

# Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

July 7, 2021

Vol. 70 No. 27

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL.

## CELEBRATING OUR ARMED FORCES



Photo by Eric Schultz

The Maneuver Center of Excellence Band from Fort Benning, Ga., performs during the Military Appreciation Night Concert in the Park in front of the Huntsville Museum of Art, June 28. This is among the activities during Armed Forces Celebration 2021, June 28-29 and Aug. 4, where the North Alabama region shows its support for our men and women in uniform. See more photos from last week's events inside today's Rocket.



### MILITARY

Materiel enterprise support critical to FORSCOM.

**PAGE 5**



### COMMUNITY

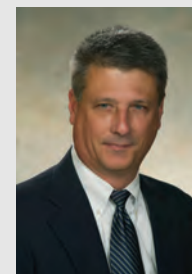
Veterans museum reopens in new facility in Athens.

**PAGE 19**

### FEDERAL

Space Launch System team stays mission-focused.

**PAGE 31**



### SPORTS

Redstone conquers community team.

**PAGE 35**



# RocketViews

## Let's take shot at moving forward instead of backward

You can't unring a bell. You can't put the genie back in the bottle. And, I doubt you'll be able to put masks back on people's faces.

Some of you might be surprised that the remarking of America is even a topic of conversation, but alas, it is because of the Delta variant of COVID-19.

For the most part, everything I've learned about this new variant has basically said "if you're vaccinated, you'll be fine."

This may come as a shock to some, but I'm no expert on infectious diseases. So, take my advice on that front like I was only slightly more informed on the topic than your neighbor who is always trying to sell you essential oils or healing crystals.

That said, most news sources say the scientific community seems to be in agreement on the efficacy of vaccines against all of the variants of COVID-19, and I'm going to stick with science.

The emergence of this new variant, which is said to be more transmissible than other versions of COVID-19, has brought us back to the same place we were about a year and a half ago when we had to start making some tough decisions.

We have to decide if we go back to using masks in public, if we shut down and send everybody home again in an attempt to let the virus die out, if we ignore it and hope for the best, or a combination of all three.

First, I don't mind wearing a mask should it be deemed necessary for me to do so. Right now I don't. I went and got vac-

inated, and I've been told that's enough. The question I have for myself about masks is the next time I get a cold, am I going to wear one in the office or will I be able to work from home?

Masks have been proven to help slow the transmission of germs and I hope they stick around, but I'm not optimistic that they will. People have an ingrained selfishness to them. It's probably a leftover survival instinct. Those tendencies are fine when it's me vs. you, but they fall short and create problems when it's us vs. a virus.

Do we need another shutdown? A better question would be could we survive one?

This time around we have a vaccine and that drastically changes the dynamics, because it gives an individual a way to protect themselves that doesn't rely on the cooperation of employers and governments to take actions like mask mandates, stay-at-home orders, or allowing for telework.

I could argue that an employer or government has a duty to take whatever actions are necessary to ensure the safety of the general public, but I can also see why they shouldn't and why that responsibility should rest solely with the individual.

While it would be a bad idea to ignore

this new variant and simply hope for the best, I don't think there are enough people who would abide by another mask mandate or stay-at-home order to justify the use of them.

So, while I don't support a government-mandated stay-at-home order or mask mandate, I have no problem with an employer requiring their workforce to be vaccinated, because it's the closest thing to a balanced solution we've got.

If an employer mandates that you must be vaccinated to work there, the individual retains some independence because they can choose not to work there if they don't want to be vaccinated.

I realize for some people that's not a good choice, but any choice is better than no choice, which is what you get when state and local governments get involved.

We'll probably never live in a world free of sickness or thousands of other malicious elements that are trying to kill you. So, waking up every day and having the ability to decide to do what you do is the best we can hope for on a good day.

At least when it comes to the Delta variant of COVID-19 we have the tools that allow us to decide for ourselves what level of precautions we want to take and if our job, our relationships, our existence is worth doing that day.

### On this date in history: July 7

**In 2005:** A series of four explosions occurred on London's transport system, killing 56 people, including four suicide bombers, and injuring over 700 others.

**In 1985:** Boris Becker became the youngest player ever to win Wimbledon at age 17.

**In 1981:** President Ronald Reagan appointed Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female member of the Supreme Court of the United States.

**In 1958:** President Dwight Eisenhower signed the Alaska Statehood Act into law.

**In 1865:** Four conspirators in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln were hanged.

**In 1863:** The United States began its first military draft; exemptions cost \$300.

### Quote of the week

“Where liberty dwells, there is my country.”

— Benjamin Franklin

### 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](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com).

## RedstoneRocket

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 4488 Room A-213, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is Tennessee Valley Media Co., Inc., located at 201 1st Ave., SE, Decatur, AL 35603.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

**Email:** [samuel.c.vaughn2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:samuel.c.vaughn2.civ@mail.mil)

Email classified ads to [rocketads@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:rocketads@theredstonerocket.com)

Rocket articles are available at:

Editorial office: 256-876-1500 Editorial Fax: 256-955-0133 Retail Advertising: 256-340-2463 Classified Advertising: 256-260-2218 Advertising Fax: 256-260-2211

<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>

#### Rocket Staff

**Editor-in-chief:** Col. Glenn Mellor, Garrison commander

**Director of Public Affairs:** Julie Frederick

**Editor:** Skip Vaughn

**Assistant editor:** Jonathan Stinson

**Staff writers:** Emily Strickland, Rebecca Sallee

**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](mailto:donna.counts@theredstonerocket.com)

The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley Media Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Depart-

ment of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army or the civilian publisher TN Valley Media, of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The Redstone Rocket is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Redstone Rocket newspaper are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the Public Affairs Office. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of Redstone Arsenal Public Affairs Office.

Published by Tennessee Valley Media, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense, under

exclusive written contract with the Department of Army. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, physical handicap, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to any personnel at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates for off post for the Redstone Rocket are \$35 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual). We do not send subscription renewal notices.

# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

## What do you like about summer?

"Being able to do cookouts. Having a garden where you can go out and get fresh vegetables from the garden," Tim Shelton, a firefighter/EMT at Station 4 on the Airfield, said. "A good summer rain where you can sit on the porch. It's warm, and enjoy the rain. The fact that the kids can go out and swim in the pool. We live down by the river so you can watch the boats go by."

Shelton, 46, from Bellville, Ohio, returned to Redstone Fire Department in 2019. He was here 2015-17 and spent 2018 at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia. A firefighter since 1993, he has 18 years of federal service. The Rogersville resident and his wife of nine years, Ana, have four children: daughters, Maria, 8, Cheyenne and twin Oxana, 6; and son, Dakota, 4. Shelton roots for the Detroit Red Wings.



Tim Shelton

# Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

## Why you serve in the Army.

"One, it's a sense of family obligation," Lt. Col. Justin Cole, an intelligence officer with Army Reserve Sustainment Command, said. "My family all served - father, mother, grandfather, uncles. So service to others has always been a key value in my life. Two, it's a way for me to show my children how I want them to serve others as well. I started out, did a year and a half (1998-2000) in National Guard during college. Eight years active duty from 2000-2008. And I've been serving in the Reserves since January 2009."

Cole, 42, from Virginia Beach, Virginia, arrived at Redstone from northern Virginia in 2015. The military intelligence officer has 22 years of service. He was deployed to Kosovo in 2001 and to Iraq in 2003-04 and again from 2007-08. The Gurley resident and his wife of 21 years, Maggie, have five children: son Miles, 19, daughter Elise, 15, son Toby, 13, son Wyatt, 10, and daughter Juliette, 7. Cole enjoys camping, being a volunteer firefighter/EMT with Keel Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, hiking and whitewater rafting. He roots for the Cleveland Indians and the Virginia Tech Hokies.



Lt. Col. Justin Cole

# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

**Name:** Shyann Lettis

**Position:** Front desk volunteer at Army Community Service

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

A police officer. I just wanted to make a difference and help people. The difference between right and wrong. I was a police officer for 20 years (from 2000-20) in Toronto, Canada.

**What do you hope to accomplish in 2021?**

I hope to return to Canada and visit my family which I haven't been able to do because of the pandemic.

**What is the best part about your job?**

It's learning the new experiences of Army families and helping direct them to the resources that they need.

**Who is your hero, and why?**

My heroes are the men and women who serve. Because they're doing something that is bigger than themselves.

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

I want to say just make the world a



better place. Spread kindness, be a good human. That's what I want to do for a day.

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

The one that I live by was from my (paternal) grandfather. "Live your life well because one of these days you're going to turn around and you're going to be 70 and you missed it."

**What do you like to do to pass the time?**

I enjoy Guntersville State Park. I love it there. The lake, sunsets, a cold beer.

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents June 20-26:

**June 22:** In a one-vehicle accident near Ajax Road, a government vehicle struck a metal grill resulting in minor damage to the front passenger side.

**June 24:** Redstone police responded to Pogo Road because a NASA security officer encountered a suspicious vehicle. Redstone police made contact with the driver and requested a National Crime Information Center license check. The check revealed the driver had a warrant with Morgan County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear on a traffic offense. The driver

was apprehended and later remanded into the custody of a Morgan County corrections officer. The vehicle was removed by a local wrecker service.

**June 25:** A two-vehicle accident occurred near the intersection of Patton Road and Redstone Road. Traveling north on Patton, a government vehicle slowed to stop at the intersection when it was rear-ended. Both vehicles had functional damages. The driver of the trailing vehicle was cited for following too closely.

Citations included three for failure to obey traffic control device, two for following too closely, 11 for expired tags and 13 for speeding.

# Know your laws: Child support obligation

By AMY WASYLUKA  
Huntsville attorney

For parents going through a divorce or modification, child support is often a major point of contention. Even more fraught is the issue of post-minority support. Generally speaking, post-minority support is what it sounds like. It is an obligation to pay support for children after they attain the age of majority. In Alabama, the age of majority is 19.

The most common thing that comes to mind when many think of post-minority support is college expenses. Prior to 2013, courts could enter orders requiring non-custodial parents to pay post-minority support for college expenses. However, in 2013, the Alabama Supreme Court held courts “could no longer force non-custodial parents to provide post-minority educational support, except for

cases where orders to do so were already in place.” Despite the ruling of Ex parte Christopher, parents remain free to voluntarily agree to pay post-minority educational support.

However, college expenses are not the only context in which the issue of post-minority support arises. Post-minority support is also important in cases where parents have children who may need support past the age of majority due to disability and the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals has held Ex parte Christopher does not bar the court from imposing post-minority support in this context provided certain criteria are met. These criteria include (1) that adult child is not capable of earning an income sufficient



to provide for their expenses; and, (2) that the adult child’s mental or physical disability is the cause of his or her inability to earn that income.

Parents who are concerned about the need for or imposition of post-minority support should contact an attorney to advise them about how that issue could impact their particular case. The Alabama State

Bar and the Huntsville/Madison County Bar Association provide attorney referrals. You can look for an attorney using the Huntsville Madison County Bar Association’s Find a Lawyer Service at [www.huntsvillebar.org/directory](http://www.huntsvillebar.org/directory) or by calling the Alabama State Bar’s Lawyer Referral Line at 800-392-5660. If you cannot afford an attorney, you can

seek representation through the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program or Legal Services Alabama. You can contact the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program at 539-2275 or at <https://vlpmadisoncounty.com/contact/>.

You can contact Legal Services Alabama at <https://legalservicesalabama.org/apply-for-services/> or by calling 866-456-4995 for English speakers or 888-835-3505 for Spanish speakers.

*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.*

## DAU Corner

### Pricing Forum Series, July 2021

Wednesday, 07/14/2021 12:00 P.M. CDT <https://www.dau.edu/events>

Event Details Coming Soon

### Acquisition Topics: Take Charge! Leading the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Acquisition Workforce

Thursday, 07/15/2021 10:00 A.M. CDT <https://www.dau.edu/events>

The content in this webcast is based upon feedback provided by several hundred acquisition professionals who participated in prototype training offered earlier this year. DAU is encouraging everyone to join the discussions in order to maximize the diversity of perspectives on these important topics.

### COR Office Hours

Tuesday, 07/20/2021 10:45 A.M. CDT <https://www.dau.edu/events>

DAU hosts the virtual COR Office Hours every Tuesday starting at 11:45 a.m. ET for one hour. These live virtual office hours were created for the DoD COR community, which not only includes CORs, but also program managers, contract specialists, contracting officers and requiring activities who manage CORs. The idea is to connect people, ideas, resources and information in this community together. Those who are in acquisition coded positions can earn one CLP for attending the whole hour and those CORs who are not can earn one hour towards the COR refresher training requirement.

## Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

### Deterrence against threats

WASHINGTON – Should a near-peer adversary attempt to encroach on territories in the Indo-Pacific, the Army will be prepared to act, the head of Army Futures Command told lawmakers June 15.

The Army hopes to achieve deterrence against looming threats through capabilities positioned in theater such as long-range precision fires, Gen. John Murray said during a hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The service has extended the reach of its Precision Strike Missile, a surface-to-surface all weather projectile fired from the M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket and the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket systems, setting a record of almost 250 miles, or 400 kilometers.

This fall the Army is slated to fire the weapon from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, where it will be aimed at both land and sea-based targets. The Army also plans to widen its range to beyond 620 miles, or 1,000 kilometers, in fiscal year 2022, Murray said.

Additionally the Army’s Extended Range Cannon Artillery can now fire at a range of over 40 miles, or 70 kilometers, and could help prevent an adversary from attempting a fait accompli, a term used to describe an adversary’s invasion or takeover of a small territory faster than an opponent

can respond. The military’s largest branch remains on track to field its first ERCA battalion by fiscal year 2023.

“There’s two responses to the fait accompli: you can either prevent it through deterrence, because the quickest way to get from point A to point B is to already be at point B. Or then that fait accompli is completed, then you’re facing potentially long, protracted efforts to reverse their effort,” Murray said. “Our preference is deterrence.”

Murray said presenting an array of problems for adversaries can prevent the enemy from focusing on a single threat. He believes that the Army can give the joint force added advantages in addition to the threats presented by the Air Force and Marine Corps.

The Army has been developing the Common-Hypersonic Glide Body with the Navy, Air Force and Missile Defense Agency as part of its Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon to enable the C-HGB to be launched from ground missile launchers.

The Multi-Domain Operations concept, the Army’s contribution to the joint force, will take an increasingly crucial role in supporting the joint force. The AFC commander said the Army’s reorganization of its forces, such as through multi-domain task forces, will create those multiple dilemmas for commanders.

The Army’s 2022 budget request reflects support of its ongoing efforts to support the joint force with \$11.3 billion allocated toward the six modernization priorities, Murray said.

# Military

## Matériel enterprise support critical to FORSCOM

By WILL KING

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Gen. Michael Garrett, commanding general of Forces Command, met with Gen. Ed Daly, commander of Army Materiel Command, Thursday at AMC headquarters to learn more about the full range of AMC's support to FORSCOM units and people.

Daly said AMC is committed to enabling the Army's priorities of people, readiness and modernization and in fully supporting FORSCOM's efforts.

"The power of the relationship between AMC and FORSCOM is critical to the Army," Daly said. "If we are doing our job right, then you really feel the effects in strategic and tactical readiness."

The two leaders, joined by key AMC staff and commanders from AMC's 10 major subordinate commands, discussed how the matériel and installation enterprise is improving equipment on hand rates, facilitating divestiture and turn in, modernizing Army Prepositioned Stocks, enabling strategic power projection of units and improving quality of life across FORSCOM installations.

"Your job is probably by orders of magnitude more complex than what we do at FORSCOM," Garrett said. "We are counting on you all at FORSCOM, and at the other (Army Commands), to be as efficient as we can be."

He emphasized the need for the Army to modernize to be able to compete against potential adversaries and be prepared for large scale combat operations.

Maj. Gen. Chris Mohan, commander of Army Sustainment Command, outlined for Garrett the full range of ASC's support to FORSCOM, including field support, strategic divestiture and Army Prepositioned Stocks. He explained how ASC recently established Modernization Displacement and Repair Sites, or MDRS, that unburden units of excess equipment and prepares them to receive new equipment as part of the Army's Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model, or ReARMM.

"We are (at full operating capability) and are positioned to execute MDRS," Mohan said. "To support ReARMM, we are currently developing our concept for defielding right before fielding of new



**Gen. Michael Garrett, commander of Forces Command, and Gen. Ed Daly, commander of Army Materiel Command, participate in a briefing on the full range of AMC's support to FORSCOM units and people Thursday at AMC headquarters. The two leaders, joined by key AMC staff and commanders from AMC's 10 major subordinate commands, discussed how the matériel and installation enterprise is improving equipment on hand rates, facilitating divestiture and turn in, modernizing Army Prepositioned Stocks, enabling strategic power projection of units and improving quality of life across FORSCOM installations.**

Photo by Eben Boothby

unit equipment."

There are 14 Modernization Displacement and Repair Sites at division-level installations across the U.S. and overseas, with more than 100,000 pieces of equipment expected to be turned in by units in the next year.

Mohan also outlined how Army Field Support Brigades and Army Field Support Battalions as the "face to the field" are embedded with FORSCOM units at the corps and division levels and form habitual relationships with their supported units.

Trained and ready FORSCOM units must be able to get from their home station to any potential conflict area. Michael Hutchison, deputy to the commander of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, outlined the numerous road, rail and sea

movements of equipment and cargo that SDDC facilitates for FORSCOM units, projecting forces to theaters worldwide.

AMC's ability to rapidly and effectively mobilize, deploy and sustain combat credible land forces worldwide is a critical component to Army strategic readiness and a competitive advantage over adversaries. In 2020, despite pandemic restrictions, the Army executed 64 brigade-equivalent deployments, moving 45,000 pieces of equipment through 55 ports of embarkation/debarkation in support of worldwide missions.

"Our Army does not move without AMC," Garrett said.

Daly and Garrett, joined via video teleconference by Lt. Gen. Doug Gaboram, commander of Installation Management Command, also discussed quality of life initiatives and AMC's efforts to

improve housing, provide affordable and available child care, increase spouse employment opportunities and streamline the permanent change of station moving process for Soldiers and families. AMC's goal is that every installation is a Soldier and family's first choice with services, programs and quality facilities in which to live, work or train.

Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Sims, FORSCOM command sergeant major, said the key to success is the strong relationship between FORSCOM and AMC.

"Without you guys (AMC), we would not be able to operate," Sims said. "It's great to come here and learn what your organization is doing to support Forces Command."

# Command surgeon supports AMC through challenges

By SAMANTHA TYLER

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

When Col. Matt Hoefler began his service as Army Materiel Command's command surgeon, he also took on the role as medical translator, a role that he would serve through a significant structure change and a global pandemic.

Hoefler became the command's surgeon in June 2019, after serving as the command surgeon of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, which he said has different missions and structures. AMC is much larger, with roughly 175,000 service members, civilians and contractors, some working in depots and arsenals within the Organic Industrial Base.

"A lot of what we do here is assess and monitor the health of the OIB," Hoefler said. "We make sure everyone is receiving the care they need."

In October 2018, AMC assumed the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. Soon after, the medical research mission transitioned out from AMC and the medical logistics mission stood up as the Army Medical Logistics Command, provisionally activated June 2019. As the command surgeon, Hoefler had the background knowledge of medical equipment and was able to translate the medical logistics jargon to senior leaders at AMC headquarters.

Hoefler's ability to translate medical terms and policies continued to aid AMC senior leaders as they made decisions that affected employee health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The science was showing how significant this virus was going to be, and I think we made some great decisions in response," he said.

Federal organizations began minimizing in-person interactions in March 2020. At this time, AMC was working to maximize telework and adjust to this new fight.

"We were fighting a medical fight, and we were doing it within our borders," Hoefler said.

As the Army planned its response, Hoefler had a seat at the table. He found

**See Surgeon on page 7**



Photo by Megan Gully

**Army Materiel Command Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Bob Harter presents AMC Command Surgeon Col. Matt Hoefler with the Legion of Merit.**

# Surgeon

Continued from page 6

himself yet again in a translator role, helping differentiate medical equipment and supplies.

“What are our tools and what do we call those things,” he said. “We made some new terms so everyone would understand.”

From there, it was all about taking what AMC and the Army had and fitting these resources into a new environment, balancing the need to keep people safe and the need to meet mission requirements.

“The greatest challenge for any command surgeon is making sure there is a medical plan implemented in command operations,” Hoefler said. “I was a part of the decisions process early. I was making decisions with enough time to affect the problem and decrease risk.”

In addition to contracting for and shipping medical materiel, AMC implemented several measures throughout its offices, garrisons, depots, ammunition plants and arsenals to protect its workforce while meeting mission requirements for the Army and nation. AMC was able

to support unit deployments and training while keeping people safe.

Several of the Army’s Organic Industrial Base facilities also began producing, repairing and repurposing equipment to augment the supply of Personal Protective Equipment and other potentially life-saving medical equipment to support the whole-of-government response to COVID-19. The artisan workforce in these facilities worked within the recommended social distancing guidelines, supporting the fight while staying safe.

Hoefler is transitioning to his next assignment, a Senior Service College fellowship. He will study at the University of Georgia’s Odum School of Ecology, where he will focus on global health and preventative medicine.

Hoefler looks back at the COVID-19 fight proud of the professionalism and perseverance of his team. He said while the hours were long, they didn’t feel that way because he and his team were doing something important. He said the Army’s response against COVID-19 was representative of how the Army addresses its challenges.

“Whenever we face an insurmountable problem, we get it done,” he said. “Whatever the problem is globally, AMC has a lot of resources to solve it.”

# Soldier sees bright future for long range aircraft

By KYLE LITZ

*Future Long Range Assault Aircraft*

This month, as the United States celebrates 245 years of independence, one Soldier has spent the last two years helping prepare a strategy to build a long range assault aircraft that will keep that goal alive by going further, faster and with more maneuverability than has ever been put in the skies above the battlefield.

That aircraft is the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft.

And even though Maj. Wes Ogden is preparing for a new life at Fort Eustis, Virginia, next month, he is confident that the FLRAA program is poised to deliver a first class aircraft for the nation's warfighter in fiscal year 2030.

"We are well-postured to fulfill the promises we've made as far as timelines of releasing the RFP (Request for Proposal) and getting the capability we need for the Soldiers," Ogden, assistant program manager for FLRAA, said. "We've worked really hard to set ourselves up to keep our commitment that we made not only to the CFT (Cross Functional Team) and Congress, but also the Soldiers who will be using the aircraft."

And it's not lost on Col. David Phillips, FLRAA program manager, that it's people like Ogden that are the driving force behind FLRAA achieving its goal of Multi-Domain Operations dominance.

"The past few months have been tremendously successful for the FLRAA program and that's a testament to the team that has been put together," Phillips said. "Each and



**Maj. Wes Ogden**

every individual associated with FLRAA is contributing to the program's success and we are looking forward to adding to the team – even though losing someone like Maj. Ogden is hard, we understand and wish him the best. We are continually evaluating talented, critical thinkers and look forward to building an even better team as the program continues to grow."

A former Kiowa 58D helicopter pilot and West Point graduate who was born in Utah, Ogden came to FLRAA from Redstone Test Center after working with aircraft survivability testing for two years. He enjoys spending time with his family camping old-school style in a tent. Ogden said he would love to get back to operational flying, and he will miss his FLRAA family.

"This group at FLRAA is certainly the most motivated, hard-working and dedicated team that I've been involved with," Ogden said. "It's been great to be a part of

this team.

"The culture here at FLRAA is high expectations and high performance mixed with a light hearted side of things – the activities we do together, the games we play at our all-hands meetings, the fitness competitions, as well as just the general banter. Oh, and our GIF battles are one of my favorite things. But still, the most rewarding part of my time here has been getting to integrate within this team."

Jimmy Downs, FLRAA's deputy project manager, agreed that the FLRAA team is hard-working and dedicated, but also treats each other like family.

"I'm very proud of this group of individuals, but I'm also aware that as we keep growing and learning, we need other talented people to come in and add to our group dynamics, to become our teammates in this monumental effort to augment one of the most iconic aircraft in the Army's history (UH-60 Black Hawk)," Downs said. "Losing Maj. Ogden hurts on both a professional and personal level, but that's the kind of teammate we also strive to work with – someone who gets the job done and can make you smile in the process."

While Ogden has been instrumental in FLRAA's success, he did not arrive with an

inherent knowledge of how the program works.

"That was one of my biggest goals – to learn and understand how big programs operate," Ogden said. "To navigate the requirement side of things combined with the contract development. It's been a great experience at FLRAA working with people who know all of those things and are deeply familiar with all of those things. It has certainly been rewarding, getting to see their passion for the work that they do and how they excel at it."

Ogden has been deployed to Iraq twice, with the 1st Squadron and 6th Cavalry and also worked in the Production and Fielding Product Office in the Apache Helicopters Project Office for about a year. And while the Army likes to continue broadening his experiences in different areas, Ogden is confident that the FLRAA program will continue to recruit the best talent available.

"I think this is an incredible team this is being built at FLRAA. We have a great culture of learning and growing and mentoring others," he said. "So in very rapid order, a new person could come in and get integrated and start making a major impact in a very high profile program."

# Strategic workforce focuses on safety at work and play

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs

With June being National Safety Month, the Space and Missile Defense Command took a day to focus on safety as well as the physical and mental health of its employees.

SMDC hosted a Safety and SHARP Awareness Day to promote awareness June 29.

“Safety and SHARP continues to be priority focus for the command’s leadership,” James Johnson, deputy to the SMDC commander, said. “We appreciate the team’s efforts today to share the latest information and themes with the workforce. Safety is a mindset and needs to be incorporated throughout our daily activities – at work, home or while traveling.

“We also want to ensure everyone is working in a safe environment where they are treated with dignity and respect.”

The purpose of the event is to promote safety awareness; to minimize the risk of unintentional death, injury or damage caused by mishaps; promote proactive

safety measures within the command elements in Huntsville and recognize June as National Safety Month.

Safety and SHARP Awareness Day highlighted SMDC’s commitments to employee safety and health by bringing in local vendors to demonstrate and promote safety awareness.

“Safety awareness is something every Soldier, and employee must have at all times,” Bobby Taylor, SMDC command safety director, said. “It only takes one second to have an accident that could have easily been prevented with simple awareness. Our vendors will provide information to the workforce that is applicable inside and outside of the workplace.

“There is no bigger asset to the workforce than people. It is our responsibility to do everything in our control to ensure our workforce is fully equipped to prevent accidents inside and outside of the workplace. Accidents that destroy lives and families can often be prevented with simple risk management techniques and safety awareness. Our priority as a command is to establish a strong safety culture where safety awareness becomes second nature to the workforce.



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

**Rafael Santos, chief of the Space and Missile Defense Command’s Military Personnel Division, learns about motorcycle safety from Paul Walker, Redstone Harley Davidson, at the SMDC Safety and SHARP Awareness Day, June 29.**

“The concept of having safety awareness seems like common sense, but the reality is we live in a world filled with distractions and hyper-efficiency,” Taylor added. “In today’s climate employees are more apt to taking shortcuts and ignoring rules that they feel are not important. As a workforce, we constantly have to fight against these urges to prevent unsafe acts. The Safety Office cannot successfully keep everyone safe, it requires everyone in the workforce to establish a strong safety culture.”

SMDC employees got a firsthand chance to learn about local safety and health issues unique to Alabama and the Tennessee Valley. Exhibits and safety demonstrations included running and walking safety, motorcycle safety, automated external defibrillator safety, heat stroke prevention, fire safety, snake awareness, weapons safety and boating safety.

Alongside safety, SMDC team members learned how the Army’s Sexual Har-

assment/Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, program helps provide commanders with the tools to prevent sexual assault, sexual harassment and associated retaliation in the Army. The program also ensures that the Army is able to provide professional, compassionate and comprehensive care and support to victims if these incidents do occur.

“Sexual harassment and assault is prevalent in our society today,” Jennifer Blatter, SMDC SHARP program manager, said. “We see it on television, we hear about it on the news, our music, movies and multiple other platforms are normalizing sexual harassment and assault by making it acceptable in day-to-day life. The SHARP program is a vital component in the fight against these behaviors that destroy trust within our ranks.”

Blatter added that Safety and SHARP Awareness Day is an opportunity for the workforce to get information from professionals in the field.

“The SHARP program assists survivors of sexual assault and complainants of sexual harassment,” she said. “We are there from the beginning and we continue providing support and resources until the survivor feels they no longer need our services.

“Safety and SHARP Awareness Day gives us an opportunity to meet with the workforce face-to-face so they know who is behind the programs. It gives us a chance to give away items that have our 24/7 hotline numbers on them. This allows the entire workforce to know how to reach a credentialed SHARP professional 24/7. Events like these allow us to remind the workforce that we are always present and available. We can just answer questions, or we can be there during the most trying times. Either way, we are here to protect our people, which protects our mission.”

# Brazilian army deputy chief visits security enterprise



Photo by Joel Vazquez

**Col. Pedro Aires Pereira Jr., incoming deputy chief of the Brazilian Army Commission, meets with Security Assistance Command G4 Director Michael Casciaro, June 15 after receiving an foreign military sales overview at USASAC's New Cumberland, Pa., headquarters.**

By **JOEL VAZQUEZ**

*Security Assistance Command-New Cumberland*

NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa. – Col. Pedro Aires Pereira Jr., incoming deputy chief of the Brazilian Army Commission, visited the Security Assistance Command in New Cumberland, June 15.

Aires' purpose for the trip was twofold. The first order of business was to discuss the role and responsibilities of Brazil's newest security assistance liaison officer, Lt. Col. Carlos Pauloni, stationed at USASAC.

"During his visit, Colonel Aires highlighted the importance of the Brazilian army SALO working closely with (USASAC's) country case management team and SALOs from other countries," Pau-

loni said. "This allows for interoperability and exchange of experiences regarding the FMS program, and it contributes to optimizing and speeding up solutions for problems involving the Brazilian (FMS) cases."

Security assistance liaison officers provide pivotal support to on-site partner nation representatives and allow for faster implementation and execution of foreign military sales cases.

Brazil has maintained a SALO at USASAC for more than a decade; but it wasn't until 2021 that a Brazilian officer would be stationed in New Cumberland. In years past, Brazilian SALOs were assigned to USASAC's Redstone Arsenal headquarters. The relocation from Alabama to Pennsylvania not only places Brazilian SALOs closer to the attache office in Washington, D.C., but also gives the South American nation direct, daily face-to-face access to the country case management team.

The opportunity to work so closely with the Brazilian case management team in New Cumberland increases transparency and fosters the relationship

building that is a hallmark of USASAC's security assistance mission.

USASAC's SALO Manager Terra Good was instrumental in the smooth transition for the Brazilian SALO's move to Pennsylvania. Having a Brazilian army representative within walking distance of her office would ensure better support to the partner nation throughout the foreign military sales process.

"USASAC is pleased to have Brazil here where we can better support and meet their FMS requirements," Good said. "The SALOs are USASAC's face to the world and we want to ensure we are meeting their expectations."

The second order of business for Aires was to discuss how USASAC could help strengthen the Brazilian army through the acquisition of defense materials, systems and services. USASAC senior leaders and its country case management team provided Aires an extensive FMS overview.

After business concluded, Aires exchanged gifts with the country case management team and USASAC leadership in appreciation for their hard work.



Photo by Nathan Letson

## Lakota helicopter leader

Col. Calvin Lane, Utility Helicopters Project Office project manager, presents the charter for the Lakota Helicopter product office to Tim Vinson during a change of charter ceremony Thursday in Bob Jones Auditorium. Vinson succeeds Lt. Col. Will Cabaniss, whose next assignment is with the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office as the project manager for the Indirect Fire Protection Capability-High Power Microwave/High Energy Laser office. As outgoing product manager, Cabaniss was inducted by Lane into the Bronze Honorable Order of St. Michael. The Order of St. Michael recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the promotion of Army aviation and represents Cabaniss' leadership, management and acquisition expertise in support of the Lakota helicopter program.

# Nalley takes reins of improved turbine engine program

By SAMANTHA BEDWELL

Aviation Turbine Engines Project Office

The Improved Turbine Engine Program, a program within the Aviation Turbine Engines Project Office, changed leadership from Lt. Col. Travis Harris to Lt. Col. Kelley Nalley during a change of charter ceremony June 8 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Harris relinquished the responsibilities as ITEP's product manager to Nalley, who served as the assistant product manager at the Medium Altitude Endurance Product Office, Unmanned Aircraft Systems in 2014; as a Department of the Army systems coordinator for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) in 2018; and as the special assistant to the Director of the Army Staff in 2019. Her acquisition expertise and proven leadership will be essential to guiding ITEP through the Engineering and Manufacturing Development phase and fielding the ITE.

Before the ITEP charter passed hands, Col. Roger Kuykendall, ATE project manager, spoke to Harris' accomplishments and welcomed Nalley as the new product manager to one of Army's newest modernization programs.

"A helicopter never leaves the airfield without an engine, and the last time the Army had a new engine was in 1970 which is our current engine, the T700, so this is a once in a lifetime program," Kuykendall said.

"To Travis, well done. The program is where it is at today because of you and the ITEP team. To Kelley, congratulations on becoming an O-5 Army Acquisition Centralized Selection List select PM. This is not easy; it is a very tough cut, but the Army has recognized your past accomplishments and your future potential. You have a great team behind you and you're going to do well."

Harris' leadership has created a solid foundation for the ITEP from which Nalley and future aviators will rely upon, and has set the bar high for Nalley who is ready to accept the challenge of her new position.

"Travis, it is an honor to take the (ITEP) guidon from you today," Nalley said in her first speech as the product manager. "To the ITE Product Office, I am standing exactly where I wanted to be, and that is because of my experiences working with the ITE team (while at the Pentagon). I was so impressed with the competence, the work ethic, the character, and the culture of this office that I just knew this is where I was supposed to be, and I still feel that way today. Over the next three years, I hope to show you how grateful I am to be selected for this position and to be leading this team ... to be working with such remarkable professionals. We have a lot of work to do, and I walk into this role confident that we have the right people to get the ITE developed, integrated and out to our warfighter."

Following the change of charter ceremony, Kuykendall presided over the retirement service for Harris, who is retiring after 27 years of service.

Harris served as the product manager for ITEP since 2018 and led the team through a number of significant achievements. Noteworthy among his many accomplishments included the preparation and attainment of a successful Milestone B event which designated the ITEP a Program of Record and awarded the ITEP Engineering and Manufacturing Development contract award to General Electric Aviation; guided the ITEP through a 100 day protest to the EMD contract award; three successful Critical Design Reviews in a completely virtual environment; and led extensive preparation for the upcoming First Engine To Test event. His tenure as product manager brought success to ITEP despite unprecedented challenges brought on by the novel COVID-19 pandemic, which required decided leadership to maintain cost and schedule.

As Kuykendall asked the audience to describe Harris, everyone – from colleagues to family – spoke to his leadership, commitment and attention to detail as just some of the exemplary qualities that have led to Harris' admirable career.

During the ceremony, Harris was recognized with several awards, including the Legion of Merit, a Certificate of Appreciation from Gov. Kay Ivey, a Letter of Appreciation from Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, and a service flag of the United States. His wife, Leslie, received the Army Aviation Association of America Order of the Honorable Lady of Loreto.

Following his retirement Harris plans to spend some quality time with his family before reentering the workforce.



Photo by Samantha Bedwell

**Lt. Col. Kelley Nalley holds the Improved Turbine Engine Program Office guidon signifying transfer of responsibility as product manager to her from Lt. Col. Travis Harris, far right, during a change of charter ceremony at Bob Jones Auditorium, June 8. Col. Roger Kuykendall, center, and Brent Logan, back, look on.**



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

## Farewell gift

**Lt. Col. Chris Berhow, left, Space and Missile Defense Command deputy staff judge advocate, receives a farewell gift from Col. James Levine, SMDC staff judge advocate, June 21 after serving two years in the command. Berhow and his family are leaving SMDC for a new assignment in Germany.**

# Woolsey gets lead role for Apache production, fielding

By BELINDA BAZINET

Apache Helicopters Project Office

The Program Executive Office for Aviation's Apache Production and Fielding Product Office saw a change in leadership during a change of charter ceremony June 24 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Poquette relinquished responsibility as product manager to Lt. Col. Matthew Woolsey, who most recently served as an aviation portfolio manager in the Legislative Liaison office. Presiding over the ceremony was Col. Jay Maher, project manager of the Apache Helicopters Project Office.

"The successes of the Production and Fielding Product Office was a direct result of Jeff's outstanding leadership. There were all kinds of issues through the pandemic, but we have not missed a single delivery to an operational unit because of his leadership," Maher said.

As the product manager for Apache Production and Fielding, Poquette displayed extraordinary innovation and resourcefulness amid the COVID-19 restrictions and sought ways to deliver AH-64Es to the fleet. His leadership has ensured the continuity in operations and has helped to mitigate impacts to the Original Equipment Manufacturer by fielding 169 aircraft, valued at \$6.8 billion.

He successfully executed the development and procurement of an improved main rotor strap pack. He took action to field a fail-safe collar, which ensured the current fleet with legacy strap packs would be safe while the strap pack product improvement was developed and qualified. He oversaw the rigorous test plan and a limited fielding event that helped to build confidence for senior leaders to approve fielding of the new strap pack.

Poquette also launched a massive government-led investigation into Boeing Mesa quality processes, following a rash of quality-related incidents in 2020, which led to a shutdown of the Apache production line and aircraft acceptance. Over the course of three months, 222 manufacturing plans were reviewed, resulting in over 400 individual changes within the factory.

"Shutting down the Apache production line was the right thing to do to enable the investigation. The pause enabled us to take a breath, recruit a talented team of experts, develop a methodical plan, and then execute," he said. "Doing so has ensured that the Apache's hundreds of Critical Safety Items are being manufactured under the appropriate levels of scrutiny and to the highest of manufacturing standards. I'm very proud of the collective team which worked tirelessly on the investigation; the Apache is undoubtedly safer because of those efforts."

Poquette was recently selected for promotion to colonel and will attend the Air War College beginning in July.

In welcoming the incoming product manager, Maher said that Woolsey is "no stranger to the Apache program and I look forward to working with you. I know that you will continue to build relationships and take Production and Fielding to the next level."

Woolsey, a native of Nashville, graduated from the University of Mississippi with a history degree and received his commission through ROTC. After completing Aviation Officer Basic Course, he was assigned to the 2nd of the 159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, in Illesheim, Germany, as an attack platoon leader. During his tour in Germany, he also served as a maintenance platoon leader, battalion logistics officer, and as an assistant operations officer. In 2007, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2009 Woolsey was assigned to the 1st of the 2nd ARB in Fort Carson, Colorado, where he commanded the battalion's Bravo Attack Company followed by the Delta Maintenance Company. After command, he was selected as an aide de camp to the commanding general of the Aviation and Missile Command and was subsequently chosen for a functional branch transfer into the Acquisition Corps.

His acquisition assignments include assistant product manager for sensors in the Apache Helicopters Project Office, and research acquisition officer for the Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi. While working as an assistant product manager, Woolsey was selected for advanced civil schooling where he completed an MBA from Vanderbilt University in 2017.

In accepting responsibility for the organization, Woolsey looks forward to his new assignment.

"This is the best job in the Army and I am excited to join the team again," he said. "I pledge to give every fiber of my being to the job and am anxious to get started."



Photo by Shannon Kirkpatrick

**Lt. Col. Matt Woolsey, incoming product manager for the Apache Production and Fielding Product Office, accepts the guidon from Col. Jay Maher, project manager for the Apache Attack Helicopters Project Office, during a change of charter ceremony June 24 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Lt. Col. Jeff Poquette, the outgoing product manager, relinquished responsibility of the office. Anthony Dupree, deputy product manager, performed the guidon bearer duties.**

# Army calibration lab updated, dedicated at Redstone

By MICHELLE GORDON

*Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs*

Leaders from the Aviation and Missile Command celebrated the renovation of the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity headquarters building during a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 29.

The celebration marked the completion of the first major renovation to the Maj. Gen. John M. Cone Metrology Laboratory in USATA's more than 50-year history on the installation. Cone served as the director of quality assurance at the Army Materiel Command in the mid-1960s.

During his remarks, USATA Director Richard Parker described Cone as a pioneer in the field of calibration and recognized him as one of the Army's leading authorities on quality assurance.

The original building was dedicated to Cone following his death in 1966.

"At the time, this was the nation's largest, most completely equipped laboratory for precise calibration and measurement of guided missile equipment," Parker said.

The newly completed renovation project restores the laboratory to that standard, without expanding the footprint of the original building.

Greg Boggs, the acting director of the Army Primary Standards Lab, said some of the major improvements include a new radio frequency power anechoic chamber twice the size of the previous chamber, and an aerosol laboratory to support chemical and biological test equipment, which includes a built-in ISO 7 Class 10,000 clean room.

"An anechoic chamber has wedges to prevent echoes in the chamber," Boggs said. "The sound is absorbed, so if a sensor is in there, it does not get any backfeed off the walls. It gets the true source that's being fed to it. In it, we calibrate the sensors used at radar sites for safety measurements."

Another major improvement was the collocation and consolidation of the force lab functions.

"Previously, our force lab was split among two locations on opposite ends of the

**See Lab on page 18**



Photo by Jeremy Coburn

**From left, the Aviation and Missile Command's Maj. Gen. Todd Roy, Director of the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity Richard Parker, and AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Dove cut a ribbon to reopen the newly renovated Maj. Gen. John M. Cone Metrology Laboratory.**

# Lab

Continued from page **17**

building,” Boggs said. “We were able to relocate our 1 million pound force press to the west side of the building along with our 112,000 pound deadweight force machines.”

The project also included updates to the building infrastructure, as well as electrical and communications systems.

Boggs said the longtime project has been a dream since the early 2000s, but became a reality in 2015 when the design process began. Construction started in 2019 and continued until earlier this year, barely missing a beat throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We were actually pretty fortunate to be able to progress through with no delays at all,” Boggs said. “The construction company did a really good job with safety protocols and working through the COVID-19 actions.”

Throughout the entire renovation process, the USATA workforce remained in the building and continued their mission – using temporary swing space to allow work to continue throughout the project.

“USATA is the metrology expertise for the Army,” Boggs said. “Anything that makes a measurement which a decision is based upon usually requires calibration, so we are responsible for developing calibration standards and systems that will calibrate that technology.”

For their dedication to continuing the mission, Parker dedicated the newly renovated building to the USATA workforce during the ceremony.

“We rededicate this building to the scientists, the engineers and the hardworking employees that make this a reality and have dedicated themselves to the readiness of the U.S. Army,” he said.

AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar echoed Parker’s appreciation for the USATA workforce and thanked them for supporting the warfighter.

“Every single device that the Army uses comes back here in one way, shape, or form to be calibrated and ensure it operates accurately,” Royar said. “The success of our Army – of armed forces – is dependent upon this facility and this workforce. You make more of a difference than you will ever know. And as our weapons systems become ever more complex and require stricter standards, this facility here – the Army Primary Standards Lab – is all that much more important, and it is befitting to have a world-class facility that you, a world-class workforce, can operate in.”

# Community

## Veterans museum reopens in new facility in Athens

By MICHELLE GORDON

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

Aviation and Missile Command Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar participated in Thursday's grand reopening of the Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives in Athens.

Gov. Kay Ivey, as well as other state and local officials, also attended the ceremony which celebrated the new location of the museum in a much larger venue.

During his remarks, Royar spoke about the role museums play in teaching and preserving the nation's history. He quoted President Theodore Roosevelt, "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future."

Royar said Alabama leadership is absolutely preparing for the future by investing in the veterans museum and expanding its footprint.

"That preparation doesn't happen by accident," he said. "It happens because folks care about it; it happens because they planned it. This facility, this museum, these sets of archives are what makes a difference. And if you want to teach about the past, if you want to teach about history, you have to have a means to do it. You have to have a way to tell the story."

Museum Director Sandy Thompson, a veteran herself, retired from the Air Force in 2007 after 22 years on active duty. She said she enjoys teaching younger generations about service and sacrifice through the displays in the museum.

Thompson said all the artifacts in the museum were donated and telling the stories of those family heirlooms is what motivates her daily.

"Every one of these artifacts were actually used in the military," she said. "We didn't buy anything. All of these artifacts have seen action, and most of them come in with a story. We try to have the family members write the story down to preserve it."

Nearly 500 people attended the ceremony, most of whom were veterans. Royar thanked them for supporting the museum and for their service.

"Today in Alabama there are more than 27,000 individuals who currently serve," he said. "But there are about 370,000 veterans and it is in your footsteps that we walk."

The Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and there is no charge to visit. It is located at 100 Pryor St. west in Athens.



Photo by Michelle Gordon

**Aviation and Missile Command's Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar speaks at the grand reopening of the Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives in Athens as Gov. Kay Ivey and Sen. Tom Butler listen.**



Photo by Michelle Gordon

**Gov. Kay Ivey, as well as other state and local officials, cut the ribbon to officially reopen the Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives in Athens.**



Courtesy photo

## **Community service reunion**

**Clockwise from left are Pam Stieglitz, Sue Paddock and Virginia Dempsey. The former team members of Army Community Service met for a farewell luncheon to say goodbye to Dempsey, who will move to Florida in July. Stieglitz was an ACS volunteer who created the Total Tots Program and served as chairperson of the board that would oversee Total Tots. Paddock served as the director of ACS. Dempsey was the Family Advocacy Program manager.**

# Infantry veteran recalls horrors of combat in 1969

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

John Barnard enrolled at Northeast State Junior College in 1966 but he soon learned that he was not ready for college. His biology professor told him so after Barnard skipped a midterm exam to hitchhike/hop freights to New Orleans three days with friends for Mardi Gras. The professor advised that “a little time in the military” would do Barnard some good. Barnard left school, received his draft notice and served in the Army from July 1968 to July 1970. He spent a year in Vietnam as an infantryman from January 1969 to January 1970.

After leaving the Army, Barnard returned to Northeast State. In 1976 he walked across the stage to receive his associate degree diploma. The presenter was none other than his former biology professor who had become a dean. The dean remembered telling him that he should join the military, and Barnard told him he was exactly right.

“He handed me my diploma,” Barnard said. “That was special for me.”

The Huntsville resident and retired rural mailman has plenty of special memories, some good, some not so good. He remembers 1969, his year of combat in the jungles of Vietnam.

Barnard made specialist four when he arrived near Chu Lai with Charlie Company, 1st of the 46th Battalion, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. Six months later he became a sergeant and a squad leader.

“We were going on patrols and we were in several battles,” he said. “That’s pretty much it. That’s the life of an infantryman. We did a lot of walking – we call it humping, patrols, and engaged the enemy on numerous occasions. Some of it was bad, some of it not so bad.

“If you’ve never been in combat, it’s almost impossible to describe it. It was horrific. That’s one word I would use. I guess that’s the word to describe it. It was horrific. I’ve seen a lot of my buddies shot, mangled. I lost a lot of friends. In fact one of them was one of my best friends.”

That would be a guy nicknamed Tex, who was from Texas. The company moved just about every day. But one day in April 1969, they got ambushed and made the mistake of returning to their previous location. That was a mistake because it gave the enemy a chance to boobytrap their former foxholes. Tex jumped into his old foxhole and was decapitated by a mortar.

In May 1969, a major battle erupted when Charlie Company was sent to evacuate a company which had been ambushed the night before. Barnard said the fighting was so intense that “dustoff” helicopters had to quit going in. The Soldiers had to carry their dead and wounded to a different location so they could

be evacuated.

“We probably lost I’m going to say 20 (Soldiers) the 12 months I was there,” Barnard said. “That might be a conservative estimate. From boobytraps and small arms fire, mortar fire.”

Barnard came home the first week of January 1970. “Coming home would probably be one of the happiest days of my life,” he said. On the flight from Seattle to Chicago, wearing his khaki uniform, he got curious looks from many passengers on the plane because he had a souvenir in the seat with him – a Russian-made SKS rifle. He found it in a cache of enemy weapons and explosives before the Soldiers destroyed the cache. On the flight from Chicago to Huntsville, the pilot offered to keep the rifle in the cabin for the remainder of his trip. Barnard still has the souvenir in his Huntsville home.

For his Vietnam tour Barnard received the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He left the Army as a sergeant.

Barnard was born in Grant in a small farmhouse and was the sixth of seven children. His family moved many times when he was growing up. He graduated from New Hope High School in 1966 and then had his brief stint at Northeast State before entering the Army. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 2009 after 20 years as a rural mailman in the Huntsville area.

He and his wife of 49 years and eight months, Sarah, have two children and two grandchildren. Their daughter, Melanie Forbes, resides in Harvest; and their son, Darryl, lives in Huntsville. His hobbies include pitching horseshoes and playing music on his guitar. He likes to write songs and record them in his little studio at home. “I’ve got about 200 works in progress. I’ll probably never finish most of them,” he said. But he said his favorite hobby is spending time with his family.

He is a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1067 of Huntsville. He also belongs to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. At 74, he has a 60% disability rating from Veterans Affairs because of ischemic heart disease resulting from his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Barnard shared his thoughts of this nation’s commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

“We obviously didn’t achieve our goal. I think a lot of brave men lost their life, and I hate to say it was for nothing but I don’t see anything we gained from it,” he said. “At best we fought them to a tie at a very high cost. If it was just me, I’d love to commemorate all the brave men and women who gave their all as well as those who came home with lifetime injuries and war-related conditions. I think they deserve all the credit they can receive.”

*Editor’s note: This is the 327th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*

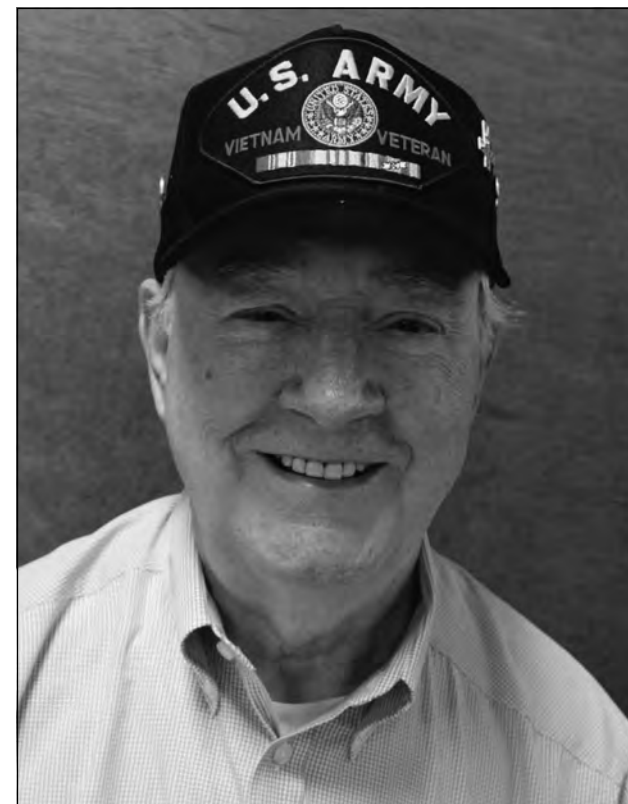


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**John Barnard, of Huntsville, served as an infantryman in Vietnam in 1969.**



Courtesy photo

**In 1969 Sgt. John Barnard patrols near Chu Lai, South Vietnam.**

**Vietnam revisited**  
*Part 327 in series*

# Faith, family help ex-Soldier overcome addiction

By EMILY STRICKLAND

Staff writer

emily.strickland@theredstonerocket.com

Dave Draper Sr. has two namesakes in the city of Huntsville.

One of those is Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ, the Beirne Avenue church where he served as pastor.

The other is his son, Dave Jr. If you had known Dave Jr. 40 years ago, you might be surprised to hear that today he is carrying on his father's legacy as the pastor of Draper Memorial Church. You might also be surprised to know that on July 19 Draper will celebrate 40 years of sobriety.

Draper's relationship with drugs and alcohol began early in his life. He started drinking as a high schooler in 1965, beginning a 15-year period of alcohol abuse, marijuana, cocaine and heroin usage, and even drug dealing.

Near the middle of that period, on Sept. 23, 1973, Draper made the decision to join the Army. He thought it would be a chance to "straighten out," he said, but his addiction was strong. Draper served in active duty for three years, working as a Nike radar technician at Redstone Arsenal, and then served in the Reserves for three years. Contrary to his best hopes, he remained addicted to alcohol and drugs throughout his stint in the Army.

Though he continued to work and be

productive after completing his Army service, Draper's addiction was taking a toll on other parts of his life. Finally, he knew something had to change in 1980 when his first wife divorced him.

"That's when I hit a low point in my life," he said. "I realized I messed up about everything I was touching."

Thankfully, Draper's family noticed he needed help. The next year, in July 1981, Draper's older sister, Betty, invited him to church. Though Draper was a "PK," a preacher's kid, he hadn't been to church for several years.

"She invited me to church on that third Sunday in July 1981, and I gave my life to Christ that Sunday," Draper said. "I gave my life to Christ and I never went back to the drugs ... I was an alcoholic, drug addict, I smoked cigarettes every day, two or three packs a day – I never went back to any of that."

The next year, Draper took a job at NASA, where he worked as a contractor in the photo lab and television area for the next 26 years until his retirement in 2008. In 1983, he married his current wife, Linda. He now has three sons in Huntsville, Jonathan, Justin and Darius, and a daughter, Tracy Foster, who lives in Killeen, Texas. He and Linda also have eight grandchildren.

As Draper approaches his 40-year sobriety anniversary, he credits one thing with helping him stay clean for all that time: "My relationship with Christ," he



Dave Draper Jr.

said. "That's number one in my life is my relationship with him."

Draper also recognizes the benefits of additional interventions like Narcotics Anonymous and treatment programs. For individuals who might be in the throes of addiction now, he encourages resilience.

"Never give up," Draper said. "Never

give up. Even though people might give up on you, don't give up on yourself. Seek help. Seek treatment."

He also encourages families to rally around each other in the same way his family rallied around him. Draper and his younger brother, Jesse, both pastors now, dealt with drug addictions when they were younger. Throughout both of their journeys to sobriety, their mother, Willie Mae Draper, remained convinced that they would overcome.

"If you have a family member that's on drugs and alcohol, don't give up on them," Draper said. "My mother didn't give up on my brother and I. I'm my mother's pastor now, so you see, you never know how life is going to make a turn. I never dreamed that I would be her pastor."

Part of Draper's purpose now is encouraging others who may be preparing to travel the path he has taken over the last 40 years. However, he wants to make sure his priorities are clear: "This story is really not about me," Draper said. "It's about God, and I don't ever want to take any credit. ... It's not about me, it's about what God can do."

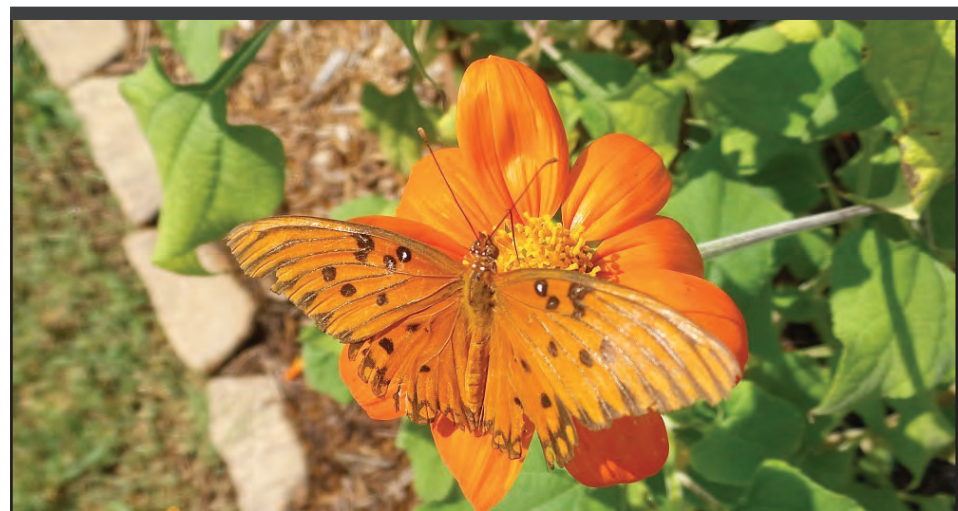
*Editor's note: Draper will share his story at a luncheon with the Partnership for a Drug-Free Community on July 15 from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.partnershipforadrug-freecommunity.org](http://www.partnershipforadrug-freecommunity.org).*



Army photo by Henry Norton

## Missile defense mission

Lt. Col. Edgar Lopez, right, accepts his charter June 18 as the product manager for Indirect Fires Protection Capability Increment 2 from Col. Charles Worshim, project manager of Short and Intermediate Effectors for Layered Defense. Lopez has the responsibility of providing the Army an interim and enduring cruise missile defense capability.



NASA photo by Lindsey Winslette

## Pollinator week

A Gulf fritillary butterfly lands on a Mexican sunflower in the pollinator habitat at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center during Pollinator Week, held June 21-27. The habitat is a volunteer-maintained garden of more than 160 plants, carefully cultivated to help local populations of bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects thrive. Pollinator Week is an annual event celebrated internationally in support of pollinator health. Additional volunteers are needed to help with general maintenance of Marshall's pollinator habitat.

# Region salutes military with Armed Forces Celebration

Photos by ERIC SCHULTZ

Staff photographer

Music, fireworks and softball helped serenade the military during Armed Forces Celebration 2021 held June 28-29 and continuing Aug. 4.



Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker speaks during the proclamation event.



Joe Fitzgerald, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, shares a laugh with retired Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, chairman of the Armed Forces Celebration Committee.



Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor and Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez salute during the national anthem at the proclamation signing.



Flags fly over the Armed Forces Celebration proclamation signing June 28 at the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial.



The Military Appreciation Night Concert in the Park culminates with fireworks June 28.



Retired Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, chairman of the Armed Forces Celebration Committee, shows the community softball game trophy to Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, right, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, and Concert in the Park emcee Mojo Jones at the mayor's barbecue and concert. Karbler represented Team Redstone during the Concert in the Park.



Fans watch the Redstone team beat the North Alabama Rockets, 16-9 at the community softball game June 29 at Toyota Field in Madison.

# Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

**July 3, 1941:** The War Department announces a chemical weapons plant, Huntsville Arsenal. The Army acquires 1,250 acres along the Tennessee River through a land-use agreement with TVA.

**September 8, 1960:** The George C. Marshall Space Flight Center is dedicated by Eisenhower, with Von Braun as the first director.



**1971:** The Federal Bureau of Investigation opens the Hazardous Devices School on Redstone Arsenal, beginning the Army-FBI partnership on the installation.



**July 17, 1997:** MICOM combines with the aviation portion of U.S. Army Aviation and Troop Command to form U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal.

**2010:** The National Center for Explosives Training and Research is finished, permanently establishing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives at Redstone Arsenal.

**2020:** The FBI announces plans to expand their north campus on Redstone Arsenal, moving thousands of employees to Huntsville over the next several years.

**February 26, 1943:** Redstone Ordnance Plant is renamed Redstone Arsenal.

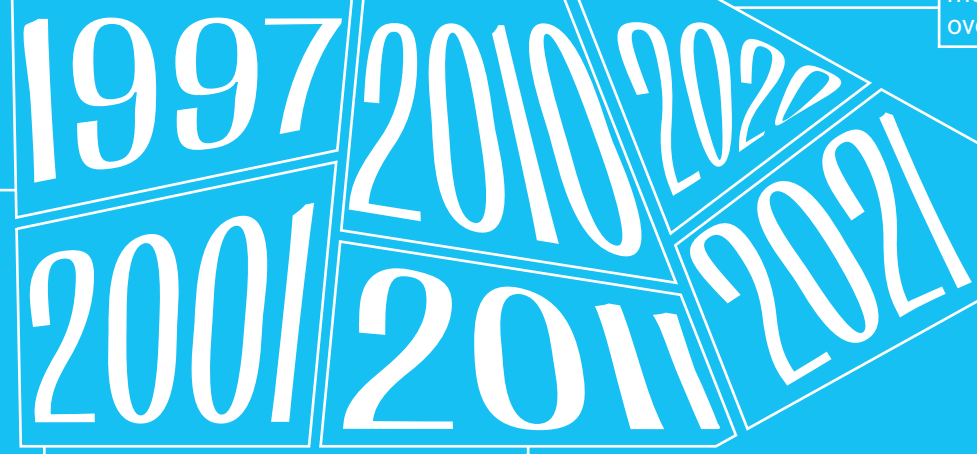


**August 1941:** Col. Rollo Ditto, Huntsville Arsenal's first commander, arrived and broke ground.

**May 5, 1961:** American astronaut Alan Shepard becomes the first American in space. The mission is called Mercury-Redstone 3, named after the vehicle that carried Shepard into space.



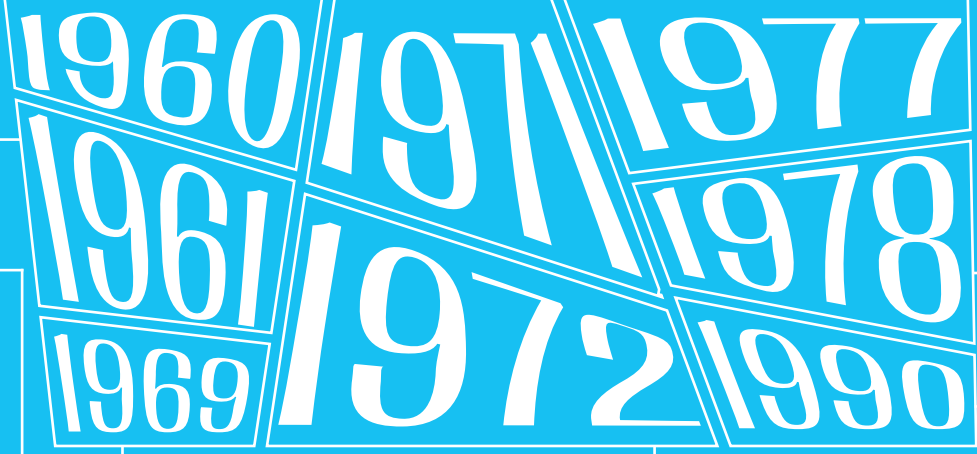
**January 21, 1977:** MIRADCOM and MIRCOCM are established to replace the U.S. Army Missile Command, which had been established at Redstone Arsenal in 1962. MICOM would be reactivated in 1979, consolidating those two branches again.



**2021 and beyond...:** Leadership at Redstone Arsenal anticipates continued growth as the installation's four synergies (Logistics Services; Space Operations and Missile Defense; Research, Development, Test and Engineering; and Intelligence and Homeland Defense) collaborate to maintain our status as a Federal Center of Excellence for decades to come.

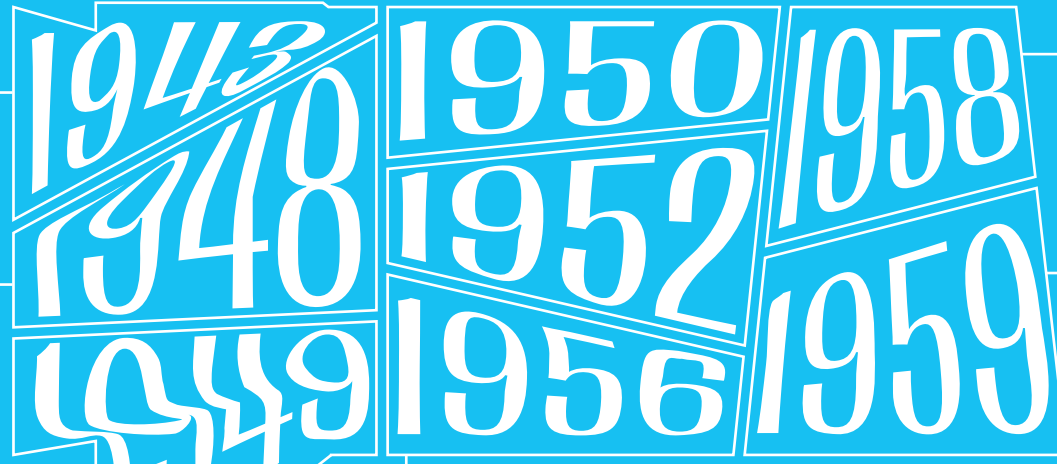
1941

**October 25, 1941:** Col. Carroll Hudson broke ground for the Redstone Ordnance Plant.



**2001:** Marshall's Payload Operations Control Center takes over round-the-clock support of science onboard the International Space Station.

**June 15, 2011:** A "touchdown" ceremony in front of the new Army Materiel Command headquarters building marks the completion of AMC's move to post. AMC becomes the first 4-star command on the Arsenal and in the state of Alabama.



**April 15, 1950:** The Fort Bliss missile development operation moves to Redstone Arsenal, bringing along hundreds of scientists, soldiers and engineers, including Wernher von Braun and his team.  
**February 5, 1952:** The first issue of the Redstone Rocket is published.  
**February 1, 1956:** The Army Ballistic Missile Agency is formed.

**1958:** Explorer I, the first American satellite, is placed into orbit using Juno I, a launch vehicle in the Redstone Rocket family. President Dwight D. Eisenhower creates NASA.



**1959:** Monkeys Able and Baker fly to an altitude of 300 miles in the nose cone of a Jupiter AM-18.

**January 5, 1972:** Marshall Space Flight Center is tasked with developing the propulsion elements of the space shuttle, which included the solid rocket boosters, external tank and main engines.

**March 13, 1978:** The Enterprise space shuttle orbiter landed at Redstone Army Airfield for the first time.

**July 1978:** The new Fox Army Hospital officially opened on Redstone Arsenal, named after Brig. Gen. Leon Alexander Fox.

**April 24, 1990:** The Hubble Space Telescope, developed at Marshall Space Flight Center, is launched.

**August 7, 1990:** Brig. Gen. Larry Capps, MICOM deputy commanding general, activates the MICOM Emergency Operations Center in response to escalation in the Persian Gulf. Workers at Redstone Arsenal would occupy the EOC 24/7 throughout the crisis.



**October 1948:** The Chief of Ordnance designates Redstone Arsenal as the center for ordnance rocket research and development.  
**1949:** Huntsville Arsenal is placed up for sale. Before a sale takes place, Huntsville Arsenal is instead deactivated and consolidated with Redstone Arsenal and the Gulf Chemical Depot Activity to become Redstone Arsenal.



**July 16, 1969:** Apollo 11 and its three astronauts are launched to the moon by a Saturn V rocket. The 8-day mission was the world's first crewed mission to the moon.



## REDSTONE ARSENAL CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

# 1941 | 2021

BY EMILY STRICKLAND

Sources: history.redstone.army.mil; nasa.gov/centers/marshall/history/overview.html; Redstone Rocket archives

# Redstone recognized for preserving trees for generations

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

The Arbor Day Foundation has a new name for Redstone Arsenal: Tree City USA.

The Arsenal was one of more than 3,600 locations in the United States to be designated as a Tree City last year after meeting the program's four requirements: having a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and having an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Tom Richardson, branch chief of cultural and natural resources at the Garrison, said the designation was easy to achieve because "we met the criteria based on what we are already doing."

His department's purpose "is finding a balance between the Army's mission and environmental stewardship," Richardson said. "The Army, and Redstone in particular, is a good environmental steward."

Of the many trees at the Arsenal, Richardson said his favorites are the water tupelos located in the swamps near

the Path to Nature at the south end of the installation.

"They (the species) are the way they are because they've been there for thousands of years," he said.

Greg Hicks, installation forester and pest management coordinator at the Garrison, said about 40% of the post is forested, including about 9,500 acres of actively managed forestland.

In planting new trees at Redstone, "I try to find areas that are either no longer needed for testing or other missions and plant trees similar to a rotational crop harvest," such as a loblolly pine, he said.

Hicks also reviews landscaping plans for construction throughout the post and makes suggestions on species, spacing and planting specifications.

The Tree City USA recognition was for the 2020 program but was just formally announced in May by the Arbor Day Foundation, which is based in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community firsthand," Dan Lambe, the organization's president, said. "The trees being planted and cared for by Redstone Arsenal are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life."



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Water tupelos reside in the swamps near the Path to Nature on the south side of Redstone Arsenal.**

Participation in the Tree City USA program "creates a sense of civic pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education," Lambe said.

The Tree City USA program is co-sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service and the Na-

tional Association of State Foresters.

The Arbor Day Foundation is 1 million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization whose mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. For more information, visit [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

# Future stars invited to fall sports programs

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

Fall is fast approaching, which means it's time to kick off youth football and soccer at Redstone Arsenal.

Mike Gates, Child and Youth Services sports and fitness director, said registration is underway for the fall youth sports programs on post: "Future Stars" football and soccer for children ages 3 and 4, and youth league play for soccer (5-13) and flag football (5-12).

Future Stars is a developmental program that teaches sports fundamentals to the youngsters, who then take part in controlled scrimmages.

"It gives 3 and 4-year-olds the chance to experience playing sports without the competition," Gates said, adding there are no referees involved and the "games" are actually "loose scrimmages that resemble a game."

Soccer takes place from Aug. 14 to Sept. 25 and football runs from Oct. 16-Nov. 20.

Future Stars meet at building 3153.

Registration will run through the start dates and cost for each sport is \$25,

which includes a T-shirt.

Soccer league and flag football at the Arsenal is a program partnered with the city of Huntsville youth leagues and includes both practice and games that take place on and off post, Gates said.

Practices and game times for soccer and flag football are yet to be announced. Practices will begin in early August and games will start in early September and run through the end of October. Games will be held at the youth sports fields on Goss Road.

Registration runs through Aug. 2. Cost is \$55 and includes a uniform.

Colesyn Dalton, 10, a rising sixth-grade student at Challenger Middle School, enjoys fall sports at Redstone each fall.

"Having fun always comes first, and the coaches teach us fundamentals in a fun way," he said. "Every year, I get to meet new teammates because so many families have moved away and new ones have arrived."

Gates said the programs are open to children of everyone affiliated with Redstone Arsenal. Experience is not required and children of all skill levels are welcome.



Courtesy photos

Sports provide a much needed opportunity to "get the kids out of the house," Gates said. "Hopefully we're going to get back to some kind of normal."

The programs are all coached by volunteers and more coaches are needed. Registration for all programs takes place

at Parent Central Services in the Pershing Welcome Center, building 3443 on Aerobee Road.

For questions about registration, call 876-3704. For questions about the program or volunteering as a coach, call Gates at 313-3699.

# Garrison's new chaplain answers call to service



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Garrison Chaplain Lt. Col. Charles Lahmon formerly served as chaplain for the Aviation and Missile Command.**

By **EMILY STRICKLAND**

Staff writer

[emily.strickland@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:emily.strickland@theredstonerocket.com)

One word sums up Garrison Chaplain Lt. Col. Charles Lahmon's approach to his ministry: service.

Lahmon has become the Garrison chaplain after serving for three years as the Aviation and Missile Command chaplain. Though he has been serving as an Army chaplain for about two decades now, Army service wasn't always his ultimate goal.

A native of Mount Vernon, Ohio, Lahmon initially joined the Army out of high school in 1988 with the intention of joining an Army band. Not only would the Army help him pay for college, but it would give him the opportunity to fulfill his dream of becoming a professional musician.

After completing his Army service, Lahmon went a different route: For seven years, he served as a pastor. But, sometime around 2000, he felt that God was calling him into a different form of ministry.

Lahmon's wife, Lisa, felt that calling too.

"My wife was totally on board," Lahmon said. "She was thinking the same thing without us talking."

Since that day, Lahmon has traveled all over the world serving various Army units, including assignments at Fort Hood, Texas, and overseas in Germany and South Korea. Traveling is a favorite pastime of the

Lahmon family, which includes Lahmon, his wife, Lisa, their four children, Anna, Bethany, Chloe and Daniel, and their Yorkshire terrier, Scarlett.

Lahmon, who is fulfilling retired Chaplain Lt. Col. Charles Barna's role, considers himself lucky to be serving as the Garrison chaplain, especially after three years of serving as the AMCOM chaplain. Being able to take a new assignment in the same location means he doesn't have to uproot his family: Lisa works for the Corps of Engineers, while his youngest child, Daniel, is a rising senior at James Clemens High School.

"I love the community," Lahmon said of the Huntsville area. "I love the leaders that I've worked for, the organizations I've been a part of, the civilian workforce is wonderful ... Beyond even Redstone, this whole area is just such a great community."

Lahmon's responsibilities as Garrison chaplain include providing religious support to Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor, and the entire Garrison workforce, including Soldiers and their families, civilians and contractors. He also supports local veterans and their families, as several veterans remain involved in the Redstone community even after their military service is over. In addition to his public duties, Lahmon remains engaged in the community through prayer.

"Prayer is important," he said. "Praying for my command, praying for the leaders, praying for the people, the community."

# Community service worker takes opportunity to return

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

[rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com)

Army Community Service is welcoming back a staff member who will serve in a new role: welcoming others who are new to Redstone.

Stephanie Young worked as a SHARP victim advocate at ACS for several years until her husband's deployment took her and her family to South Korea last summer.

Maj. Byron Young and the couple's three children are still in Korea but plan to return within the next year to Huntsville.

Experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic in Korea was "like day and night from the United States," Stephanie Young said. Upon entering the country, she and her children had to quarantine for two weeks and had daily temperature checks.

As pandemic restrictions eased elsewhere, they remained strict in Korea, where "outside of post, you're still required to wear the mask," she said. "It's something that you get used to."

Young had taken a leave of absence from her job with ACS, knowing that her husband would be retiring in Huntsville upon his return from his final deployment. So when she got a call about her current job, she answered the knock of opportunity and returned by herself for now.

Jeannie Johnston, ACS division chief, said she is "thrilled" to have Young back at the Arsenal.

"She was an excellent employee and we hated to see

her go," Johnston said. "When she realized there was another opening, she applied, and needless to say with her vast experience at Redstone Arsenal's ACS, she was the best candidate."

Johnston said Young will make good use of her "wealth of information." In addition to relocation and welcome services, her duties include management of ACS volunteers.

Originally from Lynchburg, Virginia, Young has a master's degree in human resource development.

She has barely gotten her feet wet in the new job and had just gotten computer access during a recent interview.

But finding the enthusiasm to welcome newcomers to the Arsenal is part of her job she has already mastered.

"I think Huntsville and Redstone itself is a hidden treasure, so to speak," Young said. "It's easy to find a job. It's very laid back."

When her husband first told her they were relocating to Redstone in 2015, "I said, 'Oh, no, you're not taking me to Alabama,'" she said, "but we've been pleasantly surprised."

She loves the close proximity to Nashville, Atlanta and the beach.

The Youngs have three children, Kamryn, 21, Bryson, 15, and Cassidy, 12.

Being separated from her family is "horrible," she said. "It's been a big adjustment."

They communicate by text and Facetime, but her family in Korea is 14 hours ahead so it can be difficult coordinating schedules.

The Youngs own a home on Green Mountain that



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Stephanie Young, of Army Community Service, provides relocation and welcome services, and she manages ACS volunteers.**

it is currently occupied by renters. Until she is able to move back into the house, Young and her dog Apollo, a miniature pinscher, are staying in a hotel.

A self-proclaimed introvert, she enjoys gardening and reading in her spare time.

# Art exhibit shares portraits of nation's veterans

Photos by **ERIC SCHULTZ**

Staff photographer

“We the People: Portraits of Veterans in America,” an exhibit by artist Mary Whyte, is open through Sept. 26 at the Huntsville Museum of Art. It features 50 watercolor portraits that showcase a veteran from each state in their daily lives. Access is included with general admission for non-members and free for museum members. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children and students, and \$10 for seniors, military and educators. To learn more about the exhibition or the Huntsville Museum of Art, visit [hsvmuseum.org](http://hsvmuseum.org).



**Mary Whyte visits her exhibit of veterans portraits at the Huntsville Museum of Art.**



**Wendy Gill, the subject of the watercolor portrait on the wall, talks about the painting at the opening of the art exhibit June 25.**



**Guests watch a slideshow of paintings during the opening of Mary Whyte's exhibit.**

# Toftoy Hall college classes still await green light

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone education services officer sits at his desk on an afternoon last week at Toftoy Hall.

Most of the building is empty these days.

Colleges haven't done face-to-face classes there since April 2020 because of the pandemic. The Education Center is a tenant at Toftoy Hall, building 3495 on Patton Road, which belongs to the Aviation and Missile Command.

"We are waiting for AMCOM to give us the word when we can resume classes,"

Jim Wesser, education services officer under the Garrison, said.

The schools that have reverted to online learning include Athens State University, Columbia College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Florida Institute of Technology.

Before the shutdown of face-to-face operations, there were probably more than 30 nightly classes at Toftoy Hall.

The Education Center is still providing Army personnel testing. This is mostly language testing for service members and Department of Defense civilians that are required to take language testing.

Wesser arrived at the Education Center in April 2011 and he has served as the education services officer the past four years. He visits his office at Toftoy Hall every afternoon.

Ashley Battles, a recent addition to the staff, serves as the test examiner. She is a Huntsville native whose father, Vincent Battles, works for a contractor on post. She formerly worked for the department of children's services in Nashville.

"I love it," Battles said of joining the center. "My dad works on the Arsenal as well so I'm happy to be here."

For information about Education Center services, email Wesser at james.d.wesser.civ@mail.mil or call 842-9703.



File photo by Skip Vaughn

**The Education Center staff includes Jim Wesser, the education services officer, and Ashley Battles, test examiner.**

# Space Launch System team stays mission-focused

By TRACY McMAHAN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

When Chris Cianciola thinks about the Space Launch System rocket, it is not metal or steel or the roar of engines that most concerns him, it is the astronauts that will ride the rocket to space. As a child, his parents took him to see a Saturn V launch in 1969 that sent Apollo 11 astronauts to land on the Moon for the first time. That was the beginning of his fascination with space that led him to a long career evaluating how to build and operate space vehicles, so they safely send crews to space and return them to Earth.

Cianciola is the deputy manager for the SLS Program at Marshall Space Flight Center. He shares responsibility for all facets of the program, including programmatic and technical planning, procurement, development, testing, evaluation, production and operations. A 20-year NASA veteran, Cianciola's previous roles at Marshall include SLS chief safety officer, International Space Station Program manager for Payload Operations, and key positions in the space shuttle's Reusable Solid Rocket Booster and External Tank projects.

Now he leads the team focused on every aspect of building the world's most powerful rocket that will send astronauts on missions to the Moon.

"Both on the space station and space shuttle, I have seen what astronauts can achieve while working in space, and how the NASA team on Earth helps them be successful in space," he said. "I am honored to lead a team building a rocket that will send humans to the Moon on the Artemis missions."

**Question: How do you encourage teamwork, collaboration, and integration, especially in this unprecedented telework environment?**

Cianciola: It was important to let our people know that keeping them safe was our top priority. We've had regular all-hands meetings with the entire SLS team. For some of these, we invited experts from the community to discuss what they knew about the pandemic and best practices for staying safe and keeping families safe. Despite the pandemic and six hurricanes and tropical storms that hit SLS test facilities in Mississippi, the SLS team accomplished two major test campaigns over the course of the last year – our structural testing at Marshall and the core stage Green Run test at Stennis. This required immense collaboration by our team including teammates at other NASA centers and industry partners across America. To accomplish work needed to launch the Artemis I mission to the Moon, we developed plans to conduct the most critical work safely on-site at NASA facilities. These had to be approved by the center and NASA headquarters. To stay on track and address any issues, we added several weekly virtual meetings with the SLS element managers and prime contractors. This provided regular forums to communicate often and address issues quickly.

**Question: How are you managing your personal and**



Chris Cianciola

**your team's work-life balance, especially now, more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Cianciola: I have been amazed at what we have accomplished in this environment. I can't believe that even while working from home, this team gets all the critical work done on time. Now that we've completed our major test campaigns and delivered the core stage to Kennedy Space Center, we are encouraging people to make time to take vacations and spend times with their families. This year as we move toward the Artemis I launch, the workload is going to continue to be demanding, so it is important for people to take some time for themselves and recharge.

**Question: How does your team honor and demonstrate NASA's commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive environment where team members are valued for their unique contributions?**

Cianciola: Building a 21st-century rocket requires a 21st-century team that is diverse. One aspect that I have particularly enjoyed is being able to mentor young rocket engineers from diverse backgrounds. Some of our managers started their careers during the Space Shuttle Program and at the beginning of the International Space Station Program. A few of our managers were even mentored by Saturn engineers at the end of

their careers. The SLS Program has given us the opportunity to train a whole new generation of engineers. We've created a work environment where we want these engineers to speak up if they have novel ideas that can improve our processes and program. Some young engineers on our team have followed the SLS core stage from Michoud Assembly Facility where it was built to Stennis where it was Green Run tested to Kennedy where it was recently stacked for Artemis I. As we build SLS rockets, we are training the Artemis Generation that will lead the next era of deep space exploration.

**Question: What key partnerships are your team pursuing to help NASA build and develop a sustainable presence on the Moon? Help push the boundaries of science, technology, and/or human exploration?**

Cianciola: To explore space in a sustainable way, you need a super heavy-lift rocket like SLS. No other rocket has the performance to send the Orion spacecraft, astronauts, and supplies to the Moon on a single mission. SLS is the backbone of the Artemis missions, and our team is moving from a development phase to a production phase for the rocket. The team is currently building rockets for use beyond Artemis V. Both NASA and our prime contractors learned many lessons while building the first heavy-lift launch vehicle since the development of the Saturn V rocket in the 1960s. The 212-foot core stage was the newest part of the rocket, and we are using lessons learned from building the first one to build core stages about 40% faster. We now have core stages under production for Artemis II, III and IV. We had 16 RS-25 engines from the shuttle that we upgraded for SLS. Now, we are working with our prime contractor to produce those engines with modern manufacturing techniques that will lower the cost by up to 50%. And as we look to the future, we have already started building the Exploration Upper Stage that will allow SLS to send 40% more payload to the Moon than our initial SLS configuration. SLS provides the capabilities for us to transport both people and payload to the Moon and beyond, allowing America to push the boundaries of science, technology, and deep space exploration.

**Question: Why do you think your team is successful at staying mission-focused?**

Cianciola: The Artemis missions to the Moon are a historic endeavor like none attempted since the Apollo Program. The last time humans walked on the Moon was 1972. Our team stays focused by realizing the historic importance of what we are doing for America. When I talk to people across the team, they understand and are excited about building the world's most powerful rocket and the capability it provides for NASA to do missions on the Moon and in deep space. When you have a goal that grand, it is easy to stay focused on the mission.

*Editor's note: Tracy McMahan is a public affairs officer in Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

# Spacewalkers complete second roll-out solar array

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

NASA astronaut Shane Kimbrough and European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Pesquet concluded their June 25 spacewalk after 6 hours and 45 minutes. In the ninth spacewalk of the year outside the International Space Station, the two astronauts installed and deployed a new ISS Roll-Out Solar Array on the far end of the port side of the station's P6 backbone truss structure.

Kimbrough and Pesquet successfully removed the array from its position in the flight support equipment, maneuvered it into position, connected the electrical cables, and released it to extend the solar array to its fully deployed position at the 4B power channel. After deployment, Pesquet also retrieved an articulating portable foot restraint to bring inside the space station.

During two spacewalks June 16 and 20, Kimbrough and Pesquet installed and deployed a new array on the 2B power channel – also on the port 6 truss. Both new solar arrays are providing good power generation. Each new array is expected to produce more than 20 kilowatts of electricity.

NASA is augmenting six of the eight existing power channels of the space station with new solar arrays to ensure a

sufficient power supply is maintained for NASA's exploration technology demonstrations for Artemis missions and beyond as well as utilization and commercialization.

This was the ninth spacewalk for Kimbrough, the fifth for Pesquet, and the fifth they conducted together. Kimbrough has now spent a total of 59 hours and 28 minutes spacewalking, and Pesquet's total spacewalking time is 33 hours.

Space station crew members have conducted 241 spacewalks in support of assembly and maintenance of the orbiting laboratory. Spacewalkers have now spent a total of 63 days, 7 hours, and 41 minutes working outside the station.

In November 2020, the space station surpassed its 20-year milestone of continuous human presence, providing opportunities for unique research and technological demonstrations that help prepare for long-duration missions to the Moon and Mars and also improve life on Earth. In that time, 244 people from 19 countries have visited the orbiting laboratory that has hosted nearly 3,000 research investigations from researchers in 108 countries and areas. The Payload Operations Integration Center at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center oversees all experiments and science communications aboard the space station.

# Pride Month encourages discussing the issues



NASA photo

**Marshall Pride Month speaker Mark Moore, left, director of development and marketing at Thrive Alabama, is welcomed to Marshall's online event by Tia Ferguson, director of the Engineering Directorate's Space Systems Department.**

**By RICK SMITH**

*NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center*

It's never pleasant to feel alone in a crowd. Something as simple as an encouraging word from a colleague or a quiet show of community and solidarity, may be all it takes to turn that feeling around and help others achieve all they're capable of achieving.

At NASA, the sky is no limit on the heights such allyship can attain.

That theme – “The Power of Active Allyship” – was a common thread in NASA's 2021 Pride Month events, recognizing and celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer members of its diverse team around the country.

What is active allyship? For NASA Administrator Sen. Bill Nelson, who introduced the agency's June 17 online panel discussion event, it means “working together to fight injustice and promote equity in the workplace, where members of this community and our allies will discuss the issues we face as a united NASA family.”

The panel discussion, which drew viewers from all over the world, centered on understanding the barriers faced by the LGBTQ+ community – and how straight and cisgender team members can help shatter those barriers as active allies, upholding NASA's long tradition of championing diversity, inclusion and equity.

Participants included NASA Deputy Associate Administrator Melanie Saunders; Donna Shafer, associate director at NASA's Johnson Space Center; Sarah Jane Phillips, a visual information specialist at NASA's Glenn Research Center; and Ron Brade, retired associ-

ate director at NASA's Ames Research Center. Charles Cockrell, associate director for strategy at Glenn, moderated.

“Silence is very loud,” said Phillips, who encouraged team members to take any opportunity to let others know they care, suggesting that silence can be just as damaging as open hostility. “You don't have to fly a rainbow flag on your house. You don't have to shout ‘I'm an ally!’ Just speak. Discuss these things.”

Saunders also emphasized the value of providing diversity training for supervisors across the agency. During her years at Johnson, all team members took a basic “Introduction to Unconscious Bias” class, she said, and supervisors delved deeper still, participating in advanced courses probing issues of race, power and privilege.

In any team role, visible allyship isn't difficult, Cockrell said. NASA personnel can wear rainbow flag pins, or put their self-identifying pronouns in their email signature line, demonstrating solidarity and declaring themselves to be active allies.

“The most important thing is just being there, and letting (others) know you're there,” Phillips added. “NASA really does care when we say ‘For the benefit of all.’”

On June 23, Marshall held its own Pride Month event. Team members were welcomed by Loucious Hires, director of Marshall's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity; Tia Ferguson, director of the Engineering Directorate's Space Systems Department; and Barry Roberts, Natural Environments Branch chief in the Engineering Directorate's Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems Department.

“Programs like this help us remember that everyone on the Marshall team is vital to the success of NASA's mission,” Ferguson said. “Anyone can be a leader when it comes to (creating) opportunities to make everyone feel important and welcome and included.”

Mark Moore, director of development and marketing at Thrive Alabama, a North Alabama healthcare provider, provided the keynote address, which included a brief history of pursuit of LGBTQ+ equal rights in the United States, and reflections on his own experiences growing up as a young gay man of color in the 1980s.

Moore said allyship can be a critical tool for improving the workplace for LGBTQ+ team members. He encouraged everyone to self-educate before asking potentially awkward questions of LGBTQ+ colleagues.

“Everybody doesn't like to be a teacher,” he said. “Go online and read quality articles and books. Find good resources. Educate yourself.”

Moore noted that resistance to change takes time to overcome – but stresses the long-term benefits of embracing diversity among all.

“How many decades ago would we be having this conversation about persons of color? How many decades since it was about women in the workplace?” he said. “We are all in this world together. If you want to be successful, you have to be open to learning about people who are different from you.”

The Marshall event was sponsored by Marshall's Office of Human Resources and Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.

*Editor's note: Rick Smith, a Manufacturing Technical Solutions employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

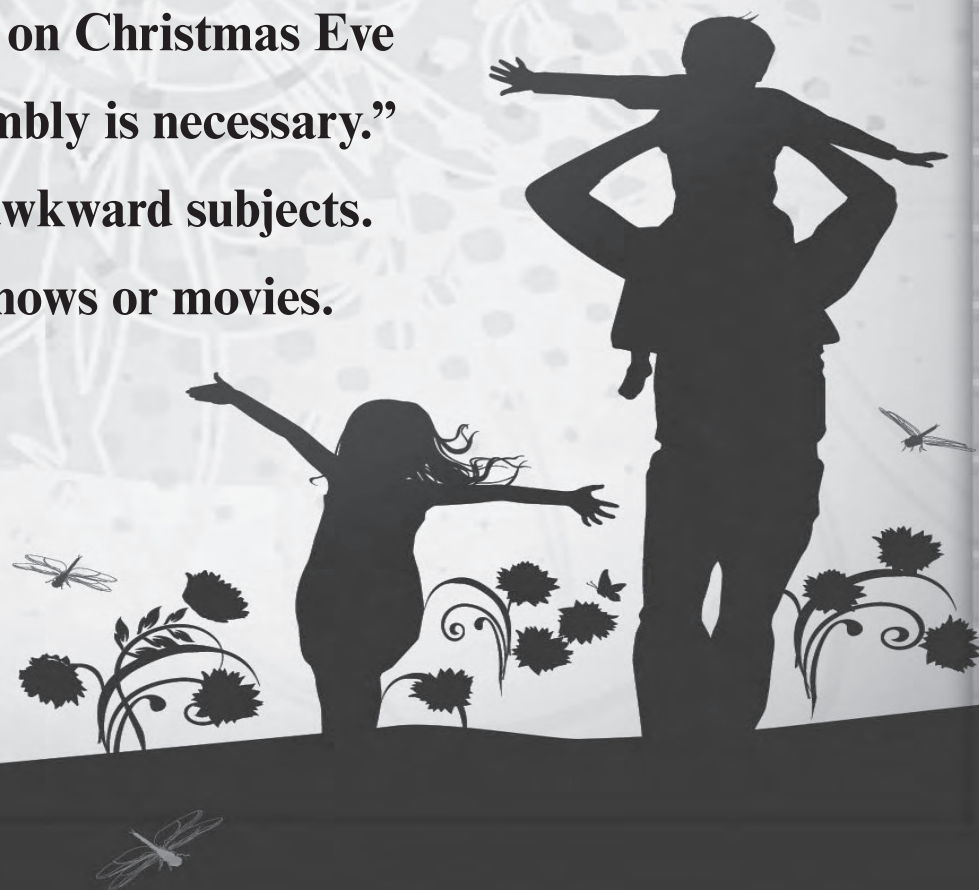
# By the numbers: Challenges of fatherhood

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

[skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

1. **Balancing work and family.**
2. **Discipling your child.**
3. **Changing diapers.**
4. **Setting a good example.**
5. **Meeting the boyfriend or girlfriend.**
6. **Listening with an open mind.**
7. **Letting your children follow their path of choice.**
8. **Putting together toys on Christmas Eve because “some assembly is necessary.”**
9. **Giving advice about awkward subjects.**
10. **Watching children’s shows or movies.**



## Sports

## Redstone rolls past community leaders team

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone team wore yellow jerseys. The community team wore blue.

They competed for the same goal: the coveted Target Destroyed Trophy and its accompanying bragging rights.

"Hey guys, keep it fair. Keep it fair," Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor jokingly told the umpires before the Community Softball Game, June 29 at Toyota Field in Madison.

Redstone took an early lead and held on to beat the North Alabama Rockets, 16-9 in a spirited contest among the Armed Forces Celebration 2021 events.

"We strategized to make sure we were good to go," Garrison Command Sgt. Maj.

Juan Jimenez, the Redstone coach, said. "We played everybody. Everyone was a team player. It's good to see that you can take people from every organization on Redstone and come together and organize a winning team. Dominate the battlefield."

Ty Butler went 2-for-2 with an inside-the-park home run and two runs scored for Redstone. Butler, logistics manager for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office under the Program Executive Office for Aviation, played in left center.

"It's just a pleasure to come out here and represent the Redstone Arsenal," Butler said. "And it's always a great pleasure to come out here and also to play as a team and come away with a victory."

Leadoff hitter Jared Martin went 3-for-3 with two runs. Michael Molina and Larry Cothren added two hits apiece. Marius "Doc" Dockery hit a two-run double and scored two runs. Dockery pitched all six innings for the win.

Redstone scored five unearned runs in the top of the first, thanks to five errors by the Rockets. They led 9-3 after two innings.

"It was poor coaching," Rockets coach Mark Russell, executive director of the Huntsville Sports Commission, said. "I didn't have our team ready. The first inning was a disaster. Our defense let us down. Too many errors. I was proud of the hustle by Mayor Finley. He inspired the rest of the team."

Madison Mayor Paul Finley, the Rockets leadoff hitter and shortstop, went 2-for-4 with a double and one run. In the field, he started a double play and made four putouts and three assists. Finley had college baseball experience as a walk-on at Murray State.

Ryan Renaud hit a two-run, inside-the-park home run. Jeff Gronenberg went 3-for-3 with two runs batted in. Devyn Keith had two hits with a triple and scored two runs. Dale Strong, chairman of the Madison County Commission, hit a two-run double but took the loss in the circle.

"I appreciate the team coming out, spending time," Russell said. "I'm very appreciative of (Huntsville Mayor Tommy) Battle and Chairman Strong for spending time with us."

Maj. Bill Kim, brigade chaplain for the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, played three innings at catcher for the Redstone team. He was behind the plate in the third, fourth and fifth innings. The Madison resident moved here from Fort Drum, New York, in July 2020.

"I think it was a really great opportunity to just have the community come together, and that's especially after the pandemic," Kim said. "It's great to see life getting back to normal and this was a great kickoff to that. I just hope that we continue our partnerships and it's great to be a part of both communities – at Redstone and for the North Alabama community since I'm also a resident here."

Mellor was smiling as he left the stadium with the rest of the spectators and athletes. "What a great opportunity as a teambuilding event," Mellor said. "Team Redstone as a community showed its true colors. Just the sportsmanship and camaraderie of the event is a tremendous success and we really appreciate everyone coming out to support us."



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Dale Strong, chairman of the Madison County Commission, pitches for the North Alabama Rockets.**



Photo by Eric Schultz

**The Redstone team members celebrate their win with Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker, center, senior commander of Redstone Arsenal.**



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker, Redstone senior commander, addresses the crowd before the game at Toyota Field in Madison.**

## Redstone (1-0)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Jared Martin	3	2	3	0
Will Butler	3	1	1	0
Marius Dockery	3	2	1	2
Michael Molina	3	1	2	1
Lisa Marie-Moore	3	0	0	0
Larry Cothren	3	2	2	0
Joe Minor	2	2	0	0
Shawn Arrance	2	0	0	0
Eugene Munoz	2	1	1	0
Ty Butler	2	2	2	1
Chris Alvarez	2	0	0	0

See Game on page 37

# Senior softball league standings

Here are the final regular spring season standings for the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball which plays Monday and Thursday evenings at fields 2 and 1 in Brahan Spring Park. The single-elimination tournament began July 1:

	<b>Won</b>	<b>Loss</b>
Navy blue	12	5
Gray	11	6
Red	9	8
Royal blue	9	8
Maroon	7	10
Green	3	14

# Game

Continued from page **35**

Sean Quinn	2	2	1	0
Johnathan Frasier	2	0	1	0
Terrance Caselberry	2	1	1	1
Bill Kim	2	0	0	0
Mike Izzo	2	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>

## Pitching

	<b>IP</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>ER</b>
Marius Dockery (won)	6	34	15	9	5

## North Alabama Rockets (0-1)

	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>RBI</b>
Paul Finley	4	1	2	0
Ryan Renaud	4	2	1	2
Devyn Keith	4	2	2	0
Kevin Turner	3	1	1	0
Jeff Ritch	1	0	0	0
Jeff Gronenberg	3	0	3	2
Kenny Anderson	2	1	1	0
Matthew Smith	2	0	0	0
Dale Strong	3	1	1	2
Tommy Battle	1	0	0	0
Jeffery Johnson	2	0	1	1
Frances Akridge	1	0	0	0
Louis Whitlow	2	1	1	0
Rex Reynolds	1	0	1	0
Caydin White	1	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Redstone third baseman Joe Minor, a lieutenant colonel at Redstone Test Center, raises his glove to show the ball after making a diving catch.**

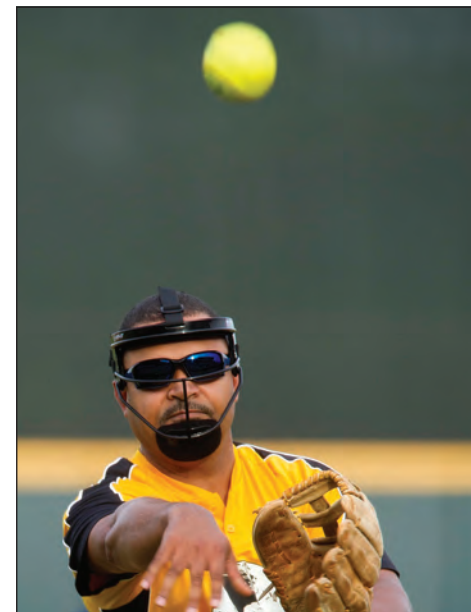


Photo by Eric Schultz

**Redstone pitcher Marius "Doc" Dockery earns the six-inning win.**

## Pitching

	<b>IP</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>ER</b>
Dale Strong (loss)	6	38	16	16	7

						<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>E</b>
Redstone	5	4	0	2	2	3	--	16 16 5
North Ala. Rockets	3	0	1	1	4	0	--	9 15 7

# Royal blue, red advance to senior softball semifinals

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

[skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

The goal entering any tournament is simple: Survive and advance.

Jerry Bevel and the royal blue team got the job done Thursday in the first round of the end-of-season spring tournament in the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

Bevel belted a three-run homer as royal blue beat maroon, 12-11 on field 2 at Brahan Spring Park. Royal blue advanced to play top-seeded navy blue in the semifinals July 12. Maroon was eliminated.

“Great defensive game on our part,” royal blue player/coach Bob Thomson said.

In Thursday’s nightcap, defending champion red eliminated green, 22-15. Red advanced to play second-seeded gray in the other semifinal July 12. The semifinal games are 6 p.m. on fields 2 and 1, followed by the final at 7:30 on field 2.

Bevel went 3-for-4 with six runs batted in and a run scored for royal blue (10-8). Mike Keyser and Derek Santiago had four hits apiece. Thomson and Brian Yarger added two hits apiece. Pete Mitchell pitched all seven innings for the win.

Moto Miller hit a three-run homer while player/coach Chris Maggio had a two-run shot for maroon (7-11). Miller, Maggio and David Allen had three hits apiece. Tim Lawter, Mark Hoffman, Ken Valine and Yogi Guess had two hits apiece. Denny Reasner took the loss in the circle.

“We were very lazy tonight. Played lazy,” Maggio said. “It was a defensive game.”

**Red 22, green 15:** Freddie Childs hit a grand slam and Kirk Wickizer had a three-run homer for red (10-8).

Childs and Yogi Guess had four hits apiece. Randy Bastin, Wickizer and Phil Shriner had three hits apiece. Mike Panko, Dave Hahnemann, winning pitcher Steve Robertson, player/coach Phil Haas and Rena Campbell had two hits apiece.

“Defense came back. We lost it a game there,” Haas said. “And we played well as a team. One hit after another was the approach. And then we had two monster home runs to put us over.”

Tom Fickling hit a two-run homer for green (3-15). Vince Smith, player/coach Billy Cooley and Moto Miller had three hits apiece. Scott Piro, Fickling, Ragnar Opiniano, Jerry Bevel and Derek Santiago added two hits apiece. Cooley took the loss in the circle.

“We hung in there till the sixth inning and then we didn’t hit the ball the last two innings,” Cooley said. “And that was the difference in the game.”

# Navy blue finishes strong against green

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The first-place navy blue team was determined to finish the regular season on a winning note after a disappointing loss.

They did just that June 28 by beating green, 20-14 on field 2 at Brahan Spring Park. Navy blue has a first-round bye as the top seed in the single-elimination tournament which began Thursday for the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

Navy blue (12-5) will next play in a semifinal game July 12.

"We finally hit together. Played pretty good defense," player/coach Larry Guthrie said. His team rebounded from their loss June 24 to defending champion red, 18-7.

Jerry Cowan pitched all seven innings for the win and had two hits at the plate.

He started in place of left-hander Michael Gundersen who was out with a lower back injury from the golf course. Gundersen plans to be back for the semifinal.

Gary Wilkison went 5-for-5 with four runs batted in and three runs scored. Booger Clark and John Pope had four hits apiece. Guthrie, Jerry Bevel and Moto Miller had three hits apiece. David Stumbaugh added two hits. Defensively they turned a pair of 6-4-3 double plays.

Tom Fickling belted a three-run homer and had four RBIs for green (3-14). Vince Smith had four hits with two doubles and three RBIs. Ragnar Opiniano, the Redstone fire chief, had three hits with a double. Scott Piro, Terry Koelbl, Billy Cooley, player/coach Jeff Abbott, Shawn Gordon and Rick Anthis added two hits apiece. Abbott took the loss in the circle.

"We went two innings without scoring and that was the game," Abbott said. "That was the difference."

Green did not score in the fifth and sixth innings but scored five runs, two earned, in the bottom of the seventh.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Navy blue's Jerry Cowan gets the win against green, 20-14.**

## Navy blue (12-5)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Bill Hartsell	6	1	1	1
Jerry Cowan	6	1	2	1
Booger Clark	5	1	4	4
Darnell Ford	3	3	1	0
David Stumbaugh	5	1	2	1
Gary Wilkison	5	3	5	4
John Pope	5	4	4	0
Larry Guthrie	5	2	3	2
Jerry Bevel	5	3	3	2
Moto Miller	5	1	3	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>

## Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Jerry Cowan (won)	7	42	21	14	7

## Green (3-14)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Scott Piro	5	3	2	1
Terry Koelbl	4	3	2	1
Vince Smith	5	2	4	3
Tom Fickling	4	1	1	4
Billy Cooley	4	0	2	1
Ragnar Opiniano	4	1	3	0
Jeff Abbott	4	1	2	0
Robert Tolliver	4	1	1	0
Shawn Gordon	4	1	2	1
Rick Anthis	4	1	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>

## Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Jeff Abbott (loss)	7	50	28	20	17

		R	H	E
Navy blue	0 2 2 5 3 3 5 --	20	28	5
Green	3 1 1 4 0 0 5 --	14	21	3

# Olympic Games strike gold throughout world history

With the Olympics scheduled July 23 to Aug. 8 in Tokyo, I'm reminded of memorable moments from past games.

Many images come to mind. At 66, I can recall watching some magic moments happen on television.

There was swimmer Michael Phelps winning eight gold medals in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. There was gymnast Kerri Strug overcoming the pain from the ankle she injured on her first vault attempt at the 1996 games. She struck the landing on her second attempt, helping the U.S. women win their first-ever team gold medal. The U.S. women beat out Russia for the first time in Olympic history.

There was Ethiopian runner Abebe Bikila running the marathon barefoot and winning in Rome in 1960. There was

## From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn  
Rocket editor

the U.S. men's hockey team upsetting the Soviet powerhouse, 4-3 in the semifinals and going on to beat Finland for the gold medal in 1980. It was the miracle on ice.

Before my time, African American track athlete Jesse Owens took home four gold medals and set three world records at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. This eclipsed Adolf Hitler's plans to turn the games into a showcase for his Nazi regime.

# Holiday weekend golf tournament draws 22 teams

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

A sunny star-spangled Saturday graced the annual Red, White and Blue Tournament at the Links.

Twenty-two teams, with 88 golfers total, competed in the four-person scramble on the Warrior course. There were winners in each of the three flights: Red, White and Blue.

"I think the turnout was great. Had 88 players," Links Manager Gary Haught said. "These events are just meant for camaraderie and social activity. They're meant to be fun."

Winning teams included red flight's Mark Bamburg, Jason Bamburg, Sarah Bamburg and Christo Ziogas; white flight's Rick Cooper, Mark Morrison, Billy Jackson and Dave Warnick; and blue flight's Mike Byrne, Jim Myers, Larry Hess and Bill Roberts.

"The whole team, everybody made a shot when we needed one," Myers said.

Here are the winners:

**Red flight:** 1. Mark Bamburg, Jason Bamburg, Sarah Bamburg, Christo Ziogas (53 score). 2. Donna Lowen, Ben Racoma, Jeremy Long, Ched Jones (56). 3. DeWitt Burns, David Hunt, Robert Valls, Ray Neese (57).

**White flight:** 1. Rick Cooper, Mark Morrison, Billy Jackson, Dave Warnick (62 score). 2. Ryan Summerford, Ross Summerford, Mark Glenn, Joseph Lacy (63). 3. Randy Clark, Jason Clark, Zack Clark, Easton Anderson (63).

**Blue flight:** 1. Mike Byrne, Jim Myers, Larry Hess, Bill Roberts (65 score). 2. Rick Clark, Sammy Nabors, Steve Broussard, Greg Broussard (65). 3. Dee Thonus, Frank Thonus, Greg Thonus, Sandy Parks (65).

**Closest to the pin:** Darlene Kerr on hole 3; Curtis Norris on hole 8; Donna Lowen on hole 11; and Kyle Overmyer on hole 16.

# Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

## How do you stay in shape?

"It's a combination of cardiovascular activities and muscle strength and endurance activities," Col. Michael Martel, Army Materiel Command deputy G-6 (Communications), said. "I think the real key for most people is developing good habits. I've been working out and running since college. This makes me feel better, keep mental focus and just maintain a healthy life. To me one of the keys is having athletic hobbies with my wife. We both run and bike. We both do cardio five or six times a week."

Martel, 49, from Jacksonville, Alabama, has more than 27 years of service. He has deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq. Martel arrived at Redstone in July 2019 from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The Huntsville resident and his wife of 27 years, Moi, have two sons, Cody, 24, and Jacob, 22. He roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Col. Michael Martel, of the Army Materiel Command, does pull-ups in the Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center.**



Courtesy photos

## Best yards in housing

Yards of the Month contest winners for June were 322 Hughes Drive and duplex winner 656A Dyer Circle, according to Hunt Military Communities. They thank everyone for participating and said they will not have a Yards of the Month contest in July. Instead Hunt will have a Red, White and Blue Decor contest on their Facebook page. Residents should watch for more information.

Hazard, you'll be working with the K-9 detail today!

Not really, you'll be on pick-up duty all day!

I'm going to be a dog trainer? That's cool!



# Rocket Announcements

## Sports & Recreation

### Senior softball umpires

Umpires are needed for the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball. They could be semiretired ASA or USSSA softball umpires that want to make a little extra money on Mondays and Thursdays. Games are Monday and Thursday evenings on fields 2 and 1 at Brahan Spring Park. The league also seeks more players for its six teams. Email league director Chris Maggio at [cmaggio51@aol.com](mailto:cmaggio51@aol.com).

### Boating safety class

"Boat America," presented by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, is July 31 and again Aug. 28 from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation, building 5139 on Sportsman Road. Cost is \$20. If interested call Bill Stadlander 361-5841, [wstadlander2@gmail.com](mailto:wstadlander2@gmail.com), or Joe Kleri 351-0433, [jfklери@msn.com](mailto:jfklери@msn.com).

### High school football officials

The North Alabama Football Officials Association are a group of officials that serve North Alabama. They currently contract to high schools in Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, Limestone County and Jackson County. If you are interested in becoming a referee today, visit <https://nafoa.net>.

### Motorcycle training

Redstone motorcycle training, for active duty Soldiers, is conducted at the Installation Motorcycle Safety Range. The classes are Basic Rider Course and BRC 2. Course dates include BRC, Aug. 24, and BRC 2, Aug. 26. To register for a course, visit [https://imc.army.mil/airs/usg\\_disclaimer.aspx](https://imc.army.mil/airs/usg_disclaimer.aspx).

## Conferences & Meetings

### Sergeants major association

The Sergeants Major Association is meeting every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room of Garrison headquarters building 4488 on Martin Road. If you are not able to attend in person, you can still attend 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.

### Federal employees association

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter 443 will meet Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Senior Center. They request their members take a photo of the completed CDC vaccination card and email to [info@seniorview.com](mailto:info@seniorview.com). All photos will be deleted after scanned into the Senior Center system. Alternately, come to the Senior Center during the week and a staff member will verify and check you off the system. Senior Center requires all members have a completed CDC vaccination card. If you have not received your vaccination card or do not have your vaccination card with you, you cannot attend the meeting. The speaker is Elizabeth Garcia, CEO of the Better Business Bureau of North Alabama. If you need information on the meeting or your benefits, call the Service Office 382-5693 and leave a message. The service officer will return your call.

**Warrant officer association**

The Redstone Arsenal Silver Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association continues to meet monthly at 11:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday via Zoom. They look forward to in-person meetings at the Redstone Lanes bowling center later this year. For a virtual meeting link, email retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Weist at mweist63@gmail.com.

**West Point chapter**

Do you know there is a West Point chapter in the Huntsville area? They do several chapter activities throughout the year to include cheering on Army to victory during sporting events and their annual Founder's Day celebration. For more information about the chapter activities and to learn how you can be a part of this organization, visit the chapter website at <https://sallyport.westpointaog.org/topics/11179/memberships>. For more information or assistance, email Dale McDonough at dmacc550@gmail.com.

**Business/government contracting expo**

The Business to Government Contracting Expo is Oct. 27-28 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville. Free expo tickets are available for DOD/CAC holders. This event should interest primes, 8As, government agencies, military directorates and also buyers, sellers and small and large business. For information, call Phil Kiver (509) 999-8645 or email pkiver@contractready.org.

**Veterans of foreign wars**

VFW Gentry-Isom 2702 meets the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in its post home on the corner of Sparkman Drive and 2900 North Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Bobby Lee Jr. (931) 265-5685 or email bobbyleejr01@gmail.com.

**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, will resume its meetings soon; time and place to be determined. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

**Miscellaneous Items****Surplus furniture available**

Need gently used furniture and cubicles? This will make upgrading your office space affordable. The Garrison's Directorate of Public Works has a Relocation Services Contract that organizations can use for personnel moves, furniture/cubicle re-configurations and obtaining furniture. Customers will receive a funds request for the services. For more information, call Michelle Burgett 876-4364.

**Thrift Shop cashier**

The Redstone Thrift Shop is hiring a cashier. The position involves running the cash register and the credit/debit machine. The hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Thursday from 8:45-5:15 and the first Saturday of the month from 9:45-2:15. He or she must have good interpersonal skills, be dependable and enthusiastic with a positive attitude. If interested, email the Thrift Shop at rsm-manager@knology.net.

**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

**Rocket Announcements**

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](http://mystar991.com) or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

**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](http://rsamcc.org).

**Exchange job openings**

Redstone Exchange HR Recruitment Office will conduct weekly on-the-spot interviews at the Main Store food court every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call the Exchange Recruitment Office 650-5928.

**Community youth event**

The 10th annual Community Awareness for Youth, back to school event, is July 24 from 9-11 a.m. at Calhoun Community College, 102 Wynn Drive in Huntsville. CAFY focuses on Four Pillars of Success: Careers, Education, Finances and Health. Its mission is to prepare the youth of Huntsville/Madison County for success as they venture into adulthood, enter the workforce or pursue higher education. Organizers have accepted the challenge of being innovative during the pandemic. This year's centerpiece is a drive-through, giving away 10-day family food supplies (for approximately the first 450 cars) by Refuge Church, which has held food distribution events regularly for years. In addition, Team CAFY and numerous volunteers from the community will distribute free backpacks and school supplies. Huntsville city schools, students and local radio stations will provide entertainment. CAFY is a collaboration between the City of Huntsville's Office of Multicultural Affairs, Huntsville city schools, Huntsville Police Department, the City of Madison, and Madison County with support from individual donors, churches and businesses. For more information, call CAFY founder Harry Hobbs 783-1793, email [harry.hobbs@hsvutil.org](mailto:harry.hobbs@hsvutil.org) or visit the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleCAFY/](http://www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleCAFY/).

**Health department ratings**

The Madison County Health Department released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for June 21-25. The highest scores included JC's Barbecue LLC mobile food service, 2620 Clinton Ave., 100; JC's Barbecue LLC commissary, 2620 Clinton Ave., 100; Bubba's Catering LLC, 2620 Clinton Ave., 100; Publix Super Market 1126 seafood, 2246 Winchester Road NE, 100; Publix Super Market 1126 meat, 2246 Winchester Road NE, 100; Robert "Bob" Harrison Sr. Wellness, 6156 Pulaski Pike, 100; Heaven's Healthy Kitchen, 2022 Jordan Lane NW, 100; and WW Brookings Smoked On the Go, 6001 Matter Place, 100. The lowest scores included JAI MADI Inc. The Corner Store, 3105 Drake Ave. SW, 78; La Frontera retail food store, 2315-C Jordan Lane SW, 77; and Hooters of Huntsville, 4729 University Drive NW, 54.

Find the **Redstone Rocket**

ONLINE AT

 @TeamRedstoneRocket[www.theredstonerocket.com](http://www.theredstonerocket.com) @TeamRedstone[facebook.com/RocketNewspaper](http://facebook.com/RocketNewspaper)