or government identification card; change-of-address card; pay stub; or other government document with your name and new address.

Early voting centers are open from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. beginning today through April 21.

Maryland federal election deadline

- Early voting: April 14 - April 21
- Presidential primary: April 26
- General election: Nov. 8

For more information, go to elections.state.md.us.



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High school softball teams pay tribute to military

BY ALAN H. FEILER
Staff Writer

Capt. Michelle L. Haines admits she doesn't know much about softball.

But Haines eagerly stepped up to the plate when Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley asked her to represent him and throw out the first pitch at "Military Appreciation Night" at Friday's game between Meade and Arundel high schools' girls varsity softball teams.

"I practiced with my husband in the our backyard and even watched a YouTube video," said Haines, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "This was my first softball game ever and I wanted to make sure I did pretty well.

"It was an awesome experience."

Haines was among six active-duty and former service members who threw out first pitches all at once at the game at Meade High.

"We were all very excited and honored to be there," she said. "It was really nice to meet each other and spread the good news about the military."

The other first-pitchers were Navy Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Todd Fowler; Navy Capt. Matthew Friters; retired Army Staff Sgt. David Mack, a Meade High alumni and wounded warrior; Navy Cryptologic Technician 1 Charles Nicklas; and retired Air Force Master Sgt. Jason R. Taylor, a wounded warrior.

"At this time, we invite all veterans to stand or remain standing to recognize you and say thank you for your service and sacrifice," the game's public address announcer said. "We now invite family members of veterans to rise and join our standing veterans as we recognize you and your sacrifice."

Haines, who lives in Odenton, attended the game with her husband, Capt. Jeremy D. Haines, company commander of Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, and their 6-year-old son Jeffrey.

"Jeffrey was really excited to be there," she said. "After the game, the players gave me a softball that they all signed, and I gave it to Jeffrey."

Haines, who played high school soccer in her native Dayton, Ohio, and collegiate tennis at Norwich University in Vermont, said she particularly enjoyed chatting with Meade and Arundel players before and after the game.

"I got to huddle with them and kind of talked about teamwork," she said. "I said, 'This is your team, so appreciate each other,'" she said. "I told them that in the military, you move every few years and you get a new team each time.

"So I told them, 'Savor it. You never know what happens next year. Build up your team now.'"

The "Military Appreciation Night" event was conceived by Lisa Mills, head coach of the Arundel Wildcats, and Jennifer Richardson, head coach of the Meade Mustangs. Richardson said the teams plan to host the gathering alternately every year.

Mills has been hosting military appreciation-themed events at Arundel High in Gambrills for the past two years.

At one point before the game, Richardson personally thanked Haines for participating in the event.

"It's good to have you here," she said.

Haines responded. "Thanks for having me. I'm so proud to be here. It's awesome."

Also participating in the pregame ceremony was the Meade High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Honor Guard, which performed the Presentation of Colors and the national anthem.

Red, white and blue posters and American flags were placed around the field, and the honored military guests were given posters created by the players to commemorate the event.

Players wore military-patterned jerseys as a tribute.

After the game, which the Wildcats won 22-2, attendees were invited to chat with the service members and retirees about their military service.

"It was a very moving experience," Haines said. "They really went all out. It was the nicest game. I'd never done anything like this in my life and I was up for it. It was very cool."

Joyce Brozena, whose daughter Julie plays for the Wildcats, said she too was moved by the event.

"This is our chance to recognize the sacrifices that military members have made, and continue to make, to keep our country safe and free," said Brozena, a protocol officer at the National Security Agency/Central Security Service Protocol Office. "It also gives us the opportunity to raise funds for local charities that support disabled veterans and Wounded Warriors.

"On behalf of the Arundel High School softball program, we thank all of the service members for the sacrifices they make for our freedom."



PHOTOS BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

Capt. Michelle L. Haines, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, prepares to throw out the first pitch before Friday's game between the Meade High Mustangs and the Arundel High Wildcats at Military Appreciation Night.



In recognition of "Military Appreciation Night" at Meade High School, the Meade High Color Guard presents the colors before the softball match.

Exchange CEO focuses on supporting healthy lifestyles

ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Army & Air Force Exchange Service Director/CEO Tom Shull is committed to ensuring that Soldiers and families at Fort Meade have what they need to stay fit and mission-ready.

Shull and Chief Master Sgt. Sean Applegate, Exchange senior enlisted advisor, have been touring Exchange facilities to understand how the Exchange can best meet the needs of the military community.

On Tuesday, Shull, Applegate and Judd Anstey, executive administrator to the CEO, met with Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley as their travels took them to Fort Meade.

They discussed how the Exchange can better serve Soldiers and their families by helping them maintain healthy lifestyles.

"The Exchange team appreciates how much Soldiers and their families sacrifice," Shull said. "Their sacrifices inspire the Exchange team to work even harder to meet their needs."

Part of meeting the community's needs is ensuring Soldiers have choices to keep them healthy. The Exchange's BE FIT section has the look of a big-box athletic store.

"Name brands that shoppers know and

trust, such as Under Armour, Brooks, Saloman, Nike and Adidas are prominently featured in the BE FIT area," Shull said. "It's a one-stop shop for products that contribute to Soldiers' health and resiliency."

The commitment to readiness doesn't stop at the store. For shoppers who want to grab a meal, Fort Meade's restaurants such as Boston Market, Burger King, Charley's Grilled Subs and Subway as well as the Express bring a host of healthy options to the table.

"For those who are looking for a quick grab-and-go bite, the Express is stocked with good-for-you choices such as fresh fruit, salads and yogurt," Shull said.

When shopping and dining at the Exchange, Shull said, Soldiers do more than save sales tax. Money from every purchase goes back to improving quality of life at Fort Meade.

"For every dollar earned, historically 67 cents comes back to the military community to support quality-of-life programs," he said. "In 2015, sales at the Fort Meade Exchange generated more than \$1.3 million on behalf of these programs."

"Every time shoppers buy from the Exchange, they are making life better for their entire military community."

The Fort Meade Exchange is committed to treating Soldiers, their dependents and



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS FRANK INMAN

Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley meets with Army & Air Force Exchange Service Director/CEO Tom Shull (far right) and two members of his senior staff — Judd Anstey, executive administrator to the CEO, and Chief Master Sgt. Sean Applegate, Exchange senior enlisted advisor — at garrison headquarters Tuesday. Shull's visit focused on improving service members' lives by offering products to ensure resiliency and healthy options in the food court.

retirees like family, Shull said.

"Since 1895, the Exchange has provided a lifeline to America's service members and their families," he said. "In fact, right here at Fort Meade, nearly 50 percent of Exchange associates are military spouses, family members or veterans. The Exchange truly is family serving family."

Shull is the first civilian to lead the organization, which employs 35,500 civilian associates worldwide. In addition, 35 active-duty service members are assigned to the Exchange.

For more information about the Exchange and Exchange programs, visit shopmyexchange.com.

Are reverse mortgages a good option?

BY JANE M. WINAND

Chief, Legal Assistance Division

It seems like every time you turn on the TV, there is someone extolling the virtues of a reverse mortgage.

For those age 62 or older, the proceeds from a reverse mortgage can be used to supplement retirement income, pay off a current mortgage, cover health care expenses or pay for a home improvement project.

A reverse mortgage allows you to convert some of the equity in your home into cash without having to sell your house or take on additional credit obligations.

For a typical mortgage, you borrow money from the lender and then pay it back in monthly installments to the lender. With a reverse mortgage, the lender pays

you money and you generally don't have to pay it back while you live in your home.

The reverse mortgage is paid when you die, sell the house, or no longer occupy the house as your principal residence. One advantage of the reverse mortgage is that the proceeds are generally tax-free. Also, most reverse mortgages don't have any income restrictions.

There are some things to consider before you decide to get a reverse mortgage:

1. Although some reverse mortgages have fixed rates of interest, most reverse mortgages have variable rates that are tied to a financial index. Thus, the rate may change depending on market conditions.

2. Interest is charged on the outstanding balance of the reverse mortgage and is added to the amount you owe each month.

Thus, the amount owed on the reverse mortgage grows larger over time. Your total debt increases as the loan funds are paid out to you and the interest accrues. This increase in your total debt load could make it more challenging to obtain credit in the future if your total debt load is very high.

3. The interest charged on reverse mortgages is not deductible on income tax returns until the loan is paid off.

4. Lenders usually charge origination fees and other closing costs for a reverse mortgage.

They also may charge periodic servicing fees during the term of the reverse mortgage. Pay close attention to the amounts of these fees when negotiating for a reverse mortgage.

5. During the reverse mortgage, you

retain the title to your home and must continue to pay property taxes, insurance, maintenance, utilities and other expenses.

If you don't continue to pay these expenses, the reverse mortgage lender may require you to pay the reverse mortgage off in full immediately.

6. A reverse mortgage uses up some or all of the equity in your house, leaving fewer assets for you and your heirs.

Many reverse mortgages include a "nonrecourse" clause, which prevents you or your estate from borrowing more than the value of your house when the loan is repaid.

For more information, go to the Federal Trade Commission website at ftc.gov or call the Fort Meade Legal Assistance Office to schedule an appointment with an attorney at 301-677-9504 or 301-677-9536.



PHOTOS BY NATE PESCE

Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley chats with 4-year-old A.J. during his visit to the annual Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair on April 5. The two-hour event is held in conjunction with National Child Abuse Prevention Month and links parents with community organizations that work to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair aims to prevent child abuse

By LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

Filled with boundless energy, dozens of smiling children peeked through tunnels, raced in toy cars, jumped on colorful gymnastic mats and created paper flowers.

The youngsters and their parents took part in a morning of recreational activities at the annual Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair held April 5 at the Youth Center gymnasium.

Although the two-hour event, hosted by the Fort Meade Family Advocacy Program, was filled with fun and games, there was an important message for parents.

"At the Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair, we partner with community organizations whose mission is to decrease and prevent child abuse," said Celena Flowers, Fort

Meade's Family Advocacy Program manager.

The fair is held each year in conjunction with National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan designated April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month to raise public awareness about child abuse and neglect.

This year's theme is "Child Safety to Prevent Child Neglect."

Representatives from Johns Hopkins HealthCare in Glen Burnie, the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore and the Maryland Kids in Safety Seats program provided parents with information about community resources to improve children's health and keep children safe.

Staff from the Military & Family Life Counseling Program at Fort Meade also were available to inform parents about resources to

ease the stresses of military life.

The event drew 162 parents and children, who enjoyed arts and crafts, toys, tunnels and ramps, and an aerobics and songs class led by MyGym in Columbia, a children's fitness company.

"We had a lot of new parents come out and they said they had a great time," said Valerie Green, a parent support coordinator at FAP.

While the Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair is held each year, the Romp 'n Stomp program is a weekly playgroup for parents and children ranging from infancy to age 5.

The program is held Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. from September to June at the Youth Center gym at 909 Ernie Pyle St., and in August at the Boundless Playground on Llewellyn Avenue.

In addition to the recreational activities,



Children jump on rubber gymnastic mats to warm up for an aerobics class at the annual event hosted by the Fort Meade Family Advocacy Program.

staff from the Military & Family Life Counseling Program also are available for parents each week.

Flowers said the goal of Romp 'n Stomp is to encourage social interaction and confidence-building for children and provide a support network for parents as a way to reduce the risk for child abuse and neglect.

Green said that many young parents who are married to active-duty service members and dealing with a recent move or a deployment may be at home alone with very young children.

"If you're alone all day, every day with a 2-year-old, that can be stressful if you don't get a break," Green said. "You may lash out in ways that you would not do if you had another parent to talk to."

Romp 'n Stomp provides parents with the opportunity to meet and, make friends and become familiar with supportive services within the Fort Meade community and off post.

Many parents who have lived on post for a while and attended this year's Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair, said they were unaware of the weekly Romp 'n Stomp and plan to attend.

"They said this is something they should definitely take advantage of," Green said.

Editor's note: For more information, call 301-677-5590.



Katie Stonehouse and her 4-year-old daughter Abby read a tiny children's book. The Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair offered arts and crafts, toys and other recreational activities for children ranging from infancy through age 5.



Christin Shifflett, owner of MyGym children's fitness company in Columbia, leads an aerobic exercise class that incorporates songs and music during the Romp 'n Stomp Adventure Fair held April 5 at the Youth Center.



Jude, 2, peeks out from a plastic tunnel at one of the play areas at the Youth Center gymnasium.

JIBBER JABBER - OPINION

Farewell to the Mamba

This morning is the first time in the last 20 years that Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant isn't prepping for a basketball game.

Think about that for a moment.

The man known by most as the "Black Mamba" because of his lethality on the hardwood; the man who scored 81 points in a single NBA game on.nba.com/1MWeFnV; the man who broke up a dynasty by running Shaq out of L.A. just so he could build one on his own, is finally hanging up the Nikes after one of the greatest careers in modern sports. lat.ms/1SwCz9g

By modern I'm talking 1990 until now.

You may have read my and Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Chambers' discussion on Kobe's place in NBA history. I have him as the best player in the last 20 years. Chambers goes with Spurs forward Tim Duncan. Others may go with LeBron or Shaq, and those who get caught up in the moment may go with Steph Curry.

Regardless of where you rank Kobe's accomplishments, there is no doubt that one of the NBA's first legends of the high definition, buddy-up-to-make-a-super team, no-touch, all-fouls era is one of the greatest competitors of any era.

The dude had a mean streak and singular focus rivaled only by Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods in his prime. He'd dunk on anyone, shoot over everyone, and mean-mug all the way to a title.

Unfortunately, like most superstar athletes, Kobe has earned the tarnish — and in some cases like the 2003 rape charge — scar on his reputation.

Kobe's power play on Shaq was as selfish as any act in sports. The Lakers were in position to dumptruck the league for three or four more seasons.



Chad T. Jones

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER

But Kobe didn't want to be Robin to Shaq's Batman. (BTW "Batman v Superman" wasn't as bad as people said: 3 stars.)

In Kobe's defense, the need to be the man is what set him apart from his peers. It's why he's greater than LeBron.

It's true that Kobe wasn't kind to his teammates who failed to meet his standards (see Dwight Howard). But again, you don't score at least

40 points on every team in the NBA, average 25 points per game over a 20-year career, win five championships, or become arguably the first or second greatest player in Lakers history without being hard.

That stuff may fly in Utah or Portland or maybe even OKC, but not with the crown jewel of the NBA.

Most despicably, Kobe was charged with raping a woman in 2003. Here is the full transcript Kobe gave to the police, and similar to the Peyton Manning's sexual harassment revelation, it is up to you to decide how this impacts your opinion of him. bit.ly/1MucWdh

The rape charges were dropped when the witness refused to testify, and a civil suit was later settled with Kobe apologizing but not admitting to sexual assault.

I'm in no position to judge, and I'd be a hypocrite if I did, because at the end of the day, and after 20 years watching the Mamba give it all to my favorite team, I love me some Kobe Bryant. Not the man per say, and certainly not the poet bit.ly/1NCGoxq, but the competitor.

Kobe played to win every game, and he did it for himself — not the team or the fans.

Yet in the end, Kobe's desire did help his team win, and after 20 years of great basketball, it's clear NBA fans won, too.

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

24-hour fitness facility opens at Murphy Field House

Murphy Field House is now offering unmanned extended hours after normal operating hours.

Murphy is open to authorized registered patrons ages 18 and older to utilize the cardio equipment and Nautilus weight machines.

The free weights, basketball and racquetball courts are NOT open during unmanned hours.

The facility is unmanned, so exercise responsibility and come with a buddy.

Murphy is fully equipped with surveillance cameras. All users will be monitored at all times while in the facility.

Registration is required to gain access to the facility by fingerprint reader.

Pick up a registration form at Gaffney Fitness Center or Murphy Field House and submit the completed form to the facility in advance so your information is in the system when you come for your appointment at Gaffney to enter your fingerprint for entrance to the facility.

Schedule an appointment for registration for 24/7 access.

For more information, call 301-677-3867.



Youth Fishing Rodeo

The Fort Meade Youth Fishing Rodeo is Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Burba Lake Recreation Area.

The free event, sponsored by the Meade Rod and Gun Club and MWR Outdoor Recreation, is open to all youths ages 3 to 15.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. at Burba Lake, Area No. 5, on the day of the event.

The competition is divided into three age divisions: 3 to 6; 7 to 11; and 12 to 15.

Prizes will be awarded in each division.

Limited fishing gear and bait will be available for participants who do not have their own.

Maryland Fishing Regulations are in effect and no other fishing is permitted Saturday until 1 p.m.

New gate access requirements are in

effect.

For information regarding access to the installation for all non-DoD ID cardholders, call the Dempo Visitor Control Center at 301-677-1064.

For more information on the Youth Fishing Rodeo, go to meade.armymwr.com or call Charisma Wooten of the Meade Rod & Gun Club at 240-568-6055.

Fort Meade Run Series

Registration is underway for the 2016 Fort Meade Run Series, which begins April 23.

The annual Run Series, sponsored by Fort Meade's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, features seven themed races.

Each race includes a 1-mile walk.

Register online at meade.armymwr.com/us/meade/programs/run-series.

All runs start at 8 a.m. and are open to the public.

- Earth Day 5K: April 23, Burba Lake Park
 - Patriot Pride: 5/10K: May 21, Murphy Field House
 - Army Birthday 5K: June 11, Pavilion
 - Football Fanfare 5K: Sept. 17, Constitution Park
 - Ghosts, Ghouls & Goblins 5K: Oct. 22, Pavilion
 - Turkey Trot 5K: Nov. 19, Murphy Field House
 - Reindeer Run 5K: Dec. 10, Murphy Field House
- For more information, call 301-677-3318.

Half-Marathon

The Annual Joint Base Andrews Half-Marathon is taking place May 14.

Registration is now open to all DoD ID cardholders at the Facebook page: [Facebook.com/JBAHalfMarathon](https://www.facebook.com/JBAHalfMarathon).

Golf tournament

The 2nd Annual Golf Scramble, sponsored by the Military District of Washington's Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, will be held April 29 at the Bowie Golf and Country Club, 7420 Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie.

Registration deadline is Wednesday.

Check-in is at 7 a.m. Shotgun start is at 8 p.m.

The awards ceremony will begin at 1 p.m.

Fee is \$70 for service members and \$65 for civilians and retirees.

Proceeds will benefit research for Epithelioid Hemangioendothelioma, a rare vascular cancer that primarily affects adolescents and young adults.

Donations will be accepted to sponsor wounded warriors and military players.

Four-person scramble includes 18 holes of golf, cart and range balls.

To register, email dawnanb@gmail.com or call Dawna at 719-640-1724.



Text FOLLOW FTMEADEALERT to 40404 to sign up for news alerts on your mobile phone

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](https://www.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.

New VCC hours

Operating hours at the Demps Visitor Control Center have been extended.

The new hours are Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

All individuals who do not have a DoD-issued identification card must go to the VCC for a day pass.

Individuals interested in obtaining a long-term access pass must apply at the VCC at least 10 business days in advance of their visit.

Visitors who arrive on post when the VCC is closed must be escorted on post by an authorized DoD cardholder. This includes weekends and federal holidays.

For more information, call the VCC at 301-677-1064.

Holocaust observance

The Fort Meade garrison's annual Holocaust Days of Remembrance observance will be held April 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McGill Training Center, 8452 Zimborski Ave.

The free event is hosted by the 902nd

Military Intelligence Group.

This year's theme is "Learning From The Holocaust: Acts of Courage."

The guest speaker is Holocaust survivor Rubin Sztajer.

All Fort Meade service members and civilians are encouraged to attend with supervisory approval and without charge to annual leave.

Administrative leave is authorized.

For more information, call the 902nd MI at 301-677-2162 or the Fort Meade Equal Opportunity Office at 301-677-6687.

Brass Lounge

The Brass Lounge at Club Meade is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5-8 p.m.

For more information, go to meade.armymwr.com.

Preregister for Flea Market

Due to new access restrictions at the gates, all vendors who are non-DOD cardholders must preregister by Friday for the Fort Meade Flea Market.

The flea market will be held April 30 from 7 a.m. to noon. at the Pavilion, rain or shine.

Preregistering by Friday will authorize your entry onto the installation.

After this date, preregistrations will not be accepted and non-DoD cardholders will be denied gate access.

Vendors who are DoD cardholders can continue to preregister until April 29.

Cost is \$15 in advance for each 8-foot by 8-foot space and includes one table and two chairs. Cost for each additional table is \$5.

Vendor cost on April 30 is \$20.

For more information, call 301-677-3579.

OCS celebration and reunion

A special 75th United States Army Officer Candidate School Diamond Anniversary Celebration and Reunion will be celebrated April 24-28 at the Double Tree Hotel in Columbus, Ga.

The United States Army Alumni Association represents all Army officers commissioned through the Officer Candidate School, regardless of previous school locations and branches.

The Medal of Honor has been awarded

to 43 graduates. Many will be in attendance.

This reunion will feature several prominent speakers including retired Lt. Gen. Joe Kinzer, former 5th Army Commander; retired Lt. Gen. John Brown, former USARPAC commander; Capt. Florent Groberg, recent MOH recipient; and retired Lt. Col. Ralph Peters, author and Fox News military analyst.

Demonstrations, briefings, special events and tours related to OCS are scheduled.

For more information, call Nancy Ionoff at 813-917-4309 or go to ocsalumni.org.

Mother's Day Brunch

Club Meade is serving a Mother's Day Brunch on May 8 at Club Meade.

There will be two seating times: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Reservations are recommended. Membership is not required.

Cost for adults is \$24.95 for members and \$28.95 for nonmembers.

Cost for youths ages 4-12 is \$12 for members and \$14 for nonmembers.

Ages 3 and under attend free.

Menu includes omelet station, waffle station, and hand-carved meat station; shrimp and other seafood dishes; chicken and other meat dishes; assorted pasta, rice and potato.

The brunch is open to all DoD ID cardholders and their guests.

All others should visit the Fort Meade website for access details.

For reservations or more information, call 301-677-6969.

Vendors wanted

The Fort Meade Farmer's Market is seeking a variety of vendors to attend the weekly farmer's market that will be held

every Wednesday from May 18 to Oct. 12.

Vendors of produce, specialty foods, flowers, crafters and lunch trucks are wanted.

For more information, call 301-677-3579 or 301-252-8688.

Latin Night

Latin Night at the Brass Lounge in Club Meade is April 29 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

There is no cover charge.

The nightclub ambience features a disc jockey playing salsa, bachata, merengue, cumbia and reggaeton.

The event is open to all ranks and services and civilian employees.

For more information, go to meade.armymwr.com.

Team Trivia

Trivia Maryland, Team Trivia Night is held every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at The Lounge at The Lanes.

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Game starts at 7 p.m.

Teams must have a minimum of two people and a maximum of 10.

Weekly prizes will be awarded to the top three winners.

For more information, call 301-677-5541.

Earth Day

Earth Day will be celebrated on Fort Meade on April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pavilion.

The event will feature educational and fun exhibits for all ages.

Free lunch starts at 11 a.m.

Bring your personal electronic equipment for Fort Meade's second recycling and data destruction event.

Donate your lightly used laptops, tablets. See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14

NEWS & NOTES, *From page 13*

lets, smart phones and flat-screen monitors to a program that prepares youth for careers in information technology.

For more event information, call 301-677-9185 or 301-677-9170 or email suzanne.m.teague.civ@mail.mil or james.r.ayers30.civ@mail.mil.

For updates, go to ftmeade.army.mil.

Change of command

Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON) will host a change-of-command ceremony May 13 at 10 a.m. at 8910 Love Road.

Capt. Jeremy D. Haines will relinquish command to Capt. Brandon Tuell.

For more information, call 1st Lt. Angelos Katsaitis at 301-833-9103 or email angelos.a.katsaitis.mil@mail.mil.

Community Job Fair

A Community Job Fair will be held May 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Club Meade, 6600 Mapes Road.

A free, frequent shuttle service will be available to take attendees from the Demps Visitor Control Center to Club Meade.

Individuals who not have a Department of Defense ID card must go to the Demps Visitor Control at Reece Road and present a valid photo ID card or driver's license, and Social Security number.

Meet employers. Bring resumes. Dress for success!

Arrive early and anticipate lines at the Reece Road gate and job fair.

Free resume evaluation and preparation assistance service will be available.

To schedule reasonable accommodations with an American Sign Language interpreter, email jerome.duncan@maryland.gov by May 13.

The job fair is hosted by the Fort Meade Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; DLLR/American Job Center; Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation; Army Community Service; Navy Fleet & Family Support Center; and Soldier For Life - Transition Assistance Program.

For more information, go to dllr.maryland.gov or meade.armymwr.com, or email jerome.duncan@maryland.gov.

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

ASIST workshop

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is offering a workshop on suicide "first aid" from Wednesday through April 21 and May 18-19 from 8:20 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cavalry Chapel, 8465 Simonds St. and 6th Armored Cavalry Road.

The workshop is open to service members, civilian employees and family members ages 18 and older.

There is no fee, but a two-day commitment is required. Civilian attire, no uniforms.

Learn to:

- Recognize opportunities for help.
- Reach out and offer support.
- Develop a safety plan that neutralizes risks.
- Apply the "Pathway for Assisting Life."
- Link people with community resources.

To register, call Capt. Paul Kunnas at 301-677-7778 or email paul.e.kunnas.mil@mail.mil.

Financial, Employment Readiness

Joint Services is offering workshops and briefings by Army Community Service at the Community Readiness Center, 830 Chisholm Ave., and the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center at 2212 Chisholm Ave., unless otherwise noted.

The free classes are open to active-duty service members and family members, DoD civilian employees and retirees.

Registration is required for each class.

To register, go to fortmeadeacs.checkappointments.com or call 301-677-5590.

Military

• Pre-Separation Brief: Today, 9-11:30 a.m. at FFSC

• Deployment Brief: April 21, 10-11:30 a.m. at FFSC

• TGPS (Transition, Goals, Plans, Success): Monday to April 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at FFSC

Life Skills

• Time Management: Wednesday, 9-11 a.m. at FFSC

Financial

• Home Buying: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon at ACS

• Basics of Investing: April 26, 9 a.m. to noon at ACS

• 1st Term Financial Readiness: April 26, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at ACS

Employment

• Career Exploration: Today, 9 a.m. to noon at ACS

• Salary Negotiation: April 21, 9 a.m. to noon at ACS

• Social Media for Job Seekers: April 26, 9 a.m. to noon at ACS

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Fort Meade is hosting a Community Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on April 30 from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in front of the Exchange.

The event is in support of the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency. Fort Meade's Army Substance Abuse Program staff, in conjunction with the Fort Meade Pharmacy and the Directorate of Emergency Services, is collecting your unneeded, unused and expired medications.

This is an opportunity to help protect the environment by not flushing your medications down the drain. Unused medicine must be disposed of properly to avoid harm to wildlife, pets and humans.

• Do not flush unused medications and do not pour them down a sink or drain.

• To dispose in household trash, pour medication into a sealed, plastic bag. If medication is a solid (pill, liquid capsule, etc.), add water to dissolve it.

• Add kitty litter, sawdust or coffee grounds (or any material that mixes with the medication and makes it less appealing for pets and children to eat) in the plastic bag.

• Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.

• Remove and destroy all identifying personal information (prescription label) from all medication containers before recycling them or throwing them away.

For more information, call Samson Robinson, ASAP prevention coordinator, at 301- 677- 7983.

Turn in the following items:

- Prescription and over-the-counter medications that are unwanted, expired, discontinued, unidentifiable or not used any longer.
- Medications for deceased family members
- You may leave all medications in original containers, but remove all patient information.

Do NOT turn in the following items:

- Thermometers
- Sharps (syringes, needles, etc.)
- Medical devices
- Hazardous liquids
- Medical waste



FILE PHOTO

For more information, call ACS at 301-677-5590 or FFSC at 301-677-9017/9018.

YOUTH

Youth Fishing Rodeo

The Fort Meade Youth Fishing Rodeo will be held Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Burba Lake Recreation Area.

The free event, sponsored by the Meade Rod and Gun Club and MWR Outdoor Recreation, is open to all youths ages 3 to 15.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. at Burba Lake, Area No. 5 on the day of the event.

The competition is divided into three age divisions: 3 to 6; 7 to 11; and 12 to 15.

Prizes will be awarded in each division. Limited fishing gear and bait will be available for participants who do not have their own.

Maryland Fishing Regulations are in effect and no other fishing is permitted Saturday until 1 p.m.

New gate access requirements are in effect.

For information regarding access to the installation for all non-DoD ID cardholders, call the Demps Visitor Control Center at 301-677-1064.

For more information on the Youth Fishing Rodeo, go to meade.armymwr.com or call Charisma Wooten of the Meade Rod & Gun Club at 240-568-6055.

Youth Center events

The Youth Center is offering several activities this month for grades six to eight.

- Youth Family Dinner: Friday, 6-7:30 p.m.

The free event will feature food, games and sports.

- Month of the Military Child Cake-Cutting Ceremony: April 22, 3:30 p.m.
 - Kickball Game: Youth Center vs. Teen Center: April 22 at 4 p.m.
 - Youth Lock-in: April 29-30, 6:30 p.m.
- For list of fees or more information, call 301-677-1437.

Teen Center events

The Teen Center is offering several activities this month:

- Top Chef: Tuesday, 4 p.m.
- Month of the Military Child Cake-Cutting Ceremony: April 22, 3 p.m.
- Kickball Game: Teen Center vs. Youth Center: April 22 at 4 p.m.
- Parents & Teens Ice Cream Social: April 26, 5:30 p.m.
- Teen Center Skate Park opening: Friday, 3-5 p.m.

The skate park is open the first and third Friday of the month. Free to members and \$2 for nonmembers. Helmets are required.

For more information, call 301-677-6054.

Discipline workshop

1-2-3 Magic Workshop, a parenting class on discipline for children, will be held April 28 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave.

To register, call 301-677-7823.

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. from September to June at the Youth Center gym at 909 Ernie Pyle St. and in August at the Boundless Playground on Llewellyn Avenue.

For more information, call 301-677-5590.

A-Z 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.

Interactive activities are designed to assist parents in learning developmentally appropriate play techniques to help children improve their social, cognitive and motor skills.

Space is limited. Registration is required for each session.

For more information, call 301-677-7823.

RECREATION

Out & About

• **BOSS Trap & Skeet Trip** for all single service members is May 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Prince George's County Trap & Skeet Center.

Registration is required by April 27. Only 30 spaces are available.

Cost is \$30 and includes transportation, instruction, shotgun rental, ammunition, targets for two games, game play for two games, and hearing and eye protection gear.

To register or for more information, see your BOSS representative; call 301-915-5389; or email: boss.ftmeade@gmail.com

• **Leisure Travel Services** is offering its next monthly bus trip to New York City on April 16, with discounts to attractions.

Bus cost is \$60. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

• **The 41st annual Sugarloaf Crafts Festival** will be held April 29-30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium.

More than 250 American artisans will display and sell their handcrafted work.

The event also features small-batch foods and children's entertainment.

For more information, including admission discounts, exhibitor lists and directions, go to sugarloaforcrafts.com or call 800-210-9900.

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 301-677-7823.

• **Daddy & Me** interactive playgroup for fathers with children ages 2-4 meets the first and third Monday of every month from 5-6 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. The next meeting is Monday. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

• **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 Tuesday.

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.

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

• **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 Tuesday.

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 Wednesday.

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.

• **Single Parent Support Group** meets every second and fourth Monday of the month from 5:30-7 p.m. at School Age Services, 1900 Reece Road. Children welcome. The next meeting is Monday. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

• **Kritikos Toastmasters 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.

The 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.

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

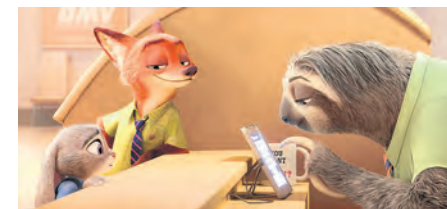
• **Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 254** meets the third Wednesday of every month from 3-4 p.m. in the auditorium of the Airman Leadership School, 8470 Zimborski Ave. The next meeting is Wednesday. For more information, call 831-521-9251 or go to AFSA254.org.

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 May 1



DISNEY/AP

Friday & Sunday: "Zootopia" (PG). In a city of anthropomorphic animals, a rookie bunny cop and a cynical con artist fox must work together to uncover a conspiracy. With the voices of Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Idris Elba.

Saturday: "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" (R). A journalist recounts her wartime coverage in Afghanistan. With Tina Fey, Margot Robbie, Martin Freeman.

April 22: "The Brothers Grimsby" (R). A new assignment forces a top spy to team up with his football hooligan brother. With Sacha Baron Cohen, Mark Strong, Rebel Wilson.

April 23: "Miracles From Heaven" (PG). A young girl suffering from a rare digestive disorder finds herself miraculously cured after surviving a terrible accident. With Jennifer Garner, Kylie Rogers, Martin Henderson.

April 24: "10 Cloverfield Lane" (PG-13). After getting in a car accident, a woman is held in a shelter with two men, who claim the outside world is affected by a widespread chemical attack. With John Goodman, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Gallagher Jr.

April 29 & May 1: "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" (PG-13). Fearing that the actions of Superman are left unchecked, Batman takes on the Man of Steel, while the world wrestles with what kind of a hero it really needs. With Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck, Amy Adams.