

Soundoff!

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FTMEADE.ARMY.MIL

Ready, Set, GO!

Annual Fort Meade Run Series takes off with Earth Day 5K **PG 8**



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Approximately 220 runners take off at the start of the Fort Meade Earth Day 5K Run/1-Mile Walk on Saturday morning at Burba Lake.

GIVING BACK

Volunteers honored
at annual banquet

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.: Commander's Call/Earth Day event- The Pavilion

Saturday, 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Prescription Drug Take-Back Day - Exchange

Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon: Military Spouse Job Fair - McGill

May 5, 11 a.m.: Military Spouse Appreciation Lunch - Club Meade

EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT

EFMP helps Fort
Meade children

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Soundoff!

EDITORIAL STAFF

Garrison Commander

Col. Brian P. Foley

Garrison Command Sergeant Major

Rodwell L. Forbes

Public Affairs Officer

Chad T. Jones 301-677-1301

Chad.T.Jones.civ@mail.mil

Chief, Command Information

Larry Whitley Sr. 301-677-5602

Larry.Whitley.civ@mail.mil

Editor

Ganesa R. Robinson 301-677-6806

Ganesa.R.Robinson.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

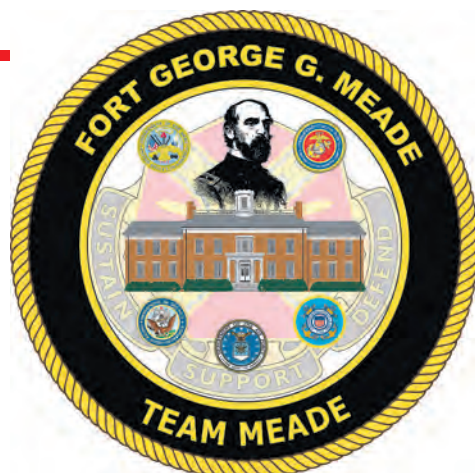
Design Coordinator

Timothy Davis 301-677-1431

trdavis@tribpub.com

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deathnotices@patuxent.com

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rhirsch@tribpub.com

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Fort Meade leadership encourages voting

By **ALAN H. FEILER**

Staff Writer

A native of Lebanon, Pa., Air Force Capt. Liz Richards of the 70th Operations Support Squadron made sure her vote counted in Tuesday's primary elections in her home state.

"We need to make sure people know the timelines to vote, not just in presidential elections but in local ones as well," Richards said. "If people want to vote, they should know they have the resources to do so."

Richards was among the members of all service branches who, on Tuesday afternoon, joined Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes at the Reece Road gate to get the word out about the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

The FVAP encourages the absentee voting process for service members to use across all states and overseas, to ensure they

exercise their right to vote even outside of their home voting jurisdictions.

Foley said he has voted via absentee ballot for two decades.

"Our vote is a fundamental element of our political system and nation," he said. "In [our] personal capacity, we service members have to take advantage of our right as Americans to vote for our elected officials. So we have to educate our entire community about voting and representing ourselves. It's critical.

"[FVAP] is a wonderful resource we provide to the military community."

Forbes said exercising the right to vote is more important now than ever.

"As we come out of some troublesome times and have some uncertain days ahead, everyone has to have a voice," he said. "If you don't utilize your voice in the proper manner, you're not saying much. Let your voice be heard. It's important to get that message forward."



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS FRANK INMAN

Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley (center) and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes (fifth from right) stand with service members and civilians at the Reece Road gate on Tuesday to show their support for the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

Know the process for getting visiting businesses on post

BY ALAN H. FEILER

Staff Writer

OK, so you want to order a pizza for delivery on post, suggests Deputy Robert L. Holmes of the Directorate of Emergency Services.

But not just *any* pizza -- a special chicken-topped pizza from a "Mom and Pops" pizza carryout you happen to know about

How do you make that happen with the installation's new access control procedures? That is, if the business has not already vetted its employees for post access.

Simple, says Holmes. You just fill out a Fort George G. Meade Installation Access Request, otherwise known as a FGGM Form 191-001-R-E, drop it off at the Demps Visitor Control Center, and let the process begin.

If you can't wait 10 working days -- the amount of time usually required for background checks and verification -- then you can meet the delivery person at the VCC or the gate, get the pizza yourself, or escort the worker on and off post. That is, as long as he or she has two forms of acceptable identification as outlined in the Real ID Act to show VCC employees or security guards in the inspection lane when the VCC is closed.

It is suggested that you as the customer for the service start the vetting process for



the business so that they will be able to deliver directly to your residence or business.

All local businesses and organizations are aware of the installation access changes.

Anne Arundel and Howard County chambers of commerce were also contacted by post officials about getting the word out.

Such businesses include food delivery outfits, florists, taxi and transportation services, contractors, cleaners and repair companies, and pet sitters.

"We've reached out to all of the businesses we historically have known -- the pizza delivery chains, the taxi services that frequent the gate, etc." Holmes said. "But if a business contacts us that we don't know about and we can confirm they are doing business on Fort Meade, we have no problem with that."

"Once we are aware there's a business connection, the owner or manager can work with us to get their employees badged."

Because of the volume of businesses in the region that interact with post residents and employees, Holmes said it is impossible to contact every business that might seek

access. He said it's incumbent on residents, DoD workers or businesses to request access and get the vetting process rolling for the companies that they receive services from.

"Once the business is verified, then the business owner can contact DES or VCC [about having employees vetted]," he said.

Visiting workers seeking post access must show two forms of identification such as a valid driver's license, and another form of identification, including a Social Security card; an original or copy of a birth certificate issued by a state, county or municipal authority; or a U.S. passport.

"If a visiting worker is not already vetted, the post resident or DoD employee can go to the gate and serve as the official escort for the worker," said Holmes.

But the worker will still be required to show two forms of identification to a security guard at the gate for a cursory check of the person.

If the visitor does not have the proper identification or if a background check indicates anything of concern, they will not be allowed on post.

As an escort "you will be responsible for that visitor at all times" while he or she is on

post, said Holmes.

"Either you come on post and get a badge, a day pass or you're escorted. It's as simple as that," he said. "We are currently checking about 500 people a day, so there's only one or two times a day when there's really any question."

"It's incumbent on you to help get a badge for a regular [visitor]," Holmes said. "And if it's a one-time event, you can just escort them. If you're escorting them on, you have to escort them off."

When the VCC is closed, residents or DoD employees will be required to vouch for visitors. But if the visitor will come frequently to the post, Holmes said the best solution is to contact the VCC to start the vetting process.

"Frequent access should get a badge," he said. "For the one-offs, do the 191 [form] or do the escorting."

Holmes asked that post employees or residents wishing to have businesses come on post comply with the new ACP procedures.

"Please cooperate with the VCC personnel," he said. "It will make things smoother and quicker. We will vet the visitors as quick as possible. This is all to keep our installation secure and safe."

For information about gaining access for visiting business enterprises, call the VCC at 301-677-1064.

For a list of acceptable identification, go to bit.ly/1Wq88ar

704th MI Brigade rides for awareness

BY BRYAN C. SPANN

Fort Meade Public Affairs

More than 25 Fort Meade police officers, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade staff and 704th MI motorcycle riders commemorated the national 2016 Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a 25-mile "Ride for Sexual Assault and Harassment Awareness" on April 21.

The convoy left the Smallwood Hall parking lot at about 1 p.m. Riders were greeted at the Reece Road gate by an escort of Anne Arundel County Police, who led the riders to the Anne Arundel County Sexual Assault Crisis Center in Arnold, near Annapolis.

The crisis center in Arnold operates a 24-hour daily hotline and provides services for victims of rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse for Anne Arundel County residents.

Stacia Morris, the 704th MI's sexual assault response coordinator, said this is

the first event of its kind for the brigade.

"We decided to host the [704th MI's] first-ever motorcycle awareness ride," she said. "The purpose of the ride is to promote awareness of the issue of sexual assault and also to raise vigilance about our efforts to help eliminate it from the nation, as well as the Army."

Staff Sgt. Aleksey Moiseyenko, a sexual assault victim advocate, said the 704th MI is 100 percent dedicated to the elimination of all sexual assault and all sexual harassment from the Army.

"We take it as a personal mission," Moiseyenko said.

Morris noted that with the size of the 704th MI's footprint on the installation, the brigade felt that it was important to demonstrate the importance of addressing and eliminating sexual assault.

"We want to kind of get people talking, make some noise, so to speak -- rev up those engines," she said.

The brigade plans to make the ride an annual event and get more people talking.



PHOTO BY BRYAN C. SPANN

A convoy of Fort Meade Police, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade staff and 704th MI motorcycle riders take part on April 21 in the national 2016 Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a 25-mile "Ride for Sexual Assault and Harassment Awareness" to the Anne Arundel County Sexual Assault Crisis Center in Arnold.

Strong B.A.N.D.S. sixth annual fitness, wellness program

By JESSICA MARIE RYAN

U.S. Army Installation Management Command

The U.S. Army Installation Management Command's annual Strong B.A.N.D.S. campaign will return for its sixth year to 72 participating Army locations worldwide this May.

Strong B.A.N.D.S. — which stands for Strong Balance, Activity, Nutrition, Determination and Strength — promotes garrison fitness and wellness programs available to Soldiers, families, retirees and civilians.

This year's theme is "Trained. Willing. Able." It highlights how the five campaign components enhance an individual's readiness.

Launched in 2011, Strong B.A.N.D.S. events and programs encourage service members, families, retirees and civilians worldwide to start and maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Last year, more than 75,000 individuals were involved in over 400 fitness and health activities.

"It's not just about being ready. It's about training to be ready and perform no matter what."

Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sanderson, three-time Olympic pistol shooter

The campaign features U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program Soldiers Capt. Leigh Jaynes-Provisor, wrestler; Sgt. Nathan Schrimsher, modern pentathlete; and Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sanderson, three-time Olympic pistol shooter. The WCAP Soldiers were selected to be campaign ambassadors because the theme resonates with the physical and mental demands of their training.

"Readiness is that thing you're always chasing right before a competition," Sanderson said. "It's not just about being ready. It's about training to be ready and perform no matter what."

Sanderson, along with Schrimsher and Staff Sgt. John Nunn, three-time Olympic race walker, will represent Team USA in this year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro from Aug. 5-21.

The campaign is held during National Sports and Fitness Month. Participating garrisons will plan a variety of fitness and health-related events throughout the month.



PHOTO BY MEGAN O'DONOGHUE

Soldiers proudly show off their Strong B.A.N.D.S. wristbands. Fort Meade will host a Strong B.A.N.D.S. track circuit challenge on May 9 from 9-11 a.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center. See Page 12 for more information.

In previous years, events ranged from traditional sports and fitness programming and health fairs to Youth/Children/Library StoryWalks and Run to Honor races.

Partnering with the Human Performance Resource Center and the Army Public Health Command, the campaign will have both print and online educational materials and videos available to participants at no cost. Online materials will be accessible at the Strong B.A.N.D.S. official website.

The Performance Triad, Army Medicine's comprehensive plan for improving readiness and resiliency, will be featured in the materials. The plan provides target goals people can reach for to improve their fitness, nutrition and sleep.

"If Soldiers, family members and civilians follow the Performance Triad, then they will improve their overall health, fitness and activity levels," said Col. Pauline Gross, command surgeon for IMCOM. "Little changes that people incorporate into their diet, sleep and activity ultimately will get them to the point where they are ready, healthier and more active."

In addition, each participant will receive a black and gold Strong B.A.N.D.S. wristband to symbolize their commitment to a healthier lifestyle.



U.S. ARMY ILLUSTRATION

From left to right: U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program Soldiers Capt. Leigh Jaynes-Provisor, Sgt. Nathan Schrimsher, and Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sanderson will be ambassadors for this year's Strong B.A.N.D.S. campaign. The campaign's theme "Trained. Willing. Able." resonates with the Soldier athletes as they overcome the physical and mental demands of training.

Exceptional Family Member Program helps child thrive

BY LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

When Trenton McNeal saw his mother standing in the back of his reading class at Manor View Elementary School on a Monday morning, he gave her a big smile.

Trenton waited to finish his reading lesson with Ms. Craig, a special education instructor from the Anne Arundel County Public Schools, before greeting his mother with a hug.

"I love you, Mommy," said Trenton, a third-grader.

His mother Sgt. Tameka Cyprian embraced the 9-year-old. After a few loving words, Trenton returned to his class.

"Trenton loves school," Cyprian said in an earlier interview. "He's a social butterfly. They call him 'Mr. Manor View' because he's so popular."

Cyprian, a human resources sergeant with the 902nd Military Intelligence Group, enrolled in Fort Meade's Exceptional Family Member Program. The Army designed EFMP to be a mandatory enrollment, comprehensive, coordinated, multiagency program that provides community support, housing and medical and educational services to military personnel with family members who have special needs.

About 1,200 Fort Meade families are enrolled in EFMP.

Trenton has a traumatic brain injury that he sustained after his family was involved in a car accident in Atlanta five years ago. Her oldest son Derrick was killed in the accident. Her daughter Desiree was not injured. Trenton was 4 years old at the time.

Cyprian, then a single parent, was assigned to the 53rd Signal Company at Fort Detrick.

She said the doctors did not give her much hope about Trenton's future.

"He had to walk, talk, learn everything that he already knew how to do as if he was a toddler," Cyprian said. "He was a



PHOTO BY LISA R. RHODES

Trenton McNeal, 9, a third-grader at Manor View Elementary School, finishes a reading lesson with Ms. Craig, a special education instructor from Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

baby twice."

"They didn't think he would do a lot of what he is doing now."

Trenton receives ongoing physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and behavior health counseling through Johns Hopkins Medicine and the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore. At Manor View, he is enrolled in regular classes. However, he receives instruction from a special education teacher several times a week.

The youngster also has a special aide who accompanies him at lunch and recess at school.

Cyprian said the TBI has left Trenton impaired with muscle tension on his left side. Physical therapy keeps the muscles from tightening in an effort to prevent him from undergoing surgery in the future.

Academically, Trenton's progress is slow, said Cyprian. He reads at a first-grade level, although he is very intelligent and engages with the people around him.

Cyprian, who recently remarried, said being enrolled in EFMP was critical when she received orders to be stationed in Korea last year.

"I was able to submit a compassionate reassignment from Fort Detrick to Fort Meade," she said.

This allowed her family to be near the medical services that Trenton requires without jeopardizing her career.

"EFMP has helped me get services that

Trenton needs to ensure the best quality of life possible," Cyprian said. "Without the necessary medical care, Trenton would have suffered, and this would have put a halt in his progress."

Shortly after Cyprian arrived at Fort Meade in August, she tried to enroll Trenton in School Age Services for after-school child care.

Since Cyprian works full-time, Trenton has to be transported from Manor View to SAS by bus. However, the bus company did not provide the adult aide and safety vest that Trenton requires, so he could not gain access to SAS services.

At the end of last year, a multi-interdisciplinary inclusion action team meeting was held between Cyprian, the EFMP staff and Fort Meade's Child, Youth and School Services.

MIAT meetings are held through EFMP to discuss how accommodations can be made for special needs children who require specific serv-

ices. The parties discussed how to accommodate Trenton's needs so he can receive SAS services.

Cyprian said EFMP's assistance was crucial.

"I needed care for Trenton and without EFMP, this could have affected my career," she said. "As a noncommissioned officer, you're still expected to do your job, even if there are special circumstances."

Cyprian said EFMP also helps by providing social activities for families.

"We're able to be with other families without having to worry about strange looks because you're different," she said. "You feel right at home, not on guard."

While Cyprian was stationed at Fort Detrick, Trenton was able to take advantage of therapeutic horse riding through the EFMP there.

"Trenton is a normal little boy; he's sweet," said Portia Jackson, a Fort Meade EFMP specialist. "He's a happy boy who enjoys having fun and is full of energy."

Jackson said Cyprian is a dedicated parent.

"She's a great mother," Jackson said. "She's always encouraging Trenton and pushes him to be his best."

At home, Trenton enjoys video games, and he wants to be a policeman or a paramedic when he grows up so he can help people.

"I'm happy," Trenton said during an interview at his school. "I like learning, basketball and definitely P.E. [physical education]."

Cyprian said she has learned to be patient as Trenton matures.

"He's not mentally where his peers are, and it's hard for him to retain the knowledge," she said.

"I want what's best for him, but I can only go as far as his mind can go. ... Ultimately, I want to ensure that I do everything to provide the best quality of life possible for him. We have to take it one step at a time and let him learn as much as he can so he can function on his own and be successful at whatever he does."

Cyprian said her family is moving forward.

"We've had a lot of obstacles to overcome and given the situation that we had, we couldn't catch a break," she said. "But you have to keep going and that's what our family has done. We've been in a dark cloud, but we've been open to those along the way who have helped us."

EFMP has made the difference, Cyprian said.

Editor's Note: To contact the Fort Meade Exceptional Family Member Program, call 301-677-5590.

"EFMP has helped me get services that Trenton needs to ensure the best quality of life possible."

Sgt. Tameka Cyprian, 902nd Military Intelligence Group

"I needed care for Trenton and without EFMP, this could have affected my career."

Sgt. Tameka Cyprian, 902nd Military Intelligence Group

Veterans Mentor Program seeks volunteers

BY ELIZABETH HAYS
Legal Assistance Extern

The Veterans Treatment Court in Maryland provides a mentor program that pairs veterans with volunteer mentors who help them navigate the VTC system to maximize its potential benefits.

In addition, the mentor program provides camaraderie to the veteran and in some cases long-term support, even after the VTC case reaches a final disposition.

These volunteer mentors are specially trained, and many are veterans themselves who are uniquely qualified to understand and provide needed support.

The VTC is a court-supervised, comprehensive, and voluntary treatment-based program for veterans charged with certain crimes. A veteran mentor supports a defendant veteran as he or she completes the program, with an end goal of rehabilitation rather than incarceration.

Potential volunteers for the VTC mentor program are carefully screened to ensure that the most suitable candidates are selected. Desired qualities for a mentor are prior service in the U.S. Armed Forces; a willingness to adhere to all the policies and procedures established by the court; a commitment to participate in the mentor program for at least six months; successful completion of all required training; and a background check that discloses no adverse information.

Additionally, the VTC mentor program seeks volunteers who actively listen and are encouraging, supportive, tolerant, respectful of individual differences, empathetic and possess knowledge of Veteran Affairs services as well as community resources and services.

The mentor's goal is to foster a relationship of trust with the veteran defendant so that the veteran may discuss ongoing problems or issues of interest. In return, the

mentor employs problem-solving techniques to assist the veteran and brings certain issues to the attention of the court, if necessary.

Veterans are more likely to relax and relate to a fellow veteran mentor and thus be guided to get maximum benefit from VTC resources. For example, a veteran may not have the emotional support needed to beat drug addiction and successfully navigate through various legal proceedings resulting from the commission of a drug offense.

A mentor may be able to provide that support in a friendly, understanding way to help bridge the gaps between the court, drug treatment programs and the veteran defendant.

As more Maryland counties adopt VTCs, we are closer to attaining the goal of successfully guiding all veterans who have engaged in certain types of criminal activity through the acclimation process from active-duty service to a productive and

fulfilling civilian life.

The Department of Justice estimates that 700,000 veterans are currently being processed through the justice system. The VTC program has helped stop many veterans from having their cases adjudicated in the criminal justice system.

Currently, Maryland has two VTCs. One of the courts is located in Baltimore City and the other is in Upper Marlboro.

For more information on becoming a veteran mentor, log on to the Maryland State Bar Association's Veterans' Affairs and Military Law section website at msba.org/sections/military/default.aspx.

Consider applying to become a veteran mentor today. You may have a positive impact on a fellow veteran, the court and your community.

Editor's note: For more information, schedule an appointment with an attorney at the Fort Meade Legal Assistance Office at 301-677-9504 or 301-677-9536.

Recognizing the Month of the Military Child



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Top row, from left: Anne Arundel County School Board members Terry Gilleland and Teresa Milio Birge; student board member Jacob Horstkamp; Board Vice President Patricia Nalley; and board members Julie Hummer, Tom Frank, Allison Pickard and Maria Sasso.

Bottom row from left (nonmilitary): Anne Arundel County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. George Arlotto, Board President Stacy Korbek and Bates Middle School student Grace Burnane.

COMMUNITY CRIME WATCH

FORT MEADE DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

April 23, Shoplifting: Police were notified by AAFES loss prevention personnel of a juvenile shoplifting at the Exchange. Personnel stated she observed the subject, via closed circuit cameras, select and conceal an item on her person. The subject then met up with her mother and departed the Exchange without rendering payment for her concealed item.

For week of April 18-24

Moving violations: 31
Nonmoving violations: 5
Verbal warnings for traffic stops: 63
Traffic accidents: 6
Driving on suspended license: 1
Driving on suspended registration: 0
Driving without a license: 0



EVERY
MOMENT
COUNTS

Every day your local USO provides moments that count in the lives of our troops and their families. From a hot cup of coffee, to a place to relax while traveling and critical services such as emergency housing, the USO International Washington-Baltimore is dedicated to serving those who serve. Take a moment to support our troops and their families by donating to your local USO at USOMore.org

Hitting the ground running for Earth Day

BY ALAN H. FEILER
Staff Writer

“Mother Nature was on our side.” That’s how Beth Downs, sports specialist for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, sums up Saturday morning’s Earth Day 5K Run/1-Mile Walk.

At times, overcast skies and a slight, drizzling rain threatened the event, which kicked off the seventh annual Fort Meade Run Series.

“But the temperature was good, and we finished before the heavier rains really came,” Downs said.

Approximately 220 runners participated in the event, which began at the Burba Lake Cottage area, trekked over to Roberts and Rock avenues, over to Chamberlin Avenue and 6th Street, swung from Chisholm to Llewellyn avenues, and back to Roberts and Burba.

The 1-mile walk was around Burba Lake.

Downs said the runners reported that they enjoyed the new Earth Day run route this year.

“Just a nice change of scenery,” she said.

Presenting the awards at the ceremony were Garrison Commander Brian P. Foley, who came in fourth, and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes, who came in 10th.

Runners received Earth Day Run/Walk T-shirts and enjoyed light refreshments

“It all went off very well, and it was a great start to the 2016 Run Series,” Downs said.

The next installment of the seven-run series, which concludes in December, will be the Patriot Pride 5K/10K Run/1-Mile Walk on May 21 at 8 a.m. at Murphy Field House, 8451 Zimborski Ave.



Capt. Christopher Curry, an Odenton resident, wins best overall male runner honors with a time of 16 minutes and 56 seconds.



Tech Sgt. Daniel Bernatter of Bowie and his wife, April, and their 19-month-old son Thomas participate in the Family Fun Walk segment of the Earth Day 5K Run/1-Mile Walk.

PHOTOS BY STEVE RUARK

Earth Day 5K results

- Christopher Curry — best overall male runner this year, with a time of 16 minutes and 56 seconds.
- Alex Szkotnicki — best overall female runner, with a time of 22 minutes and 23 seconds.
- Second-best male runner — Justin McDowell at 17 minutes and 28 seconds.
- Second-best female runner — Cecilia Curry at 22 minutes and 51 seconds.
- Third-place best male runner — Bukhair Abdus-Salaam at 18 minutes and 20 seconds.
- Third-place best female runner — Ryan Szkotnicki at 23 minutes and 14 seconds.



Master Sgt. Amy Mueller, an Odenton resident, and her dog Sammy cross the finish line at the Earth Day 5K Run/1-Mile Walk. For information about the Fort Meade Run Series, visit meade.armymwr.com/us/meade/programs/run-series.

'It's a miracle any of us survived'

Survivor speaks at Holocaust observance

BY ALAN H. FEILER
Staff Writer

After serving as keynote speaker at Fort Meade's annual Holocaust Days of Remembrance observance on April 21, Rubin Sztajer was asked about a lapel pin with a Hebrew phrase gracing his navy blazer.

"Oh, it's upside down," laughed the 90-year-old Holocaust survivor. "It says *zachor* — remember."

For nearly an hour, Sztajer, who lives in Ashburn, Va., shared his memories of the Nazi invasion of his Polish hometown, his internment in six concentration camps during World War II, and his liberation by Allied forces at the Bergen-Belsen camp.

The observance at McGill Training Center was hosted by the 902nd Military Intelligence Group and featured panels and photos provided by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Tables were filled with information and books about the Holocaust provided by the Fort Meade Medal of Honor Memorial Library and the Jewish Museum of Maryland.

Sztajer thanked the more than 100 military members in the audience for their service.

"You literally saved my life," he said. "I was as close to dying as any human being can be until I was liberated. I thank every one of you for the service you provide and for protecting our lives."

"Every American should go up and thank every man and woman they see in uniform."

"Every American should go up and thank every man and woman they see in uniform."

Rubin Sztajer,
Holocaust survivor

A retired dry goods salesman, Sztajer has three children, seven grandchildren and a great-granddaughter with his wife of 63 years, Regina.

Sztajer speaks throughout the region about his experiences, cautioning that the Holocaust is a complex topic that scholars and others often misunderstand or exaggerate.

"The Holocaust is something that should not be exaggerated," he said. "It doesn't need to be.



PHOTOS BY DERRICK SHINE

Holocaust survivor Rubin Sztajer (right) receives a warm welcome from Lt. Col. Erik Wick, deputy commanding officer of the 902nd Military Intelligence Group, at the annual Holocaust Days of Remembrance observance on April 21 at McGill Training Center.

Only those who were there can truly understand what it was like."

Sztajer was 15 when the Nazis entered his village of Klobuck.

"My childhood ended right there," he said. "I don't know what it was like to be a teenager."

He and his family of eight were rounded up and sent to live in a small, one-bed room in the Klobuck ghetto. He recalled non-Jews throwing stones at him and his brothers, and he was forced to always sit in the back of the classroom at school because of his religion.

In April 1942, Sztajer was placed with 200 other Jews from the ghetto in a truck and sent to the Gross-Rosen concentration camp.

"They just carted us off, and anyone trying to escape would be killed," he said. "I was pulled out of my mother's arms. I never again saw my parents or two younger sisters or younger brother."

On his first night at Gross-Rosen, Sztajer recalled, he was thrown into a room with nothing more than bunk beds and two buckets.

"I just got into bed and cried. I'd never been away from home," he said. "The next day, we were working outside in 105-degree heat, without a drop of cold water, just shoveling. We didn't get towels, toilet paper, water. The things you take for granted, we didn't have."

In 1943, Sztajer was sent to a slave labor camp in Funfteichen, Germany, where he witnessed a great deal of cruelty and killing.

"How anyone could just leave their home and family and come to work and murder people is beyond me," he said. "My question

always is, why did so many just stand by and do nothing?"

As the war drew closer to an end in 1944, Sztajer and his fellow inmates were forced to go on marches from camp to camp through the snow. This went on for about two months.

"It literally was a death march, and we did it in shoes that had cardboard for soles," he said. "But we learned how to survive. You do what you have to, to survive. It's a miracle any of us survived."

As the Allies closed in on Germany, Sztajer was transported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Of the 100 people on the cattle car, he said, only 10 survived.

At Bergen-Belsen, inmates were separated by gender; slept on straw and forced to bury piles of dead bodies.

At the time of liberation, Sztajer was found semiconscious by his older sister, also an inmate. Because she found him naked, he said, she placed her own underwear on him.

"She did everything she could for me, and then some," he said. "She was my doctor, my nurse, my everything."

Sztajer said he required about three years of rest and treatment to fully recover his health.

Sponsored by a Jewish agency, he arrived in Baltimore in May 1949 and started working as a cleaner.

"I took that job and started from scratch," he said. "I'm very proud of my accomplishments, and I'm now comfortably retired. You have to be happy to have a roof over your head."

Sztajer noted that all of his children and



Rubin Sztajer, who survived six Nazi concentration camps, credits Allied forces for saving his life and feels every American should thank military members for the jobs they perform in service to their country.

grandchildren attended college. In addition, he said he studied at a college after retiring at the age of 70.

"Nothing comes to you. You have to come and get it," he said. "I always tell the students I meet to remember how fortunate they are to have the opportunities they have in America. We have something here no one else in the world has."

"Think of what your ancestors went through before they came here and the tough times they had. When I came here, I didn't have a penny or anything."

After receiving a standing ovation, Sztajer was asked by Sgt. 1st Class William Latta of the 902nd MI if he holds today's Germans responsible for the Holocaust.

"Should I be angry with them? They didn't do it," Sztajer said. "If my son commits a crime, is that my fault? If you're going to go around hating someone, you're the one suffering — not them."

At the end of the program, Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley presented a plaque of appreciation to Sztajer.

"We all know those who forget history are doomed to repeat it," Foley said. "I pledge to you that Team Meade will do our part that what happened in the history of the world will never be repeated, and we will never forget what happened."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Basil Rivera of the 70th Operations Support Squadron commended Sztajer for his courage in speaking about his past.

"It's amazing he's willing to tell his story. It must be very difficult," she said. "He wants people to know what happened and that he overcame adversity and made a life for himself."

"So many people don't want to know about the Holocaust because it's sad," Rivera said. "Just because it's sad doesn't mean you can't learn about it. [Survivors] won't be here forever. It's up to us to tell their stories."

‘Shining stars’

Fort Meade recognizes volunteers at annual banquet

BY LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

Marie Miles, the installation's Army Volunteer Corps Program manager, called Fort Meade's volunteers an "elite" force during her welcoming remarks for the annual Volunteer Gold Star Awards Banquet.

The two-hour event, held April 21 at Club Meade, drew 400 people.

"I want to acknowledge all the outstanding accomplishments you have made to this community," Miles said. "So many of our programs would not be if it were not for you."

Miles called the volunteers "shining stars."

Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes presented award certificates to individual



Marie Miles, Army Volunteer Corps Program manager, speaks to the audience of 400 people. Miles called Fort Meade's 2,600 registered volunteers "shining stars" at the annual awards banquet.

and group volunteers who were selected by a nominating committee for their dedication to the Fort Meade community.

Fort Meade has 2,660 registered volunteers whose contributions saved the installation \$5.8 million last year.

"Each and every volunteer here gives freely to the community," Foley said in his remarks.

Military personnel at Fort Meade work to "defend out national interests each and every day," he said.

"Those people could not do this if it were not for the people in this room backing



Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley (back to camera) gives a thumbs-up as he presents Fort Meade's USO Center with the Volunteer Organization of the Year award.

them up by volunteering."

The guest speaker was Melodie Menke, former Relocation Program manager at Army Community Service.

Menke has worked for 20 years in volunteer management for the Army and the Navy. She has served as the director of Volunteer Services at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C., and in Gulfport, Miss.

Menke also was part of the volunteer efforts during Hurricane Katrina.

"You are a very impressive group," Menke

"You don't look for glory, you don't look for accolades. ... Your labor is not in vain. As you go forward to serve the Fort Meade community, we just want to tell you - job well done."

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes

said to the volunteers. "You make a huge difference. You may not realize it, but what a message you're sending to the community, to the state of Maryland and to the nation."

Menke said the country will always be in need of volunteers.

"Volunteers are the 'invested voice' that can be heard," she said. "Volunteers cut through the red tape. Volunteers do far more for less."

Addressing Fort Meade's large volunteer corps, Menke praised the dedicated volunteers who "bring something special, something different to the table," she said.

"You bring your values, you bring your integrity, you bring your personal commitment, you bring duty, respect and selfless sacrifice."

The event began with the posting of the colors by the Military District of Washington Audie Murphy Club Honor Guard and the invocation by Garrison Chaplain (Col.) Warren E. Kirby Jr.

A tribute to Diana Ross and the Supremes followed with a lip-synched performance of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" performed by Miles; Pia Morales, Fort Meade's Mobilization and Deployment Program manager; and Celena Flowers, Fort Meade's Family Advocacy Program manager.

Musical entertainment was provided by

retired Master Sgt. Melvin Robinson on saxophone; Master Sgt. Jeffrey Jenkins on keyboard; Y.J. Woo on keyboard; and Aretta Godwin on guitar.

A buffet dinner of roast beef, stuffed chicken breast, potatoes and string beans was then served, followed by dessert.

During the awards presentation, the Fort Meade USO Center was honored as the Volunteer Organization of the Year.

"It's great to have the dedication and devotion of these volunteers and for them to be recognized for all they do," said Shawn Sabia, supervisor of the USO Center, in an interview after the banquet. "They're not out for the recognition. They do it out of the love and compassion that they have for the military and military families."

The 741st Military Intelligence Battalion was recognized as the Volunteer Unit of the Year.

"This is a great honor for the unit," said Maj. Dartanion Hayward, the unit's executive officer, after the banquet.

Hayward said volunteering helps the unit's Soldiers remain "dedicated to the [military] mission and dedicated to the mission of human services."

The Kanatbekoffs were honored as the Volunteer Family of the Year.

"I didn't expect it," said Altynay Kanatbe-



Altynay Kanatbekoff, a military spouse, and her four daughters accept the Volunteer Family of the Year award from Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes.

koff, whose husband, Sgt. Ryan Kanatbekoff, serves with the 741st Military Intelligence Battalion.

She accepted the award with her four daughters.

"This is definitely a pleasure and an honor," said Kanatbekoff after the banquet. "We love to volunteer. We see how it changes and better lives."

The other award winners were: Master Sgt. Kyle Scott Cumbo, Active-Duty Volunteer of the Year; Laura O'Leary, Civilian of the Year; Imani Hinson, Youth Volunteer of the Year; and Lianne Roberts and Wolfgang Sklar, who shared the Lifetime Volunteer of the Year award.

To close the evening, Forbes said there were "hearts of gold" in the audience.

"Volunteers have the heart to serve," he said. "What would push a person to serve in this capacity? It's love."

"You don't look for glory, you don't look for accolades. ... Your labor is not in vain," Forbes said. "As you go forward to serve the Fort Meade community, we just want to tell you - job well done."



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes (far left) and Garrison Commander Col. Brian P. Foley (far right) present Spc. Elizabeth A. Farmer, former unit volunteer coordinator, and Lt. Col. Galen R. Kane, commander of the 741st Military Intelligence Battalion, with the Volunteer Unit of the Year award.



Guest speaker Melodie Menke, former Relocation Program manager at Army Community Service, shares her thoughts on the value of volunteering at Fort Meade's annual Volunteer Gold Star Awards Banquet on April 21 at Club Meade.

JIBBER JABBER - OPINION

Golden State's Golden Opportunity

Apologies to Ms. Rona and the newest member of your Public Affairs Office, Ganesa Robinson, for the delay in this week's dose.

Col. Foley said "ladi dodi anybody who has anything to do with purchasing or procuring anything" needed to be at a 9 a.m. contracting meeting.

This certainly wasn't the first time a commander prioritized my time — see last week. It's why I've developed procedures to adapt and overcome. For things like contract meetings, I simply find a seat in the back and scratch out the column. This has helped me meet several deadlines, while staying awake and meeting my garrison responsibilities.

It also has enhanced my reputation as a courteous listener because all presenters see is me "taking notes" until I ask a well-timed, thought-provoking question.

Unfortunately, the boss threw another wrench in my plans when he decided to sit right next to me in the back row of the Pershing Hill Conference Room. Being brave, I tried to implement my plan.

I was banking on our garrison commander not being able to read my infantile handwriting and, therefore, would think I was taking notes, or worse, practicing my doctor's signature. That is until he interrupted the presentation to ensure his staff was actively participating in the contract conversation.

I don't think the request was geared directly at me, but it hit close to home, and something in his tone made his comments sound like a lawful order as opposed to a strong suggestion. I complied fully until about 10 a.m. so I could knock out my dose while continuing my weeklong celebration of all things Prince. <http://bit.ly/1TdXajq>

The Purple One's death threw my day for a bigger loop than any contract meeting. It also reminded everyone that ladi dadi everyone and thing is subject to "This Thing Called Life."

The Golden State Warriors learned that lesson last week when the best player on the planet, Steph Curry, slipped on some sweat and tweaked his knee against the Houston Rockets. The soon-to-be two-time MVP suffered a grade-I MCL sprain and is scheduled to miss the next two



Chad T. Jones

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER

weeks of the playoffs.

Fortunately, unforeseen incidents present unforeseen opportunities.

I was able to learn about the 80-20 rule of budgeting, thanks to Col. Foley's seat choice. Prince's passing gave me the opportunity to listen to the songs that helped shape my youth. As for the Warriors, Curry's injury will give this year's team the opportunity to prove they are the greatest team in NBA history.

Golden State won an NBA regular-season record 73 games this season. Yet entering the playoffs, plenty doubted Coach Steve Kerr's squad could hold a candle to the 95-96 Chicago Bulls, which Kerr happened to play on.

Da Bulls won a then-record 72 games, and was led by Michael Jordan and two other Hall of Famers: Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman. Rodman is currently not in the Hall, but that's because, like Prince, few will truly appreciate "The Worm" until he is gone.

Jordan's hiatus to baseball proved those Bulls teams would not have even made the finals without MJ. The Bulls didn't have to go two quarters without Jordan during their playoff run. Forget about two games or two weeks.

The Warriors are looking at playing six or more games without their best player. Sure, the Clippers losing Chris Paul and Blake Griffin could make the Warriors' second-round series easier, but that doesn't mean it will be easy.

Even if Golden State advances to the Western Conference Finals, where they would play either San Antonio or Oklahoma City. And even if Curry is back at 100 percent for that series, the Warriors would still have to overcome an unprecedented, uphill battle while Curry gets his legs and shot back.

The only way any of that is going to happen is if the Warriors team is able to come together and carry a load heavier than anything the 95-96 Bulls had to lift.

A load that would guarantee their spot as the greatest team in history.

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

Army Ten Miler Qualifying Race

All active-duty runners are invited to compete in a qualifying race on May 6 at 6:30 a.m. at Murphy Field House to become a member of the Fort Meade Army Ten Miler team.

This race is opened to all active-duty service members assigned to Fort Meade.

The top seven men and top seven women will be selected to represent Fort Meade in the Army Ten Miler that will be held Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C.

Team members will receive a paid registration along with a uniform for the race. Participants also will receive a strong band and be entered in a drawing for a T-shirt.

For more information, call 301-677-3716.

Group Fitness Challenge

Take the Group Fitness Challenge at Gaffney Fitness Center and you could win a 2016 Strong Bands T-shirt.

To compete, take any of the group fitness programs in one week.

Participants must be authorized patrons of Gaffney and ages 18 or older.

For more information, call 301-677-3716.

Strong Bands Fitness Challenge

Help bring in National Fitness Month with a track circuit fitness challenge on May 9 from 9-11 a.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center.

Events include max pullups, sprints, weighted spring and med-ball throws, as well as farmers walk and kettlebell swings.

To participate, competitors must be authorized patrons of Gaffney and ages 18 or older.

Participants will receive a Strong Band and be entered in a drawing for a T-shirt.

For more information, call 301-677-3716.

Wellbeats free classes

Experience a lineup of Wellbeats virtual group fitness classes every Friday in May at Gaffney Fitness Center.

The free classes are offered from 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m.

All classes are suitable for all levels as modified, basic and advanced variations of movements and exercises are given.

Participants must be authorized patrons of Gaffney and ages 18 and older.

Participants will receive a strong band and be entered in a drawing for a T-shirt.

For more information, call 301-677-3716.

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.

Fort Meade Run Series

The 2016 Fort Meade Run Series offers themed races through December.

Each race, sponsored by Fort Meade's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, includes a 1-mile walk.

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

- Patriot Pride: 5/10K: May 21, Murphy Field House

- Army Birthday 5K: June 11, Pavilion

- Football Fanfair 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

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

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).

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 www.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

The new operating hours at the Demps Visitor Control Center 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.

Visit the VCC at least 10 business days in advance to apply for a long-term access pass.

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.

To find out how to preregister, go to goo.gl/xyTzhg.

Post library update

Due to an unavoidable technological upgrade by the Army MWR Library Program, patrons of the Medal of Honor Memorial Library will experience intermittent interruptions in service.

That includes borrowing; updating and changing patron record information including PINs; electronic access; and non-availability of newly released material for the next several weeks.

The post library and the Children's Library at Kuhn Hall will maintain regular business hours, but all services may not be available or may be limited for brief periods of time. This does not include faxing, scan-

ning and patron computers.

For more information, call the post library at 301-677-5522 or 301-677-4509.

Change in service at Club Meade

The Brass Lounge at Club Meade is now open for dinner on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 4-8 p.m.

Club Meade will remain open for lunch service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

Earth Day

Earth Day will be celebrated today 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, 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.

Electronic Recycling Event

The Fort Meade Environmental Electronic Recycling Data Destruction Event for personal equipment only is today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the installation's Earth Day celebration at the Pavilion.

The following items will be accepted at no charge:

Desktop computers, laptops, tablets, servers, cellphones, iPods, MP3 players, printers, fax machines, audio/video equipment, radios, tape decks, amplifiers, phones, answering machines, AC adapters and wiring, electronic gaming systems, VCRs, DVD players, LCD monitors, and computer equipment including keyboards, power supplies and cables.

Disposal fees will be charged for the following items:

- CRT monitors and TVs: \$15
- Backup batteries: \$5 for small and \$10 for large
- Hard drives for \$10
- CDs, floppies, tapes — shredded and recycled: \$1 per pound

For more information, call 301-677-9170 or 301-677-9648.

Flea Market

Find a treasure at the Fort Meade Flea Market on Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon at the Pavilion.

Child, Youth and School Services will sell

Military Spouse Job Fair

A Military Spouse Job Fair will be held Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon at McGill Training Center.

The job fair is open to all military spouses of all services (active duty, retired and Reservists); DoD ID cardholders (military and civilian); and all federal ID cardholders seeking employment.

Meet eager employers. Bring copies of your resume.

Check out the relaxation station.

The event also will feature free lunch for spouses and door prizes.

For more information, call 301-677-9567.



FILE PHOTO

Military Spouse Appreciation Lunch

In honor of Military Spouse Appreciation, a free lunch buffet will be offered May 5 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Club Meade.

The free lunch is for spouses of active-duty and retired service members with valid ID.

The buffet will feature baked chicken breast with lemon cream sauce, angel hair pasta with lemon infused Alfredo sauce, fresh vegetables, rice pilaf, salad bar and dessert bar.

Reservations are required for groups of eight or more. Children's pricing is available.

Club Meade will remain open to the community for lunch.

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

Non-DoD ID cardholders need to preregister with the Visitor Control Center. For more information, call the VCC at 301-677-1064.

various child-sized tables and chairs, rugs, bulletin boards, sofas and more.

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

Mother's Day Brunch

Club Meade will serve 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 children 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.

Mother's Day gifts

Check out the unique Mother's Day gifts

at the Arts & Crafts Center at 6530-B York Ave.

Gifts include personalized wine glasses, flower vases and wooden plaques.

All gifts are priced under \$15.

Hours are Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 301-677-7809.

Latin Night

Celebrate Latin Night on Friday from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Brass Lounge in Club Meade.

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

There is no cover charge. Food and beverage specials will be offered.

Latin Night is held the last Friday of each month.

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

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

R&B Night

Celebrate R&B Night at the Brass Lounge in Club Meade on May 13 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

There is no cover charge.

See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14

NEWS & NOTES, *From page 13*

The nightclub ambience will feature food and drink specials.

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

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

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 accommoda-

tions 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.

Farmers' Market

The Fort Meade Farmers' Market will be open from May 18 to Oct. 12 on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pavilion.

The farmers' market is open to the public.

Vendors will feature a variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers and breads.

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

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 will offer a workshop on suicide "first aid" 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 offers 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.

• Dollars and Sense: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon at ACS

Topics include: Basic budgeting; financial goals & priorities; saving and investing; and managing your credit.

• Banking Basics: May 10, 9-11 a.m. at ACS

Learn to manage, balance and reconcile your bank accounts.

Topics include: Banking and credit union services; and checking account management.

This class serves as refresher training for personnel who have abused and misused check-cashing privileges.

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

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

YOUTH

Teen skate park

The Teen Center Skate Park is open the first and third Friday of the month.

The skate park is free to members and \$2 for nonmembers.

Helmets are required.

For more information, call 301-677-6054.

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.

May 5: "Reading Grows Your Mind" — stories about gardens

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

Middle School Lock-In

Grades six to eight are invited to the Youth Center from Friday at 6:30 p.m. to Saturday at 8 a.m. for a lock-in.

The event will feature activities in sports and fitness, art and dance.

Cost is \$5. Children must be registered with Child, Youth and School Services.

Registration is required; space is limited.

For reservations or more information, call 301-677-1437.

RECREATION

Out & About

• **The 41st annual Sugarloaf Crafts Festival** will be held Friday and Saturday

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

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

The event is held 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 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

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 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 sugarloafcrafts.com or call 800-210-9900.

• **Leisure Travel Services** will offer its next monthly bus trip to New York City on May 14. Cost is \$60. Discounted tickets to a variety of attractions will be provided. Enjoy the day at your leisure. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

• **BOSS Rehoboth Beach Weekend** in Delaware for all single service members will be held July 22-24. Only 30 spaces are available. Register early. Cost is \$75 and includes transportation and lodging.

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

• **The 24th annual Wine in the Woods** will be held May 21 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and May 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 5950 Symphony Woods Road in Columbia, rain or shine. The event will feature live entertainment on two stages, 35 food booths, arts and crafts vendors, and samples from Maryland wineries.

No pets. Identification is required for wine-sampler wristband.

Wine Taster tickets on May 21 cost \$32 in advance and \$40 at gate. Tickets for Designated Driver and youths ages 3-20 cost \$25.

Wine Taster tickets on May 22 cost \$27 in advance and \$35 at gate. Tickets for Designated Driver and youths ages 3-20 cost \$20.

Designated Driver wristband allows four complimentary beverages at the Designated Driver Booth.

For more information, call 410-313-4700 or wineinthewoods.com.

MEETINGS

• **Retired Officers' Wives' Club** will meet Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Club Meade.

The ROWC's newly elected officers for next year will be installed at this end-of-year luncheon, which also will celebrate "Everybody's Birthday Party."

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

Call your area representative or Betty Wade at 410-551-7082.

• **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.

Children and their dads engage in activities conducive to improving social interaction, and cognitive and motor skills.

Space is limited. Registration is required for each session. For more information, call 301-677-4118.

• **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.

• **Monthly Prayer Breakfast**, hosted by the Religious Support Office, is held the first Thursday of every month at 7 a.m. at Club Meade. The next prayer breakfast is May 5. 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, civilian and military personnel, and family members are invited. For more information, call 301-677-6703.

• **Fort Meade First Class Petty Officer Association** meets the first Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. at The Lanes. The next meeting is May 5. All first class petty officers are invited. For more information, call PO1 Jennifer Wonch at 410-854-2763.

• **Moms of Multiples Group** meets every first and third Thursday of the month from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Family Advocacy Program, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. The next meeting is May 5. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

• **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 May 9. For more information, call Celena Flowers or Jessica Hobgood at 301-677-5590.

• **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 May 9. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

• **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 May 5.

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 May 5. 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 May 5. For more information, visit namiaac.org.

• **Glen Burnie NARFE Chapter 1519** will meet May 10 at 1 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 7436 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Glen Burnie. The speaker is Sharon New of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department who will discuss fire safety.

All federal employees, retirees, families and members of NARFE are welcome. For more information, call Don Bender at 410-787-0390.

• **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 May 13.

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 May 14. 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.

• **Moms Support Group** meets Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Center, 2462 85th Medical Battalion Ave. The group is for mothers of young children up to age 3. Mini playgroup included. Topics include potty training, stages and development. Children are welcome. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-677-4118 or email colaina.townsend.ctr@mail.mil.

• **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.

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 15



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Friday, Sunday & May 7: "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.



MURRAY CLOSE/AP

Saturday & May 8: "The Divergent Series: Allegiant" (PG-13). After the earth-shattering revelations of "Insurgent," Tris must escape with Four beyond the wall that encircles Chicago, to finally discover the shocking truth of the world around them. With Shailene Woodley, Theo James, Jeff Daniels.

May 6 & 14: "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (PG-13). A Portokalos family secret brings the beloved characters back together for an even bigger and Greeker wedding. With Nia Vardalos, John Corbett, Michael Constantine.

May 13 & 15: "The Boss" (R). A titan of industry is sent to prison after she's caught insider trading. With Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Bell, Peter Dinklage.