

Casebate

Spotlight
Event

Disability Awareness
Pam Clark, Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2004 is coming to Fort Monroe for a special observance.

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Vol. 26, No. 19

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September 24, 2004

What's Inside



Back from Afghanistan

Beth Sigler experienced the war on terrorism in a way few others at Fort Monroe have ever known.

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Concert lineup grows

The free Columbus Day weekend concert keeps getting better — a third band has signed up for the show.

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Classroom conduct

Local child care and public school experts have adopted all new methods for maintaining discipline in the classroom.

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Community Notice

Monroe celebrates Hispanic heritage

Latin dancing, a performance by Poquoson Elementary School, more entertainment by the Transportation Express and Latin hors d'oeuvres are just some of the offerings of Fort Monroe's Hispanic Bazaar at 1 p.m., Oct. 5 in the Bay Breeze Community Center. This event is free and open to the public.



Digging In

Fall Cleanup - Oct. 25-29

Casebate file photo by Patrick Buffett

Monroe family member Maggie McCann plays in a garden outside the Child Care Center earlier this year.

Army pushes voting registration

BY BELINDA BAKER
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

The deadline for voter registration is fast approaching. Post officials urge all Soldiers and civilian personnel assigned to Fort Monroe to register on or before Oct. 4 to participate in the November elections.

Civilian employees who are registered voters scheduled to work Election Day will be granted excused absences in order to vote, according to Civilian Personnel Advisory Center director Barry Buchanan. He explained that where the polls are not open at least three hours before or after an employee's regular work hours, the employee gets only enough excused leave to report for work three hours after the polls open or leave work three hours before the polls close.

"For example, if your work hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., you would be allowed 30 minutes' excused absence to vote. You get the lesser of the time off required," said Buchanan.

"It is the Soldier who gives us the freedom to vote. Make sure their vote counts!"

Army Memo

R.L. Brownlee and Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker

The Army stepped up efforts this year to prompt Soldiers to vote putting into overdrive the message that absentee ballots are crucial.

Sgt. 1st Class Rosalyn Howe, the post's senior voting assistance NCO, said as the registration phase of the process winds down all personnel must do everything necessary to ensure that their votes will count.

"Completing and sending in absentee ballots is very important at this stage. It's very easy to put it aside with the rest of your mail and forget about it. So once you complete your ballots, please mail them as soon as

possible. Although our focus is shifting over to getting people out to vote, we are still available for assistance with registration for those who still need it" said Howe.

She said because the criterion differs from state to state, Soldiers must familiarize themselves with the rules of their individual states. A helpful tool to do so is the website, www.fvap.gov, she added, In addition, each unit has a voter assistance officer Soldiers can consult.

In a Department of the Army memo, the Army's Chief of Staff weighed in on the issue stating that DA has full cooperation from the United States Postal Service, which agreed to expedite the handling of absentee ballots, particularly those going to and from overseas locations.

"... Soldiers around the globe are given the opportunity to influence the future of our country," the memo read. "It is the Soldier who gives us the freedom to vote. Make sure their vote counts!"

Community Town Hall Meeting, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m., Post Theater

"There are no perfect children because there are no perfect parents."

Don't blame teachers for lack of values

Chaplain's Corner



Lt. Col. Wilbert Harrison
Post Chaplain

The other day I read in the newspaper where a pedestrian was hit by a car. A woman driving by, happened to see the accident, stopped her car and got out to assist the injured person. While attending to the injured, someone stole her purse.

I have often wondered what makes a person take what doesn't belong to him or her. How did they learn that it was acceptable to steal from others?

After reading this account I could not help thinking about the person who stole this lady's purse. Perhaps it was peer pressure that made him or her do it.

On the other hand, it could have been learned from home that it is okay to steal. Whatever the reason, parents ought not to blame teachers for the lack of values taught at home.

Too many parents cry and whine when the school officials discipline and hold

the child responsible for his or her actions. Parents ought to be thankful to teachers and others who provide good examples and discipline to the child before it's too late. Once they reach those teen years, it is difficult to instill good values and sometimes virtually impossible to teach them the difference between right and wrong.

There is an old adage, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree." Children

grow up and live out the values taught at home.

Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

This doesn't mean that the child will live and never stray; after all, name a human-being that has never strayed away from doing the right thing. We may be faithful to God some of the time, but none of us is faithful to God all of the time.

This verse teaches the importance of having a spiritual foundation at an early age because it becomes the base upon which one can turn back to God in later years. It is in those later years when life takes on a different meaning and the reality of life and death become the thing we wrestle with as we find meaning to our existence.

It also teaches the value of having a spiritual heritage and that will help when faced with choices of right and wrong.

The bottom line is teachers cannot be responsible for teaching your child spiritual values. The law prohibits them from doing so. This is why spiritual values are taught first at home and secondly at a place of worship. Parents are held accountable to God when they fail to provide the spiritual sustenance that is needed so that the child can build a relationship with God.

There are no perfect children because there are no perfect parents. There are parents who teach their children right from wrong to the best of their abilities, and this is pleasing to God.

Someone has said that through their actions, parents are the only image of what God is like. In other words, children will learn to do good because their parents do good. And, since the parents' acts are good, they express an image of God who is good to all.

How can we be good parents?

First, pray with and for your child daily. Praying for your child daily is a very serious and important part of the child's spiritual heritage and should not be taken lightly. Also, read stories out of the Bible, children love to hear Bible stories.

Second, make a commitment to God and your family that you will attend worship services together. In other words, start a spiritual legacy by worshipping together once a week.

Third, respect and treat all people with dignity. Let your children see you do good things.

Parents love each other and let your children see it. Remember, boys grow up and treat women the way their father treated their mother, and girls grow up to choose men like their fathers.

Parents, remember ... we can't blame the teacher if we have not done our spiritual homework.

"It cannot be stressed enough that it is crucial that this information be kept current."

Student emergency data is serious business

I continue to meet with principals and representatives from the local school systems to discuss military child education issues, including mobilization and contingency plans and school emergency procedures.

We are aware that there are many parents who have not updated their emergency POC information to ensure the appropriate individual will pick up the child in the event the parent is not able to do so. It cannot be stressed enough that it is crucial that this information be kept current. This applies to all schools our children attend, pre-school, K-12, public and private.

Community Spotlight



Charlie French
Monroe School Liaison Officer

The schools have asked for my assistance in encouraging parents to ensure their emergency POC information is updated. Please

assure that where there is an emergency POC listed, the named individual is aware if the child has special needs that may require follow-on attention.

As you review your personal family care plans, please review/update your emergency POC information to ensure it includes a local POC who is knowledgeable about any special circumstances; and provide this information to your child's school (if you have not already done so).

Schools also indicated that a letter will be sent out to all families requesting that emergency POC information be updated. Hopefully, this reminder, along

with the schools' letter, will ensure each military child's emergency contact information is kept current. Please feel free to also forward this information as you deem appropriate to others for widest dissemination.

Thanks for your assistance. Reducing school related concerns will contribute to enhancing the family life of our military members. Army readiness is inextricably linked to the well being of our people.

If you have any questions, or issues concerning our K-12 schools, please feel free to contact me via e-mail: charles.french@monroe.army.mil, or by phone 788-4673.

September Blood Drive Results

Overall totals:

65 donors resulting in 58 usable pints of blood.

Milestones:

One Gallon

Kenneth Hood

George Gonsalves

Two Gallon

James Degaraff

Five Gallons

Paul Norris

Six Gallons

Stanley Winarsky

Seven Gallons

Barbara Bell

Nine Gallons

Trudy Brinkley

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Casemate

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'Stroke 9' joins Columbus weekend concert lineup

BY PATRICK BUFFETT
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Concert-goers, who were already looking forward to the upcoming free performance by Vertical Horizon and local-favorite Lucky Town at Fort Monroe's Walker Airfield Oct. 9, are going to find this news almost too good to be true.

A third popular pop-rock band – Stroke 9 – has also signed up for the evening's show.

"This is huge," said Jeff Hill, USO representative at Fort Monroe. "We're getting more bang for our buck. And it means even more entertainment for our troops and their families, as well as our guests from the surrounding community. Now we can make that festival atmosphere last even longer."

The USO of Hampton Roads and Headquarters, Fort Monroe, are the key organizers of the post summer concert series.

Best known among the late-teen and college-age crowd for their gold-selling album "Nasty Little Thoughts," and its hit single "Little Black Backpack," Stroke 9 has been touring with Vertical Horizon for most of the 2004 season. The group is now promoting its sixth album "All In," which will be released Nov. 9. Previews of those songs can be



Stroke 9 band members are: Eric Stock, left, John McDermott, center, and Luke Esterkyn

heard at the group's fan site: www.stroke9.com.

Described as "power-poppers" by the writer's of MTV.com, Stroke 9 is also among the artists who performed for the satirical "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" soundtrack, released in 2001. The group also appeared in the 1999 Ron Howard film "Ed TV."

Stroke 9 shares many common bonds with Vertical Horizon. Both groups were first formed "on campus" – Marin Academy near San Francisco and Georgetown University in the Washington, D.C. area, respectively. Like a lot of bands, they both worked the nightclub and small-community-event circuit before being courted by major record labels.

Vertical Horizon is also promoting a new release, "Go," which debuted in September 2003. Its hit single "I'm Still Here" shows promise of following the same footsteps of the group's better-known hit, "Everything You Want," released in 2000. That single earned a Billboard Music Award for Top 40 Track of the Year, and made the group a shoo-in for Adult Top 40 Artist of the Year.

Additional tracks off their 2000 album include "We Are," "You're a God," and "Best I Ever Had."

Vertical Horizon members include Matt Scannel, vocalist and guitarist, Keith Kane, vocalist and guitarist, Ed Toth, drums and percussion, and Sean Hurley, bassist and vocalist. The band has toured with the likes of Third Eye Blind, Dave Matthews and the Barenaked Ladies.

Lucky Town, a Virginia Beach



Contributed Photo

Vertical Horizon

band that formed in 1997, has achieved public approval in east coast clubs from South Carolina to Vermont, and is now receiving national attention.

The band heard their track, "Simple," spun more than 1,200 times by local radio stations WKOC 93.7 The Coast and WPTE 94.9 The Point. They have sold nearly 10,000 copies of their independent releases, and had two of their songs featured on MTV's "Road Rules." Lucky Town was chosen from more than 100 other bands to be featured in a two-page layout in the Oct. 30 issue of Rolling Stone magazine.

Lucky Town will open the Columbus Weekend concert with their performance beginning at 6 p.m. Stroke 9 takes the stage at 7:30 p.m. And Vertical Horizon wraps up the evening with their performance, which begins at 9 p.m.

The concert is free and open to the public. Gates open at 5 p.m. No

coolers or backpacks are allowed. Food and beverages will be available on site.

In case of severe weather, the concert will be cancelled.

All three access gates to the installation will be open to event traffic as of 5 p.m. Motorists with a Department of Defense decal are asked to use Mercury Boulevard to enter the installation via the Ingalls Road entrance. The Stilwell Gate and McNair Road entrances are for non-DoD visitors. Access to the post requires a picture ID for anyone 18 years and older.

Base residents and employees are also reminded that the East Gate entrance to the moat (along Patch Road) will also be closed as of 5 p.m.

For more information about the concert, call 788-3151. To read more about Vertical Horizon and Lucky Town, visit www.verticalhorizon.com or www.lucky-town.com.

September Yard of the Month

The Office of the Post Command Sergeant Major recently announced the winners for the September Yard of the Month competition. They are:

- Ingalls 1 – Col. John and Cynthia Bone
- Reeder Circle – Sgt. 1st Class William and Kandance Burks
- Commissary – Sgt. Scott and Nadine Lambert
- Ingalls II – Capt. Kevin and Denise McNamara
- Moat officer – No winner
- Moat walk – Sgt. Wade and Zoge Roit
- n Monroe apartments – No winner

This was the final competition for the 2004 season. The garrison command staff congratulates all of this year's winners and thanks every member of the Fort Monroe community for their enthusiastic support of the Project Pride program.

Isabel's legacy ...

Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, garrison commander, places a Hurricane Isabel commemorative plaque on the steps of Building 138, located near Continental Park, Sept. 17. The ceremony was held on the one-year eve of Isabel's passing. The category two storm slammed the installation with high winds and flooding that topped five feet in some locations. Another plaque sits nearly two feet below the Isabel high-water marker. It was placed after a 1933 storm that held the record for most damage until Isabel came along.



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Disability program features Ms. Wheelchair, Va.

BY WAYNE KANOY
FORT MONROE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Despite a devastating motorcycle accident that left her a paraplegic, Pam Clark, Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2004, continues to ride on vehicles with less than four wheels.

The public is invited to hear her positive approach for living at Fort Monroe's National Disability Employment Awareness Month program starting at 1 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Bay Breeze Community Center.

Crowned Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2004 in March, Clark will speak on the month's observance theme: "You're Hired! Success Knows No Limitations!"

Clark was awarded 2nd Runner Up at the 32nd Ms. Wheelchair America program, held in Richmond in late July. Staffed and coordinated by volunteers throughout the country, the non-profit program is a forum for promoting the achievements and needs of mobility-impaired persons.

"We can do the job," Clark said. "It's important that employers realize we have talents and abilities that should be utilized in the workforce. We can contribute."

The single, 39 year-old Martinsville, Va., native has taught kindergarten, third grade, and community college courses. Currently, she is employed by the Piedmont Tech Prep Consortium where she coordinates activities, events, curriculum and partnerships with local and regional middle and high schools, Patrick Henry Community College, business and industry leaders, and the chambers of commerce. In addition to working at Piedmont Tech, Clark said she is starting another career endeavor as a marketing



Contributed Photo

Pam Clark
Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2004

specialist for the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority based in Richmond.

Clark's debilitating accident occurred in May 2001 when she was a passenger riding a motorcycle en route to Bike Week at Myrtle Beach, S.C. She said, "for no apparent reason," the cycle slid off the road and she landed in a concrete ditch. Clark suffered severe injuries resulting in a severed spinal cord, a broken back — in seven places — damaged lungs, and cracked ribs. The driver escaped injury.

Clark said she credits her successful recovery and success in overcoming life challenges to her genetic makeup and faith.

"My family is strong-willed — not fearful of a challenge — and very determined in carrying out goals," she said.

Describing herself as a "person of faith," Clark said her beliefs contribute to her stability and willingness to succeed.

Besides pursuing career opportunities and working as an advocate for all people with disabilities since her recovery, Clark continues to study, exercise and serve on local, state and national boards to address education, civic and business issues. She also takes time to have fun enjoying leisure activities and being around people.

Singing, spending time with family and friends, watching sports, and traveling are fun outlets for Clark, and her love for motorcycling has not ceased. She explained that she now rides a "custom-made trike" with a Volkswagen engine. The back seat is a modified captain's chair that is used for her comfort. And there is a rack on the trike's back that holds her wheelchair.

Clark earned a doctorate's degree in education from California Coast University in May 2004. She also has a master's in curriculum and instruction from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor's in early childhood education from James Madison University.

Headquarters Fort Monroe is hosting the observance program.

A sign language interpreter will be on site.

For those requiring more information, contact Cleveland Williams at 788-3837.

6X7
AD

Former Phoebus student is a 'force to be reckoned with'

BY BELINDA BAKER
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Student Spotlight

When Ashley Huggar arrived at Fort Monroe with her family she was a shy fifth grader who had left the familiar places and faces of Fort Bragg, N.C., behind. That was seven years ago.

Today she has emerged as a force with which to be reckoned. Before graduating from Phoebus

High School in June, Huggar had an active role in nearly every club and organization the school sponsored. On top of that she was on the girls' track and soccer teams.

"The most I may have done before moving here is join the Girl Scouts," she said. "When I started joining clubs in school and doing other activities it motivated me to strive to do more and more."

Her four-year high school career included peer mentoring along with membership in Key Club, Math and Spanish Honor societies, Principal's Advisory Council and Superintendent's Advisory Council. She served as Student Council president and was vice-president of the National Honor Society.

The 18-year-old said her parents, Lt. Col. Antonio and Shari Huggar, are her role models. She said they inspire her to give every undertaking the very best effort.



Ashley Huggar

"They have taught me so much and have been so supportive of everything I do. They may think that the things they say go in one ear and out of the other — believe me, though, they don't," Huggar said.

The parental wisdom on which she has relied most is: "Never settle for less. Take advantage of every opportunity no matter how small because you never know if it'll help you in the long run."

Volunteering for civic programs has also been a large part of Huggar's life. She was on the Hurricane Isabel relief team and volunteered with the Red Cross, and she's a regular participant in Alternatives for Youth and Relay for Life.

Huggar's efforts have not gone unnoticed. Kiwanis By the Bay gave her its first Joseph M. Kalista Jr. Honorary Scholarship. And she was selected for a summer internship with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation this year — an honor she described as "her proudest moment to date."

"I knew being involved at school and staying active would pay off one day. This was the greatest experience. I spent three weeks in D.C., three in New York City and one week in Nashville, where I was able to organize the 2nd National Conference," she said.

Fresh off her summer internship, Huggar once again bid goodbye to her parents in August and stepped on campus at Old Dominion University to begin her first year.

The communications major has cut back on activities, saying she is concentrating on academics and adjusting to campus life this semester.

Huggar said she will definitely join both the Student Council and Student Activities Council next semester. Down the line she may even join a sorority to further her community service aspirations. Graduate school is also on the more distant horizon.

"There is so much I would like to do," she said. "Wherever I end up I just want to be successful."

(Do you know a student who performs above and beyond peers? Is there a school-related issue you would like to read about in the Casemate? Call us with your ideas at 788-3520/3531/3208.)

4 X 12
AD

2 X 2
AD

3X7



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Getting down and dirty ...

Petty Officer Second Class David Rodriguez of Joint Task Force Civil Support lends a hand during the National Public Lands Day observance by planting trees on Fort Monroe Sept. 17. According to environmental specialist Grady Wesson, volunteers helped plant bald cypress, sawtooth oak, loblolly and long-leaf pine trees, sea grasses and flowers in several areas here. This was the day before the first anniversary of hurricane Isabel's rampage through the fort which destroyed much foliage.

6X7

Beth's 'Excellent' Afghanistan Adventure

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

When Beth Sigler answered the call for MWR volunteers in Afghanistan earlier this year, she was sort of expecting it to be like a big camping trip — with body armor and Kevlar, of course.

Six months later, the Fort Monroe Youth Services director realizes it was way more than that. Helicopter excursions into the desert, dinner at a “warlord’s” home, a community outreach program to convert a jail into a school for Afghan children ... “It was the opportunity of a lifetime,” Sigler said.

Throughout her stint as the Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Sigler maintained a personal journal that described her experiences in vivid detail. She shared her writing, as well as some fascinating first-hand “war stories” with the Casemate during a Sept. 14 interview.

“I’ve always been a beach person, so I thought the heat wouldn’t bother me. But, let me tell you, hot is hot; even if it is a dry heat,” Sigler said. “When it’s up over 110, it is hot. Especially when I would go to the (forward operating base) in full DCU — desert camouflage uniform — Kevlar and body armor. I thought I’d (melt into) a puddle on the sand at times. How Soldiers did that day after day after day, I will never know.”

She described the southern region of Afghanistan as an almost surreal, brown environment where ethereal objects that appeared to be clouds in the sky were actually dust.

“Dust covered everything. The shower was about a quarter of a football field from my tent. So when I’d take a shower, by the time I got back to my tent I was dirty again. You were never clean. When I’d wash my hair it would feel like I’d just gotten out of the ocean,” she said.

“Stars don’t even look the same,” she said with wonder. “They are not round or dots like here. They look like the ones on Christmas cards ... the ones with four points.”

Before embarking on her journey, Sigler said she had concerns about adjusting to the fierce, primitive conditions of which she had read. But it didn’t take long before she was organizing tournaments and entertainment venues and acquiring equipment and services for the joint forces troops. She also solicited personal items for Soldiers and distributed those donated from the Fort Monroe community.

A journal entry describes one such distribution run:

“Today was the day of the rodeo to Tarin Kwot; yeah, R-O-D-E-O. But there are no horses. It’s what they call a trip to the FOB when you take several different agencies to provide the Soldiers with services they wouldn’t normally have in a secluded location.

The compound had two headquarters tents for the two units located there, the journal continued. They were rather large tents with phones, computers, air conditioning and a refrigerator. Everywhere else there were only pup tents (as living spaces for the Soldiers) or Con-X boxes modified to accommodate storage, maintenance or whatever. Those tents and spaces were not climate controlled.

“There was no mess hall. The soldiers ate MRE’s all the time unless the PX sent snacks to sell in their makeshift PX /Con-X box.

“Bottled water was in ample supply. But there were only two refrigerators on the whole camp so virtually all the drinks were at ‘desert temperature — about 100-plus degrees.”

The camp was spread out over a large area, maybe a mile or so, Sigler wrote. She was told they laid-out the camp like that on purpose so any one mortar or missile couldn’t take out too

much at a time. One side of the camp was heavily protected with HESCO — a welded steel barrier — and sand bags. They said it was the side most hit.

“My role in going there was to deliver a bunch of MWR equipment and personal hygiene items that had been donated. Because of my gifts I was a very popular person — not to mention that I was the only female among about 700 men. I was also there to help them plan facilities to create an MWR area and tell them the procedures for obtaining more stuff.”

Sigler asked for an opportunity to experience the culture of Afghanistan. The base commander found one for her — it included helping to turn a jail into a school.

“When we reached the school I was a bit unnerved at the sight of all the Afghans with
See AFGHANISTAN, Page 9



Beth Sigler distributes the contents of a “care” package from home to troops in Afghanistan.

4X10

News Clips

The Future Leaders and Thinkers Toastmasters Club will meet Sept. 27 in Bldg. 10, 2nd Floor ACA conference room at 11:40 a.m. Plan to attend and bring a friend. Contact Janet Geisler at 788-2407 or Donna Satisfield at 788-3864 for more information.

Historical Society meets

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Monroe will

hold its next meeting on Oct. 4 at 11:30 a.m. at the Siren Restaurant in Phoebus.

Vince Scott of the Mariners Museum will

discuss "How Leif Eriksson Discovered America." This event is open to the public.

For more information, call 788-3935.

Scholarship gala planned

On Oct. 23, the Tidewater Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen,

Inc. will hold its 21st Annual Larry E. Anderson Scholarship Gala from 7-11 p.m. at the Virginia Air and Space Center in

Hampton. The featured speaker is Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, Director, Air National Guard.

Tickets are available from Tidewater Chapter members. Everyone is invited.

For more information contact McArthur Fields at (757) 898-6993 or Bernice Monk at (757) 826-1692.

ROCKS meeting

The Hampton Roads Chapter of ROCKS Inc., will hold its monthly general membership meeting on Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m., at Armstrong-Slater Hall, Hampton University.

Active, reserve and retired commissioned and warrant officers are welcome.

For more information, call Capt. Harriett Lee-Newman at 836-3945.

CCC 'Fright-day'

Spooky and informative stories about Fort Monroe will be the featured entertainment at the Casemate Community Connection's upcoming monthly luncheon, Oct. 14 at the Bay Breeze Community Center.

Social hour starts at 10:30 a.m., followed by the buffet lunch at 11:30. Call Christy Draper at 224-6447 for reservations.

The CCC also has cookbooks for sale. For more information, visit www.monroeccc.com.

More clips, Page 13

5X12

MP Roll Call

August Incidents/ Crime Statistics

- Medical emergency's - 2
- Fire alarms - 2
- Alarm activations - 19
- Damage to private property - 4
- Damage to government property - 2
- DWI - 1
- Child neglect - 1
- Larceny - 3
- Citations - 50
- Possession of a controlled substance - 1

AFGHANISTAN Continued from Page 7

weapons. There must have been at least 10 on the roof, another dozen outside the school and more inside. How do you tell who is a good guy and who is a bad guy unless they start shooting?

"We were told that we were even safer than they had expected because the Afghan soldiers were guarding the school as one of the voter registration locations."

There were about 80 people in the village; about 35 of them were children, Sigler wrote. She never saw any of the women. The kids were between the ages of six and 16 and most were hesitant to get too close at first.

"The interpreters who accompanied us helped and the candy we distributed broke the ice. Then they were right beside us helping to sweep, clean, and paint.

"We worked non-stop for a good four hours. Our goal was to complete the room that we were assigned – and we did.

"The paint that had been donated for this project was oil-based and a very bright green color. Since none of us had been very neat at our jobs, we had to pretty much bathe in paint thinner or resign ourselves to a green glow until it would wear off.

"As I was cleaning the kids, I noticed how tough and leathery their skin was. Most of them had hands that looked like those of an old farmer. They certainly didn't feel like children. Their palms were calloused and every line and crease was exaggerated from being blackened with dirt. Hard as I tried, I could only remove the paint. The dirt was there to stay. It was obvious that they have never had the convenience of frequent soap and water washing or the luxury of lotion for their skin."

Sigler had another opportunity to sample Afghanistan's culture during a dinner at the home of a former Russian general and MIG pilot. Locals referred to him as a "warlord" – someone who has a reputation for being brutal to anyone who crosses him as a deterrent to disobedience.

"My friends from logistics invited me to go along with their group because they knew it was my birthday. They were a thoughtful bunch. I liked them," Sigler wrote.

"The general's house was painted like a Kentucky Fried Chicken place. He had a blue (yes, blue) fake palm tree in the front yard and a gorgeous marble entrance and floors throughout. ... The wood trim and doors appeared to be oak. The hardware looked like legs kicking a ball. I guess the general liked soccer.

She said the sitting room – with its assortment of sofas and love seats – also had a glass-top coffee table that the servants kept covered with bowls of nuts and a variety of drinks in front of each section. A big screen TV played music videos and the walls in this room had only a few commemorative decorations like a sword, a wood-carved map of Afghanistan and photographs of the general with different leaders.

"The dining area had a huge table with enough seating for 22 people. The table setting was interesting. The plates were white trimmed in silver with a small silver flower. The fork and spoon were hand-pounded silver with an intricate design on the handle. There was no knife except on the platter with fresh fruit. There were no napkins. Boxes of Kleenex were used to wipe our hands. There were no drinking glasses. A can of Pepsi and a bottle of water were at each place setting. A stack of Afghan bread was lying on the table next to each plate," Sigler said.

"There were platters of rice with raisins and nuts, fresh cut vegetables (tomatoes, cucumber, onion, and pepper), fresh fruit (mangos, melon, watermelon, and some kind of "plum"), and kabobs of lamb and chicken.

"I never heard so much lip smackin' and finger lickin' in all my life. Apparently, that was the custom to show the host how much you enjoyed the food. That wasn't too bad. But I didn't join in with the lip smackin'."

During her time in Afghanistan, Sigler also experienced the more poignant realities of the war on terrorism. The ceremonies for military members who had given their lives are events she said she would never forget.

"They were done in two parts. There was the chapel ceremony and the planeside ceremony where they load up the bodies to fly them home. I had only been in Kandahar four days when the first ceremonies happened. And, that was definitely the reality check for me. The amount of honor, respect and reverence they give at these ceremonies is just ... you just can't describe it.

"It's given me a different perspective on life and it's given me a different perspective on the

military in general," Sigler said. "To see Soldiers doing real Soldier things in a war setting was something to experience. It gave me a better appreciation of the military, that's for sure."

Sigler said her Afghanistan experience also reinforced her belief that everyone's role in the military community is important. She felt like she was needed ... that she was much more than a "fun and games" person.

"A lot of people poo-poo MWR, but in that type of setting we're important to those guys," she said. "They come back from missions and they are wired for sound because they have basically been on the edge, emotion-wise, 24 hours a day for however long they've been out there.

"So, when they come 'home,' they need MWR. They need something to (help them) relax. They need a diversion ... they need to play. That just reinforced my feeling that my job can't be poo-pooed anymore. I have an important role here."

4X10

Student Spotlight

"Every child is different so what works for one may not suit the other. You may have to speak firmer with some or get down on their level and use eye-to-eye contact with others. The thing is to work at it until you find the key to that child. Never give up ..."

The kinder, gentler world of classroom discipline

BY BELINDA BAKER
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Once upon a time, wooden paddles served as the wand of discipline in child-rearing land.

Many parents, and even a few school administrators, believed there was nothing like the threat of a few swats on the fanny to keep noses to the grindstone and unruly conduct in check.

And who among the 40-something crowd at Fort Monroe remembers the embarrassing gum-on-a-student's-nose punishment – reminding all that "thou shall not chew like a cow in class?"

No one would argue that times have changed in the child-discipline department. For the most part, our society has swapped corporal punishment for creative negotiations and nurturing. Teachers establish "contracts" with our kids. And baby boomers are experiencing child development methods that are completely foreign to the "yes sir and no ma'am" world in which they were raised.

As part of its newly established "Student Spotlight" series, the Casemate takes a closer look at discipline in the classroom and methods our teachers use every day to influence our children's behavior.

We call it guidance

"We don't refer to it as discipline ... we call it guidance. And consistency is the key to getting good outcomes from children," explained Susan Elsass, director of the Fort

every effort to treat children with respect at all times, even if expectations aren't met, the former elementary school teacher continued. Staffers recognize that they must encourage children to express feelings in an appropriate manner as opposed to acting out in unconstructive ways.

Instead of barking out orders, shouting harsh reprimands or employing physical tactics, CDC staff members use calm tones to gently "steer" youths in the right direction.

A new technique

This technique is demonstrated on a typical Tuesday morning as Wanda Gillis, a seven-year veteran of the CDC, gathers her 3-year-olds for a group activity. One of them breaks into a run, and Gillis instinctively questions, "What kind of feet do we use?" The child acknowledged the question, adjusted his pace and walked.

Upon noticing another child pivoting on two legs in a chair across the room, Gillis simply offered a reminder of the proper way to use a chair. When another child ignored a request to sit down, Gillis repeated the request and began counting. The child quietly returned to the activity area and took a seat.

"Every child is different so what works for one may not suit the other," Gillis said. "You may have to speak firmer with some or get down on their level and use eye-to-eye contact with others. The thing is to work at it until you find the key to that child. Never give up,



Photo by Belinda Baker

Wanda Gillis of the Fort Monroe CDC prepares her 3-year-olds for a walk by giving each of them a ring on the safety link.

setting and becomes comfortable," said Judy Gibbons, a caregiver who works alongside Gillis. "I find that children usually open up to their peers. You have to build their trust by giving them time and space to adjust."

Having spent 20 years in child-care, Gibbons said she strongly believes in the benefits of the buddy system. One gets a chance to develop leadership skills, among other characteristics, and the other begins to develop self-confidence. In addition, they both build a relationship that may become a true friendship over time, she added.

School-Aged Services

Buddy system pairing is also a tried and true method at Fort Monroe's School-Aged Services program, according to Mary Finchum, an education technician with 22 years of experience. The SAS staff sees 32 children – ranging in age from 6 to 10 – every day after school.

Finchum and her fellow educators have found that pairing also helps to get overactive children on line with the rest of the group. "We try to match an overactive child with a less active child in the room and let them participate in lower impact activities for a while," she said. "And we are careful to make sure they share some of the same interests so that they work well together," she said.

"One of the big challenges of the SAS program is the time that chil-

dren arrive," Finchum noted. "We have to remember that they have been in school all day. By the time they get here, all of the children – not just the overactive ones – really have a lot of energy to burn. That means we must find ways to let them work it off in a productive and fun way."

When discipline problems do occur, Finchum said, they resolve the situation with techniques that promote decision-making and problem solving.

"We do not believe in embarrassing the child. We will not call a child out and discuss a problem in front of the others. When there is an issue, a staff member will call the child to another area away from the rest and discuss the situation and then let the child give input for solving the problem," said Finchum.

Kids are more stressed

"I've found that kids today have become more stressed (and) they've become more aggressive as a result. This is why more problems may occur. Given this, we have changed our way of thinking about discipline and the focus is more on conflict resolution — allowing kids to settle their own disagreements," she noted. "We also let kids choose their consequences. A lot of times kids are harder on themselves than we are."

Whenever two or more children cannot reach a happy medium

See DISCIPLINE, Page 16

"One societal change that I think has been for the best is no spanking. A lot of parents have come on line with this approach, realizing that they don't have to resort to physical force to get children to behave well."

SUSAN ELSASS

DIRECTOR, FORT MONROE CDC

Monroe Child Development Center, or CDC for short. On average, roughly 90 children spend their day at the center. Its 20-or-so childcare professionals undergo extensive training to ensure they understand how to interact in positive ways with children in their care.

"One societal change that I think has been for the best is no spanking," Elsass said. "A lot of parents have come on line with this approach, realizing that they don't have to resort to physical force to get children to behave well."

Childcare programs on post set clear behavioral limits and make

though, because something will work. Once you find it, consistency and structure are very important."

Building a community

The CDC staff also provides other types of guidance that build a sense of community in the classroom. At times, they encounter shy or withdrawn children who may need a little extra helping hand, literally, to feel like an accepted part of the group.

"I'll sometimes pair a shy child with a buddy and let them interact until the child becomes used to the



Photos by Patrick Buffett

Retired USAF Lt. Col. Wayne Porter, featured speaker at Fort Monroe's POW-MIA observance at Cannon Park Sept. 14, describes his experience as an American prisoner of war during World War II.



Spc. Christopher Walter, 233rd MP Detachment, Fort Monroe, leads the joint service color guard into position in front of the audience during the POW-MIA observance Sept. 14. The color guard was also comprised of service members from U.S. Naval Station, Norfolk, Langley Air Force Base and U.S. Coast Guard Station, Yorktown.



Monroe pays tribute to missing, captured troops

Photo above left: Spc. Chad Parsons, TUSCAB, concludes the ceremony with the playing of "Taps." Photo above right: Sgt. Jennifer Salcedo, a member of the HHC rifle detail, awaits the start of the ceremony. Photo left: Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, garrison commander, and veterans Charlie French, left, and retired Lt. Col. Wayne Porter place a wreath at the Battle of the Bulge monument, Cannon Park.



Photo by Matt Thomas

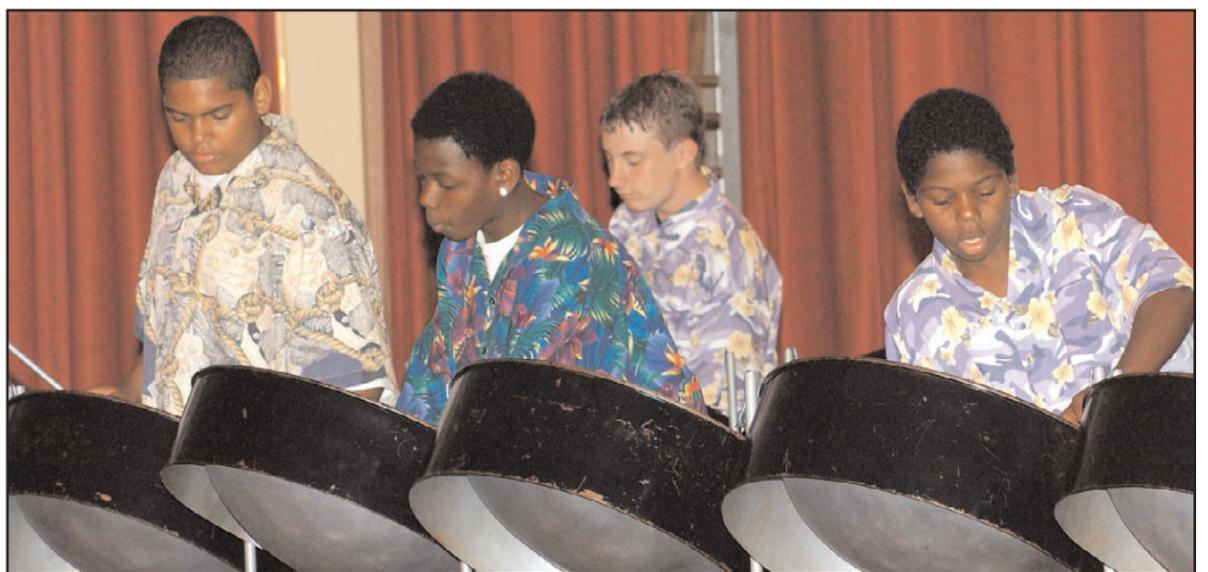


Photo left by Matt Thomas/Photo above by Patrick Buffett

Monroe celebrates Hispanic heritage

Photo left: Col. (ret) Joseph Rodriguez, Jr. — featured speaker at Fort Monroe's Hispanic Heritage Month observance, Sept. 20 at the Post Theater — talks about his dad, pictured right, and other members of his extended family who had an "enormous impact" on his life choices and highly successful Army career. Photo above: the Spratley Rhythm Project performs their unique variety of Calypso-sounding music during the observance. Named after a Hampton middle school, the musical group was organized to promote creativity and cooperation among teens on the peninsula. Another student group from Merrimack Elementary School also performed during the Hispanic observance.



Monroe golfers sought for Halloween, Military Classics

Dust off those drivers and polish up those putters Fort Monroe golfers ... a pair of upcoming local tournaments are just the excuse you need to get back out on the greens.

Fort Monroe sports will host its 6th Annual Halloween Golf Class Oct. 26 at Pines Golf Course, Fort Eustis. The four-person teams will begin hitting the links at 11:30 a.m.

The tournament will be played in captain's choice format. Participants can also compete for longest drive and closest to the pin awards. A complimentary beverage cart and dinner service will be provided following the tournament. Goodie bags and door prizes will also be handed out during the event.

The entry fee is \$45 per person, or \$30 for Pines Golf Course members. The registration deadline is Oct. 21. For more information or to register, call the Fort Monroe Sports Office at 788-2783.

A second tournament — the 6th Annual Hampton Roads Military Clas-

sic — is planned for Nov. 11 at the Kiskiack Golf Club, Williamsburg.

According to organizers, the tournament is meant to honor all who are serving, or have served, in the armed forces. Special prizes will be awarded to the lowest scoring team comprised entirely of military members. The organization they represent will also receive the Veteran's Trophy.

Every participant also has an opportunity to win \$10,000 and a new car for a hole in one. Other prizes include longest drive and closest to the pin.

The entry fee — which includes golf cart rental, beverages, practice range balls and the after-tournament cookout — is \$45. Registration deadline is Nov. 3, however, event sponsors recommend signing up even earlier as the 144-person-limit is usually met quickly.

Proceeds from the event support local college scholarships for The Citadel and Virginia Military Institute.

For more information, all Pete Moyer at 877-4022.

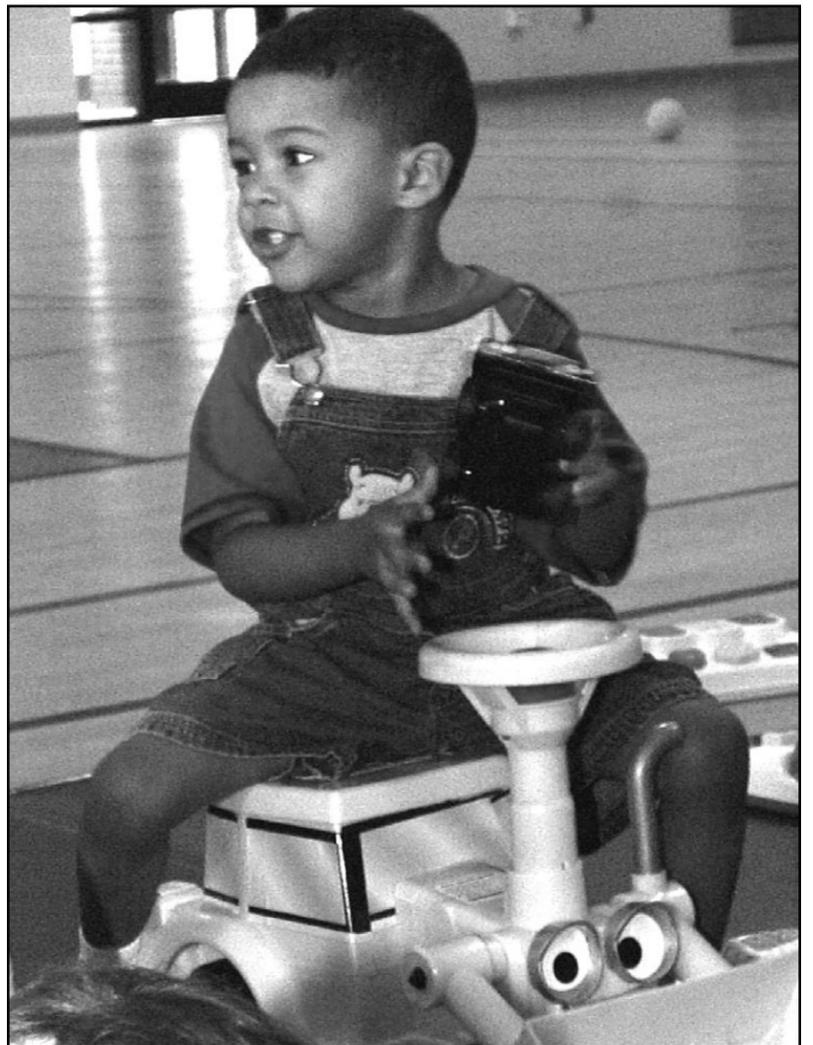


Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Youth Services Open House

For high school youth and their parents,
Oct. 5 at 5 p.m., in the Community Activities Center

Activities will include gymnastics and judo demonstrations. Personnel from the Army, Boys and Girls Club, local 4-H Club and more will be on hand to discuss the various programs and services each agency offers.

Fort Monroe's School Liaison Officer Charlie French will also be on site to answer any questions parents may have about Hampton City Schools.

Truckin' toddler

Nicholas Honaker, 3, cruises on the back of a payloader with truck in hand Sept. 20 during Toddler Time at the Community Activities Center. Toddler Time is an unstructured time set aside for toddlers and parents to socialize with others. It begins at 9:30 a.m. on Mondays and is open to active duty service members, DA civilians and retirees.

Bay bridge event promises 'once in a lifetime' experience

CAPE CHARLES, VA. — The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel's seventh annual "Family Fun Day on the Bay" Bike/Walk event is scheduled for Oct. 2. Walkers and bicyclists can begin their trek from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

This free event allows bicyclists and walkers to cross portions of the 17.6-mile structure. Participants are asked to bring a donation of canned goods, non-perishable food items or money for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia.

Last year, over 9,500 lbs. of food and more than \$7,900 in monetary donations were gathered to "bridge the hunger gap" in

Hampton Roads.

"Family Fun Day on the Bay" started in 1998 to celebrate the completion of a \$250 million expansion project and as a thank you to the motorists for their patience during the process.

Originally billed as a "once in a lifetime opportunity," the event was so successful that the public requested that it become an annual occurrence and it has since gained in popularity.

"This is a wonderful way to get out and enjoy the scenery and the sights and sounds of the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. And it is a healthy way to spend a day with family and friends,"

states Lorraine Smith, Director of Public Relations of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

Walkers begin the walk from the south toll plaza in Virginia Beach to the first island — a 3.5-mile one-way trip or 7-mile round-trip. Bicyclists begin their trip from the north toll plaza on the Eastern Shore to the fourth island — an 8.5-mile one-way trip or 17-mile round-trip.

Satellite parking and shuttle buses are available. Walkers can park in Virginia Beach at Frank W. Cox High School at Great Neck Road and Shorehaven Drive and in Norfolk at Lake Taylor High School at 1284 Kempsville Road.

Shuttle buses will run from the parking sites taking walkers to the south toll plaza from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parking is NOT available at the south toll plaza. Parking for bicyclists is available at the north toll plaza and the Best Western Sunset Beach Resort just north of the toll plaza parking area. Buses will return one-way walkers or bicyclists to the parking areas.

Drinking water and restroom facilities are available on the bridge, as well as emergency service technicians and police officers. Participants are not charged the \$12 toll.

An information sheet with rules and regulations for the day is available by faxing a request to 331-4565, calling 331-2960 or visit www.cbtt.com.



Contributed photo

Participants of the 2003 "Family Fun Day on the Bay" begin their 3.5-mile journey.

NEWS CLIPS Continued from Page 8

Army seeking Warrant Officer Candidates

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airman to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties for qualified individuals. Applicants with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply.

For more information and required forms/documents visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or call DSN 536-0271/1860/0458/0484.

Holiday Catalog

The 2004 all-services Exchange holiday catalog offers the convenience of shopping from home.

The free catalog is available at Army & Air Force Exchange main stores and online at www.aafes.com. Catalog items are also available online.

Prices are valid through Jan. 1 and anyone with Exchange privileges can order from it.

Orders can be placed by mail, fax or phone. To place orders toll free from the United States, Puerto Rico or Guam just call 1-800-527-2345. The Exchange Catalog center is open around-the-clock, seven days a week and complimentary international access calling is available from several countries.

Customers can also shop the

2004 Holiday catalog at usmc-mccs.org, navy-nex.com or cg-exchange.com.

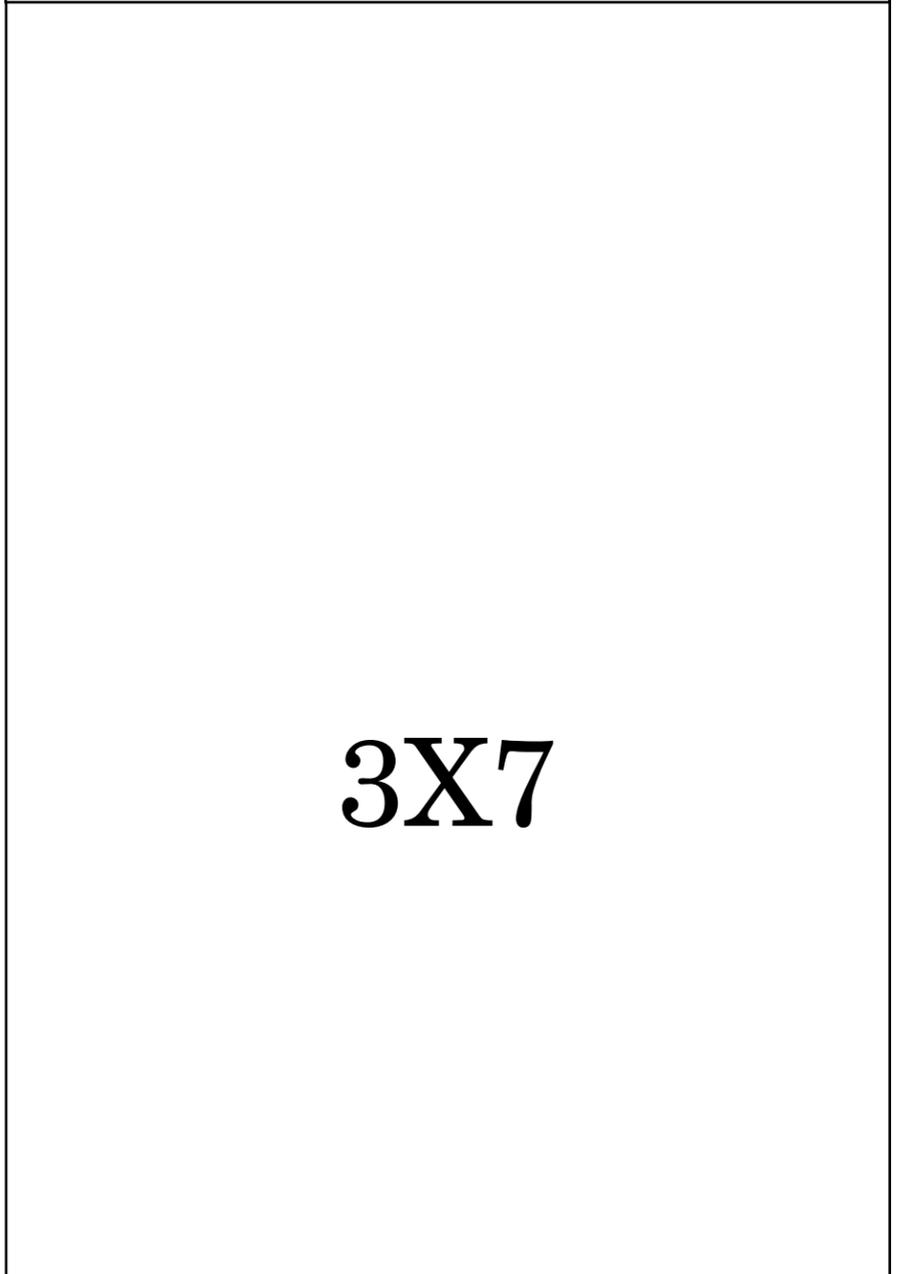
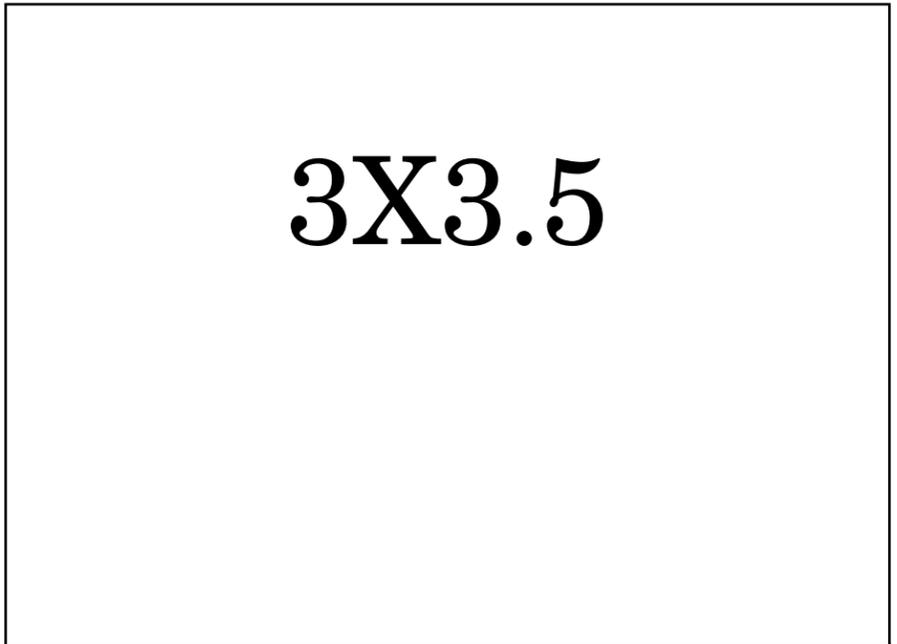
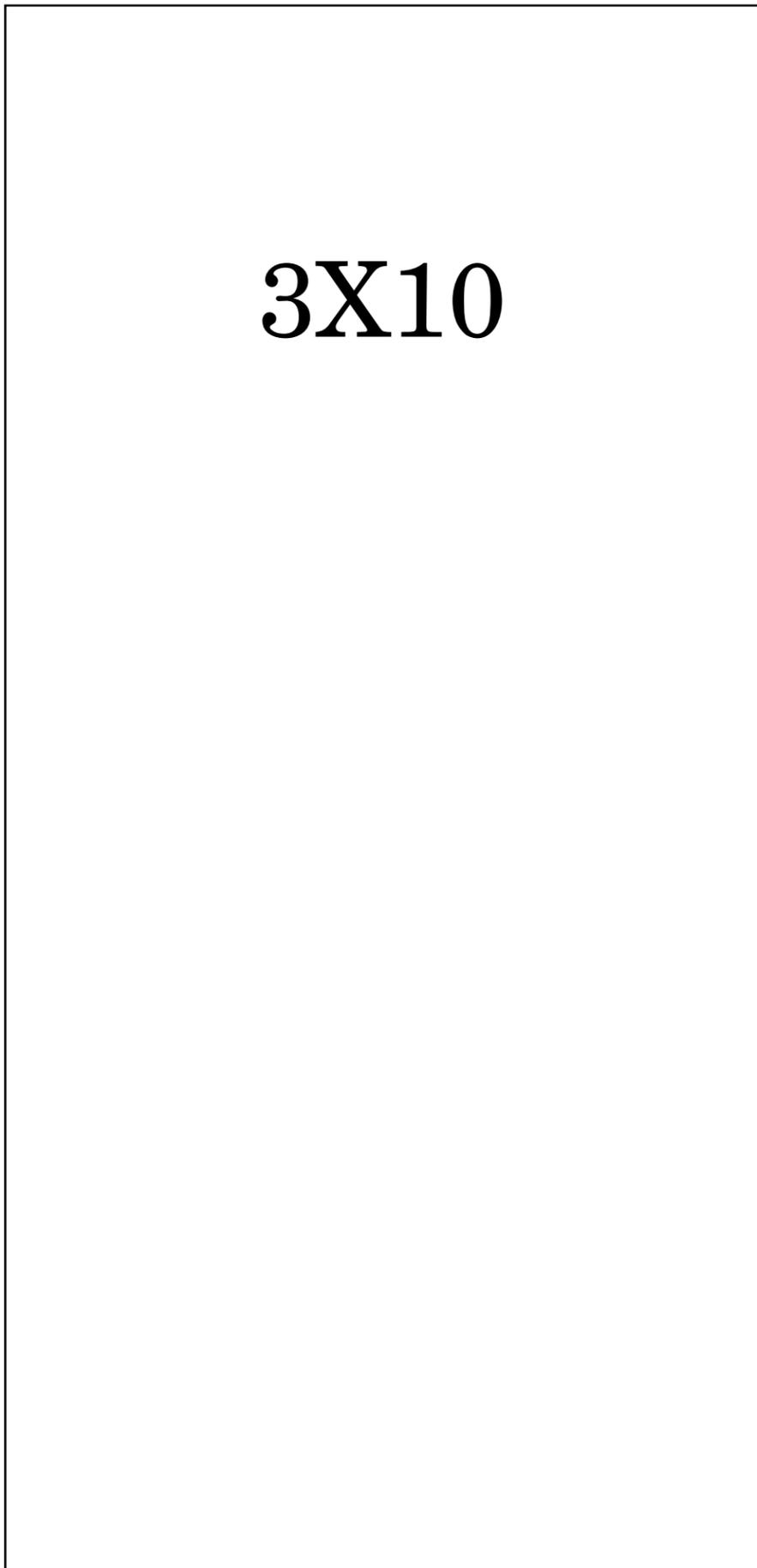
Education centers records transfer

The Army Education Center's data management system has been updated and data migration is complete.

All centers now operate under the modern education management information system (m_EDMIS) that provides electronic transfer and retrieval of records across installations and agencies.

M_EDMIS permits education center personnel to enter, modify, query and report on information stored in each Soldier's education record throughout the world. Therefore, Soldiers should reconcile education records prior to PCS, ETS or retirement.

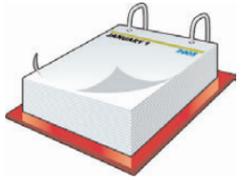
Education center personnel must check each Soldier's education record prior to issuing a tuition assistance (TA) form or clearing the soldier for a PCS or separation from service. Soldiers may be denied TA if grades are missing or if there are unresolved failures or incompletes.



Moat Notes

UPCOMING SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

Post Run Sept. 28 | Oktoberfest Oct. 6
 Community Town Hall Sept. 28 | Disability Awareness Event ... Oct. 7
 NERO Org Day Oct. 6 | Vertical Horizon Concert Oct. 9
 For more on these and other upcoming events, see calendar below or other stories and briefs in this issue.



Sept. 24

Oceana Air Show

Featuring a bevy of sound-barrier-busting fighter jets, a dazzling twilight pyrotechnics show, and special demonstrations by groups like the U.S. Army Black Daggers – a Special Forces Command parachute demonstration team – the 2004 NAS Oceana Air Show, today through Sunday, promises plenty of excitement for visitors of all ages.

From the Navy's Blue Angels to the "Shockwave Jet Truck," this year's show is sure to thrill even the most die-hard fans. Visitors will also get an up-close look at the uniformed men, women and machines that continue to fight the ongoing war on terrorism.

Tickets for the event begin at \$3 for bleacher seating. A special "Friends of the Air Show" package – which includes four executive squadron chalet tickets, two parking passes and commemorative T-shirts – is available for \$350.

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.neptuneairshow.com.

Olympic visit

The T.J. Maxx 2004 Tour of Gymnastics Champions passes through the Norfolk Scope Arena this evening at 7:30.

Featuring many of the men and women gymnasts who competed in the 2004 Olympics, the T.J. Maxx tour fuses beauty, grace and athletic excellence all in one show.

Tickets for the event range from \$18 to \$75 depending on seating location. For more information, visit www.norfolkscope.com.

Terrifying tournament

Registration begins today for the "Tournament of Terrifying Tales," sponsored by the Bailey Library in Newport News.

The first of several events planned for Teen Read Week, Oct. 17-23, throughout the Newport News Public Library System, the tournament will be conducted in "Jeopardy" format with contestants formulating questions about five short suspense stories to be read prior to the competition.

Advance registration is recommended. For more information about Teen Read Week, or to register for any program, call 247-8875.

Sept. 25

Endview visits 1781

The 1781 skirmish of Gloucester Point will be recreated at Endview Plantation's annual Revolutionary

A day at the beach ...



Photo by Patrick Buffett

Cyler Brackeen, 2, follows in his mom's footsteps during a casual day at the beach Sept. 10 near the Bay Breeze Community Center.

War reenactment Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day's events include camp life, drills and infantry demonstrations. Food vendors will be on site. The skirmish at Gloucester Point occurred during the Franco-American siege of Yorktown from Sept. 28 to Oct. 19, 1781.

Admission to the reenactment is \$6 per person. Children under age 7 are free. Tours of the restored 1769 plantation house will be available for \$3. For more information, call 887-1862.

Wine, jazz fest

Fine wine and smooth jazz are the offerings of a "premier" event at nearby Mill Point Park, Hampton, Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Romance on the River Wine and Cheese Festival features unlimited samples from 12 of Virginia's finest wineries. Local jazz entertainment is also scheduled throughout the afternoon. Each participant will also receive a commemorative glass.

A limited supply of military discount tickets is available through Langley's ITT office. Regular admission is \$15 per person in advance, or \$20 at the gate. For

more information about military discounts, call 722-9690.

Lee Hall storytelling

Lee Hall Mansion will host its 3rd Annual Storytelling Festival from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday.

Native American princess Mat-tachana will tell the tale of the Great Wolf Spirit, and a pirate will return from his watery grave to tell E. A. Poe's classic tale "The Gold Bug." Visitors can also learn more about plantation life, slavery, Civil War and freedom through stories shared by "Old Jeb." A Buffalo soldier and a U.S. Marshal will also be on hand.

Admission to the event is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children ages 7 to 11. A family rate of \$20 is good for up to two adults and three children. Guests are encouraged to bring a blanket and picnic basket. Lee Hall is located off I-64 Exit 247 (close to the Naval Weapons Station).

For more information, call 888-3371.

Incredible insects

Parents and school-aged children can explore the fascinating world of dragonflies and butterflies during a special tour offered by Beaverdam

Park Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m.

Park rangers will lead the expedition and offer insights into the history and habitat of these multi-faceted and multicolored creatures. Participants can also try their luck at netting a few of these interesting insects to get an up-close look at their incredible colors.

The participation fee is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 10 and under. Advance registration is required. The tour is not recommended for children under 5. For more information or to register, call 693-2107.

Civil War songs

Award-winning folk singer Judy Cook will give a free performance titled "Tenting Tonight: Songs and Stories of the Civil War" Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Williamsburg Library Theatre.

Tickets are not required and the event is open to the public. For more information, call 259-4070. To learn more about the featured singer, visit www.JudyCook.net.

Sept. 28

Celtic concert

Wowing audiences around the world with their seasoned brand of Celtic music, the seven-member Irish band "Dervish" will be performing at the Williamsburg Library Theatre Tuesday beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Dervish has grown into one of the most acclaimed folk bands in Ireland, and in the U.S. they have appeared on public radio's "A Prairie Home Companion."

Tickets for the show are \$17 for adults, \$12 for students with ID, and \$9 for children under 16. For more information, or to reserve seats, call 259-4070. The theater is located two blocks north of the College of William and Mary.

AT THE MOVIES

Showing at the Langley Air Force Base and Fort Eustis Theaters

Friday, Sept. 24

7 p.m. — Collateral (R)

Saturday, Sept. 25

2 p.m. — Princess Diaries 2 (G)

7 p.m. — YU-GI-OH The Movie (PG)

Friday, Oct. 1

7 p.m. — Open Water (R)

Saturday, Oct. 2

2 p.m. — Without a Paddle (PG-13)

7 p.m. — Alien vs. Predator (PG-13)

Adults \$2, children 6-12 years old \$1.50 and children under 6 are free. If a child under 6 occupies a seat at a G-rated movie, admission is \$1.50. Special movie showings are available. Contact John Low at LowJ@aafes.com or 766-1237 for details.

Sept. 30

Mark Twain

The one-man show "An Evening with Mark Twain," starring Michael Mauldin, comes to the American Theatre, Phoebus, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Described as an "engaging and intimate portrait" of one of America's most legendary and beloved figures, the performance is a hilarious recreation of an actual lecture Twain would have given during his highly acclaimed world tour at the beginning of the 20th century.

Tickets for the show start at \$25. Additional performances are also scheduled for Oct. 1 and 2, both at 8 p.m. For more information, or to purchase tickets in advance, call the theater box office at 722-2787 or visit www.theamericantheatre.com.

Oct. 1

Sandy Bottom hayride

Enjoy an evening of stories, songs around the campfire and a good old-fashioned hayride during Sandy Bottom Nature Park's "Campfire Fun and Lakeside Hayride" program Oct. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate will top off this evening of family fun. Guests are invited to bring a campfire song to share.

Park rangers will also have a telescope available so kids can check out the night sky.

The participation fee is \$5 per person. All ages are welcome. The program requires a minimum of 15 registered participants. Registration deadline is 3 p.m., Sept. 30. For more information, call 825-4657.

Oct. 2

Fall festival

Featuring more than 250 vendors with traditional crafts and food, as well as folk entertainment and children's activities, the 31st Annual Newport News Fall Festival of Folklife is scheduled for Oct. 2 and 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival takes place at Newport News Park along Jefferson Avenue, close to Fort Eustis. The event is free, however, visitors will be required to pay a parking fee of \$5 per vehicle. For more information, call 886-7912.

Madeline Fun Day

Children's games, crafts and story times will be the offerings of Barnes & Noble's "Madeline Fun Day," Oct. 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at their Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, location.

The special children's event is part of a weekend-long book fair to benefit Transitions Family Violence Services. Both Barnes & Noble

stores in Hampton and Newport News will donate a portion of their proceeds to the charity.

For more information, visit www.transitionsfvs.org.

Oct. 7

Basket weaving

The Fort Monroe Frame and Craft Shop is hosting an Advanced Basket Weaving 101 class Oct. 7 from 6 to 10 p.m.

The cost is \$39, which includes all supplies except scissors and basket awl. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to pre-register, call 788-2728

Ghost stories

Local author L.B. Taylor will tell some of the real-life ghost stories he uncovered during his years of research in the Hampton Roads area at Grissom Library in Newport News, beginning at 7 p.m., Oct. 7.

Taylor has written at least a dozen books on spectral encounters during Virginia's history. His tales range from the spirit of a poisoned bride at Brandon Plantation to the chilling monster of Mount Vernon.

Taylor will offer a second presentation on Civil War ghosts at the Main Street Library Oct. 12, and a third presentation on ghostly humor is planned for Oct. 27 at the West Street Library.

Each event is free and open to the public. For more information, to include directions, call 247-8875.

Oct. 8

Monroe Oktoberfest

If you're missing your "brotchen" or have a longing for those hot "pommes frites" you found during your travels through Europe, Fort Monroe MWR Special Events has just the celebration for you.

An Oktoberfest celebration is planned for Oct. 8, from 5 to 9 p.m., in front of the Bay Breeze Community Center. Admission to the event is free and open to the public.

Guests can purchase a variety of popular German foods like bratwurst, sauerkraut and brotchen, and wash it all down with imported beer and wine. Entertainment for the event will be provided by Mark "All Around DJ" Schilling.

For more information or to make reservations, call 788-3151.

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AD**

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DISCIPLINE Continued from Page 10*"You cannot be afraid or too proud to ask for help."*

through one-on-one conflict resolution, the SAS staff often lets older children act as peer mediators to help resolve issues.

Finchum said the staff also uses redirection to lead children out of adverse situations. There is an area in their classroom called the balance center that contains arts and crafts supplies, books, tapes and other materials for children to use if they need to be removed from unpleasant circumstances. Time spent in the balance center gives children the opportunity to settle down, regroup and rethink their actions, and they're doing something constructive instead of sitting idle in time out.

Professionals agree that methods such as pairing, conflict resolution and redirection are very successful with young children in structured settings like CDC and SAS. However, one may raise questions about managing middle and high school aged children who share additional peer pressures and spend time in other environments.

Much like the on-post programs of Child Development Services, Hampton City Schools take progressive approaches to discipline as well. Penny Petersen, the school system's director of guidance and testing, said school personnel address discipline by first looking for issues that may be at the root of a problem.

"One of the things we do in our schools is group (and/or) peer counseling that examines such things as anger management, among other issues. Some children may be reacting to things at home such as divorce or alcoholism ... there are any millions of reasons why children misbehave," said Petersen.

"Increasingly we find the problem is simply that a student is having difficulty in the class-

room. ... They somehow see it as cooler to disrupt the class than to acknowledge that they don't know the answers," she said.

In addition to peer counseling, students have faculty and staff members to whom they can turn for assistance and support. Petersen said the administration strongly encourages deans, advisors and teachers to serve as role models. Coaches are also great in this capacity as students gravitate toward athletics and there is already a certain level of respect, she said.

Guidance counselors are also on hand at each school providing invaluable services to students. According to Petersen, all 76 counselors working in Hampton City Schools are trained in mediation and can help students resolve conflict whatever the issue.

In extreme cases, Petersen explained, teachers are advised to send disruptive students to a counselor, dean or principal for immediate intervention.

"When there are upwards of 25 students in a classroom it only takes one or two to make or break it. A teacher has got to be skilled at identifying who the students prone to inappropriate behavior are and have a plan already in place to successfully involve them in instruction so as not to interrupt learning for the rest of the class," she said.

In the past, those with behavioral problems were simply expelled from school. Educators in recent years have changed their stance on this practice, having discovered that students were missing valuable instruction, Petersen said. In Hampton schools, this brought about the Student Intervention Program for Success (SIPS), an in-school suspension program whereby students are placed in a classroom setting with

access to their daily class assignments and even their tests.

"They're not absent from school and academic life isn't interrupted. We remove them temporarily from their social life to get them back on track. Suspension from school is not productive because it often results in children being in non-learning environments," Petersen said.

Educators at all levels must also ensure that their approach to discipline is age-appropriate, Petersen noted. To provoke acceptable behavior in elementary students, teachers try to help students realize that they are individuals who have choices. At middle school level, educators guide students to take responsibility for their choices. If successfully equipped with a sense of self in primary school and knowledge about cause and effect in middle school, then by high school students are prepared to start making life choices — selecting college track courses, pursuing vocational interests, and the like — with teachers and school administrators merely as facilitators in the process.

With those factors in mind, Petersen said the Hampton school system recently expanded its curriculum to include a character education initiative called Project Wisdom. The nationwide program was founded in 1992 in Texas and teaches concepts such as integrity, wisdom, respect, honesty, courage and diligence.

SAS on post adopted a similar character-building effort called Character Counts four years ago in conjunction with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Finchum said. That program focuses on six pillars — respect, responsibility, caring, trustworthiness, fairness and leadership. Like Hampton City School, SAS carries out the Character Counts mission by incorporating one of the six pillars into student daily activities over time until they cover all of the principles.

In the daily struggle to steer children in the right direction, childcare professionals, school personnel and parents have a tough job. Each must rely on the other for support.

Elsass said she believes parents nowadays probably have a harder time than those of the past, given the ever-increasing negative influences today's children encounter. In the midst of trying to mold their children into good productive citizens, parents must counteract the impact of relaxed standards in television and radio, boundless unsavory Internet offerings and drastic changes in the way people dress, among other things. Naturally, she said, they may need help.

"We have some wonderful resources — books, videos, etc. — right here at the center in our lending library to help parents with any number of issues they may face," Elsass said. "Army Community Services is another excellent support vehicle. There are books and materials available there as well. In addition to those materials the ACS staff can refer parents to a number of services for assistance."

Petersen, the wife of a prior military service member, echoed that sentiment noting that reaching out is essential.

"You have to be willing to explore the many, many resources that are available. Our community has a wealth of after school programs, enrichment programs and activities that serve to keep children on the right path. You cannot be afraid or too proud to ask for help," she said.

"Stay involved and don't be afraid to talk to your children," she added. "Understand also that children can make decisions. So with that in mind, guide them rather than manipulate them. Let them get involved in decisions that affect them because empowerment builds confidence."

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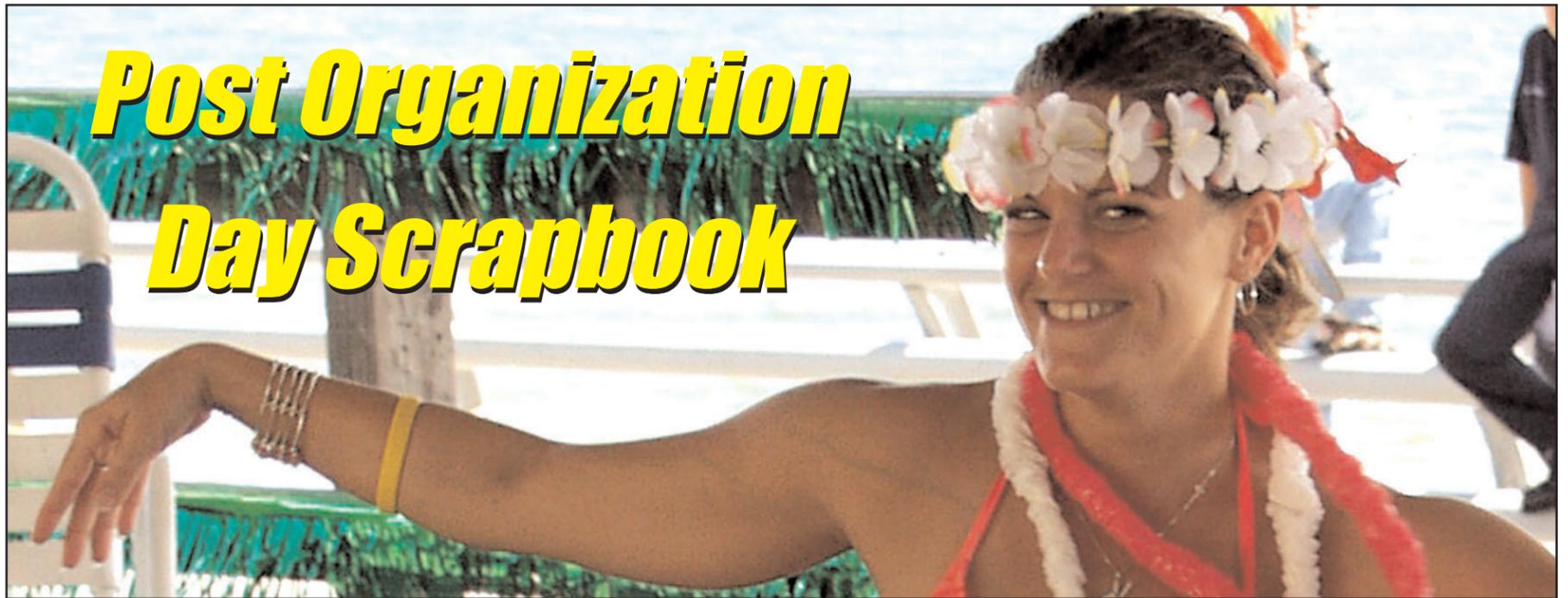


Photo by Patrick Buffett

Sgt. Melinda Braithwaite, MEDDAC, shows her Hawaiian luau spirit to win the women's best dressed contest at Post Org Day, Sept. 10.



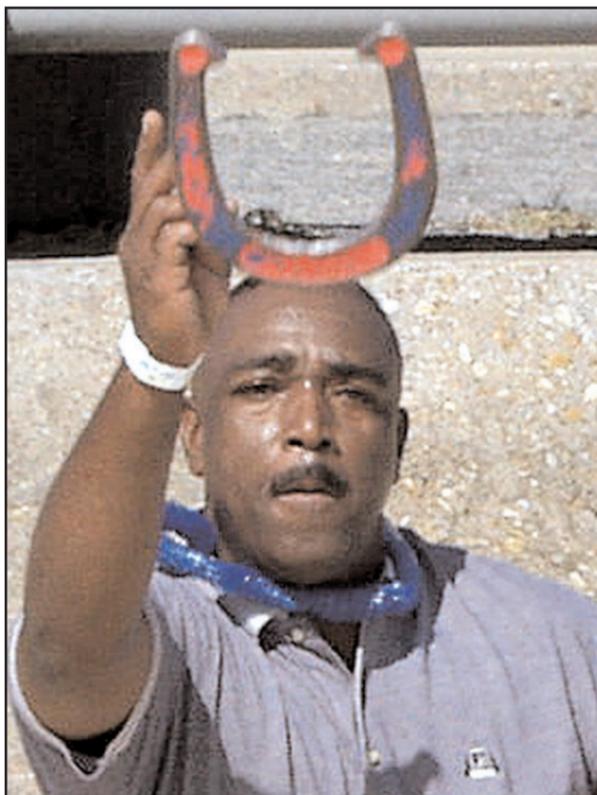
Photo by Patrick Buffett

Mia Williams, DOIM, sends Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, garrison commander, into the drink during Organization Day Sept. 10 at the Bay Breeze Community Center.



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Pam Wells, left, and Laurie Leivers race for the ball during an after-lunch volleyball competition between members of the Civilian Personnel Office and an assortment of other post employees.



Photos by Patrick Buffett

Photo above: Bruce McFadden, ACS, joins other post employees like Hilda Golden, Post HQs, and Chaplain (Lt. Col) Wilbert Harrison, post chaplain, for a friendly game of horseshoes. Photo right: Spc. Miguel Bures, 233rd MP Detachment, tries to outleap blocker, Kathleen Miller, Soldier and Family Support Center, at the net.

