

Soundoff!

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Reel adventure

Kids compete in fishing rodeo **PG 8**

Air Force Capt. Ben Smith of the 32nd Intelligence Squadron watches his son Logan, 7, fish as his wife, Tabatha, lends a hand to their 5-year-old daughter Audrey at Fort Meade's popular Youth Fishing Rodeo held Saturday morning at Burba Lake.

PHOTO BY NATE PESCE

COURTSHIP

British basketball
plays on post

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 11 a.m.: Gold Star Mothers & Families Day Butterfly
Release & Remembrance Ceremony - Burba Lake Pavilion #1

Tuesday, 2:30 & 5:30 p.m.: Sesame Street USO - Murphy Field House

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.: Hispanic Heritage Month Observance - McGill

FISHING AND FRIENDSHIP

Healing Waters
celebrates eight years

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Soundoff!

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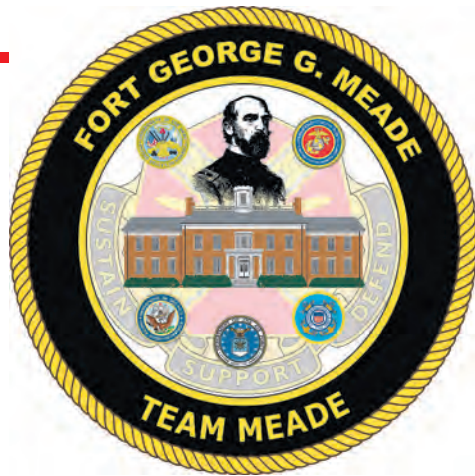
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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Hispanic Heritage Month: Celebrating diversity

The Department of Defense recognizes the power of diversity for the future of our nation by celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

This year's national Hispanic Heritage Month theme, "Embracing, Enriching and Enabling America," aptly captures the spirit with which we will celebrate all that Hispanic Americans have contributed to our nation and its defense.

Many of our nation's heroes and greatest achievers are Latino or Hispanic Americans. Their fortitude and courage serve to inspire us today.

This year's monthlong commemoration began Sept. 15 — the day that Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate their Independence Day. Mexico celebrates its independence Sept. 16. Chile celebrates Sept. 18. The "Day of Hispanic Heritage" is celebrated across Spain and Latin America on Oct. 12.

In the United States, President Lyndon Johnson implemented Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. Twenty years later, President Ronald Reagan expanded the celebration to 30 days.

The extraordinary combination of cultures in America has empowered us to solve problems, defeat our enemies and preserve the democracy provided by our Constitution. Throughout history, Hispanic Americans have shaped and enriched our diverse Army.

During the U.S. Civil War, Union Gen. Alexander S. Webb reportedly said:

"... A man broke through my lines and thrust a rebel battle flag into my hands. He never said a word and darted back. It was Corporal Joseph DeCastro, one of my color bearers. He had knocked down a color bearer in the enemy's line with the staff of the Massachusetts State colors, seized the falling flag and dashed it to me."

For his actions that day, DeCastro became the first Hispanic-American Soldier awarded the Medal of Honor.

On May 2, 1968, Master Sgt. Roy Benevidez, a staff sergeant at the time, distinguished himself through uncommon valor while serving as part of Detachment B56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne).



Garrison Commander
Col. Tom Rickard

When he learned that teammates were pinned down and unable to extract from a remote location, he voluntarily inserted himself into the fray. Despite being wounded in the head, face and leg, he carried half of the wounded teammates to the helicopter extraction point.

While trying to recover classified information from a dead team leader, Benevidez was wounded in the abdomen and

back, but recovered the information. He continued to secure the site and engaged in hand-to-hand combat, while severely wounded, to allow the extraction of teammates.

For his exceptional valor, Benevidez was awarded the Medal of Honor.

In 2011, Hispanic American Master Sgt. Leroy Petry was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service with the 75th Ranger Regiment during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

As a weapons squad leader, Staff Sgt. Petry moved to clear the courtyard of a house that contained high-value combatants. While crossing the courtyard, Petry and another Ranger were wounded.

An enemy grenade landed a few feet from Petry and several Rangers. Without hesitating, Petry threw the grenade away.

The grenade detonated as Petry released it, blowing off his right hand at the wrist. This heroic act saved his fellow Rangers from being severely wounded or killed. Despite losing his hand, Petry was one of a handful of Soldiers who returned to active duty after an amputation, and he continued to serve with distinction until retiring in 2014.

Incredible fortitude demonstrated by these heroes serves as inspiration to each of us that seemingly insurmountable obstacles can be overcome. Please take time to reflect and respect our nation's Hispanic heritage and the indispensable contributions Americans of Hispanic background have made to this great nation.

Celebrate diversity and the strength of the many cultures that bind us together.

Editor's note: For more information, visit <http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3229/benavidez-roy-p.php>; <https://www.army.mil/hispanics>; or <http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about>.

Gold Star mother finds calling after son's death

BY JESSICA RYAN

Installation Management Command

Right before his deployment to Afghanistan, Marine Capt. Jesse Melton III told his mother, “Mom, I want to go change the world and make a difference.”

At 29, Melton already made a big impact on his family, church and community. He learned to serve others at an early age and was inspired to serve in the military by his father and grandfather.

His life, however, was cut short during that fateful deployment in 2008. He and two other Marines were killed while supporting combat operations in the Parwan province. He was not scheduled to be on duty but took the place of a fellow Marine.

His mother Janice Chance, of Owings Mills, saw his death as a platform to serve others. Calling her son “My Quiet Storm,” Chance saw firsthand the difference he made on others and wanted to continue the legacy of service he started.

“I cry, but I don’t drown in my tears, and I am determined not to be paralyzed by my pain,” she said. “It’s a new normal for us [Gold Star mothers]. Nothing can replace the loss of a child, but you move forward and make a life of service.”

In 2009, Chance became involved with Army Survivor Outreach Services after she was contacted by a coordinator at Aberdeen Proving Ground. SOS is the official Army program dedicated to providing support services to surviving family members including those in other military branches. It is an Army Community Service program and is a part of the Installation Management Command’s G9 Directorate.

Chance was already familiar with the Army community. Although she is the surviving mother of a Marine, her daughter Jenine — inspired by her brother — became an Army officer and served two tours in Iraq before separating from service.

“Our children’s service stopped, but SOS is making sure that they are not forgotten and that we [the parents] are still in the Army family,” she said.

Chance began to attend SOS events and met other survivors at Army installations in Maryland. She soon found herself helping them.

As the president and chaplain for the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Maryland Chapter, Chance worked with SOS coordinators in welcoming mothers new to the area and to the program.

“Because I’m the chaplain, I receive a

lot of phone calls from moms who are facing challenges,” she said. “I link them to the SOS coordinators.”

In addition to SOS, Chance volunteered in her community. A retired registered nurse, she helps veterans through organizations such as the American Red Cross and Veterans Affairs Medical Healthcare System.

She estimates that in the last year, she put in over 800 hours and drove more than 8,000 miles to conduct volunteer work.

To Chance, volunteering is therapeutic.

“Grief turned in is destructive,” she said. “When I volunteer at Walter Reed [National Military Medical Center] and when I go to the VA [hospitals], I can say mission complete for that day. I made a difference in someone’s life. I encouraged someone. I listen to them. I let them know that I appreciate their service and sacrifice.”

“I think I’m more blessed than they are. I get more joy from serving. I have learned that it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Chance’s work in the community does not go unnoticed. Voncile Farmer, the SOS support coordinator at Fort Meade, first met Chance during a Gold Star Wives Day event in 2014. She saw how Chance helped other survivors with dealing with their grief.

“She puts her heart into the program,” Farmer said. “She gets the word out to educate the community about the survivors, the [Gold Star] pins and SOS. Telling her story helps others heal. Telling her son’s story helps the community and keeps his story and legacy alive.”

Chance always remembers her son as “an officer and a gentleman.” She raised him to be a man of service.

“It gives me great pride that my son died doing what he loved to do — serving and defending our country,” she said. “Jesse wanted to go and change the world and make a difference. He did that wherever he served.”

“The world is now being changed through me. I go out and continue to serve in Jesse’s honor. I’m inspired by him and all those who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Editor’s note: Gold Star Mothers and Families Day will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Burba Lake, Pavilion No. 1.

The annual event, sponsored by the Fort Meade Survivor Outreach Services Program, will feature a Butterfly Release and Remembrance Ceremony.

For more information, call 301-677-5590.



PHOTO BY JESSICA RYAN

Gold Star Mother Janice Chance holds a portrait of her son Marine Capt. Jesse Melton III outside her Owings Mills home. Melton died Sept. 9, 2008, while supporting combat operations in Afghanistan. His mother keeps his memory alive by telling his story and giving back to the Fort Meade community.

Pact levels playing field for military youths

BY LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

Graduating from high school is one of the most memorable academic achievements in a student's life.

But for military children who are transferring credits to a new high school after a permanent change-of-duty station, the process can be stressful and confusing.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, to which Maryland is a signatory, addresses school transition issues, such as the requirements for high school graduation, for military children in grades K-12.

An interstate compact is an agreement between two or more states.

As of 2014, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed on to the interstate compact, which an agreement between more than two states. Maryland enacted the agreement in 2009.

The compact provides guidelines for school districts to follow when handling issues that military families routinely face — including school eligibility, enrollment and placement, and attendance — due to frequent relocations and deployments.

Fort Meade's School Liaison Officer Antionette Parker said that before the compact, military children often had problems moving from state to state, particularly graduating high school seniors.

"Some kids were going to summer school, taking online courses, trying to take the steps necessary to stay on track for graduation," she said.

However, the agreement ensures uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states.

Under the compact, school counselors at the sending and receiving schools can work



PHOTO BY LISA R. RHODES

Nancy Graham, a first-grade teacher at Pershing Hill Elementary School, leads a reading lesson Monday morning. Children at Pershing Hill, which enrolls more military children than any other school on post, are covered under the provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children. The compact ensures uniform treatment for military children in education.

with high school seniors to ensure they meet the requirements for graduating on time.

Depending on the circumstances, a military child can receive a high school diploma from the new school or former school and still walk with the graduating class.

"It provides a level playing field for military kids," Parker said.

The compact covers children of active-duty members of the uniformed services; National Guard and Reserve on active orders; veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year; and active-duty service members who died while serving.

Children of DoD civilians are not covered under the compact.

The Maryland State Council on Educa-

tional Opportunity for Military Children develops and updates plans and recommendations to ensure that the agreement is properly administered.

Parker and about 10 other military school liaison officers from Maryland assist the state council in updating and enforcing the compact.

The Anne Arundel County Public Schools system, which serves Fort Meade, is among the 25 largest systems with the most military-connected students in the country, and implements the compact. School districts in Maryland's other counties implement the agreement as well.

"The compact leaves room for school districts to have some control over how they will support the compact," Parker said. "The

school districts dictate what the support [to military children] looks like based on the school's policies. But each state is required to lend some kind of support to military families.

"The amount of that support differs from state to state."

Another area of concern for military families is the proper age to enroll children in kindergarten or first grade.

Under the compact, a child can continue in the same grade in the receiving state, regardless of the entrance age requirements as long as the child has already enrolled in kindergarten or first grade in an accredited public school in the sending state.

In addition, children transferring from a talented and gifted program in one state can be required to take an exam to ensure that an appropriate academic placement is made.

"A child cannot be denied an educational opportunity if they have already had that educational opportunity in a previous state," Parker said. "They must be allotted an equivalent opportunity, if it exists, in another local education agency or school district."

This principle also applies to special education services, and membership on sports teams and in school clubs.

"One of the things that military families encounter is the unknown," Parker said. "... School is the one thing in a child's life that is consistent. I think the support for going to school should also be consistent."

Parker suggests that parents who are new to Fort Meade contact her if they have questions about how the compact applies to their family.

"It [the compact] treats being a military child as a badge of honor and not as a scarlet letter," she said.

Editor's note: For more information, call the School Liaison Office at 301-677-1227.

New online service for replacement Social Security cards in Maryland

BY MATTHEW BAXTER
Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration introduced the expansion of online services for residents of Maryland available through its my Social Security portal at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Carolyn W. Colvin, acting commissioner of Social Security, announced that residents of Maryland can use the portal for many replacement Social Security number card requests. This will allow people to replace their SSN card from their home or office without the need to travel to a Social Security office.

"I'm thrilled about this newest online feature to the agency's my Social Security portal and the added convenience we are providing residents of Maryland," Colvin said. "We continue to provide world-class customer service to the public by making it safe, fast and easy for people to do business with us online and have a positive government experience."

"I look forward to expanding this service option across the country."

The agency is conducting a gradual rollout of this service. Maryland is one of the states, plus the District of Columbia, where this option is available.

Throughout 2016, the agency will continue to expand the service option to

other states. This service will mean shorter wait times for the public in more than 1,200 Social Security offices across the country, and allows staff more time to work with customers who have extensive service needs.

U.S. citizens ages 18 or older who are residents of Maryland can request a replacement SSN card online by creating a my Social Security account. In addition, they must have a U.S. domestic mailing address, not require a change to their record (such as a name change), and have a valid driver's license or state identification card in some participating states.

The my Social Security is a secure online hub for doing business with Social

Security, and more than 26 million people have created an account.

In addition to Maryland residents replacing their SSN card through the portal, current Social Security beneficiaries can manage their account — change an address, adjust direct deposit, obtain a benefit verification letter or request a replacement SSA-1099.

Medicare beneficiaries can request a replacement Medicare card without waiting for a replacement form in the mail.

Account holders still in the workforce can verify their earnings history and obtain estimates of future benefits by looking at their Social Security statement online.

Run Series returns with Football Fanfare 5K

BY MADDIE ECKER
Staff Writer

More than 200 people participated in the Football Fanfare 5K Run and 1-mile walk on Saturday morning at Constitution Park.

Sarah Peterson came in first overall in the 5K at 19:14.

For the women, Adrienne Davidson came in second at 21:12 and Alex Szkotnicki took third at 21:52.

For the men, Nathan Tousley took first place at 20:39 and placed second overall. Daniel Syring came in second at 20:45. Justin McDowell took third with 20:58.

The hourlong event was the fourth in the annual Fort Meade Run Series sponsored by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The next installment is the Ghosts, Ghouls and Goblins 5K Run and 1-mile walk on Oct. 22 at 8 a.m. at the Fort Meade Pavilion. Online registration ends Oct. 11.

The final themed races for 2016 are:

◆ Turkey Trot 5K: Nov. 19 at 8 a.m. at Murphy Field House

◆ Reindeer Run 5K: Dec. 10 at 8 a.m. at Murphy Field House

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

All preregistered runners will receive a T-shirt.

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

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

For more information, call 301-677-3318.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL KUCIN JR.

Runners take off during the Football Fanfare 5K Run and 1-mile walk Saturday morning at Constitution Park.



Sarah Peterson wins first-place overall and the women's competition at 19:14.



Nathan Tousley takes first place in the men's competition and places second overall at 20:39.



Runners compete in the fourth installment of the Fort Meade Run Series sponsored by the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Fishing and Friendship

Healing Waters celebrates eight years at Fort Meade

By **MADDIE ECKER**
Staff Writer

As participants of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing arrived at Burba Lake Pavilion No. 5, phones were pulled out and pictures of previous catches were proudly passed around the group.

"Look at this one I caught!" said Daniel Comrey as he flashed a photo of a large eel.

A medically retired Air Force staff sergeant, Comrey was among the 27 veterans and wounded warriors who celebrated PHWFF's eight-year anniversary at Fort Meade on Sept. 15 from 3-6 p.m.

Participants from both Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Meade, as well as volunteers and board members, were all in attendance.

The group spent the afternoon swapping stories with friends, looking for a place where the fish were biting and occasionally catching them.

They later gathered around the pavilion to sit down and catch up over grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, and a celebratory cake. The group presented Larry Vawter, the program leader at Fort Meade for the past eight years, with a plaque for his long-standing dedication to PHWFF and its participants.

"The plaque was unexpected but also embarrassing," Vawter said. "I am not about awards. It's never about me, it's only about my participants. I will do anything to help any one of them at any time about anything."

Vawter said his favorite part as program leader is "seeing someone smile when they catch their first fish or when they think they can't do something like tie a fly and then they do it."

"When a participant comes back every week, I know we're doing something right," he said.

Healing Waters was formally established in 2007 to help veterans and wounded warriors deal with visible and invisible scars. Since then, PHWFF has developed over 200 programs across the country and abroad.

Retired Maj. Valerie Taksue, who was medically retired after serving in the Army for 26 years, came to "honor the commitment of [PHWFF] volunteers



Retired Sgt. Shawn Cushing gears up for an afternoon of fishing.

and to celebrate them."

Taksue, 54, has been a participant of PHWFF since 2011 when she was "tricked" into coming to a meeting. She had been placed in the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Meade and "didn't want to do much" when she returned from Korea.

"Because of Healing Waters, I started doing things again like knitting and golf," Taksue said. "It made me start living again."

Taksue isn't the only participant who feels she has benefited from PHWFF.

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Erin Greene-Morse, who served in the Army for 20 years, said joining this program "saved my husband and saved our marriage."

"This is not a 'fish and forget' program," she said. "It endures."

Greene-Morse's husband, retired Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Greene-Morse, got involved in PHWFF after meeting retired Capt. David Folkerts, now the chief operations officer for PHWFF, at Walter Reed in 2010.

Since then, Greene-Morse, her husband and their daughter have come to the group's Thursday meetings for fishing and friendship. At first, she came as the spouse of a participant. But after she fell ill, Greene-Morse said, she was "welcomed with open arms."

The Greene-Morses now live in Maine, where they participate with the PHWFF chapter there.

Folkerts, who served in the Army for seven years, also attended last week's fly-fishing celebration.



PHOTOS BY PHIL GROUT

Healing Waters volunteer Ben Urbanak shows novice fisherman Peter Pappas how to tie a knot on his fly line during the celebration held Sept. 15 at Burba Lake.



Retired Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Comrey, a participant of Healing Waters for three years, casts his line.

"All veterans and wounded warriors are welcome here, regardless of disability rating or service era," he said.

Greene-Morse agreed. "Everybody here is part of the fish family," she said.

Like most other participants, Folkerts credits Healing Waters with helping him get through difficult times.

"[PHWFF] gave me passion and purpose," he said. "It literally helps you get through the darkness."

George Gaines, the national capital regional coordinator for PHWFF, is a civilian volunteer who has been part of the program since its beginning.

"Most organizations that set up activities for veterans are a one-time thing," Gaines said. "Participants will show up, do the activity and are told 'see you later.' At Healing Waters, we say 'See you next week.'"



Retired Maj. Valerie Taksue steadies herself with her canes as she casts with one hand using a special rig.

After doing research in order to get funding, Gaines learned that when service members leave the military, they lose two things: a unit and a uniform.

"The first thing people ask us for is a hat," Gaines said. "That's the uniform. Then they come to meetings and see they have support. That's the unit."

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



Seven-year-old Logan Smith of Columbia holds up his catch during the Youth Fishing Rodeo. About 60 people participated.

PHOTOS BY NATE PESCE

Reel adventure

Kids compete in annual Youth Fishing Rodeo

By LISA R. RHODES
Staff Writer

When Candace Johnson and her husband, Spc. Jarvis Johnson of the 741st Military Intelligence Battalion, were children, they went fishing with family members.

"It was a good pastime activity for us," Johnson said.

So Saturday morning, the couple took their 7-year-old daughter Naomi to Fort Meade's annual Youth Fishing Rodeo at Burba Lake.

"We want to give her this experience," Johnson said. "It will be something to add to her memories."

The Johnsons were among the 60 participants at the Youth Fishing Rodeo,

sponsored every spring and fall by the Meade Rod & Gun Club and the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The Meade Rod & Gun Club is a social club that seeks to further club members' skills in fishing, firearms, hunting, archery and competition, and educates them in the safe handling and care of all equipment. The club also provides opportunities for fishing, firearms, hunting, archery and competition.

The fishing rodeo provides families with an occasion to teach children the basics of fishing and to enjoy the outdoors, said Rodney Bagley, president of the Meade Rod & Gun Club.

"I think it's a great event," he said. "It's an opportunity to do something interactive that's good for the whole family."

Retired Air Force Col. Glenn Altschuld, the club's representative to the Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore, said the fishing rodeo also builds memories for families.

"Fishing really isn't about fishing. It's about spending time with someone you care about," he said.

In the spring, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources stocked Burba Lake with bass, trout and bluegill to prepare for the competition.

Fishing gear and bait were available to participants if needed. Beverages, hot dogs and chips were offered at a small cost by the club.

Forty children were registered to participate in the fishing rodeo, which holds competitions in three age categories for the



Twelve-year-old Emmanuel Yapi of Odenton fixes his lure and bait during the Youth Fishing Rodeo held Saturday morning at Burba Lake. Prizes were awarded in three age categories for the largest and smallest fish.



Adalynn Millichamp, 4, displays the fish she caught with the help of her granddad Lewis King of New Mexico and mom Traci Millichamp.

biggest and smallest fish (weighed in grams) caught during the five-hour event: ages 3 to 6; ages 7 to 11; and ages 12 to 15.

At the end of the event, club members weighed the catches of each of the participants and awarded first-, second- and third-place prizes to the winners in each category.

Garrison Commander Col. Tom Rickard and his 11-year-old daughter Sarah came to the event to spend quality time together.

"I enjoy fishing and the fact that I get to do it with my dad," Sarah said.

Rickard, who stopped by the fishing rodeo after running in the Fanfare 5K Run earlier in the morning, said he always tries to spend time with his family after he returns from a deployment. The colonel said he returned from a deployment to Afghanistan three months ago.

"We like to fish," said Rickard, noting that he is "an avid sportsman" and enjoys hunting and fishing. "This is a great opportunity to come together as a family. ... I'm very impressed with the way they've taken care of the lake."

Odenton resident Nikki Yapi came to the event with her two sons Emmanuel, 12, and Nicholas, 5.

"It's a nice day to spend as a family and do something locally, just for the experience," said Yapi, who works as a child advocate.

"I like how you catch a fish and get excited," Emmanuel said. "And you're learning the skills to catch a fish. It's fun and relaxing."

Air Force Capt. Ben Smith of the 32nd Intelligence Squadron showed his son 7-year-old son Logan how to cast a line.

"We just wanted to make memories with the kids," said Smith, as he watched Logan eagerly await a catch. "It's good to spend time outside, enjoying nature and having a good time."

Smith's wife, Tabatha, said Logan and their 5-year-old daughter Audrey have fished with their grandfather and loved it.

"It's our first time as a family fishing," she said.

Retired Gunnery Sgt. Patrick Mullen, an intelligence specialist with the Department of Homeland Security, came with his two sons, Levi, 9, and P.J., 7.

"This is a good recreational activity," Mullen said. "Every child should learn how to fish, especially boys."

Levi said he wanted to come to see if he could make a catch.

"I wanted to test my skills to see if I could catch a big fish," he said.

P.J. said he caught a small fish.

"I like fish," the youngster said. "They have different colors."

Taking a break, Mullen sat in a lawn chair by the lake and put bait on a fishing rod.

"It's good to get away from the computer games," he said. "This is wholesome entertainment."



Miyoko Mosby, 9, of Bowie and her grandfather Bill Thornton of Landover, a veteran of Korea and Vietnam and a decades-long member of the Meade Rod & Gun Club, sit together at Burba Lake during the competition sponsored every spring and fall by the Meade Rod & Gun Club and the Fort Meade Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

FISHING RODEO RESULTS

Age group: 3-6

- ◆ Ethan Kidd: 135-gram bass
- ◆ Ezra Silkworth: 125-gram bluegill
- ◆ Daniel Butarbutar: 115-gram bluegill

Age Group: 7-11

- ◆ Payton McMullen: 175-gram bass
- ◆ Jerry Berniero: 170-gram redear sunfish

Tie

- Elisha Silkworth: 110-gram bluegill
- Jacob Stafford: 110-gram bluegill

Age Group: 12-15

- ◆ Tessa Mastbergen: 85-gram bluegill

Largest Fish

- ◆ Payton (P.J.) McMullen: 175-gram bass

Smallest fish

- ◆ Thomas Nelson: 90-gram bluegill



Nine-year-old Wyatt King of Pasadena leans over a bridge at Burba Lake as he carefully watches his fishing line during the five-hour event.



PHOTOS BY NATE PESCE

The Royal British Army Medical Services (AMS) basketball team discusses strategy on the sidelines during Friday night's game against the Fort Meade Patriots as part of a 10-day U.S. basketball tour. This was the AMS team's third game at Fort Meade.

Courting the British

British basketball team takes on the Fort Meade Patriots during 10-day tour

By **MADDIE ECKER**
Staff Writer

The squeak of rubber soles running down the Murphy Field House basketball court accompanied the shouts of plays being called.

It was the final game for the Royal British Army Medical Services basketball team on Fort Meade and its first matchup with the Fort Meade Patriots.

The game was part of a 10-day tour named "Operation Serpent Dunk," which gave the AMS basketball team the opportunity to play three games on post to train for the international Inter Corps Tournament in October in Belgium.

Capt. Wayne Douglas, a medical support officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps,

helped plan the tour and acted as the AMS basketball secretary and team manager for the duration of the 10 days.

"This is a 10-day training camp for [the team] to enhance their basketball skills," Douglas said. "America is the home of basketball. Therefore, it makes sense to come to America where you can play teams that have a slightly better grade than yourself to help develop your game and the team itself."

The tour was named "Serpent Dunk" because it's basketball, so you dunk and it's serpent because [they're] medics," Douglas said.

"If you look at the cap badge of a medic, it will always have the staff and the serpent on it. Therefore, all exercises conducted by medics are normally given the serpent



(Left to right:) Fort Meade Patriots' Keenan Bennett (0) jumps after passing the ball over AMS player Omar Forrester (15) to Patriots' Phil Medwinter (34) with AMS player Kyle Gordon (8) during their matchup Friday night at Murphy Field House. The Patriots defeated AMS.

name. So, it's called Serpent Dunk."

Douglas has been working since April to ensure that this tour runs smoothly.

The Team

The AMS team is made up of servicemen from the Royal Army Medical Corps, Queen Alexandra's Nursing Corps, the Veteran Corps and the Dental Corps. The total years of service for the team members range from two to 15 years.

"They're working in lots of different places," Douglas said. "Then you bring them together as a team to do something like this to get them gelled before they go and play somewhere else. It's good stuff."

Servicemen in the Royal British Army Medical Services who play basketball for their respective unit and compete in the

annual unit tournament are eligible to try out for the corps team, which will compete at the inter corps competition in October.

"In order for us to do well in that competition, we're spending September in the U.S. to make the team stronger and better," Douglas said. "So when we go back in October, we should hopefully have a good result."

Kyle Gordon of the Defense Medical Group South in Portsmouth, England, said he tried out for the AMS team because he is "passionate about this sport."

For Gordon, the opportunity to train together for 10 days helped highlight the team's strengths and weaknesses.

"It was challenging [to come together as a team] because we don't really see each other," he said. "But once we started playing, basketball took over."

Playing To Learn

Over the past 10 days, the AMS team played against Fort Meade's Defense Media Activity and Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center teams, as well as the Fort Meade Patriots basketball team.

While they didn't walk away with any wins, Sgt. Lindy Pinel of the 3rd Signal Regiment from Salisbury, England, said winning wasn't the point of this tour.

"We were not here to win, but to learn," Pinel said. "If we won, it would have been a bonus."

The AMS is Pinel's team. He has been playing with the team since its inception and helped form the team 15 years ago.

For Pinel, this tour helped challenge his men by playing against different people.

"It encourages my guys to learn better

and to get something from this tour by playing against individuals above their level," he said. "I think we've achieved that even if we've lost all three games."

AMS members trained on the court and in the gym over the course of the tour, training that they normally don't do.

"The goal of this tour is the development of the AMS basketball team," Douglas said. "I hope it gives the team better cohesion and gives them the opportunity to experience basketball at a better level than they're used to. We want to leave here with a more cohesive team that plays better."

However, there was another reason for Operation Serpent Dunk.

"This tour is also giving us a chance to engage [with our American counterparts]," Douglas said. "When you come and do something like this, it gives you a chance to



Patriots' Phil Medwinter (34) and AMS player Omar Forrester jump off for the tipoff to start Friday's game.

engage with American service personnel in sports, rather than at a work level."

Stepping Onto The Court

The camaraderie between AMS and the Patriots was tangible during their game Friday night at Murphy Field House.

Beth Downs, the sports specialist at Fort Meade's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, helped organize the 10-day tour and attended all of the games.

"It was great working with the British Army Medical Services team. It was a unique opportunity," Downs said. "There was a sense of unity and camaraderie between the British and Fort Meade teams."

The AMS team was dressed in red, gold and white, while the Patriots donned red, white and blue uniforms.

The Patriots didn't give anything away, making the AMS team work hard for all 40 minutes of the game. The Patriots played

tight defense and capitalized on their speed and ball control to take a 47-25 lead at halftime.

Patriots' Tyler Francis led the team with 22 points while AMS' Gordon scored 18 points.

Instead of playing the usual 12-minute four quarters, the game was broken into two 20-minute halves.

Douglas paced the sidelines as his team ran up and down the court.

"We know this is a higher level of play," he said. "These games are about developing play, not about winning."

After the game, players from both teams talked to each other and then gathered for a group picture.

For Pinel, the tour helped him figure out what to work on as his team prepares for the inter corps tournament.

"For me, what I've learned here and what I want to take back with me is shooting, choosing the correct passes and absolutely making the guys gel as a team," he said.

SPORTS SHORTS

Patriots seek coach

The Fort Meade Patriots men's varsity basketball team is looking for a new coach.

To apply for this position, email your resume by Sept. 30 to Beth Downs at beth.d.downs.naf@mail.mil.

For more information, call 301-677-3318.

Pigskin Pick'em Contest

Take part in the NFL Football contest at The Lanes that runs through December.

Participants can pick up a free entry form and select the anticipated game winners of all Sunday NFL games.

Entry forms will be available every Tuesday beginning at 4 p.m. for that Sunday's game.

Entry forms must be submitted by 1 p.m. Sunday at The Lanes.

Weekly winners will receive a prize pack and be entered for a chance to win the grand prize.

The contest is free and open to the entire Fort Meade community.

Watch Sunday games on The Lounge's large TV screens, and enjoy food and beverage specials.

For additional contest guidelines and rules, visit meade.armymwr.com.

Youth Sports winter registration

Registration for the 2016-2017 Youth Sports winter season will begin Oct. 3.

Sports will include futsal and basketball. Volunteer coaches are needed for all sports, and will receive free training and a coach's discount for their children.

For more information, call the Youth Sports & Fitness Office at 301-677-1329 or 301-677-1179.

The Navy Mile

The Navy Mile race will be held Oct. 2 in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the start of the United States Navy birthday week.

The race course starts in front of the Navy Memorial and heads toward the Capitol, where runners will loop around and head back to the finish line.

Tickets are \$35 for the general public, \$20 for active-duty service members, \$10 for sea cadets and \$10 per family member for the Family Fun Navy Mile.

For more information or to register, go to navymile.com.

Vinyasa Yoga classes

Vinyasa Yoga is offered Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and Sat-

urdays from 8-9:30 a.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center.

This class emphasizes breathing techniques, flowing poses, increasing balance, stretching and relaxation.

All levels are welcome.

Try out a class for \$5. Classes are open to all authorized user ages 18 and older.

For more information call 310-677-2349.

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.

Volunteer coaches, referees needed

Youth Sports is seeking volunteer coaches and referees for the winter sports season that includes basketball and futsal.

Volunteers receive free training and coaches' discount for their children enrolled in the program.

For more information, call the Youth Sports office at 301-677-1329 or 301-677-1179.

Hiring lifeguards, water safety instructors

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is now hiring lifeguards for various lifeguard and water safety instructor positions at Gaffney Fitness Center.

For more information, call 301-677-6660 or 301-677-3716; email usar-my.meade.ag1cp.mbx.fort-meade-naf-hro@mail.mil; or visit meade.armymwr.com.

Lifeguard recertification

The Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is offering a Lifeguard Recertification Course on Oct. 8 and Oct. 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gaffney Fitness Center.

Registration is required by Oct. 5. Fee is \$150.

All participants must register in person at Gaffney and present current, valid certification.

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

Jibber-less

To Jib or not to Jib? That is the question.

Working on this mini-keyboard has me seriously contemplating the latter, but if I did, it would mean I wouldn't be able to comment on '80s icon Corey Feldman's new song "Go 4 It" and his accompanying dance. bit.ly/2cKp7Hw

Let's be clear. I am not happy that my favorite of the famed two Coreys (RIP Corey Haim) and his "maingel" — short for main angel — are getting bullied over their recent performance on TV's "Today" show, but I do understand.

As my "Pumpkin Girl" explained the other night while we were discussing Corey's moves: "He bullied my eyes and ears with his dance moves and lyrics."

Besides, if anyone should understand the potential backlash for dancing in a cloak, it's Feldman. He's been giving haters ammunition since "The Goonies."

Actually, Corey did get a bit of revenge since thoughts of his performance, and the follow-on response — where he compared his bullying to that faced by minorities of all colors (including yellow and green) and disabilities (including missing fingers) — did get me in a bit of trouble.

I was laughing so hard I actually spaced on my duties as slide master for a two-star's briefing during the Regional Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army Conference the fort hosted this week.

I rebounded way better than Corey, and the brief did turn out A-OK, but flubbing up in front of the new boss is never fun.

You know what else isn't fun? Being a Redskins fan. Nothing like another 0-2 season or an overpaid quarterback like Kirk Cousins.

I asked one of our resident 'Skin fans, Milton McLean, if "he liked that?" bit.ly/2cHuvYU Oddly enough, he did not. I, on the other hand, loved it almost as much as Feldman's dance, meaningful September baseball and you all.

Apologies for the truncated Jibber, but I have more slides to move, so until next week. ...

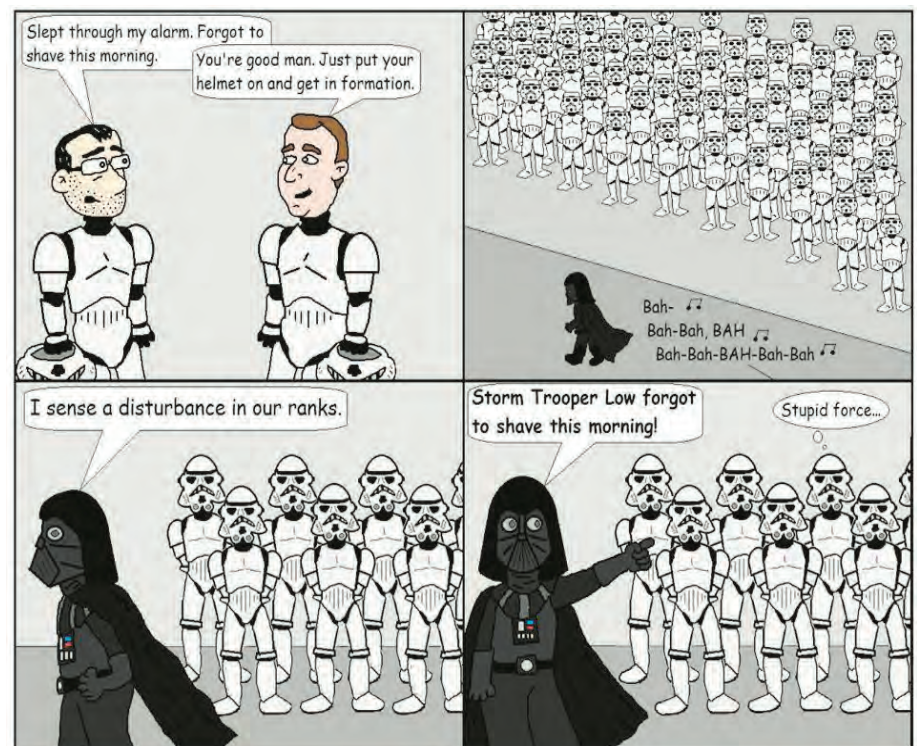
If you have comments on this or anything to do with sports, contact me at Chad.t.jones.civ@mail.mil or hit me up on Instagram @CTJibber.



Chad T. Jones

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

THE ADVENTURES OF G.I. LOW



G*I*LOW

"The Adventures of G.I. Low" by Sgt. (P) Peter Barlow appears periodically in *Soundoff*! For a story on Barlow, visit fmeade.soundoff.com/news/13513/tooning/

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).

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.

Gold Star Mothers and Families event

A Butterfly Release and Remembrance Ceremony conducted by Gold Star Mothers and Families will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Burba Lake, Pavilion No. 1.

The annual event is sponsored by the Fort Meade Army Community Service Survivor Outreach Services Program.

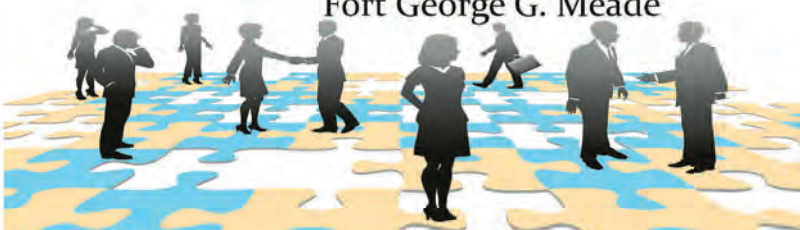
For more information, call 301-677-5590.



Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program

EMPLOYER DAY

Thursday, September 29, 2016
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
McGill Training Center ~ Ballroom
8452 Zimborski Road
Fort George G. Meade



Transitioning service members have the opportunity to connect with local employers looking for skilled candidates to fill current and future vacancies.

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

• CGI FEDERAL	• MID ATLANTIC PROFESSIONALS	• IDEAL INNOVATORS
• LEGATO, LLC	• GLOBAL KYNECT	• LEIDOS
• SC3	• UPS	• ASI GOVT
• TRI-COR INDUSTRIES	• ARAMARK	• METROSTAR SYSTEMS
• CACI	• GDMS	• CSRA
• COMM COLL OF BALTIMORE		• LG TEK

SEEKING Acquisition Specialists, SIGINT Analysts, Software Engineers, Intel Analysts, Information Technology Specialists, Project Mgrs, Maintenance, Concierge, Network Engineers, Help Desk, Tech Writers, Administrative Assistants, Cyber Network Defenders, Warehouse Workers, Geospatial Analysts, Web Developers, Route & Delivery Workers, Sales Support, Linguists, Security, Application Developers, PT Associates, PT Coordinators, Logisticians, JAVA Software Engineers, Configuration Managers, Embedded Reverse Engineers, Data Scientists, Network Trainers, Business Analysts, Forensic Analysts, Language Course Develop

PLEASE BRING COPIES OF YOUR UPDATED RESUME

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL THE SOLDIER FOR LIFE - TRANSITION ASSISTANCE CENTER
(301) 677-9871



FILE PHOTO

Sesame Street USO

Sesame Street USO Experience for military families will be held Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at Murphy Field House.

The USO is bringing Elmo, Grover, Cookie Monster, Rosita and Katie to Fort Meade.

The event is free and open to the entire community.

Seating is limited and based on a first-come, first-served basis.

Doors open 30 minutes prior to the show.

Murphy Field House will be closed for fitness use from 5 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. due to the event.

The 24/7 facility will re-open to registered users at 9:30 p.m.

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

Child care providers needed

Family Child Care is in need of providers. Providers will receive valuable training including: activity organization, USDA-approved meal planning, designing learning environments, child development, and becoming infant/child/adult first aid and CPR certified.

For more information, call the Family Child Care office at 301-677-1160.

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 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.

Vehicle Resale Lot

Sell or buy all types of vehicles at the resale lot on Rock Avenue.

To place a vehicle on the lot, stop by Outdoor Recreation at 2300 Wilson St.

For more information, call 301-677-3810.

Dining for a Cause

The Fort Meade Officers' Spouses' Club is conducting a fundraiser to benefit the OSC Scholarship Fund on Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to midnight at The Hideaway Restaurant, 1439 Odenton Road, Odenton.

Present the voucher, and the restaurant will donate 10 percent of the proceeds to the scholarship fund.

To get the voucher, email: info.ftmosc@gmail.com.

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.

Latin Night

Celebrate Latin Night at the Brass See **NEWS & NOTES**, page 14

NEWS & NOTES, *From page 13*

Lounge on Sept. 30 from 7 p.m. to midnight at Club Meade.

Doors open at 4 p.m.

The Brass Lounge offers food and drink specials. There is no cover charge.

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

The event is open to all ranks and service members and civilian employees.

Latin Nights are held on the last Friday of each month.

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

Swinging Squares

A free introduction to the Swinging Squares Square Dance Club, which features Modern Western Square Dancing, will be offered tonight 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.

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.

International menu

Club Meade is open for lunch service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and offers a variety of international-themed buffets.

Cost is \$7.95 for members and \$8.95 for nonmembers.

Menu: Today: First Day of Fall Buffet: Apricot rosemary chicken, beef stew with noodles and maple-roasted sweet potatoes.

Tuesday: Asian Buffet: Orange chicken, beef lo mein and egg rolls; Wednesday: Starting-to-get-Chill Buffet: Turkey chili, chicken breast and roasted butternut squash; Sept. 29: Barbecue Buffet: Barbecued ribs, pulled barbecued chicken, baked beans and cole slaw.

For more information, call 301-677-6969.

EDUCATION**ASIST training**

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training two-day workshop will be offered 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.

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.

Military

• Pre-deployment Brief: Today, 10-11:30 a.m., FFSC

• Navy Family Orientation: Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m., FFSC

• Career Technical Training: Two-Day TGSP Workshop: Sept. 28-29, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., FFSC

• Pre-Separation Brief: Sept. 29, 9-11:30 a.m., FFSC

Employment

• Ten Steps to a Federal Job: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to noon, FFSC

• Resume Writing Workshop: Oct. 4, 9 a.m. to noon, ACS

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

Financial

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

• Budgeting For Baby: Friday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., FFSC

This class is open only to Navy and Marine Corps personnel.

• Getting Out of Debt: Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., ACS

Learn strategies to minimize debt.

• Dollars and Sense: Oct. 4, 9 a.m. to noon, ACS

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

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: "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.

Teen skate park

The Teen Center Skate Park is open to grades nine to 12 on the first and third Friday of the month from 3-5 p.m.

Helmets must be worn at all times in the park.

Skateboards and safety equipment will be provided, but teens may bring their own items.

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

For more information, call 301-677-6054.

RECREATION**Out & About**

• **Maryland Oktoberfest** will be held Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium.

The event will feature German bands and dancers.

Admission is \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors and active-duty service members with ID; and free for children younger than 12 with a paying adult.

For more information, visit www.md-germans.org/maryland-oktoberfest.

• **Oktoberfest** at Fort Belvoir, Va., will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 2 on Freemont Field.

The four-day festival highlights authentic German cuisine, beverages, music and dancing. The free event also will feature a carnival, Volksmarch 10K walk, and a vendor market.

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

• **Gem, Mineral Jewelry and Fossil Show** will be presented Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Marriottsville.

The event will feature a kid's mine, beads, fossils, minerals, cool rocks and more. Admission costs \$6. For more information, visit gemcuttersguild.com.

• **The U.S. Navy Band's Commodores**, the Navy's premier jazz ensemble, will perform Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. at Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia.

For more information, visit navyband.navy.mil.

• **Anne Arundel County Library** offers the following events:

♦ Bazar de la Lectura (Bilingual Reading Fair) and Concert: Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Hilltop Elementary School, 415 Melrose Ave., Glen Burnie

The event will feature exhibitions, hands-

on activities, bilingual reading materials, bilingual storytimes, cooking demos, a scavenger hunt and bilingual games. The musical duo Cantaré will perform.

◆ **Forgotten Noir Double Feature:** "The Big Clock" (1948): Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Severna Park Community Library

Frustrated magazine writer Ray Milland cooks up a plot to embarrass his tyrannical boss (Charles Laughton), but instead finds himself a murder suspect. For adults.

◆ **To Boldly Explore:** Saturday from 1-2:30 p.m. at Linthicum Community Library

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of "Star Trek." Boldly explore the galaxy and technology that allows us to study our solar system. For elementary school students.

◆ **Country Current,** the U.S. Navy Band's country bluegrass ensemble: Saturday from 2-3 p.m. at Glen Burnie Regional Library.

◆ **"Monarch Butterflies"** by Elmer Denigler: Saturday from 2-3 p.m. at Crofton Community Library (for adults)

◆ **Family Bingo:** Monday from 6:30-8 p.m. at Broadneck Community Library

Small prizes and books will be awarded to winners.

◆ **Kenilworth Gardens: Where Botany Meets History:** Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. at Odenton Regional Library

Park Ranger Vince Vaise will share the history of how a swamp was transformed into Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, home to fascinating rare and exotic plant species. For adults.

◆ **Film and Discussion:** "Being Human - Being Mortal": Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. at Annapolis Regional Library

The Frontline documentary explores what matters most to patients and families experiencing serious illness. For adults.

◆ **Tour of Duty: Complexity of Police Work with Steve Danko:** Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. at Severna Park Community Library

Severna Park resident Steve Danko shares his experiences of 25 years as a homicide detective for the Baltimore City Police Department and as an insurance fraud investigator. Book sale and signing to follow the event. For adults.

For a complete list of library events, go to aacpl.net/events.

MEETINGS

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

◆ **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 wel-

come. The next meeting is Sept. 26. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

◆ **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 Oct. 3.

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 Oct. 3.

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 Oct. 3.

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.

◆ **Retired Officers' Wives' Club** will conduct its October luncheon meeting on Oct. 4 at 11 a.m. at Club Meade.

The luncheon will feature a musical program of classical, spiritual, jazz, Broadway tunes and more presented by violist Robin Massie-Peghee.

Cost of the luncheon is \$18. Reservations, or cancellations if you are on the permanent reservation list, must be received by 5 p.m. on Sept. 29. Call your area representative or Betty Wade at 410-551-7082.

Annual membership dues are \$25. Members may bring guests at any time to the luncheons, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month, except June, July, August and January.

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

◆ **Monthly Prayer Breakfast**, hosted by the Religious Support Office, is held the first Thursday of every month at 7 a.m. at Club Meade. The next prayer breakfast is Oct. 6. 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 Oct. 6. 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 Oct. 6. 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 Oct. 6. For more information, visit namiaac.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 Oct. 6.

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 Oct. 6. For more information, call 301-677-7823.

◆ **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 Oct. 8. 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.

◆ **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 Oct. 14.

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.

◆ **The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)** meets the third Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Potomac Place Neighborhood Center, 4998 2nd Corps Blvd. The next meeting is Oct. 18.

For more information, visit trea.org or call Charles Green, the local chapter president, at 443-610-4252 or Otis Whitaker Sr., chapter secretary, at 443-306-1104.

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 Oct. 2

Friday: "Don't Breathe" (PG-13). Hoping to walk away with a massive fortune, a trio of thieves break into the house of a blind man who isn't as helpless as he seems. With Stephen Lang, Jane Levy, Dylan Minnette.

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



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Sunday: "Ben-Hur" (PG-13). Judah Ben-Hur, a prince falsely accused of treason by his adopted brother, an officer in the Roman army, returns to his homeland after years at sea to seek revenge, but finds redemption. With Jack Huston, Toby Kebbell, Morgan Freeman.

Sept. 30 & Oct. 2: "Mechanic: Resurrection" (R). Arthur Bishop thought he had put his murderous past behind him when his most formidable foe kidnaps the love of his life. With Jason Statham, Jessica Alba, Tommy Lee Jones.

Oct. 1: "Hands of Stone" (R). Legendary boxer Roberto Duran and his equally legendary trainer Ray Arcel change each other's lives. With Edgar Ramirez, Usher Raymond, Robert De Niro.