

Strikes against Houthis rebel group likely effective **A7**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Shopping delay on Sunday**  
Due to annual inventory, the Fort Cavazos Main Exchange will have a delayed opening on Sunday. The concession mall and food court remain open during normal hours. For up-to-date information, including when the Exchange will be open again, follow their Facebook page at [facebook.com/CavazosExchange](https://facebook.com/CavazosExchange).

**Become a physician assistant**  
The Army offers officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers an educational opportunity to become a physician assistant through the Interservice Physician Assistant Program. IPAP is dedicated to the education of students who strive to become competent and caring providers of primary health care services under the supervision of a licensed physician. Attend the in-person brief at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday at the Soldier Development Center for more information about the program and the application process.

**Scholarship applications open**  
The Fort Cavazos Family Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 scholarship season. Scholarships are available to high school seniors and military spouses. For all eligibility requirements and to apply online, visit [fortcavazosscholarship.org/apply](https://fortcavazosscholarship.org/apply). The deadline is Feb. 16, 2024.

**Learn new recipes with H-E-B, USO**  
The United Service Organizations Fort Cavazos is hosting a demonstration kitchen event with H-E-B from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the USO Fort Cavazos. No registration is required. This program is geared toward our active-duty service members and spouses. The H-E-B chef will show how to make a meal, have taste testings and there will be giveaways. This event is open to all active-duty military and spouses.

**HOP hiring part-time drivers**  
The Hill Country Transit Service is hiring approximately 50 part-time drivers for the upcoming micro-transit services on post. The position is \$18 an hour and will start in February. No commercial driver's license is required for this position. To apply, visit [takeethehop.com](https://takeethehop.com).

## Volunteers retrieve wreaths, honor veterans



Photo by Samantha Harms, Command Information Chief

Master Sgt. Bertha Horne, 48th Chemical Brigade, and Sgt. 1st Class Kasim Kennerly, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, work to take off the ribbons from the silk wreaths. They both attended the wreath retrieval for the first time; Horne also attended the laying of the wreaths in November for the first time as well.

**BY SAMANTHA HARMS**  
Command Information Chief

**KILLEEN, Texas** — Hundreds of people braved the cold, windy weather Saturday morning to spend their time volunteering at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, picking up more than 14,000 wreaths that had been laid on grave stones.

"It's certainly a grassroots effort, and you see generations come (to help) and it's always so heartwarming to see the very, very young and the very, very old and how they all come together for this project," Hilary Shine, a member of the organizing community for

Wreaths for Vets and a co-founder of the organization, shared.

This is an annual tradition thanks to the efforts of Wreaths for Vets, a program organized by the Friends of the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery.

Wreaths for Vets, which started in 2006, works with hundreds of volunteers to prepare and lay wreaths annually as part of a nationwide effort to remember the fallen by placing a wreath on each veteran's grave for the holidays. Wreaths are prepared the Saturday before Thanksgiving, laid on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend and finally, retrieved the second Saturday

of January.

Each event can see anywhere from 1,000 to 4,000 volunteers.

"It's one of those things where it's become part of who we are, but it's also a pledge to those who we pledge to serve," Hilary explained. "You have all these service members who live in our community and more and more of them are retiring here. And so regardless of where you're from, what generation of service you've been in, the community rallies every year to say, 'We appreciate that service, and we respect and

See **Wreaths, A6**

## Mega Job Fair hosts thousands of job seekers

**BY DARREN CINATL**  
Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

The Fort Cavazos Transition Assistance Program hosted the winter Mega Job Fair Jan. 9 at the Lonestar Conference Center.

"The career fair is important so those attending can plan for their next career, whether it be education, starting their own business or starting a new career with one of these companies," said Jerry Hernandez, marketing manager for the

Fort Cavazos Transition Assistance Program.

TAP holds several job fairs each year. Three "Mega Job Fairs" and four smaller sessions which are always at no cost to

See **Job Fair, A6**



Photo by Darren Cinatl, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

Job seekers explore new career opportunities during the winter Mega Job Fair Jan. 9 at the Lone Star Conference Center.



Courtesy photo

The winning team poses for a photo during Phantom Invents 2023. Phantom Invents was a four-day event that partnered Soldiers and students to create solutions to Army problems.

## Soldiers, students engage in innovation

**BY MAJ. BRIAN HARRIS**  
III Armored Corps Public Affairs

**COLLEGE STATION, Texas** — Finding a way to conceal heat emissions from critical equipment, defending Soldiers against drone-dropped explosives and finding new ways to extend radio communication on the battlefield were the projects III Armored Corps Soldiers and Texas A&M University engineering students presented Dec. 15 during the final day of Phantom Invents 2023 at the Zachry Engineering Center at Texas A&M University.

Phantom Invents was a four-day event that partnered Soldiers and students together to create solutions to Army problems. With the help of a mentor, teams analyzed a problem developed by III Armored Corps and presented their solutions to a

panel of judges.

"Events like this do two things in my mind," said Col. Clint Tracy, III Armored Corps cyber and electromagnetics chief, who participated on the panel of judges. "They help get Soldiers involved in solving some of our own problems with the equipment that we have and, more importantly, I think they help inculcate a mindset that trickles back into the brigade that we have equipment on hand to solve some of these problems ourselves."

Teams received a problem set to start their project, but they were given the freedom to decide as a group how to come up with a solution.

"Our problem set was that our radar systems are high-heat producing equipment that are being

See **Invents, A6**

# January is National Blood Donor Month

BY COL. MICHAEL KOVACEVIC  
3rd SFAB Commander

January 2024 marks the 55th anniversary of National Blood Donor Month. The observance began in 1970 with a proclamation from President Richard Nixon, who aimed to raise nationwide awareness of the critical need for blood donations during winter and increase donors' recognition for their life-saving contribution to healthcare.

Winter is often a time of reduced donations and increased risk of blood shortages due to holiday celebrations, inclement weather and flu and cold season. The annual January observance encourages people to give blood when more of this essential resource is needed.

Our medical team in 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade gathered some facts about blood donation needs according to the American Red Cross along with information on being a donor.

- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood or platelets.
- Approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S.
- Nearly 5,000 units of platelets and 6,500 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.

- A single car accident can require as many as 100 units of blood.
- One donation can help save more than one life.

According to the American Red Cross, although there are an average of 15.7 million donations a year, supply is still low. The Red Cross estimates that 38% of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, but less than 10% donate. To meet patient needs, it is vitally important to donate blood.

As part of the Army's medical pre-deployment process, units coordinate blood donor screenings within 120 days of deployment. In line with our deployment cycle at 3rd SFAB, medical advisors coordinate blood screenings with the Robertson Blood Center at Fort Cavazos. All Soldiers who are type O negative are encouraged to donate blood during the screening as it provides blood products for casualties and patients who require treatment.

Donating blood is an act of selfless service to patients in medical need. For those interested in donating, these are some of the minimum requirements:

- Be 17 years of age or older, or 16 with parental consent.
- Weigh at least 110 pounds.
- Be in good health, feeling well and not taking antibiotics.

Those who wish to donate blood on the installation may do so at the Robertson Blood Center, at 761st Tank Battalion Ave., Bldg. 2250, phone number 254-285-5808.



Michael Kovacevic

at the RBC are serviced by the Armed Services Blood Program, the official blood program for the U.S. military. The ASBP is responsible for providing blood and blood products to deployed service members as well as those back home in military treatment facilities, and their families.

The need for blood is year-round, especially for the military, and the decision to donate blood is a decision to improve or even save patients' lives. When my dad was hospitalized with a serious illness and needing blood transfusions, I was incredibly grateful to those who had donated.

I encourage everyone who can, to donate. As Soldiers, we all likely know someone who is deployed, and by giving a few minutes of our time we may give the gift of life to one of our teammates.



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# DOD approves pet expenses reimbursement due to PCS

BY DEFENSE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT OFFICE

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has approved a new policy to cover pet travel expenses, like pet transportation or quarantine fees, incurred by service members during a permanent change of station.

As of Jan. 1, military service members going through a PCS within the continental United States can be reimbursed up to \$550 for one household pet, either cat or dog, and up to \$2,000 for moves to or from a location outside the

continental United States to cover costs related to the transportation of a pet.

Historically, service members paid the majority of out-of-pocket expenses to transport pets when assigned to a new duty station. This policy reduces that financial burden while recognizing the important role a pet plays in a military family's household.

The new policy was published in the Joint Travel Regulations on Jan. 1 — see para. 050107.

For more information, see the memorandum on this JTR revision and answers to frequently asked questions.



Photo by Kathryn Calvert, U.S. Air Force Keeper, Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response therapy dog, visits on Dec. 17, 2019, Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado.

# Army space vision supports multidomain operations

ARMY RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Army will integrate friendly joint and coalition space capabilities and interdict adversary space capabilities in support of ground force commanders.

The Army's next fight will occur across multiple domains. Successful operations in and through the space domain will be critical to our success. Space has become more important as both enabler and dependency to our warfighting.

Commanders at all echelons have access to rely on and can be observed by the space-based assets of allies and competitors alike. Commanders must understand that space capabilities start and end on the ground and be fully aware of their importance in planning and operations.

This means that understanding commercial, military and scientific space platforms directly correlate to our ability to conceal and protect friendly ground forces across the entire battlespace, from home station to assembly areas and from assembly areas to objectives.

Simply put, we will be operating under constant surveillance and must invest in the knowledge and forces to counter threat space systems and enable our own space systems.

Army space professionals, at echelon, will lead the effort to increase understanding and integration of friendly joint and coalition space capabilities into our operations and activities while simultaneously interdicting the adversary's use of space based, and space enabled capabilities.

To do this, highly trained Army Soldiers and civilians must be organized, have the right resources, kit, authorities and expertise to:

- Integrate friendly joint, coalition and commercial space capabilities in support of all Army warfighting functions to include positioning, navigation and timing; deep sensing; beyond line-of-sight communications; force track-

ing; environmental monitoring; space domain awareness; and geospatial information.

- Interdict adversary space capabilities by delivering necessary fires and effects at echelon to protect friendly forces from observation and targeting by counter-satellite communications, counter-surveillance and reconnaissance, and navigation warfare operations.

To fight at echelon in and through space means employing the next generation of tactical terminals to leverage multi-orbit satellite communications services and access space-enabled tactical intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms to meet deep sensing requirements. By fusing the data from multiple space-based sensors, in coordination with the intelligence community, the Army can deliver targetable intelligence to enable long-range precision fires, movement and maneuver and command and control.

These space capabilities, layered with stratospheric, high-altitude balloons and long endurance, semi-autonomous fixed-wing aircraft, can provide redundant and complementary capabilities for the theater to increase resiliency of the U.S. and allied space architecture in a denied, disrupted, intermittent and limited bandwidth environment. Mobile ground and aerial platforms demonstrate the potential to deliver space interdiction fires to deny adversary access to space capabilities, and disrupt their command and control, navigation, targeting and intelligence collection.

Forward-postured multidomain task forces, employing Army space interdiction forces alongside cyber operations and electronic warfare enablers, will disintegrate adversary anti-access and area-denial systems. Simultaneously, theater strike effects groups can synchronize and deliver Army space interdiction fires in support of theater targeting objectives.

Army space professionals are critical to Army preparedness to setting theaters, supporting deterrence and enabling multidomain operations. Forward-stationed Army

space organizations conduct continuous operational preparation of the environment during campaigning to help set conditions to defeat layered defenses and open contested theaters in crisis and conflict. These organizations build partnerships with close, highly capable allies to increase interoperability.

Positioning Army space operators in theater with cyber and special operations forces allows for convergence, amplifying lethality and contributing to deterrence. Army space integration also supports and spans across all Army branches and warfighting functions to build and navigate the multidomain common operating picture.

For example, Army signal integrates satellite communication services from the Department of Defense and external agencies to establish the networks vital to multidomain operations. The networked enterprise provides force tracking services to ensure joint and combined situational awareness, contributing to information advantage.

Additionally, Army intelligence leverages space-based assets to provide geospatial, signal and all-source intelligence, enabling the Army and joint-space interdiction fires necessary for multidomain operations.

Expeditionary, scalable and mobile Army space formations, empowered by flexible command relationships at echelon, should move alongside and keep pace with ground combat formations to protect the force and enable the Army to deploy, fight and win decisively against any adversary.

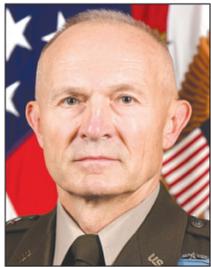
Developing new space capabilities, organizations and trained professional Soldiers to deliver effects for Army maneuver forces is critical to multidomain operations. Rapid proliferation and tactical application of competitor space capabilities will erode the advantages that ensure U.S. land dominance. To counter this challenge, current and future Army space interdiction capabilities must enable multidomain operations for the Army.



Michael R. Weimer



Christine Wormuth



Randy A. George

Michael R. Weimer  
Sergeant Major of the Army

Christine E. Wormuth  
Secretary of the Army

Randy A. George  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

# H-E-B presents cake, thanks Fort Cavazos

**BY SAMANTHA HARMS**  
Command Information Chief

H-E-B recognized Fort Cavazos leadership, Soldiers and civilians Dec. 15 with a special delivery: coconut cake made from a secret family recipe.

The cake was delivered to various offices throughout the installation during the day to show H-E-B's appreciation for what the installation accomplishes every day.

"We wanted to say a special thank you to you and all of what you do for the post," stated Graciela Velazquez, the Fort Cavazos area community coordinator for H-E-B. "This cake is a symbol of our appreciation for your commitment and sacrifices that you make every single day that afford us our freedoms every day."

The cake delivery is part of a now annual tradition, and allows everyone to slow down for a moment before the holidays and to reflect on the community Central

Texas provides.

"I talk about Fort Cavazos, the Great Place; I talk about our job as leaders here is to make sure we remain the installation of choice in our Army," Lt. Gen. Sean C. Bernabe, III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos commanding general, shared during one of the presentations. "And one of the things that makes us the installation of choice is that we're nestled very tightly in this community of choice here in Central Texas."

"This is just one more example of how this amazing community takes care of our Soldiers," he continued. "So I'm appreciative of it and again, this is part of what makes the Great Place, the Great Place."

Col. Lakicia Stokes, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos commander, agreed.

"We greatly appreciate everything that you (H-E-B) all have done and will continue to do for our Soldiers, families and civilians," Stokes said. "We couldn't do it without you all; it takes a team and we greatly appreciate it."



Photos by Samantha Harms, Command Information Chief

Lt. Gen. Sean C. Bernabe, III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos commanding general; Pfc. Jacob Cooper, III Armored Corps; and Juan Carlos-Rück, executive vice president of Store Operations, North West Food Drug at H-E-B; cut a slice of coconut cake Dec. 15. H-E-B recognized Fort Cavazos leadership, Soldiers and civilians with coconut cake made from a secret family recipe.



Command Sgt. Maj. Calvin Hall, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos command sergeant major, blows out the candle atop a coconut cake as Col. Lakicia Stokes, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos commander, and Graciela Velazquez, the Fort Cavazos area community coordinator for H-E-B, watch.



Associates with H-E-B and members of Fort Cavazos Resource Management pose for a photo Dec. 15. Resource Management is one of the many offices that received a coconut cake from H-E-B.

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# Donation warms hearts, battles food insecurity

BY JANECEZ WRIGHT  
Sentinel Living Editor

**KILLEEN, Texas** — The Fort Cavazos Resource Management Office wanted to do something special during the holidays last year to combat the staggering number of community members experiencing food insecurity and show them how much the Great Place cares.

The team collected 260 pounds of assorted non-perishable holiday related groceries and delivered the food to the Food Care Center located in Killeen just in time for Christmas.

Wanda Ingram-Lambert, Resource Management director, explained that she thought the donation would be great way to give back to the community during the holiday season and encouraged her team to join her efforts.

The office spent a month collecting canned and dry goods and presented the donation to the Killeen Food Care Center Dec. 20, 2023.

“We can often forget how fortunate we are, and it was a great opportunity to give back and invest in our community,” Ingram-Lambert expressed. “It was extremely positive and shows that we genuinely care about our Soldiers, families and our community.”

Raymond L. Cockrell, executive director of the Killeen Food Care Center, conveyed that when he received a call from the Resource Management team telling him they wanted to do a food drive for the holidays, he was more than happy to oblige.

He explained that community partners like Fort Cavazos are vital in helping to keep up with the ever-increasing demand of those in need.

“We can’t serve the record numbers of families coming through our doors without the assistance from partners in our community,” he said. “This includes both food and financial donations. We distributed 750,000 pounds of groceries to over 42,000 people in need in October through December.”

Ingram-Lambert agreed, adding that, “with so many food insecurities, we need a strong partnership, relationship of trust and support. This also helps to eliminate the stigma or shame some families have when needing help. We are one big family and should always be there for one another.”

Feeding America, a U.S. based non-profit organization, reports that, “far too many U.S. service members and their loved ones struggle to access enough to eat,” and that an increasing number of military families are turning to food banks for help.

Cockrell added another alarming statistic from the Military Family Advisory Network.

“Recent surveys done by the Military Family Advisory Network identified as many as 28% of enlisted families on Fort Cavazos are suffering from food insecurity and 4% of officer’s families are also experiencing food insecurity — the highest in the country,” he said.

The numbers are staggering, Cockrell shared, making the partnership between the Killeen Food Care Center and the Great Place even more crucial.

“It’s vitally important to have a partnership with Fort Cavazos since over 28% (approximately 35,000 of the more than 121,000) people we served last year were military related — active duty, retired and/or veteran status,” he said. “It’s also important to partner with Fort Cavazos because it helps rise an awareness to the service that we provide to the military community experiencing food insecurity.”

Cockrell stressed that the combined efforts of the Food Care Center, Fort Cavazos and the community to eradicate food insecurity is imperative.

“No one should ever go hungry in our community,” he said, “most especially families serving and protecting our country.”



Photo by Janecze Wright, Sentinel Living Editor

Fort Cavazos Resource Management team members Liane Forsythe, Financial Operations chief, and Suree Harris, lead financial specialist, pose for a photo before they drop off 260 pounds of donated food Dec. 20, 2023, to the Killeen Food Care Center. The office spent a month collecting canned and dry goods to donate to the Killeen Food Care Center.

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## Dining Facility Operations Schedule Jan. 2024

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	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31			

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Food Advisor: W01 Blair: 513-317-5014

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.  
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM Building #21020 Battalion & 58th St.							NORTH FORT CAVAZOS Building #56320						
SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31			

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Food Advisor: W01 Greene: 843-764-7561

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.  
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

BLACK JACK Building #34002 Old Ironsides Ave. & Pyongyang Dr.							THEODORE ROOSEVELT Building #9205 Battalion & 21st St.						
SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31			

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Manager: SFC Smith: 254-288-3681

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.  
(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD TRUCK 1							CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD KIOSK Old Ironsides and Pyongyang Drive						
SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31			

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: Closed  
NCOIC: SSG Lopez: 787-414-1259

BRK, LUN, DIN: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday (WNK): 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
WR Manager: SFC Smith: 254-288-3681

Patriot Inn Building #12007 Old Ironside & 33rd St.							CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD TRUCK 2						
SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				28	29	30	31			

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday  
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
WR Manager: SFC Moore: 210-612-9378

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m.

Installation Food Service: 287-6595 III Armored Corps Food Service: 287-0573 Division Food Service: 287-3134

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# Job fair connects job seekers with variety of employers

**Job Fair:** Continued from A1

job seekers. These job fairs serve as beneficial employment events for job seekers as they connect them with businesses that are seeking out their unique skills and backgrounds.

The Mega Job Fair saw more than 180 companies converge at the Lone Star Conference Center to meet with Soldiers, family members, veterans and other job seekers from the Central Texas communities.

Military service brings about desirable attributes for those seeking to hire new employees. From the ability to task, organize and manage time, to providing critical leadership skills that are uniquely honed during service in uniform.

On average 3,500 to 5,000 job seekers attend these job fairs and this iteration was no differ-

ent. The banquet rooms and even hallways were bustling with those looking into new career opportunities.

One job seeker, Maj. Ron Ignatovitch, Soldier Recovery Unit, attended to see what options were available upon his transition from active-duty service.

“Whether you’re looking for a fresh start or continuing your career that you did in the Army, there are lots of opportunities here. It’s pretty impressive,” Ignatovitch said.

Soldiers begin the Transition Assistance Program 12 months prior to separation, and at that point many Soldiers do not know what they want to do next. Events like the Mega Career Fair give those unsure of their next step a consolidated venue to seek opportunities they may not have considered before.

From law enforcement agencies

to continued federal service opportunities, there was a large variety of career paths to explore for those who attended. Catherine Levandovsky, the director of the Fort Cavazos Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, was excited to see such a large turnout.

“I think it’s great. There’s a ton of people here. And they’re really interested and excited about jobs,” Levandovsky said. “We’ve had lots of people come over to look at federal employment with the Department of Army and we’re excited to talk to them.”

If you missed this Mega Job Fair, your next opportunity to attend will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 8 at the Lone Star Conference Center.

For more information, visit [home.army.mil/cavazos/units-tenants/Garrison/directorate-human-resources/Transition-Assistance-Program](http://home.army.mil/cavazos/units-tenants/Garrison/directorate-human-resources/Transition-Assistance-Program) or call 254-288-2227.



Thousands seeking a new career path attend the winter Mega Job Fair Jan. 9 at the Lone Star Conference Center. Photo by Darren Cinatl, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

# Organization works to honor those who paid ultimate price

**Wreaths:** Continued from A1

honor you.”

Master Sgt. Bertha Horne, 48th Chemical Brigade, and Sgt. 1st Class Kasim Kennerly, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, both attended the wreath retrieval for the first time.

“We chose to come to this event for the support of the community,” Horne explained. “As the Audie Murphy Club here on Fort Cavazos, we’re big on supporting our community and we try to come out as much as we can for our community.”

Kennerly agreed.

“It lets us continue to look over those that made the ultimate sacrifice before us,” he said, “and let them know that we still care and we’re here for them and we appreciate the path that they paved for us.”

However, physical help isn’t the only thing that keeps this

event running.

“All of this is by donations; dollars, five dollars, ten dollars,” Jean Shine, founder and president of Wreaths for Vets, explained. “We do love the help, and we have to have the physical help to do this, but we need the financial help to be able to continue.”

Up until this year, the organization has used 18-wheeler truck trailers, with poles specially designed for the trailer that hold the wreaths. However, Jean says that this is no longer an option for them due to the amount of wreaths they have to store each year.

“We have been storing our wreaths in trailers for the 18-wheelers but, we can’t sustain that any longer. We’re going to have to build a building to be able to do this,” she said. “... We’re going to be having to raise that money for a building and we sure do need help. We would all truly appreciate it.”

Wreaths for Vets is a 501(c)3 non-profit with no paid

employees. All donations go toward wreaths, bows, equipment, etc.

To donate time or money, visit [wreathsforvets.org](http://wreathsforvets.org) or their Facebook

page, [facebook.com/WreathsForVets](https://www.facebook.com/WreathsForVets).

“We hope that this will continue for eternity,” Jean shared. “It’s a beautiful thing; it’s heartwarming. When you come out here,

your heart will burst in pride and in love for our country, our veterans, what they’ve done and what they’re doing every day. It’s just amazing.”



Volunteers lift a pole with 30 wreaths on it into one of the 18-wheeler truck trailers, which is where the wreaths are stored until next holiday season. Photo by Samantha Harms, Command Information Chief

# Soldiers, students learn from each other, increase understanding

**Invents:** Continued from A1

targeted by cheaply made Chinese drones, and we are losing division-level assets,” said Spc. Ethan Balthrop, radar repairer assigned to 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. “My team has been trying to develop a solution to try to hide the thermal signature from thermally capable drones.”

Balthrop and his team presented their solution, which used commercially available and existing military equipment to reduce the heat signature of equipment by redirecting it to a distance meant to protect radar and personnel from explosive blasts. The presentation showed the thought and hard work of the group, which was comprised of both

Soldiers and Texas A&M students.

“On my team I have six people: two engineering students and a mix of NCOs (non-commissioned officers) and junior officers,” Balthrop said. “The engineering students were able to say, ‘We can do this better by doing x, y and z,’ and elevating what the Soldiers were trying to do.”

Another team took on the challenge of communicating across distance and terrain on the modern battlefield.

“We were assigned the task of improving VHF (very high frequency) communication capabilities,” said 1st Lt. Casey Komar, air defense artillery officer assigned to 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. “It’s hard to communicate at a tactical level, you have to be within the same grid square to be able to

realistically use it.”

Komar and his team set out to improve communication by raising the line of sight of radio antennas for increased range. Coming to the solution was aided by both the experience of Soldiers and the knowledge of engineering students.

“The biggest gain from the students is creation feasibility,” Komar said. “I can make our product by cannibalizing equipment, but they helped with the science of making it optimized.”

While coming up with new solutions to Army problems was the primary purpose of Phantom Invents, bringing together students and Soldiers to learn from each other and increase understanding between both groups was also a key outcome.

“You take a typical engineering student, who may not have ever interacted with someone who is on active duty, and just working side-by-side with them might give them a new perspective on who the military is and what they do,” said Col. Dennis Weaver, III Armored cyber electromagnetic warfare officer and another member of the judging panel.

Plans for future Phantom Invents events are already in the works. Soldiers who are interested in tackling Army problems should consider participating.

“If you are interested in problem solving, go,” Komar said. “It’s a chance to get out of the routine, get into civilian clothes and work with people that have a totally different perspective than you do on how to solve problems.”



A group works on their project during Phantom Invents 2023. Phantom Invents was a four-day event that partnered Soldiers and students to create solutions to Army problems. Courtesy photo

# Strikes against Houthis rebel group likely effective

BY JOSEPH CLARK  
DOD News

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is highly confident that Thursday's strikes against Houthi military targets in Yemen were effective in degrading the rebel group's ability to carry out further attacks against commercial ships operating in the Red Sea, a senior Pentagon official said Friday.

Army Lt. Gen. Douglas A. Sims II, director of operations for the Joint Staff, said joint forces from the U.S. and United Kingdom launched more than 150 munitions from both maritime and air platforms against more than 16 locations controlled by the Iranian-backed militants.

"At this point, we continue to conduct battle damage assessment of the various targets," Sims said. "We feel very confident about where our munitions struck."

The deliberate strikes, which were carried out with non-operational support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands, were assessed to have hit multiple targets across each location.

Those targets included command and control nodes, munitions depots, launching systems, production facilities and air defense radar systems used by the Houthis to carry out attacks against vessels operating in international waters.

"We know precisely the capability that the Houthis have been employing against the Red Sea and the Bab al Mandab," Sims said. "This was solely designed to get after the capability that is impeding international freedom of

navigation in international waters. We feel pretty confident we did good work on that."

Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III issued the order for U.S. Central Command Commander General Michael E. Kurilla to carry out the strikes Thursday following a series of attacks launched by Houthis against commercial ships operating in the region.

"This action is intended to disrupt and degrade the Houthis' capabilities to endanger mariners and threaten global trade in one of the world's most critical waterways," Austin said in a statement following the strikes. "(Friday's) coalition action sends a clear message to the Houthis that they will bear further costs if they do not end their illegal attacks."

Austin added that the U.S. "maintains its right to self-defense and, if necessary, will take follow-on actions to protect U.S. forces."

Defense officials said Friday that Austin monitored the strikes in real time and conducted a call with the National Security Council and U.S. Central command for initial post strike assessment following the operation.

Austin is continuing to monitor the situation, officials said.

Since mid-November, Iran-backed Houthi rebels have launched more than two dozen attacks against merchant vessels operating in the Red Sea. Such attacks against the vital international shipping lane posed a vital concern and impacted international commerce across the globe.

In response, Austin announced the Dec. 18, 2023 launch of Operation Prosperity Guardian, an international maritime task force designed to defend against the attacks.

The operation brought together forces from 22 nations to address the challenges in the region and ensure freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The forces operate under the umbrella of the Combined Maritime Forces and the leadership of Task Force 153, a U.S. Navy-led initiative focused on maritime security in the Red Sea. Earlier this week, the rebel group launched nearly 20 drones and several missiles targeting U.S. ships underway in the region. That attack was defeated by U.S. and U.K. forces operating in the region as part of Operation Prosperity Guardian.

"(Thursday's) strikes launched against the rebel stronghold in Yemen were not associated with, and are separate from, Operation Prosperity Guardian," the Pentagon official said.

The defensive strikes followed sustained diplomatic efforts and broad international condemnation of the Houthi attacks that have threatened global commerce.

During the first week of January, the governments of the U.S., Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement condemning the

attacks and warning the rebel group against further escalation.

In the statement, the nations warned that the Houthis "will bear the responsibility of the consequences should they continue to threaten lives, the global economy and (the) free flow of commerce in the region's critical waterways."

Earlier last week, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution demanding that the rebel group cease all attacks against ships in the Red Sea.

In a statement following Thursday's strike, the governments of the U.S., Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement further condemning the Houthis' actions and warning against further escalation.

The nations' statement read that the strikes "demonstrated a shared commitment to freedom of navigation, international commerce and defending the lives of mariners from illegal and unjustifiable attacks. Our aim remains to de-escalate tensions and restore stability in the Red Sea, but let our message be clear: We will not hesitate to defend lives and protect the free flow of commerce in one of the world's most critical waterways in the face of continued threats."



**This action is intended to disrupt and degrade the Houthis' capabilities to endanger mariners and threaten global trade in one of the world's most critical waterways.**

— Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of Defense



Photos by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Krucke, U.S. Navy

Ensign Emily Moore, center, and Ensign Joshua Andrews, left, stand watch on the pilot house aboard the USS Mason while the ship operates in support of Operation Prosperity Guardian Dec. 26, 2023, in the Gulf of Aden.



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ahmed Elharoun looks through high powered binoculars at a passing oil tanker aboard the USS Mason while operating in support of Operation Prosperity Guardian Dec. 24, 2023, in the Red Sea.

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 t based on actual events, only inspired by...  
 y crimes. The show is often remembered for...  
 ight scenes. Norris is a Black Belt Grand...  
 von Do, however actual Texas Rangers...  
 al arts in apprehending criminals.

**Cast**

Conrad Walker (1993-2001)  
 James "Jimmy" Tinsdale (1993-2001)  
 Asst. D.A. Alex Cabal (1993-2001)



Photos by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Memorabilia from the famous TV show "Walker, Texas Ranger" can be viewed at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas. There are several items to see including this photograph signed by the cast.

# Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum puts star in Lone Star

**BY BLAIR DUPRE**  
 Sentinel News Editor

**WACO, Texas** – There are two kinds of Texas Rangers in the Lone Star State. One is a Major League Baseball team, and the other is the oldest state law enforcement agency in the nation.

Luckily for fans of true crime, history and even Chuck Norris, there is a museum in Waco that can educate you on all things Texas Rangers.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is located on the banks of the Brazos river, right next to McLane Stadium, home of the Baylor University Bears. It features exhibits on the founding of the Texas Rangers and explains how it grew into the organization that it is today.

As someone who enjoys learning about true crime, my favorite part of the museum are the exhibits on the Rangers' efforts in fighting crime both in the past and today.

For example, there is a section on Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, commonly referred to as Bonnie and Clyde. They were ambushed by a posse led by Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, putting an end to their robbing and murdering.

There's also exhibits on the forensic means used to solve crimes using early and current methods. One thing I found interesting is how forensic entomologists can tell how long a body has been deceased by identifying the bugs found at the scene.

Another exhibit that interested me within the Hall of Fame was about firearm engraving and Texas engravers. It is filled with firearms with incredibly detailed engraving. My favorite was the Colt .45 caliber Buntline Special Revolver.

The Texas Rangers have even left a mark on pop culture. In the pop culture section of the museum you will find a

plethora of memorabilia inspired by the Texas Rangers, including action figures, lunchboxes and a comic series. And of course, they have memorabilia from the show "Walker, Texas Ranger", including a signed script.

My roommate and I hadn't been in more than a year and it was nice to see some new things to learn and do, including assembling a replica Colt Patterson.

It was also fun seeing art inspired by the Rangers and learning about some of the Rangers inducted into the Hall of Fame.

We enjoyed our visit and I highly recommend checking out this museum the next time you visit Waco.

For information on admittance costs, hours, exhibits not mentioned in this article or on to become a Texas Ranger yourself, visit [texasranger.org/](http://texasranger.org/).



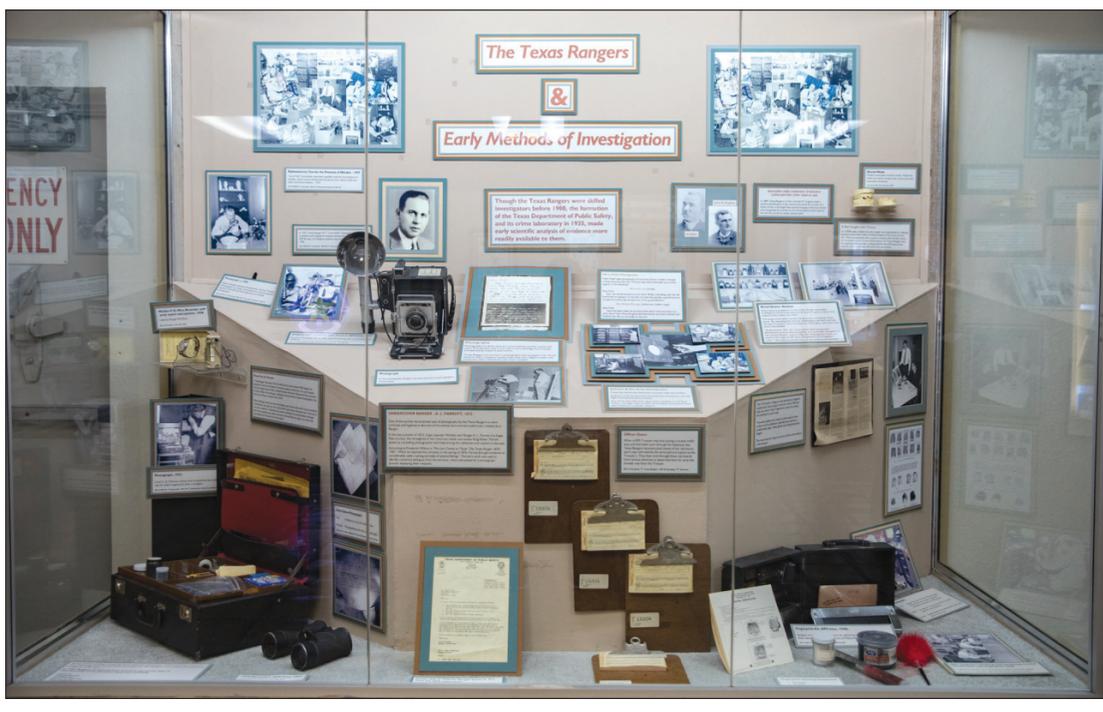
A Colt .45 caliber Buntline Special Revolver with intricate engraving was my favorite part of the firearm engraving and Texas engravers exhibit.



A painting depicting the ambush on Bonnie and Clyde, led by Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, can be seen in the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas.



This statue greets visitors as they enter the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame and Museum.



An exhibit in the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum displays some of the early methods used by the Texas Rangers for investigating crimes.

# BOSS hosts annual single parent brunch

BY SHAWN DAVIS  
Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

Single parent Soldiers, their children and volunteers from the Better Opportunities for Single Parents program at Fort Cavazos took cover from the dreary overcast weather Dec. 15,

2023, to enjoy the BOSS program's annual Single Parent Brunch to share free gifts, homemade mimosas and biscuits with gravy at the Community Events and Bingo Center at Fort Cavazos.

The Center at BOSS program holds the annual event in honor of single Soldiers who continue their service while

caring for their children.

The event brings them and the BOSS community together to enjoy a hot meal, build friendships and win children's toys in a raffle for Christmas gifts.

It's a heartwarming moment for volunteers from BOSS such as Spc. Madison Reynolds, 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

"I'm excited to be here," Reynolds expressed. "I love Christmas, I love the holiday season and I like to see families getting help — to engage with single parents and let them know they're not forgotten by BOSS."

The event is described by BOSS President Cpl. Candice Pritchard-Harmon as part of the program's longstanding mission to improve the quality of life for single and unaccompanied Soldiers serving on Fort Cavazos.

"We understand that the holidays can be a trying time," she said. "Especially for single parents who are overcoming financial issues who have multiple kids and can't really give their kids the Christmas that they particularly want for them."

"We do the Single Parent Brunch to show appreciation for our single parent Soldiers, and the toy giveaway is to show appreciation to their service as parents," she continued. "We understand that it's difficult for them when there's only one parent in the household — so we let them know that they're not alone and that we see them as part of our program."

For more information on the BOSS program, visit their headquarters from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays located on Old Ironsides Avenue, across the street from the Sprocket Auto Crafts center.



Photos by Shawn Davis, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

Toys garnered by the BOSS program are lined up on a table to be raffled off to participants of the Single Parent Brunch Dec. 15, 2023.



Soldiers spend time together at the BOSS Program Single Parent Brunch Dec. 15, 2023, at the Community Events and Bingo Center.



Volunteers of the BOSS Program, enchanted with holiday dress, man the reception desk Dec. 15, 2023, at the Community Events and Bingo Center.



Photo by Christine Luciano, DPW Environmental

Team members from the Fort Cavazos Directorate of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division spread holiday cheer on Dec. 20, 2023, by fulfilling the wish lists of 26 children from the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse.

## DPW Operations & Maintenance Division gives back to local youth

BY CHRISTINE LUCIANO  
DPW Environmental

**KILLEEN, Texas** — Leading up to last year's holiday season, the Fort Cavazos Directorate of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division embraced the opportunity to give back and extend a helping hand to the youth in the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse in downtown Killeen for the second year in a row.

"I appreciate the DPW team and our leadership who supported us in giving back to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas," Melvin Gray, supervisor of Business Team for DPW OMD, said. "It's great that we, as DPW, can take the opportunity to be a support to those in need."

DPW OMD worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas to spread holiday cheer to 26 children from the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse. "Our families are struggling to put gas in

the tank and food on the table, and to be able to buy Christmas gifts is not something they can do," Tiana Quick, chief executive officer for Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas, said. "This year, because of DPW, not one single family from this club will have to go without their child opening a gift on Christmas morning."

Angela Williams, unit director for McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse, and her staff worked with youth from first through fifth grade to put together individual holiday wish lists of wants and needs. Each child shared their shoe and clothing sizes and asked for a variety of items that ranged from fidgets and activity kits to bicycles and hygiene items.

"Our club has grown this year, and with the help of DPW, we will not have any child that will not have a Christmas this year," Williams said. "It's priceless to have the help and support from our community and show our families and youth that people care."

After receiving the wish lists from Williams, Carlos Rodriguez, supervisor of West Shop for DPW OMD, explained the next steps to make the wishes come true.

"Getting everything together took about three weeks," Rodriguez said. "Our volunteers purchased gifts, and we also received monetary donations to focus on the lists for what the kids asked for."

Jose Ancira, supervisor of Maintenance and Sustainment for DPW OMD, kicked-started the holiday giving in 2022, when the DPW team provided gifts to 16 children at the McLaurin-Boyd Family Clubhouse. When the new year rolled around, DPW OMD stepped up to continue their selfless service.

"It is always good to be able to support your community, especially those in need," Ancira said. "We appreciate helping the kids in our local community and also thank the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas staff for being here for the kids."

After kicking off the morning of Dec. 20, 2023, unloading truckloads of gifts and stacking them onto six tables, later that day, 26 children were surprised by the true spirit of the holiday season.

"When we have moments like this and we see the joy and tears in their eyes, mostly the parents' eyes, I can't tell you how much we appreciate this," Quick said. "Anything we can do to help them be successful and some of that is happiness, food and a little bit of love that all goes a long way. Thank you for helping us and allowing us to give a little bit of joy to some of our kids."

Williams encouraged the community to explore opportunities to give back and show kindness to others like DPW did.

"There are opportunities throughout the community and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas to volunteer," she said. "It doesn't have to be monetary. Use your talents and knowledge to be a mentor and positive role model to our local youth."

# Intramural basketball off to competitive start

**BY BLAIR DUPRE**  
Sentinel News Editor

The 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, was victorious in the first game of the intramural basketball season after defeating the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade 44 to 39 Jan. 10 at Abrams Physical Fitness Center.

In the first period the teams went back and forth before the 1st Air Cav. Bde. held a consistent lead. However, the 20th En. Bn., 36th En. Bde., kept the score close and then in the last two minutes of the game they regained the lead and took the victory.

Pfc. Kelmin Bluford, Sgt. Oritzotto Pablo and Sgt. Juwan Moore, all with 20th En. Bn., 36th En. Bde., said it felt great to earn the win.

"This is my first year (playing intramural basketball) and I feel good starting the season with a win," Pablo said.

Moore agreed. "It was a great team win," he added. "Honestly, we couldn't do it without the whole team, everybody cheering on the bench ... we couldn't do it without each other."

Bluford agreed, adding, "It felt great to get back in shape and I'm looking forward to the championship."

Being the first game of the season, there were some challenges. All three Soldiers agreed that their team could spend more time together to better understand each other so they can establish a better rhythm as they progress through the rest of the season.

"(We need to) get to know each other better so we can know each other's (strengths and weaknesses) so we can win the season," Pablo said.

Moore added, "The team chemistry and cardio. I know a lot of us are a little bit out of shape since it's the new year."

Bluford, Pablo and Moore said they wanted to participate in intramural basketball so they could spend

time with their friends participating in an activity that they love, and stated that intramural sports are incredibly important for Soldiers to participate in.

Bluford said intramural sports allow Soldiers to, "continue to grow, elevate and expand."

Pablo agreed, saying that intramural sports allow Soldiers to showcase their athletic abilities.

Moore added that intramural sports are a much needed break from Soldiers' day-to-day responsibilities.

"It helps you get away from (work) and it gives you an outlet outside of the Army," he said. "A lot of people who join the Army are brand new and they don't have an outlet so this helps a lot."

For more information and updates on upcoming intramural sport opportunities, visit [cavazos.armymwr.com](http://cavazos.armymwr.com).



Photos by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Sgt. Oritzotto Pablo, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, attempts a lay up during the first game of the intramural basketball season Jan. 10 at Abrams Physical Fitness Center.



Pfc. Kelmin Bluford, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, dribbles down the court during the first game of the intramural basketball season.



Sgt. Juwan Moore, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, shoots a free throw during the 20th En. Bn. versus 1st Air Cavalry Brigade intramural basketball game Jan. 10.

## Houses of Worship

### FORT CAVAZOS CHAPEL SERVICES



**CATHOLIC**  
**Sunday Mass**, 9 a.m., Main Chapel, [www.facebook.com/FtHoodRomanCatholic/](http://www.facebook.com/FtHoodRomanCatholic/)  
**Noon Mass**, Monday through Friday, 12 p.m., Main Chapel  
**Confession after Mass or by appointment**, call 286-6749, Main Chapel

**PROTESTANT**  
**St. George Parish (Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopalian)**, Sunday, 9 a.m., Old Post Chapel, [www.facebook.com/Ft-Hood-Liturgical-Chapel-Service](http://www.facebook.com/Ft-Hood-Liturgical-Chapel-Service)

**SPANISH PROTESTANT**  
**Alcance**, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Veterans OIF Chapel, [www.facebook.com/AlcanceFortHoodTX](http://www.facebook.com/AlcanceFortHoodTX)

**GOSPEL CONGREGATION**  
**Gospel Service**, Sunday, 11 a.m., Comanche Chapel, [www.facebook.com/ComancheChapel](http://www.facebook.com/ComancheChapel)

**TRADITIONS**  
**Traditions Service**, Sunday, 10 a.m., Ironhorse Chapel, [www.facebook.com/groups/fhtpus/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/fhtpus/)

**CHAPEL NEXT**  
**Contemporary Service**, Sunday, 11:15 a.m., Main Chapel, [www.facebook.com/ChapelNextFortHood](http://www.facebook.com/ChapelNextFortHood)

**OPEN TABLE**  
**All-Inclusive Christian Chapel**, [www.facebook.com/OpenTableChapel](http://www.facebook.com/OpenTableChapel)

**WFH PROTESTANT**  
**Non-Denominational Protestant**, Sunday, 10:30 a.m., West Fort Cavazos Chapel, [www.facebook.com/West-Fort-Hood-Chapel](http://www.facebook.com/West-Fort-Hood-Chapel)

**JEWISH**  
**Shabbat Service**, Friday, 6 p.m., Lucky 16 Chapel

**MUSLIM**  
**Friday Jummah Prayers** at 1:30 p.m., 25th Street Chapel

**OPEN CIRCLE**  
**Camp Finlayson**, contact Linn Vodisek, [vodiseklinn@gmail.com](mailto:vodiseklinn@gmail.com)

**BUDDHIST**  
**Soku Gakkai International (SGI) Nichiren**, Online, contact Martin Bonner, 254-258-0844  
**Theravada**, Thursday, 11:45 a.m., Memorial Chapel

**NORTH FORT CAVAZOS**  
 Call 254-286-5223 for service schedule and Bible Study

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES/STUDY**  
**Children in the Middle**, call 254-288-1913 to reserve, Family Life Chaplain Training Center  
**Men of Honor**, Contact Ken Wooten, 254-466-6254

**Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)**, Tuesday, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Main Chapel, [www.facebook.com/FortHoodPWOC](http://www.facebook.com/FortHoodPWOC)  
**Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)**, [www.facebook.com/FortHoodMOPS](http://www.facebook.com/FortHoodMOPS)  
**Club Beyond-High School**, Contact Frank Ayala, [fayala@clubbeyond.org](mailto:fayala@clubbeyond.org)  
**Club Beyond-Middle School**, Contact Frank Ayala, [fayala@clubbeyond.org](mailto:fayala@clubbeyond.org)  
**Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)**,

Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., bi-monthly Thursday 5 to 7 p.m., Main Chapel. Facebook: Fort Cavazos CWOC (Catholic Women of the Chapel)

**Catholic Youth Ministry-Crusaders**, 8-12 grades, Contact Maria Fuavia, 573-842-8181  
**Catholic Religious Education-CCE**, Wednesday, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Main Chapel, Contact Maria Fuavia, 254-287-0241

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**, Institute of Religion Classes, Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 13th ACSC Chapel, Contact Chap. Seth Porter, 281-235-7841

\* Holiday hours and events are posted on the Garrison Chaplain's Facebook page, [facebook.com/FortCavazosChaplain](http://facebook.com/FortCavazosChaplain)\*

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**WARRIOR ETHOS**

**I WILL never accept defeat.**

# Cavalry scout's work ethic fueled by childhood

BY CHRISTOPHER HURD  
Defense Media Activity - Army

WASHINGTON — In the cold and wet autumn woods of southern Finland, Sgt. Nick L. Piazza, a cavalry scout with the 1st Cavalry Division, and his fellow Soldiers slept in tents and built fires every night during Operation Hammer 2022.

In the mornings, he woke up and hopped into his Bradley Fighting Vehicle, a medium-sized armored vehicle that allows Soldiers to perform reconnaissance and engage enemy forces.

Being the gunner on the team, he checked the M242 25-millimeter cannon and the machine gun before making sure the ammunition was properly linked. Then he checked the vehicle's communication system.

Once everything was good to go, he and his team would head out to engage their Finnish partners in battle operations, learning and growing with them. It was a demanding two-week exercise and another event in Piazza's life that pushed him to be stronger.

"(Being a cavalry scout) is a very tough job," he said. "There are tough days and long days but there is so much reward that comes with it."

Hard work in the outdoors was nothing new to Piazza. He grew up on a large piece of property in Trenton, Tennessee, where he and his brother spent most of their time hunting, fishing and enjoying nature.

When they weren't playing, their father, a former Navy explosive ordnance disposal technician, had them outside

doing yard work. They would cut down trees, chop firewood, dig pits and even help the neighbors with their yard work. These arduous tasks instilled in them a strong work ethic and a high standard for them to strive for.

"It set a tone and it set an example of the man that I wanted to be, the kind of example I wanted to emulate through life," Piazza said recalling the time spent with his father.

Looking to push himself, he joined the Marine Corps after finishing high school.

He spent the next four years as an expeditionary airfield systems technician, designing airfields and maintaining their systems.

Near the end of his enlistment, he contacted an Army recruiter because he wanted more of an opportunity to travel and see the world. He joined in January 2021 as a cavalry scout.

"They are the eyes and ears in the very tip of the spear, painting that picture for the commander and sending up that information, letting them know what's going on in the battlefield," he said.

With his prior military experience, he came in as a specialist and was inserted into a unit entering advanced individual training. He was pushed into leadership positions early on.

He navigated leading his junior Soldiers while trying to learn the differing terminology of the Army. This was on top of learning his new job. He started relying on those around him by constantly asking questions while he put in extra time studying.

"It's not something you master during (initial training)," he said. "That just opens your eyes to what you'll be learning on the job."

He soaked up as much knowledge as he could and gained more hands-on experience when he arrived at the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div.

Then, last fall, he went on a rotation with the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd ABCT, where they trained in the woods of Finland during Operation Hammer 2022.

The two-week exercise allowed more than 4,000 combined Finnish and U.S. service members to train together in the cold and wet environment of Niinisalo, Finland.

"Being a part of that was the most memorable exercise of my military career," he said. "Getting to fight with (the Finnish military), fight against them and see their tactics ... it was definitely eye-opening and a very fun experience."

The good times also came with hard work, something Piazza has relished since an early age, and his military career has continued to strengthen.

"The Army has given me structure, organization and helped me build an even stronger work ethic," he said. "It's also given me leadership skills."

Those skills were put to the test after Piazza was promoted to sergeant this past summer. Now, he gets to guide his Soldiers to be better and eventually take his job.

"It's very rewarding whenever you see your guys branch out and start to be free thinkers," he said. "When I see them start to push past their rank and their assignment, it makes me really proud as a leader."

When he's not leading his Soldiers, Piazza is in his Bradley Fighting Vehicle being a cavalry scout gunner.

"It's an extremely rewarding job, and I have no regrets with the path I've chosen," he explained. "I absolutely love being a scout. Any time I get in my Brad and go somewhere, I usually have a smile on my face."

Piazza will start college soon to pursue a degree in psychology. In the future, he wants to become a therapist and help Soldiers with their mental health.



**The Army has given me structure, organization and helped me build an even stronger work ethic. It's also given me leadership skills.**

— Sgt. Nick L. Piazza,  
1st Cavalry Division



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Nick Piazza

Sgt. Nick L. Piazza, along with other Soldiers from the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, participate in Operation Hammer 2022 in Niinisalo, Finland. The two-week exercise tested the combined Finnish and U.S. military forces in battle operations.

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# Surgeon general visits Great Place

BY ERIC FRANKLIN  
Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

During a lecture series, Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle, the U.S. Army surgeon general and commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command, visited Fort Cavazos on Jan. 4 to discuss the top 10 lessons from his 35-year career with Soldiers.

In a gesture reflecting his leadership ethos before starting his lecture, Dingle asked unit commanders and other senior leaders seated at the front to give up their seats to Soldiers standing at the back, emphasizing his value on the lower enlisted ranks.

"At times, we must relinquish our seats for our Soldiers to ensure they have a better position," Dingle confidently explained. "We should always aspire for our Soldiers to surpass us. This necessitates us to train them diligently, trust them to be integrated into our medical and inspire them to constantly strive for excellence."

In his address to the young Soldiers seated at the front of the room, Dingle

emphasized the importance of leadership at every level, regardless of age or rank.

"Just because you are 19 (years-old) does not make you less of a leader than the individuals sitting in the back of the room," Dingle said. "You are in a position to set the example of leadership and the example of what 'right' is because you are in a profession of arms; be the best Soldier that you can be."

During the two-hour-long discussion, Dingle imparted his key leadership lessons from his more than three decades of military services to the packed auditorium. He stressed balancing professional duties with personal life and family commitments.

Dingle also emphasized the need for full engagement in tasks, finding joy in work and the crucial role of building strong relationships and teamwork. He advocated for servant leadership and the significance of maintaining a good reputation. Highlighting the value of mentorship, he concluded with the mantra "Work Hard, Play Hard," encapsulating his leadership and personal growth approach.

Among those there were Soldiers from several military specialties, like Spc. Devon Dunn, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist assigned to the 581st Area Support Medical Company, 1st Medical Brigade, who reflected on the key take a ways of the event.

"His leadership style shows he is a servant leader who puts junior enlisted members first," Dunn said. "It made me feel acknowledged and valued."

Approaching retirement, Dingle gave deeply influential final words to Soldiers at Fort Cavazos, urging them to surpass their personal and professional ambitions. His message, filled with urgency and inspiration, encouraged Soldiers to strive for excellence beyond their perceived limits as Dingle reflected on his career and dedication to nurturing future military leaders.

"I dare you to live your dreams; overcome challenges in your career and life, not just cope, but overcome them," Dingle said. "Look back at all you have done, dust your hands off, and say how you like me now."



Photo by Eric Franklin, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle, the U.S. Army surgeon general and commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command, stands with more than 200 Soldiers during his Jan. 4 visit to Fort Cavazos. Dingle imparted valuable lessons from his distinguished military career to the Soldiers.



## SPECIAL DELIVERIES

NOV. 11, 2023

A daughter, **Kouvr Elaine**, to Hunter and Caitlyn Boyette.

NOV. 12, 2023

A daughter, **Elizabeth Grace**, to Brian and Hannah Pape.

NOV. 13, 2023

A daughter, **Brinley Rae**, to Aaron and Sophie Linton, 1st ABCT.

NOV. 14, 2023

A son, **Chance Lyfe**, to Curtis Jr. and Shanta Skinner.

NOV. 15, 2023

A daughter, **Yahri-Jade Robin**, to Darrion Bent and Crystal Gayle-Bent, 69th ADA.

A daughter, **Zeyna Mekhi**, to Joquise Sheriff and Zhaleigha Culpepper, 1st Cav. Div.

NOV. 16, 2023

A son, **Kaius Lathan**, to Waynmond Bruce and Jasmine Garrett-Bruce, 1st Cav. Div.

NOV. 17, 2023

A daughter, **Camilla Vaopunimatagi Magnolia**, to Oliver and Ana Afoa, 3rd Cav. Regt.

NOV. 19, 2023

A son, **Uriah Leonidas**, to Victor and Rachel Rodriguez.

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A daughter, **Nadia Rochelle**, to Darien and Winter Larson.





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A review of some of the most popular series streaming on a variety of platforms

## 'Abbott Elementary' takes viewers back to school

BY JANECE WRIGHT  
Sentinel Living Editor

There is nothing that tests a child, teacher or parent like elementary school, so I can appreciate when a show celebrates the lightheartedness and humor of a student's most formative and challenging years.

"Abbott Elementary" does that and more with its quirky take on the day-to-day task of educating first through eighth graders at the fictional Willard R. Abbott Elementary, a predominately Black public school in Philadelphia.

The show's creator and show-runner, award-winning writer, producer, comedian and comedian Quinta Brunson, shared that she created the "mockumentary," as she refers to it, with her mother in mind, explaining that Abbott Elementary is exactly the type of school her mother taught in for 40 years.

Abbott Elementary faces some of the same hardships Brunson said her mother faced decades ago.

Unruly and challenging students, indifferent parents, a lack of sufficient books and supplies and a shoestring budget to tie it all together.

However, second-grade teacher Janine Teagues (Brunson) is optimistic that she alone can make a difference and strives to be the best teacher she can be, despite over doing it on many occasions and at times, clashing with her peers.

No one seems to ruffle Janine's

feathers more than Abbott Principal Ava Coleman (Janelle James). Coleman's eccentric personality, loud wardrobe and total lack of expertise in running a school (she got the job through less than honorable means) make her a standout on the series.

The Abbott Elementary staff is filled with unique personalities that bring special talents to the classroom.

Barbara Howard (Sheryl Lee Ralph) is a veteran teacher that brings experience, wisdom and a motherly approach to her students and her co-workers that is welcome and appreciated, most of the time.

Melissa Schemmenti (Lisa Ann Walter) is a proud Italian born second-grade teacher who is just as tough on her peers as she is on her students.

Jacob Hill (Chris Perfetti) is always willing to go above and beyond, but his desperate attempts to reach his students often make him the brunt

of jokes that provide countless hours of lunchroom laughter among his peers.

Gregory Eddie (Tyler James Williams) opted not to join the family business and instead chose to become a substitute teacher at Abbott. After eventually becoming a full-time teacher, the introverted educator begins to fully embrace his job and his poorly disguised feelings for Janine.

And no school would be complete without a janitor to keep things spick and span and in running order, though Mr. Johnson (William Stanford Davis) seems to forget how to do either.

The characters band together to weave a vibrant tapestry of comedy that keeps viewers in stitches.

What I love most about the series and what makes it unique is its mockumentary sitcom style.

A mockumentary (a combination of mock and documentary) is a

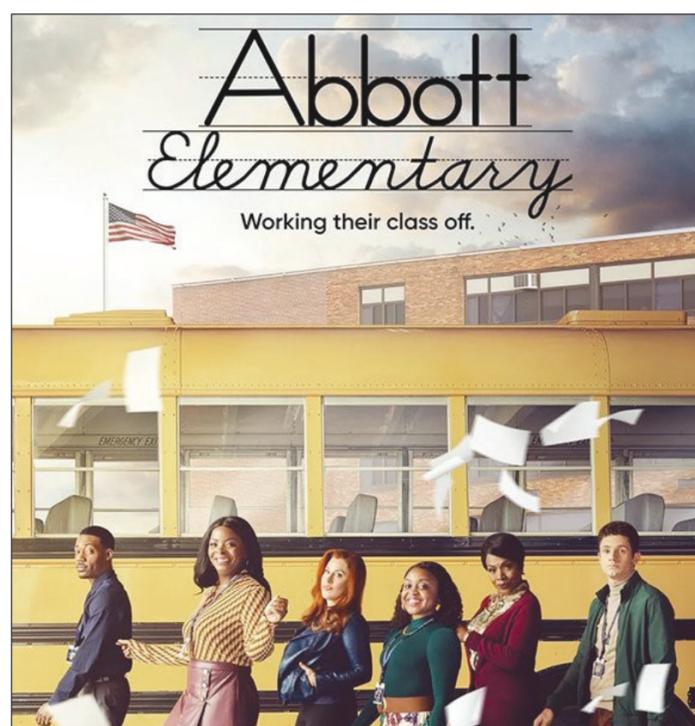
type of film or television show that depicts fictional events presented as a documentary.

Therefore, the show features a documentary crew that records the daily lives of the teachers at work and sometimes at home, capturing facial expressions, personal thoughts and actions that add to the comical nature of the show; including scenes in which characters talk directly into the camera lends a distinctive voyeuristic adaptation to the already hilarious concept that I enjoyed.

Though elementary school is well behind me, it's refreshing to turn on the television and watch as Abbott Elementary transports me right back to some of the most memorable and awkward years of my life.

Abbott Elementary is definitely binge worthy. Be sure to catch up on seasons one and two on Hulu, Prime, YouTube TV and ABC before season three airs Feb. 7.

Series may contain mild profanity and adult themes. Parental discretion is advised.



## Sentinel's (Book) Club

### Novel offers both escape, thoughtful reflection on life, love

BY ERIC FRANKLIN  
Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

In 2004, while deployed in Iraq, reading became more than just a way to pass the time — it was my sanctuary.

Typically, I wouldn't go near romance novels, but "The Notebook" by Nicholas Sparks, found among a collection of books sent to our unit, caught my eye. It was a far cry from my usual reading material. Still, it was a surprisingly profound experience, transforming my war-torn reality into a comforting sanctuary of love and life.

Nicholas Sparks crafts the story of Noah Callhoun and Allie Nelson, two characters from starkly different backgrounds who fall deeply in love during the 1940s.

The novel is imbued with nostalgia and romance, offering profound insights into life's complexities. Its most striking feature is its power to transport readers from a war-torn environment's stark and stressful realities to a serene world where love and missed opportunities are central themes.

Each session of reading "The Notebook," often just a page or two snatched between missions, provided a much-needed respite. It's astonishing how a tale centered on a lifelong romance could bring solace and a sense of normalcy to a Soldier's life in a conflict zone. Sparks' seamless transition between past and present narratives, detailing the youthful romance and the later life of Noah and Allie, encourages deep reflection on the rapid flow of time and the enduring nature of true love.

Sparks' narrative style is direct yet deeply passionate, capturing many emotions without over-complicated language. Noah and Allie's story, characterized by their struggles with societal norms, personal choices and the challenge of staying true to one's heart, resonates with a genuine sense of realism and relatability. Their journey mirrors the universal pursuit of love and a sense of belonging, making the story appealing to a broad spectrum of readers.

In the volatile atmosphere of a war zone, where the fragility of life is a constant reminder, "The Notebook" stands out as a poignant testament to the enduring power of love.

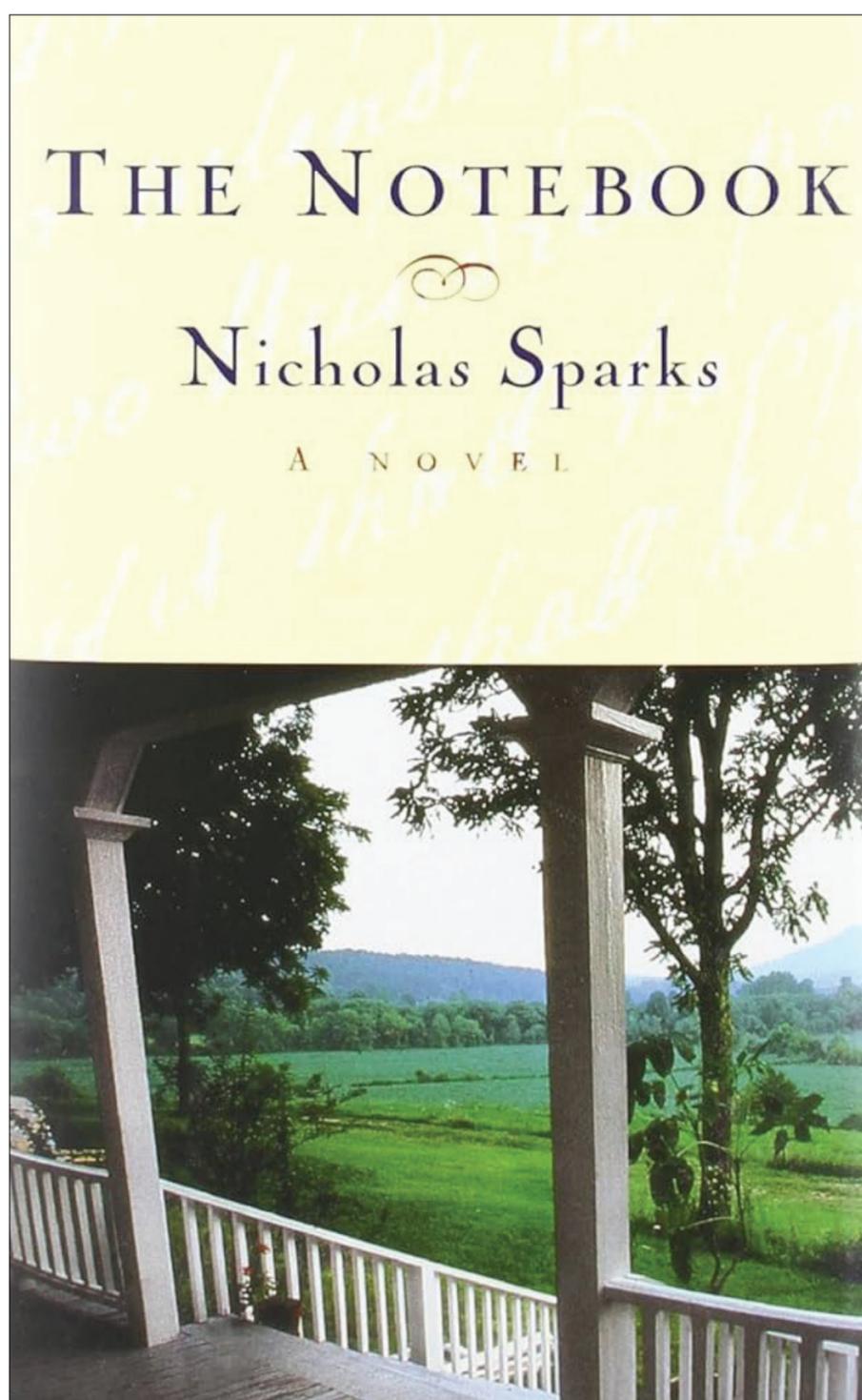
The novel doesn't stop depicting life's challenges; instead, it celebrates the resilience found in enduring love and the lasting impact of cherished memories, offering a beacon of hope and optimism amidst the harsh realities of life.

For anyone looking for a book that offers both an escape and a thoughtful reflection on the nuances of life and love, "The Notebook" by Nicholas Sparks is an exceptional choice.

It transcends the typical boundaries of romance novels, appealing to anyone needing a reminder of life's gentler, more resilient aspects.

For a Soldier stationed far from home, it was more than just a book; it was a piece of tranquility amidst the chaos, a reminder of the enduring human spirit and the power of love to provide solace in the most challenging times.

Just in case you were wondering, the book and movie adaptation are both available at Casey Memorial Library.





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I E F D F B N Y W T N A U G S  
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Z X W I U S B O M R S D Q O N  
L J H F R M M R A T Z A D C A  
K A Y O I E E T W I A Y F V A  
T C H S D D V S L Q K B P U B  
N T O L I H U L K C N A L U M  
L K O P O C A H O N T A S I U  
H V S F S E C R B W Z Y W V P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: KING OF THE JUNGLE

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Buffy	Mulan	Simba	Voldemort
Godzilla	Pocahontas	Spiderman	Wolverine
Hulk	Pumbaa	Spock	

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## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNAF A  
NDRIG  
KOYNED  
GINDIO

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

“ ”

Jumbles: EVOKE CIVIC STENCH THIRST  
shale, etc. is - "ROCK-IT" SCIENCE.  
Answer: To a petrologist, the study of granite, limestone, basalt.

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

<b>ACROSS</b>	46 Super angry	66 Snips	124 10 featured last names in this puzzle are also the names of these	31 "Citizen Kane" studio	77 Mag workers slowly
1 Stood for peak top	51 Month, in Mexico	87 -fi film		32 Cereal husk	78 Imbibe slowly
6 Mountain	52 Strong — ox	88 British china		33 Fla.'s ocean	79 Virtuoso
13 Place to keep cargo	54 She won gold in the 200-meter dash at the 2012 Olympics	89 Oran native		34 Grow wider	80 Assented to
20 Proprietor	57 French term for unrefined works, as by untrained painters	91 "Be —" ("C'mon, help me out!")		36 Join	81 App-ordered rides
21 Seat of Nassau County, New York	59 Furry wrap	92 "Rebecca" actress		37 Marriott rival	82 Cato's 1,550 peninsulas
22 Holiday marches	60 "It could be"	Diana		38 Portugal's	83 Desirous of
23 1970 Best Actress nominee for "The Great White Hope"	61 Make a phone call to	95 Civil rights activist with the comedy album "In Living Black and White"		39 Sharer of top billing	84 Aerie bird
25 Enigmas	62 Film directors Joel and Ethan	98 Best Supporting Actress winner for "The Fighter"		40 Floss fiber	85 Torte or baba
26 Walk — (tiny roles)	63 Hour div.	104 Woman of the future?		41 Raggedy — (classic dolls)	86 Drink cooler
27 Rank above maj.	64 He played Pinkman on "Breaking Bad"	105 Resting atop		42 Born, to Yves	87 Dec. 31
28 — acid (vinegar component)	66 "Rocket Man" singer	106 Threat ender		43 Funnywoman	47 Yank's foe
30 Ruhr article	72 Poem type	108 "Boo —!"		48 Bristol beer	48 Bristol beer
31 Desperately, informally	73 Light bulb power units	109 Phased-out character on "The Simpsons"		49 "— a pity!"	50 Outer: Prefix
35 Country singer with the hit "Blue Ain't Your Color"	76 Tot's injury	112 Pre-book documents		51 Make — for it	52 Make — for it
37 "Livin' La Vida Loca" singer	77 Adopt	114 "Who's Sorry Now?" singer		53 "What if ..."	8 — par with
41 No, in Nuremberg	82 Stuck in mud	119 Cyclone's kin		54 Fail to put in	56 Futuristic tiny machine
42 Ending for peek or bug	83 Tolkien's hole-dwellers	120 Totally unknown by		55 Slo. — fuse	58 Slo. — fuse
43 Making a comeback	84 He played Lieutenant Starbuck on "Battlestar Galactica"	121 Get together with alumni		59 Note after fa	59 Note after fa
		122 Increase the slope of		62 Billiards stick	63 FC Dallas' sports org.
		123 Elk relative		64 Billiards stick	65 Yemeni port
				65 Yemeni port	66 Takeoff abbr. — of sugar?"
				66 Takeoff abbr. — of sugar?"	67 Wealthy Brits
				67 Wealthy Brits	68 Occupation
				68 Occupation	69 San Luis — tree
				69 San Luis — tree	70 Stolen ride
				70 Stolen ride	71 In a meddling way
				71 In a meddling way	73 Actress Kristen
				73 Actress Kristen	74 Bowed
				74 Bowed	75 Shape-fitting game
				75 Shape-fitting game	118 — noir film

#2,177 Average time of solution: 67 minutes

### HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Paper on desk is moved. 2. Paper in hand is longer. 3. Frame is added around window. 4. Back of chair is lower. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Man's finger is moved.

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Granny Squirrel says Shady Shrew stole firewood from her backyard. Shady insists this wood is from a tree he cut down in the forest, hauled home and chopped with his hatchet into logs. Why does Slylock fox think the shrew is lying?

“WOOD? I LIE TO YOU?”

“...I'M TELLIN' YOU, MOUSE -- WHAT'S YOUR NAME? IGNAZZ? ... ANYWAYS, A LADY KNOWS HER OWN LOGS WHEN SHE SEES 'EM.”

HOW TO DRAW an angry ape

Submit your drawing to www.slylockfox.com

### Spot six differences between these panels.

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer: a) Gorilla b) Gibbon c) Baboon d) Orangutan e) Chimpanzee

Answer -- (C) The baboon is a monkey.

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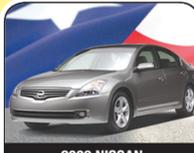
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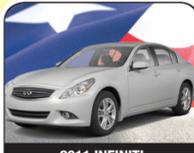
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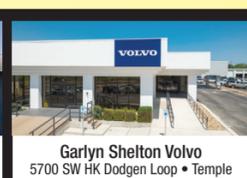
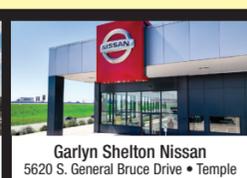
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