

Stewart/Hunter Lifestyle

Month of the Military Child closes with carnival, picnic



Bob Mathews

The youngsters could not sit still as the music played in the background at the Family Picnic and Carnival on April 29 at Fort Stewart. First one danced, then two, then a group. The event, and a similar one at Hunter, closed the installation's month-long celebration of the Month of the Military Child.

Bob Mathews
FMWR Marketing Publicity Specialist

Children, all smiles and bursting with energy, bounced excitedly in Sesame Street and other inflatable jumpers, danced and clapped to lively music played over loudspeakers and crowded together to get a hug from Pablo, SpongeBob or Elmo at the Child Development Center on Fort Stewart.

There also was an abundance of smiles and plenty of fun later that morning at Hunter Army Airfield's CDC. McGruff the Crime Dog was a big hit. So was the miniature train, whose seats were filled for ride after ride. And there were the moon bounces and food – hamburgers, potato chips, soft drinks.

The two Family Carnival and Picnics marked the end of the Month of the Military Child, celebrated to underscore the important role children play in the military community and to honor military Families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and challenges they overcome in serving the nation. Child, Youth and School Services planned and directed the celebration.

Cindy Jones, with son Andrew, 4, and daughter, Maya, 3, in tow, attended the

Fort Stewart event. Her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Maltise Jones, is training at Fort Riley and will be going to Iraq.

"The kids have been having a little rough time with it," she said. The couple has two other children, Tia, 12, and Jordan, 10.

Jones described the CDC staff as "very conscientious and understanding. They've been great at providing extra help. They keep support information (Army Community Service) on the front desk to help you out with any issues you might have."

Jones added that the CDC "does a phenomenal job all throughout the year in making sure that the needs of the military Family are met. And this month, they've really done a great job making sure that the activities are here for the kids – from Pajama Days to Crazy Hat Days – that they are really engaged and feeling special, that they have something to look forward to when they go to school."

Stewart CDC Facility Director Leah Cabey said she found "the smiles and the laughter on these children's faces" rewarding. "Their Families are with them, their teachers are with them. They are just enjoying

themselves. We are just making sure that we lift them up, that we celebrate them because they have the biggest sacrifices, just to be a Military child, moving around, parents being deployed, all of that. So we celebrate them."

Maria R. Boiza, Child, Youth & School Services Program Operations Specialist for Stewart/Hunter, noted that the Family Carnival and Picnic marked the end of the month's scheduled events, but it does not end the gratitude or support our Military Children deserve.

At the Hunter event, 3rd Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cuculo pointed out to the children that "being a Military child is special" although the children might not realize it until they are older.

He highlighted some specific reasons



Kaytrina Curtis

McGruff the Crime Dog was a big hit at the Family Picnic and Carnival at Hunter on April 29. The event marked the end of the celebration of the Month of the Military Child.

Military children are special.

"Picking up and moving means leaving friends, and when you pick up and move and leave friends, who is by your side? (It is) your parents and your brothers and sisters. You will have a tighter knit family than any other type of family. You will be tighter with your brothers and sisters than someone who lives in one place all of their lives ... your brothers and sisters become your best friends."

See CHILDREN — Page 7B



Photos by Bob Mathews

Pablo, of the Backyardigans, Elmo, and Spongebob Squarepants play with Fort Stewart youth at the Month of the Military Child Family Picnic and Carnival on April 29.

LEFT: Children run through the Sesame Street-themed inflatable obstacle course at the the Month of the Military Child Family Picnic and Carnival.

Field Day brings students, Soldiers together

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Bde.
Public Affairs

Soldiers from the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade participated in the Taylors Creek Elementary School annual Field Day celebrations, April 1-8.

Field Day is an organized event and an overview of everything the students have done throughout the year, said Stephanie Thomas, a teacher's

aide at Taylors Creek Elementary School.

Each day, a different grade spends half of their school day participating in relays and various other competitive events.

"It's just getting the kids together for a little competition," said Coach Robert Brennan, physical education teacher for Taylors Creek Elementary School. "Everybody wins and nobody loses. It's just to have a lot of fun."

The STB volunteered to come down and help run the

events at Taylors Creek.

"We couldn't do it without the Soldiers," said Coach Brennan. "They love coming out here too. We had them last year too. They've been great."

Private First Class Shaquana Jamerson, STB, said she loves working with the kids and seeing them have a good time.

"Everyone is having a lot of fun," said Pfc. Jamerson. "There's a lot of energy."

Working within the community is part of the 3rd Infantry Division and the Army's mis-

sion. Helping out in community activities, participating in community celebrations and attending local sports events are just a few of things the Army does to give back to the people who support it.

"This is part of what we do," said Spc. Sheinna Beltrain, STB. "We support the community and this elementary school."

The students and teachers at Taylors Creek also appreciate all the support that the Soldiers provide, said Thomas. They can see the excitement in the children's faces when the Soldiers show up for events.

"I know they've had a lot of fun," said Thomas. "I've heard more than 20 of them exclaim, 'Oh my gosh, we've had such a good time!'"

The kids expressed their excitement of the day's events and showed a positive attitude and good sportsmanship throughout the day.

"My favorite part was the tug-of-war," said Davion



Photos by Spc. Gaelen Lowers

Gabe Portillo and Jeace Santiago, both 4th graders, participate in the double sack race during Taylors Creek Elementary School's annual Field Day.

Mitchell, 4th grade student at Taylors Creek Elementary School. "It was OK if we lost, because we all had fun."

Taylors Creek Elementary will continue its Field Day celebrations all this week. Call (912) 369-0378 for more information.



Students from Taylors Creek Elementary participate in a game of tug-of-war at the annual Field Day celebrations.

MWR Briefs

Spring Jam 3-on-3 tournament coming

The Spring Jam 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday at the Courts and Picnic Pavilion on Stephen Douglas St. at Hunter.

The double elimination event includes a cookout and music. There is no charge. Prizes will be awarded.

There will be three categories: male ages 14-17, male ages 18 and over, and female.

The maximum number of players per team is four.

For details and registration, call 315-2019.

Scottish Games to be held in Savannah

See the Scottish Games on a day trip from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday to the Bethesda School for Boys in Savannah. Participants will depart from Stewart's Leisure Travel Office.

Celebrate and experience your Celtic heritage.

The day will include a piping and dancing competition, bagpipe bands, Scottish heavy athletics, re-enactors, modern Celtic music, border-collie demonstration, genealogy, children activities, and Scottish and American foods.

The \$15 cost includes transportation and admission. For details and tickets, call 315-3674 at Hunter or 767-2841 at Stewart.

Classes offered at Corkan Recreation

Corkan Family Recreation Area offers a number of classes on a regular basis for various ages.

On Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. (except holidays and school vacation days), there's the Toddler Bowling Class at Cypress Sam's Treehouse, building 449. The \$1 cost includes all instructional fees and equipment.

On Thursdays, Roller Skating Class is held at the Corkan Family Fun Center, building 449, from 6-8 p.m.

The cost is \$5 per session and includes all instructional fees and equipment.

Also, learn to be a novice climber from 6-8 p.m. The staff at Corkan Family Fun Center can teach anyone to climb.

The cost is \$7 per session, including all instructional fees and equipment.

Climbing students must be at least 8 years old. If under age 18, parent or guardian must be present.

Learn the game of roller hockey or show us your skill. The \$5 cost includes all instructional fees and equipment.

Call 767-9884 for more information about classes and activities.

BOSS Bahama cruise sets sail soon

Make plans now to set sail on a four-day Bahama Cruise on Carnival's ship Fascination. Sail Sept. 10-14 to Nassau and Freeport from the Port of Jacksonville.

Registration is open to Single Soldiers, now through May 8 and all military ID cardholders, May 9-June 1 (pending space available).

The inside cabin cost of \$348.67 per person and ocean view cost of \$388.67 per person includes the

cruise, port charge, taxes and gratuity. For more information, call 767-2841.

Military Spouse Day mini golf to cost \$1

This national day will be celebrated at Cypress Creek Adventure Mini Golf, building 448, on Saturday with a special price for military spouses. The cost will be \$1 per game per person from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 767-6708 for more information.

Mother's Day brunches will be served

Mothers Day brunch will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Club Stewart, building 405, and the Hunter Club, building 6015.

The menu features breakfast items, ham carving station; roast beef, grilled chicken with green onion supreme sauce, roasted pork loin with pecan sauce, loaded mashed potatoes, spring rice blend, fresh green beans almondine, chuck wagon corn, salad bar, peach crepes and a chocolate fountain.

The cost is \$14.95 per person, children ages 5-10 half price, and ages 4 and under free. For more information, call 368-2212 at Stewart or 459-7923 at Hunter.

Fitness program to open for Civilians

The Civilian Fitness Program, designed to provide a comprehensive "self-paced" fitness regimen for DoD Civilian employees, will begin Monday and continue until Aug. 6 at Newman Fitness Center, building 439, and Tominac Fitness Center, building 919.

The program, encompassing health, well-being and physical fitness, is free to DoD Civilian employees and is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m.

Call 767-3031 for more information from Newman or 315-2019 from Tominac.

Intramural softball leagues play begins

Intramural softball league play (company level, senior's, co-ed and women's) is scheduled to begin Monday, but there's still an opportunity to register and join the action. The registration deadline has been extended to May 30.

The teams square off Monday-Thursday at 6:30, 7:30 or 8:30 p.m. at Stewart's Bennett Sports Complex and Hunter's Squires Sports Complex.

Registration is open to all DoD ID cardholders (Family Members, ages 18 and older). For details, call 767-8238 at Stewart or 315-4160 at Hunter.

Town hall meeting invites community

You are invited to attend the town hall meeting at Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield beginning at 5:30 p.m. May 13 at Club Stewart, building 405, and Hunter Club, building 6015. Door prizes will be awarded.

The meeting provides the Military community with an opportunity to address concerns or make suggestions to the panel about quality of life issues. Unable to attend? Watch live on Marne TV, or call in questions at 767-7625 or 315-7625.

The Town Hall Meeting is coordinated by the

Army Community Service. For more information, call 767-1257 (Stewart) or 315-6816 (Hunter).

GC golf scramble to be held at Hunter

The registration deadline for the Garrison Commander's Golf Scramble is Wednesday. You can register at Hunter Golf Club, building 8205. Scramble play will begin with a shotgun start at 8 a.m., May 15.

The entry fee is \$35 for DoD ID cardholders and golf club members and \$40 for civilian guests. The cost includes tournament fee, golf car, driving range balls and tournament prizes. Mulligans will be sold separately. The first 25 foursomes will be accepted.

For more information, call 315-9115

Registration closing for fishing tourney

The registration deadline is May 14 for the Largest Pan Fish Event, scheduled May 15-31 at Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield fishing areas.

To compete in the Pass & Permit event, you must have a valid Stewart/Hunter fishing permit. Fish must be caught on Stewart or Hunter only and turned in for measuring and weighing on the same day, unfrozen to Stewart Pass & Permit Office, building 8093.

Prizes will be awarded. The cost is \$5 per person. For details, call 435-8033 (Stewart) or 315-5163 (Hunter).

Hunter Aerobic-Thon promotes fitness

Join us from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 16 at Tominac Fitness Center, building 919, for the Aerobic-Thon. It's four hours of fitness fun, including belly dancing, Zumba, Hip-Hop, Yoga, Kick Boxing, Step, Pilates, Tai-Chi and Salsa.

There also will be nutrition consultations, body fat analysis, on-site personal trainers and blood pressure readings. This year's event will also feature the final weigh-in and results for the Biggest Loser competition.

There is no charge. Active-duty military, Reserves, retirees, Family Members and DoD Civilians are invited. Call 315-2019 for more information.

'50s Skate Hop to be held at Stewart

Corkan Family Fun Center, building 449, will hold its first '50s Style Skate Hop from 8-11 p.m. May 16. Dress the part in a '50s costume and enjoy skating to music from the '50s. It's an event that Fonzie wouldn't want to miss, and you shouldn't either! The \$5 per person cost includes rental skates. Call 767-9884 for more information.

Stewart water park to open for summer

All the fun of a new season starts May 20 at the Springs at Cypress Creek spray park located adjacent to building 448. The season continues through Sept. 30.

The spray park is open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily for children up to 12 years old. There is a \$1 per person cost and parental/adult supervision is required. Swimmers are required for all children not potty trained.

Call 767-6708 for more information.

HSC, Thrift Shop give \$19k in scholarships

Steve Hart
Hunter Army Airfield
Public Affairs

Twelve Family Members received \$19,000 in college scholarships from the Hunter Thrift Shop and Hunter Spouses' Club in a ceremony in Hunter Army Airfield's garrison headquarters May 3.

"It's our absolute pleasure to be able to reward very high academic excellence and community involvement to these students," said Joanne Kertis, president of the Hunter Thrift Shop.

The checks were presented by Lt. Col. Dan Whitney, Hunter garrison commander.

"I've been deployed to many countries," Lt. Col. Whitney said. "Many of them don't place much importance on education nor a commitment to excellence. But this country and our military community do, and I'm proud to recognize these exceptional members of our community."

The scholarships



Steve Hart

Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander Lt. Col. Dan Whitney (center), stands with scholarship winners (left to right) Joanne Kertis, Hunter Thrift Shop president; Devan Goforth, Neil Schaefer, Kaitlin Bergsmith, Cory Smalls, Antwan Jackson, Destiny Morales, Victoria Rukan and Rhonda Blair, Hunter Spouses' Club president. Twelve Family members received college scholarships at the ceremony held May 3.

ranged from \$250 to \$1,500 per student based on merit.

"I'm very honored and thankful to receive this scholarship," said Devan Goforth, a senior at South Effingham County High School who plans on attending Georgia Institute of Technology's engineering program at Armstrong Atlantic State University in the fall.

Devan is the son of Sgt. 1st Class Andy Goforth of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Devan has a 3.96 grade point average, is a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club, and is the cadet commander of his school's Navy Junior ROTC program.

"I am so proud of

Devan and all his accomplishments," beamed Nikki Goforth, Devan's mother.

The \$19,000 distributed is the largest amount the two volunteer organizations have awarded in their histories.

"It's an honor to be able to give back to the Hunter community," said Rhonda Blair, president of the Hunter Spouses' Club.

HEALTH MATTERS

BIRTH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provided by Winn Army Community Hospital

April 14

- **Miley Michele O'Malley**, a girl, 8 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Sgt. Joel O'Malley and Jillian O'Malley.

April 18

- **Dallas Jay Seale**, a boy, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Pvt. Nathan Thomas Seale and Linda Elizabeth Seale.

April 23

- **Cain Robert Mullins**, a boy, 8 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Spc. Christopher Robert Mullins and Lauren Michele Mullins.

April 25

- **Donivon Isaiah Apt**, a boy, 7 pounds, 2 ounces, born to Cpl. Ronald Kenneth Apt and Spc. Karian Domonique Apt.

April 26

- **Sebastian Alexander**

Green, a boy, 10 pounds, 5 ounces, born to Spc. Scott Green and Spc. Heather Green.

April 27

- **Blayre Carden Orr**, a girl, 6 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Sgt. Christopher Orr and Alecia Marie Orr.

April 28

- **Ronan Stuart Gillette**, a boy, 8 pounds, 8 ounces, born to Sgt. Ryan L. Gillette and Billie Jo Gillette.

- **Ana Marion Hinojosa**, a girl, 7 pounds, 8 ounces, born to Sgt. Saturnino Hinojosa and Sgt. Hilda Hinojosa.

April 29

- **Tyler Jayden Hogue**, a boy, 7 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Sgt. Justin Hogue and Natalie Hogue.

Fort Stewart provides \$13.5K for 17 college scholarships

Spc. Michael Adams
3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

Military dependents earned scholarships for either starting or continuing education in a ceremony at Fort Stewart, April 30.

Over \$13,500 dollars in scholarships were awarded to 17 recipients to continue or start their education. The scholarships were awarded based on their work in the classroom and work in the community.

"There's nothing more important than recognizing the people who have the

drive and desire to make education a priority in their life," said Col. Todd Buchs, Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander. "We all know education is important, and that's because a solid education opens the door to so many successes in life. It's so important to pursue your educational dreams."

Colonel Buchs also expressed his pride in Army Families being taken care of.

"Over the past 20 years, over 400 scholarships have been given out to deserving Families," he said. "These scholarships are a great example of the Fort Stewart community inside and outside the gate taking care of its own."

Demetrius Stinson, who plans to attend Clayton University to study to be a neurosurgeon, was humbled to earn a scholarship.

"College is getting more expensive every year and any amount of money helps," he said. "I'm really grateful to get this. I'm thankful to get it. I hope they keep it going; it benefits a lot of kids around the area."

Becky Aiton, who co-chaired the Scholarship Committee, appreciated the work they did to obtain the award.

"I think they are unbelievable," she said. "Looking at their applications, I was blown away by the volunteer work

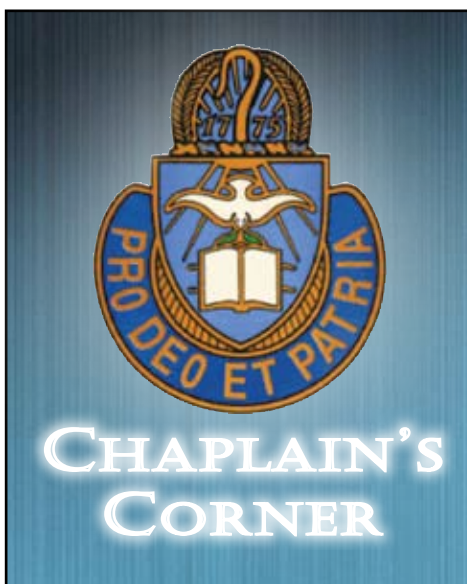
they've done. Congratulations, and keep doing what you're doing."

Colonel Buchs expressed his appreciation for their hard work as well.

"They have my sincere thanks and congratulations for working so hard for standing out amongst all the applicants," he said.

This year's recipients were Tina Rigdon, Rochelle Patterson, Wesley Herr, Sarah Hearn, Nicole Powell, Caitlin Craft, Celia Reynolds, Demetrius Stinson, Brittany Butler, Matthew Pickett, Ashley Gilmore, Benjamin Botelho, Heather Williams, Brandy Rollins, Mary Pendleton, Christina Thompson and Charis Chase.

Spiritual preparation keeps Families ready for deployment



Chap. (Capt.) Randy Belcher
1/9 Field Artillery, 2nd HBCT

There are many things that require our attention throughout the weeks and months ahead. As the long days of training and field exercises approach, begin to prepare with your Family now.

The old proverb "Do not put off till tomorrow what you can do today" is a universal foundation to prepare yourself and Family spiritually, mentally and physically for the future.

First, prepare yourself and

Family spiritually for the deployment. Soldiers and Family Members who are spiritually prepared for deployment adjust better to the separation and stress from the deployment. Get your Family involved in one of the on-post worship services. There are many church activities that your spouse and children can look forward to weekly that will help them through the deployment, as well as provide a transcendent support system.

Second, prepare yourself and Family Members mental-

ly for the deployment by spending quality time with them when you are off. Remember, it is not the amount of time that you spend with them, but the quality of that time spent with each child and your spouse. Plan a weekly game night, a special weekend with the spouse, and a monthly outing.

Last, prepare yourself and Family physically for the deployment by getting the Family in shape. Studies show that 20 minutes of exercise a day reduces stress, so take your Family on a walk after

dinner. Go to the park with the kids and play; go on a bicycle ride.

These are just a few suggestions to try, but do not put off today what you can do tomorrow. If you do, you probably will regret, that you did not better prepare yourself and Family for the deployment.

May the Lord guide you in your preparation of yourself and Family for the deployment ahead. May your time be used wisely with your Family and your preparation of the deployment ahead be blessed.

Hunter Youth Ministries combine music, faith



Kaytrina Curtis

Instead of the regular first Saturday of the month movie, the Hunter Youth Ministries held a musical extravaganza at the post theater on Hunter May 2. Corey Smalls, a senior at Windsor Forest High School, played his alto saxophone during the event. Students from the JROTC program at Groves High School also performed a drill and cadence routine.

Bible study at Kelley Hill Chapel

Bible study is held at the Kelley Hill Chapel, Fort Benning, Ga., at 7 p.m. every Thursday.

Free pizza and drinks are provided at the event.

"This study is an excellent way for Soldiers to figure out who Jesus is and how they can follow him," Bean said.

For more information you can call Bean at (706)464-6426 or e-mail him at bean375@hotmail.com.

Chapel Schedule

Fort Stewart

Catholic	Location	Time
Saturday Vigil Mass	Main Post Chapel	5 p.m.
Sunday Mass	Main Post Chapel	9 a.m.
Protestant		
Contemporary Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
Gospel Worship	Main Post	11 a.m.
Traditional Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	Heritage	11 a.m.
Kids' Church	Diamond Elementary	11 a.m.
PWOC (Wednesday)	Main Post Chapel	9:30 a.m.
Islamic		
Friday Jum'ah	Marne	1:30 p.m.
Contact Yahya Hassan at 876-5546.		
Jewish		
Friday	Marne	11:30 a.m.
Contact Sgt. 1st Class. Crowther at 980-9295.		
Latter-Day Saints		
Sunday	220 Sandy Run Drive, Hinesville	9 a.m.

Hunter Army Airfield

Catholic		
Sunday Mass	Chapel	11 a.m.
Protestant		
Sunday Service	Chapel	9 a.m.

Kids Church

Where God rocks

10:45 a.m. to noon, Sunday
at Stewart School Age Services, across from
Diamond Elementary; or at Hunter Chapel
Fellowship Hall, Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

For all kids Grade K-5

Fort Stewart bus pick-up

10:15 a.m. - Liberty and Hendrich, Liberty and Sicily, Liberty and Anzio, Liberty and Rome

10:20 a.m. - Jasmine and Skyland Spruce, Jasmine and Liberty Wood, Wild Fern and Golden Birch

10:30 a.m. - Schofield and Sansidro, Schofield and Hollandia, Rogers and Argyle

10:40 a.m. - Naktong and New Guinea, Ormoc and New Guinea

10:50 a.m. - Marne Chapel

10:55 a.m. - Main Post Chapel

For more information, email
fortstewartkidschurch@yahoo.com.

Fort Stewart Chapel Youth Ministry

**Junior and Senior
High School Students!**

Join us for
free games and pizza

Sunday • 6-8 p.m.
**at the Stewart Youth Activity
Center, building 7338.**

For more information,
contact jerry.e.thompson@comcast.net

or call 877-7207

Glennville preps for Sweet Onion Fest

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

The Tattall County town of Glennville, Ga. is preparing for its annual big event, the Glennville Sweet Onion Festival, which begins at 8 a.m., Saturday with an onion run, followed by a parade at 10 a.m. Gates for the festival, held at the State Farmers' Market on U.S. 301, open at 9 a.m. This year marks the 33rd year for the one-day event, which usually draws a crowd of over 6,000 people.

Preparations for the festival began with the Miss Georgia Sweet Onion Pageant, which was held at the Glennville City Auditorium, April 4. Jincy Curl, a Pinewood Christian Academy junior, was crowned as 2009 Miss Georgia Sweet Onion by last year's queen, Elizabeth Love. Curl will make her first major public appearance as queen during the

parade on the City of Glennville float.

Festival attractions at the farmers' market include arts and crafts, live entertainment, children's rides, games and numerous food vendors, most featuring the delectable Vidalia onion. Although the famous onion was first discovered in the nearby town for which it's named, more Vidalia onions are actually grown in Tattall County than Toombs County. By Georgia state law, only onions grown in 20 Georgia counties that have the same sandy, low-sulfur soil can officially be called Vidalia onions. Tattall County farms produce half the state's crop of Vidalia onions each year.

Gate tickets for the festival are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children with free admission to military ID card holders. Top off the evening with a Contemporary Christian Concert, beginning at 7 p.m. Concert tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12

that evening. For those who prefer more traditional hymns, there will also be a Sweet Onion Homecoming Gospel Sing at the Glennville City Auditorium, also starting at 7 p.m. Call 654-2461 for information about the contemporary concert or 654-3760 for the gospel sing.

To get to Glennville, take GA 144 or GA 196 to Glennville then look for signs directing you to the parade or festival.

Remember: *The speed limit on GA 144 has been reduced to 45 mph.*

RIGHT: *Jincy Curl, a Pineville Christian Academy junior, was crowned 2009 Miss Georgia Sweet Onion by former queen, Elizabeth Love, April 4. The new queen will make her first major public appearance during the Glennville Sweet Onion Festival parade, May 9.*



Courtesy Photo

Plan a weekend at George Smith State Park

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

With close to 1,700 acres that host seven miles of hiking trails, a 412-acre fishing lake, 25 tent and RV campsites, a pioneer campground, eight cottages,

four picnic shelters, a group shelter, and playgrounds, George L. Smith is a quiet Family getaway waiting for your arrival. Plan a Mother's Day trip to this gem of a state park, located between Swainsboro and Statesboro, just north of Metter, Ga.

Even the scenic country drive to the park is a relaxing commute under two hours, with miles and miles

of farmland along GA 57 from Glennville to Cobbtown then GA 23 through Metter to the south entrance to the park. If you're in a hurry and prefer a stop at the Statesboro mall on the way, take U.S. 301 to Statesboro then U.S. 80 toward Twin City, turning off at the north entrance to the park. Make your advance reservations for one of their cottages by calling 800-864-7275 or going to www.gastateparks.org.

George L. Smith is one of the most secluded of Georgia's 63 state parks and historic sites, seconded only by the Stephen C. Foster State Park near Fargo, Ga. It's a great place to get away from the noise and the traffic, to take time to spend time with your spouse and children, and to enjoy nature as it used to be a century ago. Aside from the peace and quiet it offers, the park is best known for its refurbished combination grist mill and saw mill, covered bridge and dam called Parrish Mill, which was originally built in 1880.

If you don't have a whole weekend to stay or there are no cottages available, make it a day trip. Parking is \$5 a day. There is no charge for fishing as long as you have a valid Georgia fishing license with identification. Fishing boats, pedal boats and canoes are available for rent, starting at \$5 per hour for fishing boats and canoes. Four hours cost \$15 and eight hours cost \$25. Pedal boats rent for \$3 per person per hour.

Cottages are \$100-\$110 per night with a two-night minimum stay. Cottages includes two double-bed bedrooms, bathrooms, eat-in kitchen, living room and screened porch with rockers. There are also BBQ grills and picnic tables outside, so Dad, you can do all the cooking this Mother's Day weekend. Go to www.gastateparks.org/net/content/images to see photos of the park and cottages. For more information about George L. Smith State Park, call 478-763-2759.



Randy Murray

Built in 1880, Parrish Mill with its covered bridge, is the feature landmark representing George L. Smith State Park, located near Twin City, Ga. The 1,637-acre park with its 412-acre lake is a great place for families to get away for a long, quiet weekend together.

Coastal Happenings

Courtesy of the Coastal Courier

Live Oak Libraries offer many programs

All Live oak Public Library Branches will be closed on May 25 for Memorial Day Observance.

Preschool Storytime

Join us for stories, songs and more at 10:30 a.m., Monday, at Liberty Branch Library in Hinesville. For children ages 3-4.

Tree Tots Storytime

Join us for stories, songs and more, at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, at Liberty Branch Library. For children ages 1-2.

Clifford the Big Red Dog

Join the fun as Clifford the Big Red Dog helps celebrate Children's Book Week.

Join us for stories, crafts, and lots of fun at 9 a.m., May 11 at Liberty Branch Library.

For more information, call 912-368-4003.

Computer Practic Sessions

Come and practice all of the things that you have learned in the past computer classes or were afraid to try alone at home. All skill levels are welcome. Practice sessions will be held at 10:30 a.m., May 7 and 21 at Liberty Branch Library. To register, call the library at 368-4003.

Introduction to the Internet searches

This is a beginner's course on using the Internet that will cover using Internet Explorer browser to navigate through the Internet and print Web pages. Prerequisite: Introduction to Windows or equivalent knowledge. The class will be held at 7 p.m., May 13 at the Liberty Branch Library. To register, call the library at 368-4003.

Introduction to Windows

A beginner's course on using the library's computers will be offered at the Liberty Branch Library at 10:30 a.m., May 14. This course will cover using a mouse, manipulating the windows, and printing. To register, call the library at 368-4003.

Introduction to Word

Liberty Branch Library will be offering a beginner's course on using Microsoft Word, word processing software at 7 p.m., May 19, and at 10:30 a.m., May 28. Learn how to create, print, and save a document. Prerequisite: Introduction to Windows or equivalent. To register, call the library at 368-4003.

Jesup arts and crafts nights are ongoing

The South Georgia Gourd Patch, in affiliation with the Wayne County Arts Council, the Georgia Gourd Society

and the American Gourd Society, invite community members for an evening of arts and crafts at Cracker Williams Recreation Park in Jesup every third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, call 294-7394 or e-mail catsewg@bellsouth.net.

Low Country Paintball waives fees

Low Country Paintball invites community members to enjoy paintball by waiving all-day greens fees and gun rental fees for active-duty military during the first weekend of each month. Players can enjoy more than 150 guns across 63 acres. Group rates are available.

For more information, call 663-2314.

3rd ID Society reunion slated

The 3rd Infantry Division Society and attached units in wars and in peacetime will hold their 90th reunion, Sept. 16-20. The reunion will be held at the Clarion Hotel Springfield, 3333 S. Glenstone Ave. Springfield, Mo. 65804; (417) 883-6500. Room rates are \$84 per night plus tax and includes breakfast and free airport transportation.

For additional information, contact Linda Irvine at (360) 663-2521, info@thereunionbrat.com.

StoryCorps is coming

The Georgia Historical Society and the Telfair Museum of Art are partnering with Georgia Public Broadcasting and local GPB station WSVH to bring StoryCorps, the nation's largest oral history project to Savannah.

StoryCorps travels the country collecting the oral histories of friends and loved ones, one conversation at a time. For more information, go to www.storycorps.net.

Lecture on Lincoln to be held in Savannah

The Georgia Historical Society and Savannah-Chatham County School System's Teaching American History grant program invite you to attend a free lecture by journalist and author Andrew Ferguson as he discusses his book, "Land of Lincoln: Adventures in Abe's America."

The lecture will be held at 7 p.m., May 7 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1 West Macon Street, on Madison Square in downtown Savannah. Copies of Ferguson's book will be available for sale and a book-signing.

Mother's Day play show slated

Come see a Mother's Day production of "You Don't Know Me Until You Need Me" at Full Gospel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, 809 Frank Cochran Dr. in Hinesville, May 10.

The event includes dinner from 1:30-3:30 p.m. with the play beginning at 4 p.m. Dinner with play admission is \$20 with play-only admission costing \$10. There is also VIP seating for play only, \$20, and VIP seating for dinner with play, \$30.

For more information, call Andrew Williams at 977-3293.

Christian concert coming soon

Join The Whitefield School and hundreds of young music fans for a live, fun-filled Family concert with the nationally-acclaimed Christian music group, Go Fish, to be hosted at St. Simons Community Church, May 9. Student tickets are available for \$5 and adult tickets for \$10. Children under 5 are free. Tickets purchased on the night of the event are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults.

Patriotic Concert coming to Hinesville

Patriotic Concert rehearsals will be held 7 p.m., Tuesdays at Brewton-Parker Auditorium, off of U.S. 84 in Hinesville.

The Community Chorus will be presenting a Patriotic Concert on July 7. There will also be local area talent performing in the concert. If you would like to perform as a soloist or group, sign up now by e-mailing lcca.mass.choir@bellsouth.net or calling 912-977-3432. The concert will be free for the community. Military and Family Members are invited to participate.

Relay for Life Fundraiser at Chili's

The Dixie Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is holding a fundraiser for the Liberty County Relay for Life. On Monday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. the Chili's in Hinesville will donate 10 percent of sales to the ASMC Relay team.

Those funds will benefit the American Cancer Society and help them continue the fight to find a cure for cancer.

Army Community Service



Welcome to the Army Community Service Family Page. Our mission is to provide services to support readiness of Soldiers, their Families and communities to promote self-reliance, resiliency and stability. We offer training classes, support groups and Family advocacy programs. Services are offered to active-duty, retired, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers and their Family Members, regardless of branch of service. Department of Defense Civilian Employees are also eligible for most services, as are their Family Members. ACS is a member of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Family, proudly serving America's military.

For information or to register for programs at Fort Stewart, please call 767-5058/5059. For information and registration at Hunter Army Airfield, please call 315-6816.

Army pays tribute to military spouses

Twenty-five years ago, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation officially recognizing Military Spouse Appreciation Day, held the Friday before Mother's Day every year to show appreciation for the sacrifices of military spouses. To celebrate, ACS will offer free cake at the Post Exchange on Friday afternoon starting at 3 p.m. Military Spouses will also receive a small keepsake commemorating their special day.

Agencies offer disability-related services

Parents with children from birth to age are invited to attend the Community-Wide Parent Extravaganza, May 14 at Club Stewart, hosted by the Exceptional Family Member Program. This event will bring together agencies that provide services to address specific disability-related needs.

Participating agencies include Babies Can't Wait, Easter Seals of Southern Georgia, Social Security Administration, Georgia Council for the Hearing Impaired, Right From the Start Medicaid, Georgia Department of Labor, Child Youth & School Services, and many more. Stop in during the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to visit with agency representatives and discuss your child's specific needs. For more information, call ACS-Stewart at 767-5058/5059.

Stress workshops to be held

Come to a full-day workshop and learn healthy techniques for coping with life's many stressors, positive ways to react to an angry person, healthy outlets for releasing angry emotions, and information on the many community resources available to help when stress, anger, or conflict disrupt your home or work life.

To register, call 767-5058/5059 for the workshop at Stewart on Wednesday, or 315-6816 for the workshop at Hunter on May 15, both 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Newcomers briefings available

Spouses are encouraged to attend the comprehensive newcomer's orientation offered at Fort Stewart each Tuesday and Thursday. Presented by the Army Community Service Outreach Program, the orientation provides an overview of the many agencies, events, and programs available to help with your

transition to the area – and offers an opportunity to meet other new Families and servicemembers. The Outreach staff can also assist with any issue or concern you may have as a newcomer.

To register for the newcomer orientation, please call ACS Outreach at 767-2467. Also ask about child care.

Classes help with job placement

Your Employment Readiness team offers free workshops to help you succeed in your job search. Sign up for Resumix, and learn the insider's tips on entering your resume in the Federal government's electronic resume system, search jobs, and strategies for maximizing your skills for the most impact, 1-3 p.m., Monday at Stewart.

ResumeWriting helps you identify skills to enhance your resume development, 10 a.m. to noon May 14 at Hunter. You must pre-register for employment readiness workshops; please call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter. Also request a personal employment counseling session and let us help you prepare to find the job you want.

Parenting classes to teach new parents

Parents are invited to participate in free classes designed to help you better meet the challenges of raising children.

Baby Bootcamp for Dads is an interactive class for men who are expecting a baby or have children up to age two. Dads are invited to challenge the stereotype, enhance your nurturing side, network with other fathers, and build confidence in your ability to parent your baby. Participants will receive a free book, "Be Prepared: A Practical Handbook for New Dads." Call 767-5058/5059 for the May 17 class at Stewart.

At Stewart, Positive Parenting covers numerous topics in a two-hour session from 9-11 a.m., May 20. Topics include parents as role models, how to speak so children will listen, rules in your home, alternative discipline techniques, and more. Call 767-5058/5059 to register. Also ask about child care.

Support groups for parents with children ages 0 to 36 months focus on a variety of topics determined by individual and groups needs. Stop by to share your parenting concerns and experiences, 2 to 4 p.m. at ACS-Hunter every Thursday. At Stewart, "Parent Power Hour" meets 5-6 p.m., May 29. Call your local ACS for more information. Also ask about a home visit by one of our experienced professionals who can answer your important parenting concerns in the privacy of your own home.

Baby budget class to help Families

If you're thinking about having a baby, have one on the way, or already have an infant, attend Budgeting for Baby and learn how to financially plan for the future. We will discuss living on one income, child care expenses, saving for college, and life insurance, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Stewart, May 20.

More classes are available to help with your personal banking skills, such as Bank Account Management which teaches you how to balance your account and reconcile with the bank. Discussion includes debt management, credit and credit reporting to help you take control of your finances, 9-11:30 a.m. at Hunter on May 19, or 3:30-5:30 p.m. at

Stewart, May 27. Hunter also offers Money Management covering a wide variety of personal finance topics, 9-11:30 a.m., May 13 or May 21.

Call 767-5058/5059 at Stewart or 315-6816 at Hunter to register for finance classes.

Infant massage to teach valuable skill

Babies ages 6 weeks to 9 months are invited to bring their parents to learn the delicate art of infant massage! Infant massage is a very powerful element in human bonding and it promotes better sleep, boosts the immune system, relieves teething pains, and makes babies feel loved and secure. Open to parents and/or caregivers, the 3-class series will be 4-6 p.m., May 12, 19 or 26 at ACS-Stewart. To register, please call 767-5058/5059.

Training prepares Key Callers

Family Readiness Group Key Callers are invited to attend training from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at ACS-Hunter on May 16. Presentation topics include an overview of the Key Caller's duties, communicating with Family Members, dispelling rumors, handling crisis calls, and how the Key Caller fits into a successful FRG. Space is limited, so please call 315-6816 to reserve your seat.

ACS makes moving easier

Learn how to plan monthly expenses during a permanent change of station. By planning ahead, you will avoid pitfalls and alleviate stress on your finances during your move. Sign up now for Financial Planning for PCS, offered every Thursday at Stewart and at Hunter, May 12.

AFTB offers instructor training

Army Family Team Building is a volunteer-led program that provides free training and knowledge to Soldiers and Family Members to support the total Army effort.

Instructor Training will be offered at both Stewart and Hunter locations, teaching facilitator and public speaking skills, techniques for classroom management, and how to plan effective presentations. These skills can be applied in any teaching arena, and you may even decide to become an AFTB instructor! Call 315-6816 to register for the workshop at Hunter on 11-14 May, or 767-5058/5059 for the training at Stewart on 12-14 May, both scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also ask about child care.

ACS hosts play mornings for young children

Parents are invited with their children (ages 0 to 36 months) to spend time playing together. Led by an energetic and playful adult from our New Parent Support Program, the play mornings are designed for meeting, sharing, and playing with other military Families in a fun, upbeat atmosphere. At Stewart, Play Mornings are held each Thursday at the Bryan Village Youth Center.

At Hunter, Play Mornings are held each Tuesday at the New Gannam Community Center. The fun begins at 10 a.m. at both locations. Come on down and see what all the fun is about!

Winn Cdr seeks improved access

Col. John P. Collins
MEDDAC Commander

To the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Community — I want to take a moment to thank you in helping us improve your access to care by providing honest feedback in the form of the Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey. Access to care is a challenge for all military hospitals due to the constant turnover of staff to deployments. Winn currently has 19 health professionals deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. We take the comments you provide and integrate them into our daily decision making to help improve your care. Winn averages about 800 survey responses each month—one of the highest response rates in the Southeast Regional Medical Command.

The APLSS survey is designed to allow patients to evaluate their hospital care and services with 21 focused questions ranging from telephone ease and access to care to staff courtesy and cleanliness of the facility. Each month, I receive a summary of the data submitted from our patients and share with the Winn staff. With your feedback, we focused on customer service training, added additional parking spaces, purchased new waiting room furniture and implemented improved nurse triage services in the primary care clinics. We are always looking for areas to improve — we have a lot of them. Your feedback is critical to our improvement efforts.

What you may not realize is the comments you provide help the hos-

pital financially. The Army Medical Department is serious about improving patient satisfaction. The U.S. Army Medical Command provides additional funding to the hospital when you rate our services as excellent. For example, Question 21 on the survey asks, "Everything considered, how satisfied were you with the hospital during this visit"? We receive \$90 dollars for every survey response we receive each month when our monthly average exceeds 90 percent for this question. From September 2008 through December 2008, we received over \$89,000 dollars thanks to your positive feedback. To put it bluntly, this paid for two additional nurses to help support our operations and improve your access to care.

Access to care is a challenge at every military hospital. We can all play a part in improving access in our community. The hospital staff continues to seek innovative ways to "squeeze" everyone in. My hat goes off to the direct care staff on the front lines every day. They do an amazing job. You, the patient, also play an important role. Every appointment you cancel opens up availability for someone else. Every positive comment you make on our APLSS survey helps us garner additional resources. Thanks for choosing Winn for your healthcare needs.

Remember, if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, contact the Patient Advocate Office at 435-6225/6143 or 315-5731 at Tuttle. You can also go to the Winn Web site at www.winn.amedd.army.mil and click on "Contact Us."



Race to Witch Mountain

Today — 7 p.m.

(Dwayne Johnson, Anna Sophia Robb)

For years, stories have circulated about a secret place in the middle of the Nevada desert, known for unexplained phenomena and strange sightings. It is called Witch Mountain, and when a Las Vegas cab driver finds two teens with supernatural powers in his cab, he suddenly finds himself in the middle of an adventure he can't explain. When they discover that the only chance to save the world lies in unraveling the secrets of Witch Mountain, the race begins, as the government, mobsters and even extraterrestrials try to stop them. *Rated PG (sequences of action/violence, frightening/dangerous situations, thematic elements) 97 min*

Fast and Furious

Friday — 7 p.m.

(Vin Diesel, Paul Walker)

When a crime brings them back to L.A. fugitive ex-con Dom Toretto reignites his feud with agent Brian O'Conner. But as they are forced to confront a shared enemy, Dom and Brian must give in to an uncertain new trust if they hope to outmaneuver him. And from convoy heists to precision tunnel crawls across international lines, two men will find the best way to get revenge: push the limits of what's possible behind the wheel. *Rated PG13 (drug references, language, intense sequences of violence, intense sequences of action, sexual content) 107 min*

PRESENTS
TODAY THROUGH MAY 10

Monsters VS. Aliens

Saturday, Sunday — 7 p.m.

(Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie)

When California girl Susan Murphy is unexpectedly clobbered by a meteorite, she mysteriously turns into a giant and is instantly labeled a "monster" named Ginormica. The military captures and holds Ginormica in a secret government compound with other monsters. Their confinement time is cut short when a mysterious alien robot lands on earth and begins storming the country. As a last resort, the motley crew of monsters is called into action. *Rated PG (sci-fi action, crude humor, mild language) 94 min*

Films are subject to availability. AAFES strives to show films according to the published schedule but reserves the right to reschedule, cancel or substitute showings as needed. For more information, call 767-3069 or go to www.aafes.com/ems/conus/stewart.htm.



CHILDREN

from Page 1B

"Military children live in some incredible places," added Maj. Gen. Cucolo. "You will live in the north, the east, the south, southwest. You will live overseas, Pacific, Europe. You will live in amazing locations where you will hear people talk different than you. You will see them dress different from you. And maybe you will see folks who will have a form of religion and maybe folks with no religion. But you know what? You are going to learn by living in different places and mixing with folks from all over the world, that the way they look and the way they talk, none of that matters. And you know what? You are going to learn the golden rule better than your parents can possibly teach you just by being an Army kid."

He noted that military children see their parents in uniform and have a firsthand view of what their service and

sacrifice mean to the nation and the cause of freedom.

"You are going to see their long hours, deployments and their sacrifice," he said. "You are going to understand better than any kid up to age 18 to 21 in this nation what the meaning of freedom is. Your mom and dad are actively engaged in defending freedom. And so freedom, the ability to vote, the ability to go, when you want, where you want, that will have a much more special meaning to you than others."

"Trust me gang," Maj. Gen. Cucolo said, "When you are 18, you will know how special it was to be a military kid. We are so proud to provide for you in any way we can, because you are so special."

Kaytrina Curtis, Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs, contributed to this story.