

# Stewart/Hunter Lifestyle



Photos and graphic by Pat Young

## Christmas play holds holiday message

Pat Young  
Managing Editor

Community members from across Fort Stewart and surrounding areas came together Saturday at Woodruff Theater for a play, "Christmas in Iraq", sponsored by Victory Chapel Multi-Cultural Gospel Services.

Chaplain Milton Johnson, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Family Life Chaplain said the event was important to help illustrate the meaning behind Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ.

Johnson said some people, despite the signs and decorations, have never seen the story played out before.

"It's different for me, when I see a play," Johnson said. "When I have pictures, things come alive for me. This play helps demonstrate, in living color, what that era (biblical times) was like. It is a powerful way to communicate how important the birth of Jesus is. And it helps bring in the spirit of Christmas."

Kyong Setzer, public relations chairperson for the event said volunteers came from across the installation, from off-post, from Victory Chapel, and other congregations to make the event happen.

"This play is being held in honor of our Soldiers who are deployed," Setzer said and noted many of the children who participated in the play have mothers and fathers in either Afghanistan or Iraq, and wanted to share

Christmas with them, because Christmas is in the heart.

The play, written by Shelba Dixon and LaDonna Jenkins, tells the story of a young child, who worries about his mother – a Soldier deployed to Iraq. It shows his reaction to the event and the community's response during the Christmas season. The play relates the nativity story and how the hope of salvation was granted to all people through the birth of Christ.

The play switches from modern times to the days of the nativity. In between scenes the Victory Chapel Youth Choir, directed by Heather Smith, performed a variety of traditional gospel and Christmas songs.

The modern day cast included outstanding performances by Armani Jenkins as Matt, the son of a deployed female Soldier, who was played by Michelle Davis. Also key to modern scene was Matt's onstage friend, Luke, played by an exceptional actor, Frederic Minton.

In addition, the remaining cast to the modern times did a wonderful job and included Nataniel Washington, Taj Holmes, Cynthia Carsice, Jaleesa Barbary, Imani Ware, Jana Jones, Andrea Davis and Zhanet Davenport.

Cast for the birth of Christ include a superb performance by Keontae Brown as Joseph; and Precious Brown as Mary.

A solid performance was also performed by the supporting cast in biblical times by Nedeshka Holmes, Thomas Brown II,

Christina Burgess, Tanyika Mayo, Kaylah Branch, Stephanie Jones, Quincy Evans, Taj Holmes, Kenya Laurent, Nayalya Coleman, Tiffany Johnson, Ricardo Jones and Sharon Carter.

The choir members were Precious Brown, Amber Parker, Ceera Holmes, Imani Davenport, Tiffany Johnson, Alycia Jones, Symone May, Kaylah Branch, Addison Burgess Jr., Kory Holmes, Janae Spence, Tiana Johnson, and Stephanie Jones. The choir was supported by organist Marian Brisbee, Tracy Page on keyboard and drummer Brandon Varnedoe, who performed for the audience during intermissions. Also, inspirational dances were performed by Christina Burgess, Tiffany Johnson, Tiana Johnson, Janae Spence, Nikki Holmes, Amber Parker, Jaleesa Barbary, Symone May, Imani Davenport, Kenya Laurents, Katrina Davis, Imani Ware and Stephanie Jones. Tonia Hayes was the dance choreographer.

A truly remarkable mime presentation was made by Thomas Brown II, Matthew Dawson and Addison Burgess Jr. who performed "Lead Me to the Rock." Johnson said the play was in its second year running, and noted he hoped the event would continue as an annual event.

Two of the actors, Armani Jenkins as Matt, and Frederic Minton, talked about their experience with acting.

"My mom helped write this play, and she's written several others," Armani Jenkins said.

"I often get to help act in them, it's a lot of fun."

His friend Minton added, with a wide smile and laughter, that he came into acting naturally, but wouldn't mind being another Will Smith.

They both agreed they would love more opportunities to act, and think more youth ought to try it for various reasons.

"I think acting is a way to have fun. It gives you something to do, and it's a lot of fun working with the cast members behind the scenes," Minton said.

Jenkins agreed it was fun, even with running around, setting up scenes, preparing for the next act, and the pre-performance nervousness.

"It gives kids something to do, instead of being out there on the street," Jenkins said. "It gives you opportunities, and lets you have fun too."

Staff Sgt. Alfred Minton, 92nd Engineers, was on-hand to see his son's performance.

"I think he was outstanding. He surprised me. I thought he would be more conservative," Minton said. "I think acting is good for children. It helps them learn about dealing with certain emotions. It's a positive alternative to just sports. The stage can bring in people from all backgrounds and ages."

To learn more about the performing arts, contact Child and Youth Services at 767-6071 or opportunities with the youth ministries, at 767-7202 at Stewart or 315-5934 at Hunter.

## New post chapel hosts special holiday play, more

Pat Young  
Managing Editor

Hundreds of community members gathered to enjoy a pot-luck dinner-theater at the new Main Post Chapel Dec. 9 with a children's play, and a variety of musical performances.

Anne Montgomery, a Family member of deployed Soldier, attended the play with her 11-month-old daughter Elizabeth.

"It was short; but I liked it. It was very unique," Montgomery said and recalled that she and her husband enjoy watching plays. "I've seen a lot of plays and look forward to seeing more when my husband returns."

Performances included inspirational and holiday themed songs performed by the Victory Chapel Youth Choir and a number of talented community members including Mindy Newsome, Jana Allen, Haley Allen, Justin Romen and Leonard Walker.

Sgt. Thomas Miller, Headquarters and Headquarters Company with the Installation Chaplains, helped work the lights, audio, and

support for the event. He said the event averaged about 150 people in attendance.

The new facility was very accommodating providing an area large enough for the concert and play; a meal service and dining area, and plenty of room for children and Families to relax and socialize.

The new 36,000 square-foot facility is the largest chapel in the Army's inventory, according to Installation Chaplain, Col. Ronald Hill.

The chapel can seat between 600 to 800 people with two overflow sections.

There is also a sound proof room where people can go in times of grief, and still enjoy the services with a state-of-the-art sound system – a feature that is very handy for people who have a crying babies, and do not want to disturb others.

Other features include a baptismal well, seventeen classrooms, a stage, and two multi-purpose rooms.

Community members are encouraged to visit the new chapel, and explore the available programs, events, and opportunities.



Pat Young

Victory Chapel Youth Choir performs Dec. 9 at the new Main Post Chapel, singing a number of spiritual and Christmas songs.

## Hayrides help holiday spirit at Stewart-Hunter



Nancy Gould

The first group of the evening assembles for the hayride at the ACS parking lot before dark, Dec. 14 to make the 45-minute trek through New Gannam Heights and Wilson Acres housing areas.

Nancy Gould  
Hunter Public Affairs

If you live in New Gannam Heights or Wilson Acres housing area on Hunter Army Airfield, you may have heard Christmas greetings outside your doors Friday evening.

The greetings came from parents and children who moved slowly through the subdivisions singing carols on flatbed trailers filled with hay.

The hayride participants were able to see the installation's wide variety of Christmas decorations and lights that lit up the dark neighborhood during their 45-minute trek.

Some residents came from behind closed doors to watch the moving lights and sounds coming from the hayride. Some returned greetings and waved back at the participants.

The children were filled with the excitement and the anticipation of Christmas at the holiday hayride. The

event started at the Army Community Services parking lot, Dec. 14 at Hunter, with more than 300 people in attendance. Hundreds also participated at the the Fort Stewart hayride.

Both installations provided children's activities, such as Christmas movies displayed outdoors on a large screen TV, along with refreshments and a warm fire for roasting marshmallows.

"This hayride really helped our kids get into the holiday spirit," said Giselle Conway, spouse of a deployed Combat Aviation Brigade Soldier. She said she appreciates activities provided by the installation for Families, especially while their spouses were deployed.

"My kids get to be around other kids they know, and they have a great time without me ever having to leave post."

A great time is what Lee Collins, Outdoor and Leisure Service Recreation director wanted for the children and Family members who attended.

"It's difficult for kids when their fathers are deployed," said Collins. "We want to see them happy, having fun."

Carroll Baker, Red Cross volunteer coordinator, agrees. He and other Red Cross volunteers set up a tent and dispensed hot chocolate, coffee and cider at the event.

"We feel honored to serve," said Baker. "These Families sacrifice so much."

Other people helping out included military polices, who directed the caravans through the housing areas, and the Outdoor Recreation staff, who modified the trailers to accommodate hayride participants before decorating and equipping them with recordings of Christmas carols.

"This is what Christmas is about," said Tacinta Connor, whose husband is also a CAB Soldier. "It's not about shopping or stressing our child. It's about creating memories together, at events like this."

# MWR Briefs

## MWR Holiday Hours announced

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities will be closed Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas. In light of the holidays, some facilities may also be closed or have special hours from Dec. 17 through Jan. 6.

To view a complete holiday hours schedule for Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield MWR, please visit [www.stewartmwr.com](http://www.stewartmwr.com) or [www.huntermwr.com](http://www.huntermwr.com).

## Come to New Year's Eve party at Rocky's

Come enjoy a champagne toast, party favors, entertainment in both rooms and balloon drop at midnight. The party will be held from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. and there is no charge to attend. Open to DoD cardholders only. For more information call 767-8715 or 368-2212.

## Don't miss the New Year's Eve at Club Stewart

Come ring in the New Year with champagne (first 500 people), party favors, entertainment (70's, 80's, 90's and current music) in different rooms, and balloon drop at midnight. The event is 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. at Club Stewart. The event will include a Southern cuisine dinner and breakfast option. The cost is \$15. For more information call 368-2212.

## Additional New Year's festivities slated

Join in the fun at Cypress Sam's and Marne Lanes New Year's Eve with affordable Family fun. For more information call 767-4866.

## Winterfest Trip slated

Do you love to ski? Take a trip with us to Blowing Rock, N.C. from Jan. 25-27. The cost is \$200 per room plus ski lift and equipment expenses.

The maximum occupancy for a room is four. For more information, call 767-2841.

## New York City Trip slated

Join us for a grand time in the "Big Apple."

The trip will include a Broadway show, tours of the city, tour of the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero and much more.

The trip will take place from June 13-15, but register now to reserve your space. The cost is \$849 per person. The cost includes airfare, hotel, taxes, and some food. Payment options are available and a payment of \$150 is due by Feb. 1. Don't miss out on this great trip. For more information, call 767-2841.

## Kids scavenge at Cypress Sam's

Children are invited to come search through 6,000 colored balls to find the "special" balls and win prizes.

The hunt will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., Jan. 9. The cost is \$2 per child. For more information, call 767-4273.

## Attend outdoor recreation classes

Education classes are available upon request for groups to

learn about the unique environment in Southeastern Georgia.

The program is designed for kids in grades 4 - 8. The curriculum uses materials from Project Wild, plus Wet and Learning Tree. Teachers and group leaders are encouraged to contact Outdoor Recreation at 767-8609 for further information and scheduling.

## Mommy-and-Me Tumbling offered

Tumbling classes are offered every Wednesday at Jordan Gym from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., for ages 1 - 2, and from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., for ages 2 - 4. Sports physicals are required for all participants. Register by calling 767-6071.

## Tumbling classes offered at CDC

Tumbling classes for children ages 2 and older are available at the Child Development Center, building 403, 9 to 9:45 a.m. every Tuesday. Children must be registered through Child and Youth Services. For more information about CYS classes, call 767-2312.

## Basketball, cheerleading registration

Registration is underway for Child and Youth Services Youth Sports basketball and cheerleading. Registration is open to all CYS members living on or off post (ages 5-18) for basketball and (ages 6-13) for cheerleading.

Tentative age divisions for basketball will be 5-6 (co-ed), 7-8 (co-ed), 9-10 (boys), 8-10 (girls), 11-12 (boys), 11-14 (girls), 13-14 (boys), and 15-18 (co-ed). Age divisions for cheerleading will be determined by number of participants registered. Register at the Fort Stewart CYS, building 443. Special discounts may apply for children of deployed Soldiers.

For more information, call CYS at 767-2312 or Jordan Gym at 767-4371. Volunteer coaches are needed. If interested, please call 767-2312.

## Take the Family orientation tour

Come take a tour of the installation and learn about a variety of helpful programs for new Families. Meeting on the second floor of the Soldier Services Center, building 253 at 9 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Orientation is held from 9 a.m. to noon and breaks for an hour lunch.

The tour of the installation is from 1 to 2 p.m. Free child care is available upon request. For more information call ACS at 767-5058.

## Teen Council Meeting scheduled

Get involved improving the teen quality of life. The teen council meeting will be held at 5 p.m., Dec. 20 at the Youth Center. For more information call 767-4491.

## Library offers story time

Christmas and New Year's story time, crafts and activities will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., today at the Hunter Library. For more information call 315-2403.

## Home schooling meeting slated

A home school meeting will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday at the Youth Center. Come meet other home schooling Families

to learn and share information and experiences. Pot luck lunch will be at noon. Home School Academy is held at 9:30 a.m. every Friday. For more information call 767-4491/6533.

## Come to Polar Bear Adventure Golf

Come out and bear the cold and get the Family outdoors for a round of adventure golf and get a great half price discount from 6 to 10 p.m., Dec. 29 at Cypress Creek Adventure Golf.

The cost is \$1 per game, normally \$2 per game. For more information call 767-4273.

## Come to UFC Championship Fight

Come watch Serra vs. Hughes and Liddel vs. Silva live on pay-per-view at Rocky's. The fight starts at 10 p.m., Dec. 29. The club is open to DoD cardholders only. There is no charge to attend. For more information call 767-8715/368-2212.

## Join the Annual Teen Lock In

Come join us for an all night event of food, fun and teen activities. The lock-in will be held from 11 a.m., Jan. 19 to 7 a.m., Jan. 20 at the Youth Center. Space available for 60 Stewart-Hunter teens who are between 13 and 18-years-old. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Registration ends Jan. 16. For more information call 767-4491.

## Come to Newcomer's Expo

New Soldiers and Families are invited to come learn about the area and learn more about the community. The event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., Jan. 24 at Hunter Club. Door prizes, refreshments and a variety of information will be available.

## The Annual Aerobic-Thon

Aerobic Thon is four hours of non-stop aerobics. Come to Newman Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jan. 26 and learn a variety of aerobic exercise routines, receive nutritional counseling, get a body fat analysis, and participate in a wellness screening. These services are free to active duty military, Family members, retirees, and DA civilians. For more information, call 767-3031.

## Play All "U" Can Play

Come play "all you can" at Taylor's Creek Golf Course after 11 a.m., Jan. 2, 3, 7-10, 14-17, 21-24, and 28-31. Cost is \$22 for Military and retirees, and \$26 for guests. For more information, call 767-2370.

## Play All "U" Can Play at Hunter Golf Club

Come play "all you can" at Hunter Golf Club after 11 a.m., Jan. 2, 4, 7-10, 14-17, 21-24, and 28-31. Cost is \$22 for Military or retirees and \$26 for guests. 315-9115.

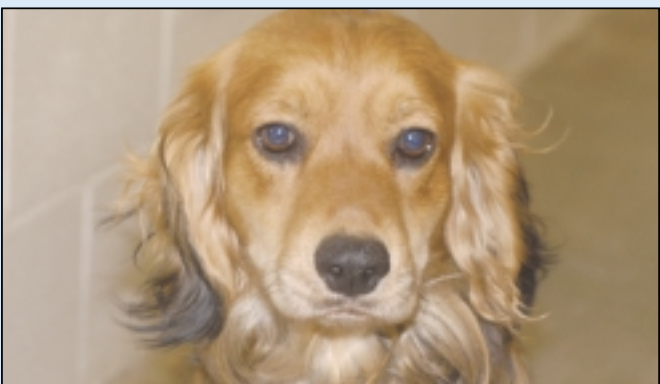
## Free Golf Clinic at Taylor's Creek Golf Course

Come learn the basics of golf, including the simple rules and course etiquette at no cost. The clinic will be held at 11 a.m., Jan. 5. Call to register by Jan. 4. For more information, call 767-2370

## Pets of the Week



Chloe the kitten and Dexter the puppy are some of the many homeless pets at the Fort Stewart animal shelter. The shelter has pets of all kinds, sizes, and breeds in their care. If you are interested in adopting, call the Fort Stewart Veterinary Clinic at 767-2842.



AAFES PRESENTS  
DECEMBER 20 THROUGH JANUARY 3



### Martian Child

Today — 7 p.m.

(John Cusack, Amanda Peet)

A recently widowed science fiction writer forms an unlikely family with a close friend and a young adopted boy that claims to be from Mars. The new couple ignores some sage parenting advice from the widower's sister and gets more than they bargained for when a series of strange occurrences lead them to believe that the child's claim may be true. *Rated PG (thematic elements, mild language) 108 min*

### Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium

Friday, Saturday — 7 p.m.

(Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium is the strangest, most fantastic, most wonderful toy store in the world. In fact, it's a magic toy store and everything in it comes to life - including the store itself. The emporium asks only one thing of its customers - you must believe it to see it. *Rated G 90 min*

### Lions for Lambs

Sunday, Dec. 27 — 7 p.m.

(Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep)

Two determined students at a West Coast University, Arian and Ernest, follow the inspiration of their idealistic professor, Dr. Malley, and attempt to do something important with their lives. But when the two make the bold decision to join the battle in Afghanistan, Malley is both moved and distraught. Now, as Arian and Ernest fight for survival, they become the string that binds together two disparate stories on opposite sides of America. *Rated R (war violence, language) 92 min*

### Beowulf

Dec. 28, 29 — 7 p.m.

(Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn)

In the age of heroes comes the mightiest warrior of them all, Beowulf. After destroying the overpowering demon Grendel, he incurs the undying wrath of the beast's ruthlessly seductive mother, who will use any means possible to ensure revenge.

The ensuing epic battle resonates throughout the ages, immortalizing the name of Beowulf. *Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of violence, disturbing images, sexual material, nudity) 113 min*

### Enchanted

Dec. 30, Jan. 3 — 7 p.m.

(Amy Adams, James Marsden)

The tale follows the princess Giselle as she is banished by an evil queen from her magical, musical animated land - and finds herself in the gritty reality of the streets of modern-day Manhattan.

Giselle is now adrift in a chaotic world badly in need of enchantment. But when Giselle begins to fall in love with a charmingly flawed divorce lawyer who has come to her aid - even though she is already promised to a perfect fairy tale prince back home - she has to wonder: Can a storybook view of romance survive in the real world? *Rated PG (scary images, mild innuendo) 110 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.

# HEALTH MATTERS

## Winn Army Community Hospital

### Clinic testing new MTBI screening

Special to the Frontline

Kimberly Gearhart

**SCHWEINFURT, Germany** - Mild traumatic brain injury, or mTBI, has been called the signature wound of the war on terror. Identifying and treating that injury has become a priority for Army medical commands worldwide.

A pilot testing program for mild traumatic brain injury, or mTBI, using Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metrics, has been developed to identify affected Soldiers.

In Schweinfurt, the first post-deployment screenings are being conducted as part of the reintegration process for Soldiers of the 2nd "Dagger" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"The screening is intended to take pre-deployment measurements for a baseline, then retest after the deployment to measure for differences," said Lt. Col. Daniel Duecker, Schweinfurt Health Clinic commander.

In the case of the Soldiers of the Dagger Brigade, however, no baseline reading was taken prior to their deployment.

"I didn't expect the testing to tell us much without the baseline for comparison, but the garrison commander (requested) it ... because it's the right thing to do for the Soldiers," said Col. Mary Lopez, project officer in charge of the testing project, with the Army's Surgeon General Office.

Lopez added that the range of results considered normal is broad, and of all the pre-screenings performed, "we've not found anyone that legitimately fell below the norms."

This is why having a baseline for comparison is more precise, as it allows for a comparison between the Soldier's performance and his or her own norms.

Thanks to key questions imbedded in the

ANAM tests, Lopez and her team were able to identify Soldiers at risk for mTBI and recommend follow-up through the Schweinfurt Health Clinic.

The key factors in a case of mTBI include an injury event - such as a blow to the head - which causes an alteration of consciousness. Such "alteration" can be losing consciousness, seeing stars or simply being temporarily disoriented.

"Compared to those who reported no injury, we found significant differences in reaction time, concentration, and short term memory" in Soldiers reporting at-risk incidents, Lopez explained.

Results from the first groups to complete mTBI screening were provided to the area medical command. Once the pilot program is fully tested, Lopez hopes to push it out to medical facilities in theater, where Soldiers can be tested and their recovery tracked by the doctors downrange.

With the ANAM tool, doctors will be able to monitor recovery in such a way as to ensure Soldiers are not returned to the fight until their recovery is complete.

Once a Soldier returns from a deployment downrange, Family members may begin noticing he or she is irritable, sleepless, suffers from chronic headaches, trips over his or her own feet and seems to be suffering from memory problems. This five-symptom cluster is a common sign of mTBI, with Families often the first to notice such changes.

Indeed, Soldiers often may be reluctant to seek treatment, Col. Theresa Schneider, Bavarian MEDDAC commander noted, and it may fall to the spouse to ensure the Soldier is helped. Overall, she said, "There are (many) avenues available: the clinic, Family readiness group, chain of command and the chaplain. The important thing is to get people talking about and aware of the situation."

### Winn Briefs

#### Tuttle reduced operations

On Dec. 21 starting at noon, services at Tuttle Army Health Clinic will be closed for holiday celebrations. Full operations will resume Dec. 26. For more information, call 435-6965.

#### Winn/Tuttle observes holiday

Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 are MEDDAC training holidays. Dec. 25 is Christmas Day, and Jan. 1 is New Year's Day, federal holidays. On Dec. 24- 25, services at Winn Army Community Hospital will be limited to inpatient care and emergencies. Full operations will resume Dec. 26. On Dec. 31- Jan. 1 services at Winn will be limited to inpatient care and emergencies. Full operations will resume Jan. 2.

All services at Tuttle Army Health Clinic and the Lloyd C. Hawks Troop Medical Clinic will be closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. Full operations will resume Dec. 26. Both clinics will also be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Full operations will resume Jan. 2. For more information, call 435-6965.

#### Parking lot repairs at Winn

Certain sections of the parking lot at Winn Army Community Hospital closed Dec. 17 for phase one of repair and resurfacing. The projected completion date for the entire project is Feb. 15. Please exercise caution in the parking lot during this time.

#### Patient, Family Care meeting

Interested in becoming a patient

advisor? Help us help you by joining the Patient and Family Centered Care Advisory Council meeting at Winn Army Community Hospital or Tuttle Army Health Clinic.

**Winn's meeting** is scheduled for 11 a.m., Jan. 28 at Winn's Patriot Auditorium. Questions call Linda King at 435-6225 or e-mail [Linda.king2@se.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Linda.king2@se.amedd.army.mil).

**Tuttle's meeting** is scheduled for noon, Jan. 11 at Hunter Club.

For more information, call Brandon Yarber at 315-5731 or send an e-mail to [Brandon.yarber@amedd.army.mil](mailto:Brandon.yarber@amedd.army.mil).

Patient and Family Centered Care standards include involving patients and Families in all aspects of the planning and delivery of healthcare services.

#### Retirees can use ASAP

Effective Dec. 5, the Army Substance Abuse Program Counseling Center is offering prevention, education and treatment opportunities for military retirees and Family members (18 years and older). Walk-in hours are 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 12:30 - 3 p.m. Thursday.

The center is located at 944 William H. Wilson Ave., Building 620, Fort Stewart. Questions, call 767-5265.

#### Blood drive slated

Winn Army Community Hospital is hosting a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jan. 8. ID is required to donate. All blood types are needed. Give the gift of life- give blood. Present to donate and enter to win one of two \$500 gift cards. [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provided by Winn Army Community Hospital

#### November 16

• **Lukas Joseph Hedges**, a boy, 7 pounds, born to Pfc. Kelsey Lee Hedges and Lauren Lucille Hedges.

#### November 17

• **Makenzie Rae Lemmon**, a girl, 9 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Pfc. Daniel Lemmon and Cassandra Lemmon.

• **Rolland Elliott Steffens**, a boy, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, born to 2nd Lt. Erich Rolland Steffens and Rebecca Joy Steffens.

#### November 18

• **Tyler LeCounte Beverly**, a boy, 9 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Master Sgt. Charlie Beverly and Tonya L. Beverly.

• **Everald Nicardo Brown III**, a boy, 6 pounds, 11 ounce, born to Sgt. Everald N. Brown II and Sgt. Karen Brown.

• **Hayden Alliene Vanderpool**, a girl, 8 pounds, 7 ounces, born to Sgt. Aaron Gene Vanderpool and Denise Alliene Vanderpool.

#### November 19

• **Chris Joel Senati**, a boy, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Spc. Joel Senati and Mari C. Senati.

#### November 20

• **Nolan Turner Enos**, a boy, 9 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Spc. Casey Allen Enos and Carrie Megan Enos.

• **Jackson Logan Gardner**, a boy, 8 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Spc. Kyle William Gardner and Ashley Nichole Gardner.

• **Andrew James Ling**, a boy, 10 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Tech. Sgt. James W. Ling and Sgt. Jeanine A. Ling.

#### November 21

• **Hadley Jae Nord**, a girl, 6 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Sgt. Avram A. Nord and Jannicka Nord.

• **Christopher DeShawn Perry**, a boy, 8 pounds, 12 ounces,

born to Staff Sgt. Patrick D. Perry and Sgt. Crystal L. Hill-Perry.

#### November 22

• **Hunter Michael Eichner**, a boy, 6 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Master Sgt. Eric Eichner and DeAnn L. Eichner.

#### November 23

• **Connor Liam Wright**, a boy, 7 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Spc. Jarrod Wright and Jessica Lynn Wright.

#### November 24

• **Allison Lynn Stephens**, a girl, 9 pounds, born to Spc. Christopher Paul Stephens, Sr. and Jessica Marie Stephens.

#### November 26

• **Eleya Marie Carrasquillo**, a girl, 5 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Spc. Jose M. Carrasquillo and Theresa M. Carrasquillo. .

#### November 27

• **Trenleigh Brook Bedwell**, a girl, 6 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Pfc. James Trent Bedwell and Haleigh Somer Bedwell

# 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,' a song of hope



CHAPLAIN'S  
CORNER

Courtesy of Bonneville Communications

We often find ourselves humming a tune that seems to bring a little joy to the mundane. We don't always know where it comes from, but for some reason it makes us feel good. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is one of those tunes.

Imagine this hymn being sung in 18th-century England. This was long before Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol. England was still feeling the effects of the Puritans' control of parliament in the 1600s, a period when the celebration of Christmas and all other "worldly festivals" had been abolished.

It was a difficult time to make a joyful noise. The long faces and stone countenances of the pious looked down on joy

as if it were some kind of sin.

But a Methodist preacher, Charles Wesley, was dedicated to uplifting the human spirit. He was a light in the shadows of a time when disease and poverty were seen as punishments meted out by God. In the midst of these human struggles, Charles Wesley delivered his message of God's mercy.

Charles Wesley was often criticized and, more than once, persecuted for reaching out to the underserved. He and his brother, John, preached at Newgate prison, a jail infamous for its deplorable conditions.

Many of those incarcerated there were held for minor offenses, such as not being able to pay their bills or succumbing to petty theft to feed themselves.

Imagine the Wesley brothers walking

along the damp stone corridors of the prison and, rather than condemning the prisoners, offering them hope. They sang hymns. They taught that faith is for all, not just a select few.

Charles Wesley lived by these words of Matthew Henry: "Everyone of us [has] a charge to keep, an eternal God to glorify."

**"Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"**

This great song of hope must have lifted the hearts of all who heard it. As we hear it sung today, let us remember how powerful its message must have been to those who lived in a time of little hope.

## Chapel Schedule

### Fort Stewart

Catholic	Location	Time
Sunday Mass	Main Post Chapel	9 a.m.
Saturday Mass	Main Post Chapel	5 p.m.
<b>Protestant</b>		
Contemporary Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
Gospel Worship	Main Post Chapel	11 a.m.
Traditional Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	Heritage	11 a.m.
Kids' Church (K to 6th grade)	Across from Dia. Elem.	11 a.m.
PWOC (Wednesday)	Marne	9:30 a.m.
<b>Islamic</b>		
Friday Jum'ah	Marne	1:30 p.m.
Contact Staff Sgt. Aiken at 877-4053.		
<b>Jewish</b>		
Contact Sgt. 1st Class. Crowther at 332-2084.		
Friday	Marne	11:30 a.m.

### Hunter Army Airfield

Catholic	Location	Time
Sunday Mass	Chapel	11 a.m.
<b>Protestant</b>		
Sunday Service	Chapel	9 a.m.

### Religious Education Contacts

Stewart and Hunter, Director of RE, Mike Iloff, call 767-9789.  
Stewart Catholic RE coordinator, Beth Novak, call 767-6825.  
Hunter Catholic RE coordinator, Pamela Perez, call 315-5440.

## Kids Church

### Exciting Bible Lessons

with music, puppets, videos, crafts, games

11 a.m. to noon, Sunday at Stewart School at Services or at Hunter, 9:15 a.m. Sunday, at the Hunter Chapel Fellowship Hall.

For all kids Grade K-6

### Stewart Bus Schedule

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. - Victory Chapel

For more information, call 767-6831 at Stewart or at Hunter call, 315-315-5934.



## Fort Stewart-Hunter Youth Ministries

### Fort Stewart

Junior and Senior High School Students!

6:30 to 8 p.m., Sunday

at Vale Chapel in Bryan Village.

For more information call 877-7207

### Hunter

Join us for Motivating Fun!

1 to 3 p.m.

the first and third Sunday of each month at the Religious Education Center, building 129, next to Hunter Chapel

For more information call 315-5934

## Attend Marriage 101

The unit ministry team conducts a marriage 101 seminar the fourth Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Victory Chapel. The session is for singles, engaged couples, newlyweds, and seasoned partners. The materials are provided as well as lunch. For more information or to make reservations, call the Family Life Chaplain, at 767-7028.

## Liberty County Mass Choir

Rehearsals are 7 p.m. every Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church, Hinesville.

Contact Cathy Goolsby to get your book and rehearsal CD at machlube@coastal.net or 369-4818; or contact Ronald Calhoun at rcalhoun@schoolofchurchmusic.org or 247-3424.

## Soldiers bring fruit baskets to veteran patients

Gail Aldridge  
Public Affairs Specialist

Soldiers from Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield spread holiday cheer when they visited veterans at the Carl Vinson Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dublin, Dec. 13.

More than 30 Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division Rear Detachment, including Lt. Col. Ellen Birch, deputy rear detachment commander, Command Sgt. Maj. McArthur Dixon, rear detachment command sergeant major, and the installation's Medical Department Activity handed out fruit baskets and talked with the veterans in the hospital.

The 350 baskets were prepared and provided by the veterans and ladies auxiliaries of Vietnam Veterans of America, Liberty Chapter 789; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6602; American Legion Post 168; and Disabled American Veterans,

Chapter 46, all of Liberty County. A group of veterans from the Liberty County organizations helped distribute the baskets along with the Stewart-Hunter Soldiers.

Spending time with the veterans in the hospital and sharing Christmas cheer with them was important, Dixon said.

"We wanted to come out and visit with the veterans to show them that we care," he said. "We also wanted to exchange events and information because they have paved the way, and we can learn so much from them."

One of the veterans shared his World War II service story with the visiting Soldiers. William DeLaney, 87, completed his basic training in San Diego as an infantryman. He served with the 1st Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Corps and the 6th Marine Corps over 22 years, retiring as a sergeant major. When he was a staff sergeant, he

was captured in the Philippines and spent more than three years as a prisoner of war, where he was in the Bataan death march. His mother met him in Guam when he was released. Later, DeLaney fought in the Korean War.

Another veteran, Morris Flanders, 90, served in the Air Force for 30 years. He was trained in NCO Club Management at Petersburg, Va. Flanders served under Gen. Curtis LeMay during World War II. He recalled making two trips to Tule, Greenland, but his most memorable event during his service was "seeing the white cliffs of Dover."

It is necessary for Soldiers to visit World War II veterans, Dixon said. It's so important he hopes the trip will take place twice a year in the future.

"The experiences they have to share are priceless," he said.

**Editor's note:** Lance Davis contributed to this story.



Lt. Col. Ellen Birch, 3rd Inf. Div. deputy rear-detachment commander, shakes hands with Morris Flanders, WWII veteran.

## 260th Quartermaster Battalion plays Santa

Nancy Gould  
Hunter Public Affairs

When Soldiers of the 260th Quartermaster Battalion returned from Iraq in November, they wasted no time finding a way to "pay back" the support they received from the Savannah community.

More than 200 Soldiers of the 260th QM Bn. played Santa to children, newborn to age 15, at the Wesley Community Center, Dec. 14, and according to their commander, they enjoyed every minute of it.

"It was truly an honor just to see the faces of the children as they received their gifts from Santa," said Lt. Col. Victor Hagan, 260th Quartermaster commander. "My only regret is that we were not able to help more Families."

But many Families were helped. Hagan said a total of 175 gifts were collected, worth approximately \$5,000.

"We started with just a few gifts," said Maj. Kenneth Williams, the 260th QM Bn. executive officer, "but before we

were finished, units were actually jockeying over kids and many were concerned that their child would not have enough."

No child at the center was overlooked by Santa, according to Williams. He said bikes and MP3 players were among gifts requested by children and among those given by Soldiers. And because of the Soldier/child ratio, some children received gifts from three or four Soldiers.

Spc. Patience Okhuofu, the 260th QM Bn. secretary, said the joy she witnessed on each child's face was her gift. She laughed about the stress she had orchestrating the event and giving out gifts during the program, adding that the effort she exerted was well worth the feeling she got from participating.

"I love kids," she said. "It lifts me up spiritually to share with those who are less fortunate. My faith teaches that those who are blessed with wealth and talents should share them. We got a lot out of sharing with these kids."

Besides the gifts, Okhuofu said children also enjoyed the time Soldiers

spent reading to them before the Santa presentation.

Zalera Flowers, a Wesley Community Center program director said she was thrilled and appreciative of the battalion's interest in reaching out to the low-income Families at her agency.

That interest was started several years ago by Williams as a company commander at Hunter in 2001 when he forged a relationship with Union Mission of Savannah. But when he recently returned to Savannah, his wife found the Wesley Community Center and liked the work it does and the way it supports other programs for the underprivileged population in Savannah.

"My 3rd Sustainment Brigade commander taught me the importance of becoming part of the local community," he said. "We enjoy our relationship with this center and we look forward to supporting other events there."

Williams said that contact also helps the battalion re-integrate into daily life after Iraq and gives them something different to think about.



Courtesy photo

Spc. Adrian Wade, 10th Trans. as Santa, and Spc. Seddie Lightbourne, HHC as Santa's elf, hand a young boy a gift at the Wesley Community Center, Dec. 14.

# Coastal Happenings

Courtesy of the Coastal Courier

## Savannah Cultural Events

Activities sponsored by the Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs include these ongoing events:

### Every first Friday of the month

Folk Music by Savannah Folk Music Society, 7:30 p.m., free, at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

The Arts at City Market Center, upstairs, Jefferson and West St. Julian Streets, free, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 232-7731.

### Every first Saturday of the month

Adult and youth basic ballroom dance classes, by Moon River Dancers: 1 to 3 p.m. at the West Broad Street YMCA, 1110 May Street. Admission is \$3 per person. Call 925-7416 or visit [www.savannahusabda.org](http://www.savannahusabda.org).

### Every third Wednesday of the month

Open Mic Poetry Night - sign up at 7:45 p.m., Gallery Espresso, 6 East Liberty St. Call 233-5348 for more information.

### Saturdays and Sundays

Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation tours 1 to 5 p.m. every Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Located at 207 E. Charlton St. on Lafayette Square.

Born in Savannah in 1925, writer, Mary Flannery O'Connor, lived in a Charlton Street house until 1938.

Today, it is maintained partly as a memorial to her and partly as a literary center for Savannah. Call 233-6014.

### Every Sunday

Oldie Goldies Sunday at the American Legion Post 500, 1716 Montgomery St., 4 to 8 p.m. Call 925-7116. The Reel Savannah Film Group presentations, 7 p.m., Sunday evenings at the Lucas Theatre. Tickets cost \$6 and are available an hour prior.

## Explore the performing arts in Savannah

The Savannah Sinfonietta and the City of Savannah encourage community members to learn more about the arts. For more information on this and other concerts by Savannah's own professional orchestra, visit [www.savannahorchestra.org](http://www.savannahorchestra.org) or call 800-414-3849.

## Human Resource Management meeting held

Coastal Society of Human Resource Management meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. If you are a human resource professional and would like to attend a meeting or receive more information, please feel free to contact Holly Stevens-Brown, chapter president, at 876-3564.

## Explore Oatland Island Wildlife Center

Oatland Island Wildlife Center of Savannah invites community members to explore the facility and learn more about the native wildlife. The center encompasses a total of 175 acres of salt marsh, freshwater wetlands, and maritime forest habitats, and has a two-mile long "Native Animal Nature Trail." To learn more about oatland, visit online at [www.oatlandisland.org](http://www.oatlandisland.org) or call the center at 898-3980.

## New job Web site announced for Veterans

The American Legion and Avue Technologies have launched a joint Web site, [www.vejobs.us](http://www.vejobs.us), to substantially increase employment opportunities in the federal government for America's returning veterans.

The new site will be free to all users and will not contain advertising of any kind.

## Pops with Printup and Friends

Join acclaimed Lincoln Center Jazz Band trumpeter Marcus Printup and a few of his favorite musical friends as they join the Sinfonietta Pops orchestra for an evening of soaring and soulful jazz presented by Savannah Sinfonietta 8 p.m., Jan. 4 at the Lucas Theatre for the Arts, 32 Abercorn St. Tickets are \$25, \$20 and \$15. For tickets or more information, call 525-5050 or visit online at [www.lucastheatre.com](http://www.lucastheatre.com).

## Come watch First Friday Fireworks

Celebrate the end of the week with fireworks and River Street fun, Jan. 5. The event is free and open to the public.

## Hong Xu concert slated

Presented by the Savannah Concert Association 8 p.m., Jan. 6 at the Lucas Theatre for the Arts, 32 Abercorn St. Hong Xu, the 21-year-old Chinese pianist, has already achieved a reputation as a virtuoso of the highest order.

A finalist in the Hilton Head International Piano Competition, he returned to the island last season as an emergency replacement, performing the daunting "Third Piano Concerto" of Rachmaninoff to great acclaim.

Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$12.50 and available at 525-550, or online at [www.lucastheatre.com](http://www.lucastheatre.com). A limited number of \$2 tickets are available for music teachers and students. Season subscriptions are available.

## Musical salute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Presented by Coastal Jazz Association 7 p.m., Jan. 9 at the Jewish Educational Alliance, 5111 Abercorn St. featuring the Savannah Jazz Orchestra and the Savannah Arts Academy Skyelite Jazz Band. Free admission, courtesy of the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs. For more information call 675-5419 or visit online at [www.coastal-jazz.org](http://www.coastal-jazz.org).

## Old Time Country Dance slated

An old time county dance, presented by the Savannah Folk Music Society featuring the Glow in the Dark String Band will be presented Jan. 13. Call for location, 786-6953 or visit online at [www.savannahfolk.org](http://www.savannahfolk.org).

## Secret Garden performed

The Secret Garden will be presented Jan. 19-21, and 26-28 at the Savannah Children's Theatre 2160 E. Victory Drive. For more information, call 238-9015 or visit online at [www.savannahchildrenstheatre.org](http://www.savannahchildrenstheatre.org).

## 18th Annual Black Heritage Festival slated

An exhibition will be presented at the Sankofa African-American Museum on Wheels by the Savannah State University at the Massie Heritage Interpretation Center, 207 E. Gordon Street, Jan. 28-Feb. 2. An experiential learning exhibit of artifacts that depicts a historical and chronological journey of African Americans. For more information, call 691-6847 or visit online at [www.savstate.edu](http://www.savstate.edu).

## See the Jazz Odyssey with Chris Chandler

Savannah native and ASCAP Award recipient Chris Chandler will perform with John Kennedy, Billy Hoffman and Clair Frasier 5 p.m., Jan. 28 at the Cobblestone Conch House, 225 W. River St. For more information or tickets, which are \$10 for general admission, call 675-5419 or [www.coastal-jazz.org](http://www.coastal-jazz.org).

## Discover the Girl Scout Movement

Discover how Juliette Gordon Low, known for antics, artistic talent and disorganization founded the world's largest organization for girls and women Jan. 24. Professional staff leads this lively tour at 10 East Ogelthorpe Ave., by reservation only. For more information, call 233-4501.



# War buff documentary 'Little Dieter Needs to Fly' reviewed

## Commentary by:

Sasha McBrayer  
Fort Stewart Museum

A nice gift for that special war movie buff in your life might be the DVD film "Rescue Dawn", this Christmas, starring the unflappable Christian Bale. The true tale of an epic survival of American (by way of Germany) POW Dieter Dengler, is a celebration of the best and worst that the human experience offers.

Bale is superb in the physically exhausting role of hope and heroism directed by the artist Werner Herzog. Co-stars Steve Zahn and Jeremy Davies, too, deliver perhaps the most demanding triumphs of their careers.

Surprisingly, this was not the only labor of

love Herzog crafted for the real life Dieter Dengler. Their first journey together was the making of a documentary about the amazing survivor's life. Called "Little Dieter Needs to Fly", it is comprised of first-hand accounts from Dengler about his awe-inspiring life. He recounts growing up in war torn Germany and his childhood encounter with a war plane that would forever shape his life. Instead of being terrified at that fateful moment, 'Little Dieter' recognized at once what he wanted for his life; to fly. To that end, he embarked on what was already a considerably difficult odyssey.



As if surviving post-war Europe hadn't been spectacular enough a feat, young Dieter then moved to America and joined the military. His only work experience had been as a blacksmith and tool-die maker in his teens, so the Air Force gave him the job of peeling potatoes at first; far from the exhilaration of piloting. Undaunted, he

continued to excel. Deter worked his way through college and finally became the jokester Naval Pilot he had always aspired to be. He was flying his first ever mission over Laos in the winter of 1966, during a time the US

was tight-lipped about any affairs concerning Vietnam, when his plane crashed in the deadly jungle.

Though the real Dengler passed on from Lou Gehrig's disease in 2001, his incredible life story remains an unforgettable inspiration.

Herzog is quoted as having this to say about the hero, "He was the quintessential immigrant into America—a young man who arrived with a great dream and came to represent the best of American spirit. I truly loved the man. Even now, when I get into complicated situations I ask myself: What would Dieter have done?"

You can learn more about the man, the documentary, and Oscar caliber film at <http://rescuedawn.mgm.com>.

# RecruitMilitary career fair visits Hinesville, seeks veterans, more

## Special to the Frontline

CINCINNATI — The military-to-civilian recruiting firm RecruitMilitary will present a free hiring event for job seekers who have military backgrounds in the Savannah Region, Jan. 10.

This event, the RecruitMilitary Career Fair, will take place from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Sans Hotel and Suites in Hinesville. The career fair will be open to veterans who already have civilian work experience, men and women who are transitioning from active duty to civilian life, members of the National Guard and reserves, and military spouses.

More than 20 veteran-friendly organizations will conduct one-on-one interviews with the job seekers—organizations that will include corporate employers, law-enforcement agencies and other government employers, educational institutions, veterans service agencies, and veterans associations. Already in the line-up are CSX, DeVry University, Embry Riddle University, Little Caesars, the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, Northrop Grumman, Oldcastle Architectural Products Group, and Westinghouse Anniston.

RecruitMilitary will produce the career fair in cooperation with The American Legion; HireVetsFirst, a unit of the United States Department of Labor; and the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network.

The event will be the first of 104 RecruitMilitary Career Fairs scheduled for 2008. Seventeen of them will take place in the Southeast—two in Savannah, four in Atlanta, two in Birmingham, three in Jacksonville, two in Miami, two in St. Petersburg, and two in Tampa.

More than 500 organizations attended 42 RecruitMilitary Career Fairs produced from January through November, 2007. At those events, an average of 30-plus organizations

interviewed an average of over 325 job seekers. RecruitMilitary Career Fairs conducted in 2006 and 2007 generated television coverage by CNBC, ABC, NBC, and CNN; radio coverage by ESPN and numerous regional stations; and articles in metropolitan and local newspapers.

The American Legion is an association of veterans who served during times of war. The Legion has 2.7 million members in nearly 15,000 posts throughout the world. The National Commander of The American Legion is Martin F. Conatser, an Army veteran, of Champaign, Ill. The Commander of the Department of Georgia is Dale Barnett of Douglasville. Congress chartered The American Legion in 1919.

HireVetsFirst was created by Congress in 2002 to develop awareness among employers of the outstanding attributes of men and women who are transitioning from active duty to civilian life.

The Military Spouse Corporate Career Network was founded in 2004 to provide career opportunities and job portability for military spouses. The organization is made up of military spouses, caregivers to war wounded, and retired military personnel. The president and founder is Deb Kloepfel, a military spouse.

RecruitMilitary, based in Cincinnati, connects employers with job seekers who have military backgrounds. All of the company's owners, officers, account executives, and retained search consultants are either veterans or active or former reservists. In addition to participation in career fairs, RecruitMilitary offers subscriptions to its database of self-registered job seekers who have military backgrounds, currently numbering more than 184,000, at its Web site, [www.recruitmilitary.com](http://www.recruitmilitary.com); advertising in online and print media; and retained hiring services.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield honors

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

1:30 to 3 p.m.  
Jan. 16  
Fort Stewart Main post chapel

For more information, Call Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Hoover, at 767-5855



## Volunteer Spotlight

**C**hareka Hines of Hinesville, is an American Red Cross volunteer working at the Laboratory at Winn Army Community Hospital.

Hines volunteers because she wants to help out in the lab and to keep up her skills. Her interests and hobbies include playing sports, singing and spending time with her family.

If you'd like more information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Shanken at 435-6903.



# Christmas Spirit Foundation, Fedex provides Trees for Troops



Jim Jeffcoat

**Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Garrison's Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Durr helps April Parker secure her donated Christmas tree in Parker's vehicle after she picked the best she could find Dec. 13 at Stewart's Leisure Activities Center.**

**Kaytrina Curtis**  
Hunter Public Affairs

Over 600 military Families at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield have a chance to enjoy Christmas with a free tree this year thanks to the Christmas Spirit Foundation and FedEx.

More than 250 Families picked from among 520 donated trees at Stewart's Leisure Activities Center and 100 Families exhausted all the trees available at Hunter Dec. 13 and 14 to take advantage of the generous donations from the Georgia Christmas Tree Association and Carolina Tree Growers to Soldiers and Families at Stewart-Hunter via the foundation.

Trees are still available at Stewart, according to Molley O'Hearon, Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing assistant. She said 40 additional trees have been delivered to Hunter for Families still wanting

trees.

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is the charitable branch of the National Christmas Tree Association. The trees were transported and distributed by FedEx.

The trees were donated to show appreciation and to say thank you to those serving in the military and their Families, according to *tressfortroops.org* Web site. Families were given one tree per military Family or single soldier, on a first come, first served basis

Anamin Vazquez, newlywed spouse of Spc. Joel Castell, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, likes the thoughtfulness shown to military Families.

"I think it is really good that other people are thinking about other Families this time of season, not only us, but I guess other Family members," she said. "I think that's great."

For some, the season would not be complete without a live tree. "There is no Christmas without the fresh smell of pine in your house," said Sgt. Tim Montgomery, 10th Transportation Company.

Larry Cutchens, chief of recreation for Stewart-Hunter, said this is the installation's second year participating in this charitable event. "We had people here from 6:30 a.m. on," Cutchens said. "This event is a combination of different people coming together to provide these trees for our Soldiers and Families."

Frasier Fur and Blue Spruce were some of the trees available to choose from. Nation wide, an estimated 17,000 trees were donated, with more than 750 farmers donating approximately 10,000 of those trees. The trees were delivered to 37 Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard bases.

Families still looking for trees may call 912-767-6212.

## Lt Col Whitney thanks Savannah Mayor, Council for Soldier support

Steve Hart

**Lt. Col. Dan Whitney, Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander (at podium), addresses Mayor Otis Johnson, mayor, City of Savannah, and the City of Savannah City Council, Dec. 18 as part of his presentation of a wreath to the City "on behalf of all servicemen and women who have enjoyed unparalleled support from the great City of Savannah.**

**The wreath is identical to one of the wreaths placed at the memorial sites of the 373 fallen 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers at Fort Stewart's Warrior's Walk, and is part of the Wreaths Across America program to honor fallen servicemembers.**



## Stewart congratulates DARE essay winner, Madison Fuller

Many of you are familiar with the D.A.R.E. program that is taught in our area schools. One of the program requirements is that each student writes an essay in order to graduate. Essays are judged by teachers, D.A.R.E. officers and Fort Stewart Police Department personnel. One overall winner is selected from each school and they are awarded a prize.

The overall winners are Kayla Asher from Brittin Elementary, Madison Fuller from Diamond Elementary, and Lauren Prox from Kessler Elementary. The following essay is written by Madison Fuller.

**Madison Fuller**  
Diamond Elementary

Do you know that D.A.R.E stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education? I do! D.A.R.E. is a safe and friendly place to learn about standing up against drugs. I think that by learning about drugs, I will be able to be prepared when I have to make decisions about using them.

Tobacco is a bad drug that a lot of people use. Tobacco is found in cigars and cigarettes. There are more than 200 known poisons in tobacco, which is probably why over 400,000 people die each year from smoking. It is also illegal to sell this product to anyone under the age of 18. We see lots of people smoking around us and on television. Most people smoke because celebrities make it look cool. It's not!

Marijuana is another horrible drug that can hurt your body. It is illegal to have marijuana in the United States.

There is more tar in marijuana smoke than in tobacco smoke. It can be addictive. The users of this product have an increased risk of cancer. Smoking marijuana can also cause breathing problems. Another way that marijuana can be harmful is by messing up your ability to drive a car. You can make bad choices and wreck.

Alcohol can damage every organ in your body and is illegal for anyone under the age of 21. Most teens don't drink alcohol but per serving, beer, wine, and liquor all contain about the same amount of alcohol. If you are with others who are drinking alcohol, there is an increased risk of injury, car crashes and violence.

Peer Pressure is something that someone tries to get you to do that you know is wrong and don't want to do. A lot of teens start doing drugs because of peer pressure. All peer pressure isn't bad. Like when your mom tells you to clean your room or the cat box, it doesn't mean they're trying to be mean, it's because they love you. Bad peer pressure is when someone tries to get you to smoke or drink at a party to be cool. Not cool.

Personal pressure is different than peer pressure. Personal pressure is when someone wants to do something



Madison Fuller

and almost forces him or herself to do that thing. Most teens wonder what smoking and doing drugs feels like, so they somewhat force themselves to do that kind of drug.

All advertising isn't bad, but sometimes people don't use it correctly. Bad advertising influences people to buy toys and other household items like cups, piggy banks, and stuffed animals to get them to think drugs are okay. Lots of gas stations sell things like this. They get a cup or other item and put a drug on it like a marijuana leaf. If a celebrity is smoking in a commercial, you will think that it's cool to smoke and that it won't hurt you.

An inhalant is something that you basically sniff. It kills brain cells which makes you well... not smart. Some things people sniff are spray paint cans. It has a strong, powerful smell that hurts you. Another thing people sniff is butane lighters. Sniffing these types of things makes you feel high for awhile, but eventually it could really mess you up.

Overall the things I've learned in D.A.R.E will help me in the future. I've learned that drugs can hurt my body. I hope that people will learn about drugs and how they could possibly kill you before they start walking around smoking, inhaling or drinking. I am glad that I know better!

My pledge statement:

I, Madison, promise to do my best, to not do drugs and warn people about the bad things that can happen to them if they decide to. I will look around and remember drugs are a powerful thing. I will try my best to not fall under peer pressure or personal pressure. I also promise to not smoke, drink or inhale.