



Briefs . . .

Walters Street gate update

The completion date for phase II of the Walters Street gate construction project has slipped due to inclement weather. The project is now scheduled to be completed by April 18.

MEDCOM awards banquet

The Medical Command NCO and Soldier of the Year Awards Banquet will be held April 7 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club. Tickets are \$12. For more information, contact a command sergeant major or first sergeant or call Sgt. 1st Class Bryant Perry at 916-0317.

Employee of the Year with a Disability

Post leadership can recognize an employee with a disability who has made outstanding contributions to a work unit or organization, Fort Sam Houston and the Department of the Army with a nomination for the 2006 Army Employee of the Year with a Disability Award. Nomination packages are due by April 12. For more information, call Glennis Ribblett at 221-9401.

Ethics briefings

An ethics class will be held Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Blesse Auditorium, Building 2841, Willis Hall; a sign language interpreter will be present. Soldiers and Army civilian employees are required to attend one hour of ethics training annually; the class is not intended for contractors or contract employees. Additionally, a mandatory ethics class for employees whose official duties include a procurement function will be offered at 2 p.m., immediately following the annual ethics training. The sign language instructor will not be present at this class. For more information, call Shelby Tanner, ethics counselor, at 221-2373 or 221-0485.

Change of responsibility

First Sgt. Jessie J. Hall will relinquish responsibility of D Company, 187th Medical Battalion, to 1st Sgt. David J. Roberts during a change of responsibility ceremony Friday at 7:30 a.m. at Building 1002, D Company.

Transfer of authority

Brig. Gen. Philip Hanrahan will transfer authority of the 90th Regional Readiness Group to the 208th Regional Support Group, commanded by Col. Jimmie Jaye Wells, during a transfer of authority ceremony Sunday at 10 a.m. in Blesse Auditorium.

Change of command

Col. Gail L. Gerding will relinquish command of the Task Force Community Based Health Care Organization, part of the Great Plains Regional Medical Center, to Col. Mary Katherine Chambers during a change of command ceremony Wednesday at 8 a.m. in Blesse Auditorium.

See BRIEFS on Page 3



Photo by Elaine Wilson

Caring hands

Capt. Cheryl Powell, Brooke Army Medical Center intensive care unit, learns about burn wound care from Ruben Salinas, of the BAMC burn unit, March 23 during the Joint Forces Combat Trauma Management Course. See related story and photos on Page 16.

Ceremony marks milestone in rehab center construction

By Nelia Schrum
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

In a simple ceremony with no fanfare March 23, construction workers raised "Old Glory" to the top of the concrete roof at the building site for the Center for the Intrepid, as a small band of workers and military staff cheered at ground level.

The "topping off" celebration marked a milestone in the construction process for the center set to provide world-class rehabilitative services for wounded warriors who suffered limb-loss while serving America in the Global War on Terrorism. Traditionally, when a building reaches its maximum height, construction crews raise a U.S. flag to mark the occasion.

The Center for the Intrepid, constructed with financial contributions from more than 500,000 citizens across the country,

includes 65,000 square feet of space dedicated to the healing of wounded service members.

"This building is built by Americans for Americans," said Arnold Fisher, a New York real estate developer and philanthropist, who spearheaded the effort to build the rehabilitation center.

Fisher said the ceremony marked a big day with particular significance because of all the hard work nationally that went into raising the funds for the \$37 million project.

A veteran of the Korean War, the 73-year-old Fisher has never forgotten his stint as a Soldier.

"My mission is to help these kids who have given so much," Fisher said, adding that he hoped the rehabilitation center would one day be completely empty. "If it's empty, it means that no one is losing arms or legs."

See REHAB CENTER on Page 4

AER campaign: Soldiers helping Soldiers

By Minnie Jones
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Army Emergency Relief has kicked off its 64th annual fundraising campaign, which runs through May 15. The campaign on Fort Sam Houston runs Saturday through May 1.

AER's mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers and their families and is dedicated to "helping the Army take care of its own," said Lois Tonsall, chief of financial readiness and the installation AER officer.

The Secretary of War and the Army chief of staff incorporated the private non-profit organization in 1942. Although the

Department of the Army sponsors AER, it receives no direct funding from the government and is not part of any government-funded compensation or assistance program. All donations to AER are used to support Soldiers and their families, and donations are exempt from federal income tax with 87 cents of every dollar contributed helping Soldiers, and only 13 cents going toward administrative costs.

Voluntary contributions come from active duty and retired Soldiers, their families and Army civilians.

"Last year, Fort Sam Houston disbursed over \$1 million to 1,200 service members, retired service members and their dependents," Tonsall said.

"Fort Sam Houston hopes to raise

more this year than last year's campaign total of \$940,000," she said. "We don't set goals; it's up to our Soldiers and what they decide to contribute to the campaign."

AER is available to active duty Soldiers; retired Soldiers and their dependents; and widows, widowers and orphans, Tonsall said. AER also helps Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their dependents, to Guard and Reserve Soldiers who retired at the age of 60 and their dependents, and to surviving spouses and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty.

See AER CAMPAIGN on Page 4

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Army plans to transform Individual Ready Reserve

WASHINGTON — The Army is creating a special “Individual Warrior Category” within the Individual Ready Reserve for Soldiers who are qualified and ready to deploy.

Soldiers in the IW Category will be required to maintain a higher state of readiness than other IRR troops by participating in virtual musters, attending annual readiness processing and — through man-

aged training opportunities — maintaining proficiency in their military occupational specialty.

The IW Category will focus on elevating individual expectation management, proactive career management, unique training opportunities, and promote continuum of service toward a military retirement, officials said.

Secretary of the Army Francis J.

Harvey has endorsed the move to reset and reinvigorate the IRR.

“Senior Army leadership is committed to providing the necessary funding required to shape the IW initiative,” Harvey said. He added those in the category will be “a viable pool” of individual warriors “trained and employable to meet the needs of the Army.”

The IRR will be transformed into the

Army’s leading “prior service talent bank” through several programmed initiatives as it builds the future force, G1 officials said.

There are more than 100,000 Soldiers, both enlisted and officers, in the IRR, representing more than 200 Military Occupational Skills ranging from combat arms, combat support and combat-service support specialties.

(Source: Army News Service)

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Briefs cont. . . .

Pharmacy improvements

Patients filling prescriptions at the newly renovated Fort Sam Houston Community Pharmacy can expect shorter wait times and ample parking. Located in Building 2401 on Scott and Allen Roads, the Fort Sam Houston Community Pharmacy is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 916-8700 to use the automated refill system.

Unit Prevention Leader Seminar

Fort Sam Houston's Army Substance Abuse Program will sponsor a Unit Prevention Leader Seminar April 10 to 14 in Willis Hall, Room 2206. This is a mandatory class for UPLs currently on orders to collect drug-testing specimens for their unit. Certificates of completion may be used for promotion points. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and registration must be done via e-mail. For more information or to register, e-mail April.Johnson-Walker@samhouston.army.mil or Angela.Moss@samhouston.army.mil.

Brigade run

The 32nd Medical Brigade will sponsor a brigade run called "Viva Fiesta" April 14 at 5:30 a.m.; the assembly area is the BG Johnson Track Field.

Upcoming housing events

The Lincoln Military Housing will be closed Friday for its annual awards banquet. LMH will respond to all emergency maintenance requests. For more information, call 270-7638.

Crime Stoppers Tip Line

To report a crime or incident to the Fort Sam Houston Police Department, call the Crime Stoppers Tip Line at 221-CLUE (2583). Callers can remain anonymous or leave their name and phone number if they want to be contacted. Help take a bite out of crime.

Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club

Annual Tour of Homes

Visit selected homes on Fort Sam Houston during the Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club's Annual Tour of Homes Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 on the day of the tour. Proceeds from the tour will benefit the welfare and scholarship funds. For more information, call Liz Schreckhise at 270-2114 or Licia Rothfuss at 222-9464.

Board members needed

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club seeks active members to fill board positions for the coming year. For more information, call Kandice Collins at 222-9043.

Welfare distribution

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club makes welfare contributions on an annual basis every May. Applications for welfare funds are available at the information desk of the Roadrunner Community Center on Stanley Road. Any nonprofit organization located on Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis supporting the welfare of the armed forces and their families may apply. Applications must be postmarked by Saturday.

Scholarship applications available

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club provides scholarships to high school seniors and college students continuing their education, as well as a scholarship for a military spouse. Applications must be postmarked by Saturday. For more information, call Judith Markelz at 410-0958.

Mobile radio system down for upgrade

The Fort Sam Houston trunking land mobile radio system is scheduled for upgrade April and May. The upgrade will require the system to be down May 24 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. First responders will not be able to use the system and may have to go conventional. For more information, call Jane Schlinke, directorate of information management, at 221-0612.

Five receive Purple Hearts at BAMC

By Nelia Schrum
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

An infantryman and a physician with 33 years in the military, who now serves as the commander of Fort Sam Houston and the Army Medical Department Center and School, presented five wounded warriors Purple Heart Medals Tuesday for wounds sustained while deployed to Iraq.

Maj. Gen. George Weightman presented five Soldiers with medals during a Brooke Army Medical Center ceremony. The recipients were Sgt. Sean Gould and Spcs. Broderick Mosley, Phillip Reynolds, Oshada Samaranayake and Matthew Shaw.

The Purple Heart is the world's oldest military decoration still in use, and the first for the common American Soldier. It is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded by an enemy.

Weightman said the five Soldiers were volunteers who put their lives in jeopardy while serving in a foreign land.

"These are the people who heard their country say, 'I need some help,'" Weightman said.

He said the Purple Heart is a medal no one wants to receive. At the same time, it is most revered because it represents a higher calling.

"The medal recognizes the commitment from heart and body for defending principles, freedom and celebrates heroism," Weightman said, adding that the Purple Heart ceremony provided the opportunity "for the rest of us to say - 'I want to be like them.'"

He said the five combat veterans are proud of their service and that in the ledger of life, their combat experiences and sacrifices will prove to be the things that will mean the most.

"These Soldiers sacrificed their time, energy, youth and part of their bodies," Weightman said.

Gould, a combat engineer and general construction equipment operator from Hadley, Mass., was assigned to B Company, 181st Engineer Battalion. While involved in convoy operations Jan. 19 in Baghdad, Iraq, he sustained burn injuries.

A native of Shreveport, La., Mosley is a motor transport operator, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/156th Armor Battalion. He was injured March



Photo by Kelly Schaefer

Maj. Gen. George Weightman, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander, presented five Purple Hearts Monday at Brooke Army Medical Center to Soldiers injured in the Global War on Terrorism while serving in Iraq. The wounded warriors included Sgt. Sean Gould and Spcs. Broderick Mosley, Phillip Reynolds, Matthew Shaw and Oshada Samaranayake.

26, 2005, near Camp Victory, Iraq, by an explosion from a vehicle-borne explosive that left him with burns and a shattered elbow.

Reynolds, who joined the Army to serve his country and earn money for college, is a light wheel vehicle mechanic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 3rd/13th Field Artillery, Fort Sill, Okla. He was injured Dec. 7, 2005, by an improvised explosive device blast during convoy operations near Balad, Iraq.

Samaranayake is a combat engineer assigned to A Company, 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea. He was injured July 18, 2005, while on patrol in Al Ramadi, Iraq. This is the second Purple Heart for Samaranayake, who plans to attend the University of California at Los Angeles.

An armor crewman assigned to the 2nd/ 70th Armor Battalion located at Fort Riley, Kansas, Shaw was injured when his tank hit a land mine Sept. 26, 2005, near Taji, Iraq. From Ohio, Shaw plans to work at the Abrams Tank Plant in Lima, Ohio, after leaving the military.

Post trades cash for upgrades through leasing program

By Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Fort Sam Houston is using a government program to bridge the gap between available resources and the funds required to renovate or construct new buildings on post.

Enhanced Use Leasing allows installations to use the private sector's financial resources to build and redevelop underused land, buildings and other real estate assets.

"Through EUL, the government leases property to the private sector and either receives cash or 'work-in-kind' in lieu of cash," said Rocky Lee, real estate, Army Corps of Engineers. "The contractor that leases the property either does the work or subcontracts it out."

Work-in-kind can be construction or acquisition of new facilities; alteration, repair, or improvement of property or facilities; lease of facilities; or facilities operation support.

The EUL program is particularly useful at an installation like Fort Sam Houston, with limited resources and excessive renovation costs due to the age and number of buildings on post, Lee said.

"We have the largest number of historic structures - 1,578 - of any active military installation in the country," said Chuck Weeks, chief, Planning Integration Branch of the Planning Analysis and Integration Office. "As beautiful as these historic buildings are, they present a real challenge to the

Army to renovate to modern standards and maintain their infrastructure.

"EUL provides the resources for maintenance, repair and new construction so we can restore these beautiful old buildings to working and living conditions fit for our Soldiers and civilian workforce," Weeks added.

Some of this work is already under way on post as a result of an EUL project that dates back to 2004, when Orion leased the North and South Beach Pavilions and the old Brooke Army Medical Center. The government determined that \$1.3 million of WIK funds were available based on rent from the lease to Orion. "Fort Sam Houston was able to apply those funds against another critical project on post," Weeks said.

The funds were applied to restoring Building 2791, the home of the 187th Medical Battalion Soldiers. The building dates back to the 1920s.

"It had a failed tile roof, damaged roof decking, badly deteriorated wooden windows and failed floor covering in many areas," Weeks said.

"Fort Sam Houston had been unable to fund these projects due to a major



Courtesy photo

A renovation project is under way at Building 2791, the home of the 187th Medical Battalion Soldiers. The project is funded through Enhanced Use Leasing, a program that allows the government to accept "work-in-kind" services in lieu of lease payment.

shortfall in funding," Weeks said. "Meanwhile, Soldiers' quality of life in these barracks continued to deteriorate. EUL and WIK became the perfect solution."

The contractors' estimated cost for the work was lower than the government's estimated costs.

"When Orion completes the project there will still be over \$100,000 in WIK government credit," Weeks said.

The project started in January and is scheduled for completion in May.

"This success story of Army and private-industry partnership is a model for cost-effective renovation and repair of our historical buildings in a resource-constrained environment," Weeks said. "WIK is a creative solution to maintaining Soldiers' quality of life and the beauty of our post."

Army-Baylor program goes wireless

Story and photo by Cheryl Harrison
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Army Medical Department Center and School March 23 to announce the inauguration of the post's first high-speed wireless classrooms.

Three classrooms at the Academy of Health Sciences, currently being used by the Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in Health and Business Administration and the Captains Career Course, now have complete and fully operational wireless capabilities.

Col. Nick Coppola, director of the Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in Health and Business Administration, opened the ceremony with a few remarks about the project.

"I figured if it was good enough for the 1995 students, such as myself, then it was good enough for the students of 2005 and beyond," said Coppola.

Students can move around the schoolhouse and still have the ability to communicate, share and access information. A new classroom design also allows more room to maneuver between the tables, especially when students work in groups during class sessions.

"I've already met with students in the hallway to discuss a document they are accessing via the wireless connection," said Maj. Marsha Patrick, Army-Baylor assistant professor.

The initiative was first proposed in October 2005 by the Army-Baylor program and the Information Management Training Branch of the Department of Health Services Administration. Lt. Col. Kevin LaFrance, of the Army-Baylor program, and Maj. Al Hamilton, chief of the IMTB, were instrumental in designing the state-of-the-art classrooms.

"Through the initiative of Hamilton and LaFrance, the wireless component is available as a time saver overall, for the students and the professors, and a time saver to the program itself. So, let's congratulate them



Dr. (Maj.) Al Hamilton (left), chief of information management training branch, and Lt. Col. Kevin LaFrance, of the Army-Baylor program, were instrumental in the conception of the wireless classrooms. The classrooms, located in the Army Medical Center Department and School, were officially opened with a ribbon cutting on March 23.

for all of their hard work," Coppola said.

This project demonstrates a collaborative team effort between IMTB, the Institutional Digital Education Program and Information Technology and Telecommunications.

The success of the IMTB wireless pilot program provides current students and instructors with the benefits of the latest technological advances and it opens the door to the future potential of a totally wireless AHS.

Leaders get first-hand look at military, civilian relationships

By Master Sgt. Sally Toomey
Fifth U.S. Army (Army North) Public Affairs

Leaders from the civilian community visited Fifth U.S. Army Headquarters March 23 to gain insight into the relationship between the military and a variety of civilian agencies.

The Civic Leaders Tour was sponsored by U.S. Northern Command, based in Colorado Springs, Colo., and brought local community leaders as well as guests from other government agencies to observe the working relationship between the military and civilian communities.

"This tour was very reaffirming for me and turned some degree of skepticism into confidence," said Gordon Aoyagi, director of Homeland Security for Montgomery County, Md.

Aoyagi explained that many local government officials are skeptical that there is a lack of understanding of the sovereignty of local and state governments when the military is called in to assist during a crisis.

"Every leader we have met has underscored the unity of effort, that the military is there to support the government agencies," he said. "They're going to help us when we need it, and in a way that will be successful."

Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark, Fifth U.S. Army (Army North) commander, urged the leaders to lend their support to Soldiers and families living in their communities, particularly those serving in the Army Reserve and National Guard. Deployments for these Soldiers often last more than a year considering the time they are in training prior to their actual deployment overseas.

"When you network with your peers at home, let's take care of these Soldiers and their families," Clark said. "What they experience during a deployment is often of greater magnitude than that of their active duty counterparts in terms of their families, businesses and civilian jobs."

For many, the tour was an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the military's varied missions and commitments.

"I learned a lot of lessons and I'll convey that to other agencies in my community," said Nick Gradiser, a Pueblo, Colo., attorney.

"I'm amazed at the new mission of the Army given the threats and catastrophes we're dealing with. I'm glad to see that someone is doing the planning to be ready to respond."

Rehab center

Continued from Page 1

With tears in his eyes, Fisher said it was an honor for him to work on the building project knowing the substantial sacrifices of the military members who would use the facility for their recovery. "You just don't take," he said. "You have to give back."

Daniel Bussell, a construction worker on the project, was given the honor of hoisting the American flag to the roof. Despite a pending family funeral, Bussell stayed to plant the flag, delaying his departure because of the wounded warriors and his desire to see them get better.

"I'm glad to do it for these guys. I watch them walk back and forth on crutches and in their wheel chairs," said Bussell. "It's our little thing. We respect everything they did for us."

Like Bussell, the project superintendent for the Center for the Intrepid, Dennis Verbeek, is firmly committed to the success of the building, seeing it as the pinnacle of his career. Verbeek said his neighbors often ask about the wounded and how the Center for the Intrepid is coming along.

"There was never a doubt in my mind that we would meet the schedule for the topping off ceremony," said Verbeek. "We promised Mr. Fisher a date. When we give our word, we mean it."

While at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fisher met with Garrison Commander Col. Wendy Martinson for a tour of the Soldier and Family Assistance Center located in the Powless Guest House. The SFAC caters to the wounded and their families by providing entertainment, trips, snacks and Internet services.

In addition to the Center for the Intrepid, the building project includes two 21-room Fisher Houses that are set to house the families of the recovering wounded. The \$6.55 million Fisher Houses will be the largest ever built by the Fisher House Foundation and will triple the capacity of the existing houses at BAMC. The entire project is set for completion in early 2007.



Photo by Kelly Schaefer

With the assistance of a crane, "Old Glory" is lifted to the top of the Center for the Intrepid March 23 during a topping off ceremony, which celebrates when the building reaches its maximum height. The rehabilitation center will serve military members who have suffered limb-loss while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

AER campaign

Continued from Page 1

AER assists with interest-free loans, grants or a combination of the two to those who are eligible to receive assistance from the organization. There is no dollar limit on the amount of aid for emergency financial assistance to help cover the cost of food, rent or utilities; emergency transportation and vehicle repair; funeral expenses; medical and dental expenses; and personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen.

A new incentive program called the Stateside Spouse Education Assistance

Program will start Saturday. The program is open to spouses of Army Soldiers, and assists Army families with the costs of post-secondary undergraduate level education and vocational training to prepare spouses for the job market. For more information about this program, visit the AER office in the ACS Community Center, or through the AER Web site at www.aerhq.org.

In another incentive program called the Commanders' Referral Program, company commanders and first sergeants have the authority to approve a loan for up to \$1,000 to service members, "and we at

AER don't question it, as long as it meets the criteria of a legitimate assist, established by AR 930-4," Tonsall said.

The referral program is designed to provide a swift and easy processing of emergency assistance requests. The Soldier simply completes the application and the commander or first sergeant reviews the application, determines if it is valid, then approves the request. The Soldier takes the application to the AER office for disbursement.

There are certain expenses AER does not help with, such as costs relating to

vacation, payment of fines or legal expenses, help to liquidate or consolidate debt, assistance with the purchase of a house or home improvements, rent or lease of a vehicle or to cover bad checks or pay credit card bills.

Active duty Soldiers can contribute to the AER campaign through their units. Contributions, memorials or bequests to AER are also accepted throughout the year and should be delivered to the Fort Sam Houston Army Emergency Relief section at the ACS Community Center, Building 2797, 2010 Stanley Road.

DoD program keeps employers, reservists on track

By Elaine Wilson

Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

(This article is the first in a three-part series about the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve)

A Department of Defense program is easing the transition from business suit to battle dress uniform and back again for Reserve and Guard members throughout the world.

The National Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a network of nearly 4,200 volunteers who keep reservists and employers informed about their rights and responsibilities regarding the workplace. Their goal is to ensure reservists are able to accomplish their mission, whether on military duty or heading back to the job.

"We keep reservists and their civilian employers on the same sheet of music when it comes to employment of military members," said Findley Brewster, Texas ESGR Area 4 chairman.

The organization takes a proactive approach to its information mission with two outreach programs – one directed at military members and the other at their civilian employers.

For the military outreach, ESGR volunteers are assigned to reserve units, of which there are more than 200 in San Antonio alone, Brewster said.

"The volunteers physically go to the units and give briefings and are there to answer questions and support," Brewster said. "They usually visit pre- and post-deployment to ease the transition from civilian to military and back again."

Their briefings are aimed at keeping reservists informed of their rights and responsibilities as civilian employees. For example, it is their responsibility to let their employers know about an upcoming deployment or drill as far in advance as possible, said Caryl Hill, ESGR state employee outreach chair. Also, employees should talk to their employer about what they learn and accomplish during their absence so bosses don't get the impres-

"We keep reservists and their civilian employers on the same sheet of music when it comes to employment of military members."

Findley Brewster

Texas ESGR Area 4 chairman

sion that military duty is a vacation from work.

"Communication is key," said Hill. "A healthy relationship between reservist and employer can minimize issues with military-related activities."

The "issues" that arise are primarily tied into reservists' rights, such as re-employment after a deployment or benefit retention during an absence. Most answers already exist and are spelled out in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

The key components of the federal law include:

- Employers must grant leave to Guard and Reserve employees for military activation.
- Employers must promptly re-employ Guard and Reserve employees upon satisfactory completion of military service.
- Guard and Reserve employees may not be required to use personal leave or vacation for military service.

ESGR volunteers not only inform reservists about USERRA, but also the employer through the employer outreach program.

A lot of employers don't have any idea of how to support their reservist-employees other than not to fire them," Brewster said.

As with the military outreach, the employer outreach comprises a network of volunteers, but these volunteers visit employers to help them understand USERRA and the needs of their employees.

"Volunteers can train the top leaders of a company or managers and front line supervisors," Hill said, adding that support starts with the employee's direct supervisor.

"Some are not supportive so our training is aimed at

educating so the support is there when needed," Hill said.

ESGR also provides "highly trained volunteers who are able to review a company's human resources regulations to ensure they are in line with USERRA," Hill said.

Along with one-on-one briefings, ESGR volunteers can also organize Civilian Employer Orientations, which offer civilian employers a hands-on approach to understanding their reservists. The orientations gives the employers a taste of military life "so they can see for themselves the importance of their employee's mission," Hill said.

CEOs can range from a simple visit to a military installation to a ride on a Navy ship. "Last December, we worked with a unit at Lackland Air Force Base (Texas) and took 60 civilian employers to Fort Hood (Texas) on a C5 (Galaxy)," Hill said.

The employers spent the day at the Army post eating Army "chow" and firing guns in simulators. "The experience was great; it gave them a much different look at what their employees go through," Hill said.

The personal experience fuels support as the employer is a witness to the importance of their employee's military mission, Hill said.

ESGR volunteers encourage employers to express that support through a written "statement of support," a document that restates USERRA's key points and is a way for employers to formally recognize the National Guard and Reserve as "essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities."

Through employer and military outreaches, ESGR is able to garner continued support for Guard and Reserve members throughout the world, Brewster said.

"Retention of our reservists is directly tied to the employer," he said. "It's a three-legged stool – civilian employer, reservist and family. If one of those legs isn't whole, then the stool collapses. It's ESGR's role to make sure the employer and reservist legs stay upright."

For more information about ESGR or to arrange an outreach briefing, visit <http://www.esgr.org>. ESGR also needs volunteers to support its various programs; for more information, call (800) 336-4590 or in Texas call (512) 782-5858.

Tuition assistance for Soldiers only available online

The Army Human Resource Command Army Continuing Education System has announced a new process for Soldiers requesting tuition assistance.

Starting Saturday, Army tuition assistance will only be available through the education Web site, www.GoArmyEd.com. Education centers will no longer issue tuition assistance for college courses that begin May 1.

Soldiers on active duty, including enlisted Soldiers of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve on active duty, are eli-

gible to request tuition assistance online for courses that begin May 1 and beyond.

The GoArmyEd Web site will provide one location for academic institutions to process credit-bearing enrollments, submit Soldiers' grades, verify and prepare invoices for payment and access centralized support for troubleshooting and information about Army tuition assistance processes and policies.

To obtain tuition assistance for classes starting May 1, students must be registered on the GoArmyEd Web site; there-

fore, they should register for a login and password as soon as possible.

After Saturday, Soldiers who are not in eArmyU or who did not receive an invitation through their Army Knowledge Online e-mail must request a GoArmyEd login by choosing the "new users" tab in the public view of www.GoArmyEd.com before requesting tuition assistance. The new users tab will guide Soldiers through the processes necessary to obtain a login and establish a GoArmyEd account.

The advantages of GoArmyEd for the

Soldier are equitable, virtual access to tuition assistance on a round-the-clock basis with no need to visit an education counselor, and interactive degree maps focused on degree completion. The advantages to schools are efficiencies in processing tuition assistance invoices and improved timeliness in receiving tuition assistance invoice payments.

For more information, call Ralph Rodriguez at 221-9881.

(Source: Army Continuing Education System)

Tax time

IRS offers guidance for household employees

Household employees can be a valuable asset when there are children or sick family members needing care at home, or even for maintaining a clean home. However, whether people are just considering the convenience of a household employee or are already an employer, they should keep the tax-related issues in mind.

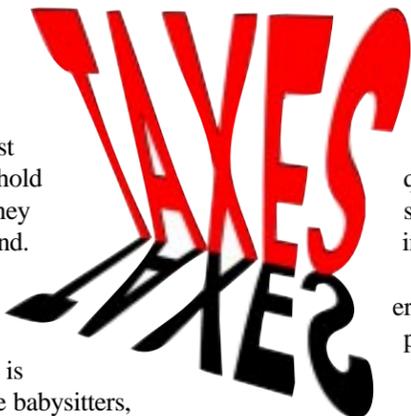
According to the Internal Revenue Code, a worker is considered an employee if the employer controls not only what work is done, but also how it is done. Household employees can include babysitters, cleaners, drivers, housekeepers, nannies, health aides, private nurses, maids, caretakers and yard workers.

Before starting work, the employer should ensure the employee can legally work in the United States. On or before the first day of work, both employer and employee must complete the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification. Do not submit this form to the Internal Revenue Service or any other government entity; keep it with other important paperwork.

Employers will also need to determine whether they will have to pay employment taxes on their new employee. Employers will need to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes if they pay cash wages of \$1,500 or more in 2006 to any one household employee. The taxes are 15.3 percent of cash wages. An employee's share is 7.65 percent and an employer's share is a matching 7.65 percent.

Additionally, if employers pay total cash wages of \$1,000 or more in any calendar quarter of 2005 or 2006 to household employees, then they will need to pay federal unemployment tax. The federal unemployment tax is part of the federal and state program under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act that pays unemployment compensation to workers who lose their jobs. The tax is usually .8 percent of cash wages, and wages more than \$7,000 a year per employee are not taxed. Employers may also owe state unemployment tax.

Employees who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit may want an advance EIC payment. To accomplish this, employees must give their employer a properly completed Form W-5, Earned Income Credit Advance



Payment Certificate. Use the advance EIC payment table in Publication 15 (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide, to determine how much the employee is qualified to receive. People can consult a tax professional for more information.

To pay employment taxes, employers can make quarterly estimated tax payments to the IRS, increase their personal withholding using Form W-4 or they can wait until they file their taxes and make one payment.

If electing to make one lump-sum payment, employers run the risk of paying an estimated tax underpayment penalty if they did not pay enough income and household employment taxes during the year.

When filing a 2006 federal income tax return, people must include the Schedule H, Household Employment Taxes. Use Schedule H to figure total household employment taxes and add that amount to income tax. By Jan. 31, 2007, employers should have an employer identification number and give their employee copies B, C and 2 of Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement. By Feb. 28, 2007, employers should send copy A of Form W-2 to the Social Security Administration, and by April 16, 2007, file Schedule H with their 2006 federal income tax return.

For more information, visit the IRS Web site at <http://www.irs.gov>, and go to "Businesses."

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center)

Tax deadline approaches, center extends hours

The deadline for filing 2005 tax returns is fast approaching. Normally, April 15 marks the last day to file, but since it falls on a Saturday, the deadline has been extended until April 17.

The tax center still has appointments available. People should call as soon as possible to book an appointment as they are likely to fill up as the end of tax season approaches.

This year, the Tax Assistance Center will offer extended hours during the last week of tax filing, April 10 through 17. The extended hours will be Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The center will be closed April 16.

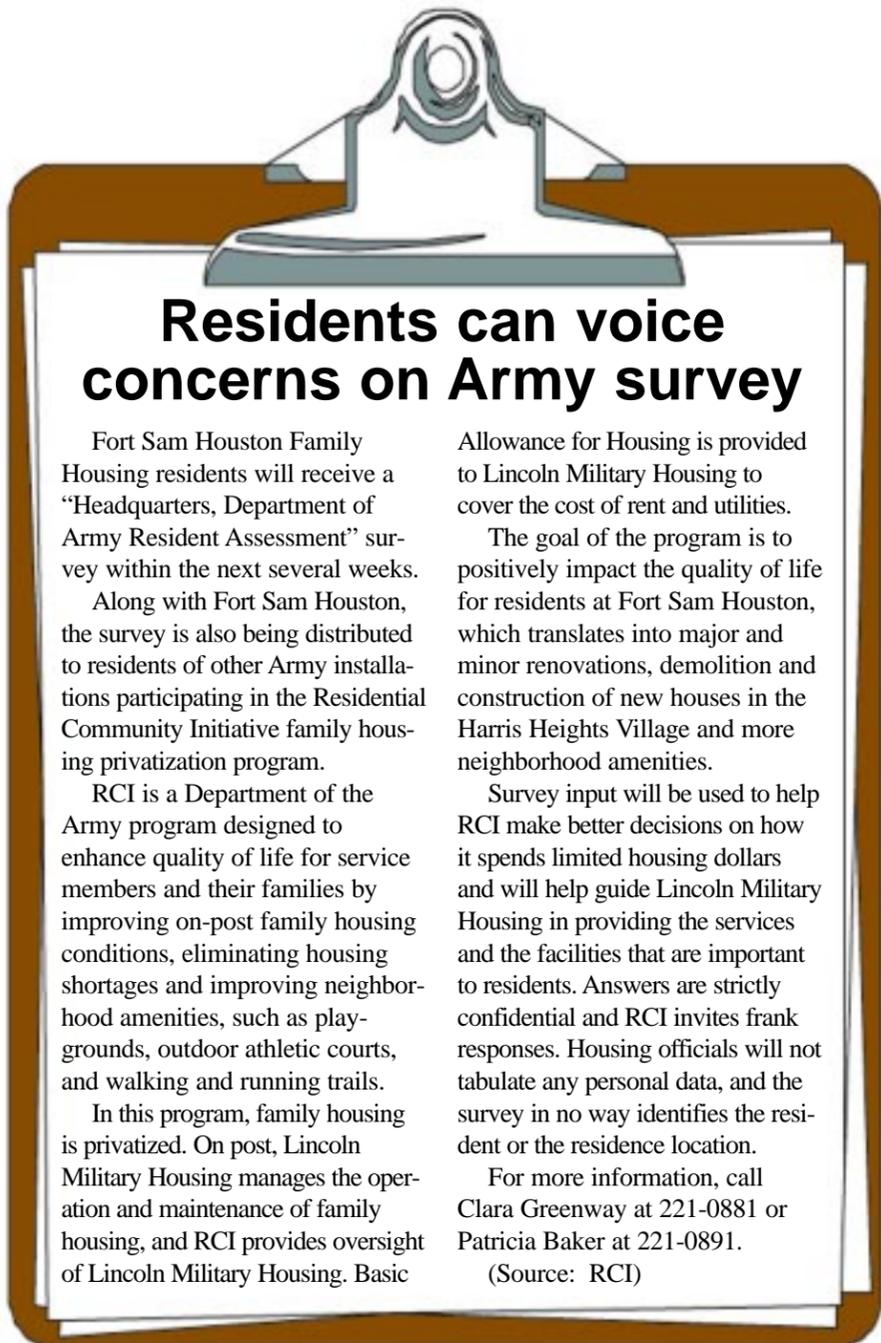
Regular business hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To ensure appointments run smoothly, people should have their documents organized before they arrive. It is helpful to have income information in one folder and deductions in another. For people with rental property, compile a list of rents received and expenses paid. If depreciating the property, make sure a copy of last year's tax return is on hand.

For people who sold capital assets in 2005, like stocks, mutual funds or investment real estate, calculate the basis, or the amount paid for the property, before an appointment. Many companies provide this information when they send tax statements. If the company did not provide this information, contact the company and request it. If the company does not provide a cost basis, people can contact the Tax Center before their appointment for help figuring the amount.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 295-1040 or 295-0061.

(Source: Tax Assistance Center)



Residents can voice concerns on Army survey

Fort Sam Houston Family Housing residents will receive a "Headquarters, Department of Army Resident Assessment" survey within the next several weeks.

Along with Fort Sam Houston, the survey is also being distributed to residents of other Army installations participating in the Residential Community Initiative family housing privatization program.

RCI is a Department of the Army program designed to enhance quality of life for service members and their families by improving on-post family housing conditions, eliminating housing shortages and improving neighborhood amenities, such as playgrounds, outdoor athletic courts, and walking and running trails.

In this program, family housing is privatized. On post, Lincoln Military Housing manages the operation and maintenance of family housing, and RCI provides oversight of Lincoln Military Housing. Basic

Allowance for Housing is provided to Lincoln Military Housing to cover the cost of rent and utilities.

The goal of the program is to positively impact the quality of life for residents at Fort Sam Houston, which translates into major and minor renovations, demolition and construction of new houses in the Harris Heights Village and more neighborhood amenities.

Survey input will be used to help RCI make better decisions on how it spends limited housing dollars and will help guide Lincoln Military Housing in providing the services and the facilities that are important to residents. Answers are strictly confidential and RCI invites frank responses. Housing officials will not tabulate any personal data, and the survey in no way identifies the resident or the residence location.

For more information, call Clara Greenway at 221-0881 or Patricia Baker at 221-0891.

(Source: RCI)

Army Community Service

Family Advocacy Program – April Class Schedule

Class	Dates	Time
Boys Only! Ages 6 to 8	10	4 to 5 p.m.
B.E.A.M.S. (series 5 and 6)	Monday and 10	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Building effective anger management skills B.E.A.M.S. (six-part series)	Wednesday, 12 and 19	4:30 to 6 p.m.
Dad Difference	Monday and 10	2 to 3:30 p.m.
Girl Talk! Ages 6 to 8 Ages 9 to 11	Monday 17	4 to 5 p.m. 4 to 5 p.m.
Helping Us Grow Securely (H.U.G.S.) Playgroup	Tuesday, 11, 18 and 25	9 to 11 a.m.
Negotiating Conflict	11	1 to 2:30 p.m.
SOLVE	17 and 24	2 to 3:30 p.m.
S.T.E.P. Program for Parents of School-Age Children	6, 13, 20 and 27	1 to 2:30 p.m.
S.T.E.P. Program for Parents of Teens	Tuesday, 11, 18 and 25	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Stress Management	Tuesday	1 to 2:30 p.m.
Truth or Consequences?	Tuesday, 11, 18 and 25	4:30 to 6 p.m.
You and Your Baby	Wednesday and 19	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Class space is limited. To register or for more information, call ACS Family Advocacy Program at 221-2418.

Brooke Army Medical Center

Health Promotions April Class Schedule

Class	Dates	Time	Place
* Asthma Management	Tuesday, 11, 18 and 25	2 to 3:30 p.m.	BAMC, Health Promotion Center lower level, Room L31-9V
Body Fat Testing	TBA	8 to 11 a.m.	Call nutrition care at 916-7261 for class location and date
Breast-feeding Class	Fridays	1 to 2:30 p.m.	BAMC, OB/GYN fifth floor conference room
Cholesterol Management	Wednesday, 19 11 and 25	1 to 2:30 p.m. 10 to 11:30 p.m.	BAMC Health Promotion Center (This class is by consult only)
Diabetes Management	Monday, 10 and 17 Tuesday, 11 and 18	Call for more information	BAMC, call Lila Kinser at 916-0794 to sign up
* Tobacco Use Cessation B	Tuesday, 11 and 18	5 to 6:30 p.m.	BAMC, fourth floor conference room, Room 413-11
* Tobacco Use Cessation C	6, 13 and 20	3 to 4:30 p.m.	BAMC, fourth floor conference room, Room 413-11
Weigh for Health (Weigh to Stay) Active Duty Military	Wednesday and 12	2:30 to 3:30 p.m.	Call nutrition care at 916-7261 for class location
Yoga	Wednesday, 12, 19 and 26	12 to 1 p.m.	BAMC, fifth floor, Room 531-14

* To schedule these classes, call 916-9900 and choose option number 4. For more information, call 916-3352.

Today is National Doctor's Day.

Post Pulse: What do you find most rewarding about being an Army physician?



"Overall, taking care of Operation Iraqi Freedom Soldiers. The opportunity to take care of our young troops and help them get back on their feet is very satisfying."

Capt. Chad Holmes



"I enjoy coming to work every day knowing that I'm helping our active duty troops, as well as our retired folks who served previously."

Capt. Bart Pola



"Taking care of patients in the burn unit. Their strength and courage really inspires me."

Capt. Craig Robson



"Our chance to take care of the Soldiers, particularly the ones who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. For those of us who have not yet been deployed, it's a way to show them our gratitude and support."

Capt. Kirk Sahagian

Mosquito bites, more than just annoying itch

By 1st Lt. Wesley McCardle
Department of Preventive Medicine

Mosquitoes are back in business for 2006. Forty-three states reported a total of 2,949 human cases of West Nile Virus with 116 deaths last year. In Texas, there were 125 human cases that resulted in 11 fatalities, with the majority of the cases in the Houston area.

While all human cases of WNV are unfortunate, many could have been prevented if proper measures were taken.

People become infected with WNV through the bite of an infectious mosquito, and only certain species are infectious. Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on infected birds; and, in turn, can infect other birds or humans. WNV is not transmitted from person to person.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, even in areas where WNV has been documented, less than 1 percent of the mosquitoes are

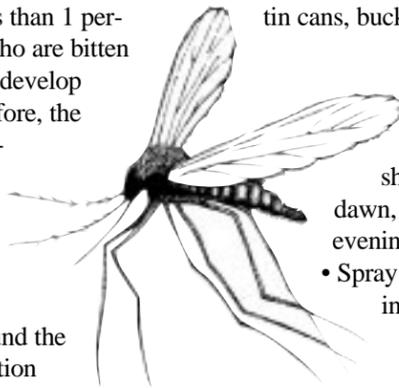
infected. In addition, less than 1 percent of the individuals who are bitten by an infected mosquito develop severe symptoms. Therefore, the chance of becoming seriously ill from any one mosquito bite is extremely small.

Basic personal protective measures implemented in and around the home are the best protection from mosquito bites and will mitigate the potential for WNV transmission. Some of these measures include:

Eliminate standing water

- For recycling bins with open tops, place a tiny hole in the bottom to keep them drained.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets.
- Clean house gutters.
- Scrub and change the water in birdbaths.
- Get rid of or turn over old tires, bottles,

tin cans, buckets and drums.



Personal protection

- Wear a long sleeve shirt or pants if outdoors at dawn, dusk or in the early evening.
- Spray insect repellent on clothing and rub it gently on face, ears, neck and hands. For children between ages 2 and 12, a

DEET (active ingredient) concentration between 5 and 10 percent is recommended. For ages 13 and up, a 20 to 30 percent concentration is suggested.

An extensive, enhanced surveillance and testing program is in place on Fort Sam Houston. Preventive Medicine has placed mosquito traps to monitor mosquito population density and collect adult female mosquitoes for WNV analysis in several locations throughout the installation.

Mosquito traps are generally operated two to three nights per week. Trapped mosquitoes are sent to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-South for WNV testing.

If dead birds are found, dispose of them by placing them in a trash bag. People should not handle dead birds without properly protecting their hands and ensuring they wash hands with soap and water after disposal.

A dead grackle found on post July 24, 2002, died of WNV. This being the case, it is assumed that WNV will be present this summer in the San Antonio area; however, protective measures are necessary whether or not the virus actually does appear.

For more information, call Rotary Green, pest management coordinator, at 221-5079 or 1st Lt. Wesley McCardle, Brooke Army Medical Center entomologist, at 295-2500.

Fort Sam Houston Golf Course undergoes face-lift

Story and photo by Esther Garcia
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

Friends and patrons of the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course attended a groundbreaking ceremony March 17 officially recognizing the renovation of the Salado course.

The \$3.1 million project includes redesign and rebuild of 36 holes of tees and greens at the Salado and Loma championship golf courses.

Paul Matthews, director, Morale and Welfare Recreation, began the ceremony with the introduction of the guest speaker, U.S. Army Garrison Commander Col. Wendy Martinson.

"This renovation of the greens and tee for the Salado course marks a continuing effort by Fort Sam Houston and Morale, Welfare and Recreation to provide quality services to our community," said Martinson.

Martinson said the first phase of the renovation, which began February, will last until September.

"The Salado course is a favorite of our many patrons, and in 2001 the course was recognized as one of the top in the military," said Martinson.

The second phase of the project, the renovation of the Loma course, will begin January

2007 and be completed by October 2007.

"This project has been on the books for many years. Through persistence and a lot of people who wanted to make it happen, we finally got the money freed up (for the renovation)," said Maj. Gen. George Weightman, commander, Army Medical Department Center and School.

"This is a money maker for Fort Sam Houston and because of the money that the golf course generates we are able to do things on the post for our community that we would normally not be able to have, like the bowling center," said Weightman.

"The course has not been renovated for over 30 years and it was time for renovation. We hope the renovation will increase our patrons and will be more attractive to host tournaments," said Barbara George, chief, MWR business operations division.

Attending the ceremony was Marc Messier, representing the project architect, Kevin Tucker Design Group of Nashville, Tenn., and the general contractor, Landscape Unlimited Inc. of Lincoln, Neb.

A maximum of 18 holes will be available for play on a daily basis during the construction period.



(From left) Marc Messier, representing Kevin Tucker Design Group of Nashville, Tenn., and Landscape Unlimited Inc. of Lincoln, Neb., joins Paul Matthews, director, Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Tom Memmers, director, MWR Southwest Region Office; Col. Bradley Freeman, commander, 32nd Medical Brigade; Col. Wendy Martinson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison; and Maj. Gen. George Weightman, installation commander, at the groundbreaking ceremony March 17 officially recognizing the renovation of the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course.

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HEALTHCARE.GOARMY.COM

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIQUIDATE YOUR CREDIT CARD DEBT?

IT CAN HAPPEN.

The Financial Readiness Program at Army Community Service offers this service. For more information, call 221-1612.

Sports Briefs . . .

Intramural soccer standings

	Win	Loss
March 22		
BAMC	4	0
Baylor	2	2
264th Med Bn	0	4
March 20		
BAMC	5	264th Med Bn 0
BAMC	1	Baylor 0
March 22		
Baylor	5	264th Med Bn 0
BAMC	4	Baylor 3*

*BAMC wins in a shootout 3-2

MWR hotline

Information about MWR events, activities and programs is available 24 hours a day. For more information, call the MWR hotline at 295-3697 or visit www.portsamhoustonmwr.com.

FSH Independent School District

Weekly Calendar – Monday to April 8

FSH Elementary School

Monday

Sixth grade challenger field trip

Tuesday

Fifth grade TAKS * math test

Sixth grade challenger field trip

Wednesday

Early dismissal – kindergarten to fourth grade, 2 p.m.

Early dismissal – fifth and sixth grade, 2:45 p.m.

April 7

Spirit day

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Monday

District 27AA golf tournament at The Buckhorn in Comfort, Texas

Cougar Pride Club in media center, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Association of Texas Small Schools Band

MS Region clinic/concert, TBA

Varsity Choir UIL choir contest at Steele

High School, all day

Cole baseball at Comfort, Texas, 6 p.m.

Wednesday

District 27AA tennis tournament at Boerne,

Texas, 8 a.m.

Cheerleading workshop in Moseley gym, 4

to 6 p.m.

April 6

District 27AA tennis tournament at Boerne,

Texas, 8 a.m.

Cheerleading workshop in Moseley gym, 4

to 6 p.m.

April 7

Cole baseball vs. Johnson City at Cole, 4

p.m.

Cheerleading tryouts in Moseley gym, 5 to

7 p.m.

April 8

Junior/senior prom at Forrest Waters

Country Club, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

*TAKS – Texas Assessment of Knowledge

and Skills Test – state mandated

FSHISD announces student transfer policy

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District will once again accept transfer students for the 2006-2007 school year. Active duty military parents who are employed on the installation, but are non-residents, can apply for their children to enroll in the district as transfer students.

Transfer requests will be considered if:

- Certain criteria are met;
- No additional personnel are required; and
- Adequate classroom space is available at grade level requested.

Parents or guardians approved for a transfer are required to agree to administrative guidelines and a non-resident transfer agreement. The following categories of stu-

dents will be considered for transfer:

- Students whose parents are assigned to Fort Sam Houston and have certification that housing is available during the school year for which transfer is requested;
- Students who were resident students in the district, who have moved off-post and whose parents remain on military active duty;
- Students who were resident students in the district, have moved off post and whose parents have retired from military active duty;
- Students whose parents are active duty military personnel assigned to Fort Sam Houston and are not seeking certification for installation housing; and

- Children of district employees.

Current transfer students will be given priority provided their conduct and attendance have been acceptable during the current school year.

Parents or guardians may obtain a Non-Resident Transfer Application from the district administration office or the campus offices beginning April 10. Applications can then be submitted to Kathy Hayson at the district administration office.

For complete details and requirements of the new transfer policy, call Kathy Hayson at 368-8701 or visit the Fort Sam Houston ISD Web site at www.fshisd.net.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston ISD)

FSH Elementary teacher honored at Trinity

By Dr. Kathy Maxwell
Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Cynthia Kautz, Fort Sam Houston Elementary fourth grade teacher, was honored at Trinity University March 22 as a distinguished educator. She is one of 21 candidates for the Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

The Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching, established in 1982, recognizes and honors teaching as a profession and those outstanding persons who distinguish themselves in their profession. Joining Trinity in this endeavor are the H.E.B. Grocery, Co. and the San Antonio Express-News.

Kautz was selected to represent Fort Sam Houston Elementary School for 2005-2006 by the District Awards Selection Committee. She earned a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and a master's degree in educational administration from Southwest

Texas University, now Texas State University. Kautz has taught for 18 years, 16 of those at Fort Sam Houston Independent School District.

"This is a great honor for me to represent Fort Sam Houston Elementary," said Kautz. "To be selected from so many great teachers at FSHISD makes me very proud."

The 21 distinguished educators from the San Antonio area districts will be recognized and honored at the Kappa Delta Pi Lecture and Awards ceremony at Trinity University in early April. Two of the 21 distinguished educators, selected by a blue-ribbon committee composed of business and civic leaders, will receive the Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

The criteria used in selecting candidates for the Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching includes outstanding classroom



Courtesy photo

Cynthia Kautz (center) is congratulated by Jayne Hatton (left), Fort Sam Houston Elementary principal, and Dr. Gail Siller, Fort Sam Houston Independent School District superintendent, March 22 at the reception for recipients of the Trinity Prize distinguished educators awards.

performance, leadership in the school and district, leadership in the education profession and outstanding community service.

High School News

Cole sports update

Golf

The Cole High School golf team competed in the Comfort Golf Tournament March 23 at the Buckhorn Golf Course in Comfort, Texas. With a score of 353, the team placed fifth out of a field of 21 teams, beating all of their district 27-2A rivals. James Cox, Cole High School business teacher, is the coach.

Track and field

The Robert G. Cole High School boys' and girls' track teams competed Saturday in the Poth track meet in Poth, Texas. Results of both teams show great progress throughout early season competition.

The results are as follows:

Junior varsity boys division

Will Vega, Reggie Garnett, Chauncey Holmes and Emerson Weber took first place for 800-meter relay, and third place for spring relay and mile relay.

Triple jump

Reggie Garnett - second place

Aaron Tate - third place

Will Vega - fifth place

3,200-meter run

Richard Well - third place

Brad Kelly - fifth place

Mile run

Richard Well - sixth place

Varsity boys division

Robert Dillard - first place for long jump and sixth place for 200 meters

James Jordan - fourth place for triple jump

Greg Washington - fifth place for 100-meter dash

Fabian Rodriguez - fifth place for 300-meter hurdles

Kyle Adams - fifth place for 3,200-meter run

Paul Parker - sixth place for long jump

Outstanding performers from the girls' team

Alisha Saddler - first place for triple jump, first place for long jump and second place for 100 hurdles

Megan Rinehart - sixth place for 300 hurdles

Nilda Berrios - fourth place for 800 run

Brittany Maas - fifth place for 400 meters

The boys' track team coaches are Eric Boehme, science teacher, and Brian Sotak, history teacher. The girls' track team coach is Joella Allen, health teacher.

Baseball

The Cole baseball team was victorious last week. The Cougars won their first district 27-2A game with an 8-5 victory over Johnson City, Texas, March 21. Ryan Boyles had two hits and Cody Oswald had three runs batted in to pace the Cougar offense. Matt Newcomer picked up the victory while pitching a complete game.

The Cougars defeated Randolph 10-3 Friday. Ryan Boyles went the distance to pick up the win and Shane Russe batted 2-3 with a home run. The Cougars are now 7-5 overall and 2-0 in district play. Darrell Kurek, Cole history teacher, is the coach.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School honor roll

Many of the Robert G. Cole students have attained academic success for the third nine weeks of the 2005-2006 school year. To qualify for the two honor rolls, students must earn the

following grades: A Honor Roll – a grade of 90 or higher in all classes; A/B Honor Roll – a grade of 80 or higher in all classes with at least one grade of 90 or higher.

A Honor Roll	AB Honor Roll			
Seventh Grade	Seventh Grade	Mollie Starnes	Kelsey Charlton	Tiara Ellison
Hayley Benjamin	Abigail Abrahamson	Devante Terrell	Frankiano Concepcion	Cshakenah Fisher
William Garza	Lance Arnold	Lakin Thomas	Jeremy Crawley	Cameron Lucke
Gretchen Newcomer	Stephanie Aviles	Kayanna Wade	Catherine Davis	Kathryn Marcrum
Megan Renz	David Blackwell	Sean Walker	Nathan Eggers	John Millnik
Maxianne Villalon	Justine Dintelmann	Eighth Grade	Calylla Gritz	Lisa Nieves
Madeline Warden	Ashley Erickson	Tyresa Briscoe	Corey Liker	James Phillips
Eighth Grade	Heather Fonte	Melissa Brouillard	Alexandra Mazak	Dianisse Plaza
Yeralis Cabrer-Rivera	Shantal Goodwill	Rebekah Brown	Amy Mick	Fabian Rodriguez
Devante Dwyer	Briana Gordon	Zachary Compton	Nicole Norelli	Melissa Velez
Troy Griffith	Steven Griffin	Diondra Gardner	Grace Simpson	12th Grade
Margaret Manalo	Anysha Harris	Sally Gore	Alexander Van Pelt	Elizabeth Bagg
Amber Wessies	Jennifer Henry	Shaquira Hall	Gregory Washington	Maria Berriops Miran
Ninth Grade	Stephen Hines	Chris Homer	10th Grade	Jake Buchanan
Clara Buchanan	Carlton Hogan	Craig Layton	Samantha Benson	Brittany Fryson
Casey Gresenz	Katelyn Juni	Emily Martin	Timothy Fletcher	Caitlin Gresenz
Kathryn Rarig	Connor Kelly	Reid Pesnell	Lindsey Hatton	Ann Guymon
Kaitlan Vasquez	Ashton Lagutchik	Alec Porter	Daniel Heaney	James Jordan
10th Grade	Rebecca Lavender	Trevor Richardson	Kanesha Howard	Stephen Lagutchik
Jennifer Gibson	Valerie Layton	Matthew Rinehart	Bethany Langford	Beatrice Langford
Caitlin Mester	Luamala Mapu	Michael Rinehart	Wesley Lavender	Matthew Newcomer
Patrick Newcomer	Dallas Mazak	Daniel Ruiz	Lorenzo Luckie	Cody Oswald
11th Grade	Domonique Mincey	Michael Sees	Dustin Reitstetter	Glenda Plasentillo
None	Benjamin Pedro	Adam Shaw	Zekerra Rogers	Amy Rarig
12th Grade	Caitlin Prenovost	Brittany Starr	Jennifer Sees	James Raymond
Isaac Arispe	Jennifer Rios	Karen Thompson	Lukas Sheridan	Alisha Saddler
Constance Davis	Anatone Sailiata	Austin Villarreal	Kathryn Teeter	Jaimie Siegle
Joshua Heaney	Ariel Schwallie	Lindsey Wafford	11th Grade	Brittany Swiger
Leah Morris	N' dea Spivey	Ninth Grade	Roy Aviles	Kayla Villarreal
		Breanna Andrews	Anne Cenney	
		Alexandria Boykins	Alexander Dochnal	

Two top NCOs join elite Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

Story and photo by Yolanda Hagberg
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Two Soldiers were inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club Friday at Blesse Auditorium.

Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer B. Husbands, a 91G patient administration specialist assigned to the NCO Academy, and Staff Sgt. Willie Henard, a 91E dental specialist and drill sergeant assigned to A Company, 264th Medical Battalion, received their medallions and credential in front of their peers, families and an auditorium filled with Advance Initial Training Soldiers.

The ceremony was hosted by Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander.

"The desire to be part of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club comes from the heart," said Weightman.

"Nobody pushes, nobody pays you more, but it says, 'I want to be validated, I want to be the best.'

"You will represent Fort Sam Houston, the AMEDD and the Army. Continue to do more than your contemporaries, because that is what sets you apart."

Guest speaker NCO Academy Command Sgt. Maj. Howard Riles expanded on the leadership qualities exhibited by Sgt. Audie Murphy. He said after reading Sgt. Audie Murphy's biography he realized "Warrior Ethos" -- placing mission first, never accepting defeat, never quitting and never leaving a fallen comrade behind -- was in place long before the principles were printed on Army dog tags.

"Audie Murphy was about leadership. The Sgt. Audie Murphy Club is about leadership and the total leader concept of caring for Soldiers by developing them into leaders, by mentoring and training them, and providing for their families," said Riles.

"To be SAMC material you must be ahead of everyone else."

Before being selected for induction into SAMC, Husbands and Henard appeared in front of several boards, the final one in front of the most senior command sergeant major on Fort Sam Houston. The boards are tough and each board lasts about an hour and covers more than 15 topics, according to



Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy W. Burke, Army Medical Department and Center School command sergeant major, presents Staff Sgt. Willie Henard and Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Husbands with the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club medallion at a ceremony Friday at Blesse Auditorium.

1st Sgt. Clay Istre, president of the SAMC, SMA Leon Van Autreve Chapter. The questions are scenario-based and difficult to answer because there are no definitive answers.

"It was tough, but I had a lot of help getting there," said Husbands. "It was worth it.

"I've watched my peers go to the board and I'm so happy to be inducted into the club," she added.

"It is one of the most prestigious honors I've had since joining the military, said Henard.

"It's an honor to be inducted into such a prestigious club and to be among such great NCOs," he said.

"Induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club has long been seen as the ascension into the ranks of the elite NCOs of the Army," said Istre.

The SAMC fosters respect and confidence between superiors and subordinates by teaching outstanding loyalty, discipline, professionalism and caring. It promotes greater recognition of the NCO Corps and perpetuates those Army and unit traditions that contribute to esprit de corps and superior performance of duty.

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club was named for the most decorated Soldier of World War II.

Commissioning ceremony introduces eight new officers

Story and photo by Cheryl Harrison
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Eight enlisted Soldiers were commissioned to the rank of second lieutenant through the Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program Friday during a ceremony at the 32nd Medical Brigade Headquarters.

The AECPP provides eligible active duty Soldiers the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing, become a registered nurse and be commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps.

The morning's ceremony began with an invocation by Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Etterbeek. Col. Pat Patrician, chief, department of nursing science, Academy of Health Sciences, brought words of encouragement and congratulations to the Soldiers before their commissioning.

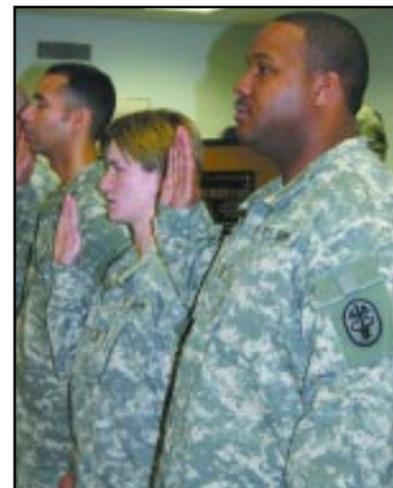
"The most noble of all professions is nursing," Patrician said. "You are among a very elite group of Soldiers. You will soon become commissioned officers in the Army and members of the Army Nurse Corps. You will bring life into the world and you will comfort those who are exiting the world."

Patrician continued, "What a privilege you have, we are the only nursing program that requires a four-year baccalaureate degree. You will care for the American Soldiers. You will be Army nurses as well as Army Soldiers, taking care of your fellow Soldiers."

The ceremony culminated with Patrician presenting the oath of office and commissioning the newly appointed officers.

Receiving the oath were Sgts. Jessica Chavez and Catrena Goldsby; Staff Sgts. Richard Howard, Paul Kiley and Abisai Negron; Sgt. 1st Class Scott Lunato; and Spcs. Lesean Wright and Melissa Roth.

After the pinning on of rank, the newly commissioned officers were presented with certificates and commemorative coins. Family and friends were present to congratulate the new Army officers.



Spcs. Lesean Wright (front) and Melissa Roth and Staff Sgt. Abisai Negron were among a group of eight Soldiers that were commissioned to the rank of second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps at a ceremony on Friday at the 32nd Medical Brigade headquarters.

Have feedback for a post customer service provider?

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Troop Salute

232nd Medical Battalion



Soldier of the Week

Name: Pvt. Michael Matney
Unit: C Company
Hometown: New Boston, Texas
Reason for joining: I joined the Army to better my life, discipline and help others.
Hobbies: Sports, construction and movies



Junior Leader of the Week

Name: Pvt. Sarah Prout
Unit: C Company
Hometown: Grass Valley, Calif.
Reason for joining: I joined the Army for discipline, medical training and to help others.
Hobbies: Track and field



Career Clips

Director of material management, San Antonio - Responsibilities include purchasing, supply distribution, warehousing, inventory control; not-for-profit private hospital with supportive administration; great 40 FTE team in the Materials Management Department; strong materials management IT skills.

Financial adviser, San Antonio - Responsible for opening new accounts and managing existing accounts; must be able to respond to customer requests for market quotes and money market rates and handle all other customer inquiries via phone, letters and e-mail; Series 7, Series 6, Series 24, Series 63, life, accident, health insurance license preferred.

Human resources specialist, San Antonio - Assists with administrative areas of staffing such as completing phone screens, conducting employment testing, scheduling interviews, notifying candidates of status in recruiting process, compiling and sending offer letters, completing background checks and scheduling and conducting new hire orientation; create and distribute presentations, spreadsheets and documents.

The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP Office, Building 2264, or by calling 221-1213.



Photo by 1st Lt. Julie Mills

Gift warms family's hearts

Pfc. Laura Lucas and her husband, Roy, cuddle with their new daughter, Aspen, under a homemade quilt donated by the Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild. The guild donated the quilt to the Wilford Hall Birthing Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to be given to the first baby born there March 18, in honor of National Quilt Day. Aspen was born March 18 at 3:57 a.m. Lucas is assigned to the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Sam Houston.



Congratulations to the following graduates from Wayland Baptist University:

Bachelor's degree
 Sgt. 1st Class Eric Cooper
 Staff Sgt. Jan E. Blount

Sgt. 1st Class Lemailoa Tuiasosopo
 Staff Sgt. Deinor Bolanos
 Staff Sgt. Mario Lefiti
 Staff Sgt. Micaela Reyes
 Staff Sgt. Cynthia Spencer
 Sgt. Erika Alviar

Pfc. Brice Taylor
 Randall Heiser
 Robert Murphy
 Adrian Pena

Associate's degree
 First Sgt. Alfred Rodriguez
 Sgt. 1st Class Keith Pernel
 Staff Sgt. Arthur Liker
 Spc. Jennifer Rader
 Retired Sgt. 1st Class Veronica McClain
 (Source: Army Continuing Education System)

Combat medical course teaches 'tricks of the trade' to deploying Soldiers

By Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Military medical professionals may be well-versed in emergency medical care, but many are less experienced in the one area that can dictate life or death for their patients in an austere combat environment – practical experience.

A new Army Medical Department Center and School course is being developed to remedy the problem by filling the gap between textbook knowledge and on-the-job medical training for combat environments.

The five-day Joint Forces Combat Trauma Management Course trains medical professionals from all military branches and disciplines on the contemporary "tricks of the trade" for medical care downrange. The course caters to a variety of specialists including surgeons, emergency physicians, general practitioners, anesthesiologists, physical therapists and nurses.

The cadre of course instructors mirror the joint environment attendees will find in the field, with experienced instructors from the Army, Air Force and Navy.

"We want to give students a depth and breadth of practical training that they are able to adapt to the clinical realities of the combat environment," said Col. Brian Eastridge, chief of trauma and surgical critical care, Brooke Army Medical Center, and course co-developer of the Joint Forces Combat Trauma Management Course.

The latest class, which wrapped up Saturday, comprised 120 Soldiers of the 21st Combat Support Hospital from Fort Hood, Texas, who are preparing for a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Instruction is focused on skills needed downrange with classes such as combat casualty resuscitation, infectious diseases on the battlefield, critical care in the combat support hospital and a variety of courses in combat-related injury care.

Additionally, instructors "tailor training to the deploying unit, depending on where the unit is deploying," Eastridge said. "For example, if a unit will be working with detainees, then, along with trauma care, we'll also give briefings on the Geneva Convention, medical ethics and detainee medicine."

The joint-service instructors also tailor the course with the students' specific job skill needs in mind, with "break-out" sessions that focus on medical specialties rather than just a mass training.

"A surgeon's skills are very different than those needed by an anesthesiologist, so our break-out sessions are custom-designed to deliver combat trauma training that will be needed in the field," Eastridge said.

The most recent class included break-out sessions in anesthesiology, surgery, nursing and emergency medicine.

Whether together as a group or in a specialty session, the instructors keep a common theme as they pass on practical information learned from personal experience.

"We're familiarizing these Soldiers with what they will confront in Iraq," said Col. Delois Robinson, BAMC chief of wound and ostomy services. "They're done the theory; these are the skills so they can function."

Instructors pass on tips, such as important equipment to have on hand or how to improvise in an emergency situation.

"The goal of this is more than clinical; we want to teach them to use the equipment they don't see every day in a stateside hospital," said Maj. Daniel St. Armand, who developed the nursing break-out session using his personal experiences in Afghanistan and input from deployed Soldiers in Iraq.

"I took a little piece from everyone and put the best parts together," St. Armand said, adding that he wanted to teach nurses about the "pitfalls of equipment so no one has the deer in the headlights look" when they arrive in country.

"When people first get there, their emotions are running high but the technical expertise isn't there," he said. "It's a steep learning curve. It's a huge advantage to see the equipment here first and have some hands-on experience."

St. Armand said his knowledge comes from first-hand experience. He recalled having to take on tasks untraditional for a nurse when deployed. "I had to learn how to do ultrasound. That's not common for a nurse but its better to learn it here than improvise there so we're teaching it."

Although familiar with stateside emergency care, 1st Lt. Ernest Dorema said he was gaining invaluable experience for his upcoming deployment. "We're getting the viewpoint from people who have deployed so it's a big advantage," said Dorema, who traveled from Hawaii to attend the course.



Photo by Col. Brian Eastridge

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Todd Rasmussen, an instructor for the Joint Forces Combat Trauma Management Course, teaches vascular surgical exposures Saturday at the Army Medical Department Center and School.



Photo by Col. Brian Eastridge

Jeff Clark, 21st Combat Support Hospital commander, instructs team members on surgical techniques Saturday during a surgery "break-out" at the Army Medical Department Center and School's cadaver lab.

So far the only course attendees have been Soldiers, but with three classes under their belts, instructors hope the word spreads to other services.

"This course has been a huge success," Eastridge said. "Our hope is that it will continue to evolve and grow into a mandatory medical predeployment training platform."

For more information, call Eastridge at 916-7104.



Photo by Elaine Wilson

First Lt. Loreto Biete practices a vacuum assisted closure dressing.



Photo by Elaine Wilson

Maj. Patrick McAndrew explains how to transport critically ill patients while 1st Lt. Sharon Owen looks on.



Photo by Maj. Larry Crowl

Barbecue time

Wounded warriors, their families and Soldiers from Brooke Army Medical Center enjoy a complimentary barbecue Tuesday served by the Y.O. Ranch in the Hill Country. The feast included fresh venison recently shot by the Marines invited to hunt at the ranch.

Ball moss pesky to some, but harmless

As trees lose their leaves during the winter, it becomes apparent that many trees are infested in varying degrees with ball moss.

Ball moss, or *tillandsia recurvata*, is a small epiphyte or "air plant" commonly found clinging to the limbs of live oaks and other trees.

For many home owners the moss is unsightly and there is concern that the ball moss kills trees. However, ball moss is not a moss, but a true plant with flowers and seeds. It is a member of the bromeliad family, which also contains Spanish moss, pineapples and a carnivorous relative native to Australia.

Epiphytes are plants that attach themselves to limbs, tree trunks, power lines, fences and many other structures with pseudo, or fake, roots. These are not true roots and do not absorb water and minerals; they merely attach the plant to an aerial structure. They get water and minerals from the water which flows across leaves and down branches. Therefore, since epiphytes do not take nutrients and water from limbs or tree trunks, they are not parasites.

Ball moss prefers an environment with low sunlight intensity and high humidity. The interior canopy of trees, especially live oaks, provides an ideal environment for ball moss to grow. The interior limbs die from lack of sunlight and then ball moss colonizes these branches; ball moss does not kill the tree limbs.

Control of ball moss is not necessary unless the tree is so heavily covered that the exterior of the canopy is covered or the owner is bothered by moss. Control is accomplished by picking, pruning or spraying, or a combination of these three methods. Picking involves physically pulling each

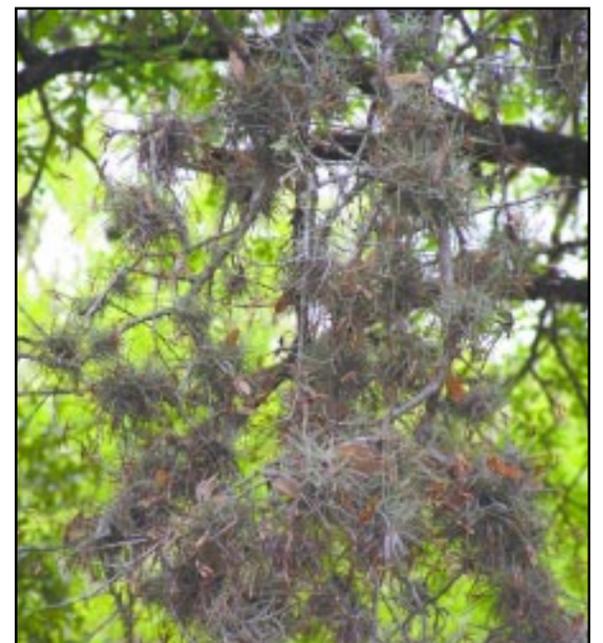


Photo by Cheryl Harrison

Ball moss is prevalent in the interior canopy of trees, particularly live oaks, but is not harmful to tree limbs.

plant off of the tree and is very labor intensive. Pruning involves cutting and removing the dead interior limbs or lightly thinning the canopy to provide more sunlight to the interior. This will discourage future infestation. Spraying involves applying a chemical — kocide 101 or baking soda — to the tree in a foliar spray. People should prune out the dead wood first before spraying. By doing so, people are removing the majority of the ball moss from the tree and practicing proper tree maintenance at the same time.

For more information, call the Fort Sam Houston Environmental Office at 221-4842.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Environmental Office)

Water-saving tips

- Avoid planting turf in areas that are hard to water such as steep inclines and isolated strips along sidewalks and driveways.
- Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around pumps.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost instead and save gallons every time.
- Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinks.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Environmental Office)



BAMC pays tribute to women past, present

Story and photo by
Norma Guerra
Brooke Army Medical
Center Public Affairs Office

“Women Builders of Communities and Dreams” was the theme for this year’s Women’s History Month ceremony March 23 at Brooke Army Medical Center, where attendees learned about the positive impact women have made in the history of the nation and the military.

As guests were seated, a video played to show women from throughout history in various jobs and women presently working at BAMC.

Capt. Stephanie Sido, A Company commander, welcomed everyone to the event and introduced Staff Sgt. Cornelius Whitaker, who sang the national anthem, and Lt. Col. Margaret Fournier, who sang “Peace in the Valley.” Both performances received a standing ovation.

Staff Sgt. Maria Murria read Maya Angelou’s poem, “Phenomenal Woman,” in honor of Col. Lark Ford, BAMC deputy commander for nursing and guest speaker for the event.

Ford’s speech included a tribute to Judith Markelz, director of the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, for her selfless service to wounded warriors recuperating at BAMC and their family members.

“Rather than to honor contributions made in the past, I would like to take this opportunity to honor those of the present,” Ford said.

Markelz, who was unable to attend the ceremony, was later presented her award by Ford at the SFAC.

The event was sponsored by the Brooke Army Medical Center Equal Opportunity office.



Col. Lark Ford, Brooke Army Medical Center deputy commander for nursing, presents Judith Markelz, director of the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, a Women’s History Month award March 23 for contributions made to wounded warriors and their families at the SFAC.

RELIGION

Religious Happenings . . .

Easter Sunrise Service

There will be an outdoor ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service April 16 at 6:45 a.m. next to the Main Post Chapel.

Chapel youth group

The Fort Sam Houston chapel youth group meets Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. The group is open to seventh through 12th graders, and is sponsored by the chapel congregations. The theme, “Where Faith and Life Meet,” is incorporated in fun activities, Bible applications and off-post events. Adults are invited to help and join in the fun. For more information, call Joanne Benson at 599-0157.

PWOC weekly Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invites women in the Fort Sam Houston community to weekly Bible studies at Dodd Field Chapel. The daytime study meets Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and the evening study meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is provided for both studies. For more information, call Lois Griffith at 226-1295 or visit <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain/Womensministry/>.

PWOC seeks homeschool moms

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invites women who homeschool their children to attend PWOC programs Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Dodd Field Chapel. For more information, call Jenifer Sones at 271-3174 or e-mail jecsones@earthlink.net.

Officers' Christian Fellowship

The Officers’ Christian Fellowship meets on the first and third Sunday of every month at 1008 Gorgas Circle, near the old Brooke Army Medical Center building. Study is from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and includes a home-cooked meal. Participants are studying “The Minor Prophets.” For more information, call Lt. Col. Robert Griffith at 226-1295 or 221-8857 or e-mail rgriffith3@satx.r.com or robert.griffith1@amedd.army.mil.

**For the chapel services schedule, visit
www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain.**

MWR hotline

Information about MWR events, activities and programs is available 24 hours a day. For more information, call the MWR hotline at 295-3697 or visit www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com.

Community Recreation

Sealed bid auction

Non-appropriated funds will accept sealed bids on two horses currently located at the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center. The horses range in age from 23 to 27 years. The purchaser will be responsible for removing the horses from the Equestrian Center premises. The horses may be viewed by appointment. Sealed bids will be accepted until close of business April 12. Bids will be opened April 14 at 8 a.m. For more information, call the Equestrian Center at 224-7207, or Cynthia Tripoli or Joe Cavanagh at 221-3185.

Hike Government Canyon

A guided three to five mile hike will be held April 8 in Government Canyon. The cost is \$18 per person which includes transportation, lunch, guide, entrance fee and photos. The hike is open to ages 12 and older, and children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Sign up by March 31. For more information, call Jeffrey Heagerty at 221-5554 or e-mail jeffrey.heagerty@samhouston.army.mil.

Post garage sale

The next post garage sale will be held May 6 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the MacArthur Pavilion parking lot. There is no cost to participate, but individuals selling items must pre-register by calling 221-2601 or 221-2523. A valid Department of Defense identification card is required to participate. Participants must bring their own tables to the event or may rent them from the Outdoor Equipment Center by calling 221-5224.

Archery lessons

Indoor archery lessons from beginners to professional level are offered at the Archery Training Center at the Outdoor Recreation Center. Lessons are by appointment only Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Special group sessions are available on the weekend. For more information or to make an appointment, call the Outdoor Recreation Center at 221-5225 or 221-5224.

Fun run/walk

The BG Johnson 5K and 10K Fun Run/Walk has been rescheduled to April 22 at 8 a.m. at the Brigade Gym. If interested in participating, call the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center at 221-2020 or the race director at 385-8248.

Lifeguard class

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center will sponsor a Red Cross lifeguard class Saturday and Sunday, and April 8 and 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day. Participants must be 15 years old and up. Cost is \$165 and includes course materials and AED training. No Department of Defense ID card is required for this class. For more information or to register, call 295-8861 or 221-1234.

Federal tax forms

Federal tax and supplemental forms for 2005 are available at the Fort Sam Houston Library. Tax forms from previous years through 1997 are also available. For more information, call 221-4702.

Cruiser bikes for rent

New men's and women's cruiser bikes are available for rent at the Outdoor Recreation Center. Cost is \$3 a day or \$5 for the weekend, and includes bicycle helmet and combination lock. For more information, call 221-5225, or visit the Outdoor Recreation Center at 1111 Forage Ave.

Intramural sports

People interested in a team sport should consider joining an intramural varsity sports league. Participation in intramural sports

enhances individual morale and unit esprit de corps, promotes teamwork and encourages individuals to reach high levels of physical fitness. For more information or to join, call 221-1180.

Dining and Entertainment

Sam Houston Club, 224-2721

Sunday brunch

Sunday Brunch will be held Sunday and April 16 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club. New features have been added to enhance the family-style atmosphere to include a kids' meal station, a chocolate fondue station, a complimentary champagne fountain and an international food station. Children under 6 years old eat free. For more information, call the Sam Houston Club at 224-2721.

Bowling Center, 221-3683

Family day bowling

Every Sunday is Family Day at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. Children under 12 years old bowl free from 2 to 9 p.m. when accompanied by a paying adult. For more information, call 221-4740.

Bowling championship

The Bowling Center will sponsor a free bowling championship April 8 and 9 starting at 12 p.m. on both days. Any five members of the same unit may form a team. There is no requirement to enter averages. The top two teams will be given individual awards. The registration deadline is Monday. For more information or to register, call John Fryman at 221-3683.

'Bowl-A-Jam'

"Bowl-A-Jam" is Saturdays from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person, which includes shoes and one order of fries per lane. Stop by for music and fun.

Golf Club, 221-4388

Golf clinic

The golf course will hold a ladies golf clinic for beginners every Tuesday in April from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$120. For more information, call 355-5429.

April special

Get 10 lessons for \$150. Open to men and women of any level of experience. To register, call 355-5429.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre, 222-9694

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will present the comedy production, "Breaking Legs," by Tom Dulack April 12. In this production, murder and menace are served up with plenty of pasta and laughter. For more information or reservations, call 222-9694. The Harlequin Dinner Theatre box office is open Monday through Friday from 12 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. Military discounts are available.

MWR Ticket Office, 226-1663

Season passes to Fiesta Texas, Disney World and Universal Studios are available. For more information, call 226-1663 or 224-2721.

March Madness

The Bowling Center continues March Madness through April 7.

Participate in Final Four Fridays for a chance to win \$100 cash. Bowl all you want Friday nights from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. for \$4.95 per person, including shoes. Wear any basketball apparel and receive an entry form to enter the \$100 cash drawing.

The 2006 Bowling Center March Madness promotion is sponsored by MWR, First Command Financial Planning, Home Depot, Southwest Airlines and San Antonio Federal Credit Union.

For more information, call the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center at 221-4740.

Child and Youth Services

Youth Services registration

Youth Services registration is Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Central Registration, Building 2797, Stanley Road. Central Registration takes walk-ins and appointments. To register, parents need to bring current shot records, name and telephone number of two local emergency contacts, physical exam or well baby check completed within the last 12 months with physician's signature affixed, child's Social Security number and proof of total family income such as a current leave and earnings statement or pay stub. There is an \$18 annual registration fee per child, maximum \$40 per family of three or more registering participants. For more information, call Roxanne Lacy at 221-4871 or Arlene Alvarez at 221-1723.

Summer camp registration

Early onsite middle school/teen and School Age Services summer camp registration will be held April 10 to 14 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Building 1705 for active duty only. Registration for the community and active duty will be held April 17 to 21 at Building 1630 A from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration is required for the camps even if currently using the program. A one week non-refundable deposit will be required. A current Child and Youth Services membership is required to participate. For membership registration, parents must bring a current leave and earning statement, current immunizations for kindergarten to fifth grade, physical for kindergarten to fifth grade, two local emergency designees and \$18 for the registration fee. For more information, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Free after-school program

Youth Services offers a free after-school program for sixth to 10th graders Monday through Friday until 6 p.m. YS will pick up children from the school (either the elementary or the high school). At the Youth Center, they will have a snack, work

on homework, participate in clubs and do fun, innovative projects at the 4-H club, photography club and the computer tech club. Youth must be registered with Child and Youth Services. The annual fee is \$18, but there is no cost for the program. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-4871.

Youth Services volunteers

Youth Services is looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs such as golf, roller hockey, tennis, computers and arts and crafts. Volunteers with typing or filing skills are needed for the administrative office. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Open recreation

School Age Services will offer open recreation the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 2 to 6 p.m. in Building 1705. Activities include computers, arts and crafts, table and board games, gym activities and special events. All children must have a current Child and Youth Services registration pass. Parents must sign children in and out of the School Age building. For more information, call School Age Services at 221-4466.

Baseball, T-ball, softball registration ongoing

Registration for youth baseball is ongoing from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Central Registration, Building 2797. To register, parents must pay a \$45 activity baseball fee and bring updated immunizations for fifth graders and below, sports physical and a current leave and earnings statement. All participants must have a current Child and Youth Services membership. For more information, call 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Piano lessons available

Piano lessons are offered Monday through Saturday from 3:30 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$60 per month for four 30-minute lessons. Classes are for ages 6 to 18 and children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. For more information or to sign up, call 221-4871 or 221-9613.

Parent Advisory Council meeting

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council

will meet April 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center. Lunch will be provided. All CYS patrons are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to meet staff, learn of upcoming events and attend parent education opportunities.

Part-day preschool program

Patrons interested in the part-day preschool program at the Child Development Center can call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723. Preschool is Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fees are based on total family income.

Home-based child care

Family Child Care offers home-based child care for ages 4 weeks to 12 years on and off post with certified providers. FCC offers full-day, part-day, before- and after-school care, hourly care, extended hourly care and long-term care. For referral information or child registration, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Family Child Care Online

Family Child Care Online is a marketing tool that allows parents to take a virtual tour of FCC homes. In addition, parents can read about the provider's philosophy of care, hours of operation and background. This online tool can be accessed through the Child and Youth Services Central Registration office at Building 2797 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CDC waiting list

To remain on the waiting list for the Child Development Center parents are advised to check their status every 90 days. To check status, call the Child and Youth Services Central Registration office at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

FCC providers

Family Child Care is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers. There is a no-cost start-up plan. For more information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

Events

Fisher House Golf Tournament

The annual Fisher House Golf Tournament at The Dominion Country Club will be held April 10; tee time is 1:30 p.m. Tournament cost is \$110 per person, and includes green fees, cart fee, box lunch and dinner, T-shirt and assorted prizes. For more information, call Ellyn Gilbert at 481-1161 or Irene Meadows at 403-0199.

Annual Tour of Homes

The Fort Sam Houston annual Tour of Homes will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 on the day of the tour. For more information, call Liz Schreckhise at 270-2114 or Licia Rothfuss at 222-9464.

Hero's barbecue

The VFW Post 7108 in Helotes, Texas, will sponsor a barbecue Saturday to salute active duty military members. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Fisher Houses at Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Joel Brown at 256-1972 or 771-9239 or John Evans at 688-9312 or 854-6638.

'Muster Days' at Camp Mabry

The Texas National Guard will host "Muster Days" Saturday and Sunday at 9 a.m. at Camp Mabry, West 35th Street, Austin, Texas. The weekend will feature military exhibits, World War II battle re-enactments, parade, a band concert, an F-16 fly-over, food booths and activities for children. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeff Cline at (512) 782-5467 or (512) 782-5659.

National Alcohol Screening Day

"Life on the Rocks?" a National Alcohol Screening Day, will be held April 6 to help people recognize the signs of an alcohol problem and learn where to get support and treatment locally. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Katherine Cruise at (781) 239-0071 or visit www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org.

AACOG accepting nominations

The Alamo Area Council of Governments is now accepting nominations for the 2006 AACOG Regional Awards. Forms must be submitted by May 1 at 4 p.m. Nomination forms can be obtained from the AACOG offices at 8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 700, by fax at 225-5937 or online at www.aacog.com/award. Categories for nomination are Regional Citizen of the Year, Corporate Citizen of the Year, Community Project of the Year and Governmental Regional Project of the Year. Nominations are open to the public. For more information, call 362-5204 or e-mail mail@aacog.com.

St. Philip's presents 'Ain't Misbehavin'

The St. Philip's College Department of Fine Arts will present a local production of the popular Broadway musical revue "Ain't Misbehavin'" Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Matinees will be Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the theater of the Watson Fine Arts Center. Admission is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information, call 531-3321.

Canyon Lake Area walk

The New Braunfels Marsch-und Wandergruppe Volksmarch Club will host a 10K walk Saturday starting at the Community Resource and Recreation Center of Canyon Lake at 125 Mabel Jones Drive, below Canyon Dam. For more information, call Helgard Suhr-Hollis at (830) 625-6330 or visit www.muw.walktexas.org/.

San Marcos River, university walk

The San Marcos River Walkers Volksmarch Club will host a 5K and 10K walk along the San Marcos River, old railroad stations and part of Texas State campus April 8 and 9, starting at the City Park recreation hall at 200 City Park Drive. For more

information, call Barbara Piersol at (512) 396-4463 or e-mail bpiersol@grandecom.net.

Senior Games of San Antonio

The Barshop Jewish Community Center will host the 2006 Senior Games of San Antonio from Friday to April 9. Save \$5 by registering before Friday. The registration fee is \$20 and applications can be obtained at the Barshop JCC, all Wellmed Medical Management and Barnacle Bill's locations, and most bowling alleys, cycling shops and running stores or register at www.saseniorgames.com. Applications must be received by Friday. For more information, call the Senior Games Hotline at 302-6820.

Vet Center offers free counseling

The Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in San Antonio offers free, confidential counseling sessions to combat veterans and their families. Sexual trauma counseling also is available to veterans who experienced sexual assault or harassment while on active duty. Veterans must have a DD Form 214 as proof of eligibility. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call the center at 472-4025, visit www.va.gov/rcs or stop by the Vet Center at 231 W. Cypress, next to San Antonio College.

Fiesta ticket sales

Tickets for Fiesta events will go on sale Friday at the Fiesta San Antonio Commission's Consolidated Ticket Sales office, 2611 Broadway. Ticket sale hours at The Fiesta® Store are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are limited. For more information, visit www.fiesta-sa.org.

Meetings

Sergeants Major Association

The Fort Sam Houston Sergeants Major Association has temporarily changed its meeting time to April 13, May 18 and June 15 at 5 p.m. in the Sam Houston Club. All active duty and retired sergeants major and command sergeants major (E-9 from all services) are welcome to participate in this community-based fraternal association. For more information, call Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Burke at 221-8050 or Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Paskos at 221-1676.

Health care community meeting

Christus Santa Rose Health Care will sponsor a health care community meeting April 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the San Fernando Cathedral community center at 231 W. Commerce St. The informative meeting will cover the health care system. Seating is limited. For more information, call 704-2955 or visit www.citizenshealthcare.gov.

BAMC chess club

The Brooke Army Medical Center chess club meets every Wednesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the BAMC Medical Mall. The club is open to military and their dependents, civilians and patients; experience is not necessary. People can bring a chess set, or sets can be provided on site. For more information, call Sgt. Michael Veri at 513-3435 or e-mail michael.veri@cen.amedd.army.mil.

BOSS seeks single Soldiers

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldiers input to the commander, who uses the committee's recommendations to improve single Soldiers' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Micaela Reyes at 221-8947.

Training

ROA offers college scholarships

The Reserve Officers Association will award up to 60 \$500 Reilly Scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students for the

2006-2007 school year. Undergraduate applicants must be the children, grandchildren or spouses of ROA members. Graduate applicants must be ROA members. ROA membership is open to any officer (active, Reserve, National Guard, retired or former) of the seven uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. To join ROA, call (800) 809-9448 or visit www.roa.org. For more information, call Chandra Oliphant (800) 809-9448, ext. 730.

Scholarships in health care careers

The PacificCare Foundation and the UnitedHealthcare Latino Health Scholars program offers 75 \$2,000 scholarships to Spanish speaking, bicultural high school students who want to pursue careers in the health care industry. Applicants must be high school seniors with a minimum grade point average of 3.0; fluent in Spanish and English; show proof of acceptance into a university, community college or accredited technical college; and enrolled in an approved health care program at the time they receive the scholarship. Applications are due May 29; visit www.pacificarelato.com.

Army seeks warrant officers

The U.S. Army seeks highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 41 specialties. Current application shortages include military intelligence, special operations, ammunition technician and many more. For more information, call (502) 626-0328, 626-0466, 626-0484, 626-0458, 626-0271 or 626-1860; or call toll free at (800) 223-3735, ext. 6 and enter the last four digits of the phone number; or visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant.

GED classes offered

General Equivalency Diploma classes are offered Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, Stanley Road. Sessions are free and open to all military and dependents with ID cards. For more information or to register, call Gabriele Dias at 221-0516 or Jennifer Swiger at 221-0427.

MOAA job seminar

The Military Officers Association presents retired Col. Dick Crampton April 11 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Blesse Auditorium, Building 2841, Stanley Road. His presentation, "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career," will cover several topics on job marketing after retirement. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call Russ Lane at 221-1213.

416th IMA Detachment openings

The 416th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment has openings for all ranks. The unit provides training opportunities for Individual Ready Reserve and IMA Soldiers to earn retirement points to achieve creditable years of service toward retirement Thursday evenings. For more information, call Col. John Daly at 859-9214 or e-mail john.daly1@us.army.mil.

University of Phoenix representative

The University of Phoenix online representative, Eric Hager, will visit the Fort Sam Houston Education Center, Building 2248, Room 201, Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call 221-1738, Eric Hager at (602) 421-4491 or e-mail eric.hager@phoenix.edu.

USAA job clinic

The Family Employment Readiness and Army Career and Alumni Program office will host a clinic with a USAA recruiter Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. A valid military or dependent ID card is required; bring resume. A USAA recruiter will be available until 12 p.m. for those who are unable to attend the clinic. No reservations are required for this session. For more informa-

tion and reservations, call Gabriele Dias at 221-0516 or Jennifer Swiger at 221-0427.

'Troops to Teachers' briefing

The Army Career and Alumni Program will host a "Troops to Teachers" and "Spouses to Teachers" briefing April 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Army Career and Alumni Program, Building 2263, Room B-100, Stanley Road. Meryl Kettler, the state coordinator of TTT and STT, will brief about programs and will be available to answer questions afterwards.

St. Mary's University education office

A St. Mary's University representative is available Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Building 2248, Room 206, to assist individuals interested in pursuit of a master's degree in teacher certification. For more information, call Iona Million at 226-3360.

Disney 'CareerStart' program

Disney "CareerStart" recruiters are interviewing candidates for a paid opportunity at the Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Fla. Interested students must attend a presentation hosted by a Disney "CareerStart" recruiter or an online presentation to interview for the program. The program is open to anyone who has earned a diploma or GED in the past 18 months, and to high school students graduating this spring. Participants must be at least 18 years old prior to arrival date. For more information, e-mail wdw.disneycareerstart.recruiting@disneyworld.com or visit www.disneycareerstart.com.

Volunteer

Post volunteers needed

The Fort Sam Houston Army Volunteer Corps needs volunteers to help enhance and augment programs and organizations in the Fort Sam Houston community. Volunteers are needed at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre, Youth Services, the Red Cross and at the Fisher House Golf Tournament April 10. For more information, call Kim Taylor at 221-0921 or e-mail kimberly.taylor2@samhouston.army.mil.

Conservation Society needs volunteers

The San Antonio Conservation Society needs volunteers to help build and set up booths for the "A Night in Old San Antonio" event April 25 to 28. For more information, call Glenda Duffin at 226-5188.

Study seeks effects of deployment

Lt. Col. Mona Ternus, a Reserve nurse and a professor at the University of New Mexico, College of Nursing, is conducting a study to identify issues associated with deployment and military mothers of adolescent children. Women who deployed between January 2003 and June 2005, with an adolescent between the ages of 12 to 18 can participate. The survey is anonymous and takes about 30 minutes. A certificate will be issued at the end of the survey. To participate in the study or for more information, visit <http://hsc.unm.edu/cons/ternus/Invitation.htm> or e-mail mternus@salud.unm.edu or call Lt. Col. Ternus at (505) 272-4142.

Wilford Hall conducts vascular study

The vascular surgery service at Wilford Hall Medical Center has been chosen to participate in a national trial looking at the effectiveness of "Stent Graft" treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms versus standard open repair. The trial is named "Positive Impact of Endo Vascular Options for Treating Aneurysms Early," or PIVOTAL. The study will evaluate patients diagnosed with small aneurysms to see if there is an advantage to treating the aneurysms at an earlier or smaller stage. For more information, call the Wilford Hall Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Clinic at 292-5924.

Fort Sam Houston's lost and found

For lost property on Fort Sam Houston, call the found property custodian at the Fort Sam Houston Police Department at 221-0990. All found property is held for 45 days.

Submission guidelines:

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. Real estate ads will not be published. To submit a Fort

Freebie, e-mail to news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or fax to **295-0512**. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. Limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-1031.



For Sale: 2002 Chrysler Voyager, V6, 37,500 miles, onyx green, \$11,000 obo. Call Hector at 381-5722 or 381-8870.

For Sale: Contemporary Ashley sofa, sage green with off-white piping, new, \$250 obo. Call 875-5890.

For Sale: Wood futon with dark blue cushion, \$100. Call 373-7095.

For Sale: Two Wilson Hyper Hammer 6.2 tennis racquets, \$40 each; dog clippers complete with multiple blades, \$50. Call Eva at 385-0415.

For Sale: 1987 Honda Civic, four-door, automatic, \$600 obo. Call 861-9883.

For Sale: Donkey, \$350 obo. Call

394-3210 or (830) 665-2508.

For Sale: Splash above-ground pool, 20-foot diameter and 4-foot deep, includes motor, pump, ladder, fountain and cleaning accessories, \$500 obo; PiggyPack car top carrier with waterproof liner, \$50. Call 259-3076.

For Sale: Wedding dress, short sleeves, heavily beaded, 8-foot train, veil and underskirt, size 4 to 6, \$125 obo. Call 475-9973.

For Sale: Solid oak bunk beds with mattresses, under storage unit and matching four drawer chest, \$300; large trampoline with net, \$100. Call 212-5725.

For Sale: 1994 Toyota Tercel, auto-

matic, CD stereo, four-door, air conditioned and new tires, needs engine work, \$550. Call 262-5501 or 566-2169.

For Sale: White PlayStation portable with two games including Socom 3, \$220. Call (219) 718-7576.

For Sale: Coffee table, rectangle, solid brass and glass table, intricate brass legs with beveled end, glass top, \$250 obo. Call 818-6585.

For Sale: White wicker desk, \$60; area rug, 5.5 feet by 7.5 feet with red, blue, beige and off-white colors, \$50; area rug, 8.5 feet by 10.75 feet, wool weave in light blue border with beige and light browns, \$100; antique white metal bed

frame with side rails, four pieces, full size, \$75; Noritake dish set, 40 pieces, desert flower pattern, \$95. Call 495-2296.

For Sale: Leather loveseat, \$250; recliner/rocker, \$25; china cabinet with hutch, \$75; office chair, \$25; two end tables, \$50 each or \$75 both. Call 824-8986.

For Sale: RCA 27-inch TV, \$25; computer desk, \$25; patio set with four chairs, \$150; Dazey hair dryer, \$20; two Holmes air purifiers, \$15 each or \$25 both. Call 650-0108.

For Sale: Two fiberglass roof top cargo carriers, van, \$85; auto, \$30. Call 659-6741.