

# FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

"HOME OF ARMY MEDICINE"



Photo by Cheryl Harrison

During the Change of Command ceremony for the U.S. Army Medical Command Dec. 13 the colors are passed from Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon to Maj. Gen. Gale Pollock, who passes the colors to the Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody signifying her relinquishment of command. Cody passes the colors to Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker charging him with command of the unit. Schoomaker then passes the colors back to Dixon who returns the colors to the color bearer, signifying the trust and confidence in the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

## Schoomaker new MEDCOM commander

By Jerry Harben  
U.S. Army Medical Command

Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker assumed command of the Army's largest medical organization during a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston Dec. 13.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody passed the flag of U.S. Army Medical Command to Schoomaker, who replaces Maj. Gen. Gale Pollock, acting commander since March. Pollock now serves as deputy surgeon general for force management.

As MEDCOM commander, Schoomaker has command authority over Army fixed-facility medical, dental and veterinary units in the United States and Europe. Earlier in the week he was promoted and sworn in for his "second hat" as Army

See **SCHOOMAKER P14**

## Training combat medics led to Lifetime Achievement Award

By Cheryl Harrison  
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The National Registry of EMT's Rocco Morando Award, named for the first director of the National Registry, presented its annual award to Col. (Dr.) Patricia Hastings director of U.S. Army Emergency Medical Services, for her work with combat medics, at the National Association of EMT's Annual Awards Dinner in Orlando, Fla. in October. Recipients of the award are recognized for their contributions and improvements to pre-hospital care and the EMS community. NAEMT is the national association of EMTs and paramedics that

works to improve emergency care world-wide.

After the first Gulf War, then Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. James Peake reviewed the lessons and decided to create a more advanced medic, with more training, more ability and with a certification. This certification was an external validation device similar to the way physicians and nurses take medical and nursing boards.

Hastings said "We know the Army has some of the best, brightest and most dedicated medics in the U.S., but this certification proves that we meet the same requirements as civilian emergency services. If you have the misfortune to need emergency

care, whether on Fort Sam or anywhere in the world, the combat medic is trained, ready and provides care anywhere. As we have seen in the current conflict this Combat Medic with advanced skills brings back patients instead of victims."

The Army reclassified all 91 Bravo Medical Specialists to 91 Whiskey Healthcare Specialists. The transition consisted of two steps: National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician certification and Combat Medic Advanced Skills Training.

See **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT P7**

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### CONSTRUCTION



Construction areas will affect parking on post

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### JOIN THE CLUB



Mission of Sam Houston Club is to serve

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### HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Have a safe, happy holiday season from the News Leader staff. The next issue will be out Jan. 10.

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: NEWS.LEADER@CONUS.ARMY.MIL**

# BRAC construction begins, affects parking near BAMC

By Phil Reidinger

Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

Starting Dec. 31, a section of Lot A at Brooke Army Medical Center will be closed to begin the construction of the Joint Center of Excellence for Battlefield Health and Trauma Research.

Because of the construction, a total of 324 parking spaces in Lot A will not be available. Staff parking spaces

in Lot A will be relocated to parking lots on George Beach Avenue in the vicinity of BAMC and adjacent parking space at the east side of the Navy and Marine Reserve Training Center which have sufficient capacity to replace parking spaces lost due to the construction.

The 103,000-square-foot facility will house the Department of Defense Combat Casualty Care Research, along with the U.S.

Army Institute of Surgical Research. Currently, ISR is located on the BAMC campus.

The construction of the BHT is the result of the Base Realignment and Closure 2005 legislation, and joins together the following services: Combat Casualty Care Research missions and functions of Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the Combat Casualty Care Directorate of the Naval Medical Research Center

from Forest Glen, Md.; U.S. Army Dental and Trauma Research Detachment, Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research, and Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service from Great Lakes, Ill.; and the U.S. Army Medical Research Detachment from Brooks City Base in San Antonio.

Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2009.

## Keep safety in mind this holiday season

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays just as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportune time for crime.

During the holidays homes are jam packed with glittering gifts; stores, malls and downtown streets are filled with unsuspecting shoppers; and people rush around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. All this combined is enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy.

Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

### If traveling

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.
- Call or stop by the military police station and sign up for the House Watch Program.

### If out for the evening

- Turn on lights and a radio or televi-

sion so it looks like someone is home.

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

### If shopping

- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Park in a well-lit space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pocket.
- If shopping with kids, teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- Be aware of scam artists offering you a deal that is too good to be true.

### Take a holiday inventory

The holidays are a good time to update, or create your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If

your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file. Make sure things like televisions, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools are on the list. Remember to check it twice.

If a stranger comes to the door, beware. Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. And, it's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.

Last, but not least, don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Make time to get together with family, friends and neighbors. And, think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who is less fortunate or lonely.

Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody — except criminals.

To report suspicious activity, call the Fort Sam Houston Police at 221-2222. (Source: Provost Marshal Office)



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## News Briefs

### Holiday office closures

#### Garrison Command suite

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Sam Houston Command Suite, Base Transformation Office and Program Analysis and Integration Office, located in Building 122 will be closed Monday and Tuesday, due to Executive Order Closing of Executive Departments and the Christmas holiday. The office will re-open Wednesday for normal duty hours and will close Jan. 1 for New Year's Day. The office will re-open Jan. 2 for normal duty hours.

#### Internal Review

The U.S. Army Garrison Internal Review, Building 151, will be closed Monday and Tuesday and will reopen Wednesday for normal duty hours. The office will also close Jan. 1 and will reopen Jan. 2 for normal duty hours.

#### Lincoln Military Housing

Lincoln Military Housing will be closed for the Christmas holiday Monday and Tuesday. Normal operations will resume Wednesday. LMH will also be closed Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year. For emergency requests, call "Lincoln at Your Service" at 225-5564. The Housing Services Office will be closed Tuesday and Jan. 1 in observance of Christmas Day and New Years.

### BAMC pharmacies holiday hours

The Holiday hours of operation for the Brooke Army Medical Center Pharmacies through Jan. 2 are:

Brooke Army Medical Center main pharmacy, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Sundays  
Fort Sam Houston community pharmacy, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

McWethy pharmacy, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed on Sundays

Camp Bullis pharmacy, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

The pharmacies will be closed Monday, Tuesday, and Jan. 1.

### Patch Chaffee water outages

The Patch Chaffee housing area will experience scheduled water outages through the end of December from Harney Road to Worth Road. The new water line should be in place by the end of December with no additional outages required.

The Patch Chaffee asphalt placement will continue with the contractor starting to compact base material Monday from Crocket Road to Schofield Road and follow on pavement work.

The Corps of Engineers plan to pre-walk the new pavement by phase after placement, and if no major items are noted will open it to the residents. A final inspection will be held at the completion of all work.

The contractor plans to work Saturdays until the project is completed. The workers will begin at 9 a.m. and water outages are not authorized on Saturdays.

For more information or to report problems, call Lincoln Military Housing at 270-7638.

## Commencement heralds academic first

By Phil Reidinger

Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

The Army Medical Department Center and School and Baylor University awarded the first Doctor of Science of Physician Assistant Studies in the major of Emergency Medicine during a ceremony at Wood Auditorium Monday.

Four Army officers, Capt. George Barbee, Capt. Yvonne Franco, Capt. James Schmid and Capt. Sharron Rosser, with a combined experience of 76 months in combat environments, received the first clinical doctorate degree

awarded to physician assistants.

Originally created in 1965 at Duke University, the Army's Physician Assistant program was established in 1971 in cooperation with Baylor University and expanded in 1996 to an interservice academic program. The doctoral degree is an 18-month residency at Brooke Army Medical Center that in addition to academics and clinical work includes an extensive research requirement.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw, AMEDD Center and School commander, noted the degree

sends a more capable and flexible physician assistant to the Army medical community. "The degree is important, but not as important as preparing physician assistants to return to the battlefield. The underlying concept of providing this academic and clinical training is to improve the survivability of Soldiers on the battlefield," he said.

Representing Baylor University, Dr. Kenneth Wilkins, noted that the Baylor University partnership with the Army began in 1951 with the establishment of the Army-Baylor

Masters of Healthcare Administration degree program. "In 1971 we added the Physical Therapy masters degree and in 2004 added a doctoral program. In 2005, we also started the Masters program in Nutrition," he said. Wilkins related Baylor's long history involving health related professions and the academic history with the Army is one of extraordinary success with the Healthcare Administration program ranked 20th nationally and the Physical Therapy

See COMMENCEMENT P7



Photo by Doug Meyers

Doctor of Science in Physician Assistant Studies faculty Capt. Richard Anschutz, Maj. Leonard Gruppo and Maj. Todd Lindsay congratulate the first program graduates Capt. George Barbee, Capt. Yvonne Franco, Capt. James Schmid and Capt. Sharron Rosser, during the commencement ceremony at Wood Auditorium Monday.

## U.S. Army South HHC welcomes new commander

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lutton

U.S. Army South Public Affairs

Maj. Andrew Ajamian was a busy man Dec. 7. After re-enlisting Spc. Diego Sotomeneses, a Soldier at U.S. Army South, Ajamian literally turned around and handed the guidon for the U.S. Army South Headquarters and Headquarters Company to Maj. Rudy Martinez of San Antonio at Evans Theatre.

"Major Ajamian did an outstanding job as the Commander for HHC," said Lt. Col. Peter Malik, commander of U.S. Army South's Special Troops Battalion. "His leadership and planning excellence ensured that the HHC could support any mission. We welcome Major Martinez and know that he will provide the same excellent support and leadership that Major Ajamian did as HHC transforms under the Special Troops Battalion."

Martinez said he is concentrating on HHC's troops and the historic transformation from U.S. Army South to 6th Army.

"I am looking forward to taking care of Soldiers and the Soldiers' Families. I think that it's important. And of course, we are ready to support the transformation from



Maj. Andrew Ajamian, Maj. Rudy Martinez and Lt. Col. Steven Malik stand together for the U.S. Army South Headquarters and Headquarters Company change of command at Evans Theater Dec. 7.

U.S. Army South to 6th Army. We want to have a clear vision and non-turbulent transformation," said Martinez.

Martinez added that he is excited to be back in San Antonio. "I am looking forward to being home with my Family. This is the first time I've been back since I was 17."

# Customer Service introduces new automated numbering system

Story and photo by Minnie Jones  
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The average American spends two to three years of their life waiting in line, but the Identification Card Section customer service is trying to make the wait for ID cards at Fort Sam Houston a little more bearable.

The customer service, ID card section recently installed a new automated numbering system. The system manufac-

tured by "Q-MATIC" is a queue management system that manages the overall customer flow in businesses.

"We process about 100 customers a day. It used to take customers between two to three hours to process through the ID section and we have now cut the wait time in half, sometimes faster," said Rene Agosto, chief of personnel services, In and Out Processing.

When a customer visits the ID card section window, the

verifying official enters them into the system identifying whether they are as wounded warriors, active duty, Family members, retirees and civilian employees. A ticket with a number is then issued.

"A unique feature of the system is that it can be tailored based on the personnel that service the section. Wounded Warriors and active-duty members are given priority service," Agosto said.

See **NEW SYSTEM P8**



Trino Negron, verifying official, customer service, issues Pfc. Ralph Justin, 418th Medical Logistics Company a ticket from the automated numbering system.

# Public Works begins two major improvement projects

A project to improve the parking lots along Stanley Road has begun. The five-phase project will replace and repair 33,100 square yards of the existing parking lots.

Repair work includes a new base, pavement, marked vehicle spaces to include handicap spaces, and curbing. Existing concrete sidewalks will be replaced or repaired along the parking lot side of Stanley Road. The project also includes improving the storm drainage system to prevent ponding and erosion.

The project duration is 365 days divided into five phases. Each phase of the project is scheduled for 50 to 70 days. Phase one will start at the south end near the Army Community Service at Schofield Road and work north to Harry Wurzbach Road.

Two vehicle entry/exit locations will be closed. One at the crosswalks at Building 2797 and on Schofield Road closest to the intersection of Stanley Road. One vehicle entry/exit will be relocated across from the San Antonio Credit Union to improve traffic safety.

Each phase shall involve the removal of 200 to 250 vehicle parking spaces and pedestrian access to the grass field.

A second project to reconstruct Dickman Road between Harry Wurzbach Road and Worth Road will also begin soon.

The existing roadway, base and curbs will



Photo by Olivia Mendoza

Construction is underway on the parking lot across from the Roadrunner Community Center on Stanley Road.

be removed. New base, pavement, ADA access at sidewalks, curbs and roadway markings and signage will be provided. Underground storm drainage system and gas mains will be realigned.

The project duration is 270 days. Reconstruction starts at the intersection of Old Austin Highway extending south through the Worth Road intersection.

Two intersections, Old Austin Highway and Worth Road along Dickman Road will be closed to include specified access to and from the residential areas. Vehicle traffic patterns will be rerouted.

(Source: Department of Public Works)

## New set of wheels



Photo by Olivia Mendoza

(From left) Eric Ruggs, assistant chief, Fort Sam Houston Fire Department, Col. Wendy Martinson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison and Maj. Christopher Hayes, director of emergency services officially commissioned a new fire truck to the Fort Sam Houston Fire Department during a ribbon cutting ceremony Monday.

# Master Sergeant creates functional art

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lutton  
US Army South Public Affairs Office

Retirement can be like a pen that has broken and leaked all over a uniform; it's a messy ordeal. Master Sgt. Kenneth Schilling doesn't have that problem. Schilling focuses on Soldiers and their careers. Schilling is a Career Counselor for U.S. Army South. He is close to retirement and isn't worried about his future.

"I actually started off making custom picture frames. So when I was making all these custom frames, I had parts and pieces left over. My wife said, 'well we got to figure out something to use with it. Why don't you try turning pens?'," said Schilling.

Schilling's hobby is hand crafting pens from exotic wood. He currently has over 150 pens in stock ranging from \$20 to \$325 dollars. However, you won't find him selling them at the Post Exchange.

"Believe it or not, I don't advertise or sell a whole lot here (US Army South) because I don't want the conflict of interest. I market my pens off-post. My focus here is the Soldier's career. This is just a hobby that has gone out of control and become a business."

Schilling says he mostly enters and sells at juried art shows. He said he likes it because his work has to be admitted and the customers are there specifically to purchase art.

"All of my pens I consider functional art. They are made

to use, they are made to display and to be enjoyed. In today's society we tend to use the computer a lot and we have gotten away from using an ink pen to correspond with, but it is actually coming back. More and more people are resorting back to it. They are realizing that even though they have PDA's and stylus' they actually have to use a pen," said Schilling.

After Schilling is through with his military career he plans to focus on "turning" pens, and he wants others to know there is life after the Army.

"I have a business that I am looking forward to. It is completely self-contained. My spouse is active duty military and she's got another nine years to go before she retires. I needed to have a profession that was completely mobile, and this business is completely mobile, 100 percent," said Schilling.

Schilling said he works with wood from all over the world, including wood from Southeast Asia, Africa, South America, Australia, Greece and olive wood from Bethlehem.

"I have a pen made from Amboynia Burl which is unique to Southeast Asia, and it is also the same wood they use to line the dashboards of Jaguars.

I have customers come up and purchase a pen without me even telling them about the wood, and eight times out of ten, they are Jaguar owners," said Schilling.

According to Schilling, many people are surprised by his favorite wood here in Texas.

"My favorite wood here in Texas believe it or not, is not Mesquite. Personally, I like a wood called Texas Ebony. It's a very pretty wood that has lots of character to it," said Schilling.

Schilling said he has also done special requests for customers.

"You'd be surprised at what people request. I had a customer who had a broken baseball bat from a pro-game and wanted me to make a pen out of it for his son," said Schilling.

Different tools are involved in woodturning, more than a normal workshop would supply. When Schilling got started he said he read a book about it, watched a video and did research.



Master Sgt. Kenneth Schilling displays his work at his office in US Army South. As a career Counselor Master Sgt. Schilling focuses on Soldiers careers, at home he makes pen from blocks of exotic wood.

"The process used for this is actually wood turning. Once you place the wood in the lathe, the lathe can spin anywhere from 500 revolutions per

See **FUNCTIONAL ART P8**

# Soldiers celebrate holidays at Hacienda

By Kelly Jones

Director, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing

Approximately 60 Warrior Soldiers from the 32nd Medical Brigade began celebrating the holiday season at the Second Annual Holidays at the Hacienda. The holiday tradition provides the Soldiers an opportunity to let their hair down and truly embrace the season for what it is, an opportunity to celebrate and show thanks for peace and life on earth. Jewell and Dwayne Terrell, both on staff at the Hacienda Recreation Center, coordinated all the festivities and entertainment for the event held Dec. 12.

"Last year Ben Paniagua (Hacienda Recreation Center Manager) tried a new game which was a twist on the hit-

show "Deal or No Deal" and all the Soldiers really seemed to enjoy the competition and suspense associated with this game, so we decided to bring it back again this year," said Terrell. "In previous years when we were trying to get this event off the ground, we would buy piñatas filled with candies and trinkets, however, we knew we needed to develop festivities that would keep the attention of these young Soldiers."

Throughout the night Soldiers were able to take part in several giveaways and promotions conducted by Eisenhower Bank and Gallop and Associates (Bruce Gallop, Dusty Arab and Paul and Lois Roth). In addition to the giveaways conducted by sponsors, MWR Marketing was on site providing free samples of Acqua Di Gio and Rudy's BBQ

Sauce. There was plenty of entertainment, food, fun and festivities for all.

MWR staff and sponsors were not the only one's working hard for the Soldiers in attendance. Pvt. 1st Class Kevin Mansur, F Company, 232nd Medical Battalion and Pvt. Jayme Dallas, C Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, took the initiative to join in celebration of the holiday spirit by serenading staff, sponsors and Soldiers to sound of joyous holiday music on piano.

"Playing the piano is my first love. At this time in my life I know my duty is to be the best I can be for my country, but God willing, during the course of my career I'll be able to show the world my talent on the piano," said Mansur.

Mansur and Dallas have both been playing the piano for years, but did not know each other until becoming battle buddies.

Rounding out the night, Eisenhower Bank and Gallop and Associates awarded all the lucky contestants who stuck around until the end with giveaways. Soldiers had the opportunity to win Army and Air Force Exchange Services gift cards, cash money, trinkets and an Apple iPod.



Courtesy photo

Dwayne and Jewell Terrell of the Hacienda Recreation Center, conduct the Hacienda's version of "Deal or No Deal." This game has become a favorite among the 32nd Medical Brigade Soldiers in attendance at the 2nd Annual Holiday's at the Hacienda. During the game, nine Soldiers are selected out of the crowd and each has an opportunity to pick one bag and then switch with other contestants on stage. Once all participants have switched bags, Mr. Terrell asks each to open their bag to find out if they made a good deal or a bad deal. MWR gave away several AAFES gift cards, cash money, candy and coupons.

The big winner of the night was Pvt. 1st Class Luis Vega, C Company, 232nd Medical Battalion. Vega was the lucky winner of a \$100 cash give away by Gallop and Associates. Eisenhower Bank also had multiple winners of AAFES gift cards throughout the night.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to win this money and receive all the free items from MWR, especially during the holiday season. This definitely happened at the right time and now that I won this extra \$100 dollars, I may be

able to do more for my mom for Christmas," said Vega.

The Hacienda Recreation Center would like to give a special thanks to Headquarters Company, 32nd Medical Brigade, the 32nd Medical Brigade EO Advisor, the Miles Program, Eisenhower Bank, Century 21 United, Gallop and Associates, BioTest, Sprint, The Laser Eye Center, DeVry University, Texas VFW and Central Catholic High School, for their support and sponsorship of the 2nd Annual Holidays at the Hacienda.

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT from P1

From 2001 to Sept. 30 of this year the training was taking place for anyone with the old methodology to have the newer training. Today the Army has over 17,000 medics who have transitioned and fewer than 200 who have not.

The U.S. Army EMS Programs Management Office is responsible for the accreditation, credentialing, and regulatory oversight of 312 training programs that are located globally at 214 sites throughout the active, US Army Reserve and Army National Guard components. The office supports over 48,000 Soldier medics and DoD civilians. It is recognized as an official EMS office by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

This program has expanded due to the increased requirements since the implementation of the new medic training curriculum. Hastings and her staff serve the Army's second largest military specialty.

"Every state has an office for EMT certification and EMS services. The job that this office does in New York, for instance, has over 100 people. Arizona has a staff of 48, this office has been doing it with eight, but will soon expand to 26. With the Base Realignment and Closure, the Air Force and the Navy can benefit as well," said Hastings.

"The program for combat medics which includes the EMT training is 16 weeks long. Our pass rate for the EMT National Registry Examination is typically



Photo by Cheryl Harrison

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians recognizes the Army as a state for certification of Emergency Medical Technicians. Most states have offices of anywhere from 48 to over 100 personnel that accomplish the job, but the Department of Combat Medic Training and Emergency Medical Services runs with skills and knowledge of eight. Pictured is the staff of the DCMT and EMS (front row from left) Staff Sgt. Ashika Gonzales, Col. Patricia Hastings, Sgt. 1st Class Blair Pilgrim and Staff Sgt. Jacquelyne Greene. Top row from left Wendy Stainbrook, James Aplin, Ismael Diaz and Master Sgt. Brenda Gaines.

higher than the civilian world. The pass rate is 92 percent in the Army and the civilian world is only 69 percent," added Hastings.

"The new U.S. Army EMS Programs Management Office has great potential, finishing the transition, getting everyone the proper certification for EMT. The office looks at compliance and regulations and how to help the Army's goal of achieving a better medic," continued Hastings.

"This office is important to the mission of the Army and may be the best job I'll

ever have," said Hastings, previously the Director, Combat Medic Training.

"It was an honor to receive and it was recognition of the opportunities I have had in the Army.

"The award was for those things with which I've had the good fortune to be associated during my Army career. I have been an EMT for 31 years. I am an EMT, a physician and a nurse. The Army allowed me to do some very personally and professionally rewarding jobs, which led to this recognition. I credit the things I've done in the Army with allowing me to have an honor that means a lot," said Hastings.

"The Army allowed me to do things that I hope have made a real contribution to our world, and it has been fun at the same time," continued Hastings. "On Nov. 1 of this year I completed

twenty years, but the people in the Army are what convinced me to stay. It's still the best and most rewarding job in the world .... Army Medicine."

## COMMENCEMENT from P3

programs ranked fifth in the nation due to a rigorous curriculum, faculty credentials and recognized published research. Wilkins noted the Baylor University academic partnership with the Army Medical Department is an opportunity for patriotic service.

Dr. (Col. retired) David Maness delivered the commencement address. Maness served as the dean of the Academy of Health Sciences prior to his retirement. He currently serves as the chair, Department of Family Medicine, University of

Tennessee Health Science Center. He noted that the doctoral degree provides a better trained physician assistant who would extend the capabilities of surgeons on the battlefield and in clinical operations as well as provide a faculty cadre for teaching assignments. Maness also said that opportunities for advanced professional training would help physician assistant recruiting and retention. Addressing the graduates, "There are expectations of you as pioneers. You are role models with a record of exemplary performance and you should document your experiences as graduates of this program," he said.

Col. W. John Luciano, Academy of Health Sciences dean, during his remarks closing the commencement ceremony said the Army continues to be visionary leaders in medicine. The physician assistant doctoral program exemplifies managing health-care resources by providing competent clinicians and improving access to health-care by extending the reach of surgeons.

Faculty recognition awards were presented by Maj. Leonard Gruppo, program director, to Dr. Justin Williams, Brooke Army Medical Center, and Greg Goodwiler, University of Texas Health Sciences Center.

**NEW SYSTEM from P4**

When the next verifying official becomes available, a monitor in the lobby will flash the ticket number and the customer is directed to the appropriate workstation, where they are issued an ID card.

"It has reduced the handling time involved when dealing with customers. Prior to the numbering system, verifying officials had to get up from their desks, go to the front, call out the next number and then escort the individual back to the workstation," said Agosto, explaining another benefit of the new automated numbering system

Now the system displays the number on a monitor in the lobby, and the customer themselves go directly to the verifying official's desk.

"It's much faster, we don't have to run up front to find out who is next. It is much better than running up front like we use too," said Bessie Scott, verifying official.

Although the system has reduced the wait time for cus-

tomers, some things are still out of the control of customer service, such as the issuance of Common Access Cards.

Customers who require a CAC should be aware of the time it requires to issue the card. The process takes about 15 minutes per card or sometimes longer depending on the response time of the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

Other things to keep in mind when visiting the ID card section, is to make sure Family members are accompanied by their sponsor and to avoid coming to ID card section the first of the month, due to the large number of Soldiers being issued new CACs.

The ID card section is located in Building 367, next to the post office and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. Walk-ins are accepted between the hours of 7:30 to 10 a.m., with appointments available in the afternoon from 12:45 to 3:10 p.m. For more information, or to make an appointment, call 221-2278 or 221-0415.

**FUNCTIONAL ART from P5**

minute to 3000 RPM's. At different speeds you apply different gouges that are used to remove the wood. Eventually it will take on a cylindrical shape and that is when you can start shaping and making different contours," explained Schilling.

He said he spends anywhere from 40 minutes to 6

hours creating a pen.

"I learn something new every time I turn because each medium that you turn is very different. When you go from one type of wood to another wood, to plastic, the technique and style is very different because each medium acts differently. It's enjoyable and definitely therapeutic because I can get into my shop and start turning and lose track of all kinds of things.

You also learn what the customer is looking for," said Schilling.

Schilling said he wants Soldiers to know they have to think about retirement, before they retire. "The moral of the story is sometimes you may not know what you are going to do when you retire, and sometimes it is right smack in your face. You just have to open your eyes. And there's without a doubt, life after the Army," said Schilling.

For Schilling and Soldiers like him, it seems as if the broken pen hasn't leaked on them just yet.



Photo by Esther Garcia

**FEW visits center with gifts**

On behalf of the Alamo City Chapter of Federally Employed Women, Arcy Longoria and Rebecca Ayala, present Judith Markelz (Center), program coordinator for the Warrior and Family Support Center, Spc. Blair Didion (left), and Sgt. Maj. Mary Hayes (far right) telephone Cards for military members and their families.

**Photo opportunity**



Courtesy photo

Joan Gaither, president, Society for the Preservation of Fort Sam Houston, poses with Staff Sgt. Jason R. Silsby and Spc. Julio Villanueva, Headquarters Company, U. S. Army Garrison, Headquarters Company, assigned to the military caisson. Villanueva and Silsby participated in the society member's meeting held Dec. 13 at their partially restored blacksmith shop, Building 259, the future site of the society's headquarters. All members had the opportunity to have a picture taken with the soldiers.

**Blood is fluid of life**

The Brooke Army Medical Center Blood Bank is running critically low on AB negative blood.

Akeroyd Blood Donor Center is reaching out to you for your support to accomplish a mission for life.

To donate blood now, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 295-4655 or 295-4989.



**Spotlight your unit**

The Public Information Office welcomes articles, photos or story idea submissions for the Fort Sam Houston News Leader.

To submit a story or idea or for more information, call 221-0615, e-mail news.leader@conus.army.mil or stop by the office in Building 124 (second floor).



**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

### Brigade Holiday Challenge

This week concluded the Brigade Basketball Holiday Challenge for students of the 32nd Medical Brigade. There were teams representing "A" 232nd, "B" 232nd, "C" 232nd, "D" 232nd, "B" 187th, "C" 187th, "B" 264th, and "C" 264th. In the male bracket, the team from "B" 232nd went through the tournament undefeated beating "C" 187th in the

Championship Game 26 to 14. In the female bracket, the team from "B" 187th defeated the team from "B" 232nd 27 to 20 to be crowned Champion. Congratulations to all who participated. The Brigade Commander's Cup completion will begin in earnest after the New Year with basketball.

### Red Cross life guard classes

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center will hold

Red Cross Life Guard classes through May. The next six-day class is scheduled for Wednesday through Dec. 28 and Jan. 2 through 4 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Red Cross Life Guard class is a minimum requirement for employment as a lifeguard. To register, you must be at least 16 years old and pass a pre-test that involves a 300-meter swim and a 20-yard swim holding a 10 pound object. The \$160 fee includes all books, first aid instruction, CPR mask and CPR AED for infant, child and adult. Payment is made after passing the pre-test. For more information or to register, call 221-1234.

### Indoor Triathlon

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center is holding an indoor triathlon Jan. 6. There is no fee for sign-up and the triathlon is open to those 10 years or older. The triathlon features a 400-meter swim, five-mile stationary bike ride and two-mile treadmill run. For more information, call 221-1234.

### Fort Sam Cyclocross Challenge race

Fort Sam Houston in association with Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Bayne, Snell, Kraus Law Firm's racing team will host a Cyclocross Race Jan. 13 at 8:30 a.m. behind the Fort Sam Houston Aquatic Center, 3300 Williams Road. Riders can pre-register at [www.bikereg.com](http://www.bikereg.com) before Jan 11. Same day registration will be held at 7:45 a.m. in the parking

lot of the outdoor pool. All riders must have a valid U.S.A. Cycling license or purchase a one day license during registration for a \$12 fee. Entry fee for military is waived with purchase of a same day license. Cyclocross bikes or mountain bikes are acceptable to ride the 3K course. Helmets are required. The race flyer can be seen at [www.txbra.org/db/events/ftsamcrossflyer.doc](http://www.txbra.org/db/events/ftsamcrossflyer.doc) For information, call 221-7012 or 414-3600.

### Pedometer Challenge

Stop by the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Jan. 9 through 15 to register for the 2008 Pedometer Challenge. The competition gauges how far each person walks between Jan. 23 and Feb. 27, the estimated distance between San Antonio and Corpus Christi. Registration is \$25. For more information, call 221-1180.

### Race to the top

Stop by the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Jan. 14 through 18 to sign up for the race to the top. This month the goal is to reach the top of the Washington Monument, a total of 897 steps on the stepmill machines at the fitness center. This competition is free, but t-shirts are available for \$10. For more information, call 221-1234 or 221-2020.

### Intramural bowling

The Fort Sam Houston Garrison intramural bowling league begins Jan. 7. For more information, call 221-3185 or e-mail [earl.t.young@us.army.mil](mailto:earl.t.young@us.army.mil).

### Punt, pass, kick competition

USAA held tryouts for their Punt, Pass and Kick Competition Dec. 10 at the Alamodome. The winners were Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Casey from Lackland Air Force Base, 1st Sgt. Cedrick Davis, Fort Sam Houston, and Airman 1st Class Danny Flicker, Randolph AFB.



Photo by Kelly Jones

Soldiers and Airmen from Fort Sam Houston, Randolph and Lackland AFB who qualify will have an opportunity to participate in USAA's promotional Punt, Pass and Kick Competition during the Dec. 29 Valero Alamobowl. Each of the military installations in San Antonio had four participants in the preliminaries. The competition began with two participants from each base punting the ball from the 10-yard line at the same time. Once they punted the ball, the contestants were required to run to where the ball had landed and throw the ball further down the field. Upon the ball stopping, the competitors were taken to the ball to attempt a field goal. The first of the two competitors to make the field goal was declared the winner of that round. At the end of the competition, USAA will donate \$3,500 to be split between Fort Sam Houston, Randolph and Lackland AFB.

# Mission of Sam Houston Club is to serve

By Jim Lancaster  
Chief, Business Operation Division, Morale,  
Welfare and Recreation

The Sam Houston Club is dedicated to providing a large array of goods and services in support of our Military and San Antonio Community. The club offers discounted tickets for local, regional and national attractions, lunch buffets (Tuesday through Friday,) Bingo, TGIF with Karaoke in the Sports Bar and catering opportunities.



The Sam Houston Club is in the holiday spirit with its beautiful decorations ready for the holiday parties and lunches from now until the New Year.

In an effort to better serve our Military community, MWR will open a Java Cyber Café late summer 2008, which will feature wireless access.

The Sam Houston Club plays a valuable and integral role in the overall Army Mission. Whether providing space for official military functions, space to host a party for a special occasion, or a place to go and relax to enjoy a favorite beverage on Friday's after a hard week.

The Sam Houston Club has something for everyone. For those that like to play a game of chance from time to time, the club offers Bingo on Thursday and Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Stop by and find out how to win up to \$10,000.

The Sam Houston Club operates as a Category-C facility under MWR, which means in order for the club to remain operational, it must gener-



Photos by Esther Garcia  
A sign above the large wooden doors to the Sam Houston club located on Chaffee Road, Building 1395, welcomes everyone to come in and enjoy a variety of activities, and to stop by for lunch and their brunches on weekends and special holidays.

ate enough revenue to reinvest back into the facility for planned improvements. The Sam Houston Club, like many other businesses, has to make occasional operational adjustments due to current economical trends. January 2008 the club will be making

some changes that will enable it to sustain operations today and compete favorably in the business world of tomorrow.

A few items the club plans to implement will be to apply a modest increase for the lunch buffet and discontinue Sunday Brunch the first and third Sunday of each month due to low-participation and higher operational costs.

Sunday Brunch will be offered for special occasions such as Mother's Day, Easter Sunday, Father's Day, Christmas Brunch and Thanksgiving for

See CLUB P13



Photo by Esther Garcia  
Col. Hank Brummett, former Garrison Commander, and his wife Judith, look over a buffet of food set up by the Sam Houston Club. The Brummetts were attending a special function at the club Dec. 18. The club provides space for special ceremonies or parties offering a wide array of menu selections.

## CLUB from P12

members and guests.

Even though some changes will be implemented, the club will add a Java Cyber Café in the near future that will appeal to Soldiers, Families, DoD civilians, retirees and contractors on Fort Sam Houston. It is anticipated that the cafe will become a place of choice for a unique experience and a special place to visit.

Everyone is asked to take a moment to fill out the short survey and e-mail their responses to samh.infomwr@us.army.mil or fax to 221-2890. The information received from the survey will be used to assist with the development of new pro-

grams to better serve the Soldiers, Families, DoD civilians, retirees and contractors at Fort Sam Houston.

For more information, call the Chief, Business Operations Division at 221-9681 or e-mail Jim.Lancaster@us.army.mil.

## Sam Houston Club *How Are We Doing?*

We are committed to providing you with the best dining experience possible, so we welcome your comments. Please fill out this questionnaire and send it to samh.infomwr@us.army.mil or fax to 221-2890. Thank you!

At what time would you most likely visit the Sam Houston Club's Java Café? (Monday - Friday only)

6 a.m. - 12 p.m.      8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Which best describes your current status (Active-Duty, Family Member, Civilian, Retiree, Contractor, etc.)

What programs and/or services would you like implemented at the Sam Houston Club?

What age group do you belong to?

0-18      19-30      31-45

46-60      60+

What programs and/or services would you like discontinued at the Sam Houston Club?

On average how often do you or your Family attend/use programs or services offered at the Sam Houston Club?

Never      Daily      Weekly

Monthly      Quarterly

Please share any additional comments or suggestions.

Are you looking forward to the club's Java Café offering salads, Panini's and hot/cold sandwiches?

Yes      No

MWR Marketing, 1212 Stanley Road, Building 124, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234  
Fax (210) 221-2890      http://www.fortsamhoustmwr.com

**SCHOOMAKER from P1**

Surgeon General. In that capacity, he has Army staff responsibility for all Army medical, dental and veterinary missions, including those of deployable and Reserve Component units.

Medical Command is one of 11 Direct Reporting Units in the Army. It includes approximately 27,000 military personnel and 28,000 civilian employees. It provides medical care for more than five million beneficiaries — active-duty service members, retirees and their Family members.

"I pledge to be tireless in my efforts to have all Soldiers and Family members live long and stay young in mind, body and spirit," Schoomaker said during his remarks.

"Through 232 years of our history, a history that began six weeks after the Army itself was formed, and very shortly after the Declaration of Independence, courageous and gifted Soldier-medics have kept faith with those who place themselves in harm's way. The essence of our professionalism and ethos is embodied in our Warrior Medics," he said.

Cody praised Army medical personnel, calling them "the people who stare death in the face and say 'not on my watch.'"

He spoke of presenting Purple Heart medals to 1st Lt. Jabari White and Staff Sgt. Victor Dominguez, both severely injured and recovering at

Brooke Army Medical Center. He described how White refused to receive his medal in bed, but dressed and stood for the ceremony despite severe burns, and of how Dominguez, with 90 percent of his body bandaged, "fought to salute me."

"When people think of 'Army Strong' it's only natural to think of Fort Benning or Fort Jackson or the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan, where Soldier's Soldier, pushing themselves physically and mentally, weapons and platforms all about them, doing the job that Soldiers do so well. When I think of Army Strong, I think of Lt. Jabari White and Staff Sgt. Victor Dominguez. I think of them and their doctors and their nurses and their therapists and technicians," Cody said.

Schoomaker previously served as the commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command. He has also commanded U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md.; Southeast Regional Medical Command and Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center; the 30th Medical Brigade headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany and Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson, Colo.

He also has held the position of chief of the Army Medical Corps.

In 1979 he began his Army career as a research hematologist at Walter



Photos by Cheryl Harrison

(From left) Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, incoming commander of U.S. Army Medical Command and the Surgeon General of the Army, Maj. Gen. Gale Pollock, outgoing commander, now serving as deputy surgeon general for force management and Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody, smile and enjoy the pass and review portion of the Change of Command ceremony Dec. 13.

Reed Army Institute of Research. He also has served as assistant chief and program director of the Department of Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; medical consultant to the Headquarters of 7th Medical Command at Heidelberg, Germany;

deputy commander for clinical services at Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany; chief and program director of the Department of Medicine and director of primary care at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma,

Wash.; director of medical education for the Office of The Surgeon General/Headquarters USAMEDCOM conducting a split operation between Washington, D.C., and Fort Sam Houston, Texas; director of clinical operations at MEDCOM Headquarters; and command surgeon for U.S. Army Forces Command.

In 1970 he graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, was commissioned a second lieutenant as a Distinguished Military Graduate, and awarded a Bachelor of Science degree. He received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1975 and completed his Ph.D. in human genetics in 1979.

Schoomaker completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., from 1976 to 1978, followed by a fellowship in hematology at Duke University Medical Center in 1979. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in both internal medicine and hematology. His military education includes completion of the Combat Care Casualty Course, Medical Management of Chemical Casualty Care Course, AMEDD Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster), the Legion of Merit (with four oak leaf clusters), the



The newly appointed commander of U.S. Army Medical Command and the Surgeon General of the Army spoke of the history of the Army and the essence of professionalism and ethos embodied in the Warrior Medics, during his remarks at the Change of command ceremony held at MacArthur Parade Field Dec. 13.

Meritorious Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Schoomaker has been honored with the Order of Military Medical Merit and the "A" Proficiency Designator and holds the Expert Field Medical Badge.

**New CSM at MEDCOM**

By Cheryl Harrison  
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Althea Dixon

Just hours after the Army Surgeon general Change of Command ceremony at MacArthur Parade Field Dec. 13 another important change took place in Wood Auditorium. Command Sgt. Maj. Althea Dixon assumed responsibility for the Army's largest medical organization, the U.S. Army Medical command.

Dixon will assume the duties of Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Medical Command Senior Enlisted Advisor to Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, Medical Command commander and Army Surgeon General.

Dixon is a native of Trinidad. She is a graduate of Class 47 of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, where she received the General Ralph E. Hanes Award for Outstanding Student Research.

"I look forward to serving with my battle buddy, Command Sgt. Maj. Dixon. She and her predecessor Command Sgt. Maj. David Eddy, have been the real leaders. Together we will make Army medicine, Army strong," said Lt.Gen. Eric Schoomaker, MEDCOM commander and Army Surgeon General.

Dixon's mother, Annmarie Williams was on hand for the day's ceremonies.



Reaped in tradition the Change of Command ceremony included a pass and review, the presentation of Officers and colors (above) a cannon salute (right), and passing of the colors from the outgoing to the incoming commander of U.S. Army Medical Command.

**MEDCOM signs Army Family Covenant**

By Jerry Harben  
U.S. Army Medical Command

Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, commander of U.S. Army Medical Command and the Surgeon General of the Army, signed the Army Family Covenant during a ceremony Dec. 13 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Joining him were senior commanders and noncommissioned officers of commands subordinate to Medical Command.

Since October, leaders across the covenant, a commitment to take care of Soldiers and their

Families. The text reads:

"We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day.

We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service.

We are committed to providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.

We are committed to building a partnership with Army

Families that enhances their strength and resilience.

We are committed to improving Family readiness by:

- Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services
- Increasing accessibility and quality of health care
- Improving Soldier and Family housing
- Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services, and child care
- Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members"

The Army has devoted \$1.4

billion to families in this year's budget. Over several years, about 10,000 new homes have been built under the Residential Communities Initiative. Initial registration fees for child care have been eliminated and hours for child care extended at many installations. More than 20,000 spouses of Soldiers are employed under the Army Spouse Employment Program.

Schoomaker noted that, in addition to installation initiatives, Medical Command will play an important role in fulfilling the covenant.

# Cole senior recognized as Valero Alamo Bowl scholarship winner

Lukas Sheridan, senior, Robert G. Cole High School was recognized at a special luncheon held at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse as the Valero Alamo Bowl chairman announced its 2007 scholarship winners.

Valero Alamo Bowl Chairman John

Yantis presented the \$3,000 scholarships to 26 graduating seniors, who were selected from more than 45 Bexar County high schools. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must have ranked in the top 10 percent of their class and have at least an SAT of

1250 or an ACT of 28.

Lukas Sheridan hopes to attend Southern Methodist University and major in general pre-medicine. He is an active member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and has been a four-year participant of JROTC

and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Lukas is a four-year participant of the football, soccer and tennis teams.

"The Valero Alamo Bowl is honored to recognize the achievements earned by these seniors in front of 65,000 people at this year's sold out game Dec. 29," said Valero Alamo Bowl Chairman John Yantis. "These students should be commended for their superiority inside the classroom and on the field."

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, teacher recommendations and involvement in extracurricular activities and honors as well as a personal narrative.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Independent School District)

## Winter holiday program showcases talent

By Dr. Kathy Maxwell  
Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

Fort Sam Houston Elementary second grade students along with Exemplary Music students performed their version of "This Old Christmas Gingerbread House" by Teresa Jennings. The holiday performance showcased the elementary students in vocal musical, instrumental performance, dance and dramatic speaking roles.

The holiday play was introduced by the fifth grade Exemplary Music students. The performances included such popular old tunes as "Jammin' Old Saint Nick," "Lend a Helping Hand" and "Christmas Cookies." "Jolly Old Saint

See TALENT P17

# Former elementary student wins 323rd Army Band visits third grade classrooms

By Dr. Kathy Maxwell  
Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

Former Fort Sam Houston Elementary fifth grade student, Sarah Tran, daughter of Tai-Kyoung Tran, was recently named a top state winner in the Creative Communication Competition for her essay, "Play is important in my life."

Sarah's essay was selected from thousands submitted. She was awarded a \$50 United States Savings Bond and a certificate. Sarah will also receive a copy of the book, "Celebrating What Is Important to Me," due to be released in February.

We are so proud of our students and their accomplishments. We also

appreciate our teachers who go the extra mile to give our students the opportunity to participate in such rigorous academic competition," said Tonya Hyde, elementary principal.

Thirty-eight Fort Sam Houston Elementary fifth grade students wrote and submitted essays to the Creative Communication Essay Competition in May.

Eight Fort Sam Houston Elementary students were named winners with "essays of high merit." The winners were Chalci Bell, Erin Darnauer, Ja'cobie Evans, Tiffany Peugh, Jasmine Plummer, Bree Randle, Matthew Sabin and Sarah Tran. These essays went on to compete at the state level of the competition.

By Dr. Kathy Maxwell  
Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

Elementary teachers Sandra Juni and Vanessa Kennedy developed an engaging lesson, making connections between literature, music and sign language.

Teachers read the book, "Moose Goes to a Concert" by Isaac Millman, where the main character is hearing impaired. Parent Trina Cook, signed the story using American Sign Language. Engaging conversations and class activities followed.

Members of the 323rd Army Band, Chris Jessee, James Weary and Dan Juni, arrived with a huge bass drum and snare drum, performing for all the third grade students.

Juni shared, "This activity was so exciting. It created connections between literature and real life for our children."

Discussions were held between the band members and the students using the piece of literature as a springboard for the conversation. Talks focused on concert behaviors, all types of instruments, the creation of the instruments and their history, the skills required to successfully play the instruments, scientific information about how sound travels, and serving in the 323rd Army Band.

Third grade student Travion McLendon, said, "I heard the word vibration that we used in reading this week...I got to feel it, too."

## TALENT from P16

Nick" was performed with modern instruments called "boomwhackers."

The extravaganza was the result of a team effort ... Sandra Fergins served as musical director and choreographer, Connie Beck, served as

dramatic director and costumer, Carolyn Absher, provided costumes and backdrops, and Andrea Garcia, provided props. Support and student cueing was provided by the second grade team of Brandon Jones, Veronica Didelot, Andrea Eastland, Rhonda Francis, LeeAnn

Laws, and Kathy Hepler and physical education teachers Amy Cichon and Ann Boelens.

The students with 22 speaking cast members, 122 second grade singers and dancers, and 17 fifth grade performers played to a "standing-room-only" audience.



Courtesy photo

## Students of the Month

Each month Cole Middle and Senior High School recognizes one student from each grade level for their outstanding attitude, citizenship, and overall contribution to the school. The students are nominated by their teachers and then one student is selected by the faculty of each grade level. The recipients for November were (back row, from left) Amber Wessies, 10th grade; Tabitha Fielder, 12th grade; Rosa Zegarra, 11th grade; (front row, from left) Matthew Pecko, eighth grade and Kelli Coleman, sixth grade. Not pictured are Ruby Gibson, seventh grade and Dominique Edmonds, ninth grade.

## MWR

### Community Recreation

#### Golf Club, 222-9386

##### Warriors Monthly Scramble golf tournament

The Warriors Monthly Scramble is held the first Friday of each month at the Sam Houston Golf Club. The next tournament will be Jan. 4. Register up to four players to participate in the tournament. Shotgun start is at 12:30 p.m. Entry fee is \$20 per person and includes cart rental, prizes and social following the scramble. Participants must be in an authorized pass or leave status. For more information or to register, call the Golf Club Pro Shop at 222-9386.

##### Golf lessons

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club has the perfect gift for that special someone. Sign up for the 5-lesson package for \$150, and receive an additional 5 lessons free! Clubs and balls are included with the lesson. For more information, call 222-9386 or 355-5429.

##### Holiday Sale

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club's Pro Shop is having a holiday sale through Sunday. Come by for discounts ranging from 5 to 40 percent off a variety of merchandise. Stop by the driving range and buy a bucket of balls for \$3; find a lucky red ball in the bucket of range balls and be an instant winner of a dozen pro line golf balls from the Pro Shop. For more information, call 222-9386.

## Dining and Entertainment

#### Sam Houston Club, 224-2721

##### Karaoke Fridays

Come by the Sam Houston Club every Friday at 5 p.m. for free karaoke. Practice your vocals or just come out and have fun with friends to celebrate the end of another long work week. For more information, call 224-2721.

#### Harlequin Dinner Theatre

##### Auditions

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will hold open auditions Jan. 7 and 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for the Gore Vidal comedy "Visit to a Small Planet." Don Patterson will direct the comedy about a visitor from another planet who comes to do a bit of sightseeing and to start a war. There are roles for seven men and three women, ages ranging from late teens to late sixties. Other volunteers are needed as assistant director, stage manager, light and sound technicians, props and stage crew. Performances will be Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Feb. 27 through March 29. For more information, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694.

#### MWR Ticket Office

Tickets for the Alamo Bowl are now on sale at the MWR Ticket Office. The ticket office is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Saturday through Monday. Come by for discounted tickets

on local attractions, as well as theme parks like Disney World and Universal Studios. For more information, visit [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com) or call 221-1663 or 224-2721.

#### Seal and Send Grocery Giveaway

Visit [www.armymwr.com/groceriesweepstakes](http://www.armymwr.com/groceriesweepstakes) through Dec. 31 to enter for a chance to win one of the following prizes: one year of free groceries from any military commissary, commissary gift cards and certificates or Food-Saver V2440 Vacuum packaging systems. This sweepstakes is open to the total defense force - Service Members, retirees, and their Families (18 years of age and older) who are eligible to shop in the exchange and commissary. To enter into the sweepstakes or for more information, visit [www.armymwr.com/groceriesweepstakes](http://www.armymwr.com/groceriesweepstakes).

#### Medieval Times Military Appreciation

Medieval Times is hosting Military Appreciation through Tuesday. Experience a magical evening of feasting, sport and pageantry inside one of their castles. Feast on four-course banquets while cheering a brave knight on to victory. Witness a spectacular performance of medieval tournament games, authentic jousting and exciting sword fights. Children (12 years old and younger) receive free admission with one paid adult admission through Tuesday. Valid military identification is required at the time of purchase. This offer is not valid for online ticket purchase. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Reservations required; request the "Kids Free Military Promotion" while making reservation to receive the discount. Medieval Times is located in various locations across the nation, including Dallas, Texas. For more information, call the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Ticket Office at 226-1663.

## Army Community Service

#### Blended Families

The stepfamily can be complex when it comes to family relationships. Join the Red Cross, Building 2650, today from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to discuss changing family dynamics and the complex roles of parents. Learn tips on dealing with discipline issues and how to avoid common pitfalls. For more information, call 221-2750.

#### AER Scholarship Programs

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program is for dependent children of active, retired and deceased Soldiers. The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program offers scholarships based on financial need, academics and leadership/achievement. For more information or to apply for the scholarship, visit [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org) or call Army Community Service at 221-1612.

See MWR P19

#### MWR from P18

### Child and Youth Services

#### Parent Advisory Council

A Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held Jan. 15 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 the staff, attend parent workshops and learn about upcoming events. PAC meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month. For more information, call 221-4871 or 221-1723.

#### Youth winter camp

School Age Services and Youth Services will provide Winter Camp from Wednesday through Jan. 7. All

patrons must be registered in order to be eligible for the camp. For more information, call School Age Services at 221-4455 or the Youth Center at 221-3502.

#### Coaches needed

The Youth Sports Program is looking for basketball coaches. Coaches will need to clear a background check. Those interested may pick up coaching packets from the Youth Center, Building 1630 or Central Registration, Building 2797. For more information, call Sports at 221-5519 or 221-3502.

#### Sport physicals

Patrons interested in winter sports should make appointments for sport physicals now. Patrons will need a sport physical to register. Sport physicals must be valid for the entire sport season. Patrons must be registered with Child and Youth

Services to participate in sports. For more information or registration requirements, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

#### Youth talent show

Sign-up for the 2008 Youth Services Talent Show. Comedians, dancers, models, steppers, poets, speakers, singers and musicians are needed for the yearly show which will be held Feb. 23. Stop by any Child and Youth Services facility between Wednesday and Jan. 25 to sign-up. Applicants must be between the ages of 3 and 18. For more information, call 221-4871 or 221-1723.

#### CYS needs instructors

Child and Youth Services is recruiting instructors for driver's education, cooking, leadership skills, mentoring, tutoring, voice, guitar and Spanish. For more information, call 295-4806 or 221-1103.

#### Central Registration

Central Registration is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-ins and appointments are welcome; patrons seen after 4 p.m. are by appointment only. Central Registration is located

in Building 2797. To register for Child and Youth Services programs patrons must provide current shots records (kindergarten through fifth grade), two local emergency designees, health assessment/sport physical within the last year (sport physicals must be valid the entire selected sport season) child's Social Security Number, sponsor's Leave and Earnings Statement, spouse's W2 form, \$18 registration fee and activity fee payment. For more information, call 221-1723 or 221-4871.

#### FCC providers

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

#### Off-post childcare options

The Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood program offers military Families more childcare options in the local community. There are two childcare centers and 25 civilian providers in surrounding areas of Fort Sam Houston available for use by local Army Families. The centers and providers are monitored to

ensure they meet Army standards. For more information, call the Family Service Association at 431-7570 or Fort Sam Houston Central Registration at 221-4871.

#### 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 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Child and Youth Services Central Registration, Building 2797.

#### SKIES Unlimited classes

The Child and Youth Services Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills Unlimited program offers language, music and sports classes for children ages 6 to 18 who are registered with CYS. The first month's fee is due at time of registration at Building 2797. For more information, visit the Child Development Center, Building 2530; School Age Services, Building 1705; or Middle School and Teens, Building 1630; or call 221-1723 or 221-4871.

## MWR holiday hours

Many of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities will be closed additional days during the December holidays. Below is a list of closures for December. Call the facilities for any variance in normal operating hours.

**RV Park:** closed Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday; Dec. 28 through 30 and Jan. 1.

**Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library:** closed Sunday through Tuesday; Dec. 30 through Jan. 1.

**Outdoor Equipment Center:** closed Monday, Tuesday and Jan. 1.

**Jimmy Brought Fitness Center (and pool):** closed Tuesday and Jan. 1.

**Auto Craft Shop:** closed Monday through Wednesday; Dec. 31 through Jan. 2.

**Equestrian Center:** closed Monday, Tuesday and Jan. 1

**Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation Center:** closed Monday through Wednesday and Dec. 31 through Jan. 2

**Fort Sam Houston Recreation Area at Canyon Lake:** closed Monday and Tuesday; and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

**Hacienda Recreation Center:** closed today through Jan. 1

**Brigade Gym:** closed today through Jan. 1

**Central Gym:** closed through Jan. 1

**Sam Houston Club:** closed

Saturday through Jan. 6  
**Golf Club:** closed Monday at 12 p.m.; closed Tuesday, closed Dec. 31 at 12 p.m.; closed Jan. 1

**Bowling Center:** closed Saturday through Jan. 4

**Harlequin Dinner Theatre:** closed Friday through Jan. 1

**Army Community Service:** closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

**Child Development Center:** closed Monday, Tuesday and Dec. 31

**Youth Services:** closed Monday, Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

**School Age Services:** closed Monday, Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

**Parent/Child Incorporated Headstart:** closed from 12 p.m. Friday through Jan. 7

**Family Child Care:** closed Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1

An Executive Order was issued by President George W. Bush declaring Monday a holiday for most Federal Employees. As a result, the Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center facility will also be closed that day.

The holiday hours are posted at [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com).



Courtesy photo

## Holidays at Okubo Barracks

By Jennifer Morris  
Directorate, Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers held a holiday party for the Warriors in Transition at the Okubo Barracks Dec. 12. The celebration kicked off at 5:30 p.m. with a meal catered by Cheesy Jane's that included brisket, sausage, beans and milkshakes.

As they went through the buffet style line, each Soldier was given a ticket for a prize. BOSS awarded a holiday donation of one new controller and five video games for the Wii in the Okubo Barracks which allows Soldiers to compete against each other on the newly donated game system. Throughout the evening, BOSS held drawings and had trivia contests for prizes that included gift cards and other various items.

Following the meal, the Warriors in Transition were surprised with a special showing of the not-yet released on DVD/VHS,

"The Simpsons Movie" and a few rounds of competitive games on the Wii.

Sgt. Cindy Monroe from A Company, WTB said, "The BOSS function was more than I expected. They did an outstanding job of involving all the Soldiers. I was impressed with the camaraderie and care of those who served us."

The BOSS Holiday Party at the Okubo Barracks was sponsored by the Austin Wranglers, Brook Owens of Keller Williams Realty, Cathy Austin of Covenant Partners Realty, DeVry University, First Command, Ford, HD Supply, Kel-Lac Uniforms, Kimberley Smitley of Century 21, Military Benefit Representatives, NABI Biopharmaceuticals, Sprint, TLC Laser Eye Centers, Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars, and USAA.

BOSS is scheduled to hold several events in February, including the BOSS Super Bowl Bowling Party, as well as the BOSS and Sam Houston Club Texas Hold 'Em.

## COMMUNITY

### Events

#### Scholarships for military children

Defense Commissary Agency is accepting applications for 2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program. The \$1,500 scholarships is available for children under the age of 21 (or 23, if enrolled in school) of military active-duty, retired, and Guard and Reserve service members. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall of 2008 or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Applicants must submit an essay arguing for or against the following statement: "Every able-bodied citizen should be required to serve a two-year period of time in the military. Why or why not?" Applications must be turned in to any commissary by Feb. 20. For more information, call 804-734-8061 or visit [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

### Training

#### Training for first-term Soldiers

The Financial Readiness First-Term Soldier On-Line Training is mandatory for all first-term Soldiers. It is an eight hour course containing tools and information on money matters, basic money management, savings and investments, insurance, major purchases and many other informative topics dealing with money. The Education Center is available for Soldiers to take the class; Army Community Service will provide an instructor every Wednesday from 12 to 4 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.myarmylifetoo.com> and select Money Matters to register.

### Meetings

#### NCO Wives' Club

The Fort Sam Houston Noncommissioned Officers' Wives Club invites all spouses to join them, the first

Tuesday of the month at the Sam Houston Club at 10 a.m. For more information, call Angie Luna at 333-0821 or 386-8265.

#### Warrant Officer Association

The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meeting will be held Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. at Chacho's and Chulucci's, 8614 Perrin Beitel Rd. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard, Warrant Officers and Family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. For more information and directions, call Juan Gomez at 295-6596, e-mail [juan.gomez@us.army.mil](mailto:juan.gomez@us.army.mil), or Suzan Farrell at 378-0422, e-mail [suzan.farrell@us.army.mil](mailto:suzan.farrell@us.army.mil).

#### Spouses' Club holiday coffee

The Spouses' Club board will host a holiday coffee and meeting Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Stillwell House. The event is free and open to all members, reservations are not required. For more information, call Marcella Garcia at 677-5187.

### Volunteer

#### Kelly Dental Clinic needs patients

The Kelly Dental Clinic at Lackland Air Force Base is currently seeking patients who are dependent children, dependents and retirees, not on the United Concordia Dental Insurance Program. Each patient must have had a current examination, have current health history and x-rays and need routine oral prophylaxis (every six months) for healthy dentition. We will not accept patients with periodontal conditions. Members must have a record or copy of their record with this information. Interested patients should call the Kelly Dental Clinic at 925-1846 and leave a full name and phone number or e-mail. Patients will be handled on a first come, first served basis.

#### Seeking rugby players

The San Antonio Rugby Association is holding open registration for all high school males interested in playing this ancient sport that is growing in popularity. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Olmos Basin Park. For more information and to register, call 493-1049, e-mail [andrew@ellielance.com](mailto:andrew@ellielance.com) or visit [www.sanantoniorugby.com](http://www.sanantoniorugby.com).

## Religion

#### Fort Sam Houston Chapels Holiday worship, event schedule

##### Monday, Christmas Eve services

Roman Catholic: "Children's Mass" at 5:30 p.m., Dodd Field Chapel and "Christmas Vigil" at 9 p.m., the Main Post Chapel

Protestant: "Candlelight Service" at 7 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel

##### Tuesday, Christmas Day service

Roman Catholic: "Christmas Mass," at 9:30 a.m., the Main Post Chapel

##### Dec. 31, New Year's Eve service

Gospel Protestant: "Watchnight Service" at 11 p.m., Dodd Field Chapel

##### Jan. 1, New Year's Day service

Roman Catholic: "Holy Day of Obligation, Feast of Mary, Mother of God Mass" at 9:30 a.m., the Main Post Chapel

##### New worship services

A Christ for the Intrepid contemporary worship service will be held Sunday nights with a free coffee house at 5:30 p.m. followed by a service at 6 p.m. at the Center for the Intrepid Coffee House, on the first floor of the CFI. For more information, call Maj. Chaplain Jim Duke or Capt. Chaplain Jim Combs at 916-1105.

An Episcopal/Lutheran Rite traditional worship service will be held Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel. For more information, call Capt. Chaplain Phil Kochenberger at 916-1105.

**Reminder of schedule change**  
Due to the closure of the Army Medical Department Center and School Chapel for renovations services have been moved. Church of Latter Day Saints service will be held Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Noncommissioned Officer Academy; Catholic Mass at 8 a.m. Sundays and Protestant service at 9:30 a.m. Sundays will be held in Evans Auditorium.

##### PWOC Bible study

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all women to participate in the fall Bible study classes. Classes are held Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Dodd Field Chapel. Childcare is available up to age 5. For more information or a list of classes, call Paulette Jordan at 462-7676.

#### Submission guidelines:

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline is close of business Friday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve military members and civilian

**For Sale:** Wooden crib with mattress, \$150; wooden toddler bed converts from a crib, \$75. Call 533-1993.

**For Sale:** Folding ping pong table with paddles and net, \$25; Litton Generation II microwave, \$15; Kenwood powered Subwoofer, \$20. Call 415-8628.

**For Sale:** Ashley three piece living room set, \$375; glass dining room set with six chairs and bakers rack, \$295; Maytag gas dryer, \$225; three piece coffee and end tables, \$45; two lamps, \$40. Call 535-2249, 493-2910 or e-mail [Getmysale@yahoo.com](mailto:Getmysale@yahoo.com).

#### Resident activities

Lincoln Military Housing gave away five hams from the Honey Baked Ham Company. Residents had to complete an entry form and submit the form to the Housing Office before the deadline of Dec. 14. The winners of the hams were James Schaale, Susan Argueta, Benjamin Guerrero, Samuel Rodgers and Christopher Kane.

Santa is coming to town. Get a glimpse of Santa as he drives through

## Fort Freebies

employees working on Fort Sam Houston. Real estate ads will not be published. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail [news.leader@conus.army.mil](mailto:news.leader@conus.army.mil) or fax to 221-1198. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. Limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-1031.

**For Sale:** Set of four American racing custom rims and tires, 16-inch that fit 1999 GMC/Sierra pick-up, \$500 obo. Call 378-5253 or 659-8629.

**For Sale:** Big office chair, \$29; two bar chairs, new, \$129; vacuum car cleaner, \$15; long power cord, \$20; Christmas tree with ornaments and lights, 6-foot, \$49. Call 829-4741, leave message.

**For Sale:** Musical baby swing, \$40; maternity clothes, sizes L, XL, 2X and 3X, new, \$5 and up; bassinet with mattress, \$20; baby musical kick toys, \$12; tiny Shitzu, female,

14 months, \$375. Call 633-3859.

**For Sale:** High back rattan, hand made woven chair, made in the Philippines, \$90; Bamboo hand made three sectional, 30 gallon aquarium, \$120; refrigerator, medium size, older, works, \$50. Call 840-3134 or 685-2112.

**For Sale:** 1992 Cadillac Deville, dark green with vinyl top, needs some engine work, \$400 obo. Call 532-3740.

**Free to Good Home:** Two cats, both one year old, spayed, shots up-to-date, fun, loving and playful. Call Becky at 254-9803 or 608-359-5115.

#### December Yards of the Month

819 Patch  
5260-A Barkely Circle  
410 Dickman  
678-A Infantry Post

#### Holiday decorating contest

3121 William Hardee Road  
5537-A Dean Circle  
560 Graham  
165 Artillery Post

