

On Post

Volunteers needed

The ACS volunteer coordinator and the installation volunteer coordinator have information about a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in the ACS center and at other agencies at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

Volunteer orientation at Hunter ACS is the first Thursday of every month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome and needed at ACS.

For more information, call 352-6816.

EXPRESS lunch

Express lunch is now served at the Hunter Club and Club Stewart Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Prices range from \$4.75 to \$6.50.

Join Toastmasters!

Whether you're a professional, student, stay-at-home-parent, or retiree, Toastmasters is the best way to improve your leadership and communication skills. The dogfaced Soldiers Toastmasters International Club meets at noon every second and fourth Friday of the month at Club Stewart. Open to everyone.

For more information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Jay Bowen at 767-0383, or email bowenja@stewart.army.mil, or call Brigitte Roberts at 370-6903.

Active parenting

Each Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., now through Wednesday, parents of children ages 5 to 12 can learn styles of parenting, winning cooperation, responsibility and effective discipline techniques, communication skills and building courage, character and self-esteem in their children.

Childcare may be provided, but parents must sign up in advance.

For more information contact Becky Sellers at 767-5058 (Stewart), or Regina Mims at 352-6816 (Hunter).

Red Cross Cafe

The Red Cross Cafe will open at the Hunter ACS Building at 9 a.m. March 11.

Outdoors events

Women in the Outdoors: Register now for classes such as camping basics, turkey hunting, handgun, archery, outdoor cooking, shooting, canoeing/kayaking or outdoor photography.

The event will place Saturday at Holbrook pond. Cost is \$35 for military and civilians.

Off Post

MILES Program

Don't buy a vehicle until you are armed with knowledge. This program is designed exclusively for active duty servicemembers who cannot obtain bank or credit financing when purchasing a vehicle.

For information visit or qualify online at usmiles.com or call the Military Installment Loan and Education Services Assistance Center toll free at (866)-466-4537.

Above the clouds ...

3220th GSU celebrates Black History Month at Stewart

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Staff Writer

The 3220th Garrison Support Unit sponsored a program at Club Stewart called "Above the Clouds," Feb 25, to celebrate Black History Month and a man who helped integrate blacks into the military during World War II.

The man was retired 2nd Lt. Walter Morris of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first all-black unit of its kind, who was the guest speaker for the program.

"I am truly honored to be here and to be a part of something so special," Morris said. "One of the particular things I like about this event very much is that I see a large diversity of people out here in the crowds this evening."

Morris went on to explain a bit of what the 555th had to endure in the times when black

soldiers didn't have the equality they fought to uphold.

"We as colored Soldiers in Fort Benning, (Ga.) could not go into the main Post Exchange. We looked in (and) could see the German and Italian prisoners of war sitting down at the same table with white Soldiers... So it is understandable how colored Soldiers would have an inferiority complex," Morris said.

The program also consisted of Gospel singing, as well as a performance by the Mt. Zion choir, songs by fellow Soldiers, and a fashion show, all displaying a rich African influence in their dress and song performances.

The Gospel group gave a performance that

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Pfc. Ricardo Branch

The Mt. Zion Gospel Praise Team blesses the BHM program Feb. 25 at Club Stewart.



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

The DPW's Tommy Holland, Jr. carves out a nesting cavity for red-cockaded woodpeckers in a longleaf pine on Stewart Feb. 20.

Endangered species rebound at Stewart

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Staff Writer

Fort Stewart is home to huge tracts of wilderness that support mechanized infantry training as well as many endangered species, thanks to intensive research and management of the land.

One of the post's biggest success stories is the recovery of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, which has thrived under the Directorate of Public Works' management, said DPW's Tommy Holland, Jr., who installed a nest-

ing box in a longleaf pine Feb. 20.

"Normally the woodpeckers would drill their own nesting cavities in old pines with soft wood, but there just aren't that many of them around," Holland said. "So we cut cavities from younger trees and insert cedar boxes that we make ourselves."

The boxes are hollowed from solid blocks of cedar, which resists rotting, and fitted with a metal plate on the front to keep other birds from pecking through it.

Holland climbed a ladder up

the tree and scraped some of the bark off, revealing bright red wood underneath.

"The birds remove excess bark around the cavities they make, and use it as a visual cue to help them find their nests," said DPW wildlife biologist Larry Carlile.

He then fired up a small chainsaw and carved out a hole for the nesting box to fit into. After inserting the box, he applied wood putty and brown paint to make the cavity look as natural as possible. As a final touch, he painted some white streaks

meant to look like sap running from an old tree, which the woodpeckers also use to find their nesting trees.

"I've probably installed about 250 boxes," Holland said. "We sort of compete to see whose boxes the RCWs move into the fastest."

There are about 1,500 RCW nesting boxes on Stewart. Half of the woodpecker population inhabits the boxes, while the other half use natural cavities,

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Diamond Elementary brings African-American history to students



Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Students of Midway Middle School perform an African dance in front of the students of Diamond Elementary School during an African-American History Program Feb. 26. The program was called "Celebrating Black History Through the Arts." Different grades performed songs such as "Wade in the Water" and "This Little Light of Mine."



Photos by Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

UGA doctoral student Natalie Hyslop releases a female Indigo snake after implanting a radio transmitter under its scales. She tracks the snakes in order to learn more about their movement and behavior, which will help biologists to preserve the threatened species.

SPECIES

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according to installation endangered species manager Tim Beaty.

North America's largest snake, the Eastern Indigo, is another threatened species that is doing well at Fort Stewart. The docile, non-venomous snake can reach nine feet and is glossy black with an orange patch on its chin. It lives in abandoned gopher tortoise burrows, which are found in the longleaf pine sandhill areas of Stewart.

University of Georgia doctoral student Natalie Hyslop is currently conducting a ground-breaking research study on the Indigo at Stewart. She has implanted snakes with radio transmitters that tell her how often they move, how large an area they keep as a home range, and many other facts about the reclusive animal.

In a sandy area of post, dotted with gopher tortoise burrows, Hyslop released a six-foot-long female Indigo named Pretty Girl with a newly implanted transmitter Feb. 19. After

being released from a white cloth bag, the snake quickly slithered into the burrow Hyslop captured her from two days before.

"Fort Stewart's Indigos have some of the largest home ranges ever observed, seemingly because the base is so sparsely populated with so few busy roads in the woods," Hyslop said. "Radio telemetry is really the only way to study the Indigo in detail."

The transmitters are surgically inserted below the snake's skin, and have a battery life of 36 months. Hyslop said they will all be removed at the end of the study, as the snakes can live for over twenty years.

According to Hyslop, the Indigo is under pressure from habitat fragmentation, poaching, and the pet trade, due to its gentle nature.

"Natalie's study will definitely help us better manage the base to protect this beautiful creature," said the DPW's chief herpetologist Dirk Stevenson. "We need to learn as much as we can about them."



DPW herpetologist Dirk Stevenson hoists a Diamondback rattlesnake out of a box to release it, after weighing the animal. Diamondbacks are one of the few reptiles that are active during the late winter.



An adult Bald eagle and two eaglets, seen from a DPW helicopter, perch in a nest high above Pineview Pond.

Holland puts the finishing touches on a RCW box he has just installed. The white streaks imitate flowing sap, which the woodpeckers use to identify their nest sites.



The newly released Diamondback rattlesnake coils in the sand on Fort Stewart Jan. 19.

Soldier helps black unit achieve equality

www.thetriplenickel.com

Special to The Frontline

When the Army was forming the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II, blacks were not allowed to serve — it was “whites only.” Blacks allegedly “couldn’t handle” the tough training and didn’t have enough guts to jump out of airplanes. All that changed with one man who knew that black Soldiers could do just as well as whites and decided to prove it. The year was 1944.

That man was Retired 1st Sgt. Walter Morris, who emulated his all black unit to follow the rigorous training conducted by the white paratroopers of Fort Bragg, N.C.

“I was thinking about a way to raise the morale of my troops and came up with the idea to use the physical training of the airborne paratroopers to keep them motivated through hard work,” Morris said.

Then during a routine inspection, Morris’s unit caught the attention of the general (Lt. Gen. Ridgely Gaither, commander of the parachute school).

“He was impressed when he saw us doing our calisthenics,” Morris said. “We were showing off to show him that we could do as well as white paratroopers.”

The 555th then became the first all-black parachute infantry test platoon, company and battalion earning a place as a part of airborne history.

The 555th Parachute Infantry Company was formed in November 1943 at Fort Benning, Ga., and later expanded to battalion size in November of ‘44 at Camp Mackall, N.C. The 555th took the triple nickels as its nickname and chose three buffalo-head nickels as its symbol to signify the “buffalo soldiers” — blacks who served in the U.S. Cavalry after the Civil War.

Commanded by 1st Sgt. Morris, who later attained the rank of captain, when the company became a battalion.

Used primarily for secret missions on the West Coast, the 555th was sent to combat the threat of forest fires along California to Arizona by Japanese incendiary balloons.

Earning a new nickname, the 555th was christened as smokejumpers for the Soldiers’ ability to jump into smoke filled clearings.

During fire operations the battalion suffered numerous injuries but only one fatality. Malvin L. Brown, a medic assigned to the battalion’s headquarters company, who died on Aug. 6, 1945 after falling during a letdown from a tree in the Siskiyou National Forest near Roseburg, Ore. His death is the first recorded smoke-jumper fatality during a fire jump.

The conduct of The Triple Nickles during their secret and untold missions contributed immeasurably to the well-being of most Japanese Americans in internment camps. If it were known that the Japanese balloons, the first unmanned intercontinental ballistic missiles, had been successful in reaching U.S. shores, the Japanese military machine would have strengthened its efforts in that area. If the secrecy of the 555th’s operation had been broken, there is no telling what additional maltreatment would have

befallen the incarcerated Japanese in western camps.

In October 1945, the battalion was assigned to the 27th Headquarters and Headquarters Special Troops, First Army, Fort Bragg, N.C. In December, it was attached to the 13th Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, where it proceeded to discharge “high point” personnel.

In February 1946, after two months of no supervision and watching friends leave for home, the 555th was relieved from attachment to the 13th Airborne Division and attached to the 82nd Airborne Division for administration, training, and supply. It retained its own authority to discipline and manage its own personnel matters. Further attachment was made to the 504th Airborne Infantry Regiment, then commanded by a colonel whose name will go down in history as the originator of “search and destroy missions” in Vietnam. Gen. William C. Westmoreland.

Editor’s Note: Pfc. Ricardo J. Branch, staff writer, contributed to this article.

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influence in their dress and song performances.

The Gospel group gave a performance that sent people in the crowd singing and clapping with the music as well as the Mt. Zion performance displaying the unique flavor that is apparent in African culture.

“I feel great being here today, and I am enjoying seeing people of different color and creed viewing some of the rich culture in our history,” said Spc. Eddie D. Hughey 312th Field Hospital Nuclear, Biological and Chemical specialist, about the different people at the program.

“It is Important to show black heritage and explain it to black children so they know their culture and never forget it,” Hughey said.

The fashion show came on midway through the program with

people cheering and applauding the various types of clothes modeled for the crowd.

During the fashion show it was Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Giddens of the 3220th, who stole the spotlight along with Sgt. Sharon Foster and Staff Sgt. Faleca Qualls, also of the 3220th, as they came out in suits and strutted down the aisles like seasoned fashion veterans on the red carpets.

The evening ended with Morris getting on stage to answer some questions for the audience and impart some words of wisdom for the crowd.

“It’s very important to recognize black history, but I hope one day we don’t need a black history month but rather have a holiday that is extended 12 months of the year to celebrate each other’s culture to recognize all races and colors,” Morris said.



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

(Left to right) Staff Sgt. Edward Hiles, Sgt. James Pullom and Staff Sgt. Quinton Smith entertain the crowd with the song “Sitting here waiting on the Lord.”

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Easter Preparation

Chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Sowers

Special to The Frontline

The days leading up to Easter are known as Lent. This is a time of reflection and preparation. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this forty-day period during which Christians remember their sinfulness, repent, and ask God's forgiveness. Ashes traditionally represent mourning and repentance.

The forty days help us reflect upon the significance of "forty" periods found in Scripture

— e.g. the forty days the flood waters came upon the earth at the time of Noah. Forty years the Children of Israel wandered in the desert after their time of bondage in Egypt. Jonah preached to Nineveh that God's judgment would come on them in forty days unless they repent. Jesus fasted in the wilderness and was tempted by the Devil, forty days before He began His public ministry.

During Lent Christians are to especially contemplate their relationship with God, seeking forgiveness and realizing the infinite sacrifice made on their behalf. This is not a time of despair, since it culminates in the celebration of the resurrection.

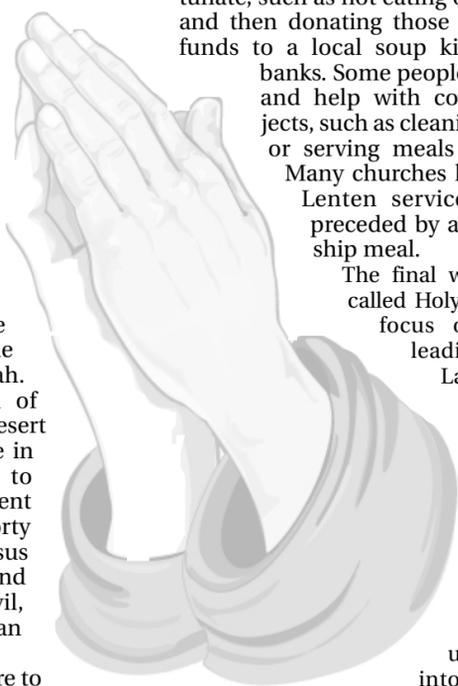
Some Christians abstain from a normal part of their daily routine during Lent to remind them of the sacrifice of Christ. Some might refrain from favorite foods, entertainment, etc. Some churches encourage members to give to the less fortunate, such as not eating out during Lent and then donating those unused dining funds to a local soup kitchen or food banks. Some people dedicate time and help with community projects, such as cleaning a local park, or serving meals to the needy.

Many churches have mid-week Lenten services, sometimes preceded by a simple fellowship meal.

The final week of Lent is called Holy Week. Services focus on the events leading up to the

Last Supper, Christ's betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, burial, and finally, the resurrection. It begins with Palm Sunday; Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Holy Thursday or

Maundy Thursday celebrates the Passover and Good Friday commemorates the events of the crucifixion. The forty days of lent draw each person closer to the climax of Easter, the triumphant celebration.



Pet of the Week

El Duderino is a 2-year-old mixed-breed dog, looking for a loving family. He is affectionate and great with children.

If you are interested in adopting a pet like El Duderino who needs a good home, call the Fort Stewart Veterinary Clinic at 767-2842.

The clinic is located on W. Bultman Avenue.



Worship Opportunities

Fort Stewart

<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sunday Mass	Victory	9 a.m.
Saturday Mass	Victory	5 p.m.
Weekday Mass	Victory	11:45 a.m.
<u>Protestant</u>		
Sunday Protestant Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
Sunday Gospel Service	Victory	11 a.m.
Sunday Family Friendly	Vale	11 a.m.
Tuesday Healing Service	WACH	11:30 a.m.
<u>American Samoan</u>		
Sunday Worship	Vale	1 p.m.
<u>Muslim</u>		
Friday Jum'ah	Building 9182	1:15 p.m.
Masjid (Daily)	Building 9182	5:30 a.m.
<u>Lutheran</u>		
Sunday Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
<u>Jewish</u>		
Friday Services	Marne	6 p.m.

Hunter Army Airfield

<u>Protestant</u>		
Protestant Sunday School	Religious Education center	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service	ACS Building, 1286	11 a.m.
<u>Catholic</u>		
Sunday Mass	ACS Building, 1286	9:30 a.m.
CCD	Religious Education center	11 a.m.



Stop Overpopulation, Spay or Neuter Your Pet Today!!

Volunteer Spotlight



Margaret (Sunnie) R. Pierre-Jacques



Margaret (Sunnie) R. Pierre-Jacques, a native of the West Indies, is a Red Cross volunteer at Winn Army Community Hospital.

She volunteers as an administrative assistant in the Family Care Unit.

"I volunteer because I would like to give back to the military community and achieve new goals," Pierre-Jacques said.

In her free time, she enjoys cooking, working-out, decorating and meeting new people.

Pierre-Jacques and her husband Gilmore have three children, 21-year-old Andre, 17-year-old Marcel and 9-year-old DeMarcus.

If you would like more information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Roberts at 370-6903 or send an email to Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil.



WOODRUFF THEATER

March 4 - March 10

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

General admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children.

\$1 Showings Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



Big Fish (PG-13)

Starring: Ewan McGregor, Albert Finney

Tonight at 7 p.m.

Edward, a braggart who has always exaggerated his exploits and experiences when he left his small town in Alabama for adventure near and far. Everyone has been spellbound by his tall tales, except his estranged son, who has come home to take care of his dying dad and separate fact from fiction.

Run time: 110 minutes

The Butterfly Effect (R)

Starring: Ashton Kutcher, Amy Smart

Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m.

Evan is an emotionally conflicted man dealing with suppressed childhood memories. Cleverly enough, he discovers a way to travel back in time, but his different actions in the past have enormous ramifications for his future and present. And every time he heads back in time to fix the problems he's created, things get worse.

Run time: 113 minutes

Cold Mountain (R)

Starring: Jude Law, Nicole Kidman

Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m.

A wounded Civil War, Inman, soldier gets up from his deathbed and begins the long, difficult walk home to Cold Mountain, N.C. so he can be with Ada. Inman encounters many obstacles while Ada is struggling to care for her deceased dad's farm, with the help of a sassy, hard-working wanderer.

Run time: 154 minutes

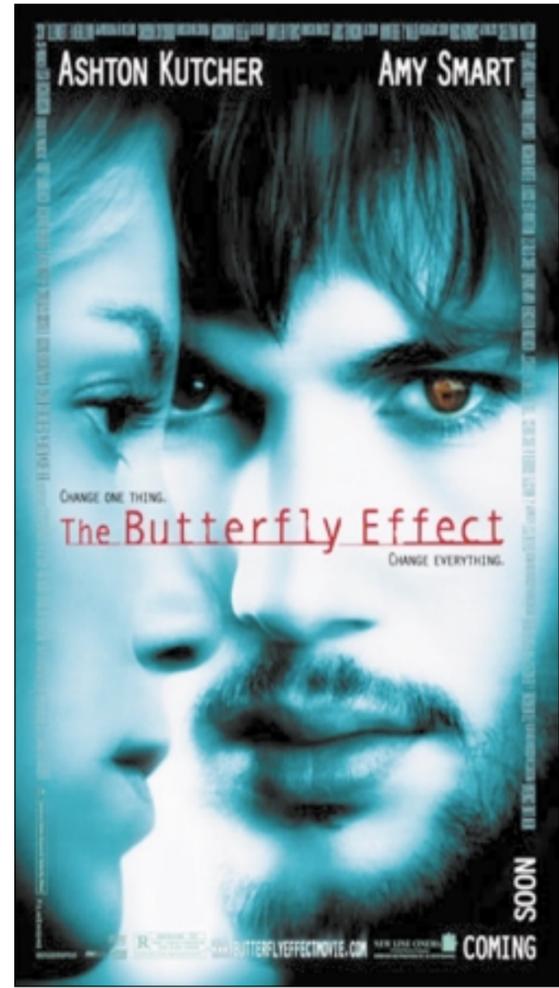
My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)

Starring: Eddie Griffin, Anthony Anderson

Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Three bachelor buddies from the hood who, after a lifetime of hard playing, are in for a rude awakening when their respective girlfriends all get pregnant at the same time. The fathers-to-be embark on a hilarious and touching journey while learning about themselves as they learn about love and fatherhood.

Run time: 99 minutes



Birth announcements

January 22

Alexandra Laylee Willis, a girl, 8 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Sgt. Ronald Clayborn Willis and Spc. Briana Cloud Arriaran.

February 10

TreVon Latrell Hines, a boy, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Pvt. 2 Jammie Sibrey.

February 13

Eleora Celene Harwood, a girl, 7 pounds, 4 ounces, born to James Monroe Harwood and Spc. Amalia Miriam Peterson.

February 17

Dominic Raimen Shewmake, a boy, 8 pounds, born to Pvt. 2 Ryan R. Shewmake

and Rubie E. Shewmake.

February 18

Celina Niya Felton, a girl, 6 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Spc. Patricia A. Felton.

February 19

Gage Anthony Conley, a boy, 6 pounds, born to Kyle Douglas Conley and Kayla

Marie Beach.

February 20

Jahavn Tierra Thompson, a girl, 7 pounds, 2 ounces, born to Sgt. Arthur Brown and Pfc. Candice Thompson.

