

Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

July 14, 2021

Vol. 70 No. 28

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Matériel enterprise encourages worker fitness

By KARI HAWKINS

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Army Materiel Command employees now have some extra muscle behind their exercise and holistic fitness goals.

Based on the Army's new guidance, AMC is implementing a new Army Civilian Fitness and Health Promotion Program policy throughout its enterprise that includes two major changes focused on providing additional fitness and health opportunities for employees. The policy is focused on encouraging healthier employees, which directly impacts the Army's readiness goal.

"This flexibility provides an additional tool for AMC civilians to leverage in pursuit of enhanced health and wellness. A healthier and fit workforce contributes to readiness and optimized output," Max Wyche, the deputy chief of staff for AMC G-1 (Human Resources), said.

The new Civilian Fitness and Health Promotion Program removes the six-

See Fitness on page 10



Army photo

Army Materiel Command employees now have additional fitness and health opportunities established by the Army Civilian Fitness and Health Promotion Program. The new policy promotes both physical activity and preventive health events and education, and demonstrates the Army's People First priority.

Army Emergency Relief raises \$58K for Soldiers

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

jonathan.stinson@theredstonerocket.com

The Army Emergency Relief annual fundraising campaign wrapped last week.

For Team Redstone, the effort netted \$58,000 for the program that provides financial support to Soldiers.

Since March, AER has received more than \$5 million in donations. About \$4.8 million came from active duty and retired Soldiers.

A good portion of the money from Redstone, \$23,461, came from the AER Golf Tournament organized by members from the Utility Helicopters Project Office at the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

"We really appreciate all the hard work that went into this," Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor said to members from UHPO, Lt. Col. Joe Alexander and Kevin

See AER on page 21



Photo by Eric Schultz

Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor congratulates Lt. Col. Joseph Alexander, who was there on behalf of Col. Calvin Lan, alongside Kevin Tyree, Capt. Hunter Wilson in the command conference room during the closeout of this year's Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign.



MILITARY

Organic Industrial Base key to strategic readiness.

PAGE 5



COMMUNITY

Learn how to fly at Flying Activity.

PAGE 23

FEDERAL

Space scientists study mega-flares from stars.

PAGE 31



SPORTS

Former Redstone swimmer makes U.S. Olympic team.

PAGE 35



Redstone Arsenal Environmental Program Public Comment Period – July 11, 2021-August 10, 2021 Proposed Corrective Measures at RSA-109

The Army is soliciting public comments on the proposed corrective measures for soil cleanup at RSA-109, Former Chemical Munitions Staging Area, located in the central portion of Redstone Arsenal. Arsenic was released to surface and subsurface soil at the site during World War II use as a staging area for chemical agent operations and postwar use as a disposal area for debris from demolition of chemical manufacturing plants. The arsenic concentrations in soil pose an unacceptable human health risk. There is also a potential risk/threat from chemical agents and unexploded ordnance at RSA-109 based on the site history and its location within an active test area. No contaminants in soil pose unacceptable risks to ecological receptors or from leaching to groundwater. No chemicals of concern requiring action were identified in groundwater under the site and thus, no corrective measures are needed for groundwater.

The preferred corrective measures for soil consist of the following actions:

- Excavation of arsenic-contaminated soil in two site areas to approximately 4 feet and 7 feet below ground surface, respectively, to residential cleanup goals (total estimate of 41 cubic yards)
- Disposal of contaminated soil at an approved facility
- Backfill of excavation with clean soil and restoration of site
- Implementation of land-use controls to limit site use to require installation of warning signs, on-call unexploded ordnance support for intrusive activities, and annual site inspections in accordance with a Notice of Environmental Use Restriction.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has concurred with the Army's recommendation for the soil corrective measures. However, the final decision will not be made until after consideration of public comments received on this notice and following consideration of comments received during the public comment period on the proposed modification to Redstone Arsenal's Alabama Hazardous Wastes Management and Minimization Act Permit.

Site documents are available for public viewing at the following locations:

- Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, Heritage Room, 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville
- Triana Public Library, 357 Record Street, Triana.

For more information or to send comments about the proposed corrective measures at RSA-109, contact:

Ms. Amelia Hice, Public Affairs Specialist
4488 Martin Road, 2nd Fl. Rm A-213
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5000
Telephone: (256) 876-0807
E-mail: amelia.r.hice.civ@mail.mil



Letter to the editor: On importance of taking a shot

My name is Zach Tyler, and I am an intern working on Redstone Arsenal. I read the Redstone Rocket each week, and I really appreciate the work you and your team do to keep us informed. You don't need me to tell you that you all are good at what you do – this year's Alabama Press Association awards say that – but I will say thank you for doing it.

However, I read with deep concern Mr. Stinson's column in this week's issue of the Rocket (July 7 edition). Everyone is entitled to their own opinion; Mr. Stinson's seems to be that the government shouldn't be in the business of telling folks to wear masks or stay home to limit the spread of COVID.

Conscience compels me to say that I respectfully disagree in the strongest possible terms. COVID has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans. The virus is still killing us – despite the fact that in almost any walk-in doctor's clinic, highly effective vaccines can be gotten by almost anyone who wants them. Let's not forget that it was our government rising to this awful occasion that fueled the research and development of those vaccines. Army Materiel Command's own Gen. Gus Perna left Redstone to lead that effort.

Despite the incredible vaccine access afforded to us, less than half of the country's population is fully vaccinated against COVID, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This, to me, is trag-

ic. So many people seem to be afraid – perhaps of experiencing side effects, or having to miss work, or maybe just ceding personal independence to the largest government-led public health campaign in American history. Perhaps to some it seems un-American to join in that campaign – to be a follower.

But our country is at war. This virus is the enemy, and we're all on the same team fighting it. Vaccines are our most effective weapons, followed by masks and social distancing. We needed strong federal leadership backed by science to develop and deploy those weapons. During the darkest days of this pandemic, we needed public institutions tracking the spread of the virus in order to know when going to choir practice or a football game was a terrible risk. And we needed leaders willing to tell us it was time to mask up.

I know that the last year has been difficult for all of us. No one wants to go back to isolating themselves from friends and loved ones. However, I believe Mr. Stinson missed an opportunity. Using your platform to advocate against a strong government response to a possible rise in infections due to the Delta variant is reckless. To end this war, we need strong leadership on the importance of getting vaccinated as soon as possible. The title of Mr. Stinson's column had the right idea: If you haven't yet, you should take the shot so that we can all move forward.

Zach Tyler

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

Email classified ads to rocketads@theredstonerocket.com

Rocket articles are available at:

<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/Designer: Eric Schultz

Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane

General Manager: French Salter

Advertising Sales: Donna Counts, 256-714-7152, or 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 Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are

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

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's your favorite action movie?

"As a kid, my favorite action movie was Back to the Future (1985, starring Michael J. Fox). It just opened my mind to a lot of possibilities," Warren Wise, a police officer with NASA Protective Services since June 2018, said. "Probably the scene where he's playing the guitar at his mom and dad's prom. Of course the song's already out but they didn't know it. I think that's a pretty cool scene. And then he says, 'I guess you guys aren't ready for that yet. But your kids are gonna love it.' That movie was a trendsetter."

Wise, 36, from Meridianville, was a Redstone gate guard from 2008-10. Then he joined the Department of Defense and went overseas from 2010-13 in Kuwait and Bahrain. The New Market resident and his wife of seven years, Crystal, have a combined four children – two sons and two daughters. Wise likes to fish, shoot guns, watch sports and go kayaking. He roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Warren Wise

Getting to know you

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

Name: Kaylene Hughes

Position: Historian for the Aviation and Missile Command

What did you want to be when you grew up?

An historian. I knew that I wanted to be an historian when I was like 10 or 11 years old. Because I was always interested in things that had happened in the past and I was good at finding out about them.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2021?

To continue to help people understand the history of AMCOM, Redstone Arsenal and the U.S. Army.

What is the best part about your job?

That I get to learn something every day.

Who is your hero, and why?

I'm going to say my paternal grandfather, Lonnie L. Hughes., who was a career Naval pilot. It's just so much about his life and the fact my dad grew up moving around with the Navy. That was always real interesting to me.

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

I'd like to go to the moon. I'd like to



land on the moon and look back at the Earth.

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

I guess to "work at what you enjoy." A lot of time when we went to school, they'd say you have to get a practical degree so you can get a job. But I want to do what I enjoy and what I enjoy is history.

What do you like to do to pass the time?

History. One of the things I've been doing for years, I started sending history lessons to members of the SGS (Secretary of the General Staff). I have fun finding out real weird things.

On this date in history: July 14

In 2015: NASA's New Horizons probe performed the first flyby of Pluto, and thus completed the initial survey of the Solar System.

In 1965: Mariner 4 flyby of Mars took the first close-up photos of another planet. The photographs took approximately six hours to be transmitted back to Earth.

In 1874: The Chicago Fire of 1874 burned down 47 acres of the city, destroying 812 buildings, killing 20, and resulting in the fire insurance industry demanding municipal reforms from Chicago's city council.

In 1853: The first major U.S. world's fair, the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations, opened in New York City.

In 1789: The storming of the Bastille in Paris escalated the widespread discontent into the French Revolution. Bastille Day is still celebrated annually in France.

Quote of the week

"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."

– President Harry S. Truman

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents June 27 through July 3:

June 28: Redstone police responded to Gate 9 for contraband that was discovered in a vehicle during a Random Antiterrorism Measure. A search of the vehicle discovered a small amount of marijuana, THC wax, two smoking pipes, other smoking devices, as well as a Smith and Wesson M&P .380 pistol that was discovered in back right pocket of the driver who was then detained and transported to the Redstone Police Department for processing. The vehicle was removed by a wrecker service. The driver received three citations – for the securi-

ty violation, possession of a controlled substance marijuana, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia – and was then released to appear in court at a later date.

June 29: A government vehicle had a parking lot accident. While traveling through a perimeter gate entrance, the vehicle sustained minor damage when it struck the side of the chain-link fence. The fence was still intact.

Citations included one for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for possession of a firearm and dangerous weapon, two for possession of a controlled substance, one for possession of drug paraphernalia, three for expired registration and 16 for speeding.

Know your laws: On making name changes

By AMY WASYLUKA

Huntsville attorney

During their lifetime, many people may want to change their name for one reason or another. Maybe it is to better reflect your personality, maybe it is to honor a cherished relative. Whatever the reason, the process to change a name is often simpler than many realize.

For Alabama adults seeking to change their name, they must file a notarized form with the probate court in the county where they reside. They must also attach a certified copy of their birth certificate listing both of their parents' full names as well as a non-expired state ID. If your photo ID does not list your current residence as the county where you are filing, proof of residency may be required. Finally, adults seeking to change their name must pay a filing fee. In Madison County that filing fee is only \$37.

For Alabama parents seeking to change the name of their minor child,

the process is more difficult, as the consent of both parents is required before a minor's name can be changed. Additionally, there can be no pending or prior civil legal cases regarding or involving that child, including but not limited to cases involving custody or support of the child. Likewise, there should not be any federal, state, county or other governmental agency that has custody, control or oversight over the child. Provided these conditions are met, parents can generally change the name of their minor child using a process similar to that for adult name changes.

As with adult name changes, parents seeking to change the name of their child must file a notarized form with the probate office. They must also file a current non-expired state ID for each parent as well as a certified copy of the minor's



birth certificate containing the full names of both parents. Additionally, the petitioning parent must reside in the county in which the name change is filed. As with adult name changes, if the address on the parent's ID does not reflect the same county as filing, proof of residency may be required. Finally, parents are required to pay a filing fee in order to change the name of their minor child. In Madison County, that filing fee is the same as for adult name changes.

Instructions for both adult and minor name changes in Madison County can be found online at the following address: www.madisoncountyal.gov/departments/probate-judge/areas-of-service/name-changes.

It is important to note that regardless of whether you wish to change your name or that of a minor child, Alabama

probate courts do not provide legal advice. Therefore, should you have questions or concerns about either adult or minor name changes, you should find an attorney who can walk you through those questions and potentially streamline the process for you. Both 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 or by calling the Alabama State Bar's Lawyer Referral Line at 800-392-5660.

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.

The night that one flew out of the cuckoo's nest

There was a gentle breeze blowing through the trees outside the window. Crickets were chirping softly. The house was quiet. My phone was somewhere else. I thought to myself, "It's finally going to happen. I can finally poop in peace."

Half you are like, gross. The other half of you know exactly what I'm talking about, especially if you have kids. I've heard they're almost as bad as cats.

Then BANG! BANG! BANG!
No, it wasn't gunshots this time. My wife started beating on the door.

Our house was built in the '60s, which means it has an extremely small master bath. So there was only about a foot between her pounding fists and my face. It immediately shattered the tranquility.

She was breathing rapidly, crying and hysterically repeating: "I killed it. I killed it."

My first thought was "Yes. Yes you did."
I've been told I'm not the best at interpreting emotions, but eventually I sensed she was not celebrating a job well done. You know like when you nail a presentation at work and your co-worker says "man, you killed that."

I thought she had squished one of our cats. They are always trying to escape through the front door and we are always shutting the door quickly to prevent them from realizing their freedom. That would have explained why at least one of them was not scratching at the door earlier.

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson
Assistant editor

Then I remembered our cats don't do anything quietly, and up until her darkening the door, I hadn't heard anything. Had she actually crushed one of cats, I'm sure it would've set off some dramatic sequence of events that – while it may have eventually ended in their death – it surely would not have been quiet, nor quick.

By the time I had come to this realization, and I mean we're talking a couple seconds, Anna had already fled back to from whence she came and if I was going to get to the bottom of this mystery I would have to follow her. So, with a shot of adrenaline and more effort than I'd like to admit, I rose.

Unfortunately, I must have been sitting for a while because as I stood, I realized I could not feel my feet and I quickly face planted onto the floor.

If someone had an omniscient point of view of the situation they would've seen me falling flat on my face in the back of my house while my wife was running out of the front door hysterically saying "I killed it."

Don't fret, dear reader, I'm not dead. If you've read more than one of these columns, you know what Anna has to put up

with. And, had she actually killed me, she would've been saying "I killed it" like the guy congratulating someone for a job well done, while celebrating like a young Hulk Hogan after WrestleMania.

I'm sure if you asked her she'd say she'd shed a tear, but we all know, and I don't blame her. After using a cat tree to regain a vertical orientation and using the wall to keep said orientation, I started to make my way to the front of house.

I came around the corner and I could see through the storm door. Anna was looking around in the yard like someone who had lost the back of an earring. By this time, both cats had come out of their napping places to post up in front of the storm door, and they were watching the events unfold looking for an opportunity to escape.

I pushed past the cats, who looked at me like they were both going to write me a strongly-worded letter, and by the time I got outside Anna had calmed down.

That's when I asked her what was going on. She said she was pouring some water into her ferns when she heard a screech and saw something fall out of the plant and go thud on the ground.

"OK, what was it and where is it?" I asked. She could barely get out that it was a baby bird before she started tearing up again and she pointed to a dark lump on the ground.

This thing looked more like a cat toy than

a bird. It was just a ball of feathers and it wasn't moving.

So there I am, this 300-pound guy sneaking up on a baby bird in the middle of the night just waiting for someone to video it for the community watch Facebook group.

The closer I get, the more I crouch. Basically, at this point, there's not much difference between me and puma. I didn't know if this thing was still alive or not, but I wasn't taking any chances.

Finally I pounce and scoop the bird into my hands and this thing loses its mind. Its beak is trying to drill through my fingers, its little talons are grabbing whatever it can.

Finally I get it cupped in my hands so it can't see and it calms down.

It turns out there were three birds in that fern. I know this because after I spent 20 minutes trying wrangle the two that fell out of the nest, the third one decided to jump and make a break for it, too.

Before I get emails, no, if you touch a baby bird it does not mean the mother will abandon it. That's a myth. Yes, it's better to just leave them alone and let the mother get them back into the nest, but we have a neighborhood cat who loves to hunt in our yard.

The three in question grew quickly, as birds do, and flew the nest a few weeks later.

The moral of this story is clearly to lock the bedroom door in addition to the bathroom door.

Military

Organic Industrial Base key to Army strategic readiness



Army Materiel Command's Commander Gen. Ed Daly chairs the Organic Industrial Base Commander's Summit July 7-8.

Photo by Megan Gully

By MEGAN GULLY

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

As the Army continues to modernize and prepare for large scale combat operations in a multi-domain environment, the Army senior sustainer said that the decisions being made today will set the stage for the Organic Industrial Base's ability to support strategic readiness both now and in the future.

That was the message Army Materiel Command's top leader Gen. Ed Daly had for those attending the OIB Commander's Summit July 7-8.

The Army's OIB, consisting of 26 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants, manufactures and resets Army equipment, generating readiness and operational capability throughout Army formations. Daly emphasized the importance of the OIB in maintaining readiness today, building surge capacity and modernizing to enable the future force.

"Our depots, arsenals and ammunitions plants are the most important element of Army strategic readiness across the sustainment warfighting function," he said. "As Army leaders look at strategic readiness, what comes front and center is the OIB."

Daly hosted the OIB commanders and other AMC leadership to hold candid discussion about processes and policies to examine how to set the conditions for the OIB's modernization.

"Now is the time to examine the OIB in terms of policy, execution and workload to ensure we are modernizing to achieve the right effects to take us through the next

40 years," he said. "History tells us that we need the OIB, and it's time to go all in on asserting your relevance to strategic readiness."

Earlier this year, AMC leaders unveiled a 15-year OIB modernization strategy with a four-phase approach to identify, evaluate, analyze and develop a plan to incorporate emerging technologies into the OIB. At the guidance session in March, Daly told the leaders of the Life Cycle Management Commands and OIB commanders to assess and execute the inclusion of new, 21st century technology that can improve conditions, efficiencies and effectiveness across facilities.

During the OIB Commander's Summit, Daly further challenged the leaders to look at their modernization plans and ensure they are intrinsically linked to the Army's 31 plus 4 critical modernization capabilities.

"We need to highlight and communicate the equipment and capabilities necessary to support the Army's modernization efforts and keep the OIB relevant for 40 more years," he said. "History shows us that the Army will win when there is logistics success, and your organizations are exponentially important in the logistics community in achieving overmatch and dominance."

AMC's Executive Deputy to the Commanding General Lisha Adams highlighted that while these are challenging times for the OIB, the Army chose the best of the best to lead its industrial base through these essential modernization efforts.

"You are being pulled in many directions and asked to become experts in a process you might not have had experience with prior to this assignment, but if it was easy to do your job, then we would have chosen someone else to do it," Adams said.

Logistics specialist recognized for remote fielding plan



Daniel Kuykendall Jr.

By **MICHELLE GORDON**

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

When Daniel Kuykendall Jr. became a logistics management specialist with the Aviation and Missile Command in January 2020, he did not know his job would drastically change two months later.

Kuykendall is a lead materiel fielding manager assigned to the AMCOM Logistics Center, Acquisition Logistics Directorate. He and his team manage six Integrated Fires Mission Command Project Office weapons systems and provide support to multiple air defense artillery units worldwide.

Prior to COVID-19, Kuykendall and his team traveled to various locations throughout the U.S. and overseas to field IFMC's critical weapons systems to commandant commanders and provided on-site support to Soldiers. However, on March 13, 2020, the secretary of defense issued a stop-movement order to all military personnel and Department of Defense civilians.

The order halted all travel, to include official travel, which grounded Kuykendall's team and forced him to find a way to

field equipment to units without leaving Redstone Arsenal.

Kuykendall said his team assists ADA Soldiers with equipment ranging from computers to trucks and tanks to helicopters. They use the phrase "weapons systems" as a generic term to cover the entire gamut of possibilities but, the bottom line was, the Soldiers needed the equipment.

Much like the rest of the world, Kuykendall had to find a new way to conduct business during a global pandemic and provide uninterrupted support to the warfighter.

He devised a plan to remotely field the weapons systems, relying on his 21 years of experience on active duty to help him.

"The same thing I'm doing now, I did in the Army – supply operations, property book accountability – so I explained to the leadership, 'This is what Soldiers do in the Army.' The property book officer and the supply sergeant, they get new equipment all of the time. They inventory it and issue it to the section that it belongs to, so that's how I knew it could happen, because that's what I did in the Army."

Kuykendall's plan worked. His team has now successfully used his remote fielding plan for more than a year – coordinating with the gaining commands to conduct remote fieldings and joint inventories and achieving 100% property accountability with zero issues.

"We coordinate with the unit, ship the equipment out to them and provide all of the documentation for them to conduct the inventory with us via on the phone or (video call)," he said.

For his dedication to supporting the warfighter and continuing the mission, the Army Materiel Command recognized Kuykendall as an employee of the quarter across the entire AMC enterprise for the fourth quarter of 2020.

He said he did it because it had to be done. The rest of the world may have come to a stop in March 2020, but the Soldiers in the field and deployed all over the world could not.

"The systems we field are the systems the Soldiers use to do their missions," Kuykendall said. "So every weapons system is critical to the unit and their deployment. They cannot be successful without the equipment we issue them."

Extension granted for identification card renewal

By **JONATHAN STINSON**

Assistant editor

jonathan.stinson@theredstonerocket.com

Dependents of active duty, reserve and National Guard uniformed service members have until Oct. 31 to get their expired Uniformed Service Identification cards renewed.

The USID card is the primary ID card for reserve component members not eligible for a Common Access Card, retirees, dependents spouses, children and other individuals eligible for benefits and privileges.

The Department of Defense recently announced an extension of expiration dates for ID cards that expired between Jan. 1, 2020, and July 31, 2021. It said retirees and

their dependents had until Jan. 21, 2022, to renew their cards, but this extension did not apply to active duty, reserve, National Guard service members or their dependents.

The One Stop is open and processing renewals.

It had been operating in a limited capacity after the Defense Manpower Data Center pushed Department of Defense-wide DEERS/RAPIDS software update that had an adverse effect on a number of the DEERS/RAPID systems,

These are the systems that generate CACs and U.S. IDs for military personnel, government civilians and contractors, retirees and their family members, but according to officials those problems have been fixed.

For questions, call the One Stop at 842-2413.

AFGE Local 1858 electing officers

From combined reports

American Federation of Government Employees Local 1858 is electing officers by secret-mail-ballot.

All dues paying members in good standing as of April 12 will be eligible to vote. All members can vote on president and assistant president. Only members employed at the commands' worksite can vote for the vice president positions of CCDC AvMC and ACC-Redstone.

The term of office is two years. Ballots will be collected from the dedicated election post office box and tallied July 27.

Members in good standing who have not received a ballot, or need a replacement ballot or absentee ballot, should send an email by July 23 to the Election Committee's Jacob Morrison, jmm0070@alumni.uah.edu, or Victoria Dixon, victoria.dixon@comcast.net.

All ballots must be received by 4 p.m. July 27 at P.O. Box 18887, Huntsville, 35804. Ballots will be retrieved from the post office box by the Election Committee and will be taken directly to the union office to conduct the ballot tally. Each candidate may have an observer, who is a member present throughout the election process, including the tally of ballots.

Election protests must be in writing and received by Aug. 3 by the Election Committee. For more information call Morrison, the Election Committee chairman, at 426-3358.

Fitness

Continued from page 1

month, once-in-a-career limitation on use of administrative leave for up to three hours of physical fitness and health activities each week. The updated policy allows employees to use administrative leave for up to three hours a week for a total of 80 hours a year to participate in command-sponsored fitness and health promotion programs.

The new policy also expands the definition of fitness and health promotion programs to include not only physical fitness activities but also preventive health events and education on health promotion topics.

“This is an outward demonstration of AMC’s priority of putting people first. It also sends a message to employees that senior leaders support the importance of employees adopting a healthy lifestyle,” Valerie Francis, AMC’s Health Promotion Program manager, said.

It’s been long understood that healthy employees make for highly productive teams. Industry surveys show a direct correlation between employee well-being and workplace performance.

“Employees are AMC’s most valuable asset. It is important we provide programs and educational opportunities to help them maintain work-life balance,” Francis said. “The program not only reaps rewards for the employee, but increases readiness, resilience and productivity in the workplace to ensure the AMC mis-

sion is accomplished.”

With supervisor approval and a completed participation form, AMC employees in good standing are provided up to three hours per week to pursue their fitness and health goals, she said. The provision remains in place as long as supervisors and employees maintain the participation agreement, but cannot exceed 80 hours a year per statutory mandate.

AMC major subordinate commands are encouraged to provide a variety of exercise opportunities to meet the needs of all employees.

“A command-sponsored exercise activity can be as simple as taking a walk, which does not require a facility or special equipment,” Francis said. “We encourage the use of fitness centers that are located on the installation or on site as well.”

Now that AMC’s policy has been released, each AMC major subordinate command will base their own fitness and health promotion programs on their mission and commander’s guidance, Francis said.

“Once supervisors understand the policy and the policy is implemented at the command level, the employee will be required to have a signed contract with their supervisor to participate,” she said. “Supervisors are responsible for an employee’s work schedule so they have oversight and visibility of employee participation, and can dis-enroll an employee if they are not following policy guidelines.”

Employees are not only required to have a participation agreement, but they must also request specific times

for participation in advance, which gives the supervisor the ability to manage mission requirements, she said. Participation time has to be recorded in the time and attendance system as administrative leave. The activity session must include travel time and preparation time, and employees must report when they leave work to exercise and when they return to work. Employees can combine their sessions with their lunch hour to provide additional time for travel and/or changing from work to workout clothes.

Participation agreements must be renewed at least annually. If an employee leaves for another position or is assigned a new supervisor, they will be required to have a new signed participation agreement with their new supervisor.

“A supervisor can refuse to sign based on mission requirements,” Francis said. “Plus, an employee serving on a performance improvement plan, who is subject to leave restrictions, or who has been formally disciplined for lack of candor or similar offense within the previous 12 months are ineligible to participate in the program.”

If managed correctly, the new program has the potential to have a positive impact on both employees and their work environment along with the mission.

“The renewal period gives both the supervisor and employee a chance to discuss the impact of the program on employee and workplace well-being,” Francis said. “The program is not just about physical fitness improvement. It’s also about holistic wellness and about improving AMC’s most valuable asset – its people.”



Courtesy photo

Patriotic decor winner

Redstone housing residents put their patriotic decorating skills to work during the Red, White and Blue Decor contest for July. The winner, 490 Cooke Drive, received a \$20 electronic gift card to a retailer of their choice, according to Hunt Military Communities.

Mulack assumes role for space, high altitude operations

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

Space and Missile Defense Command has held a change of charter for the command's Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence Army Capability Manager for Space and High Altitude.

Col. Timothy Dalton relinquished his charter as SMDC's ACM SHA to Col. David Mulack during a July 9 ceremony.

"The ACM is a colonel and part of the senior leadership at SMDC, but they have authorities delegated by the four-star commanding general of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command," Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, SMDC commander, said.

The ACM SHA serves as the Army's centralized fielded force integrator for space and high altitude operations. The ACM SHA coordinates and synchronizes all doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy, or DOTMLPF-P, solutions to provide space and high altitude-required capabilities.

The ACM SHA develops, staffs and gains approval for capability documents and any other TRADOC DOTMLPF-P products as required by the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development process. Also ACM SHA coordinates with other capability developers, centers of excellence, capability development integration directorates, materiel developers and operational commands for the purpose of ensuring coordinated and integrated DOTMLPF-P products and services key to the ACM's assigned capability areas.

Karbler said that during his tenure Dalton completed several key capability development and production documents: including the Space Superiority Capabilities Documents in 2019, the Tactical Space Layer Abbreviated Capability Development Document, and Navigation Warfare Situational Awareness Abbreviated Capability Development Document in 2021.

"Each of these documents is designed to accomplish military objectives by specifying the warfighter's need for a certain capability or by providing the information required



Photo by Carrie David Campbell

Col. David Mulack receives his charter as the incoming Army Capability Manager for Space and High Altitude from Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, during a change of charter ceremony July 9.

for production, testing and deployment," Karbler said. "And they are absolutely critical to closing capability gaps that our adversaries might try to exploit and to getting new and emerging technologies into the hands of our Soldiers."

Karbler said another highlight of Dalton's tenure was the successful relocation of Joint Tactical Ground Stations in Europe, Korea and the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility.

"These global missile warning systems receive and process in-theater, direct downlinked data from overhead persistent infrared sensors," Karbler said. "And last year, they were key to ensuring the safety of our Soldiers and international partners during the Iranian theater ballistic missile attacks on U.S. and allied forces in Iraq.

"All of these achievements are more than just impressive; they represent tangible progress in meeting the warfighter's needs, and they're a testament to Tim's focus on putting people first."

Dalton said that despite the challenges of working in the COVID-19 environment during his tenure, the team continued to successfully advocate and document the requirements for space and high altitude capabilities in the Army.

"It is hard to believe it has been almost three years since I was given the opportunity to work with an unbelievably talented workforce in the ACM, across the command and throughout the Army," Dalton said. "I cannot say enough great things about the team and all these efforts. Folks may not think it sounds like much, but it really is a tremendous effort to get the Army to recognize and validate a requirement. On top of that to help get it resourced by the Army, which has been a complete SMDC effort. I am happy to say I was a part of the ACM SHA and SMDC team and truly learned a lot and enjoyed my time here.

"Thanks to my wife and kids for continuing to put up with me and all that comes with this profession. I truly appreciate all you have sacrificed to allow me to continue to serve our great nation."

Dalton's next assignment will be to serve as chief of the Space Support Element for U.S. Army Pacific Command.

The ACM SHA organization located at Huntsville and Colorado Springs, Colorado, consists of the Joint Friendly Force Tracking Division, responsible for more than five million track reports daily; Space Requirements Division; User Representative Division; and the Space Prototyping and Experimentation Division.

As the incoming ACM SHA, Mulack is no stranger to the command. He served in the G-33 as the operations branch chief and then as the operations division chief from 2013-16.

"It is an exciting time for space and I am glad to be back at SMDC," Mulack said. "I am pumped up to take the job and take space capabilities for the Army into the next plateau, but I can't do that without the awesome ACM SHA team both here and in Colorado."

AMCOM senior enlisted Soldier reflects on 30-year career

By KERENSA HOUSTON

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

After 27 years, Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Dove is about to lace up his boots for the last time.

The command sergeant major of Aviation and Missile Command has lots of stories to tell – from his grandfather and his grandfather's twin being prisoners of war during World War II to multiple combat deployments and the fact that Rosie the Riveter is one of his grandmothers (yes, he just glossed over that one).

But it all started in San Angelo, Texas, where Dove grew up as big brother to Bobby.

Wanting to fly

Though there was a rich family history of military service, it was the pursuit of an airframe and power plant mechanics license that ultimately led Dove to join the Army.

"I did go to (Reserve Officer Training Corps) right after high school with the Angelo State University," he said. "I was in the Air Force ROTC program for a year. My grades, however, did not support the ROTC program."

As it turned out, college was not a good fit at the time so Dove decided to get a private pilot's license.

"I thought that was great and had a lot of fun with it but it was really expensive and I couldn't afford it. So I needed to keep working to figure out what I needed to do next to support my plan to fly."

Figuring the A&P license would get his foot in the door and open up a path for him, Dove sent out resumes to about 200 companies around the country. Of those, he only had three interviews and got zero job offers.

So he worked as a car mechanic.

One day, as Dove was parking a car he'd just finished an oil change on, a recruiter in a Class B uniform walked up. "He asked me if I wanted to work on trucks in the Army," Dove recalled.

In so many words, Dove declined but countered, "I only want to work on airplanes; preferably, turbine engines. If you can get me something in that, we'll talk; but, if it's not aviation, I'm not going."

Dove and his wife, Laurie, discussed the prospect of him joining the Army.

"I knew if I didn't join the military at that time, I'd probably regret it for the rest of my life," he said. "So I decided to continue the conversation with the recruiter to see if he could really get me something in aviation or if he was just telling me some story to get me in the office."

The couple had been married almost four years by the time Dove raised his right hand for the first time.



Photo by Traci Boutwell

Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Dove, Aviation and Missile Command, completes the sprint-drag-carry portion of the Army Combat Fitness Test, May 26.

Because he had a high Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score, he was able to take his pick of jobs. Though he wasn't able to enlist as a turbine engine mechanic, he started as an OH-58 helicopter repairer – close enough.

Unlike so many who joined the Army, Dove said he didn't join for the education benefits. He was in his late 20s and only wanted the experience he could gain.

"The plan was to do four years, figure out if I liked it or not and then, most likely, go back to Texas and continue on from there," he said. "And I actually turned down the GI Bill so I could get the loan repayment program so the Army would pay for my A&P license. So (I was) back to making money to go try to figure out how to fly ... which never happened – at least not as a pilot."

Though he never made a profession out of being a pilot, Dove remained in the aviation community and played a role in maintaining the equipment aviators flew, performing flight duties as a nonrated crewmember and, later, leading Soldiers in that same community.

'No one is more professional than I'

Taking care of Soldiers has been at the core of all Dove's done throughout his career. Of note is the repairer's role in getting Soldiers what they needed to succeed in the fight – at home and abroad.

In civilian terms, a command sergeant's major role may be summed up as a general manager or senior adviser to a chief executive officer. But it's so much more

nuanced than that.

There are times when the commanding general gets a brief that indicates a program is going well. The command sergeant major, having had conversations with the Soldiers, is able to caveat what the CG has been told with what the Soldiers operating the equipment have to say.

"I get to help the enterprise provide solutions for some of the challenges that Soldiers are having," he said. "That's just one thing I get to do ... and that's probably the most rewarding piece of it because I actually do get to try to find a solution for Soldiers to make their jobs easier."

Many have a mantra, person or ideal that guides them. For Dove, it's the Non-commissioned Officer Creed.

"I've had to use that document to counsel NCOs and try to mentor some of those younger NCOs to become better NCOs," he said. "When you read the NCO Creed it's a very challenging document, but it's also very standards-based. If you follow that, everything else falls in line."

The highlights

A highlight reel of Dove's service would absolutely prominently feature the 12 years he spent with the storied 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Those years included multiple deployments to Afghanistan, the Philippines and Iraq. Some of the highs and lows were equal in their impact.

"That was probably some of my best time in the Army and also some of the hardest with all the Soldiers we lost throughout that time."

For Dove, one of those Soldiers was Master Sgt. James "Trey" Ponder III who was killed June 28, 2005, when the helicopter he was in was shot down in Afghanistan.

Dove credits Ponder with getting him to the 160th in the first place. Dove's and Ponder's wives worked together.

"They were the first friends we had at Fort Campbell," Dove recalled. "We were in the same company and we served together for a long time. There were many times where he was just being a good NCO – coach, teach and mentor – showing you what's right, showing you how to do different things on an aircraft, how to be a good leader."

The most impactful event over his career was and remains Dove's now nearly 16-year-old daughter. "My daughter makes me proud every day," he said. "We had to work 15 years to get her; she's very special. She makes Laurie and me very proud."

One of Dove's most challenging and, ultimately, memorable tours was his time

as a first sergeant of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle company in Germany. Things didn't get off to a great start – no handover with the outgoing first sergeant and his being the oldest person in the unit whose average age was 21 were factors.

"It was a very small company – very young Soldiers," he said. "I began to talk to those Soldiers – coaching, teaching and mentoring – constantly showing them what's right, how to do the right thing, and how to do things better. (Telling them), 'Even though I don't really know anything about your UAV, we're going to do these things better; we're going to do it this way.'"

"We had a very good time over there," Dove added. "It didn't start out easy, but eventually it worked out."

Dove recounted his first Thanksgiving experience with that company of young Soldiers that still makes him emotional.

"I started asking all Soldiers what they were doing for Thanksgiving," he said. "For a lot of these kids, that was their first Thanksgiving away from their family and they didn't know what they were going to do."

Some said they were going to stay in the barracks or maybe go to somebody else's house or order some pizza and play videogames.

Not on his watch.

"I said, 'No you're not; you're coming to my house,'" Dove remembered. "We had 27 Soldiers over to our house with their family members, deep fried two turkeys, cooked two hams."

They'd borrowed fest tables from Morale, Welfare and Recreation and moved the furniture out of the living room.

"We had more food than the company could eat," he said with a broad smile. "Thankfully, my wife and I had enough dishes where we could feed everybody with dishes and glasses – nobody had to eat off a paper plate; nobody had to drink out of a (paper) cup."

It's time

As with all good things, the time has come for this career Soldier to call it a day.

The Army likely won't have seen the last of Dove when he retires in August. His kindness, professionalism and leadership will live on through those with whom he served – probably some of the same ones who had Thanksgiving dinner at his house all those years ago in Germany.

As for what's next? Stay tuned.

For now, Dove is looking forward to spending time with family, golfing and going on trips – he's got a brother who lives overseas and family still in Texas.

But family is No. 1; always has been and always will be.

Hardware-in-loop chamber recreates space on Earth

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

DEVCOM Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs

Just exactly how cold is it in space? The unofficial answer? Really cold. The official answer: typically minus 460 degrees Fahrenheit. So how exactly would you operate a space-based sensor, which needs to detect and track very faint infrared (heat) signatures when operating in the cold vacuum of space?

That is where the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center's space-based sensor test facility comes into play. Its two independent space chambers, which operate under the center's Software, Simulation, Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate, utilize cryogenic refrigeration systems to achieve the required low temperature and pressure environment. The sensor under test is installed within the space chamber, allowing it to observe a multi-spectral target generation source, with all other elements within the chamber conditioned to space-like temperatures and pressures.

"This is the closest you get to a flight test without actually being in space,"



Photo by Robert Stein

DEVCOM AvMC's David Riesland demonstrates how their space chamber can mimic the conditions of space for sensor testing.

Space Chamber team member David Riesland said.

But how exactly would a sensor's projection system survive and operate within the chamber's lower temperature/pressure environment? A high-fidelity scene generation system provides radiometrically precise dynamic scenes to the pro-



Photo by Robert Stein

The Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center operates two state-of-the-art space chambers that utilize cryogenic refrigeration systems to achieve the required low temperature and pressure environment of space.

jectors, depicting the threat engagement from the perspective of the sensor field of view. The system presents a "TV-like" image to the sensor under test, which changes based upon the sensor viewpoint within the simulated battlespace. This allows evaluation of the optical,

photon collection, and image processing functions of the sensor under test.

Just because the facility is only two years old doesn't mean the team gets to rest on its laurels.

"We are constantly trying to keep up with the sensors," the Space Chamber's Daniel Saylor said.

These types of chambers are very rare, which is why it is highly unusual that another space chamber exists down the road at Air Force facilities on Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Tennessee. But there are significant differences. AvMC's chambers were specifically designed for Missile Defense Agency testing, including features to extend the operational duration of test events with reduced operational costs. Their state-of-the-art technology allows AvMC's chambers to heat and cool faster than previous capability increments. They are more limber and can operate for months at a time to allow extended duration testing for large-scale scenario studies.

Just how long of an extended duration?

"We haven't found the limit yet," Riesland said.

Recruiting brigade leader concludes tenure

By **EMILY STRICKLAND**

Staff writer

emily.strickland@theredstonerocket.com

After two years of serving as commander of the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, Col. Jason Kerr is preparing to step into a new assignment.

Kerr will take over as the chief of staff for the Assured Position, Navigation and Timing/Space Cross-Functional Team later this month. As he approaches the end of his tenure as the 2nd Recruiting Brigade commander, he reflected on the lessons he learned throughout his two years at Redstone Arsenal. The common denominator in Kerr's great experience at Redstone? The people.

"There are a lot of great people, a lot of great organizations that are here on Redstone that have been hugely supportive of Army recruiting and our efforts," he said.

Army recruiting faced a unique challenge when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world less than a year into Kerr's assignment at Redstone Arsenal. However, despite the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, the mission of Army recruiting was not deterred.

"A lot of organizations came to a halt,



Photo by Nelson Ballew

Col. Jason Kerr, commander of 2nd Recruiting Brigade, is preparing to leave Redstone for his next assignment.

but not for Army recruiting," Kerr said. "Army recruiting never stopped." After a few months of virtual recruiting, the 2nd Recruiting Brigade quickly resumed in-person operations, albeit with new protocols from the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense.

The pandemic was not the only challenge Kerr faced while leading the

See Leader on page 19

Leader

Continued from page **18**

brigade. 2020 brought about “civil unrest, vast changes in our economy, and chaos in our political spectrum,” Kerr said, but the mission of Army recruiting continued.

Even without those complicating factors, “Army recruiting is one of the most challenging missions in the United States Army,” Kerr said. He would know – in his 25-year career, he has served in a handful of different positions, from battalion chemical officer, 1-77 Armor Battalion and Platoon Leader, 12th Chemical Company in the 1st Infantry Division to aide-de-camp to the commander of International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan to military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), among several others.

Kerr has deployed in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan and has received dozens of awards and decorations throughout his career, including: the Bronze Star Medal; Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf

clusters; Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster; National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Combat Action Badge; Army Staff Identification Badge; and Recruiter Badge, among others.

As he looks forward to taking on a new role with APNT/Space, Kerr plans to bring along the lessons he’s learned from a quarter-decade of Army service.

“It’s a new opportunity to take what I’ve learned from my many years of experience in the Army and successfully completing brigade command, going on into a different organization and continuing to serve there,” he said. “At the end of the day, it’s always all about leadership. Leadership is what matters and what makes a difference.”

Kerr also wanted to highlight the accomplishments of the brigade as a whole, emphasizing the importance of the accomplishments of all the people under his command, from Soldiers to civilians to family members. He hopes his leadership left a lasting impact on the people he led.

“If nothing else, if the people are better today than where we were two years ago, then I think we’ve accomplished something.”

Gunsmoke launches from desert, deploys from space station

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Public Affairs

The Space and Missile Defense Command delivers Army space assets on orbit by any means necessary to test new capabilities for the warfighter.

The command's second and third Gunsmoke-J satellites, a joint capability technology demonstration by the SMDC Technical Center and Assured Position Navigation and Timing/Space Cross Functional Team, were placed into orbit June 30 by two very different paths.

The second CubeSat was deployed from the Cygnus cargo vessel S.S. Katherine Johnson as a secondary mission shortly after it undocked from the International Space Station.

"We were very lucky to have this unique opportunity to place our satellite into orbit, and we extend our gratitude to those involved for making this a reality," Rebecca Nagurney, Gunsmoke deputy program manager, said. "What this group and our Gunsmoke-J team has accomplished over the past few months is amazing and is a testament to what true teamwork can achieve."

The third CubeSat was air-launched into orbit by a 747 carrier aircraft from Mojave Air and Space Port in Mojave, California. It was flown out to a launch site over the Pacific Ocean, about 50 miles south of the Channel Islands. After a smooth release from the aircraft, the LauncherOne rocket ignited and propelled itself toward space, ultimately deploying its payload into an orbit approximately 500 km above the Earth's surface.

"This deployment and same day launch of two separate Gunsmoke-J satellites is a major step toward demonstrating what we believe will be enabling tactical warfighter capability," Wheeler "Chip" Hardy, division chief, SMDC Technical Center Space Directorate's Space Applications Division, said. "We are excited to be at this point after five years of development. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people to get to this point. We look forward to the verifying demonstrations and a possible future transition of the technology to the tactical forces."

The Gunsmoke-J science and technology effort will provide new and advanced capabilities to tactical warfighters in a satellite about the size of a loaf of bread. Its experiments will show how its sensors can provide critical data and information key in multi-domain operations. The effort will also help inform future acquisition decisions.

"We are very excited because now we can begin our checkout and mission operations as our work is part of a science and technology demonstration effort," Nagurney said. "If the Gunsmoke experiments are successful, then this work could lead to future systems, which would enhance long-range precision fires in support of the warfighter."

Gunsmoke and potential follow-on small satellite systems are designed to provide information or sufficient data relative to tactical decision-making that is delivered in a timely manner.

"The team has worked extremely hard on this effort so it was thrilling to watch a successful launch," Nagurney



NASA photo

The International Space Station releases the Cygnus cargo vessel S.S. Katherine Johnson over southern Wyoming on June 30. As a secondary mission, the Cygnus cargo vessel deployed a Space and Missile Defense Command and Assured Position Navigation and Timing/Space Cross Functional Team Gunsmoke-J joint capability technology demonstration satellite.

ney said. "It is very rewarding to work on a program like Gunsmoke where our work is going to impact future technology and Army acquisition decisions to help support the warfighter."

Saudi military mission sees first female instructors

By TERRI STOVER

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

In a male dominated field, and in a male dominated environment, women Soldiers continue to stand out. It's what they do.

Two female Soldiers have completed their mission in Saudi Arabia as instructors to Saudi Arabia military members – historically an occupation not open to women.

Master Sgt. Amelia Baysden and Sgt. 1st Class Cori Noble provided training as part of the U.S. Army Military Assistance Group to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior, part of the Security Assistance Command's mission in that country.

"I was expecting some students to be uncomfortable with having female instructors," Noble said, "but that was not the case. The students treated us no different than our male counterparts and were very respectful."

Advising and training the Saudi Ministry of Interior's military forces on defending their country from threats and protecting infrastructure is the critical reason for USASAC having a presence there.

"This is important for Saudi Arabia to become self-sufficient and to have a strong presence in the Middle East," Baysden said.

The women were chosen to be the instructors after submitting a packet to a board for review. The board members decided who gets accepted as instructors for this important mission.

"Perseverance really pays off," Baysden said. "I applied for this position in 2017 and was denied because at the time females were not allowed."

"I am a drill sergeant so training Soldiers is what I do," Noble said.

U.S. Army's female drill sergeants have trained Soldiers for over 40 years. The first six female students to complete drill sergeant school began training Soldiers in 1972, after receiving permission to be included in the drill sergeant program by the Army chief of staff. These first females were graduates from the Women's Army Corps and stationed at Fort McClellan.

Drill sergeant school is nine weeks long in the Army. Drill sergeants are tasked with the responsibility of training new Army recruits through Basic Combat Training.

Female drill sergeants symbolize the strength and di-



Courtesy photo

In the middle of the Saudi military students are Wajdi Mustafa (plaid shirt), interpreter for the two female instructors while in Saudi Arabia, and Sgt. 1st Class Cori Noble (center) and Master Sgt. Amelia Baysden (right).

versity of the Army and the nation. They serve to train the current generation of Soldiers and inspire the next generation of leaders. Duty as a drill sergeant is personally and professionally rewarding. Becoming a drill sergeant exemplifies a commitment to be a mentor and role model for Soldiers as part of the cornerstone of the Army profession.

"The proudest thing I've accomplished is becoming a drill sergeant and training Soldiers," Noble said. "As a 68W I train Saudi students combat medic skills, which is important for them to learn how to treat injuries and save lives."

However, both Baysden and Noble said their time in Saudi was more than just training.

"Learning from the students about their culture and their 2030 Vision for their country," were some of the best parts for Baysden on this assignment.

"The students were incredibly accepting of female instructors and wanted to learn from our experiences," Baysden said.

"Not only are our U.S. forces allowing females on

USA-MAG mission, but now Saudi Arabia is allowing females into their forces," Noble said.

Both women are hopeful more opportunities will present themselves for female Soldiers.

"The USA-MAG mission is a very unique assignment that doesn't come often in a career," Noble said. "I would encourage more females to apply and become part of a special partnership with the Saudis."

Baysden is a reservist from Wilmington, North Carolina. As a child of two active duty Soldiers, she knew she would join the military one day. The events of 9/11 motivated her to join in 2003.

Noble is from Waterloo, Iowa. Her mother was in the 82nd Airborne, which inspired her to join the Army after graduating high school in 2010.

Baysden is a 88Z senior transportation sergeant/92R parachute rigger with the 650th Transportation Company out of Wilmington. Noble is also a reservist, serving with the 2/377th 95th Training Division out of Dav-
enport, Iowa, as a combat medic.

AER

Continued from page 1

Tyree. "AER is something that is vital to Soldiers in need, of which we have seen a couple from Team Redstone just recently. UHPO went above and beyond for us again this year."

Capt. Hunter Wilson, who chaired the fundraising campaign, added that AER accepts donations year-round.

"The campaign went really well," Wilson said. "We had almost double the participa-

tion compared to last year."

Since its inception, AER has provided nearly \$4 billion in financial assistance, including \$1 billion since 9/11.

Just over the past three months, AER has helped 3,500 Soldiers with grants and loans totaling over \$7 million.

During the second quarter of the year, the most common requests AER received were for assistance with personal vehicles, housing and utilities.

Some of the highlights from the past quarter are:

- AER continued its work with military spouses by continuing to connect spouses

via the AER Spouse Facebook Group and the Spouse Empowerment series. AER continues to offer the Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship. The need-based program helps Army spouses earn undergraduate degrees or professional certifications.

- During the Month of the Military Caregiver in May, AER announced the Childcare Assistance Program, which helps families who need to hire a licensed caregiver for their children, would be 100% grants.

- AER offered scholarships for Army spouses and children, along with 100% grant-based remote learning assistance for families impacted by COVID-19.

- AER now offers pet transportation services. Pet transportation during permanent change of stations has been difficult because of COVID-19.

- AER is allocating \$1 million in grants toward natural disaster assistance.

"AER in this community means a lot," Mellor said. "We have a number of Soldiers who utilize the service.

"We appreciate everybody's donation. We appreciate everybody who donates at the AAFES (Exchange) every time they buy something. It's going for a great cause."

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

Army on path for future capabilities

WASHINGTON – The Army has become a leader in new technology but must continue to modernize concepts and capabilities to sharpen its global competitive edge, the Army secretary told lawmakers June 29.

Prioritized efforts by the Army Futures Command, Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, and other Army organizations have put the service at the forefront of developing and fielding new technology to support the joint force, Christine Wormuth said before the House Armed Services Committee about the Army's fiscal year 2022 budget proposal.

To ensure the force stays on track, Army leaders plan to work in close coordination with lawmakers to set a deliberate, achievable path to deliver future capabilities.

"The Army's readiness gains and modernization procurement requirements must be prioritized to continue (moving forward)," she said.

To help move these priorities forward, senior leaders conducted internal reforms over the past four years that realigned over \$35 billion within the Army budget to self-fund modernization priorities in support of joint-

all domain operations, Wormuth said in her written testimony to lawmakers.

Wormuth explained several of these modernization efforts include counter-unmanned aircraft systems, directed energy, hypersonic weapons, and next-generation assured positioning, navigation and timing devices.

"We need to comprehensively modernize," Wormuth said. "But equally important is our network portfolio area, for example, because again we have to be able to connect our sensors and shooters together. We have to be able to defend those systems and our forces from aerial and missile defense fires."

While the Army has made significant progress over the past year, its ongoing transformation is the only way to guarantee success, she said, adding senior leaders will continue to make tough decisions to ensure the best use of resources to stay ahead of a near-peer or emerging threat.

"The Army has rebuilt a high level of readiness with the support of Congress, but that readiness level is fragile," Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said before the Senate Armed Services Committee on June 15. "We must sustain that high level of readiness while continuing our most comprehensive transformation

and modernization effort in over 40 years."

On June 29, McConville said that is "the only way we'll maintain overmatch against near-peer competitors and would-be adversaries. This year we are turning our multi-domain operations concept into real doctrine. We're not only developing, but we're delivering on our six modernization priorities."

Both senior leaders provided testimony to lawmakers during three congressional hearings in June.

Contract award announcements

R&D Maintenance Services Inc., Tulsa, Oklahoma, was awarded a \$39,987,597 hybrid (cost-plus-fixed-fee and firm-fixed-price) contract for the maintenance, repairs and minor construction of government-owned facilities and equipment. Bids were solicited via the Internet with one received. Work will be performed in Tuscaloosa with an estimated completion date of Aug. 31, 2026. Fiscal 2021 civil operation and maintenance funds in the amount of \$1,125,708 were obligated at the time of the award. Corps of Engineers, Mobile, is the contracting activity.

Community

Flying Activity invites you to experience friendly skies



Photo by Eric Schultz

Timothy Thompson stands next to a rental plane at the Flying Activity.

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

If you've always wanted to fly but haven't yet sprouted wings, a popular MWR activity may be able to lift you up.

The Flying Activity has one of the largest fleets of aircraft in the region, and some 30 instructors ready to help students of all levels reach for the sky.

Tim Thompson, manager, said the Flying Activity on Hale Road has been around since the 1970s, offering novice and experienced pilots rare opportunities to learn to fly at bargain prices.

The Arsenal's 13 aircraft include everything from a two-seated Cessna 152 to a Cessna 182RG that seats four, and several in between, "rated at various horsepower and complexity," Thompson said.

Membership cost is \$35 a month and allows those with a pilot license to rent a plane and pay for flight hours only, and access to lessons for those at different stages in the learning process. Lessons, instructor fees and fees for plane rental are priced separately, but are less than in the civilian world, Thompson said.

The 30 flight instructors come from various backgrounds, but have one thing in common: they enjoy teaching people to fly.

Lessons are offered to adults ages 18 and up. Students can become certified as private licensed pilots, instrument-certified pilots, commercial pilots, certified flight instructors, and certified instrument-rated flight instructors, Thompson said.

Ally Farnsworth, a 20-year-old student at Wallace State College majoring in flight, began her lessons at the school but transferred to the Arsenal and hopes to have her pilot's license within a few weeks.

"I've always been interested in it," she said. "One day my mom made me go to the airport to check it out. I've been hooked ever since."



Photo by Eric Schultz

Kevin Huffman, instructor, looks on as Ally Farnsworth, a Wallace State student, fuels the plane before a flying lesson.

Her parents, Kevin and Lisa Farnsworth of Cullman, are funding the lessons so their daughter can reach her dream of becoming a commercial pilot.

Her next step is getting certified on instrument rating and the commercial rating will follow. She also plans to transfer to a different school to obtain her bachelor's, which is not offered at Wallace State.

Her first passenger after she obtains her license will likely be her mother.

"My mom told me I had to fly her," Farnsworth said. Their destination? "I guess wherever she wants to go. Probably just a quick flight until she trusts me."

Although she plans to make a career out of flying, Farnsworth loves it.

"Any time in the air, it's been fun," she said.

Kevin Huffman, Farnsworth's instructor during her pilot license lessons, expects her to pass the exam with "flying colors."

"She's finished all of her requirements and she passed her written tests," said Huffman, who also works as an instructor in Shelbyville, Tennessee, and has other duties with private plane owners at Huntsville International Airport.

In preparing Farnsworth for her check ride and oral exam, Huffman has given her "mock orals" and reviewed as much practical information as possible.

The pilot license exam takes about five hours and is comprised of a review of the maintenance log book, a 2 to 2.5-hour written exam and the "check ride."

"Weather is a huge subject (on the written exam)," Huffman said. "I highly emphasize that."

His other important tips to all of his students: "We're going to learn something," he said, "and we're going to have fun."

Huffman is complimentary of the staff at the Flying Activity, including Thompson and those who provide maintenance to the aircraft. "They're fantastic," he said. "That's a key component of any operation."

Thompson said many of the 200 current members of the



Photo by Eric Schultz

Kevin Huffman and Ally Farnsworth take off from the Flying Activity.

Flying Activity hop in a plane instead of a car when they drive such places as the beach or to watch their favorite team play sports. Others use planes for temporary duty travel.

"They have to go to St. Louis or down to Eglin (Air Force Base)," Thompson said, adding that people sign up for lessons for several reasons: it's on their bucket list, they want to be a flight instructor, or they just want to have fun.

Lessons are a "pay as you go" prospect and it's hard to pin down the actual cost of obtaining a license or other certification, he said.

"People always ask how much it costs," Thompson said, but it depends on the time each individual spends in the plane and at the books, and how often they fly.

On average, people take lessons twice a week for a year for a total of 70 hours, he said, but one student "knocked it out" in 44 hours and two months.

Thompson compared the cost of flying lessons to the cost of a mortgage and the pros and cons of a 15-year vs. a 30-year term.

Huffman recommends his students take lessons two to three times a week for optimum results.

Pilots with under 200 total flight hours are required to have one hour of flight time and three landings every 60 days in order to fly solo at Redstone. If they miss that mark, they are required to fly with a flight instructor again, Thompson said.

A native of Lexington, Kentucky, he has been working at the Flying Activity since 1997, and has seen a lot of pilots come and go.

Success takes two things: knowledge and practice, he said. "You've got to hit the books" to learn rules and regulations, and you have to put in the flying time.

Redstone's Flying Activity is one of only two affiliated with the Army (the other is at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas) and is likely bigger than those at many Air Force bases, Thompson said.

For more information or to schedule a lesson, call 876-6962 or visit RedstoneMWR.com.

Thrift Shop returns from pandemic hiatus

From combined reports

Redstone Thrift Shop would like to welcome its shoppers back to their consignment store.

The shop will open to the public with limited hours and days beginning on Tuesday, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursday, July 22 from noon-4 and Tuesday, July 27 from 10-2 and Thursday, July 29 from noon-4.

The shop hopes to resume regular hours in August. The shop is located at building 3209 on Hercules Road, behind the One Stop Service Center.

The staff would like to thank everyone who donates, consigns, shops and supports the shop; without you, they would not be able to give back to the Soldiers (active and retired), their family members and the community.

Since July 13, the shop is now accepting donations only. After hours, leave donated items in the gray box under the pavilion or in the carts outside the door. They are not taking consignments at this time.

The Thrift Shop is always looking for volunteers. If you are retired, stay at home mom/dad, etc., and would like to help your community, stop by and volunteer. The staff members look forward to seeing everyone at their store.

Bus drivers wanted for back-to-school days

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

The School Bus Program at Redstone Arsenal is looking for a few good drivers. Sheryl Scott-Astle, contact for the program, said staff is down by about half and they are actively recruiting five to eight additional drivers.

“Before COVID hit, we had a total of 15 regular drivers on staff. We went to 43 schools. We transported 196 children a day,” Scott-Astle said.

The pandemic shut down schools and some after-school programs on post, which meant the part-time drivers were out of a job. Some retired and others found employment elsewhere.

But with the ring of the school bell just a few weeks away, “we are desperately looking for drivers,” Scott-Astle said. “We’re on a full court press to get drivers.”

The vehicles that transport children from Huntsville, Madison and Madison County schools are actually 14-passenger vans and not buses.

Drivers work between the hours of 12:30 p.m., when they report to work

and do a maintenance check on their vehicles, to 3 to 4:15 p.m. five days a week, which translates to 15 to 22 hours per week, “depending on the route and the number of schools (they travel to),” she said.

Most of the actual routes from school to the installation take 30 to 45 minutes. Children are picked up and delivered to the Arsenal to their respective after-school programs, Scott-Astle said.

Requirements for drivers include experience driving a van that seats at least 14 passengers, and the passing of a background check. A Commercial Driver License is not required, Scott-Astle said.

Training is provided and varies, depending on the amount of experience of each driver. During the first week, training includes an overview of the vans and their security features, familiarity with driving routes, and first aid training.

While it will never be a full-time job, the program does provide drivers with extra money and other perks.

“We are a cool place to work,” Scott-Astle said. “All of our people love children.”

People from “all walks of life” can apply for the job, from those in their



Photo by Eric Schultz

Driver Butch Cowart helps Landon Seright, 11, Justin Davis, 12, and Benjamin Rodriguez, 10, board the shuttle bus at the Youth Center.

20s to retirees.

To apply for the job, use the QR code on a Child and Youth Services flyer

(which can be found on the Redstone MWR page) or visit usajobs.gov for the job titled “motor vehicle operator.”

Army veteran reflects on those who didn't come home

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Vietnam veteran John White planned to visit the Wall in Washington, D.C., in the 1980s. He took his wife and their two teenage boys through the usual Washington tourist stops – the Smithsonian museums and so on. But when it came time to walk to the Vietnam memorial, he couldn't do it.

"A lot of people did not come home, and they did not deserve that," he said.

White spent four months in Vietnam as a field artillery officer from early November 1972 to mid-February 1973. The Army captain was assigned to Advisory Team 56, under the Military Assistance Command-Vietnam, in Can Tho in IV Corps which was the southern most part of South Vietnam. He lived at the Eakin Compound in downtown Can Tho.

"I was considered a province adviser and the team I was on was Advisory Team 56," he said. He was the mission commander aboard a Huey helicopter which flew nightly two-hour surveillance flights over the Mekong River. They also flew at first light in a five-helicopter formation which included two Cobras, their Huey and two Loaches. They supported the South Vietnamese troops on the ground.

"Probably 90% boring," he said of the mostly uneventful flights. But they were struck by enemy fire on three occasions, including the eight bullet holes they counted on the helicopter from one night.

White flew on 146 combat missions and he received the Air Medal. He received a Bronze Star for participating in a rescue mission that retrieved a downed helicopter crew while under fire in December 1972 in the Phong Zinh province. He also received an Aircraft Crewman's Badge.

When he left Vietnam in February 1973, he was flown from Saigon to Japan to Alaska and then to Travis Air Force Base, San Francisco. Their taxi at the airport in San Francisco did not take the Soldiers to the terminal building because of the antiwar demonstrations that were going on.

He was the oldest of four children – three boys and one girl – of Camp and Marguerite Ann White of Wynne, Arkansas. His father was an Army Signal Corps veteran of World War II in the Europe. White played baseball at Harding College where he graduated in 1968 in business administration. He married his wife, Susan, a vocational home economics major, during the semester break in their senior year. After graduating he joined the Army.

"You could not find a job if you did not have the military experience done when I graduated college in 1968," White said. He enlisted and then received his commission in 1969 through field artillery officer candidate school at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

After returning from Vietnam, he left the Army in 1973 as a captain. He became a stockbroker and then an accountant before becoming a nursing home administrator. The Madison resident retired in November 2019 after spending 42 years as a licensed nursing home administrator, licensed assisted living administrator, and a senior housing manager.

Susan, his wife of 53 years, died in May from cancer. Their oldest of two sons, Greg, is a computer programmer in Aledo, Texas. Their youngest, Andy, died in 2018 from a heart attack. White has four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter who was born in January. "And my wife actually got to see her before she passed away, so that was super," White said. His granddaughter, Sierra, is a junior at Harding on an athletic scholarship as a pole vaulter.

At 74, White has been a high school baseball umpire in Huntsville for the past 18 years. This was his third year as a high school volleyball official.

He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. His brother Randy, two years younger, was a career Air Force enlisted man who died in 2006 at age 56 as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. Randy served in Vietnam in 1969-70.

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

"I think it's good that people remember. Because when I've talked to Susan over



Courtesy photo

Madison resident John White served five years in the Army and left in 1973 as a captain.



Courtesy photo

Capt. John White, a field artillery officer, stands outside his "hooch" at the Eakin Compound in Can Tho, Vietnam, in December 1972.

the years, just the short time I was gone, she was scared to death. Because nobody knew," he said. "Some people were lucky. Some people were blessed. Other people were just the opposite. But I do not think anybody deserved to not come back."

Editor's note: This is the 328th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

**WASTE...
...RUINS MY TASTE**



**Keep storm drains clean
for those downstream!**

**Keep Redstone Arsenal water streams free of pollutants.
To report someone dumping chemicals that could wash
down a storm drain, call the Garrison Environmental Office,
Storm Water Program manager at 955-8501.**

Vietnam revisited
Part 328 in series

Counselor ready to help with personal money matters

By **EMILY STRICKLAND**

Staff writer

emily.strickland@theredstonerocket.com

Team Redstone members seeking financial guidance are in good hands with Redstone Arsenal's newest Financial Readiness Program manager, Olivia Pierce.

Pierce took over as the new Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program manager July 6. Pierce, who previously worked as the Family Advocacy Program manager for the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, brings more than a decade of experience as a clinical therapist and licensed professional counselor.

Pierce's history in licensed professional counseling and family advocacy helped her forge a path to financial planning. Family advocacy had a clinical component, but also gave Pierce ample opportunities to provide education and guidance to her clients.

"I enjoy giving psychology away," she said. "I enjoy teaching people on, 'here are some things you can try to improve your personal life or your relationships.' And so it only made sense that being in a financial counselor or financial readiness program role, I could do the same with money and your relationship with money."

Pierce's experience in financial planning and counseling uniquely equips her to assist Team Redstone in financial decisions, albeit in a non-clinical role.

"I'll be marrying financial counseling with financial therapy," she said. "Financial counseling is all about numbers, and financial therapy is all about the beliefs and the values and behaviors when it comes to managing money. So, I'll be bringing together the best of both worlds to help people logically put something together on paper, but then also emotionally and behaviorally help them follow through with what they put on paper."

Financial self-sufficiency for all members of Team Redstone, whether they be military, contractors, civilians or family members, is the goal of Pierce's practice. She is passionate about utilizing her depth of experience in her new role, providing education and guidance to anyone seeking her expertise.

"When your behavior and your values are incongruent, that's usually what brings people into clinical therapy, and the same is true for financial issues," Pierce said. "When people find themselves in a financial pickle, it's because their behaviors and values were also incongruent. So, folks can benefit from my past as an accredited financial counselor and also as a licensed professional counselor in helping them challenge cognitive errors and helping them challenge the things that are getting in their way of actually following through with financial goals."

Pierce invites any member of Team Redstone in need of financial assistance to reach out to her for a consultation. She can currently be reached at her email address, olivia.n.pierce.civ@mail.mil. More information about the Financial Readiness Program at Redstone Arsenal can be found at redstone.armymwr.com/programs/financial-readiness.

"I would love to become Team Redstone's money and relationship guru, whether it's repairing relationships as a result of financial misunderstandings or if it's repairing your overall relationship with money," Pierce said. "Let me help you."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Olivia Pierce is the Financial Readiness Program manager at Army Community Service.

Hobbs joins Warrant Officer Hall of Fame

From combined reports

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs has been inducted into the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Hall of Fame.

The ceremony took place Friday at the Army Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker.

"I accepted the award for all the Soldiers I served with in combat that did not survive," Hobbs, a Gulf War veteran, said. The Madison resident is vice president for employee engagement at Huntsville Utilities.

Courtesy photo

From left are retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, president and CEO of the Military Officers Association of America; retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs, the newest member of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Hall of Fame; and Col. Ross Nelson, commandant of the Army Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker.



Patton Road running track in line for upgrades

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

jonathan.stinson@theredstonerocket.com

The running track off Patton Road is getting some upgrades.

The Directorate of Public Works will begin the demo work and reconstruction of the facility July 19.

The upgrades are needed to give Soldiers the tools they need to pass the new Army Combat Fitness Test.

“The Army has always valued physical fitness,” Garrison’s Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez said. “It’s an important part of the Army’s readiness strategy, and it’s vital that we provide our uniformed service members with the resources they need to meet the new standards set by the Army.”

According to the Army, the ACFT 3.0 consists of six events: 3-repetition maximum deadlift, standing power throw, hand-release push-ups, sprint-drag-carry, leg tuck or plank and a 2-mile run.

The upgrades to the Patton Road track include the resurfacing of the track, the addition of lanes for the sprint-drag-carry, and the addition of designated exercise spaces which will make it easier to

use some of the equipment that’s located at the site.

The new fitness standards went into effect in April and Soldiers began training for the new test in October 2019.

The Army recently funded \$78 million for base equipment for the ACFT and distributed Armywide at no cost to the local posts.

Two changes in the new ACFT are the inclusion of the plank as an alternative to the leg tuck and the establishment of an evaluation system with performance categories that may be used to proportionally tier ACFT performance according to gender.

Soldiers performance on the test will fall into one of five proposed performance categories: platinum, for those who score in the 1% of their gender group; gold, for those who score in the top 10%; silver, for those who score in the top 25%; bronze for those who are in the top 50%; and green, for Soldiers who meet the minimum requirements, which is 60 points on each event for a total score of at least 360.

For more information about the test visit www.army.mil/acft or download the ACFT PRT App, which is available for Android and IOS devices.



Photo by Eric Schultz

The Directorate of Public Works will begin work on the track near Patton Road on July 19.

Scientists study give and take of mega-flares from stars



The Lagoon Nebula, left, is an area about 4,400 light-years from Earth in the Milky Way galaxy where stars are actively forming. This field-of-view shows the southern portion of a large bubble of hydrogen gas, plus a cluster of young stars. The Chandra data (purple) have been combined with infrared data (blue, gold, and white) from the Spitzer Space Telescope in this composite image. The star-forming region called RCW 120, right, is also in the Milky Way, at a distance of about 5,500 light-years. This view of RCW 120, which has the same wavelengths and colors as the Lagoon composite, contains an expanding bubble of hydrogen gas, about 13 light-years across. This structure may be sweeping up material into a dense shell and triggering the formation of stars.

NASA photo

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

The long relationships between stars and the planets around them – including the Sun and the Earth – may be even more complex than previously thought. This is one conclusion of a new study involving thousands of stars using NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory.

By conducting the largest survey ever of star-forming regions in X-rays, a team of researchers has helped outline the link between very powerful flares, or outbursts, from youthful stars, and the impact they could have on planets in orbit.

“Our work tells us how the Sun may have behaved and affected the young Earth billions of years ago,” Kostantin Getman of Penn State University who led the study said. “In some ways, this is our ultimate origin story: how the Earth and Solar System came to be.”

The scientists examined Chandra's X-ray data of more than 24,000 stars in 40 regions where stars are forming. They captured over a thousand stars that gave off flares that are vastly more energetic than the most powerful flare ever observed by modern astronomers on the Sun, the “Solar Carrington Event” in 1859. “Super” flares are at least 100,000 times more energetic than the Carrington Event and “mega” flares up to 10 million times more energetic.

These powerful flares observed by Chandra in this work occur in all of the star-forming regions and among young stars of all different masses, including

those similar to the Sun. They are also seen at all different stages in the evolution of young stars, ranging from early stages when the star is heavily embedded in dust and gas and surrounded by a large planet-forming disk, to later stages when planets would have formed and the disks are gone. The stars in the study have ages estimated to be less than 5 million years, compared to the Sun's age of 4 1/2 billion years.

The team found several super-flares occur per week for each young star, averaged over the whole sample, and about two mega-flares every year.

“We want to know what kinds of impact – good and bad – these flares have on the early lives of planets,” co-author Eric Feigelson, also of Penn State, said. “Flares this powerful can have major implications.”

Over the past two decades, scientists have argued that these giant flares can help “give” planets to still-forming stars by driving gas away from disks of material that surround them. This can trigger the formation of pebbles and other small rocky material that is a crucial step for planets to form.

On the other hand, these flares may “take away” from planets that have already formed by blasting any atmospheres with powerful radiation, possibly resulting in their complete evaporation and destruction in less than five million years.

The researchers also performed detailed modeling of 55 bright super- and mega-flares and found that most of them resemble long-lasting flares seen on the Sun

that produce coronal mass ejections, powerful ejections of charged particles that can damage planetary atmospheres. The Solar Carrington Event involved such an ejection.

This work is also important for understanding the flares themselves. The team found that the properties of the flares, such as their brightness and frequency, are the same for young stars with and without planet-forming disks. This implies that the flares are likely similar to those seen on the Sun, with loops of magnetic field having both footprints on the surface of the star, rather than one anchored to the disk and one to the star.

“We've found that these giant flares are like ones on the Sun but are just greatly magnified in energy and frequency, and the size of their magnetic loops,” co-author Gordon Garmire, from the Huntingdon Institute for X-ray Astronomy in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, said. “Understanding these stellar outbursts may help us understand the most powerful flares and coronal mass ejections from the Sun.”

This work was presented at the recent meeting of the American Astronomical Society and is described in a paper led by Getman that was accepted for publication in *The Astrophysical Journal*. Marshall Space Flight Center manages the Chandra program. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Chandra X-ray Center controls science from Cambridge, Massachusetts, and flight operations from Burlington, Massachusetts.

Schorr named manager of payload office at Marshall



Andy Schorr

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Andy Schorr has been named manager of the Spacecraft/Payload Integration and Evolution Office in the Space Launch System Program Office at Marshall Space Flight Center, pending approval by the Office of Personnel Management.

Schorr is responsible for development and qualification of the in-space stage, launch vehicle adapters, and secondary payload interfaces on the SLS Block 1 vehicle and a universal adapter and payload adapter for the Block 1B vehicle configuration.

He became assistant manager of the integration and evolution office in 2013 and deputy manager in 2017, responsible for managing development and qualification of the launch vehicle stage adapter, Orion stage adapter, Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage hardware components, and SLS payload integration.

His previous positions included manager of the Propellant/Liner/Castable Inhibitor Subsystem, lead for Postflight Assessment, and technical assistant for the space shuttle Redesigned Solid Rocket Motor. As the

Constellation program was initiated in 2005, Schorr was selected as lead for design and development of the shuttle-derived five-segment motor, which later was utilized as a key component of the SLS vehicle architecture.

Schorr joined NASA in 1991 as a member of the Redesigned Solid Rocket Motor Chief Engineer's Office at Marshall.

Prior to his NASA career, Schorr was a propulsion engineer at Martin Marietta in Denver, supporting development of propellant ground support systems for the space launch site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, and later as a member of Return to Flight efforts following the Challenger accident.

Schorr holds a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He has received numerous awards, including a Silver Snoopy, Silver Achievement Medal, and Exceptional Achievement Medal. A native of Sparta, Illinois, Schorr and his wife, Stacy, reside in Madison. They have two adult daughters, Erika and Rachele, both of whom live in Alabama.

By the numbers: *Things to keep*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

1. **Cash, debit cards and credit cards**
2. **Driver's license**
3. **Wallet or purse**
4. **Cellphone**
5. **Car keys and house keys**
6. **ID cards and work badges**
7. **Vaccination card**
8. **Flashlight**
9. **Spare tire**
10. **Batteries**
11. **Tools**
12. **Tag receipt**
13. **Proof of car insurance**
14. **Extra toiletries**
15. **Family photographs**
16. **Marriage license**
17. **Class ring**
18. **Diplomas**
19. **Car titles**
20. **Birth certificates**
21. **Social Security cards**
22. **Insect repellent**
23. **Sunscreen**
24. **Purchase receipts**
25. **Owners manuals**
26. **Bible**
27. **Paper towels**
28. **Trash bags**
29. **Safety pins**
30. **Certificates and awards**
31. **Scissors**
32. **Friends**
33. **Umbrella**
34. **Ice scraper**
35. **Scale**

Former Redstone swimmer makes Olympic team

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

As a youngster, Zach Harting wore the camouflage trunks of the Redstone Launchers swim team.

Now he has a U.S. Olympic uniform.

The Madison native won the 200-meter butterfly at the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials, qualifying to represent the United States at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, July 23-Aug. 8.

His parents, Scott and Lori Harting, both work at the Aviation and Missile Command.

Scott is a supervisor, logistics management specialist, while Lori is a systems coordinator.

“Putting on the USA cap doesn’t just mean that I’m representing my country,” Harting said while training in Hawaii. “It’s a testament to the hard work I’ve put into this sport, the sacrifices I’ve made to get here, and the nights where I laid in bed dreaming of being here.

“This is the team of teams to be on, the best of the best. When you think of Team USA, you think of the Olympic team – not the World Championship team or the Pan Pac team. And that is what’s vindicating for me is that I’ve made it to the top, to the best swim team in the world. It’s an honor and a privilege because I know there are lots of others that would love to be here so I don’t take it for granted.”

Harting, 23, attended Bob Jones High School and he was the high school state champion in the 100-yard butterfly in 2014. He swam collegiately at the University of Louisville from 2015-19.

He swam for the Redstone Launchers which competed in the Rocket City Swim League. In the annual city swim meet in July 2014 at the Brahan Spring Park Natatorium, Harting won the boys 15-17 freestyle, butterfly and backstroke.

During the dual meet season, he swam a record 50-meter butterfly in 23.52 on June 18, 2014.

When the Launchers started in 2010, Colette Migliozi, of Brownsboro, coached the team for its first five years. She coached Harting all five years. She also coached Ryan Murphy, three-time Olympic gold medalist and world-record holder in the 100-meter backstroke, when he swam for the club team Episcopal Swimming in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2006. That was before she moved in 2008 from Jacksonville to Huntsville. Murphy, now 26, won gold medals in the 100-meter backstroke, 200-meter backstroke and 4x100m medley at the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro. He will represent the U.S. in the 100-meter backstroke in Tokyo.

“I’m pretty proud of the fact that I had two Olympians on my squad,” Migliozi said.

She remembers a conversation she had with Harting during their first summer with the Launchers.

“I’m going to the Olympics one day, Coach,” Harting said.

“I believe you will,” Migliozi replied.

Not currently coaching, she expressed her pride for her former pupil.

“I’m just so proud of Zach,” Migliozi said. “Oh my goodness. He deserves it.”



Courtesy photo

Madison native Zach Harting will represent the United States in the 200-meter butterfly at the Olympics in Tokyo.

Arthur Fortin succeeded her as the Launchers coach. The Launchers did not have a team this year because of the pandemic. Fortin, the Huntsville High School coach, also works at the Huntsville Swim Association where he serves as an age group coach.

Fortin did not coach Harting but remembers him

from club swimming and high school swimming.

“I think it’s absolutely amazing,” Fortin said of Harting becoming an Olympian. “Zach always had a positive fun way of approaching everything. He’d always find a way to have fun at practice and he was always one of the hardest workers I’ve ever seen.”

Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?

“I attended West Point and graduated from there (in 2003). The highlight for me was being a team captain on all the sports that I was involved in in high school,” Brian Ziegenbein, test lead for Dark Typhon Project Office in the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, said. “I played football, I wrestled and ran track at Pekin Community High School in central Illinois. I started in '95 and graduated in '99. The highlight was being on the '97 and '98 wrestling team. We placed as a team in the sectional event. So they took a picture of us and put it up in the school gym. All those sports I played in high school shaped me physically and as a leader to prepare me for the United States Military Academy.”

Ziegenbein, 40, from Pekin, Illinois, served in the Army from 2003-08 and left as a captain. The infantry officer served three tours in Iraq. He and his wife of 18 years, Erin, have three sons: Aidan, 10, Finnegan, 6, and Rowan, 4. Ziegenbein enjoys weightlifting, hunting, fishing, reading, spending time with his family, and playing board games, videogames and golf. He roots for all the Chicago teams – the Bears, Cubs, Bulls and Blackhawks – and the Army Black Knights.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Brian Ziegenbein, of the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, played high school sports in Illinois.

Philly special wins 1964 All-Star Game

The annual midseason classic, the All-Star Game, marks the traditional midway point in the major league baseball season.

The 2021 game was scheduled July 13 at Coors Field in Denver. One of my favorite all-star games ever happened July 7, 1964, at Shea Stadium in New York.

It was the summer of '64, a magical time in my life. I was a 9-year-old avid Phillies fan in my hometown Philadelphia. I remember watching the All-Star Game on television at my row house after returning from Camp William Penn in the Pocono Mountains.

I always root for the National League because it includes my then-favorite Phillies team. I'm a Chicago Cubs fan now, of course, and they also play in the NL.

The 1964 game brought excitement and suspense. I probably kept a scorecard as usual because I used to keep score while watching my Phillies games. The National League beat the American League, 7-4 on a walk-off homer by Philadelphia's Johnny Callison, capping a ninth-inning rally with his three-run shot heard round the world. The left-handed batter homered to deep right against

From the sidelines

By **Skip Vaughn**
Rocket editor

hard-throwing Boston Red Sox reliever Dick Radatz.

Callison, old No. 6, played right field for my beloved Phillies. He was among my heroes.

But the Phillies went on to choke away the NL pennant that year. They had a six and a half game lead with 12 games left but proceeded to lose 10 straight. The St. Louis Cardinals won the pennant and went on to beat the New York Yankees in the World Series.

My Phillies collapse ruined the summer for me. I caught pneumonia at summer camp and was recuperating. Surely my favorite team would deliver the title for the City of Brotherly Love. But no, they choked down the stretch.

At least the National League won that year's All-Star Game. And one of my boyhood heroes delivered the deciding blow.

Lowen wins women's state senior championship

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Links golfer Donna Lowen has added to her impressive list of golf accomplishments.

Lowen won the Alabama women's state senior championship June 22-24 at Goose Pond, the lake course, in Scottsboro. She shot 76, 72 and 68 to finish even par for the three days and won by eight strokes.

"I was very happy to win and get back to competing again," Lowen, account manager with McGriff Insurance Services, said. "I've been hitting the ball really well. I just struggled with the putting the first couple of days. Just kept on myself to be patient. Keep playing the game and then hopefully eventually the putts will start dropping the last day."

This was her first year competing in this annual tournament. "I decided to play. It's over here in Scottsboro and I love that course. The layout, the view, lake right there," she said.

Lowen, 53, from Hays, Kansas, played golf for the University of Kansas from 1986-90. They won the Big

Eight Conference in 1990 as a team and she finished second individually. Lowen has lived in Huntsville for 20 years. She won the Redstone women's championship in 2019, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2013 and 2012; and the post women's senior championship in 2019 and 2018. She won the Kansas state junior titles in 1983 and 1984, and the Kansas state women's amateur titles in 1985 and 1990.

She has made three holes-in-one, most recently May 11 in the OMMCS league on hole No. 8 on the Warrior course at the Links. Her previous hole-in-one was last October at Huntsville Country Club on hole No. 10. As a 12-year-old she made a hole-in-one at the Jayhawk golf camp.

In the state senior championship at Goose Pond, Lowen shot 76-72-68-216, even par. Second place Kathy Hartwiger of Birmingham shot 74-73-77-224, 8-over. Third place Susan West of Tuscaloosa shot 75-77-75-227, 11-over.

File photo by Skip Vaughn

Donna Lowen, who played golf for the University of Kansas from 1986-90, has captured her first Alabama women's state senior title.



Aviles leads Trash Pandas past Montgomery

By Rocket City Trash Pandas

MADISON – With the one of the most impressive power performances in team history, Luis Aviles Jr. powered the Trash Pandas to a 7-4 walk-off win over the Montgomery Biscuits on Thursday night in the third game of their six-game series.

With the score tied 4-4 in the bottom of the ninth, Ray-Patrick Didder reached with a walk to put the winning run on base. Two batters later, Torii Hunter Jr. singled to keep the inning alive. Aviles then capped his incredible night with a walk-off three run homer 364 feet to left for his fifth home run in three games to give the Trash Pandas the much-needed victory.

Montgomery got the scoring started in the top of the first on an RBI single from Joey Roach to score Xavier Edwards against Rocket City starter Aaron Hernandez.

The Trash Pandas were quick to equalize in the bottom of the frame as Aviles Jr. lead off with a 370-foot solo home run to right for his second leadoff home run of the series.

Rocket City (27-29) used the long ball to take the lead three innings later. Mitch Nay led off with a walk. Izzy Wilson followed by launching a two-run home run 364 feet on to the Inline Electric Rock Porch for his team-leading 14th blast of the season. Ibandel Isabel then connected on the longest home run in Toyota Field history, a 471-foot moonshot to left field with an exit velocity of 118 mph. The big fly, his 10th of the season, put Rocket City up 4-1 after four.

Cal Stevenson got a run back for the Biscuits (27-28) in the top of the sixth with a solo homer off Hernandez. That would be all the Trash Pandas starter gave up. Over 5.1 solid innings, Hernandez allowed two runs on six hits with four walks and three strikeouts.

Hernandez would not factor in the final decision as the Biscuits rallied to tie the



Photo by Javier Sanchez/Rocket City Trash Pandas

Trash Pandas second baseman Luis Aviles Jr. hit a walk-off three run homer in Thursday night's win over the Montgomery Biscuits, 7-4.

game with two runs off reliever Nathan Bates in the top of the seventh.

Bates kept the score at 4-4 with a clean eighth and Oliver Ortega (2-2) did the same by setting the Biscuits down in order in the ninth. He would earn the win behind the ninth inning rally.

Aviles led the way with bookend home runs in the first and ninth in a 2-for-4 performance with four RBIs. Wilson also recorded a pair of hits and two RBIs in the win for Rocket City.

Double-A South baseball standings

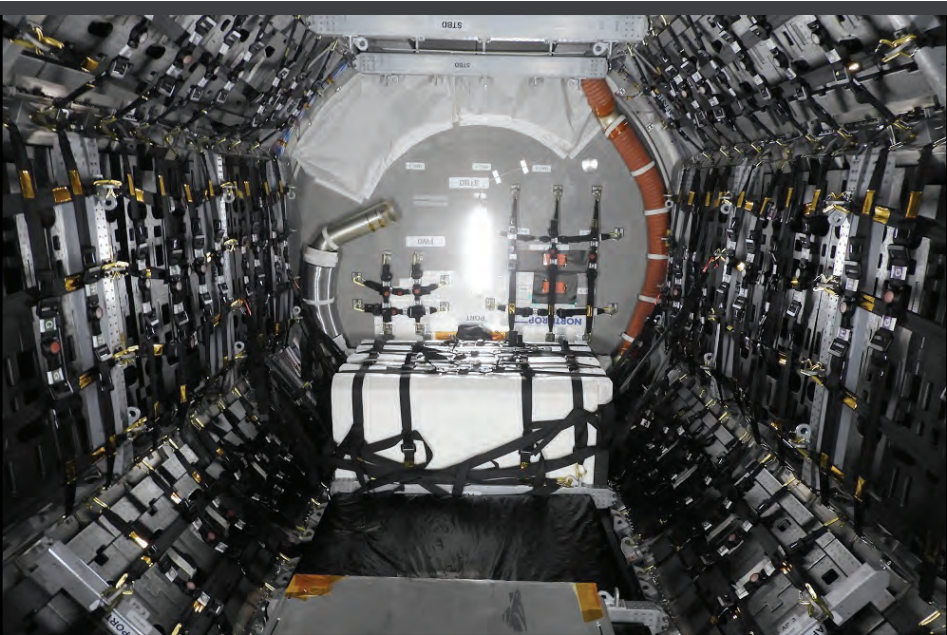
Here are Friday's standings for the Double-A South in minor league baseball. The Rocket City Trash Pandas are the Double-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels.

North Division

	W	L	GB
Chattanooga Lookouts (CIN)	32	24	–
Birmingham Barons (CWS)	30	26	2.0
Rocket City Trash Pandas (LAA)	27	29	5.0
Tennessee Smokies (CHC)	23	32	8.5

South Division

	W	L	GB
Mississippi Braves (ATL)	35	22	–
Pensacola Blue Wahoos (MIA)	33	24	2.0
Montgomery Biscuits (TB)	27	28	7.0
Biloxi Shuckers (MIL)	17	39	17.5



Northrop Grumman photo

Air filtration technology

A new air filtration technology developed, built, and tested at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, is packed inside the Northrop Grumman Cygnus rocket set to launch to the International Space Station later this summer from the agency's Wallops Flight Facility. The hardware, known as the 4-Bed Carbon Dioxide Scrubber, will demonstrate advanced life support system capabilities that could help future explorers on the Moon and Mars breathe easier. The scrubber is a next-generation Environmental Control and Life Support System technology set to be tested on the space station for one year, helping recycle and regenerate most of the air and water necessary to sustain its crew – and proving advanced regenerative technology solutions for upcoming Artemis missions to the Moon and eventual human excursions to Mars. The new hardware is roughly the size of a dorm refrigerator and weighs approximately 450 pounds. Its operation and technology demonstration will be overseen in orbit by mission controllers at NASA's Johnson Space Center, with continuing contributions by Marshall space station hardware engineers.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Vietnam vets awards day

Jim McCarter of Madison plays Taps during Saturday's inaugural Awards Day Celebration for the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1067 in Huntsville. Formed in 2012, the 600-member chapter is the largest in Alabama and seventh largest in the nation. Vietnam veteran Charlie Miller of Huntsville is the president.



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.

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, or Joe Kleri 351-0433, jfklkeri@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 Experienced Rider Course. Course dates include BRC, Aug. 24-25; and ERC, Aug. 26. To register visit 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.

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 dmac550@gmail.com.

Business/government 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

Rocket Announcements

Services Contract that organizations can use for personnel moves, furniture/cubicle reconfigurations 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 rsamanager@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 deserves recognition? Rocket City Broadcasting/Community Awareness for Youth conduct the Young Citizen of the Month award program. Each month's recipient will meet the Huntsville mayor and City Council members, receive a Huntsville Human Relations Commission certificate and other prize packages. Sponsors include Rocket City Broadcasting, Huntsville Utilities, Huntsville Optimist Club, Huntsville Police Department, CAFY and the Florida Institute of Technology Huntsville Site. To nominate a young citizen, visit mystar991.com or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

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.

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-thru, 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 or visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleCAFY/.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for June 28 through July 2. The highest scores included Top Thiz mobile food service, 2537 Sparkman Drive, 100; Publix Super Market 1218 seafood, 5850 Highway 53, Harvest, 100; Publix Super Market 1218 meat, 5850 Highway 53, Harvest, 100; Pig-N-Out Barbeque, 1979 Winchester Road, 100; Kindercare Learning Center 086084, 5014 Bradford Drive NW, 100; Taqueria Los Jarocho LLC 2 mobile food service, 2204 University Drive NW, 100; Publix Super Market 1126 deli, 2246 Winchester Road NE, 100; and J's Box mobile food service, 2900 Drake Ave., 100. The lowest scores included Captain D's 3149, 9088 Madison Boulevard, Madison, 81; Red Lobster 0159, 1818 University Drive NW, 80; SB Madison LLC, 7814 Highway 72 West, Madison, 78; and Three Amigos, 3109 Drake Ave., 63.

Women's achievement awards

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold their annual Redstone Women Rock Awards Program on Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, from 11 a.m. to noon at The Summit. The program will acknowledge outstanding women in the categories of: Meritorious Military Service, Outstanding Senior Leader, Innovative Researcher, Rising Star, and Leadership Achievement.