

LIFE & TIMES

C SECTION

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.

Horseback riding

Child and Youth Services offers free horseback riding lessons for 6th through 12th grade CYS members at Dixie Stables.

The van departs the Fort Stewart Youth Center at 4 p.m. and returns at 6 p.m.

Call 767-4491 or 4493 for more information.

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.

Child and Youth Services

The Central Registration office located at Building 443 has changed operational hours. The new hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

For more information call 767-2312.

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



Photos by Spc. Jacob Boyer

Cadet Robert Anderson, a Youth Challenge Academy student from Marietta, Ga., positions a board to help his team cross an obstacle during a rescue exercise activity Monday. The academy is currently in its twenty-second session.

Youth get edge at YCA

Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer

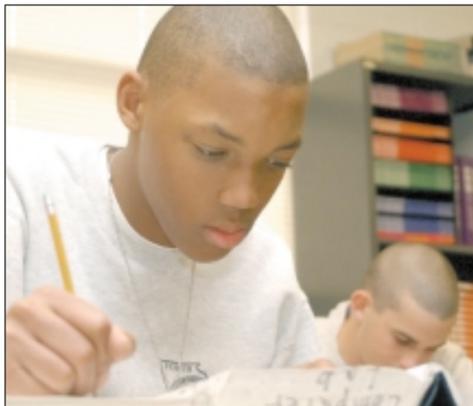
The decision to drop out of high school without a diploma can have a major impact on a teenager's quality of life in the future, and is made by more than 40,000 youth in Georgia alone each year, said Bob Hughes, director of Georgia National Guard Youth Challenge Academy's Fort Stewart campus.

Since its inception in Sept. 1993, the Youth Challenge Academy here has helped more than 3,800 high school dropouts in 21 classes acquire the skills they need to both earn their general equivalency diplomas and succeed in life afterward, Hughes said.

"The basic, initial concept was to do something with high school dropouts who'd quit and were on street corners," he said. "Without a diploma, they couldn't go to college, they couldn't join the military and they couldn't find a good job. That piece of paper was a roadblock for them."

The Academy, which is one of many spread throughout 25 states, serves youth in Georgia who dropped out of high school and volunteered for a chance to earn their GED and improve their lives, Hughes said. It should not be confused with the "boot camps" that are part of the juvenile justice system.

"The kids aren't here because they're in trouble with the law," he said. "We're not a boot camp. We consider ourselves a military high school with a GED as our diploma."



Cadet Thomas Robinson, a YCA student from Brunswick, Ga., looks up terms in the dictionary during class Monday.

There are many reasons youth decide to come to the Academy. Some find themselves without any options. Cadet Mat Upton, a student from Auburn, Ga., said he came to the program after he was expelled from his high school. His principal suggested the Academy, and Upton, who had thought of joining the military, thought it would be a good chance to earn his GED and get a taste of military life.

"If it wasn't for the Academy, I'd be one of those people on the side of the road looking for a job," he said. "I wouldn't even be able to

See YCA, Page 3C



Anderson helps move a stretcher carrying one of his comrades during a rescue course exercise Monday.

Old canal draws visitors



Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Visitors to the 19th-century Savannah-Ogeechee Canal hike through the woods at the canal's mouth near Fort Stewart Sunday, see page 2C for more coverage.

Schools celebrate National School Counseling Week

Charlene Thompson

Special to The Frontline

National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association was celebrated from Feb. 2 through Friday to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems.

National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact that counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

The special week honoring school counselors provides recognition for school counselors who implement comprehensive school counseling programs, a vital part of the educational process for all students as they meet the



Courtesy Photo

Jason Cothran and Jaddir Peyton (left), and Joseph Sanchez watch as Jan Long, Instructional Systems Specialist, signs the proclamation for National School Counseling Week.

changes of the 21st century.

In a proclamation, Jan Long, Instructional Systems Specialist of Fort Stewart Schools, cited school counselors for being actively engaged in helping

students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents: for working in a partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising

See SCHOOL, Page 3C

Canal Society showcases Georgia heritage

Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody
Staff Writer

As part of the Georgia Historical Society's Heritage Celebration, the Savannah-Ogeechee Barge Canal Museum and Nature Center in rural Savannah opened free of charge Sunday, and provided walking tours by local historians and volunteers.

The 16.5 mile canal, which opened in 1831, linked the Ogeechee River, which borders Fort Stewart, to the Savannah River and the Atlantic Ocean. It was used to export central Georgia's products for about 60 years, which included cotton, bricks and lumber, said volunteer Shirley Hahn, who has lived in Savannah since 1972 and marvels at the area's history.

"There has been renewed interest in historic canals in this country starting in about 1970," Hahn said. "Before trains and trucks, these canals were the only way to move large quantities of supplies."

The wooded trail follows the banks of the old canal, passing huge brick tidal locks that date back well over 100 years. A boardwalk built by Boy Scouts keeps hikers out of the surrounding swamp, which is dotted with plaques identifying many different species of trees. Songbirds flutter through the woods and peek out from birdhouses constructed by the scouts and volunteers. A fenced-in area near the parking lot contains several gopher tortoises, which are a favorite of school groups, said volunteer Robert Moulis, who used to run the site's nature center.

"We've got 320 acres of prime wilderness here," Moulis said. "It's mostly a mixed-wood river swamp that moves with the tide, which makes it fairly unique. There is also pine flatwoods where we're trying to bring back the long leaf pine, and a sand hill area where a lot of gopher tortoises live."

The mouth of the canal at the Ogeechee was a famous place long before the canal was built or Fort Stewart was established. The Fort Argyle site stands just across from the canal and was an important garrison for the South Carolina Rangers, and later, the Georgia Rangers, said site interpreter Chica Arndt.

"Argyle is actually two forts built on top of each other," Arndt said. "The second one was much larger than the first, and had barracks and a corral for the rangers' horses."

The project to restore the canal began in 1991 and is far from complete, according to site administrator Heather Gordon.

"Our trails only go about a half-mile along the canal to the Ogeechee," Gordon said. "We're trying to organize the manpower we need to turn the site into a 16-mile hike and bike trail into Savannah. Almost all of the work done here so far has been from volunteers. Soldiers come by and help clear brush sometimes, and recently a few Navy guys helped out for a few days while they were in port in Savannah."

To volunteer at the canal site call (912) 748-8068.



Photos by Pfc. Benjamin T. Brody

Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Society volunteer Pat Doyle explains how a flat-bottomed boat would pass through the canal's tidal locks during a tour Sunday. The event is part of the Georgia Heritage Celebration.



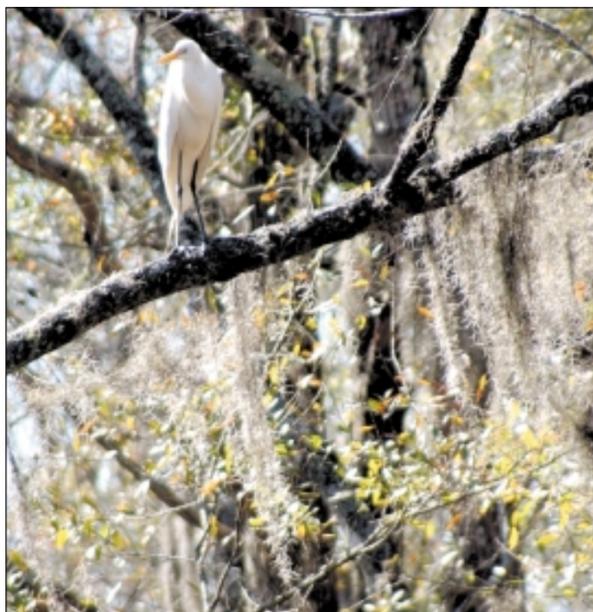
An original tidal lock, engraved with the date of its manufacture, lies among old bricks by the canal.



After the original banks of the canal eroded, they were replaced with bricks.



A gopher tortoise soaks up the sun in an enclosure near the site's museum.



A snowy egret watches over the canal from an oak.



A tour group follows a quiet boardwalk trail built by local Boy Scout Troop Seven.

YCA

from page 1C

think about getting into the Army.”

Others come to YCA strictly to get a feel for military life. Cadet Charity English, a student from Clayton, Ga., said she dropped out of high school because she knew she wanted to join the Marines and the Academy would give her a good feel for the military beforehand.

“It’s a chance to better myself,” she said. “I always wanted to be a Marine, and I thought here I could get a taste of it. The cadre tells us it’s nothing like the real military, but if you can’t hang with this, you sure can’t hang with the real thing.”

The program’s genesis came when Congress and Pentagon officials were trying to find new missions for the National Guard following the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, Hughes said. Part of the Guard’s mission had always been dealing with national and regional emergencies, and at the time high school dropout rates were seen as a national emergency by many in Congress. A study was commissioned to look at programs that helped dropouts earn their GEDs in order to put together a program that could be implemented by the Guard.

The study showed that four things had to happen for the program to be successful, said Hughes, who has been with the Fort Stewart YCA since it opened. It had to be residential. It had to instill discipline in its participants. The demographics would have to be heavily scrutinized so the population of youth attending

Academies in each state reflected that state’s population. And it had to have some type of follow-up activity after participants graduated. The program has a mentoring program to handle the last requirement.

“A lot of other organizations get them the diploma and let them go,” he said. “We designed the mentoring to follow them for at least a year after graduation. We ask every youngster to find a mentor in the community who is not in his family, an adult who the kid knows and trusts. That mentor stays in touch with them at least once a week to make sure their (post-graduation) plan is going okay and helps them if it isn’t.”

Once things were settled, Academies were started in Georgia and Connecticut, Hughes said. As time passed, Connecticut’s closed, many others opened, and Georgia’s program expanded to two campuses, with another Academy now held at Fort Gordon.

When the youth arrive for a 22-week session, they are first put through two weeks of “Hard Core,” in which discipline is instilled through the use of drill and ceremonies, said Retired 1st Sgt. Carl D. Davis, an academy cadre leader.

“It’s the only hard part here,” he said. “We have to take kids from all over the state and form them into some kind of team. We take the street out of them. The discipline comes from marching ... drill and ceremonies is the cornerstone of discipline.”

“It didn’t really surprise me,”

Upton said. “My dad was in the Air Force, and he said everybody would be in my face yelling at me. They were. I had some second thoughts during Hard Core, but I can tell my attitude has changed. I used to talk back a lot and get in arguments. But the sergeants here are constantly on you.”

Once that portion is over, the cadets spend their time fulfilling the program’s eight core components: life coping skills, educational excellence, skills training, responsible citizenship, leadership, health hygiene and sex education, physical fitness, and community involvement, Hughes said.

They start each day at 6 a.m. with physical training, then spend half of the day in classes for their GEDs and half the day in other activities designed to make them better citizens, he said. The activity does not stop at the end of the day, as programs are scheduled until they go to bed at 10 a.m.

“We plan activities for them 16 hours a day,” Hughes said. “The only free time they get is from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., when they’re sleeping. An idle mind can be the Devil’s workshop, so we give them something to do so they don’t have time to think about getting in trouble.”

Even though the cadets are kept busy, some still find themselves pining for home and family. A few extended weekends each cycle allow the cadets to return home and spend time with their families, Upton said.

“The only hard part here is being homesick,” he said. “At home, you can go home every day



Spc. Jacob Boyer

Cadet Courtney Harris, a Youth Challenge Academy student from Atlanta, Ga., tells members of his group what they should do to get across an obstacle during a rescue activity Monday.

and see your family. Here you don’t get to. But they’ll be coming down soon to see me.”

Although many pass the Academy without any problems, others do find themselves in trouble and may be removed, Hughes said. Cadets are given many chances to prove themselves after disciplinary problems, but eventually some do have to be let go, either because they choose to or because they are disruptive to other students’ learning there.

“It’s the hardest part of the job,” said Davis, who has worked at the Academy for five years. “You know you’re sending them back to the environment they came from, but some times there’s just no choice. You have to maintain good order and discipline here. It’s emotional for me at times, but when I leave

and go home, I know we did everything we possibly could to work with the kids and keep them here.”

Once the students have completed all the requirements, they graduate and are sent back out into the world they left behind, Hughes said. Some graduate without their GED and test for it afterwards. But no matter what their motivation for coming to Youth Challenge, after they leave, it is up to them to use what they have learned to build themselves a better future.

“I want to leave my past behind me and move forward,” English said. “This is a chance to better myself. This is more along the lines of me, and I’d recommend it to anyone who thinks they want to be in the military.”

SCHOOL

from page 1C

children in today’s world: for focusing on positive ways to enhance students’ social/personal, educational and career development; and working with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and

optimistic aspirations for themselves.

As part of its celebration for National School Counseling Week, The Fort Stewart Schools presented awards of appreciation to students and educators. Any parent or other community members with specific questions or concerns about school coun-

seling programs should contact the individual counselors at Diamond Elementary, Charleen A. V. Thompson and Natarsha Baker and Brittin Elementary, Alisha Lehmann and Gwen Martin.

The American School Counselor Association is a worldwide nonprofit organi-

zation based in Alexandria, Va. Founded in 1952, ASCA supports school counselor’s efforts to help students focus on academic, personal/social and career development so they not only achieve success in school but are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Grace and Peace

Chaplain (Capt.) Bill Kilmer

Special to The Frontline

Have you been there? In the past few weeks, I have seen the highest joys and the lowest sadness.

At a reunion ceremony at Newman Physical Fitness Center, the 396th Transportation Company recently returned from their yearlong deployment to Kuwait and Iraq and the people there were ecstatic.

They were yelling and screaming, cheering and stomping their feet. Then just days ago, the 233rd Heavy Equipment Transporter System Platoon (an attached platoon of the 396th) departed for yet another deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the tears were flowing as Soldiers said goodbye to the ones they love. The height of the joy experienced at one ceremony was the depth of the sadness as friends and family members said goodbye to their Soldiers at another formation.

You have been there. More than likely you have attended ceremonies just like the two I have described, more often than you would like to remember. You know the height of the joy and the depth of the sadness. You also know what it is like after the joy or sadness wears off and you seek some kind of "normal" experience (whatever that is).

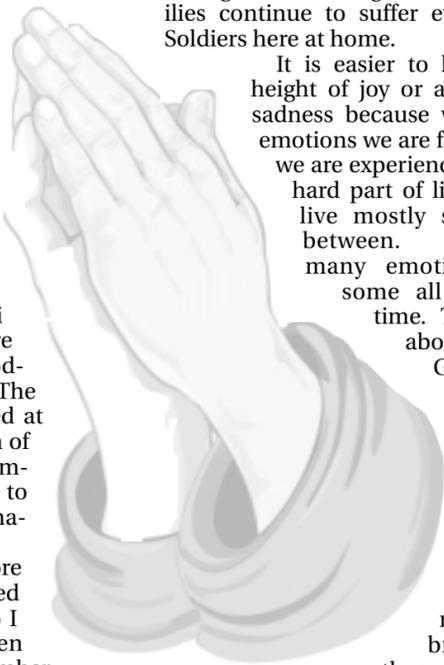
Where are you now? Are you at a height

of joy or a depth of sorrow or perhaps somewhere in-between?

Many Soldiers went to Iraq and fought for freedom, some paying the ultimate sacrifice, some coming back with physical wounds and some coming back with wounds that do not show on the outside but are still very painful. All of the families sacrificed during the time their Soldiers were gone defending freedom. Some families continue to suffer even with their Soldiers here at home.

It is easier to live life at the height of joy or at the depth of sadness because we know what emotions we are feeling and why we are experiencing them. The hard part of life is having to live mostly somewhere in between. Experiencing many emotions, perhaps some all at the same time. The good news about God is that God knows those heights and depths even better than we do and does not leave us at the height of joy or the depth of sadness. God celebrates with those who rejoice, brings comfort to those who are hurting and God walks with those who are living somewhere in between.

God promises to never leave us or forsake us. God has been there and will carry us through.



Pet of the Week

Sancho is a 6-month-old domestic shorthair housecat. She is very playful, dog-friendly and looking for a caring home.

If you are interested in adopting a pet like Sancho 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>Contemporary Worship Service</u> | | |
| Sunday Worship | Marne | 6 p.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. |

Volunteer Spotlight



Dana Ceron



Dana Ceron, a native of Sherman, Texas, is the Family Readiness Group leader for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Ceron said she volunteers to make a difference.

Her favorite part of volunteering is "helping military spouses better understand what being an army wife is all about," she said.

If you would like more information about becoming an ACS volunteer, visit ACS at Building 470 on Fort Stewart, Building 1286 on Hunter Army Airfield, or for more information, call Vickie Wiginton at 767-5058.



WOODRUFF THEATER

Feb 12 – Feb 18

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

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

\$1 Showings Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



Peter Pan (PG)

Starring: Jason Isaacs, Jeremy Sumpter

Tonight at 7 p.m.

One night in their nursery, young London siblings Wendy, John and Michael Darling encounter a strange flying boy named Peter Pan, who invites them to soar with him to Neverland. There they live among the Lost Boys without adult supervision and face down the nasty Captain Hook. Run time: 113 minutes

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King (PG-13)

Starring: Elijah Wood, Ian McKellan

Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday at 7 p.m.

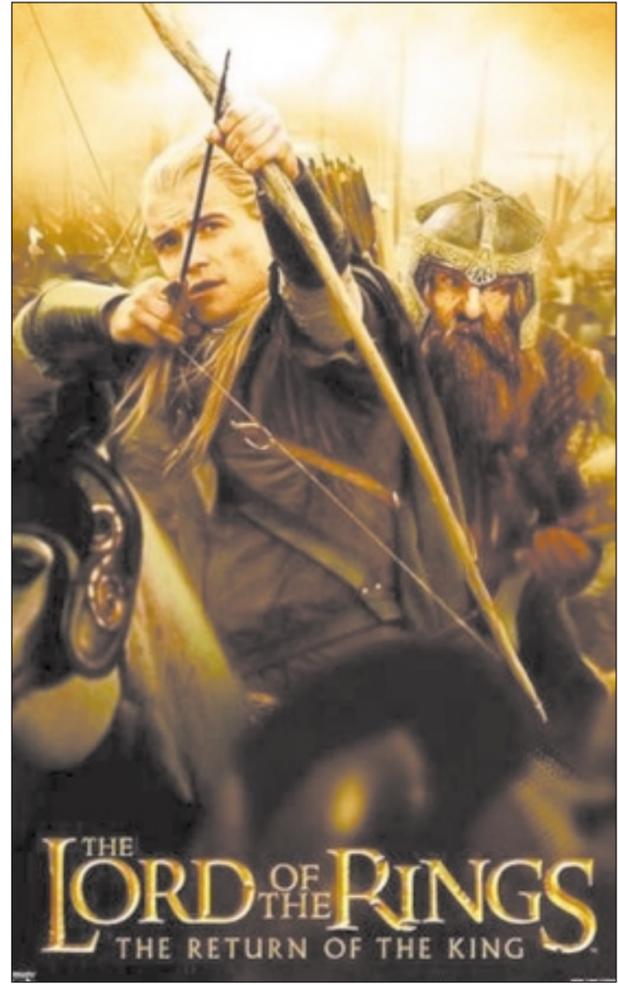
Hobbits Frodo and Sam push further into the land of Mordor to destroy the ring of power. Traveling with them in an alliance is the deceitful Gollum, who brings them to the very heart of Mount Doom. The warrior Aragorn, revealed to be the lost king of Gondor, travels to Minas Tirith with an army of undead soldiers and the remaining members of the fellowship rescue the ancient city from Lord Sauron's grasp. Run time: 200 minutes

House of Sand and Fog (R)

Starring: Jennifer Connelly, Ben Kingsley

Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Massoud, despite a pretense of continued affluence, is barely making ends meet until he sees an opportunity in the auction of a house being sold for back taxes. It is a terrible mistake. The house has been improperly seized from its rightful owner, and she decides to fight to recover her home at any cost. Run time: 126 minutes



Birth announcements

January 26

Nathaniel David Headley, a boy, 7 pounds, 7 ounces, born to Spc. Nathaniel David Headley and Ireta Dawn Headley.

January 27

Aaron Kenneth Brown, a boy, 7 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Spc. Stacy L. Brown.

Hailey Ann Hutchison, a girl, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Pvt. 2 Heath Hutchison and Sarah Hutchison.

January 28

Alexis Kristine Williams, a girl, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, born to Capt. Ben Williams and April Williams.

January 29

Mone Shyanne Smith, a girl, 8 pounds, born to Spc. Maurice Terrell Smith and Sabrina Teresa Smith.

January 30

Brian David Bradrick, a boy, 7

pounds, 13 ounces, born to Sgt. Shaun Bradrick and Kristy Bradrick.

February 1

Ryan James Adams, a boy, 7 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Sgt. David Lee Adams and Amanda Brooke Adams.

Sania Alysa Webb, a girl, 6 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Cpl. Eric Ray

Webb and Lisa Marie Webb.

Antwone Diondre-Hayes Love, a boy, 8 pounds, born to Pfc. Anthony D. Love and Nicole L. Love.

February 3

Tara Juul Henderson, a girl, 8 pounds, 8 ounces, born to 1st Lt. David Henderson and Starlett Henderson.

Corbin Alexander Palaniuk, a boy, 9 pounds, 4 ounces, born to Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Martin J. Palaniuk and Patricia A. Palaniuk.

