

SPORTS & RECREATION

DECEMBER 17, 2009

Special Olympics takes over Marne Lanes

Jennifer Hartwig
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

The Special Olympics grew from a backyard summer camp established by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1962 for people with intellectual disabilities, to the global movement it is now; the Special Olympics has been changing lives and attitudes around the world for more than 40 years.

At home, Fort Stewart hosts the Special Olympics twice every year: the spring games at Cottrell Field in March and the winter games at Marne Lanes in December. The games are for children from Liberty and Long counties.

The 2009 winter games took place Dec. 11, as Marne Lanes hosted more than 110 athletes and 150 volunteers.

The athletes, ranging from ages 8-21, each bowled one game, with every participant getting a ribbon for the place in which they finished.

"It gives (the athletes) the chance to participate with the local community and to interact with other people. It gets them excited," said Mavis Crowell, Fort Stewart Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator. "We get great support from the Soldiers, Family Members and everyone on the installation."

Melissa Silinsky brought her son Daniel, 10, to the event. Daniel is in the 4th grade at Walker Middle School in Long County.

"This is one thing he can participate in, and he can get out

and socialize with other children," Silinsky said. "He really enjoys competing."

Daniel, who is in a wheelchair, bowls often at home on his Nintendo Wii, but his mom said the Special Olympics is a great opportunity for him to do it for real, and to get to interact with others at the same time.

"He loves being out with people. He's definitely a people person," Silinsky said.

Specialist Bobby Fuller, 10th Transportation Company out of Hunter Army Airfield, was one of the 150 volunteers at Stewart Lanes. "I like volunteering," said the former certified nursing assistant. "You come out here, and you see lots of real, true smiles. I love it."

Specialist Fuller volunteered with seven other Soldiers from his company.

"Some of the volunteers have come in as units, and that really helps improve team unity," said Vickie Wingington, Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator at Fort Stewart.

"Most people just see the military side of Soldiers; they just see the warrior," Spc. Fuller said. "Volunteering helps the community see us in a different way. If we want people to see us differently, we have to make the effort to change their perspective."

Wingington agreed.

"I think by (Soldiers) volunteering at different events around the community, it acknowledges that they're part of the community and trying to make it better," she said.



Jessica Obermeyer

Zachary Hadden, 7, lines up his shot with the assistance of his mother, Tammy, at the winter Special Olympics held at Marne Lanes, Dec. 11. Zachary is a first grader at Smiley Elementary School in Long County.

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Stewart-Hunter hosts second Turkey Shoot



Bob Mathews

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Taylor, 4th IBCT, 3rd ID, fires during a practice session prior to the Holiday Turkey Shoot at the Stewart Skeet Range, Dec. 10.

Bob Mathews
FMWR Marketing

The Fort Stewart Skeet Range was the site for the second in a series of Holiday Turkey shoots held at both Stewart and at Hunter Army Airfield, Dec. 10.

Winners in the various rounds of the latest Stewart competition were: John Zimmerman, Traditional; Mark Kane, Traditional; Gavin McGowan, Paintball; Jimmy Bargeron, Traditional; Stan Kane, Traditional, and Bob Ackman, Trap.

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Shooting Sports Manager Michael Moore said 16 shooters entered the competition.

The next Holiday Turkey Shoot scheduled at Fort Stewart will held today (Dec. 17) from 4-8 p.m. The shoot will consist of three types of shoots: traditional, poker and trap.

See SHOOT Page 2C

CoE awards \$15.8M for Stewart physical fitness center

Savannah Corps Public Affairs Office

As part of an ongoing \$315 million project to build an Infantry Brigade Combat Team Complex at Fort Stewart, Ga., the Savannah District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded \$15.8 million for a new physical fitness center, Nov. 24.

The Corps selected Megen Construction Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, as the prime contractor for the 80,327-square-foot facility, with a design similar to a fitness center in the private sector community. Prominent design features include an indoor pool, indoor running track, gymnasium, climbing wall, spinning room and racquetball court.

"This physical fitness facility will serve several thousand Soldiers who will occupy the IBCT Complex in coming years," said Corps' Resident Engineer Troy Funk, who is overseeing construction on the site. "Facilities like

this reflect the Corps of Engineers' mission to build quality facilities for our troops, while also enhancing their quality of life."

The physical fitness center, along with the entire IBCT complex, is scheduled for completion in fall 2011. Other facilities awarded earlier this

year as part of the IBCT Complex include six company operations facilities, six tactical equipment maintenance facilities, 20 barracks, a headquarters building and a dining facility.

Like all Army construction, the physical fitness center will satisfy

Silver rating criteria established by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system, in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council standards. Eco-friendly features include the use of energy efficient building materials, lighting and ventilation systems.



Artist's rendering provided by
Megen Construction Company

OLYMPICS

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But it was not in question who the day was really about – the athletes.

“This is important for the kids because they see that there are volunteers here who really care,” Spc. Fuller said.

“We’re all helping each other. We’re helping them, and they’re helping us, too. The kids feel needed, and they are needed.”

One athlete, Shanekia Donikens, 21, came out for love of the sport and said she had a great time.

“I like to bowl, and I bowl a lot on the computer,” she said.

“The volunteers were really nice. I had a lot of fun.”



Photos by Jessica Obermeyer

Ryan Bailey, a special education teacher at Long County High School, and Daniel Silinsky, 10, hang out at the winter Special Olympics at Marne Lanes, Dec. 11, just before Daniel takes his turn, knocking down 7 pins on the first try.



SHOOT

from Page 1C

The shoot scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12, was the last for the series at Hunter.

Fees at Stewart are: Traditional (\$3 per shot) and Poker-5 shots (\$3 per person) all night long, plus Trap-

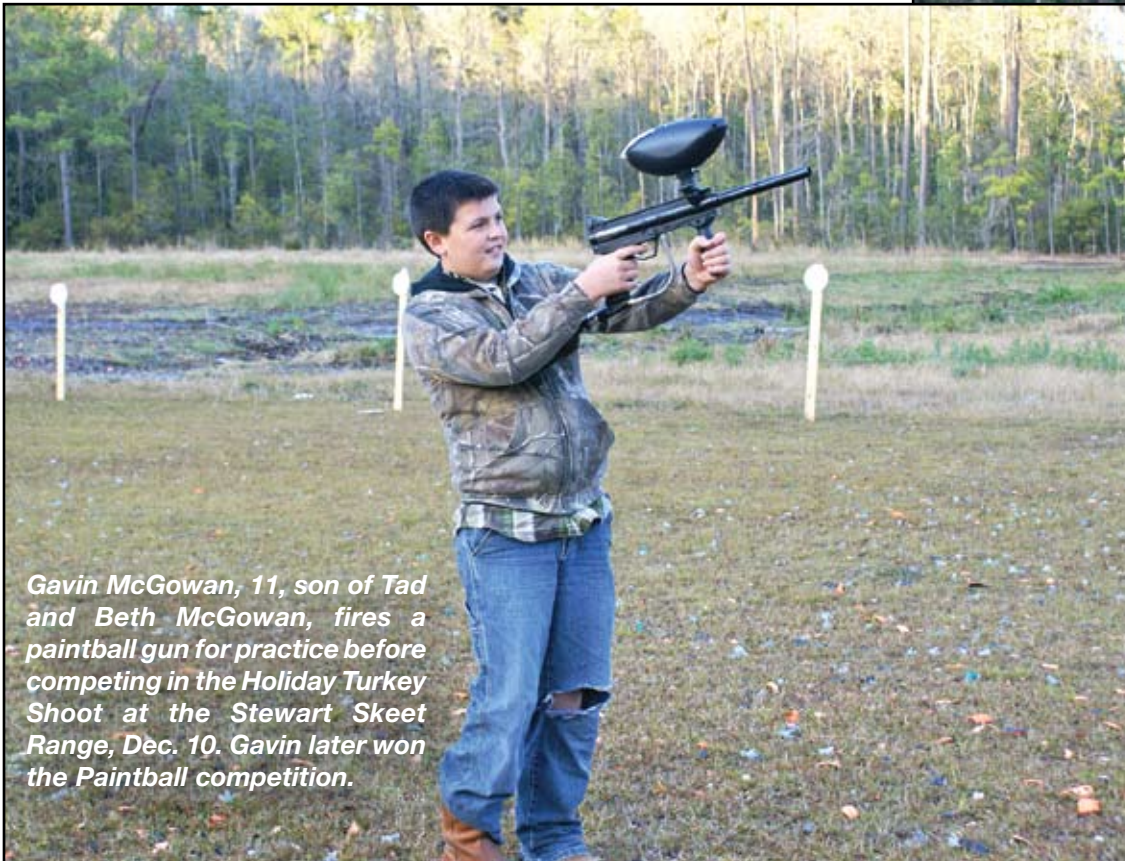
1 shot (\$5 per person, one time only per individual/shoot till you miss). Prizes are awarded per category and door prizes given out. Turkey awarded for trap shoot only.

For details, call 767-2515.



Photos by Bob Mathews

Competitors in one of the traditional rounds of the Holiday Turkey Shoot at the Stewart Skeet Range check their targets to determine who was closest to the bulls eye.



Gavin McGowan, 11, son of Tad and Beth McGowan, fires a paintball gun for practice before competing in the Holiday Turkey Shoot at the Stewart Skeet Range, Dec. 10. Gavin later won the Paintball competition.

TIME OUT! All I want for Christmas...

Commentary by Jennifer Hartwig
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

The stockings are hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicolas... Well, you know how the story goes.

It's Christmas time, and what do we do at Christmas? We wish. We hope. We dream.

So, I know you are all dying to know: what is Jennifer Hartwig asking and hoping for? Well, besides the health and happiness of my Family, there are a few things in the sports world that I'm wishing for in 2010.

For starters, please make this Tiger Woods scandal go away. He cheated on his wife, he's a scum bag, and no one can believe it, blah blah blah. I'm so over it I could spit. Please media, make it stop. Let him slink away, leave his poor wife alone, and stop giving press to all of the fame-seeking women who are using their indiscretions as a way to make

money. It's sick, and I'm disgusted by it.

Second, please take away my jinx. I have become a curse, third only to EA Sports John Madden Football and the Sports Illustrated cover. Every time I praise a player or team, they go out and blow it next time out the gate. At the beginning of the season I wrote about how the Patriots always perform in crunch time and always find a way to win the game... no so much since then.

Sure, they'll probably still win the AFC East, which I guess makes me happy, but they just aren't the team I thought they'd be this season, so I'm incredibly disappointed.

So, please Santa, take my curse away. I don't want to have to stop writing about my favorite teams and players, and I don't appreciate when the players I don't like stick it to me, which they seem to do time and time again after I criticize them in print.

Third, please help me understand

something: Rose Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl — these are real bowl games. So what the heck are the R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, the Outback Bowl, the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl, the Chick-fil-A Bowl and the Roady's Humanitarian Bowl? Don't get me wrong, I love Outback and Chick-fil-A as much as the next person, but if these bowl games are anything but a sad representation of the corporate world in which we now live, I don't know what it is. Next thing you know Montana Junior College and Kaplan University are going to be playing Dec. 27, 2011 in the "Dollar Store Bowl."

I guess what I'm really asking for is a college football playoff, like they do in 1-AA — excuse me, the "Football Championship Subdivision." The thing is, I know it's not going to happen for a long time because the people running college football and the bowl games are greedy and care more about

keeping their bowl game going than the purity of the sport, but a girl can dream, can't she?

Finally, let's stop giving press to things like Tiger Woods and his "indiscretions," or press-hungry Chad Ochocinco, and instead focus on hard-working athletes like Drew Brees who, along with being a great member of the community in New Orleans, is also leading his Saints to a 13-0 season thus far and has all-but-clinched home field advantage throughout the playoffs. Let's focus on the feel-good sports stories, the hard-working athletes, the good role models, and not the jerks, the athletes who can't seem to stay out of trouble, or those so starved for attention they'll do anything, include parading around in a sombrero, to get it.

So Santa, I've made my list, I've checked it twice. I'm pretty sure I've been good this year, so how about it?

Happy Holidays.

Stewart-Hunter Intramural Basketball

MARNE CONFERENCE SCORES

Games Dec. 7

24th Ord. Co. 40, 526th Eng. Co. 32

24th Ord. Co. (1-1)

Franco, 8 points

526th Eng. Co. (0-1)

Hunt, 8 points

87th CSSB 38, 984th Eng. Co. 27

87th CSSB (2-0)

Clark, 14 points

984th Eng. Co.

Robinson, 6 points

Games Dec. 9

135th QM Co. 34, 984th Eng. Co. 29

135th QM (2-0)

Cylar, 12 points

984th Eng. (1-2)

Brown, 10 points

24th Ord. Co. 46, 92nd Eng. Bn. 32

24th Ord. Co. (2-1)

Jay, 12 points

92nd Eng. Bn. (0-2)

Gill, 15 points

87th CSSB 2, HQ 6/8 Cav. Forfeit

87th CSSB (3-0)

8 Cav. (0-1)

STANDINGS

Marne Conference

		WON	LOST	PCT
1.	87th CSSB	3	0	1.000
2.	135th QM Co.	2	0	1.000
3.	24th Ord. Co.	2	1	.666
4.	984th Eng. Co.	1	2	.333
5.	HQ 6/8 Cav.	0	1	.000
6t.	92nd Eng. Bn.	0	2	.000
6t.	526th Eng. Co.	0	2	.000

Hunter Army Airfield Conference

		WON	LOST	PCT
1.	473rd QM Co.	3	0	1.000
2.	1/10 ATK	2	0	1.000
3t.	USMC	1	1	.500
3t.	512th QM Co.	1	1	.500
3t.	416th Trans. Co.	1	1	.500
3t.	110th QM Co.	1	1	.500
3t.	USCG	1	1	.500
8t.	Corps of Eng.	0	1	.000
8t.	10th Trans Co.	0	1	.000
10.	224th MI Bn.	0	3	.000