

Redstone Rocket

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Tax preparation shouldn't be taxing

Center offers free services
for Redstone community

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Retired sergeant major Bob Vanderburg and his wife, Brigitta, paid dearly for not using Redstone's free tax preparation service last year.

Instead they went to a certified public accountant and paid \$190 to have their taxes done. "And she did not do as good a job as they do here," Brigitta said. "They are friendly, efficient; you couldn't ask for anything better."

"I thought it was great," Bob said of the free services. "I thought it was terrific."

The Vanderburgs are among the more than 400 clients in the first 12 days since the Redstone Tax Center opened Feb. 3. The staff prepares federal and state income tax returns and electronically files them

See Returns on page 9



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SERVING CLIENT— 1st Lt. Timothy Horning prepares a tax return for Air Force SSgt. Craig McNeil, a Huntsville recruiter.

Directorate sticks with lapel pin fund-raiser

Pentagon pin commemorates
1-year anniversary of Sept. 11

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer

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The Materiel Management Directorate will offer a new lapel pin this year to raise funds for Army Emergency Relief.

The Pentagon-shaped pin has an American flag centerpiece with "United in Freedom" embossed around the top edges and the anniversary date of Sept. 11, 2002 at the bottom.

It is a symbol of remembrance as well as resolve. On the back of this commemorative decoration is engraved another message: "...we will not fail." Pres. George W. Bush.

As more troops are called to active duty to prepare for potential war in Iraq, the need for emergency aid to soldiers and families in crisis grows as well. One of the ways the Army helps its own is through AER assistance.

Last year the AER campaign Armywide raised \$7.1 million in contributions and gave away more than \$38 million in interest free loans and grants to active duty soldiers, retirees and qualifying family members. Redstone raised more than \$102,000 and awarded \$352,733 among 483 eligibles.

This year's campaign runs from March 1 to May 15 with a kickoff ceremony at Bob Jones Auditorium March 3 at 1 p.m. AER is funded through active duty soldier payroll allotments and money raised by the community through gifts and fund-raisers. Redstone's goal is \$65,000.

Last year's lapel pin fund-raiser netted AER nearly \$7,000. So when the one-year anniversary commemorative pin was created,

See Pin on page 15



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

PENTAGON PIN— Graciela Gonzalez, logistics automation specialist with the Materiel Management Directorate, holds a picture of the lapel pin for sale as a fund-raiser for Army Emergency Relief.

Report possible terrorist activities

An hour after police alerted the nation that a vehicle license plate was being sought in connection with the D.C. serial killer, a citizen reported it and an arrest was made. The alleged serial killer was off the street.

Recently, a waitress at a Shoney's Restaurant in Georgia notified authorities of an apparent criminal discussion she overheard. Three men seemed to be planning to bomb a building in Miami. After police investigated, the bomb plot was alleged to be a hoax. In both cases, these citizens did what any civic minded American should do. They reported a threat to the proper authorities. Such acts are our civic duty.

Not long ago my dad and I were comparing the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor with the suicide assaults on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. "Something a lot of people don't remember about those days," he reflected, "is that Americans were afraid. There were rumors across the land that Japanese had landed in San Francisco, at Los Angeles, and that saboteurs and spies were everywhere. Rumors spread fear, and fear fanned more fear."

The greatest human emotion is fear, and the greatest fear is fear of the unknown. It was for that very reason that President Roosevelt reminded everyone that, "The only thing we have to fear is... fear itself."

"You can't imagine what a calming effect the presi-

dent's reassurance had for everyone," Dad said. "We were sucker punched at Pearl, but pulled together for the fight to come. We believed the situation was dangerous, but that the right people were doing their best to take care of the nation. And it wouldn't be over till we finished it."

Today we too might believe the enemy appears to be everywhere. He seems capable of any number of horrific means of visiting destruction on us. We feel helpless to defend ourselves against an adversary we can neither see, nor identify, nor anticipate. We feel an unspecified dread. We don't feel safe anymore. That is just what the enemy wants us to feel.

My favorite quotation came the day after the Sept. 11 attack. A German investigator, asked to comment on the apprehension of several al Qaida terrorists in Hamburg, offered this matter of fact observation, "Don't forget. These people are criminals. Each of these terrorists has a face, a name and an address." That comment, echoing President Bush's determined assurance that we will patiently but relentlessly pursue these killers anywhere they may hide, did much to reassure Americans.

But how, Americans ask, can we take part? We want to pull together, so what do we do? The answer has been here all along; we've known it intuitively, but never until now really had an immediate need in this generation to act upon it.

Working for the government, we know that loose lips sink ships. But now we know that our eyes catch spies... and the criminal killers they report to.

Each of the terrorists has a face, a name, and an address, and now they too know fear. Their leaders have abandoned them, world law enforcement is seeking them, and every day more Americans become more astute in what to watch for and report. There are many practical hurdles to overcome, and the road won't be easy.

Whereas yesterday we weren't aware, today we know who to call if something just doesn't seem right. We help each other. Americans are pulling together. We watch our surroundings in ways we didn't before. We are protecting ourselves, informing ourselves, and not letting fear defeat us before we've entered the fight. No one today will turn away if a security problem seems to require a solution. We offer assistance to others and make sure someone takes action to protect us. If we see a better way, we speak up.

The only thing we have to fear is fear itself. Remember that every terrorist has a face, a name and an address. We'll get them if we help each other. We are a quarter million Americans whose eyes are watching in restaurants, at gas stations, in the office and on the road. Now the cowards who murdered our people really have something to fear. We are out to get them.

John W. Davis
intelligence operations,
Space and Missile Defense Command

Air defense group gives to community

Non-profit organizations can apply for funding

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Nothing gets attention like a big cardboard check. The Air Defense Artillery Association hopes to be handing out a few more of the eye catching contributions this year as part of its continued efforts to give back to the Redstone community.

The March 31 deadline for applications to its grant program is approaching. The program provides money to worthwhile organizations in this area. Does your organization qualify?

The rules are simple. To qualify, a non-profit organization must support soldiers or their families in the Huntsville/Madison County area and contribute to the education, health or social welfare of the military community in the area. This includes active duty and reserves. It also includes retirees, dependents, spouses and widows. The organization must make its services open to the military community regardless of sex, race, religion, political affiliation, background or ability to pay. Applicants can expect an interview by an ADAA representative as part of the application process. Each apply-

ing organization should have a game plan as to what the money would be spent on, why and when.

This isn't just a handout. Grants must be used for the purpose they were requested for at the location given in the application process. They cannot be simply deposited into the general fund or sent to headquarters or branches. Audits and other financial information may be requested and are kept confidential. Documentation is vital. However, the amount of good that can be done with the grant money eclipses the paperwork by far.

Last year ADAA gave \$2,000 to Total Tots. It was the first year for the grant program. Additional funds are available, but organizations must apply. Low participation last year was frustrating to Jeff Anderson, grant committee chairman.

"We're hoping for more applications this year and more opportunities to support our community," he said. "We hope that agencies can make use of our support in their efforts to strengthen and educate the Army family."

Some organizational types are typically excluded, like recreational activities and religious organizations. The application packet has details on exclusions and qualifications. It should be requested and consulted by interested organizations. For a grant application, call 722-4674.

An open lane random survey

What do you think about the death penalty?

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Capt. Joseph Davis
"I feel that the death penalty is a legitimate form of enforcing laws in this country and there are certain circumstances where it is justified."

Vicky Calvert, retired military spouse
"I am in favor of the death penalty for capital crimes."



Cpl. Jason Robinson
"I'm all for it. If you kill someone then you should be killed, too — an eye for an eye."



Bobby Calvert, retired Air Force
"The death penalty is justified in the case of murder or other horrendous crimes."

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African-American Festival promotes post unity

Eighth annual event scheduled Thursday

The eighth annual African-American Festival is Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium.

The Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office sponsors this event. This year's theme is "United We Stand - Team Redstone."

Lee Marshall, news anchor for WAFF-48 television, will be the emcee. Marshall, an Emmy nominated journalist, is very involved in the community. She serves on the board of directors for the American Cancer Society and for FOCAL, a group that helps children in foster care. She is involved in adoption efforts. Through her "Kids to Love" program on WAFF, more than 100 children have found "forever" families. Marshall is originally from northwest Tennessee and now calls Huntsville home.

The Grissom High School Concert Choir, directed by Elizabeth Stephenson, will perform traditional spirituals and gospel numbers. Stephenson, originally from Atlanta, has been at Grissom for three years. She has worked and per-



Courtesy photo

EMCEE— Lee Marshall, of WAFF television channel 48 and WDRM radio, is the mistress of ceremonies for the African-American Festival.

formed for many years in the operatic, oratorio, and musical theater arenas before becoming a music educator. She is also director of Music at Valley United Methodist Church in Huntsville. Recently, Stephenson received a grant from the state of Alabama to pursue National Board Certification. The concert choir has represent-

ed Grissom High throughout the community at various events. Recently, members of this group had the opportunity to sing and work with the internationally acclaimed vocal group Chanticleer at Troy State University.

The non-profit organization Save The Youth Inc. will also entertain the crowd. Save The Youth conducts in school and after-school programs for the children of north Alabama. The MIME/Creative Dance Group was formed as part of Save The Youth's Performance and Musical Arts programs. MIME/Creative Dance Training allows youth to express the words of a song through creative body movements while teaching young participants to express feelings and increase their self-esteem. The group's most notable appearances include performances for various Alabama public school systems, Abuse Prevention Workshops, Birmingham's City Stages, Alabama State Fair, and "Citizens Against Hand-Gun Violence" Rally (Jackson, Miss.). The group was featured at the Birmingham Heritage Festival and performed at Birmingham's historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. The Save The Youth's MIME team was recently the opening act for nationally known gospel/comic recording

artist Trina Jefferson, better known as "Sister Cantaloupe." Save the Youth's Choral Group from Stone Middle School will also make an appearance.

The video presentation, "All Blood is Red" will primarily feature military personnel from Team Redstone. The video depicts the urgency for Team Redstone to make available the best weaponry possible for soldiers. It emphasizes the fact that the weaponry of the enemy has no respect for the color of one's skin.

The presentation of door prizes (two gift certificates from Mr. Shoes Men & Ladies Clothing Store, a DVD player, and 19-inch color television) and the displaying of African-American art and inventions in the lobby (from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) are included in the activities for Festival 2003.

Immediately following the festival, a "soul food" meal will be made available as part of the lunch menu in the cafeteria of building 5250. The lunch menu includes fried chicken, pot roast, chicken fingers, pinto beans, collard greens, green beans, fried green tomatoes, candied yams, macaroni and cheese, corn bread, cobbler, and butter roll.

For more information about the festival, call Nathaniel Johnson at 876-2116 or Lois Ragland at 955-5335.

Systems mechanic fixes missile training issue

Wilson builds trainer from leftover parts

GARRISON RELEASE

David Wilson had an idea and through ingenuity and hard work, carried out the idea, resulting in a potential savings to the government of \$468,000 annually.

The Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School trains students in the repair of the Multiple Launch Rocket System. Maintenance trainers are utilized to conduct the training in building 3306. The trainer version M270 had been upgraded to an M270A1 version.

The upgraded version could not be used to train students in the repair of the older M270 version. Wilson, recognizing the need to continue training soldiers on the M270 version, developed the concept of building a partial

M270 trainer from "leftover" parts from the trainer upgrade.

Using "leftover" trainer pieces and a few locally procured "new" parts, Wilson designed and assembled an M270 Maintenance Trainer. He designed and built the power and interface control box required to connect the student consoles to the simulation panels and the instructor console. Additionally, he developed a handbook with wiring diagrams, parts list, and mechanical drawings of this modification. The M270 Maintenance Trainer is being used for training daily.

The fabrication of this trainer prevented the need for a second shift of training that would have required two instructors and one maintenance technician. The total cost for parts and labor for this project was approximately \$8,000. The potential savings of building this trainer is \$468,000 per year for the next 10-15 to years.

Wilson is an electronic integrated systems mechanic with the Missile Maintenance Branch, Equipment Management Division, Directorate of Logistics.



Courtesy photo

MONEY SAVER— David Wilson shows the M270 trainer.

Brothers enlist together, train together



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

BLOOD BROTHERS— Pvt. David Brizendine, left, and his older brother PFC Michael Brizendine, both members of Bravo Company, will graduate March 20.

Michael, David Brizendine keep Army family tradition

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer

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When the Army recruiter knocked on the door of their home in the small town of Enterprise, he was looking for David Brizendine. David wasn't home at the time but his older brother Michael was.

"I talked to him for a while that day," Michael Brizendine, 23, now a private first class in Bravo Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said. "I'd thought about joining since I was 18 but I didn't think I had the discipline so I talked myself out of it. I guess it was the right time. I had a little construction side business and was going to school but I wanted more stability."

David, too, had toyed with the idea of joining the military since graduating from Enterprise High School but held back, hoping instead to go to automotive school and build his skill as a race car driver.

"But I didn't have the money to go to school and I did have a car payment," Pvt. David Brizendine, 21, said. "I could see how excited Michael was about joining. It took me a while but I went and talked to the recruiter and two days later, I signed up."

The pair entered the Army in April 2001 through the buddy program which allowed them to attend basic and initial entry training together. Although they were supposed to be in the same platoon at Fort Benning, Ga., for basic, they were split up.

"I think they did it on purpose to see how well we would do on our own," Michael said. "The drill sergeants played us off each other. His would tell me that he (David) wasn't doing good and he had

his papers ready to send him home."

"Michael's did the same to me," David said. "We weren't together much but when we would get a chance to talk we'd be asking each other what was going on. I think the drill sergeants just wanted to see how we would react."

Even though they didn't have much time together at basic, both say that just knowing the other was there was encouraging. Growing up, they describe their relationship as close but also "like brothers," Michael said. "We'd fight between us but we always had each other's back."

Overall, they both described basic as "fun" and something they "really enjoyed."

Then again, Army life isn't a surprise to either of them. Self-described as "Army brats," the brothers come from a long family history of military service. Their father, Terry Brizendine, is retired Army, as is their stepfather, Fred Slavens, who retired a few years ago as a sergeant major. Their older brother spent four years in the Army Reserves and their older sister married a soldier.

Michael and David said that joining the Army was a personal choice and never a career forced on them by family pressures. Although, when the boys were serious about joining, Slavens took them aside and talked to them about the pros and cons of Army life.

"He wanted it to be our decision, not the recruiter's," Michael said. "I know firsthand how hard it is on families. That was one of the main reasons I stayed away. I didn't want to join and be away from my wife and children. There's a high divorce rate."

David's issues mirrored his brother's. Neither is married or has children now but

See **Brothers** on page 5



Photo by Debra Valine/SMDC

Specialist honor

Al Longhi, far right, a contracting specialist with the Space and Missile Defense Command, becomes the first civil servant in the Huntsville community to receive a developmental assignment with the Defense Acquisition University, Southern Region. He will help work on improving the instructing curriculum and developing the new curriculum. Congratulating Longhi on his assignment are from left, Maxine Maples, Acquisition Support Center; Mark Lumer, SMDC; and James McCullough, dean of the Defense Acquisition University.

Community honors police officers of year

Two from Redstone among 13 winners

By SHARIE MILLER
For the Rocket

Police Sgt. Billy Booth and Spec. Carl Robinson are among an elite group of local officers who have been recognized as Outstanding Police Officers of the Year. They were honored at the annual Law Enforcement Awards Banquet sponsored by the Exchange Club of Greater Huntsville.

"This is an opportunity for us to recognize and appreciate the contribution that law enforcement officers make to the community," Randall Gibbs of the Exchange Club said.

Booth, a Department of Army civilian police officer who until recently worked as a military working dog handler, is temporarily filling a police officer lead position in the Provost Marshal Office. As a dog handler, Booth and his narcotics detector dog, Jimmy, worked on more than 75 drug cases at Redstone over the last year.

Booth and Jimmy participated last year in National

Detector Dog trials and achieved national certification. In April 2002, Booth and Jimmy apprehended a burglary suspect who had eluded Huntsville police and covertly entered the Arsenal.

Robinson, a military policeman assigned to the Provost Marshal Office, normally works as a patrolman. Recently he was selected to participate in special covert drug operations with the local Army Criminal Investigation Division and Huntsville Police Drug Task Force.

While participating as an undercover drug surveillance team member, Robinson initiated eight investigations for drug distribution, prostitution and underage drinking. These investigations led to the apprehension of five people with another three pending apprehension. The apprehended suspects allegedly targeted military personnel from Redstone. Robinson has been selected to become a member of the newly formed Redstone Arsenal



BILLY BOOTH

Bicycle Patrol as part of the provost marshal's community policing initiative.

"Both of these police officers are exceptional examples of professionalism and dedication to duty in support of the U.S. Army's law enforcement, security and force protection mission here at Redstone Arsenal," Maj. Brad Scofield, provost marshal, said. "They are richly deserving of recognition as Redstone Arsenal's Police Officers of the Year."

Scofield presented Booth and Robinson with their awards at the banquet Feb. 18 at the Tom Beville Center in Huntsville. Guest speaker was Madison County Sheriff Blake Dorning.

The other Officers of the Year included officer Lawrence Shields, Huntsville Police Department; officers Gregory Dees and William Watson, Madison Police Department; deputy Christopher Stephens, Madison County Sheriff's Department; trooper Bradley Renfro, Alabama State Trooper; FBI special agent Marty Leeth; supervisory deputy William Lizotte, U.S. marshal; agents Harold D. Robinson, James Grider, and David Pasqualotto, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and agent Tommy Oliver, Alabama Beverage Control.

■ Army career family affair for Brizendines

Brothers

continued from page 4

both want families in the future. "One wife," Michael added. "Not be married and divorced a couple of times."

Because they had such reservations about the effect the Army would have on their personal lives, the brothers resisted the idea of joining the military for several years. But as they matured, they realized the advantages and opportunities Americans have over many other countries in the world. And that those freedoms have a price — a message driven into their hearts the day the Towers fell.

"Sept. 11 got to us," Michael said. "I was at home when I saw what happened to the first tower and then the second plane hit. My mom was flying home from Germany that day. Her plane was turned around. It freaked us out. I was calling everyone I could trying to find out what her flight number was and if she was OK."

The terrorist attacks jolted something within the brothers — the understanding that peace is won and the lifestyle they lived was a privilege. It is something they believe worth fighting for and a responsibility they accepted with pride.

They enlisted in February 2002 with delayed entry so that Michael could finish the semester at Enterprise State Junior College. They signed knowing the country was at war with terrorism and hearing rumors of war with Iraq.

"I look forward to getting deployed," David said. "I'd rather it be me over there than my family and friends."

The two exchanged a look of irony at that statement.

"I'll be Airborne," Michael said, "so I know I'm going."

David and Michael arrived at Redstone June 21 to begin initial entry training. Between school and service on funeral detail team, there isn't much spare time for hobbies like racing or fishing. But, Michael said, the training they get here will save their lives out there. He and David are grateful for the guidance from their commanders and drill sergeants. "We appreciate what they do. We have great NCOs. They take care of their business as far as us being their business. They're not easy. They let us know when we mess up but they also let us know when we're doing good."

The pair will graduate IET March 20 as Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment calibrators. David will go to Fort Hood, Texas, with the 4th Infantry Division; Michael will return to Fort Benning for Airborne school then on to Fort Bragg, N.C.

But Michael and David are not the only ones in the family looking at deployment. Their mother, Diane Slavens, who works with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service at Fort Rucker, is going to Kosovo in the spring to assist with an AAFES project. Last year after attending a short course in biological, chemical and nuclear warfare along with weapons training, she

went to Bosnia for nine months for an AAFES building project.

"She volunteered to go," Michael said with pride, David nodding in agreement. "She's amazing."

Michael is looking at the Army as a career, focusing on getting a degree in electronics engineering or computer science along the way. "I want a family, too. The typical American dream, I guess. I don't

need to be rich but I don't want to struggle and I don't want my kids to struggle. I'd like to get back to playing soccer again."

David isn't sure of the Army as a career. "Time flies by. It could sneak up on me as a career. I want a lot of the same things he does," David said, motioning to his brother. "I want a family, a garage where I can work on cars and a couple of cars I can race. Be more religious. Enjoy life."

Pastor: World's problems close gap between races



Photo by Skip Vaughn

KEYNOTE SPEAKER— Dr. Homer McCall addresses the Black History Month program at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Dr. Homer McCall delivers challenge

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The color barrier was the problem of the 20th century but another challenge faces people of all races today, according to Dr. Homer McCall.

"Who will stand in the gap?" McCall, university chaplain/professor of Alabama A&M University and pastor of St. John AME Church, said during the Black History Month program Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium. "Not only locally, not only nationally but also globally."

He said many young people have no appreciation of the civil rights movement of the past. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others "stood in the gap" during their lifetimes, according to McCall. "Who will stand in the gap to intercede before God on behalf of the land?" he said.

He asked the estimated 400 attendees if they would stand in the gap by using their hands, head and heart to do the right thing. "When you stand in the gap with hands and head and heart attuned to the will of God, you won't leave here as you

'The problem of the 21st century remains who will stand in the gap constantly interceding before God on behalf of the land.'

— Dr. Homer McCall
Alabama A&M chaplain

came," McCall said.

"The problem of the 21st century remains who will stand in the gap constantly interceding before God on behalf of the land," he said.

"We won't leave here like we came when we stay in the gap and be true to our God and true to our native land."

The program included a poem by Horace Wilson of South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center and songs by Benetta Halbert of Acquisition Center and Arthurine Shackleford of Missile and Space Intelligence Center.

"Diversity is our strength," Col. Bob Devlin, garrison commander, said.



Courtesy photo

Good reflection

Faith Morton, center, daughter of Lt. Col. Dwayne and Linda Morton, was among the district winners in the visual arts category for middle school students in the annual Reflections contest. She is a seventh-grader at Williams Technology Middle School. Making the award presentation Feb. 13 at Butler High are Stan Kerstein, president of Huntsville Council PTA, and Laurie McCaulley, third vice-president.

Devastating Dragons make their point against AMCOM

Delta guard Broughton scores 21 in 51-39 win

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Delta got warmed up after the opening minutes of its basketball game against AMCOM.

By then the Devastating Dragons trailed 5-2 on Derrick Davis' 3-pointer. But after that, it was all Delta.

The Dragons roared to a commanding halftime lead, got outscored in the second

half but held on to beat AMCOM 51-39 on Feb. 19 at Pagano Gym. Delta Company improved to 10-1 while AMCOM fell to 5-6.

"We came out rusty in the beginning of it," Delta guard Calvin Spivey said. "But with our talent, we knew we were going to come forward in the end. We just had to be patient, make the shots when they came to us. We're No. 1 for a reason — because the talent is widespread. We've got talent at every position."

Point guard Keith Broughton finished with 21 points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Bruce Hollis had 15

points, six rebounds and four steals. Laquaine Bess added five steals and three rebounds. Sheldon Goldsmith had four rebounds and three assists.

"It was a nice game," Broughton said. "But at the same time, we played around in the first half because we knew they were no competition. Second half, we blew them out. It got a little physical but it was all fun and games."

"We're the best team on Redstone," said Hollis, shooting guard/small forward. "Those guys, they try to play physical. But after awhile, talent takes over."

Broughton scored 17 in the first half as the Dragons led 33-10 at intermission. They got outscored 29-18 in the second half but were never seriously threatened. There was some pushing and shoving after the final buzzer.

"The referees let the game get out of control a little bit," said Stanley Lewis, who grabbed three rebounds. "We played hard. We stood up for who we are: We're No. 1."

Lorenzo France and Davis scored 13 points apiece for AMCOM. France had five rebounds while Michael Gola and Davis each grabbed four.

"Lack of passing, moving the ball too fast, passing mistakes," said France, a forward. "We gave up too quick. But it was a good game. Too much frustration."

"Careless turnovers, we don't take care of the ball," Davis said. "We need a point guard. I think that would round our team off. I bring the ball up and I'm a forward."

Top scorers after the first half of the season include Delta's Hollis with 19.6 points per game, Detrick Bush of HHC 59th with 19.5 and Damian Cason of the Marines with 16.1.

HHC 59th (10-1) stayed tied for first with Delta by beating the NCO Academy 64-52 and Alpha 131st 76-43.

Other results included Marines d. Bravo-2 65-46, Delta d. Alpha 131st 71-46, Headquarters & Alpha d. Charlie 55-38, Marines d. Alpha 131st 42-40, Marines d. NCO Academy 65-61 and AMCOM d. Headquarters & Alpha 58-52.

Here were the league standings entering this week: Delta (10-1), HHC 59th (10-1), Marines (10-4), NCO Academy (7-4), Bravo-1 (5-4), AMCOM (6-6), Headquarters & Alpha (5-7), Charlie (4-8), Alpha 131st (2-9) and Bravo-2 (1-10).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TAKING SHOT— Delta's Keith Broughton shoots over AMCOM defenders Michael Gola (3) and Bryan Phillips (10).

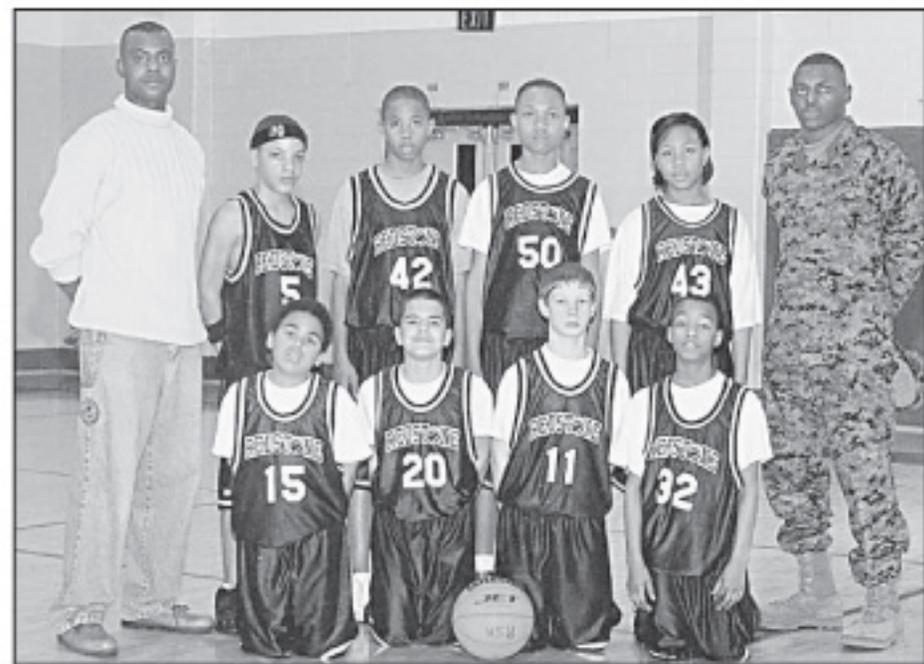
Volleyball teams return to action

Teams 4 and 1 were the winners Feb. 19 in the Redstone Arsenal Volleyball League.

No. 4 beat team 3 25-18, 19-25, 21-3. In the second match, No. 1 beat team 2

21-25, 25-17, 21-17.

The league is still looking to recruit individual players or teams. For more information, call Paul Banks 842-6131 or Felix Milar 313-6091.



Courtesy photo

Perfect 10

The Redstone Magic went 10-0 during the regular season in the basketball league for 11- and 12-year-olds. Kneeling, from left, are David McNair, Felix Jimenez, Andy Scofield and Princeton Harkey. Standing, from left, are Marine SSgt. Allen Davis, coach; Charles Jones Davis, Reginald Johnson, Cameron Nichols, Audrianna Davis and Marine Sgt. Damian Cason, assistant coach.

Returns

continued from page 1

free of charge for eligible clients – including active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents. The eligible client base represents approximately 103,000 within 80 square miles of Redstone.

"We're looking forward to helping as many eligible clients as we can this tax season," Capt. William Carpenter, officer in charge of the tax center, said.

The center's new web site should help get the word out. The Internet address is www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html. Accessible on the Redstone home page and other locations, it provides various federal and state income tax resources. The site went online Feb. 18 and had more than 200 hits by the following afternoon.

"I'm excited about the response to the new web site," Carpenter said. "And I hope that will bring even more clients in and allow us to provide even more tax preparation and filing services for eligible clients in the Redstone community."

The staff hopes to exceed last year's numbers by April 15. Last year the center recovered \$1.3 million in refunds and saved clients more than \$185,000 in tax preparation and electronic filing fees.

"I look at this as a very valuable service we're providing to the Redstone com-

munity," Carpenter said.

Besides Carpenter the full-time staff includes Sgt. Brad Silvia, NCO in charge; Spec. Albert Newsome, Sgt. Brian Smith, PFC Christine Noriega and administrative assistant PFC Theron Toson. Part-time staffers include 1st Lt. Billy Whigham, 1st Lt. Timothy Horning, SSgt. Louie McGee, Randy Duff, Estan Rodriguez, David Wyatt, JoAnna Brunson, Cindy Van Rassen and Deborah Carpenter, the captain's wife.

"The tax center is grateful to the support provided by Lori Pendley and Michael Wilkes in establishing the new tax center web site," he said. Pendley is command webmaster, and Wilkes is an information technology specialist in the Corporate Information Center. Items of interest are to be added to the site periodically.

"Some of the other ways we've tried to improve the tax center: We painted the tax center before we opened and we've upgraded some of the office furniture for the tax center personnel and the clients," Carpenter said. "We have also upgraded our automation equipment. And we have tried to expand our promotional advertising or marketing efforts."

Redstone Tax Center, building 3489 off Ajax Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment only, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7 for walk-in services. For an appointment, call 842-1040.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GROUP SESSION— From left are PFC Theron Toson, PFC Christine Noriega, Sgt. Brian Smith, Capt. William Carpenter and Sgt. Brad Silvia.

High blood pressure shouldn't be silent killer

Doctors recommend periodic checkups

By **TAMIRIZ CENTENO**
Community health nurse

Blood pressure is a measure of the pressure of the blood against the walls of the arteries. The blood pressure readings are a ratio of the maximum or systolic pressure, as the heart pushes the blood out to the body, written over the minimum or diastolic pressure, as the heart begins to fill with blood.

Hypertension or high blood pressure is the result of persistent high arterial blood pressure that may cause damage to the vessels and arteries of the heart, brain, kidneys and eyes. The entire circulatory system is affected since it becomes increasingly more difficult for the blood to travel from the heart to major organs.

Modern lifestyles tend to increase blood pressure causing hypertension. Some of the known factors include: inactive lifestyle, overweight, smoking, high salt intake, stress, excessive alcohol consumption, and genetic factors.

There are several different types of hypertension. Primary hypertension is the most common type and it is generally improved by a healthier lifestyle, and medication when needed. Secondary hypertension is the result of a disorder or abnormality of the kidney, adrenal gland or other vital organ. This less common type of hypertension is often treated surgically. Hypertension may also occur during pregnancy and requires special attention.

Most people with hypertension have no symptoms. A very limited number of people with hypertension may experience headaches, blurred vision and chest pain. Uncontrolled hypertension can lead to

stroke, heart attack, congestive heart failure or kidney failure. According to recent estimates for the United States, one in four adults have high blood pressure and because most people don't have symptoms, nearly one-third of these people don't know they have it. This is why high blood pressure is often called the "silent killer." Hypertension is one of the most common chronic diseases for which treatment is available; however, most people with hypertension go untreated. Blood

pressure less than 120/80 is generally considered ideal but only your health care provider can determine if your blood pressure is safe.

The American Academy of Family Physicians recommends having the blood pressure measured periodically in all patients older than 21.

For more information call the Public Health and Education Center, Fox Army Health Center at 955-8888, extension 1026.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Three-wheeler

Jill McCutcheon, a software analyst with NASA contractor Micro Craft Inc., rides her tricycle Feb. 19 near the Sparkman Center. She bought the Tri Cruiser about three years ago in California. "When the weather's good or not raining, I'll be out here," she said.

New office has full pallet of responsibility



U.S. Transportation Command photo

ROLL OUT— A soldier monitors as a Container Roll-In/Roll-Out Platform system loads supplies. The container will then be transported via a Palletized Loading System.

Depot packaging center gets expanded mission

By MICHELE YEAGER
Tobyhanna Public Affairs Office

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — An activity will soon be created within the Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center that will enhance Army logistics readiness.

PSCC personnel are working a fast-paced schedule to configure the Army Intermodal Distribution Platform Management Office, which will increase its personnel strength from 37 to at least 43.

PSCC, an organizational element of the Logistics Support Activity, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, is a tenant activity at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Sandy Gorba, traffic management specialist, has been assigned as the lead action officer responsible for standing-up the AIDPMO, according to Fran Flynn, chief of PSCC.

The AIDPMO's mission is to serve as the "single manager" for all Army-owned intermodal containers, flatracks and Container Roll-In/Roll-Out Platforms. AIDPMO supports Army programs related to distribution platforms with responsibility for inventory and readiness condition of all Army-owned containers and flatracks used for the transport of ammunition and

materiel worldwide.

A flatrack is a portable, open-topped, open-sided unit, which allows transportation of oversized cargo and/or wheeled or tracked vehicles. These and other cargo transport equipment support the distribution platform to deploy and sustain military personnel stationed all over the world.

The Army Field Support Command serves as the accountable manager for the management and control of the Army's flatracks and CROPS and will report their status to LOGSA PSCC as required. AIDPMO responsibilities will include developing procedures for proper management and control of the Army's \$100 million container inventory.

International Organization for Standardization containers and flatracks are used to transport all equipment needed by soldiers in the field to perform their mission, Gorba said.

"An ISO container is an 8x8x20-foot shipping container used for consolidation of cargo to support and sustain unit deployments," she said. "How many containers are needed for each mission depends upon the size of the unit being deployed."

"We will not physically handle the containers, or have property book accountability; they will not be stored or processed here at the depot," she said. "We will oversee the program that manages the inventory, accountability and condition data of the containers."

Army awards multiyear contract to Sikorsky

Firm to deliver helicopter parts

ACQUISITION CENTER RELEASE

Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation has received a five-year, \$311 million contract to provide new spare parts for the entire Army fleet of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

The contract calls for Sikorsky to supply sole-source parts, significantly improving component turnaround time for more than 2,000 UH-60A and UH-60L model aircraft. It can potentially grow to \$758 million within the five years as more parts are added and funding is made available.

The contract, signed Dec. 19 at Redstone, represents the latest in a succession of multimillion dollar support contracts forged in recent months between Sikorsky and the Army. In December, Sikorsky entered into a \$275 million techni-

cal, engineering and logistical support partnership with Corpus Christi Army Depot. Both partnerships seek to enhance helicopter fleet readiness by compressing component repair turnaround times.

"This contract demonstrates the Army's commitment to increase parts availability by using commercially successful methods," David Adler, senior vice president for worldwide customer service, said. "We're extremely pleased that the Army is looking to Sikorsky to play a vital role in increasing aircraft readiness with on-demand parts and services."

Encompassing main rotor blades, tail blades, tip caps, gearboxes, spindles, sheaths, doors, and numerous fittings and fairings, the Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract provides a five-year anticipated parts requirement which will allow both Sikorsky and the Army to control inventory and component availability more effectively, significantly

See **Contract** on page 13



Courtesy photo

CONTRACT TEAM— From left, seated, are Frank DiPasquale, Cathy Dickens and Judy Hobbs. Standing are Bob Kokorda, Bill Tripp, Norm Bush, Mary Wingo, Marlene Cruze, George Klug, Joe Chiappone, Fred McDowell, Brian Breeding and Willis Epps.

Cancer patients can get support in community

*Engineer's spouse
opening boutique*

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Living with cancer is hard. Besides affecting your health and physical appearance, keeping a positive self-image can be almost impossible. Studies have shown that maintaining a positive attitude adds to a patient's chances of successful treatment.

The question is how to reconcile a positive attitude with all of the disheartening side effects of cancer treatment. Many patients turn to wigs and prosthesis to help them feel more attractive on the outside, which makes them feel better on the inside. Finding the items women with breast cancer need and want can be a struggle in itself, particularly in North Alabama. Stores that carry wigs and turbans often do not carry bras and prosthesis. Stores that carry prosthesis often have a limited selection of other items, if any at all. Women must travel out of the area to find everything they need, a task many do not feel up to after chemotherapy.

Lou Covington is trying to change the way cancer patients get the items they need. She is opening a boutique style store in Athens.

The store is based in a house located in the medical district of Athens at 207

Coman St. "I looked at store fronts, but I decided I didn't want that. I wanted a more homey feel," she said.

Comfort is priority one at the boutique to be named LouC's, pronounced "Lucy's," with a pink ribbon for an apostrophe. The pink ribbon is the international symbol for support of breast cancer research. The 'C' stands for care, comfort and concern. While the business is not officially non-profit, money is not the motivation.

"I'm not trying to make money," Covington said. "I'm trying to make a difference. Going through chemo and losing a breast is a traumatic thing. I want these women to feel good again."

Feeling good can be as simple as a support group. There are several in the area which are now meeting at restaurants and churches. Covington has extended an invitation to all of them to use the boutique as a more private setting. A garden is also planned where patrons or their families are welcome to plant flowers or trees in honor of loved ones. "I don't know anyone who doesn't know someone with some kind of cancer," Covington said.

Planning for the shop has been difficult at times, but Covington credits others with the support that has kept the idea going. Her husband, a software engineer with Edata, is automating the accounts and giving needed advice. "He has owned a business and knows what he's doing. I couldn't do any of this without

him," she said.

Others in the community have been quick to lend a hand. Several have offered to help finish the work necessary on the location in memory of loved ones with cancer in order to meet the goal opening date of April 1. Getting the essential paperwork filed to accept Medicare and training to be a "Certified Fitter" for prosthesis products can be overwhelming at times, but Covington is committed.

"Every day God puts something in front of me to tell me I should do this," said Covington, whose mother died from colon cancer a year ago.

The boutique is planned not only as a retail location, but as a refuge. "If you're having a bad day, come on over," Covington said. "Talk to other women with the same disease. Find out what they're going

through, or just come cry with me."

Other services are in the developmental stages, such as a support group for men dealing with the illness of the women in their lives. Guest speakers are being arranged, as are plans to accept assignment from private insurance companies. LouC's also hopes to expand to carry items for other forms of cancer.

Input and advice from cancer patients and their families is desired. Covington said she needs people to tell her exactly what they would want from the boutique. "Don't think that you have to commit to buying something from me," she said, "just tell me what would help you or what your concerns are."

Those interested in consulting on the boutique's stock, atmosphere, events and mission should call Covington at (256) 232-0734 or by e-mail at blc@pclnet.net.

■ Sikorsky gets \$311 million support contract

Contract

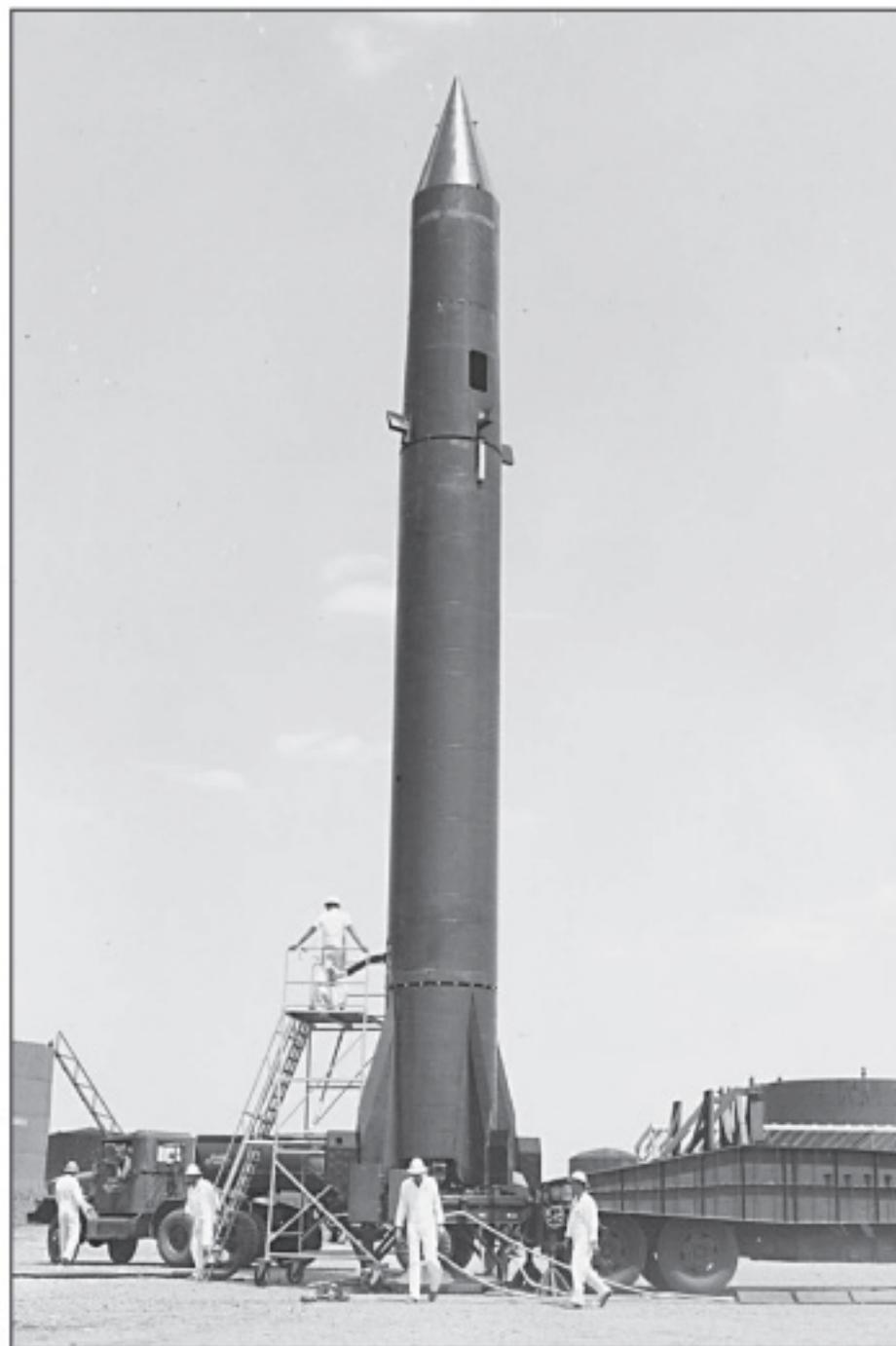
continued from page 11

reducing lead time to provide support to the troops.

Reducing delivery time on these critical parts is designed to increase the amount of time that UH-60 aircraft are available to fly the Army's many missions. The contract was developed last

year by a joint product team including Sikorsky's Frank DiPasquale, Joe Chiappone, Brian Breeding, Charles Abissi and Durval Machado and AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center's Fred McDowell, Mary Wingo, Bud Eberhardt and Maureen Barry, Acquisition Center's Judy Hobbs, Jon Edmonds, Frank Richter, Willis Epps and Cathy Dickens, the Defense Contract Management Agency and the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

Remembering Redstone missile 50 years later



Historical Office photo

NUMBER ONE— The first Redstone missile is readied for launch in 1953.

Arsenal-built product ignited space program

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Aug. 18, 2003 will mark the 50th anniversary of the launch of the first Redstone missile at what was then Cape Canaveral, Fla. Developed, built and tested at Redstone Arsenal, the intermediate ballistic missile was the Army's workhorse and is considered by many to be the beginning of the space program.

After unsuccessful attempts at other facilities to launch a missile into space, the responsibility was shifted to Redstone Arsenal. The missile was developed by the legendary Dr. Wernher von Braun under the Ordnance Guided Missile Center. As with any newly developed project, extensive testing had to be done. A test stand was designed by Redstone engineers and completed on a paltry \$25,000 budget. The first Redstone missile was tested in April 1953. The project had its share of errors and setbacks.

"Back in those days I saw many missiles blow up. It wasn't out of the norm," Jim Rorex, a retired member of the Redstone missile project, said. "It was development. We had to make sure the systems worked." The first 12 missiles were built in Huntsville, as were others later.

Once the project was ready, the Redstone missile went to work. "It was the foundation of what became the space program," Rorex said. A modified Redstone named Jupiter C RS-29 put Explorer I, the

first U.S. satellite, into orbit. Even after NASA took over space flight in 1960, the Redstone continued its voyages to the stars. A modified Redstone missile, Mercury-Redstone 1, put Ham the chimpanzee into space. Mercury-Redstone carried Cmdr. Alan Shepard Jr. into orbit in 1961. Its last voyage into space carried Capt. Virgil Grissom in July 1961.

Space may be the final frontier, but it wasn't the only one the Redstone missile explored. The Redstone has the distinction of being first in many areas. It was the first U.S. ballistic missile deployed overseas as part of the NATO Shield Force. It was the first large ballistic missile fired overland by combat troops. It was the first U.S. missile fired over 200,000 feet in altitude with a megaton nuclear device detonated. It was the first to undergo static firing at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. In October 1964, the Redstone missile was retired with a parade and tribute. It was replaced by the faster, more mobile Pershing system.

The 50th anniversary of the first launch is Aug. 18. A reunion is tentatively scheduled at the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Beville Center. While several dozen people in the Redstone Arsenal area were actually involved in the firing, all those involved with the project on any level, including design, development and testing, are invited with their families. About 100 are expected to attend. Anyone interested should call Bill Pittman at 876-1778.

"It was a significant event in the history of Redstone," command historian Mike Baker said. "We owe these early pioneers a great deal."



Historical Office photo

ASSEMBLY TIME— The Redstone missile was built on post rather than in contractor facilities.

Pin

continued from page 1

folks at the directorate started looking for a source to obtain the pins and offer them for sale again this year.

"Last year we underestimated the popularity of the pins," Graciela Gonzalez, logistics automation specialist who is heading the fund-raiser, said. "We're prepared this year. We've got 2,500 commemorative lapel pins and we're also offering decals of last year's pin design."

Pins are \$5 each; decals are \$1 each. Both will be available in the lobby of Bob Jones Auditorium after the AER kickoff.

"The pins were designed for the one-year memorial service for Sept. 11," Gonzalez said. "I think it reminds us that we are still vulnerable at times but we still believe in our freedom and that we'll fight for it."

J.D. Crownover, Integrated Materiel Management Center webmaster, organized the fund-raiser last year and hopes this one does as well if not better.

"This will probably be the last year for this kind of pin," he said. "I think they will be collectibles. I've never seen either pin actively advertised. One reason last year's pin was so popular was because it was about the only thing you could find memorializing the Pentagon. You could find a lot of stuff with the towers but nothing with just the Pentagon. Since this is a DoD operation, I think that's why a lot of



people bought them. I think the same will happen this year."

Sale dates, times and locations have not yet been set, except for the kickoff. Crownover listed a web site: immc.redstone.army.mil/aer, which doesn't have a direct link from the home page, where people can look for upcoming sale information.

Like last year, he is making the initial investment for the pins from his own money to get the fund-raiser started. He will recoup his money and then the proceeds will be given to AER.

"We will try to get e-mails out with sale dates and times," Gonzalez said. "We would like to reach as many people as possible. Last year we had requests from organizations off post, non-government offices. We'll do what we can to fill everyone's request."

For more information, call Gonzalez at 842-0861.



Sports & Recreation

Youth baseball signup

Youth Services is registering children ages 5-12 for spring baseball, softball and T-ball leagues. Registration continues through March 7. Cost is \$15 per child or \$35 per family per year for Central Registration at building 1500; \$35 per child for baseball, softball or T-ball fee. Leagues are open to children of active duty and retired military personnel, DoD/Army, contractor and NASA. A birth certificate and current physical must be submitted for each child's registration (if not already on file and current). Anyone interested may register at the Challenger in building 1500 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Practices begin in early April; and league play runs from May through June. Volunteer coaches and assistant coaches are needed. For more information, call 876-3704 or 313-3699.

Bass anglers

North Alabama Bass Anglers will have a tournament Saturday on Lake Gunterville. Members should be prepared to be in the water 30 minutes before sunrise. The launch ramp is at Seibold. To join call Ed Lawler, treasurer, (256) 998-0278.

Golfers coffee

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association is ready to begin the 2003 season with a welcoming coffee March 5 at 9 a.m. in the snack bar of the golf clubhouse. All women 17 years of age and over who meet the eligibility requirements for use of the Redstone Golf Course are invited.

Golf league

The OMMCS Golf League will have its 2003 season meeting March 13 at 4:30 p.m. at the Redstone Golf Course clubhouse. It appears that at least two of the 20 league teams will not field a team this year. "We are looking for teams to fill the void left in our league, as well as individual golfers to participate with some of our teams that have lost a player or two," a prepared release said. For more information, call Dean Anderson 313-3477 or Dave Parker 313-4196.

Harlem Globetrotters

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is taking orders for tickets for the Harlem Globetrotters performance, March 26 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. Tickets must be ordered and paid for in advance. The CWFC special rate is \$17 for lower level and \$12 for upper level. (Regular costs are \$21 and \$16 respectively.) At 5 that evening, the Globetrotters will hold a special meet-and-greet session with the CWFC group sales ticket holders for photos and autographs. At 5:30, the Globetrotter University will begin. This is a session where the players talk about what it takes to be a Globetrotter; then they will select youngsters to help them demonstrate how they do the various tricks. To reserve your tickets call one of the following CWFC members by March 3: Jerry Campbell (OMEMS) 876-8138, Charles Urban (Sparkman Center) 955-7662, Lori Martin (Garrison) 842-2155,

Bob Olson (building 5400) 876-4993, Karen Scott (MEDDAC) 876-9085, Pat Cross (PEO) 955-9640 or Lida Christian (MSIC) 313-7212.



Conferences & Meetings

Federal attorneys

The North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association will present its first Personnel/Labor Law Symposium at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, April 15. Speakers include Merit Systems Protection Board administrative judges, an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission administrative judge, a former general counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, an assistant U.S. attorney, and a labor relations specialist. Application for six hours of Alabama and Tennessee Continuing Legal Education credit has been made. Managers, employees, human resource professionals, union officials and attorneys are the focus audience. Topics include evolving issues in employment discrimination, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 update, litigation before the MSPB and significant cases, and labor relations in the post partnership era. For more information, call 955-4521 or 895-1104.

Logistics training workshop

The Logistics Support Activity's Worldwide Logistics Training Workshop, formerly known as Major Item Training Workshop, is March 17-21 at Bob Jones Auditorium. "We believe the Worldwide Logistics Training Workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to receive instruction and obtain a wide range of information on logistics systems, programs and initiatives," a prepared release said. "It provides auditorium training, classroom training, hands-on computer training, one-on-one training, and Help Desk support. Furthermore, this provides a chance for everyone to meet his or her customers." The theme for this year's workshop is "WLTW-LOGSA — Celebrating 10 years of logistics excellence: Supporting the Warfighter into the Future." Register online by completing the 2003 Worldwide Logistics Training Workshop Registration Form at www.logsa.army.mil. Cost is a reimbursable fee of \$75 for government employees and \$125 for non-government employees.



Miscellaneous

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comptrollers announces its annual scholarship program for ASMC members and their immediate families. This scholarship is open to high school seniors, undergraduates and those working on graduate programs. The application can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.asmc.org/national/nationalawards.shtml> or you may call Jan Howard 313-3447 or Debbie O'Neal 842-7501. Application deadline is Friday. These may be mailed to Howard at PEO, Air and Missile Defense, Attn.: SFAE-AMD-BD-SF, P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, AL, 35807-3801 or taken to O'Neal, building 5300, third floor, Sparkman Center.

Welfare contributions

Every year the Officer and Civilian Women's Club makes contributions to a variety of organizations. This year a "Welfare Request Form" is being used to standardize the process by collecting the same information from each requesting organization. Welfare Request Forms are available at Army Community Service (building 3338), by mail (OCWC, Attn: Welfare Chairman, P.O. Box 8113, Redstone Arsenal, AL, 35808), and via e-mail from adlunn@knology.net or dbusk@aol.com. All requests must conform to the OCWC Welfare Request Form. The request deadline is Friday. For more information, call Angie Lunn 837-3310 or Dede Busk 430-1083.

National Guard recruiting

The Alabama Army National Guard is seeking motivated individuals for part-time employment. "Start or continue your military career with the best part-time job in America," a prepared release said. If you know someone who needs college money, job training, retirement or just wants to serve their country, call SSgt. Joe Cox 881-2889 or 707-8467 or call Sgt. Mike Alexander 350-1610.

Reading to children

Become a Redstone community volunteer reader and read to children at the Child Development Center each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Call Shellie or Evelyn 876-7952 to volunteer or for more information.

Bible study

The Bicentennial Chapel invites all women with access to the Arsenal to participate in a Lunch Time Bible Study every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Bring your own lunch and join them in the assembly room. To reserve your spot, e-mail the following: newtiques@earthlink.net.

Spring break registration

Child and Youth Services will accept applications to the Spring Break and Summer Camps at the School Age Services (grades K-5) and Youth Services (grades 6-12) programs from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through March 14. Spring Break Camps are March 17-28. Application and registration information packets may be picked up at central registration in the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Registration costs \$15 and a current immunization record must accompany registration. Cost is based on family income per DoD regulations. This program is open to children of all military and military retirees, DoD/Army civilians, NASA, and DoD/Redstone contractors. Call 876-3704 or 955-6309 for details.

Charitable organizations

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from federated groups, charitable organizations or a combination thereof, for participation in the 2003 fund-raising campaign. In accordance with Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 950, an organization must have 501-c-3 status, proof of human health and welfare services, an annual audit/IRS 990 Form, and a board of directors. The open period for acceptance of application packages is March 17 to April 7. Contributions to this fund-raising cam-

paign are received from federal employees, active military personnel, retired federal employees, and governmental contractor personnel from Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties as well as Lincoln County, Tenn. For more information or to obtain an application call Melinda Seigler, CFC director for United Way of Madison County, at 536-0745, ext.108 or the CFC office 876-9143. Local applications may also be downloaded from www.cfc.gov/cfc or picked up at the United Way of Madison County, 701 Andrew Jackson Way, Huntsville. E-mail inquiries may be made to: Melinda.Seigler@uwsv.org.

Business scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 scholarship awards to a high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is April 30. For more information or a scholarship application, call Patricia Motes 876-9317.

Veterinary special

Throughout February, the Veterinary Treatment Facility will offer heartworm tests for \$10 and all heartworm preventive for 15 percent off. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. February clinic days for vaccines and sick call are Feb. 26 and 27 by appointment only, call 876-2441.

Army dependent scholarships

Applications for the Army Emergency Relief Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund for Dependent Children of Army Soldiers are being accepted through March 3. Dependent children, stepchildren or legally adopted children of soldiers on active duty, retired, or deceased while on active duty or after retirement are eligible. Applications may be printed from the AER web site, www.aerhq.org. Completed applications with supporting documents must be mailed to headquarters AER and postmarked not later than March 3. For more information call Kristi Foster of Army Community Service 876-5397.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will have its Mini-Professional Development Institute, March 5-6 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Select either day to attend; same session each day. The overall theme is "A Balancing Act" with the following topics included: "Keep Your Job, Your Family and Your Sanity" and "Reducing Desk Rage." Lunch will be served at Trinity Personal Growth Center with bus transportation provided. The course is in TIPS for education credit. Reservations, charged to government IMPAC card should be faxed or e-mailed to Pat Thomas 853-0706 or Kim Jean 876-7208, fax 842-7107. Cost for the course is \$65 for ASMC members, \$75 for non-members. You do not have to be in the financial field to enjoy the seminar.

Announcements

Pancake day

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville will have its annual Pancake Day, Saturday at the Huntsville High cafeteria. There will be all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage from 6 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5 at the door, or get advance tickets for \$4 from Charles Urban 650-7079. Bring the whole family.

Army family team building

"It Takes a Team," Army Family Team Building Level II, will be held March 3-4 and 10-11 from 6-9 p.m. at building 3338 on Redeye Road. Level II is designed for emerging leaders within the Army community — experienced family members who have begun to assume leadership roles within the community and their unit or organization. Courses include Introduction to Effective Leadership, Volunteer Management, Management Skills, and Problem Solving. To complete the entire block of instruction, plan to attend all four nights. Call 876-5397 by Friday to reserve your seat and arrange for free child care.

Public affairs survey

In an effort to improve the way the Garrison and Aviation and Missile Command's Public Affairs Office does business, the office has developed an online Customer Satisfaction Survey. The online survey can be accessed on the web at the following web sites: https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/pub_affairs/ or http://www.redstone.army.mil/pub_affairs/. The Public Affairs Office hopes to receive input from both past customers and potential customers. The survey has 10 questions, half of which may be answered by simply clicking on your desired response. Available responses to these questions range from 1 to 5, Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. The remaining five questions require answers that must be typed in the space following the questions. When you complete the survey, simply click on the "Submit" button. The survey takes little time to complete. The Public Affairs Office is looking for submissions that reflect honest responses and will use the survey results to improve its services to its customers. By having customers and potential customers respond to the survey, the PAO will better know what its customers expect, what it is doing right or wrong, and how to function more efficiently.

Professional development

The 2003 BIG Professional Development Seminar, sponsored by Blacks in Government, is March 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Motivational speaker Lee Milteer is to conduct the morning session. For more information, call 551-7230.

Thrift Shop donations

The Thrift Shop is accepting written applications for donations. It can only accept requests from charitable organizations that have a federal tax exemption number. The deadline for requests is April 14. Please include your federal tax number and mail to Redstone Thrift Shop, Building 3209, Hercules Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Her-

cules Road, is open for shopping Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9-5. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Appointments are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-3 p.m. The Thrift Shop will be open for sales March 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will not be accepting clothes during March except for children's Easter dresses/suits. For more information, call 881-6992.

Software courses

Florida Tech will offer the following professional development courses in building 5304, room 4370: Testing Computer Software, March 24-26; and Software Test Automation Architecture, March 27-28. For more information, call 881-7878.

Parenting class

"Raising Children From Ages 5-12" is offered Mondays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 10:30 to noon at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Learn to understand your child's behavior and misbehavior and create a consistent style of parenting. For more information or to register, call Virginia Dempsey of ACS 876-5397.

Spring break classes

Children ages 6-12 can learn and play with their grandparents or caregivers during "Kids & Caregivers Week," March 24-28 at the Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Registration fee is \$10 per child. All youngsters must be accompanied by a caregiver. Registration forms are available at the Senior Center gift shop.

Civilian of year

Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army is soliciting nominations for the Department of Army Civilian of the Year Award. The chapter nominee will compete with others at the regional level for the AUSA Exceptional Service Award, presented during the association's annual meeting in October in Washington, D.C. Submit nominations, including a letter of endorsement, by March 14 to DA Civilian of the Year Selection Committee, c/o TBE, Attn: Jerry Hamilton, 300 Sparkman Drive, MS 50, Huntsville, AL 35805; fax 726-3658. For more information, call Hamilton 726-1033 or Henry Oldham 971-7165.

Fort Rucker scholarships

The NCO and Enlisted Members Spouse Club and First Command, at Fort Rucker, are offering scholarships to high school seniors who are family members of active duty or retired enlisted. The applicant must attend high school within 30 miles of Fort Rucker. The application deadline is March 10. For more information, call (334) 774-4074.

Community chorus

The Madison Community Chorus will perform "The Sound of Music," 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Butler High, 7 p.m. March 7-8 and 2 p.m. March 8 at Bob Jones High. Tickets are \$18 for standard seating, \$22 for premium seating. Students and seniors get a \$2 discount;

See **Announcements** on page 18

