

Redstone Rocket

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Fults, Matthews among installation management stalwarts

By EMILY STRICKLAND

Staff writer

emily.strickland@theredstonerocket.com

Two Garrison employees are recipients of 2020 Army Installation Management Command Stalwart Awards, which were presented via a virtual ceremony Thursday morning.

Christina Fults and Jordan Matthews received awards in the IMCOM-Sustainment category, recognizing their efforts to maintain and optimize the property on the Arsenal.

First awarded in 2002, the Stalwart Award is the highest honor available for civilians working in IMCOM and is presented annually. The awards are typically presented at the annual Garrison Commanders Conference, but COVID-19 safety protocols required the ceremony to go virtual this year.

In total, 15 awards are given out to IMCOM professionals throughout the United States and representing installations around the world.



Photos by Eric Schultz

From left are Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez, Jordan Matthews, Christina Fults and Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor. Matthews and Fults received the 2020 Army Installation Management Command Stalwart Awards in the IMCOM-Sustainment category.

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Jordan Matthews and IMCOM Sustainment Chief of Staff Justin Mitchell during the Stalwart Awards ceremony at Redstone Arsenal Garrison headquarters Thursday.



Justin Mitchell and Christina Fults during the Stalwart Awards ceremony at Redstone Arsenal Garrison headquarters Thursday.



MILITARY

Redstone Tax Center open for drop-offs.

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Madison County looking strong.

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Space station research marks 20 years of breakthroughs.

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12U Lakewood team outduels Redstone.

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Message to the force from secretary of defense

I am honored to have this chance to serve again and to do so alongside you and your families. My wife, Charlene, and I know all too well the sacrifices you make to keep this country safe. That safety is job one, and I promise to work as hard as you do at it.

The way I see it, my job as secretary of defense is to make you more effective at doing yours. That means ensuring you have the tools, technology, weapons, and training to deter and defeat our enemies. It means establishing sound policy and strategy and assigning you clear missions. It means putting a premium on cooperation with our allies and partners. And it means living up to our core values, the same ones our fellow citizens expect of us.

Right now, of course, doing my job also means helping our country get control of the pandemic, which has killed more than 400,000 Americans. You have already come to the aid of our nation's health care professionals. You can expect that mission to continue. But we must help the federal government move further and faster to eradicate the devastating effects of the coronavirus. To that end, we will also do everything we can to vaccinate and care for our workforce and to look for meaningful ways to alleviate the pressure this pandemic has exerted on you and your families.

None of us succeeds at this business alone. Defending the country requires teamwork and cooperation. It requires a certain humility, a willingness to learn, and absolute respect for one another. I know you share my devotion to these qualities.

I am proud to be back on your team.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III

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Rocket Staff

Editor-in-chief: Col. Glenn Mellor, Garrison commander
Director of Public Affairs: Julie Frederick
Editor: Skip Vaughn
Assistant editor: Jonathan Stinson
Staff writer/Social media: Katie Davis Skelley
Staff writer: Emily Strickland
Staff photographer: Eric Schultz
Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane
General Manager: French Salter
Advertising Sales: Donna Counts, 256-714-7152, or donna.counts@theredstonerocket.com

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When social media posts read like tales from crypt

A couple of weeks ago I thought I heard a ghost. Then I thought I was losing my mind because Anna had been sneak-decorating the house. And this week it seems a former colleague was raised from the dead. This year is not off to a hot start.

So there I was – I'm not going to tell you where I was because then I'd have to answer questions like "is that what you do all day" or "shouldn't you be working?"

But anyway, there I was scrolling through the Facebook.

Quick note, my body tells me that I'm old enough now to call the social media giant The Facebook.

Anyway, I'm scrolling through my newsfeed and I see a post from one of my more spiritual friends and kept scrolling because it was certainly on brand and didn't raise any red flags.

Five minutes later I start frantically scrolling back through my newsfeed because said friend has been dead for two years.

I've been told I have a pretty dark sense of humor, but if somebody was

trying to pull a fast one, even I thought it was in bad taste.

It wasn't just one post either. These were multiple posts over a couple of days.

Then I thought whoever did that is about to get haunted. He or she is going to get in bed one night and bam! There won't be an exorcist in the world who can help them.

My friend was undoubtedly spiritual, but it was earned kind of like how nobody really appreciates a pardon as much as the guy sitting on death row.

I had a feeling it wasn't someone pulling a prank. There just wasn't any humor or drama to the post.

Then I thought maybe she had accidentally scheduled a handful of posts before she died but messed up the year somehow.

While she was living you could almost set a watch to her post. So she might have been using a social media management tool to schedule them.

Upon further review, I dismissed that theory because some of the posts referenced events after she had died.

That would've been creepy, though. Can you imagine the History Channel special on the woman who could predict the future but didn't tell anybody until after she died by using Facebook?

After putting my investigative journalist skills to good use, it turns out the ghost posts were coming from my colleague's husband.

It makes sense. When she was alive, they both used the same account since she was the more tech-savvy of the two,

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson
Assistant editor

though he seems to have the hang of it now.

The whole thing did give me an idea. I wonder if I could schedule posts to show up years after I died?

I mean I do like having the last word.

Quote of the week

“**Y**ou may not win the Super Bowl. Your kids may not go on to be doctors and lawyers and everything may not go perfectly. That doesn't mean it was a bad plan or the wrong thing. It's just like football season. Everything's not going to go perfect.”

– Tony Dungy

On this date in history: Feb. 3

In 2014: Two people were shot and killed and 29 students were taken hostage at a high school in Moscow, Russia.

In 1995: Astronaut Eileen Collins became the first woman to pilot the Space Shuttle as mission STS-63 launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

In 1971: New York Police Officer Frank Serpico was shot during a drug bust in Brooklyn and survived to later testify against police corruption.

In 1944: During the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign in World War II, U.S. Army and Marine forces seized Kwajalein Atoll from the defending Japanese garrison.

In 1870: The Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing voting rights to male citizens regardless of race.

In 1834: Wake Forest University was established (as Wake Forest Institute) in North Carolina.

In 1690: The colony of Massachusetts issued the first paper money in the Americas.


Send your letters to editor

The Redstone Rocket invites your signed letters to the editor and your commentaries. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send your letters and commentaries to skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com.

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First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

How do you relax?

"Watching a good movie. It puts my mind at ease," Bill Dalton, a lead guard at the gates, said.

Dalton, 50, from Huntsville, became a guard at the gates in 2009. He was born in Frankfurt, Germany, and he grew up in an Army family. Dalton served on active duty from 1990-94 and he retired from the Army Reserve in 2013 as a staff sergeant after 23 years. He was in Iraq in 2003-04. The Huntsville resident and his wife of 24 years, Betty, have a son, Noah, 18, and a daughter, Noel, 15. Dalton enjoys playing basketball, running, fishing and watching drag racing. He roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Bill Dalton

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

always been a really hard worker and he taught me the values of providing for a family.

Name: Zack Evans

Position: Apprentice electrician for contractor Stevens Construction

What did you want to be when you grew up?

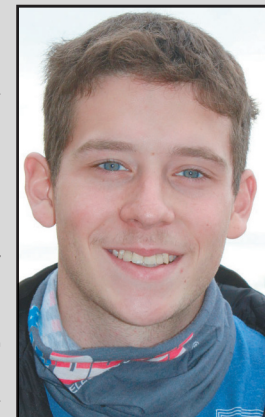
I wanted to be a welder, for the money.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2021?

I hope to get good experience in electrician work. That's pretty much it job-wise. I'm hoping to get a place of my own and get a new car because mine is a piece of junk.

Who is your hero, and why?

I guess my grandpa (Horace Roberts) and he died about a week ago. He's



If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

I'd probably take my girlfriend (Madison Simmons) and go mud-riding on my four-wheeler.

What is the best piece of advice someone has given you?

Just know money's not everything. And I guess the real riches are the ones you can find in yourself and be simple with. That was from

grandpa.

What do you like to do for fun, to pass the time, during this time of social distancing or just in general?

I like to go hangout with my girlfriend, and we'll grill out with my family.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Jan. 17-23:

Jan. 19: A vehicle collided with a deer on Vincent Drive just north of Spartan Drive. The vehicle had minor damages. Police were unable to locate the deer. The Redstone game warden was notified.

Jan. 19: At the Gate 9 Visitor Center, an individual seeking a visitor badge to enter the installation for work had a warrant with Decatur Police Department for failure to appear for speeding. The individual was apprehended and subsequently released to a Decatur police officer.

Jan. 22: Redstone police responded to assist with a medical call which resulted in a Criminal Investigation Command investigation. As part of the investigation, the individual's vehicle was searched by Redstone CID. A Ruger CCP .38-caliber semiautomatic and a holster were found in the center console. The firearm was checked through the National Crime Information Center which met with negative results. The weapon was retained on an Army Form 4137 and placed in the evidence locker. The individual was cited for violation of security regulation for weapons, fingerprinted and released.

Citations included one for no driver's license/unlicensed, one for carrying a concealed weapon, six for expired registration and 14 for speeding.

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Your career choice.

"My father (Ryan Payne) was always a construction laborer for commercial flooring," Robyn Payne, who works for A&B Flooring, said. "And I always helped him on little jobs and I just found it interesting. I know there's not many women nowadays that like hard manual labor. I like learning new things and getting out and physically working. You always see new things that get progressed for building. You see the progress of things getting built."

Payne, 21, from Toney, has worked for A&B Flooring since November. The Huntsville company is laying floor in several buildings on Redstone Arsenal. Payne and her husband of four years, Brandon Harville, reside in Gurley with their two sons, Clay, 4, and Remington, 1. She enjoys hunting, fishing and being outdoors. She roots for the Auburn Tigers.



Robyn Payne

Military

Tax center makes return with drop-off service

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone Tax Center is ready to serve the military community with free tax preparation services but things are different this year.

"We are changing significantly due to the pandemic. We are going to be a drop-off only site (starting this week)," Rachael Yeoman, the tax center manager, said.

Since opening Feb. 1, the center is again serving active duty and retired military and their families. It still depends on its dedicated volunteers. The center closed in March because of the pandemic but received authorization from the garrison commander to open this year with a smaller group of volunteers.

"It's going to be six (volunteers) at a time. We've got about 12 people rotating, which puts us at about half staff," Yeoman said.

Clients can drop off their packets weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon; and then the center will schedule their pickup at that time. The center is at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate in building 3439 on Honest John Road. Clients should bring all of their tax documents, including their last tax return, and the center's intake sheet that is available for pickup.

Yeoman, a paralegal at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, has worked at the center for nearly 20 years and served as its manager for most of the past 10.

"Our volunteers, they're so dedicated," she said. "All they've been worried about is getting people back in here and getting their taxes done."

Ed Sekerak, a retired lieutenant colonel residing in Harvest, has volunteered at the center since last year.

"Since I moved here in 2004 (from New Mexico), the tax center has been doing my tax returns," Sekerak said. "And once I retired, I just wanted to give back and be able to help people like I've been helped."

He retired from the military in 2001, after 20 years and seven months, and he retired as a defense contractor in 2019.

Volunteers include Sekerak, Cheryl Burns, Lisa McCrary, Sandy Hovde, John Patch, Lee Smith, Rob Morris, Jenn Mills, Emily Hsi, Jan Berry, Lindsay Coop, Kay Theodoss and Dawn Byers.

People can call 842-1040 if they have questions or visit the center and pick up information.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Rachael Yeoman, a paralegal at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, is manager of the Redstone Tax Center.



Photo by Carrie David Campbell, SMDC

Security assistant retires

Jesse Granberry, security assistant, deputy chief of staff G-3, Space and Missile Defense Command, receives his retirement pin from his wife, Anna, during his retirement Friday. Granberry retires with 42 years of service.

Awards

Continued from page **1**

Lt. Gen. Doug Gabram, IMCOM commander, said the award's presentation is a tangible way to represent the IMCOM Service Culture Campaign.

"To operationalize (the Service Culture Campaign), it's about taking care of our people," Gabram said. "It's one of our seven principles within the Service Culture Campaign, and that's recognizing folks, recognizing great professionals."

Fulfs is the real property branch chief

in the Master Planning division of the Directorate of Public Works. She manages more than 6,000 assets and the overarching leasing programs for the Garrison and was recognized for her expertise and accomplishments in the real estate program.

In addition to her work with the real estate program, Fulfs fostered a partnership with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and orchestrated a 104-acre land lease adjoining Redstone Arsenal property to the rocket center. IMCOM Director of Public Affairs Scott Malcom said this accomplishment, while beneficial for Redstone Arsenal, will also create a blueprint for other Army installations around the world

as they seek to obtain similar agreements.

"I felt very honored to be nominated and accepted for the award," Fulfs said. "Thank you to the IMCOM team."

Matthews, deputy director of public works for IMCOM ID-Sustainment, served 12 years as the Garrison's chief of military construction and planning branch. He has been involved in a large space management effort to consolidate space on the Arsenal and make leases and space usage more efficient. The project not only results in instant savings, but savings that will continue year after year.

Matthews has also headed up an effort to bring real property records up to date

with audit compliance standards. This includes auditing whether or not the needs of each space are represented accurately by the budget denoted to them each year. Malcom called Matthews "the driving force behind Redstone space utilization efforts."

"I'm extremely grateful," Matthews said. "This is definitely a team effort. I'm getting the award on behalf of that whole Master Planning office, and every chance I get I try to let them know how thankful I am for their support."

Gabram closed by thanking all the IMCOM employees for their hard work and dedication to making Army installations beneficial institutions.

Aviation, missile workers receive update from leadership

By **MICHELLE GORDON**

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

Aviation and Missile Command's Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar, along with AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Dove, held a virtual town hall Thursday.

The monthly event began with people first, as the leaders recognized AMCOM employees worldwide who were recognized as MVPs on their teams. They highlighted their individual accomplishments and thanked the workforce for their dedication to excellence.

The town hall also provided an update on new laptop distribution, budgeting and resources and changes to Army Regulation 670-1, which includes new guidance on Army uniforms and several other key changes.

However, the main topic was the anticipated COVID-19 vaccine arrival date and distribution plan.

Royar said AMCOM is following the same priority listing as the entire Department of Defense, which begins with those most at-risk, such as health care workers and emergency service providers. He noted that those inoculations have already begun and he encouraged the workforce to obtain as much information as possible so they can

make an informed decision about receiving the vaccine, adding that it is their choice.

"It is completely voluntary and you can change your mind at any point but, if you do want it, we want to ensure that we've done the coordination so it's available for you," he said.

Dove agreed, adding, "The vaccine is absolutely not mandatory right now. Supervisors are using the vaccination distribution data call to survey employees and place them in the appropriate categories."

The data call is for planning purposes only to ensure AMCOM receives the correct number of doses for everyone who would like to receive the vaccine; no personally identifiable information is being collected or reported at this time.

Royar said there is not yet clear visibility on the number of doses that will arrive at the various AMCOM installations. They are requesting employee interest in advance so when the vaccines do become available, they can get that information out as soon as possible.

"There are no repercussions for taking or not taking the vaccine, and we will absolutely protect all of your PII throughout this process," Dove said.

Royar and Dove also presented statistics from the most recent diversity and inclu-



Photo by Michelle Gordon

Maj. Gen. Todd Royar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, speaks during Thursday's virtual town hall. At right is AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Dove.

sion report, Management Directive 715. The MD 715 compares all of AMCOM to the national labor force, with regard to representation and diversity in workforce race, ethnicity and gender.

Royar said while the numbers are comparative for ethnicity and race, there is a disparity in gender. The MD 715 reflects a larger number of male employees in the AMCOM workforce. He said that, while that has historically been the case due to a large number of male veterans in the aviation and missile communities, he is committed to leveling the bubbles.

"We recognize that this is a gap and disparity and want to make sure we have diversity across the board, not only diversity in demographics, but diversity in thought," he said. "We are absolutely committed to that. We want to make sure that we have a very diverse workforce because that, quite frankly, makes us a better workforce."

The full MD 715 is available on the AMCOM Command Information Portal.

After the presentations, Royar opened the virtual floor up for questions submitted in advance of the town hall as well as the ones received during the Facebook livestream.

The majority of the questions referenced the workforce returning to the office.

Royar said the plan has not changed from the initial guidance, which will include a phased approach with ample notification. It will also be conditions-based with the local case rate and potentiality of vaccines affecting the timeline. He said he does not know when those conditions will be met.

"It will vary in accordance with the installation, and we will slowly bring folks back," he said. "We will republish that same phased approach. It's slow, it's methodical, it takes into consideration those who want to come back first and it takes into consideration those who are higher risk."

At the conclusion of the town hall Royar thanked the AMCOM workforce for their participation and their dedication and he reminded them that they matter because they support the warfighter.

"That Soldier who is potentially in harm's way or prepared to go in harm's way – thank you for everything you do in support of her or him as we move forward," he said.

The full town hall video is available on the AMCOM Facebook page, @USARMYAMCOM.



Army photo by Jose Rodriguez

Antigen samples

Pfc. Jagher Jones, assigned to Alpha Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, tests COVID-19 antigen samples at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Jan. 15.

Soldier tuition assistance system on the move

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com

Changes are coming for military members pursuing additional education.

GoArmyEd.com is the site that active duty, National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers use to access tuition assistance funds for postsecondary education, including the certificate, associate, bachelor and master degree programs. The GoArmyEd system is to be replaced by the www.armyignited.com site.

On Feb. 12, the GoArmyEd system will deactivate. To facilitate the migration of the tuition assistance program data from GoArmyEd to ArmyIgnitED, the ArmyIgnitED system will be offline from Feb. 25 to March 8. Soldiers, Army education counselors, and educational institutions will not be able to access tuition assistance data or functionality during the migration process. Tuition assistance program services will resume and be accessible in ArmyIgnitED on March 8.

“The reason for the website change is that the Army is streamlining and updating postsecondary education processes and for the first time the Army is now funding credentialing opportunities and these programs will be on one website,” Redstone Education Center’s Education Services Specialist Jim Wesser said. “We are very excited about the new site and

ignited 

the ease in which students can access the programs that this site will bring. Training and Doctrine Command is in the process of reaching out to all active duty, National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers about this program as well.”

Wesser has the following guidance for Soldiers:

- Soldiers may continue to submit tuition assistance requests to GoArmyEd until 11:59 p.m. Feb. 11. Pending non-LOI tuition assistance requests that have not been approved by an Army education counselor in GoArmyEd before Feb. 12 will be transferred to ArmyIgnitED. The system will reject a request if not approved before the start date of the class.

- Soldiers currently using tuition assistance who do not have an ArmyIgnitED account must create one to continue using tuition assistance or to access their tuition assistance education history. Soldiers can activate an ArmyIgnitED account by going to www.armyignited.com and selecting “Get Started.”

Since the GoArmyEd helpdesk will be disabled, Soldiers with questions about the transition to ArmyIgnitED should contact the Redstone Education Center directly at james.d.wesser.civ@mail.mil.

Spare parts partnership reduces wait time, cost

By KERENSA CRUM

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

An Aviation and Missile Command partnership with an arm of the Defense Logistics Agency will significantly reduce delivery time on necessary parts while simultaneously saving millions of dollars.

DLA Aviation-Huntsville and AMCOM Logistics Center have worked in unison for several years at Redstone Arsenal. A nine-year contract vehicle intended to streamline sole-source spare parts was finalized in late 2020.

“On the local level, we are talking about the partnership between AMCOM ALC and our depot-level repair contracting office here on Redstone,” George Scheers, DLA Aviation-Huntsville director of procurement operations, said. DLA Aviation-Huntsville supports aviation and missile platforms and procures approximately \$1.2 billion per year of new spare parts on behalf of ALC.

“We have collectively established enduring long-term contracts with major suppliers that streamlined procurement of 664 depot-level reparable parts over the last four years,” Scheers added.

DLA Aviation is the aviation demand and supply manager for Defense Logistics Agency. The mission of the Huntsville office is to procure depot-level reparable parts for AMCOM-managed weapon systems.

“Before this partnership, both DLA and ALC worked on short-term, tactical acquisitions that were

sometimes proactive, but mainly reactive to what was needed,” Mallory Medley, DLA Aviation-Huntsville Missile Division chief, said.

The team decided to take a different approach: instead of focusing on the coming two to four years, ALC and DLA Aviation-Huntsville did a deep dive to forecast need for the next eight to 10 years.

“Additionally, we said, ‘Let’s look at an entire program, weapon system, and/or group of parts that can be covered under one contract vehicle’ – and that’s exactly what we did,” Scheers said. “This is the first instance where we are using a single contract vehicle to procure new spare parts as well as provide commercial repair to existing depot-level repairable parts. The contract is unique in that it allows the government to pre-purchase long-lead material and economic order quantities of common materials that will reduce cost and production/repair lead times in the future.”

“Long-lead” refers to the amount of time it can take to put a contract in place, order and receive an item – sometimes as much as two years or more.

This \$950 million contract will cover ALC logistics requirements and has the ability to provide for aviation and missile needs. Further, it supports acquisition of sole-source parts in support of Communications-Electronics Command and Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command.

“We are appreciative of the partnership with DLA and their efforts in establishing this nine-year

See Parts on page 14



Photo by Preston Benson, Redstone Test Center

Terrence Skinner, right, speaks with Masheldia Green, center, item manager for Chinook engines, and Dustin Spane, left, a logistics management specialist for the Chinook helicopters, about training equipment and how his team trains Soldiers in the field using a virtual program.

Parts

Continued from page 12

contract,” Brian Wood, ALC executive director, said. “This contract provides our item managers with another tool in their toolbox to improve responsiveness to the needs of the warfighter.”

“This long-term contract affords AMCOM the ability to support large-scale combat operations by ensuring readiness and supply availability rates remains above (Department of the Army) requirements,” Tara Bell, ALC missile director and Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space assistant program executive officer for logistics, said.

Scheer said there is also the added advantage of saving costs.

Before this contract vehicle was emplaced, the government would incur higher unit costs driven by minimum order quantities of subcomponents within a repair or new build bill of materials.

“Under the new construct, we are procuring long-lead and minimum-order-quantity materials outside of the end item unit price,” Scheers explained. “The result is realized in both long-term cost

and lead-time savings.”

“Our taking title to the materials having minimum order quantities for use as government-furnished material in future requirements in lieu of buying the MOQs each year resulted in a saving of over \$14 million on the initial delivery order,” said Kenneth Winslette, former DLA Aviation-Huntsville director of strategic projects, who retired in December.

“Strategic contracts, in the long run, save both time and money,” Medley said. “Time is key when it comes to getting the warfighters the parts they need in the field. Instead of having to plan for acquisition time and part-production time, once a strategic contract is in place, it’s the production time that counts, as the acquisition process is complete.”

DLA’s stated mission is to sustain warfighter readiness and lethality by delivering proactive global logistics in peace and war.

“In the big picture, DLA centrally manages consumable parts and provides those directly to the Army from the unit level up to supplying the depot with items needed for repair programs,” Scheers said.

“All stakeholders worked tirelessly to accomplish this contract award, which will benefit the Soldier for years to come,” Bell said.



Photo by Preston Benson, Redstone Test Center

Destinee Croom, an item manager for Black Hawk helicopters, speaks with Maj. Matthew Brown about Apache aircraft components.

“The single biggest benefit of this partnership is the impact to the warfighter,” Medley said. “With today’s ever-changing environment, it is imperative that the warfighter is as prepared as possible for whatever may come. DLA and

ALC working together – communicating and coordinating on these long-term acquisitions – is positively affecting the warfighters’ preparedness by having the contract coverage to support their program, weapon system, and/or aircraft.”

Newest version Apache lands at first operation unit



Photo by Pfc. Jacob Colamonic

A group of AH-64E version 6 Apache helicopters arrive at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 14 after a three-day journey from Mesa, Ariz. The aircraft are destined to the 1-229th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion which becomes the first operational unit to add the Apache V6 aircraft to its inventory.

By BELINDA BAZINET

Apache Helicopters Project Office

After a three-day journey originating from the manufacturing facilities in Mesa, Arizona, the 1-229th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion at Joint Base

Lewis-McChord, Washington, became the first operational unit to receive the AH-64E version 6 Apache helicopter Jan. 14.

The V6 is equipped with an open

See Apache on page 16

Apache

Continued from page 15

systems design including the latest communications, navigation, sensor and weapon systems. The model has multiple upgrades with the improved Lockheed-Martin Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilot Night Vision System, which includes a new integrated infrared laser for easier target designation and enhanced infrared imagery capabilities. The GEN3 Day Sensor Assembly doubles the sensor's field of view and increases resolution. The addition of color imagery improves target detection and identification.

"The GEN 3 DSA adds a lot of value to the Apache. The addition of Near-Infrared Signature, and color vision for the Gunner makes target discriminations much easier, minimizing miscommunications within the cockpit, team, or platoon," Chief Warrant Officer 2 Logan Featherston, a pilot with C Company, 1-229th ARB, said. "It fills in critical details about the target, and area around it that we didn't previously have, minimizing the risks of an engagement."

Another pilot agreed. "It is impressive to use the GEN3 DSA under the right conditions to clearly iden-

tify objects and personnel at over 20km," Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sven Anderson, a Battalion Standardization Instructor pilot, said. "The upgrades to the (Longbow) Fire Control Radar add a maritime capability that the AH-64 community has been talking about for a long time. The GEN3 DSA is a real game changer. It puts the Apache into a position where our sensors are out-ranging our weapon systems. We can identify targets before we are even in range to shoot them, which allows us to better leverage long range precision fires from other platforms and reduce our signature."

The V6 also has Link 16 communications, which allows the Apache to switch network connections on the spot, and merge different networks for an operational picture. This results in the delivery of real-time situational awareness to the cockpit. The software also supports the exchange of text messages, imagery data and provides two channels of digital voice.

"The GEN3 DSA, and several of the software changes overall make the system more intuitive, saving time and effort, which allows me and my peers to spend more energy and time focused outside and on the bigger picture of where the aircraft is in time and space," Featherstone said.

Crewmembers can receive Unmanned Aircraft Sys-

tems video in the cockpit, control UAS sensors and direct the flight path of the UAS. The crewmembers can also share real-time situational awareness of the operational environment and enemy forces to Soldiers on the ground.

The Longbow radar updates adapted the capabilities to naval activities, allowing the radar to track vessels while also doubling Longbow's detection range. The V6 software also has the ability to track small unmanned aircraft, turning the aircraft into a lethal counter-UAS platform and has Manned-Unmanned Teaming ELeX-panded software installed which allows Apache pilots to directly control Army UAS.

The Apache will remain a vital element of the military because of the V6. "I think that the version 6 does add a safety factor on the aircrew side," Featherston said. "The less effort pilots have to spend focusing inside on target identification, and clicking around to get the information they need, the safer the overall aircraft will be."

This new version of the Apache is an enhanced weapon and sensor platform and a vital link between the Army's ground forces and manned and unmanned aircraft. The upgrades allow for improved quality of training and operation on the battlefield.

Army planning to update military personnel, pay system

From combined reports

The Army's current personnel, pay, talent and data systems must be upgraded to align with future organizational needs.

There are about 200 human resources and pay systems and over 650 interface and data exchanges between internal and external systems. The manual, paper-driven transactional processes are not fully auditable, cyber or information assurance compliant, nor do they allow easy tracking of the knowledge, skills and behaviors of Soldiers in the total force.

The Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army is an online solution that supports a 21st century system that fills the capability gap in personnel, pay, talent and data; improves the lives of Soldiers and families as part of the Army People Strategy; enhances total Army readiness. HR processes and systems must modernize and change to provide enhanced capabilities and readiness, influencing the Army's ability to meet new challenges. IPPS-A will streamline more than 30 personnel and pay systems, eliminate over 300 interfaces, and provide essential capabilities to the Army including total force visibility, managing talent and data and auditability. IPPS-A increases efficiency with Soldier self-service capabilities and HR initiating processes triggering pay actions, and it decreases the dependency on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and numerous systems.

IPPS-A functionality is being deployed in multiple releases to enable testing and training, with Release 2 (fiscal 2019-20) to the National Guard and Release 3 (Personnel and Demographic Driven Data Services) to Active, National Guard and Reserve components; and Release 4 (Military Pay) to all components; and sustained improvements.

Here are some questions and answers:

What is IPPS-A?

IPPS-A is an online human resources system that will enable personnel transac-

tions to automatically trigger pay and provide a comprehensive HR record for all Soldiers in each component. In addition, Soldiers will have access to their own personal information 24 hours a day and mobile self-service capabilities. IPPS-A's ability to combine personnel and pay functions (such as a promotion or call to active duty) will address current inefficiencies caused by complex interfaces among more than 30 "stovepiped" HR systems. As a result, IPPS-A will leave fewer opportunities for error and will become the authoritative and comprehensive source of Army personnel and pay information.

Who will use IPPS-A?

IPPS-A will be used by all Soldiers, leaders and HR professionals within the active Army, National Guard and Reserve to conduct personnel and pay activities throughout their career. Every Soldiers' personnel and pay information will be managed within IPPS-A. IPPS-A will not contain personnel information on Army civilians and will not automatically allow Army civilian access. Authorized military staff will have the ability to assign Army civilians as "persons of interest" and grant them access to IPPS-A.

How will the Army Organization Structure impact human resources professionals, Soldiers and commanders in the future?

AOS presents a new way of managing force structure. IPPS-A's database will provide the ability to actively manage force structure on a daily basis. The talent management marketplace will be the culminating fruit of IPPS-A. The Army can move beyond a mere "faces-to-spaces" manning model that is used to simply fill a vacancy with whomever is available and start examining the salient human dimensions of the talent pool to assign, develop and manage Soldiers. HR managers who are savvy with both force structure and HR objectives can predict how, when, why and in what developmental duty assignments a Soldier needs to gain experience in as they develop professionally and personally throughout their continuum of service.

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

New Mexico family joins Guard

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Tanya Saavedra thought her days in the military had ended.

During 14 years in the Navy, Tanya pushed her body to its limits as a combat diver and underwater technician, going on missions off the Mexico coast and the continental U.S.

Tanya left active duty in 2012 and returned to her hometown in the Southwest. She had settled on a new career field as a high school teacher. She focused on raising her two children and pursuing her Ph.D. in rhetorical studies at the University of New Mexico.

But the call to serve again returned – from within her own household.

Her husband, 1st Sgt. Jason Saavedra, encouraged his wife to join the New Mexico National Guard, where Jason had spent 20 years as an infantryman and sniper.

Over the years, her husband deployed to Iraq, Egypt and recently returned from a 10-month tour in the Horn of Africa. She said seeing her husband put on the uniform reminded her of her time on

active duty.

Tanya had the itch to serve again.

She reenlisted in the Guard in December with the backing of her family.

“My husband was really supportive,” Tanya said of her decision to join the Guard. “And between my son and me, it was just kind of this funny, like, ‘Ha ha, we’re going to be drilling together, you know?’”

While helping her son, Jeremiah Shaw, complete his paperwork to join the Guard last spring, Tanya talked to an Army recruiter about joining the Guard.

Old photos of other uniformed family members who have served in the military decorate the family’s Albuquerque home.

Tanya, who enlisted in the Navy in 1998, continued a long legacy of military service in her bloodline. Her father, Gene Marquez, deployed to Vietnam in the late 1960s and her older brother, Richard, was a Navy Seal who fought in the Gulf War.

“(Military service) is something that’s always been seen as honorable in my family,” Tanya said. “So it almost seemed kind of innate that (Jeremiah) would end up serving as well.”

She eventually joined as a supply specialist with the rank of staff sergeant. Now Tanya awaits the Guard’s decision

whether or not to send her to Army boot camp or grant her an exception.

Contract award announcements

FedMedical Inc., Summerville, South Carolina, has been awarded a maximum \$30,000,000 fixed-price with economic-price-adjustment, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract for pulse oximeters, exam/surgical lights and related accessories. This was a competitive acquisition with 137 responses received. This is a five-year contract with no option periods. Location of performance is South Carolina, with a Jan. 24, 2026, ordering period end date. Using customers are Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and federal civilian agencies. Type of appropriation is fiscal 2021 through 2026 defense working capital funds. The contracting activity is the Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Lions Services Inc., Charlotte, North Carolina, has been awarded a maximum \$10,480,000 modification exercising the first one-year option period of a one-year base contract with two one-year option periods for improved combat helmet chinstraps. This is a firm-fixed-price, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity con-

tract. Location of performance is North Carolina, with a Jan. 28, 2022, ordering period end date. Using military service is Army. Type of appropriation is fiscal 2021 through 2022 defense working capital funds. The contracting activity is the Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Defense COVID-19 response

At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 12 Navy personnel have deployed to the Navajo Nation reservation in New Mexico and Arizona to provide support to the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, New Mexico. The medical personnel have been working side-by-side with civilian and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps health care providers to help treat COVID-19 patients.

“The relationship with the embedded nursing staff here has been great from the get go,” Navy Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Jagger, critical care nurse and Rural Rapid Response team leader, said.

“They are family now,” Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Smith, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the hospital’s intensive care unit supervisor, said.

Chairman sees strong future for Madison County



Screenshot by Katie Davis Skelley

Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong gives his annual State of the County address Jan. 27 in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com

The best was left for last.

The recent announcement of the move of the U.S. Space Command to Redstone Arsenal was the final achievement listed in Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong's 2021 State of the County address Jan. 27. While the event is typically held at the Von Braun Center, this year's address was broadcast online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Strong addressed a virtual crowd of more than 300 elected officials, military and local leaders to report on the accomplishments of the past year and future plans for Madison County – with the 1,600 jobs arriving with the command being the biggest news.

“We have once again proven that Madison County is unstoppable when we team together with our regional partners and federal leaders,” Strong said.

He praised the recent census efforts, sharing that Madison County listed as number two in the state in census response, with a 76.2% participation rate. But the over-

arching theme of the address was growth as Madison County continued to expand in all areas, even amid the pandemic.

And while there was much good news to share, Strong made a point to address COVID-19 and its effect on the area.

“Along with our two mayors, hospitals, emergency service leadership, Redstone Arsenal, our chamber and the Alabama Department of Public Health, we spoke daily to ensure the community was informed and prepared,” he said, recognizing the combined efforts to protect the community from a pandemic that as of press time has infected more than 29,000 of its residents and caused the deaths of 287.

Strong recognized that this commitment was matched by the community with an “outpouring of assistance from small businesses, families and school-aged children – from donations of homemade masks, face shields from 3D printers and food donations to our local pantries. This community embraced the needs of each other in remarkable ways. Taking care of each other is what we do and a huge part of who we are in Madison County.”

While the pandemic is not over, Strong said the future remains bright.

“The state of Madison County is strong, vibrant, on solid and steady ground, and we are ready to meet the challenges of 2021.”

Army Emergency Relief drive needs key representatives

From combined reports

Redstone's tenant organizations have traditionally stepped up to help Soldiers help their own.

This annual giving opportunity arrives with the 2021 Army Emergency Relief campaign from March 1 through May 31. Each tenant organization is asked to appoint an AER key representative to serve as a liaison between their organization and the campaign headquarters, Army Community Service, which is in building 3443 on Aerobee Road.

Names, email addresses and phone numbers of key representatives should be sent to AER Officer Kathleen Riester at Army Community Service by Feb. 12. Her phone number is 876-6299.

Each key representative should attend an hourlong training session via Microsoft Teams. The scheduled virtual sessions include Feb. 23 and Feb. 25 from 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.

For information call Capt. Hunter Wilson, AER campaign coordinator, at 842-7090 or email hunter.l.wilson10.mil@mail.mil.



Pilot's blue yonder goes from Vietnam to airlines

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Carl Gamble flew 244 combat missions dropping propaganda leaflets as an Air Force pilot in Vietnam from 1968-69. He still has nightmares about the fateful flight that led to his Distinguished Flying Cross.

"That's the only one where I ever got hit by enemy ground fire. Out of 244 missions, that's the one," the Madison native said.

March 1, 1969, seemed like just another day for the 9th Special Operations Squadron out of Da Nang. The special operations pilots, including Capt. Gamble, would fly missions to drop leaflets telling the enemy to give up and turn in their rifles for food. Other pilots used the C-47 airplanes as gunships for air-to-ground attacks and for electronic jamming.

"We took off from Da Nang. Just scattered clouds that day and we were flying just a regular mission. And usually the enemy – the Viet Cong – would not shoot at us because we were unarmed," Gamble said.

Also onboard the pilot's old C-47 airplane were his co-pilot, a first lieutenant; a navigator, also a first lieutenant; the loadmaster, a tech sergeant; and the flight mechanic, also a tech sergeant. Two enlisted Soldiers went along for the ride. The loadmaster typically emptied the 200 boxes of leaflets down the chute during the flight for distribution to the natives.

But 30 minutes into the flight, over the An Hoa River and about 25 miles from the air base, the unexpected happened. A .50-caliber bullet from an enemy machinegun struck the bottom of the airplane's fuselage. The aircraft shook and the loadmaster said, "We're hit."

The bullet came up through the fuselage, hit the hydraulic line, went through the left wing and into the left engine. The left engine caught fire immediately. Even though Gamble feathered the engine and shut it down, it was still burning and started to burn into the left wing.

"After we shut it down, we had to make a decision whether to bail the crew out or fly back to Da Nang," he said. "I decided to try to fly it back because in this area of Vietnam they weren't taking any prisoners."

He notified the air traffic control that they had an emergency and made a left turn to return to Da Nang. But the fuel tank in the left wing exploded and smoke and heat filled the cockpit. The airplane was flying sideways on one engine.

"I'm starting to pray now that I made the right decision and we can make

Vietnam revisited Part 305 in series

it back to the base. I'm saying to God please don't let me die in this unforsaken place that I don't want to be anyway," Gamble said. "I'm also thinking that if I die here I'll never see my friends again back in the States."

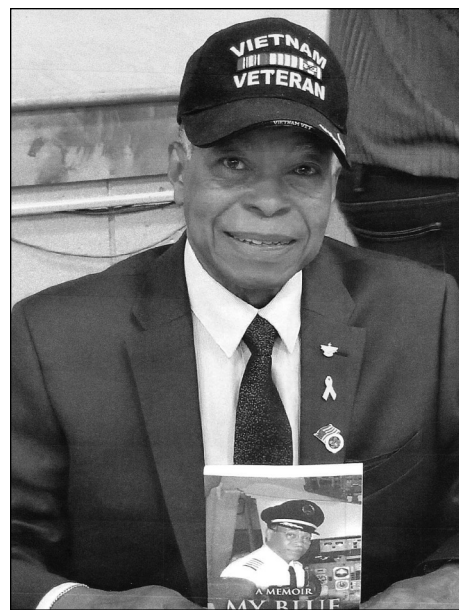
The plane was flying on one engine and losing altitude. Gamble told the loadmaster to dump all the leaflet boxes out the exit door; and the two Soldiers helped the loadmaster comply to lighten the airplane's load. They were within about 10 miles of the base.

"And when the air traffic control tower sees us, they tell us 'You're too low. You're not going to make it to the runway,'" Gamble said. "And now I'm really thinking. And this time I'm saying 'God don't let me die in this airplane because if I do I'll never see my mom again.' I'm thinking: my mom who I love so dearly because I never knew my dad. My mom, who has had the most influence in my life. My mom, whose husband shot and killed her brother right in front of her eyes. And my mom, who did not let her brother's death destroy her but used it as a tool to make her stronger.

"So that's when I really believe that my belief in God and with her courage and strength, that I would make it to the runway. Going from doubt to courage."

He straightened out the plane to keep it airborne. Amazingly the aircraft touched down at the front edge of the runway. It had no brakes because it had lost all the hydraulic fluid. The airplane rolled to a stop and Gamble told everyone to evacuate. The loadmaster replied that they couldn't because the fire and smoke was so intense it blocked the exit doorway net. The fire trucks hadn't made it to the scene because they had to wait until the airplane came to a complete stop. Fortunately the base helicopter, nicknamed Pedro, arrived and hovered above the burning plane. The wind from its blades pushed the flames and smoke enough so everyone could scramble out the exit. All seven of the plane's occupants got out safely with just some bruises from the flight.

"We weren't out of it two minutes before the auxiliary fuel tank exploded and the airplane was totally destroyed by fire," Gamble said. "So if we had flown that aircraft another two minutes, that airplane would've exploded in flight and I wouldn't be talking to you today. Ev-



Courtesy photo

Madison native Carl Gamble, of Matthews, N.C., wrote the memoir "My Blue Yonder."

erybody onboard would've been killed." Gamble, 78, now residing in Matthews, North Carolina, near Charlotte, received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters. He also received the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

The Tennessee State University graduate initially decided to become a pilot when he would see fighters flying overhead while he was picking cotton in the cottonfields of Madison as a child. He earned his commission from Air Force ROTC at Tennessee State in 1965 and he finished 56 weeks of flight training at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas in February 1968 before going to Vietnam.

After eight years, he left the Air Force as a captain in 1973. He became a pilot with Piedmont Airlines out of Winston Salem, North Carolina, in 1974. In March 1984 his flight from Charlotte to Miami was hijacked to Havana, Cuba. The hijacker was arrested in Havana, the airliner refueled and arrived safely in Miami. Gamble retired in 2003 after 29 years with Piedmont and US Airways, a predecessor of today's American Airlines.

He and his wife of 48 years, Elaine, reside in Matthews where he has a real estate company. Their son, Davian, and daughter, Leilana Vaughan, both reside in Charlotte. They have four grandchildren. Gamble's book, "My Blue Yonder," a memoir about his journey from picking cotton to piloting one of the world's largest airplanes, was published in 2018 by BookLocker.com. Gamble became the first black pilot inducted into



Courtesy photo

The then 1st Lt. Carl Gamble takes flight training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, before going to Vietnam in 1968.



Courtesy photo

Carl Gamble retires as an airline pilot in 2003 after 29 years with Piedmont Airlines and US Airways.

the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes in 2018. He has a 100% disability rating from Veterans Affairs.

Gamble belongs to the Charlotte Social Connections, the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals and the Black Airline Aviator Pioneers.

He shared his thoughts on this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

"We've come a long ways but we still have a long ways to go," he said. "We have veterans now that are participating in dialogue and events that are non-productive. There could be a lot more dialogue about what's going on in our country today. I would not like to think Vietnam and our other wars are not a wasted cause. Peace and love to all our veterans around the world."

Editor's note: This is the 305th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Identification cards change for military family members

By JO ANITA MILEY

Garrison Public Affairs

The Garrison Directorate of Human Resources Military Personnel Division on Redstone Arsenal wants to inform the community about the Next Generation Uniformed Services ID cards.

These will replace the current identification cards issued to retired and reserve members, family members of uniformed service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with Department of Defense policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges and DOD bases.

Patrons will receive the Next Generation ID when their ID card expires. The Department of Defense is transitioning from its paper-based Uniformed Services Identification card to a more secure, next generation USID card. The Next Generation card will incorporate an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and it will be printed on a plastic cardstock.

“Our ID card section services a large number of individuals, so we have to get the word out,” Edward Adams, human resources supervisor, said. “Initial issuance of the Next Generation USID card began in July 2020 at select DOD ID card facilities and was implemented at Redstone a few months ago. Many of our patrons are not aware of the change so we want to raise awareness on this.”

The Next Generation card does not change the populations who are eligible to receive the current card. USID cards are issued to retired and reserve members, family members of uniformed service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DOD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges and defense bases.

“Currently-issued USID cards remain valid through their expiration date,” Ross Gagliano, chief of Military Personnel Division, said. “In an effort to limit the impact on the ID card issuance facilities, cards will not be reissued solely for the purpose of obtaining the Next Generation USID card. Individuals with an indefinite expiration date on their current USID card should wait until summer 2021 to have their Next Generation USID card issued. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the DOD extended the majority of expiring ID cards allowing them to remain valid from March 2020 through June 30, 2021. This does not supersede requirements for benefit eligibility. We encourage patrons with questions to please contact us directly regarding specific questions.

“Individuals requesting more information regarding the rollout of the new Next Generation USID on Redstone are directed to contact the One Stop ID Card Section at 842-2413 or go to <https://home.army.mil/Redstone> to get to the ID card page or for information on ID cards in general. The only way to schedule an appointment to get an ID card is through this website.”

Know your laws: Keeping up with court opinions

By AMY WASYLUKA

Huntsville attorney

Heraclitus said “there is nothing permanent except change.” Nowhere is this truer than in case law. After their creation, laws are put into the real world where they may come into play in unanticipated ways or unique fact situations. When this happens, and when those laws are challenged in the courts, they may be clarified or modified to make them consistent with legislative intent or controlling legal precedent. Additionally, we have seen people and organizations attempt to use the court system to limit or diminish laws they don’t like and expand laws that they do like. Finally, courts themselves may come across situations where they believe the law should be changed and call upon either a higher court or the legislature to do so. This means that the status of our case law both in the state and country is constantly changing.

For example, in a 2013 case, *Bailey vs. the City of Ragland*, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals invited the Alabama Supreme Court to modify existing law. In that case, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals dismissed a case where the prosecution failed to introduce the

ordinance the defendant allegedly violated. Although the defendant did not specifically raise the issue at trial, the defendant did file a general statement that the state had failed to prove their case. Existing Alabama Supreme Court precedent provided that a general statement was sufficient and the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals agreed; however, two of the justices wrote concurring opinions inviting the Supreme Court to modify their precedent and change the law.

Additionally, in a 2012 case, *Nelms vs. Nelms*, the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals opened up new sources of income for consideration in divorce cases when it addressed a case of first impression in Alabama. In that case the Court of Civil Appeals clarified that Alabama courts can consider and use veterans disability benefits as a source of income for purposes of alimony so long as those benefits were not received in lieu of retirement benefits. Previous Alabama case law had not specifically allowed for the consideration of those benefits.

More recently, in *Stryker vs. City of Homewood*, (Oct. 21, 2020), the 11th Circuit overturned a summary judgment award finding police officers in an excessive force case could not be sued due to qualified immunity. There the court

found that the unwarranted and continuing use of force against a compliant person violates that person’s 4th Amendment right against unreasonable search and seizure and therefore the officers were not entitled to the protection of qualified immunity. This result may be instructive for future claimants to successfully defeat qualified immunity in excessive force cases.

Keeping up with case law can be important not just for attorneys, but also for those with cases pending before a court or those who want to keep up with changes to laws in areas of particular interest. For those interested in keeping up to date with any changes, the opinions of both state and federal appellate courts are available online as follows:

Alabama Supreme Court opinions generally come out each Friday and are available at <https://judicial.alabama.gov/decision/supremecourtdecisions>.

Alabama Court of Civil Appeals opinions also generally come out each Friday and are available at <https://judicial.alabama.gov/decision/civildecisions>.

Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals opinions come out on Fridays and are available online at <https://judicial.alabama.gov/decision/criminaldecisions>.
11th Circuit Court of Appeals opin-



ions are available at www.ca11.uscourts.gov/published-opinions.

U.S. Supreme Court Opinions are available at www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/slipopinion/20.

Editor’s note: The opinions in this column do not constitute legal advice nor do they establish an attorney-client relationship. If you have questions concerning the issues discussed, contact an attorney of your choice. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

COVID-19 vaccine distributed at Fox Army Health Center

By **JONATHAN STINSON**

Assistant editor

jonathan.stinson@theredstonerocket.com

Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor and Lt. Col. Fran Boudreau, from Fox Army Health Center, addressed the COVID-19 vaccine during a recent town hall.

They said receiving the vaccination is voluntary and urged people to make a thoughtful and informed decision about whether they should get the vaccine.

“Is all the data in? No,” Boudreau said. “But, from what we can see, what’s the risk of getting COVID and having a significantly poor outcome versus what’s the risk of taking the vaccine and having a significantly poor outcome?”

“This is something that each individual has to balance. That’s why it’s voluntary. Personally, I received my shot two weeks ago and I’ve encouraged it to all my family.”

Mellor, who has yet to receive a vaccine, said when it was his time to take it he would.

“I absolutely will be taking that advice as well and giving the same to my family,” Mellor said.

Fox Army Health Center posted the following to their Facebook page:

Fox is now offering the COVID-19 vaccine to personnel that meet the criteria for Phase 1B in accordance with the modified DOD population schema. This includes:

- National critical capabilities
- Personnel deploying outside of the United States, or preparing to deploy within the next 90 days
- Tricare beneficiaries age 75 and older
- Front line essential workers

See Vaccine on page 27

Vaccine

Continued from page 26

These personnel may schedule their vaccine through the Patient Centered Resource System at www.redstone.amedd.army.mil/PCRS/login. Once registered, you may select the COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Signup button that will guide you through the appointment scheduling process. You will also receive a reminder text message on the day of your appointment.

Note that the system will not allow patients to make a same day appointment, so make appropriate future arrangements.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit <https://tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/COVID-vaccine?fbclid=IwAR3HZ9JDpage0Pfdt-hlAsfSiLhoUcFe3zwEf8V3PmAjrZOOvy9yblqwim4>.

On Jan. 25, the Birmingham VA Health Care System expanded its COVID-19 clinic after partnering with the United Way.

The new clinic will be located at the United Way building, 3600 8th Ave. South, Birmingham, and will administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for veterans 65 and older by appointment only and subject to available supply.

Veterans 65 and older can call 866-487-4243 to schedule an appointment or their local CBOC.

While there are still a number of unanswered questions surrounding the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines, Military Health System has compiled a few frequently asked questions. Below are the answers to a few of them. For more specific information, people are being encouraged to reach out to Fox Army Health Center or their primary care provider.

What is an Emergency Use Authorization?

A: Drugs and vaccines have to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure that only safe and effective products are available to the American public. During public health emergencies, when there is good scientific reason to believe that a product is safe and is likely to treat or prevent disease, the FDA may authorize its use through an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), even if definitive proof of the effectiveness of the drug or vaccine is not known. FDA pre-licensure approval is considered for treatment or prevention of diseases that are very serious.

How will I be able to keep track of what vaccine I got and when I need to get a second dose?

A: All vaccine recipients will be provided a copy of the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card after receipt of the vaccine. It is recommended that the second-dose appointment be made at the time of initial vaccinations, or instructions provided on procedures for second dose follow-up. If a vaccine recipient has a smartphone, it is recommended that they take a photo of the vaccination record card as a back-up copy and set a calendar reminder for receipt of the second dose.

If I've already recovered from COVID-19 infection, do I need to be vaccinated?

A: Because the duration of immunity from natural infection with COVID-19 is unknown, vaccine may have value in protecting people who have already had the disease. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. Talk with your provider if you have been previously infected with COVID-19.

If I get vaccinated, do I still need to wear a mask and practice social distancing?

A: Masks and physical distancing will still be necessary until a large proportion of the population is vaccinated and the vaccine is proven to provide long-term protection. Global and national public health authorities are expected to continue to recommend wearing masks and practicing physical distancing, for everyone, until pandemic risk of COVID-19 is substantially reduced.

Courtesy photo

West Point bound

Christina Scruggs, daughter of retired Lt. Col. Sam and Kyong Scruggs of Harvest, has received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. She will graduate in May from Westminster Christian Academy and report to West Point in June. She plans to major in chemistry.



Federal

Space Station research marks two decades of breakthroughs

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Over the past two decades, the International Space Station has been helping NASA explore farther into space and benefitting life back on Earth. Among the historic scientific breakthroughs achieved, astronauts have practiced stimulating the low-Earth orbit economy, growing food in microgravity, deploying cube satellites from station, and monitoring Earth from a unique perspective.

Stimulating the low-Earth orbit economy: From satellite deployment to in-space research, a vibrant commercial space economy has developed, with a value that now exceeds \$345 billion. The space station has been a key part of supporting that growth.

Commercial activities validate business models and expand the numbers of entities with experience in conducting business in space. Commercialization of low-Earth orbit frees up resources NASA needs to continue its exploration of space. By having companies join forces with government agencies, space exploration can continue, while providing access to a platform that helps create jobs, build revenues, and create new products and services for people on Earth.

Through the ISS U.S. National Lab, many companies are able to access the space station and conduct research and technology development investigations in microgravity. The multitude of studies has worked to improve products such as shampoo, fabric softener, and the processes used to create retinal implants.

Growing food in microgravity: As humans explore farther from Earth, the ability to grow food is a solution to several challenges of long-duration missions. The packaged diet used by crews in low-Earth orbit works well but relies on frequent resupply missions. During a mission to Mars, the vitamins and quality of packaged food would degrade over time and couldn't easily be restocked.

Fresh produce provides nutritious meals over multiple years and reduces cargo requirements for the trip. New solutions for watering, lighting and growing plants have been explored on station to prepare for these missions. In 2015, astronauts sampled their first space-grown salad. Eight types of leafy greens have been grown in the Veggie facility for astronauts to eat, fine tuning the best techniques.

Deployment of cube satellites from station: Cube satellites – one of the



NASA photo

NASA astronaut Jessica Meir cuts Mizuna mustard green leaves grown aboard the International Space Station for the VEG-04B space agriculture study, which is helping scientists learn how to provide fresh food to space crews on long-duration missions.

smallest types of satellites – provide an inexpensive way to perform science and technology demonstrations in space. One way these compact cubes can reach Earth orbit is by hitching a ride to the space station, where they are deployed from an airlock. Sharing the cost of a rocket launch with the other groups launching payloads to the space station can make deploying a CubeSat more affordable.

Putting these satellites into low-Earth orbit gives researchers and companies a unique perspective on Earth. More than 250 CubeSats have been deployed from station, performing numerous technology demonstrations, providing Internet services, and more. NASA's CubeSat Launch initiative provides a pathway to conduct research in space for CubeSats developed by educational institutions,

nonprofit organizations, and NASA centers and programs.

Monitoring Earth from a unique perspective: At about 250 miles above Earth on a 90-minute orbit and an orbital path over 90% of Earth's population, the station affords a unique perspective that cannot be obtained on the ground, and it can provide improved spatial resolution and variable lighting conditions compared to the sun-synchronous orbits of typical Earth remote-sensing satellites.

When scientists can better comprehend and monitor water and energy cycles, ecosystem changes, geological hazards, and population migrations, they can offer useful information regarding climate changes, as well as assist with natural disaster response.

The orbiting lab has evolved into a robust platform for researchers studying

Earth's water, air, land masses, vegetation, and more. ECOSTRESS analyzes water stress in plants, while GEDI looks at the same areas of Earth, analyzing carbon stored in forests. Though the many experiments collect data individually, together they provide a set of measurements that pushes the leading edge of environmental research.

Editor's note: This is the third in a five-part series highlighting scientific and technological breakthroughs that have been achieved over the past two decades as a result of International Space Station science. This research helps humanity explore farther into space while also benefiting life on Earth. The Payload Operations Integration Center at Marshall Space Flight Center schedules, assists with, and coordinates all experiments on the station's U.S. Orbital Segment.

Burt becomes deputy director of Marshall center

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Rick Burt has been named deputy director at Marshall Space Flight Center following Paul McConaughey's reassignment to NASA headquarters. Bill Hill succeeded Burt as director of Marshall's Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate.

Burt will share responsibility for leading one of NASA's largest field installations, with almost 6,000 civil service and contractor personnel, an annual budget of approximately \$3.6 billion, and a broad spectrum of human spaceflight, science and technology development.

Throughout his 31-year NASA career, Burt has held multiple technical management and leadership positions. He has made significant contributions to NASA's spaceflight programs, including the Space Shuttle Program, Constellation Program, and Space Launch System Program. Since his appointment to the Senior Executive Service in 2006, Burt has held several executive leadership roles including manager of the Ares I first stage, director of the Test Laboratory, and SLS chief safety officer. Burt

had been director of the Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate since 2016.

The Senior Executive Service is the personnel system that covers most of the top managerial, supervisory, and policy positions in the executive branch of the federal government.

Prior to his NASA career, Burt worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority for 12 years in numerous leadership positions in its nuclear power program.

Hill will have primary management responsibility for planning and directing safety, reliability, and quality engineering and assurance operations for Marshall.

Hill joined NASA in 1994 and has contributed greatly to the success of the agency's spaceflight programs. Also appointed to the SES in 2006, he has held numerous executive leadership positions including deputy associate administrator for Exploration Systems Development and assistant associate administrator for the space shuttle at NASA headquarters. He joined Marshall in 2019 as director of advanced technology in the Science and Technology Office and has been deputy director of the Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate since July.



Rick Burt



Bill Hill

Sports

12U Lakewood gives Redstone Rockets their first loss

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Lakewood's youngest player made the difference. Eric Foster made three of five free throws in the last 15 seconds as Lakewood beat Redstone's 12-and-under Rockets 32-27 Thursday. The 10-year-old finished with 18 points on four 3-pointers.

"No pressure," Foster said of his clutch free throws in the Youth Center.

Asked how his team won, he replied "teamwork." And asked how he felt afterward, he said "Good."

Lakewood coach Eric Foster, his father, laughed when told of Eric III's postgame

responses.

"He's 10 years old. He's the youngest one out there. He's in fourth grade," the coach said.

Camron Pryor had six points and 11 rebounds for Lakewood (2-0). Comas Jones Jr. made four assists and four steals.

"Moving the ball around, getting open looks, taking good shots," Foster, the coach, said of the keys to the win. "Controlling the game. Smart decisions."

Jalen Venter had 17 points, 10 rebounds and three steals for Redstone. This was the Rockets' first loss in six games but they beat Metro 37-30 in Thursday's nightcap.

Lakewood led 13-6 after one quarter, 16-8 at halftime and 20-19 after three quarters. The score was tied 27-all with 30 seconds left. But three free throws by Foster and two by Pryor finished the scoring.

"First half we started out slow and our big (center Venter) didn't show up till the second half," Rockets coach Johnnie Irby said. "So we started out in a slump because that was a big presence missed in the middle. But after we settled down and started playing defense, we started getting easy buckets which made the game a very exciting ending. We just came up short.

"Kids played hard and games like this is the reason I coach."

Rockets 37, Metro 30: Jalen Venter had 14 points and 12 rebounds for his second double-double of the day.

The Redstone center also had three steals for the Rockets (6-1). Braylon Lawson added eight points and six rebounds.

"I think we played well," Venter said. "I just kept shooting bad shots when I should've been going in (closer to the basket). And also when we get rebounds we need to start hitting the backboard (for putbacks).

The score was 13-13 after one quarter. Metro (3-3) led 20-19 at halftime and 24-22 after three quarters. Jerriel Alexander had 11 points and Chad Robinson added nine for the visitors.

"We didn't rebound well," Metro coach Johnathan Alexander said. "We got out-rebounded and they played harder."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Jalen Venter scores Redstone's last three baskets in the 32-27 loss to Lakewood.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Lakewood's Camron Pryor (10) grabs a defensive rebound in front of Redstone's Elijah Naylon in the first half. At right is Lakewood's Eric Foster (2).

10U Redstone's rally falls short against International

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Henry Davison dominated under the basket as International built a double-digit halftime lead.

But host Redstone rallied in the second half of this 10-and-under basketball game.

With a final flurry, Davison and the Warriors held on to win 30-24 on Jan. 24 at the Youth Center. The 5-foot-4 small forward finished with 17 points, 18 rebounds, two blocks and three steals.

"Before the game, Coach told me to work on banking it off of the square and so I did that and it really helped," Davison, a third-year player who just turned 11, said. "And my coach also told me to use my long arms and reach out and grab

rebounds in front of other players."

Ben Rogers added nine points with two 3-pointers, three assists and three steals for the Warriors (5-1). When Redstone closed within 23-19 with 3:30 left, his 3-pointer made it 26-19 at 2:30. Magnus Warmsey grabbed 10 rebounds.

International led 8-0 after one quarter, 19-3 at halftime and 20-11 after three quarters.

"I think we kind of calmed down (to regain control)," Warriors coach Martez Rogers said. "And we started going inside out and going to our big man (Davison). And once we pressured the ball, we slowed down their scoring."

Ben Rodriguez had 13 points and seven rebounds for Redstone (3-2). Kameron Battle added nine points with two 3-pointers.

"We got down big early," Redstone's



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Kameron Battle (14) tries to get around International's Ben Rogers.

acting coach Justin Higginbotham said. "The big guy, we'd never really seen anybody as big as him. It was tough to get him under control but I was proud of the



Photo by Skip Vaughn

International's Henry Davison had a double-double with 17 points and 18 rebounds for the visiting Warriors.

guys, proud of the team. After we made some adjustments, we got him under control and battled back."

Hammerin' Hank leaves powerful legacy on and off field

He was the best there was and the best there ever will be.

That's no exaggeration. In baseball Hank Aaron was simply the best, better than all the rest.

Baseball was my first love as a kid growing up in Philadelphia. Of course I rooted for my hometown Phillies. But I knew the Braves, who moved from Milwaukee to Atlanta in 1966, had this guy Aaron who was the baddest dude to ever step on the field.

He could do it all. But he was most known for his prodigious power at the plate. With quick hands and powerful wrists, Aaron would hit the ball over the fence again and again and again.

I remember sitting in my room in Magnolia Dormitory at Auburn University in spring 1974. I was preoccupied with getting passing grades in my classes and getting dates with the prettiest girls I could find in those days. But I still watched baseball when I could on my little television with the rabbit ears.

I watched the game April 8, 1974, when Aaron hit home run number 715 off the Dodgers' Al Downing to break

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn
Rocket editor

Babe Ruth's exalted record. Because he was black, he dealt with threatening letters and death threats from prejudiced fans not wanting him to surpass the career home run record of Ruth, a white man. Aaron handled everything with class. He just did his job. He didn't complain. He just kept working and finally achieved his goal.

Aaron finished his career with 755 home runs. His record was eventually broken by Barry Bonds with 762 but Bonds' achievement will forever be tainted with suspicions that he used performance enhancing drugs.

There are no such questions about Aaron. The Mobile native was simply the best on and off the field. We lost this legendary superstar Jan. 22 when he died at age 86. Rest in peace, number 44.

Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?

"I was All-State as a basketball player at Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery in 1979," Maria Goodman, a program analyst for the Missile Defense Agency, said. "I played point guard. We made the finals of regional so we were one step from qualifying for the state tournament that year. That was a while ago. My friends still talk about that. I had scholarship offers but I did not play (in college)."

Goodman, 59, from Montgomery, graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1979. She received a bachelor's in finance from the University of Alabama in 1983 and a master's in operations research from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 1989.

The Huntsville resident has two sons, Jerrod, 29, and Sean, 22, both of Huntsville. "I'm an avid golfer, I'm still an athlete," Goodman said of her hobbies. "And I work in my sorority (Delta Sigma Theta)." She roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Maria Goodman, of the Missile Defense Agency, is an avid golfer.



KEEP
CALM
AND
WASH
YOUR
HANDS



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick!



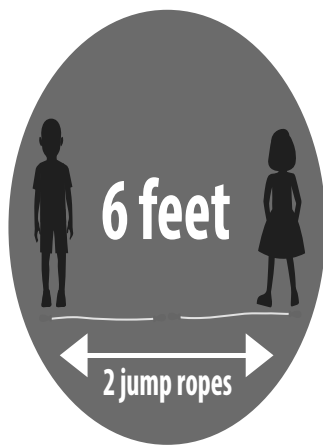
Wash your
hands often



Wear a mask



Cover your coughs
and sneezes



Keep **6 feet** of space
between you and
your friends



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Senior softball leagues

Huntsville Senior Softball is recruiting players for the spring. The three leagues include: Rockets, 55-and-up; Recreation, 63-and-up; and Triads, 71-and-up. The season will begin in late April; and they play two nights a week through Labor Day. Players are needed. For the Rockets, email league director Chris Maggio at cmaggio51@aol.com. For more information about Huntsville Senior Softball, email Huntsville-srsoftball-info@googlegroups.com or call Becky Rollston of the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center at 880-7081.

Conferences & Meetings

Sergeants major association

The Sergeants Major Association is still meeting every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. They are not meeting at a physical location because of the pandemic but they are meeting virtually through Zoom. Attendees must download the Zoom app on either their home computer, laptop or mobile device to participate. Once you get into the Zoom app, you will see Meeting ID number. Type in 710 211-4188. Then you will see the "Join meeting" button. If you have problems getting into Zoom, call retired Sgt. Maj. Willene Orr 410-533-2685.

Lance/MLRS veterans reunion

The 13th Lance missile and Multiple Launch Rocket System veterans reunion is Sept. 2-4 at the Marriott Hotel SeaWorld in San Antonio, Texas. Twelve additional seats will be reserved by June depending on the status of the pandemic. If interested call retired Sgt. 1st Class John Williams 210-209-2000.

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 conducts a monthly meeting every second Saturday of the month at noon at the American Legion Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. The detachment is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The league is a veterans/military service organization formed to promote the interest of the Marine Corps, to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps. For information call Commandant Earl Hokanson 881-2852, Senior Vice Commandant Albert Mallory 379-2904 or Adjutant Stephen Cecil 829-1839.

Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at

the American Legion Post 237 at 2900 Drake Ave. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

Miscellaneous Items

Men's ministry

Men's Ministry addresses the needs of men and plants seeds for spiritual growth in Christ. Call Harry Hobbs at 783-1793 for more information.

Young citizen of month

Do you know a young citizen in grades 7-12 who has done something special and deserves recognition? Rocket City Broadcasting/Community Awareness for Youth conduct the Young Citizen of the Month award program. Each month's recipient will meet the Huntsville mayor and City Council members, receive a Huntsville Human Relations Commission certificate and other prize packages. Sponsors include Rocket City Broadcasting, Huntsville Utilities, Huntsville Optimist Club, Huntsville Police Department, CAFY and the Florida Institute of Technology Huntsville Site. To nominate a young citizen, visit mystar991.com or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

Family advocacy advice

Jeannie Johnston, Army Community Service division chief, recommends the following website for good information about coping during this difficult time: www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-l-news.

AMC Inspector General

The Army Materiel Command Inspector General provides specialized support to AMC and Redstone Arsenal to assist military personnel, Army civilians, family members and contractors to obtain the help needed to resolve an issue. The AMC IG serves as the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the AMC commander. The AMC IG Team is a fair and impartial fact finder that will accept confidential and anonymous issues and complaints for assistance and resolution. Occasionally, requests for assistance will contain allegations that may require an informal inquiry or formal investigation; inquiry and investigation conclusions will be based on the preponderance of credible evidence. Inspections and investigations conducted by an IG or IG team are considered an IG record and cannot be used as a basis for adverse action against an individual without the written approval of the Inspector General of the Army. The IG is prepared to assist and operates under strict guidelines of confidentiality. To learn more about the IG, contact: DSN 320-7910/commercial 450-7910 or email usarmy.redstone.usamc.mbx.ig@mail.mil.

See Announcements on page 35

Marshall children's center

The Marshall Child Development Center, serving both the Marshall Space Flight Center and Redstone families, has openings. MCDC offers care for infants through pre-kindergarten children and has current availability in most classes. Visit the website at <https://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/>. For more information, email Kelli.L.Wright@nasa.gov.

Commissary scholarships

The Scholarships for Military Children Program is now open and accepting applications for the 2021 school year. The scholarship program of Fisher House Foundation is administered by the Defense Commissary Agency. All applications will be submitted online only. Apply at www.militaryscholar.org.

Community assistance grants

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club 2020-21 community assistance grant applications are now open at rsamcc.org. Deadline to submit applications is Feb. 28. RSAMCC is a volunteer organization that salutes those who have served this country and promotes education, community and social welfare. The club recognizes it has an obligation to use its funds wisely and to ensure that it

donates to organizations that reflect the club's values, practice good stewardship and meet the needs of the local military community. All information and eligibility requirements are on the club website, rsamcc.org. For questions contact the community grant chair at rsamccgrants@gmail.com.

Merit award scholarships

Students who are affiliated with Redstone Arsenal are eligible for educational merit awards from the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club. Applications for this year's scholarships are now open at rsamcc.org. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28.

Masquerade gala

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club presents "Masquerade Gala in the Garden," Oct. 22 from 6-10 p.m. at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, benefiting the RSAMCC community assistance grants and merit scholarship awards. For information visit rsamcc.org.

Huntsville ballet performance

The Huntsville Ballet Company announces its return to the stage with

Rocket Announcements

"Bridge the Ballet" on Feb. 12-14 at the Dream Theater, 3401 Holmes Ave. The ballet's first production since COVID-19 is a fundraiser to ensure the ballet's survival through the pandemic. Performances are 7 p.m. Feb. 12, 2 and 7 p.m. Feb. 13 and 3 p.m. Feb. 14. All seats are socially distant; and masks are required. For tickets, information, or to make a donation, call the Huntsville Ballet 539-0961 or visit www.huntsvilleballet.org.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Jan. 11-15. The highest scores included Melt at BASF, 9800 Kellner Road SW, 100; Von Braun Center Mobile Hotdog Service, 700 Monroe St., 100; Von Braun Center Mars Music Hall, 700 Monroe St., 100; Von Braun Center Arena Beverage S, 700 Monroe St., 100; Von Braun Center Arena Beverage N, 700 Monroe St., 100; Von Braun Center Catering-South Hall, 700 Monroe St., 100; Urban Cookhouse at Northrop Grumman, 213 Wynn Drive NW, 100; Ez Greazy LLC, 3450 High-

way 53, Suite A, 100; Northside Coffee, 109 Northside Square, 100; Publix Super Market 574 (Produce), 4851 Whitesburg Drive, 100; Urban Cookhouse at SES, 248 Dunlop Boulevard, 100; and Mahogany's Hut, 185 Stewart Road, Toney, 100. The lowest scores included Checkers Lad 2 Foods Inc., 4000 University Drive, 81; Café 302, 2700 Winchester Road, 79; and Three Amigos, 3109 Drake Ave., 75.

Free financial benefits classes

The Employee Assistance Program and Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program present Free Financial Benefits Classes via Microsoft Teams. Classes include: March 3, Veterans Benefits; March 10, Long Term Care and Medicaid; and March 17, Tax Updates. All classes are from noon to 1:30 p.m. The instructor is Melanie Bradford Holliman, of Bradford and Holliman LLC, estate planning, elder law and special needs. Join the event via MS Teams at <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup>. For more information about the classes, email usarmy.redstone.id-readiness.mbx.redstone-eap@mail.mil.

Whatcha doing? Nothing you?
What about later? No plans, you?
Zip! Nada! Zero! Zilch! Nought!



You know what? I've
found the volunteers
I need to paint
parking lines
in the motor pool.



Jim Berch
26 Jan 21