

Soundoff!

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE FORT MEADE COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, SEPT. 1, 2016 | 68th Year Number 34
FTMEADE.ARMY.MIL

'We honor all women'

Fort Meade holds annual Women's Equality Day observance **PG 10**



Members of the Women's Ensemble of the U.S. Army Field Band Soldiers' Chorus sing the national anthem during Fort Meade's annual Women's Equality Day celebration held Aug. 25 at Club Meade. The ensemble also performed two songs during the 90-minute event that featured keynote speaker Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, Army assistant chief of staff for Installation Management.

PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

REEL THERAPY

Healing Waters
offers camaraderie

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Fort Meade Tech Expo - Club Meade
Today-Friday, 7 p.m.-6:30 a.m.: Suicide awareness walk/event - Gaffney
Sept. 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.: Community Job Fair - Club Meade
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Fort Meade Farmers Market - Pavilion

MEET YOUR ARMY

New Transformation
leader looks to future

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Soundoff!

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CIRCULATION

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

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

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

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Guaranteed circulation: 12,339



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COMMANDER'S COLUMN - GUEST

On TAP: How I learned to be my own boss

"I've always wanted to be my own boss. But is owning a small business right for me?"

If this thought has crossed your mind, I encourage you to take the Boots 2 Business (B2B) online course.

This opportunity came my way through workshops offered by the Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program. I plan to retire next summer, so I signed up for SFL-TAP to learn about my options for the future.

Through an SFL-TAP information session, we learned about the eight-week, online B2B course provided by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The free course is available to all veterans and military service members, and can be taken once you complete the two-day, in-person overview class.

When I attended the overview class, I mostly wanted to hear about other people's business ideas and maybe develop my own. Everyone was really enthusiastic about my idea, a vegetarian fast-food restaurant, and I decided to get smart about how to actually start my business.

A week before the class began, I received an email from the B2B team welcoming me and providing guidance on how to access the course online. I also received the syllabus and a head's up on what to expect next.

Bottom line: If you want to get the most out of this class, you have to put in the work.

Between reading the text that is mailed to you, viewing the online lectures, posting to the discussion board, and completing assignments, you're looking at about 10



Lt. Col. Felicia Langel

DIRECTOR,
STRATEGIC
PLANNING
OFFICE, MPMC -
FORT DETRICK

hours of work per week. The good news is that the class is pretty laid back, and since you are developing your own business idea, it is kinda fun.

Note that only the instructor sees the details of your business idea. What you choose to share with the rest of the class is up to you.

The key outcome of the B2B online course is turning your business idea into action. You will learn the process for starting a small business that includes designing the all-important business plan.

The B2B course guides you step-by-step as you develop your marketing and operations plan, and you receive expert feedback from the instructor along the way.

The instructor will challenge you to really think about your business in the context of its profitability, customer base, resourcing, risk management and other considerations. You will come away from B2B with a solid action plan for starting your business.

When I retire from the Army I will use my GI Bill and go back to school. After that, I will start a small business.

You owe it to yourself to get as much information up-front as you can. Owning a small business is a tremendous financial investment, and you really don't want or need any surprises.

Take B2B. It is a good place to start. Besides, you have everything to gain by taking the road to becoming your own boss as a small-business owner.

Editor's note: For more information on SFL-TAP, call 301-677-7871 or visit www.sfl-tap.army.mil.

No Commander's Open Door next week

Garrison Commander Col. Thomas S. Rickard has an open door policy.

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

Due to the Labor Day holiday, there will be no Open Door next week.

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

For more information, call 301-677-4844.

Voting assistance officers stand ready to help

By C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

This election season, many Soldiers will face the same crucial question, and it's not necessarily the one you think.

It's not, "Who do I vote for?" It's "Can I vote?"

For the many Soldiers stationed overseas or facing deployments, the answer isn't always clear.

In 2014, 69 percent of the active-duty Army was registered to vote, compared to 65 percent of the civilian population, according to a 2014 Federal Voting Assistance Program report to Congress. But when it actually came to voting in the 2014 election, only about 20 percent of active-duty Soldiers did, compared to 42 percent of the general population.

This election season, the Army is making sure that, for Soldiers who do choose to take advantage of the freedom they signed up to defend, the answer is always, "yes." They can cast a vote from wherever they are.

Rachel Gilman, who manages the Army Voting Assistance Program, oversees the more than 3,000 voting assistance officers Armywide who are dedicated to ensuring Soldiers everywhere have the tools and information they need.

"Our program really focuses on awareness, assistance, providing education, and really training voters about where to go and what information they need," Gilman said.

"Voting is a very personal choice. If they decide to vote, we are there to help them. If somebody wants to make changes on issues that are important in their hometowns and communities, that's what we are there to provide."

Soldiers who want to vote in November should act now, Gilman said. Whether the Soldier is stateside, forward-stationed over-

seas, or deployed, the way to do that is by seeking out a unit voting assistance officer and then filling out a Federal Post Card Application.

"The [Federal Post Card Application] — that's your form, your go-to form," Gilman said.

Also known as GSA Standard Form 76, the Federal Post Card Application will begin the process of registering a Soldier to vote in his or her correct voting district. It will also inform election officials as to which voting district to send the ballot to. The form is not just for Soldiers, but for any voter who wants to cast a ballot outside of his or her home district.

To obtain the form, Soldiers can download it from the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at the FVAP.gov, or visit a voting assistance officer wherever they are stationed.

The voting assistance officer can also help Soldiers determine the state and location of their voting district, information that is required on the Federal Post Card Application. Soldiers can also use the FVAP website to make that determination.

The FVAP.gov website provides deadlines for registering to vote, requesting a ballot, and mailing a ballot. Each state has different requirements, Gilman said, but kicking off the process now is better than waiting.

"It's really important, especially for overseas voters and those Soldiers who are deployed," she said. "Once they receive their ballot, it's important that they immediately fill it out and send it back due to the mailing time."

Fort Meade's Installation Voting Assistance Officer Delissa R. Greene urges service members, government employees, contractors and their families to go to the website to learn more about voting and how easy it is to cast their ballot.



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Fort Meade Voting Assistance Officer Delissa Greene, left, talks to Sgt. Terrance Wright, a member of Fort Meade MEDDAC from Odenton, at the Women's Equality Day observance on Aug. 25.

However, some people are reluctant to vote because they are unfamiliar with the procedures if they do not reside in their home state.

"They don't know how to register or request their absentee ballot," Greene said. "They also believe that their vote doesn't count."

The website, FVAP.gov, provides important information for voters, she said.

"It is an amazing website that shows the service member and his/her family how to register and request their absentee ballot," Greene said. "Also, it gives them any information that is needed or wanted in their states."

"Most service members don't know what state to vote in. The best answer to that is

that they should vote in the state that is on their LES."

The Army doesn't require Soldiers to vote or even register to vote, Gilman said. But she thinks it's important that they do. Preserving the right to vote, she said, is one of the reasons that Soldiers serve in the first place.

"I think it's really important for Soldiers to vote, because it's a freedom they defend," Gilman said. "I think it's an opportunity to have their voices heard. It's important for them if they want to change issues in their communities, their home towns, for their families. I think it's very important that they have their voices heard."

Editor's note: For more information, call the Fort Meade Voting Assistance Office at 301-677-2506.

Absentee Voting Overview

How to Vote From Anywhere

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE MILITARY

STEP 1

REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT WITH THE FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA).

STEP 2

FILL OUT AND SEND IN YOUR BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT IS EASY.

- ▶ Register to vote if required.
- ▶ Request an absentee ballot at FVAP.gov.
- ▶ Send the request to your local election office.
- ▶ Receive your absentee ballot.
- ▶ Vote and return the ballot to your State.

Get more info at FVAP.gov.

Reel Therapy

Fly-fishing program helps heal wounded warriors, vets

BY MADDIE ECKER
Staff Writer

Every Thursday evening at Burba Park Pavilion 3, a group of veterans and wounded warriors come together to catch up, eat dinner and fish.

They are participating in Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, or PHWFF, a therapeutic program that teaches the art of fly-fishing.

Healing Waters was brought to Fort Meade eight years ago by Larry Vawter, the program leader at Fort Meade. PHWFF has over 206 programs in all 50 states and Germany, and affiliate programs in Canada and Australia.

PHWFF Fort Meade will celebrate its eight-year anniversary on Sept. 15 at Burba Park Pavilion 5. Participants are expected to show up around 3 p.m. Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers will be served between 5 and 6 p.m.

From tying flies to building fly rods, PHWFF teaches participants the basics of fly-fishing. With patience, practice and the support of their community, veterans and wounded warriors have the opportunity to challenge themselves in a peaceful environment with a therapeutic activity.

"We are dedicated to helping our service members and veterans through fly-fishing activities, outings, building fly rods and fly-tying," said Vawter, who has only missed one meeting in the past eight years.

PHWFF is a year-round program at Fort Meade. During the summer months, participants meet at about 5 p.m. at Burba Lake's Pavilion 3 for grilling and at 6 p.m. to fish. In October, they'll move into the Rascon Building at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center to work on making flies and fly-tying. In January, participants get to build their own fly rods.

The group of veterans and wounded warriors refer to themselves as the "fish family," Vawter said.

Retired Sgt. Shawn Cushing, who was medically retired after 16 years of service, has participated in PHWFF for two years. This program, he said, has helped him meet other veterans and has given him a sense of security when in a large crowd.

Cushing urges other veterans to join PHWFF as well.

"Just give it a try, because you know what? You'll end up liking it, and it'll really be good for you, therapy-wise," he said.

PHWFF is a nonprofit organization that relies on donations and volunteers to provide the program at no cost to its participants.

Learning to fly fish is just one aspect of PHWFF. Veterans and active-duty service members with a disability rate also have the opportunity to travel and participate in other fishing events, Vawter said.

"I could offer you a trip to Montana, Alaska, Canada. I have three nominations in for Florida Keys and Montana — and it's no pay," Vawter said. "Nothing comes out of your pocket unless you decide you want to buy a hat."

For retired Air Force Staff Sgt. Dan Comrey, the 45-minute drive from his house in Westminster to Fort Meade is "worth it."

"It was kind of a new beginning for me," said Comrey, who was medically retired after more than 14 years of service. "Without it — I'll be honest — I don't know where I'd be right now. I was just living in seclusion for the longest time, and this got me back out doing things and meeting new people."



PHOTOS BY MADDIE ECKER

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. for camaraderie and fishing. All veterans and wounded warriors are welcome to join.

Comrey has been participating in Project Healing Waters for about three years and has gained friends, knowledge and another "tool for [his] toolbox," he said.

His message to veterans is to come out and see what the program is all about.

"Give it a try, just let the experience

happen," Comrey said. "It changes you, it really does. It changed me, and I know it's changed a lot of other veterans. It's helped out a lot of people."

Editor's note: For more information about Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, email Larry Vawter at thecarptman@msn.com or call 443-535-5074.



Retired Air Force Staff Sgt. Dan Comrey casts a line into Burba Lake during PHWFF's weekly meeting on Aug. 25.

Director of transformation leads Meade into future

BY LARRY WHITLEY SR.
Chief, Command Information

One hundred years of continuous service to our military and our national security. And, we're just getting started, according to one of Fort Meade's new leaders.

"A majority of the projects underway here are focused on Fort Meade's future operational status as a major platform for information, intelligence and cyber operations — that fifth dimension of warfare," said Lt. Col. Jay Birmingham, who serves as the new deputy garrison commander for Transformation.

"We are engaged in a comprehensive examination and synchronized plan to ensure that Fort Meade prepares for a significant role in the effective conduct of actions important to our national security."

There are several projects that visibly show the ongoing transformation of Fort Meade. They include the construction work on the east campus area of Fort Meade; the work at the installation access points to increase throughput for vehicle traffic and upgrade security operations; and the work on the internal road infrastructure for ease of access to workplace buildings.

The plan is to ensure an integrated approach to these separate but related projects, according to Birmingham.

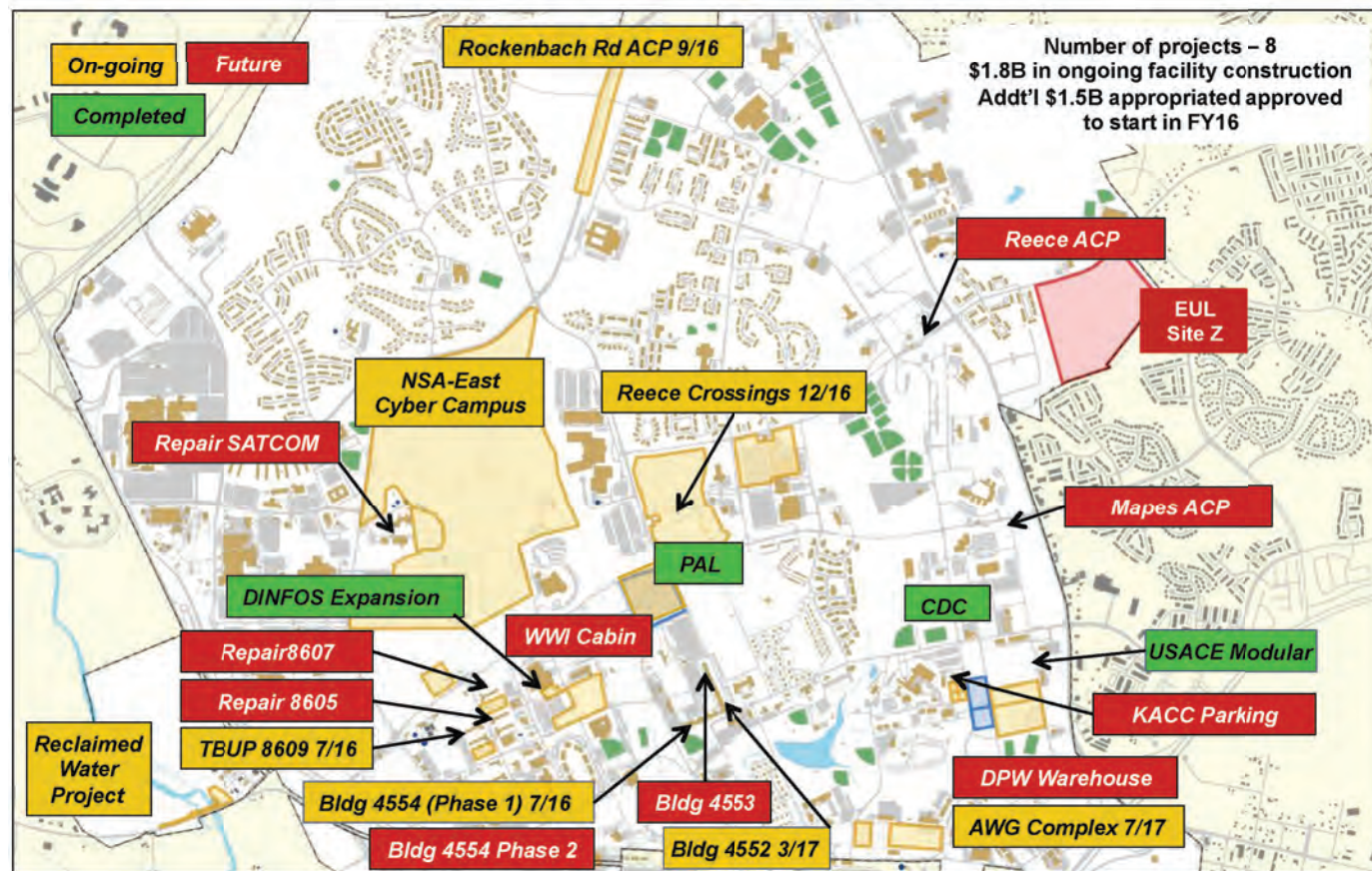
"My job is to assist the garrison commander in all matters of managing and leading Fort Meade through this significant growth and modernization effort," said Birmingham, who assumed his current position three months ago. "We have a road map, an integrated transformation plan that we diligently review with master planners from the garrison staff, the Army Corps of Engineers and our tenant organizations.

"During our in-process reviews, the next such summit is slated for this November," he said. "We investigate infrastructure needs for space, buildings

"As we move forward in transforming Fort Meade, everyone's input matters."

*Lt. Col. Jay Birmingham,
Fort Meade deputy garrison commander
for Transformation*

Transformation 2016 - 2020



FORT MEADE GRAPHIC

More than \$1.8 billion in ongoing construction is occurring on Fort Meade.

and roadways, and engage our environmental and energy subject-matter experts to maintain the sustainability of the plan."

There are other aspects of transformation that are not readily visible but are just as important to ensuring Fort Meade is ready for the next 100 years of service to the nation. That includes coordinating the availability of alternate transportation means, coordinating information flow regarding state of Maryland roadway improvement efforts that can impact access to the installation, and judicious use of excess space to current and projected operational requirements.

"We have projects and plans that take us out five years and beyond, so we will review and update our plan to make sure we're focused and aligned," Birmingham said. "One of the invisible parts of the plan enhanced use lease ongoing negotiations.

"In an effort to be efficient with our

taxpayers' monies, the Army through the Corps of Engineers is negotiating a final EUL agreement with the Trammell Crow Company. The agreement would separate the designated area from Fort Meade. In return for the land, Trammell Crow will compensate the Army for fair market value of the land," said Birmingham.

The intent, he said, is to "establish a long-term lease for commercial development for services that could address some of the living needs of Fort Meade residents and workers. We will do that as part of our comprehensive plan for Fort Meade."

Birmingham is one of two transformation leaders assigned to garrison operations. The other is at Fort Gordon, Ga. Both are centers for cyber security.

There is "acknowledgment of the current and maturing technology leading into the mission significance of the fifth

domain of human conflict — cyber warfare operations," he said. "Fort Meade is on the front line of that domain of conflict."

Birmingham said that working with Fort Meade's partners, both inside and outside the gates, is key.

"As we move forward in transforming Fort Meade, everyone's input matters," he said. "No one should underestimate what they have to offer; the little things matter. In seeking the best shared solutions, we're committed to engaging our community partners, inside and outside the boundaries of the installation in this 're-tooling' of Fort Meade."

Birmingham borrowed a quote from William Shakespeare to help keep his efforts focused — yet open — to others' thoughts concerning his work:

"We know what we are, but know not what we may be."



PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

Lt. Col. Jay Birmingham speaks during a program to mark Women's Equality Day on Aug. 25 at Club Meade.

Meet Lt. Col. Jay Birmingham, Meade's Transformation leader

BY LARRY WHITLEY SR.
Chief, Command Information

Lt. Col. Jay Birmingham is a third-generation Army Soldier and a native of Alabama, with 29 years of service in the regular Army, Army Reserve, and Alabama and Louisiana National Guard.

A University of Alabama graduate, Birmingham is married to Jennifer Robertson Birmingham and has two children.

He has taught English literature and composition at Faulker University in Montgomery, Ala. In addition, he taught English and coached football, baseball and golf at Alabama high schools for 12 years.

Birmingham uses his Department of the Army-level installation management experience and his military background as an engineer program integrator and policy writer to ensure Fort Meade is ready for continued service to the United States Army and the nation.

Four months ago on his way to work for the deputy assistant secretary of the Army, he was command board-selected to serve as the deputy garrison com-

mander of Transformation at Fort Meade in an active Guard-Reserve status. As a qualified facilities engineer and project manager, Birmingham focuses his skills on understanding and speaking to the current and future infrastructure needs of the garrison and its partner organizations.

Previously, he has served as Base Operations team chief for the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve and the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management; chief of operations, 412th Theater Engineer Command; engineer planner, U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command; instructor for the Joint Engineer Operations Course; Simulations and Operations officer, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force officer AFG; Engineer Company commander; and Sapper platoon leader.

In his current position, Birmingham leads an integrated effort to transform Fort Meade into a state-of-the-art operational platform for information, intelligence and cyber operations now and into the future.

Antiterrorism efforts are everyone's responsibility, always

BY JASON MCLENDON

Provost Marshal/Protection Office
Installation Management Command

As Antiterrorism Awareness Month winds to a close, it's important to remember that vigilance is required year-round to protect ourselves from the global threat of terrorism.

"The awareness-month program presented an opportunity to highlight the seriousness of this important topic given today's threat environment," said HQ IMCOM Protection Branch Chief Dale Roth. "But it is always important to take extraordinary action to increase awareness across our Army communities worldwide, all year long."

Roth said it is up to the community to be mindful of potential threats.

"The only way to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond and recover collectively and as individuals when faced with a hostile situation is to know what to watch for and how to respond," he said.

"Our personnel must remain mindful of the potential circumstances that could develop, placing them as a target of opportunity or consequential victim of a terrorist attack."

Multiple attacks over the past year in both our homeland and abroad have resulted in increased force protection actions on our installations. But there still remains a need to remain vigilant and maintain an ever-increasing awareness of activities around us.

Threats may range from local criminal activity, insider threat actions and violent terrorists to radicalized active shooters

and breaches in our security through the use of unmanned aerial systems or cyber attacks.

As these threats continue, so must our vigilance. That includes maintaining a keen awareness and understanding of actions to take when observing and responding to these activities.

As individuals and units, we must synchronize awareness efforts to avoid circumstances that could increase risk of becoming a target. For example, become current on all required antiterrorism and active shooter training, rehearse individual and collective response options, maintain high vigilance and awareness, and know when and how to report any suspicious activity.

"It is imperative that not only leaders but all Army personnel participate in AT Awareness activities year-round," Roth said. "We must be consistent in reinforcing the importance of protecting our Army communities against this ever-evolving and persistent terrorist threat."

The online antiterrorism class at <http://jko.jten.mil> is not limited to uniformed personnel. There is a "non-CAC holders" link on the training home page.

Roth encourages spouses to take the class, and parents to discuss what they've learned with their children in an age-appropriate manner.

"Keeping us safe is everyone's responsibility — year-round," he said.

For more information and resources, such as online training for both uniformed and civilian personnel plus family members, search for iWATCH online, or go to <http://jko.jten.mil> to take the Level I Antiterrorism class.

iWATCH ARMY

iREPORT **i KEEP US SAFE**

A Simple Observation
A Single Report can lead to actions that may STOP a terrorist attack

THINK ABOUT THE POWER OF THAT. THE POWER OF iWATCH.

See Something Say Something

New principal comes to Seven Oaks

BY LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

Farah Springer loves to inspire children.

"Every child learns differently," she said. "We must get to know each child's learning style, meet them where they are, and use strategies to meet their needs to take them to the next level of learning."

Springer is the new principal of Seven Oaks Elementary School in Odenton, an off post feeder school. She replaces Alison Lee, who served as principal until last December.

Before arriving at Seven Oaks in June, Springer was assistant principal at Corkran Middle School in Glen Burnie for six years.

As Springer begins her tenure at Seven Oaks, she is focused on three main goals.

"I want to improve student academic achievement, strengthen parent and community partnerships, and maintain a safe and supportive learning environment,"

she said. "I truly treasure watching adults and children grow and learn."

Springer began her career in early childhood education and worked in Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties before pursuing a career in education administration. She has a master's degree in school administration and supervision, and has worked in elementary, middle and high school settings.

Dedicated to educational leadership, Springer said parents play an important role in helping children excel academically.

"I truly believe that reading impacts everything else in education," she said. "We need our parents to help us expose students to as many opportunities to read as possible."

It is the school's responsibility, she said, to "differentiate instruction to meet every child's unique needs."

When she is not leading her staff of administrators and teachers, Springer said she is busy learning about different cultures.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Farah Springer is the new principal at Seven Oaks Elementary School in Odenton.

COMMUNITY CRIME WATCH

COMPILED BY THE FORT MEADE
DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY
SERVICES

For week of Aug. 15-21

Moving violations: 14
Nonmoving violations: 1
Verbal warnings for traffic stops: 29
Traffic accidents: 5
Driving on suspended license: 0
Driving on suspended registration: 0
Driving without a license: 0

For week of Aug. 22-28

Moving violations: 38
Nonmoving violations: 6
Verbal warnings for traffic stops: 52
Traffic accidents: 4
Driving on suspended license: 0
Driving on suspended registration: 2
Driving without a license: 0
Driving without insurance: 1

Spouses clubs welcome Lisa Rickard to Meade



Lianne Roberts (far left), president of the Retired Officers' Wives' Club, Michelle Hausman (second from left), president of the Officers' Spouses' Club and Ellie Batista (far right), president of the Enlisted Spouses' Club, present Lisa Rickard (second from right) with gifts during a welcome dinner on Aug. 17.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lisa Rickard, wife of Garrison Commander Col. Thomas S. Rickard, holds a gift she received from the spouses clubs on Fort Meade.

DINFOS welcomes new command chaplain

BY SGT. LISA M. SADLER
Defense Information School

When Chris Watson was growing up in Alabama and Mississippi, his father worked in a shipyard, making \$30,000 a year.

Because of the typical tuition costs at the time, college was not an option, he said.

Still, Watson wanted a new environment. So, he joined the Air Force.

"Like anyone growing up, 90 percent of people want to leave where they are at," he said. "And when you get older, 90 percent of the time you realize it was not that bad."

In his 22 years of military service, Watson went from being an enlisted Airman to a chaplain.

His life experiences and enthusiastic faith formed the foundations for his decision to become a chaplain.

In May, Watson assumed duties as the command chaplain at the Defense Information School, providing advice to service members, civilian employees and the commander.

Air Force chaplains provide pastoral care ministry and counseling to those of faith and those of no faith, according to the Air Force website.

By all accounts, Watson is doing good work.

"You never know how the chaplain can assist you or provide his duties," said Karen Marks, the budget officer for the Training Resource Analysis Branch at DINFOS. "This chaplain is incredible here."

Marks said she enjoys interacting with Watson when she sees him in the halls, she said. His impact on DINFOS, she said, makes her a better person.

"In my opinion, he has the glory of God," Marks said. "That's what makes him so special."

The irony is that Watson was not always a believer in Christ.

The only time Watson had attended church before joining the service was at a very young age while living with his mother in Alabama.

In his first Air Force job, he worked as a communication specialist on Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

"I was an atheist at the time," he said. "I was an atheist stationed at Scott Air Force Base, going to college while working on active duty."

Watson was interested in becoming a lawyer or politician. But God kept



PHOTO BY NAVY SEAMAN APPRENTICE DAVID CLAYPOOL

Air Force Capt. Chris Watson, command chaplain at the Defense Information School since May, provides advice to service members, civilian employees and the DINFOS commander.

putting people in his life, including a chaplain who walked through the dorms one night, he said.

Then 17, Watson was illegally drinking a beer in the dorm, he said. The chaplain pulled out a Bible and started reading a set of verses from the Book of Romans called "The Roman Road."

Watson pondered why this chaplain was out there wanting to talk to him instead of being home, or doing something else — anything but being with him, he said.

"I was not paying attention to what he was saying," Watson said. "Why was this man out here with me? What is it that compels him?"

That evening led Watson to church.

Watson started going to services on Sundays but never at the same church, he said. He always smelled like alcohol and smoke from spending time at the bars the night before.

"God continued to work on me," he said.

Watson transferred into the Mississippi Air National Guard, started college

full time and began his relationship with Christ.

Joining the ministry meant he had to postpone law school.

"I wanted to make sure it was God's calling," Watson said.

Watson started attending Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas, and working for the college ministry.

After he finished his seminary studies, Watson was offered two ministry positions. One church was located in Blue Water Bay, Fla.; the other was located in the cornfields of Athensville, Ill.

"I told God I would never go back to Illinois after leaving Scott Air Force Base," Watson said.

God had other plans. Watson became the pastor at the church in Illinois.

While working as a National Guard chaplain, Watson started a ministry at one of the local colleges. By the end of the year, the ministry brought in a Christian music group to sing.

"I briefly met one of the lead singers," Watson said.

"It's what [chaplains] do. We operate in the shadows. If we do our job well, you'll never know we did it."

*Air Force Capt. Chris Watson
Defense Information School
Command Chaplain*

Over the summer, one of his students felt that God was weighing on her heart and sent Watson and the lead singer an email.

The email mentioned that Watson and the lead singer should start talking to each other, he said.

"Needless to say, several months later we were married," he said.

Ten months after Watson was married, he recalled a comment his wife made when he arrived home from Guard duty.

"She mentioned I was the happiest when I had Guard duty," Watson said. "She said I should look at going back into active duty."

Watson filled out the required paperwork, and six months later he was back on active duty at his first duty station — Hurlburt Field, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

"I got the girl, and I got to go to the beach," he said.

Today, Watson frequents the halls at DINFOS from 7:30 to 8 a.m. to offer his encouragement and enthusiasm to all the students arriving for class.

He understands that the students can't always take time during their classes to see him, so he makes his presence known whenever he can, Watson said.

To him, that's part of being a chaplain.

"It's what we do," Watson said. "We operate in the shadows. If we do our job well, you'll never know we did it."

Every Wednesday, Watson shares a slide prepared with a quote or picture to conclude the commandant's staff meeting.

"He uses the slide to motivate you to treat people with respect and to treat yourself with respect," Marks said. "I actually enjoy going to the staff meetings now because he is there."

"It's like going to church on Wednesdays. It makes you feel good inside."



PHOTOS BY STEVE RUARK

Deputy Installation Commander John Moeller (left) and Air Force Maj. Gen. Sarah E. Zabel, vice director of the Defense Information Systems Agency, chat before the start of the Women's Equality Day program.

'We honor all women'

Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham speaks at Women's Equality Day

BY MADDIE ECKER
Staff Writer

More than nine decades ago, women were granted the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment.

The theme for Fort Meade's celebration of Women's Equality Day, "Celebrating a Women's Right to Vote," corresponded with this historic moment as members of the Installation Voting Assistance Office encouraged audience members to get out and vote.

"This is how we bring change," said Delissa Green, the Installation Voting Assistance manager.

The annual event, held Aug. 25 at Club Meade, was hosted by the U.S. Army Field Band and the Fort Meade Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

The 90-minute observance featured keynote speaker Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, and a performance by the Women's Ensemble of the U.S. Army Field Band Soldiers' Chorus. A reception followed the event.

Staff Sgt. Michelle Spinazzola, who served

as emcee, kicked off the celebration by reminding audience members how easy it is to take for granted the right to vote. She encouraged service members in attendance to register with the Voting Assistance Office. (For more on the Voting Assistance Office, see Page 3.)

The nine members of the Women's Ensemble sang in unison "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Lift Thine Eyes from Elijah" by Felix Mendelssohn and "Wake Me Up" by Avicii.

Bingham's prominence was a draw for many who attended. Staff Sgt. Teresa Alzadon, of the U.S. Army Field Band, brought her daughter to hear Bingham speak.

"For parents with daughters, it's important that they know they have opportunities to do whatever they want when they grow up," Alzadon said.

From ROTC to Three-Star

Bingham was introduced by Lt. Col. Jay Birmingham, the deputy garrison commander for Transformation, who listed her many accomplishments.

Bingham's military career began in 1981 with a four-year Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship to the University of Alabama. She thought that her time with the Army would end after she completed her scholarship.

"As you can see, I woefully flunked that



Command Sgt. Maj. Deniece Williams (left) of Headquarters Command Battalion and Sgt. Maj. Sammy Marshall (right), support element leader of the U.S. Army Field Band, present a plaque to Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, (center), assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, during Women's Equality Day on Aug. 25 at Club Meade. For the story, see Page 10.

piece of it — but to my betterment as a Soldier, a citizen and certainly as a human being," she said.

Throughout her career, Bingham served in a variety of staff and leadership positions, from platoon leader to two-star commanding general. She was the 51st quartermaster general and commandant of the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Va.; commanding general, U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico; and commanding general, Tank-Automotive and Armaments Life Cycle Management Command, Warren, Mich.

In addition to serving in overseas assignments, Bingham deployed in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Bingham is the recipient of a number of military awards including the Distinguished Service Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster) and the Defense Superior Service Medal, and recently received her third star.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I believe that I would be standing before you in the year 2016, certainly not wearing three stars," Bingham said. "I think it gets to the very core of what Women's Equality Day is all about.

"I am absolutely grateful to be a part of an institution, a vocation that values equality,

diversity and inclusion. That's why I'm enjoying the theme for this Women's Equality Day program, a women's right to vote."

Established in 1971, Women's Equality Day is linked with the 1920 passage of the 19th amendment.

"[Today], we honor all women for their service to this nation, no matter what their vocation would be," Bingham said. "We commend them for their support, their strength and recognize their willingness to ensure the freedom and liberty that all of us have come to cherish and enjoy as Americans."

To the parents in the room, Bingham said Women's Equality Day is a part of what gives children "the opportunity to be able to dare to dream and to be anything they want to be. I think that's what equality ... is all about."

'Trailblazers and Pioneers'

To highlight her expansive career, Bingham recalled an encounter with a male lieutenant at Fort Bliss, Texas. The lieutenant questioned her time spent in the military. Her answer shocked him.

At the time, she had spent "32 years and counting" in the Army, longer than the

lieutenant had been alive, Bingham said. In that time, she has seen the military extend opportunities to all service members.

"During my 35 years of service, I've seen the Army make significant strides as it relates to equality — regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or creed," Bingham said.

She acknowledged women in the military who have paved "the way with their dedication, commitment and love of duty, honor, country."

Navy Adm. Michelle Howard, Air Force Gen. Lori Robinson, Lt. Gen. Nadja West and Capt. Kristen Griest as well as presidential nominee Hilary Clinton were just a few of the "trailblazers and pioneers" listed by Bingham.

Bingham then asked Maj. Gen. Sarah Zabel, vice director of the Defense Information Systems Agency, to stand and be recognized for her achievements and leadership.

One of the most notable and recent changes for women in the military was made in December 2015 when Secretary of Defense Ash Carter opened "all military occupational specialties to women, paving the way for a new generation of women to achieve new milestones," Bingham said.



PHOTO BY GARY SHEFTICK

"[Today], we honor all women for their service to this nation, no matter what their vocation would be."

Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, assistant chief of staff for Installation Management

'A Seat at the Table'

After recognizing the accomplishments of these women, Bingham explained how the quest for equality played a part in their success.

"These brave women warriors are not looking for fame," she said. "They're not looking for fortune. They're not looking for gratuitous representation. They wanted to be treated just like their male counterparts of the same military occupational specialty.

"They're looking to be accepted and appreciated as part of the team. I say that, together, everyone achieves more. They're looking not to be considered different, but they're looking to make a positive difference in service to this nation."

However, while identifying the accomplishments of these women, Bingham acknowledged that the military still has "many more miles to tread" when it comes to full equality.

"We must all continuously be vigilant as we bring about change," Bingham said to her fellow service men and women in the room. "We must work to do our own part to ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

"When we think about Women's Equality Day, it's for us to allow women to have a seat at the table," Bingham said. "It's for us to allow women to be battle buddies to our men, knowing that one day our own lives might depend upon it."

Bingham then asked everybody in the room to turn to their neighbor and say, "I need you and you need me. We need each other."

As audience members turned to acknowledge one another, Bingham said that she is the



Sgt. Maj. Sammy Marshall (right), support element leader of the U.S. Army Field Band, applauds during the 90-minute observance hosted by the Field Band and the Fort Meade Equal Employment Opportunity Office.



STEVE RUARK/BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP

Master Sgt. Laura Lesche, the senior Equal Opportunity leader with the U.S. Army Field Band, speaks at the annual event.



Chaplain (Capt.) Vivian K. Yanquai-West, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade, leads a prayer.

daughter of a first sergeant Army medic and his wife of nearly 56 years. She then asked the men in the audience to stand and be recognized for the part they have played in aiding women in their fight for equality.

"America's military and our nation perform best when we harness the collective talent of each other," Bingham said. "I call it teamwork and I think it's with a team effort that we are most successful."

For Maj. Joy Thomas, of DISA, Bingham's message of unity within the military rang true. "The expression of teamwork and inclusion, I thought that was awesome how she included everyone," Thomas said after the program. "Although it's women's equality, she brought it back to us being one and a unit. That's our mantra."

Retired Col. Jean Simmons, a former nurse

Editor's note: For more on Lt. Gen. Bingham, see <https://www.army.mil/article/174078>. For a video of the event, visit the Fort Meade YouTube page at [youtube.com/watch?v=IQD_8VBxS2Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQD_8VBxS2Y)

JIBBER JABBER - OPINION

AFC 2016 season preview

"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it."

Evelyn Beatrice Hall said that in 1906, and the message rings true in 2016 with San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who decided to sit down during the national anthem at a pre-season game last week.

As a veteran, brother of veterans, son and grandson of combat veterans, I take immense pride every time I am able to stand and pay homage to our flag and anthem.

That being said, the vitriol being spewed toward Kaepernick for his peaceful protest seems to have very little to do with patriotism and shows how clueless many of our citizens are regarding what free speech is.

To thwart the major fallacy in the disturbing argument against a millionaire supposedly complaining about being oppressed, you do not have to be wronged to recognize and stand up (or sit down) for what is right.

Off the soapbox and on to the AFC.

NORTH

Best Offensive Player: Antonio Brown, WR, Pittsburgh

The Steelers may have the best offense in the NFL this year, but if — and only if — Antonio Brown stays on the field. The former sixth-round draft pick is usually the best player on the field: 136 catches, 1,800 yards and 10 TDs last year proved that. bit.ly/2ccvuBv

Best Defensive Player: Geno Atkins, DL, Cincinnati

The Bengals silent assassin has been thrashing defenses for a couple of minutes, and may be the best defensive tackle in all of football.

Best unit: Pittsburgh Steelers Offense

We already mentioned Brown, now throw in Marcus Wheaton, a few pro-bowl caliber offensive linemen, two elite running backs in La'Veon Bell and DeAngelo Williams, and of course quarterback Big Ben Roethlisberger, and you've got the most explosive offense in the league.

Worst Unit: Cleveland Browns wide receivers

This may change after Week 4 when Josh Gordon comes back, but Terrelle Pryor and Corey Coleman do not necessarily remind me of the Greatest Show on



Chad T. Jones

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER

Turf or even the fifth greatest, for that matter.

Biggest Addition: Eric Weddle, S, Baltimore

Weddle may not be as big a splash as the Ravens wanted, but the crafty veteran is the ball hawk the Ravens defense has been missing since Ed Reed retired.

Final Standings: Pittsburgh 11-5; Cincinnati 10-6 (Wild Card); Baltimore 6-10; Browns 5-11

SOUTH

Best Offensive Player: DeAndre Hopkins, WR, Houston

If new QB Brock Osweiler is going to win, it is going to be because DeAndre Hopkins remained unguardable: 111 catches, 1,500 yards and 11 TDs last year.

Best Defensive Player: JJ Watt, DL, Houston

Just watch the tape: bit.ly/2bzIcdC

Best unit: Houston Texans, Defensive Front seven

If Jadeveon Clowney is healthy, the best defensive player in the league (JJ Watt) may be the second best player on his own defense.

Add in future HoFer Vince Wilfork and the man with the best name in football, Whitney Mercilus, and the Texans will be a force.

The Jaguars' skilled-positioned players — running back T. J. Yeldon and wide receivers Allen Hurns and Allen Robinson — are a close second.

Worst Unit: Indianapolis Colts Defense

Can you name a person on the Colts defense? Neither can I.

Biggest Addition: Malik Jackson DL and Prince Amukamara, CB, Jacksonville

The Jags defense would have been the worst unit in the AFC South if it wasn't for these two gentleman, who should bring some toughness to what was a toothless D.

Final Standings: Houston 11-5; Jacksonville 9-7; Indianapolis 8-8; Tennessee 4-12

EAST

Best Offensive Player: Tom Brady QB and Rob Gronkowski TE, New England

Even with a deflated schedule, Tom Brady is terrific and of course, Gronk is Gronk! bit.ly/2c4HAKQ

Best Defensive Player: Darelle Revis, CB, Jets

Revis Island is still a very lonely place

for receivers.

Best unit: New England Patriots Offense

Please see above or check the stats for the past decade.

Worst Unit: Miami's wide receivers: Jarvis Laundry, Devanta Parker and Kenny Stills

Biggest Addition: Mario Williams DL, Miami

Paired with last year's big get, Ndamukong Suh, the Dolphins may have the best DL in the NFL in 2016. RB Matt Forte to the Jets could be huge.

Final Standings: New England 10-6; New York Jets 10-6; Buffalo 8-8; Miami 4-12

WEST

Best Offensive Player: Amari Cooper, WR, Oakland

In a conference full of defensive supermen, Amari Cooper is Kryptonite. Size, speed and a QB in Derek Carr that can get him the ball.

Best Defensive Player: Khalil Mack LB, Oakland

The dude has literally wrecked entire teams last season. bit.ly/299II34 Denver's Von Miller is pretty dang good, too.

Best unit: The Denver Broncos Defense

Miller, DeMarcus Ware and cornerback Aquib Talib were good enough to get Denver a Super Bowl last season. They may be that good again.

Worst Unit: San Diego Chargers Offense

This group isn't bad, but the fact they have to play AFC West defenses six times a year means they will be the group that struggles the most.

Biggest Addition: Kelechi Osemele OL, Oakland

I know offensive linemen aren't sexy like me, but in the AFC West, they are valuable. Osemele will help protect Derek Carr.

Final Standings: Oakland 11-5; Kansas City 11-5 (Wildcard); Denver 9-7; San Diego 11-5

AFC Championship Game: Oakland Vs. Pittsburgh

Steelers will win the Back-in-the-Day matchup over the Raiders and then lose in the Super Bowl to the Arizona Cardinals.

If you disagree, hit me up on Twitter @ctjibber.

And, of course, if you want to talk to me about this or anything to do with sports, contact me at chad.t.jones.civ@mail.mil.

SPORTS SHORTS

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.

- Football Fanfare 5K: Sept. 17 at Constitution Park

Support your favorite NFL team at the Football FanFare.

Preregistration fee is \$15 for individuals and \$85 for groups of seven to 10.

Preregistration ends Sept. 6. All pre-registered runners will receive a T-shirt.

Registration is \$25 per person, and \$60 per family of three to six people.

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

- 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.

Lifeguarding classes

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is offering lifeguarding classes at Gaffney Fitness Center

- Lifeguard Training full course will be held Sept. 10, 11, 17 and 18 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration is required by Wednesday. Fee is \$250.

- Lifeguard Recertification Course will be held Oct. 8-9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants must present current, valid certification at registration. Registration is required by Oct. 5. Fee is \$150.

All participants must register in person at Gaffney.

For more information, call 301-677-7916 or visit meade.armymwr.com.

Metabolic Effect classes

Gaffney Fitness Center offers Metabolic Effect classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

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

Cost per class is \$5.

Classes are open to authorized users ages 18 and older.

For more information, call 310-677-2349.

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.

How 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.

NEWS & EVENTS

NEW VCC hours

Operating hours at the Demps Visitor Control Center are Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The VCC is closed weekends.

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 or visit the Fort Meade Facebook page for announcements on temporary changes to operating hours.

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

Tech Expo

The Fort Meade Tech Expo, hosted by U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, is today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Club Meade.

The free event is open to all personnel. Exhibitors will provide hands-on demonstrations of various technologies including: big data, client server technology, cloud technologies, data protection, data security, information assurance, information security, Cloud PC Endpoint devices, desktop virtualization, high-performance oscilloscopes, and Fiber NICs and switches.

The expo provides an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge on specific technologies from the exhibitors.

Light refreshments and giveaways will be available while supplies last.

For more information, call Rachael Bennett at 443-561-2410 or email Bennett@ncsi.com.

Suicide prevention events

Fort Meade will host a series of events in observance of Suicide Prevention Month:

◆ **"Illuminate the Darkness Walk"** from dusk till dawn: Today at 7 p.m. at the Gaffney Track

Opening ceremonies include an illumination ceremony as a memorial for those who have lost loved ones to suicide, and survivors sharing their message of hope.

The walks begins at 7:30 p.m. and ends the following morning at 6:30 a.m.

The event will feature information booths, music, food trucks and giveaways.

◆ **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training two-day workshops:** Sept. 21-22 and Oct. 19-20 from 8:20 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Calvary Chapel, 8465 Simonds Street and 6th Cavalry Road

ASIST training includes powerful video clips, presentations, group discussion sessions and interactive role-playing.

Learn to recognize invitations for help, reach out and offer support, review the risk of suicide, apply a suicide intervention model, and link people with command and community resources.

Participation in the full, two-day workshop is required. No uniforms.

Due to limited seating, preregistration is required.

For more information, call Torrie Osterholm, Fort Meade Suicide Prevention Program manager, at 301-677-6541 or email torrie.osterholm.civ@mail.mil.

Commissary baggers needed

The Fort Meade Commissary is accepting applications for 15 bagger positions.

The bagger positions are open to active-duty service members, family members of active-duty military, retirees and family members of retirees.

Monday to Friday positions are available for the morning shift of 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the afternoon shift of 2:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

After applications are processed, interviews will be conducted on Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at Club Meade, 6600 Mapes Road.

Applicants must come in person and present their current military/dependent I.D. card and Social Security number.

For more information, call 301-677-5502.

Freedom Inn open to post employees

The Freedom Inn Dining Facility, located at 8502 Simonds St., is now open to all active-duty service members, military retirees, DoD civilians, contractors, and Department of the Army security guards and firefighters on Monday through Friday.

Active-duty service members on Basic Allowance for Subsistence are also authorized for meals on the weekend. Family members of military personnel may purchase meals on weekdays if they are accompanied by the service member.

All other categories of customers may purchase meals as the garrison commander deems appropriate. These categories include youth groups, MEPS candidates, civilian dignitaries, guests and other visitors.

Service members with a meal card will continue to have priority over cash-paying customers.

For more information, call 301-677-5503.

R&B Night

Enjoy a night of dancing at R&B Night on Sept. 9 from 7 p.m. to midnight at Club Meade.

Doors open at 4 p.m.

The event features food and drink specials. There is no cover charge.

R&B Nights are held on the second Friday of every month.

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

Community Job Fair

The Fort Meade Community Job Fair will be held Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Club Meade, 6600 Mapes Road.

The free event is open to all job seekers and will host more than 60 employers and companies. Bring plenty of resumes.

The event also will feature a "Resume Doctor Service" that provides free resume evaluations and preparation assistance.

A free shuttle will transport attendees to the entrance of Club Meade.

Free ASL interpreter services will be available and must be scheduled by today.

For more information and a complete list of employers, go to meade.armymwr.com and click on "Job Fair."

Welcome Garden Party

The Meade Area Garden Club will hold its opening Welcome Garden Party on Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Jessup Community Center, located at the corner of Route 175 and Wigley Avenue.

Suzy Provine, owner of A Blooming Basket in Millersville, will present a demonstration and the program "Bringing Your Garden Inside."

Refreshments will be served. No reservations are required.

The club sponsors nine informative and fun programs throughout the year. That includes trips such as the annual Philadelphia Flower Show, gardening-related activities, and a bake sale in the fall.

Annual membership is \$20. You may attend one meeting before you are required to join.

For more information, call Jennifer Garcia, membership chair, at 443-949-8348 or Sharon Durney, club president, at 410-761-5019.

Swinging Squares

A free introduction to the Swinging Squares Square Dance Club, which features Modern Western Square Dancing, will be offered Sept. 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Meade Middle School.

Classes will be offered Thursday nights from 7-9 p.m. at Meade Middle School starting Sept. 29.

Session 1 runs from Sept. 29 to Dec. 15, with a class dance night on Dec. 17.

The session is open to adults and children ages 9 and older.

No experience, no partner and no fancy clothes required.

Swinging Squares club dances the third and fifth Saturday of each month (excluding school holidays) from September to May from 7:30-10 p.m. at Meade Middle School.

For more information, call Carl at 410-271-8776 or Darlene at 410-519-2536.

Farmers market

The Fort Meade Farmers Market is open Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 12 at the Pavilion.

Pick up local produce or fresh baked goods, eat lunch at one of the food trucks and browse the assortment of vendors.

The farmers market is open to the public.

Individuals without DoD-issued ID cards must obtain a Fort Meade gate access pass from the Demps Visitor Control Center, 902 Reece Road.

Frequent visitors are encouraged to preregister for a long-term pass. You will need your driver's license or approved photo ID and be asked to provide your Social Security number at the VCC.

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

Water flushing continues

American Water is continuing its annual Water Main Flushing Program from Monday through Sept. 9 to remove any buildup of sediment that may have occurred in the water lines.

Flushing may result in some temporary discoloration and the presence of sediment in the water. These conditions are See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14

NEWS & NOTES, From page 13

not harmful and should be of very short duration.

During the hours between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., limit your use of water to help prevent discolored water reaching service lines to your residence.

If you notice an increase in discolored water at your residence, flush all faucets inside for 15 minutes. If the water does not clear up, contact the Water Treatment Plant at 443-591-0909.

This number is monitored daily — 24/7 — 365 days a year.

Areas that may be affected from planned flushing from Monday through Sept. 9:

- Nelson Loop
- Nelson Court
- Olson Loop
- Ray Street
- Reed Court
- Sargent Road
- 79th Division Boulevard
- Craig Street
- Gail Street
- Michael Court
- 2nd Cavalry Road
- Highland Road
- Jennings Court
- Cayer Court
- Mills Court
- Cooper Avenue
- Riordan Street
- Harris Loop
- Fowler Street
- Boyce Street
- Barry Court
- Traynor Court
- Lawson Loop
- Burk Court
- Falconer Court
- Packard Court
- Carson Court

Streets adjacent to Cooper Avenue and 2nd Cavalry Road may see a temporary change in their water during flushing activities.

Signs will be posted ahead of any flushing activities to notify customers.

EDUCATION**New Employee Orientation**

The next Fort Meade New Employee Orientation briefing is scheduled for Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McGill Training Center, Classroom 2.

All new employees who have not attended the training should do so.

For more information, call 301-677-4719.

Homeschool Group

The Fort Meade Homeschool Group meets throughout the year for field trips

and social outings.

For information on upcoming events, visit the “Fort Meade Homeschool Group” on Facebook. Go to facebook.com/groups/FortMeadeHomeschoolGroup.

Citizenship Seminar

The U.S. Citizen & Immigration Services Office will present the United States Citizenship Seminar on Oct. 6 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Army Community Service, 830 Chisholm Ave.

The free seminar is open to all service members, retirees, DoD civilian employees and their family members.

During the information seminar, speakers will address immigration forms, the process in creating USCIS packets, points of contact within Immigration Services, and Green Cards.

Immediately following the session, individual private sessions will be available for those seeking information.

For more information, call 301-677-5590 or visit meade.armymwr.com.

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.

Financial

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

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

Living

• Stress Management: Today, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

• Anger Management: Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

• Building Healthy Relationships: Sept. 11, 9-11 a.m., FFSC

Learn to improve your personal and professional relationships.

• Banking Basics: Sept. 13, 9-11 a.m., 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.

• How to Work a Job Fair: Sept. 13, 9 a.m. to noon, FFSC

Learn the tips and tricks that will help you strategize and make the most of a job fair opportunity.

To register, call FFSC at 301-677-9017 or ACS at 301-677-5590, or visit fortmeadeacs.checkappointments.com.

YOUTH**Storytime**

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

• Today: “Silly Stories” — Stories that are just “make believe!”

• Sept. 8: “Back To School!” — Stories about going back to school

• Sept. 15: “Shaggy Dogs, Waggy Dogs!” — Celebrating American Kennel Club's “Responsible Dog Ownership Month” with stories about dogs.

• Sept. 22: “Hooray For Fall!” — An autumn-themed Storytime

• Sept. 29: “Books Are The Cat's Meow!” — Celebrate “National Cat Month”

For more information, call 301-677-5522 or 301-677-45091 or go to meade.armymwr.com.

Youth Fishing Rodeo

Fort Meade's Youth Fishing Rodeo for children ages 3 to 15 will be held Sept. 17 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Burba Lake Recreation Area.

The free event is sponsored by the Meade Rod & Gun Club and MWR-Outdoor Recreation.

Youths will be divided into three age divisions: 3 to 6; 7 to 11; and 12 to 15.

Prizes will be awarded in each age division.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. in Burba Cottage, Building 4424.

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 on Sept. 17 until after 1 p.m.

Snacks will be available for purchase.

For more information, call Charisma Wooten at 240-568-6055 or visit the Outdoor Recreation page at meade.armymwr.com.

Father Daughter Ball

Fort Meade's annual Father Daughter Ball will be held Oct. 1 from 5-8:30 p.m. at Club Meade.

The event will be a special night featuring food, a magic show, crafts, photos and dancing.

Formal attire is required.

Tickets cost \$50 per couple and \$20 for each additional daughter.

Tickets are now available for purchase

at Club Meade. Limited tickets are available.

For more information, visit meade.armymwr.com or call 301-677-6969.

CYSS Shuttle Service

Beginning Tuesday, Child, Youth and School Services will provide a free shuttle for all CYSS registered members from the Youth Center and Teen Center to various Fort Meade community centers.

For more information, call 301-677-1437 or go to meade.army.mwr.com.

Driver's Ed

A certified Driver's Education Course will be offered Sept. 19-30 from 3-6:15 p.m. at the Teen Center.

Cost is \$320 per student. Fee includes 30 hours of classroom education and six hours of behind-the-wheel training.

Participants must be registered with Child, Youth and School Services prior to enrolling.

Registration is open until Sept. 9. Spots are limited, register early.

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

Romp 'n Stomp

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

For more information, call 301-677-4118.

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**

• **Baltimore Comic-Con** will be held Friday from 1-7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center, 1 W. Pratt St. The comic book convention features writers, editors and cartoonists leading workshops and panels, and a costume contest. Admission ranges from \$25 to \$149. Children under 10 admitted

free with paying adult. For more information, call 410-649-7000 or visit baltimore-comiccon.com

• **Maryland Renaissance Festival** is running through Oct. 23 on Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 1821 Crownsville Road, Annapolis.

General admission through Sept. 11 for ages 16-61 costs \$19. Tickets for seniors ages 62 and older are \$16. Tickets for youths ages 7-15 cost \$8.

General admission from Sept. 17-Oct. 23 for ages 16-61 costs \$24. Tickets for seniors ages 62 and older are \$20. Tickets for youths ages 7-15 cost \$10.

Active-duty service members with photo identification can purchase at the group discount price of \$17 through Sept. 11, and \$20 from Sept. 17-Oct. 23.

For a schedule of events or more information, call 800-296-7304 or visit rennfest.com.

• **Maryland State Fair** runs through Labor Day Monday at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium.

Main Midway hours are Labor Day Monday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and weekdays from 2 p.m. to closing.

Kiddie Land rides hours are Saturday and Sundays and Labor Day Monday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and weekdays from noon to 10 p.m.

General admission is \$8. Tickets cost \$6 for seniors ages 62 and older, and \$3 for children ages 6-11. Children 5 and younger are free (rides not included).

Unlimited Rides Wristbands are only available Labor Day Monday, Sept. 5. Fair admission is not included.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, go to marylandstate-fair.com.

• **Toby's Dinner Theatre** presents "Hairspray" the Broadway musical through Sunday; "Sister Act" from Sept. 8 through Nov. 13; and "A Christmas Carol" from Nov. 17 through Jan. 8 at 5900 Symphony Woods, Columbia. Discounted tickets are available at Leisure Travel Services. For more information, call LTS at 301-677-7354 or Toby's at 410-730-8311.

• **Leisure Travel Services** will offer its next monthly bus trip to New York City on Sept. 17 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Cost is \$60. Discounted tickets to attractions will be provided. For more information, call 301-677-7354.

MEETINGS

• **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 today. 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.

• **Retired Officers' Wives' Club** will hold its September Welcome Brunch on Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Club Meade for another year of programs, trips and fellowship.

Cost of the brunch is \$20. Reservations are required by noon today.

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

The opening program will feature information from other clubs, community organizations and the Office of the Garrison Commander.

Membership dues are \$25 per year.

Members may bring guests to the luncheons, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except in June, July, August and January.

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

• **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 today. All first class petty officers are invited. For more information, call PO1 Jennifer Wonch at 410-854-2763.

• **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 today. 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 today. For more information, visit namiaa-c.org.

• **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 today.

Share stories to encourage and inform each other about resources available in the local community. For more information or to register, call 301-677-4779.

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

• **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 Sept. 9.

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 Sept. 10. 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.

• **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 Sept. 12. 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 Sept. 12. For more information, call Celena Flowers or Jessica Hobgood at 301-677-5590.

• **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 Sept. 12.

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.

• **Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda on the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting is Sept. 15 from 1-2 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the America Building, River Conference Room (next to the Prostate Center), third floor.

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

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

• **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 Sept. 19.

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.

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 Sept. 11

Friday: "Nerve" (PG-13). A high school senior finds herself immersed in an online game of truth or dare, where her every move starts to become manipulated by an anonymous community of "watchers." With Emma Roberts, Dave Franco, Emily Meade.

Saturday: "Bad Moms" (R). When three overworked and under-appreciated moms are pushed beyond their limits, they ditch their conventional responsibilities for a jolt of long overdue freedom, fun, and comedic self-indulgence. With Mila Kunis, Kathryn Hahn, Kristen Bell.



MELINDA SUE GORDON/AP

Sunday: "Jason Bourne" (PG-13). The CIA's most dangerous former operative is drawn out of hiding to uncover more explosive truths about his past. With Matt Damon, Tommy Lee Jones, Alicia Vikander.

Sept. 9 & 11: "Suicide Squad" (PG-13). The government gives a team of supervillains a chance at redemption. The catch: their mission will probably kill them all. With Will Smith, Margot Robbie, Viola Davis.

Sept. 10: FREE SCREENING (PG). Tickets available at the Exchange Food Court. Seating open to non-ticket holders 15 minutes prior to showtime.