

Communities join to build home for wounded veteran

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

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When he's not performing, Lee Greenwood is a man on a mission. And the task at hand is helping wounded Soldiers find new homes.

"I've been with Helping a Hero for over 10 years," he said last week. "I'm just one of the cogs in the wheel.

"Now, it's our duty to take care of the veterans. The fact we may go to war any minute, we need to build homes quickly, now."

Under a sunny, warm sky, Greenwood headlined a ground-breaking ceremony in Triana for a new home for Staff Sgt. Mike Brown, who was wounded in action in Mosul, Iraq, about 15 years ago.

Brown was wounded while serving with the military police in Mosul, training the local police. A grenade struck his vehicle, burning through the armor and severed his left leg at the ankle. He ended up losing his leg.

The new home will have features specially designed for Brown, a Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient. He and his wife have a teenage daughter.

"It's our privilege to help you," Greenwood said.

Joining in the event were Helping a Hero Founder Meredith Iler, Helping a Hero Board Chairman Sunny Sharma, Louis and Patti Breland of Breland Companies, Breland Companies President Joey Ceci, retired Staff Sgt. Ross Cox and Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong.

"Welcome home, Brown family. This is the start of a new chapter in your lives," Iler said.

"It's a day of celebration," Pastor Ben Graham said in the invocation.

Breland Homes is providing the home for Brown. Greenwood said he helped bring the Brelands into the fold.

"I pleaded my case to him," he said. "I love them as a family. It's great to have them a part of this."

The Browns' home is one of two Breland will be providing for wounded veterans.

"I'm just a small part of this," Breland
See Home on page 18



Photo by Erin Elise

Lee Greenwood sings God Bless America at the ground-breaking ceremony for Staff Sgt. Mike Brown, who was wounded in Iraq.



Photo by Erin Elise

This is a model dwelling of Breland Homes, which will build a house for Staff Sgt. Mike Brown and his family.



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Letter from the Senior Commander

Team Redstone,

Each February, Team Redstone joins our nation in observing and reflecting on the tremendous contributions of Black Americans to our country and our history. Black History Month commemorates and celebrates the contributions of Black Americans to our nation, society and culture.

Here at Redstone Arsenal, we recognize that our strength is through our diversity, and this yearly observance provides us the opportunity to reflect on the contributions our diverse team members make every day to ensure our nation's security and defense.

February marks another important observance: National Engineers Week, which is recognized around the nation from February 20-26. In a community known for its role in sending man to the moon, it is no surprise that a large percentage of the arsenal's 44,500-plus workforce are engineers. Across Redstone, those working in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields are critical to our success, and we thank you for your hard work and dedication. I challenge our engineers to use the recognition this month to also pay it forward. Reach out to those interested in the career field and let them know about the opportunities available to them on Redstone. You never know the impact your encouragement can have.

Converging both observances, Army Materiel Command and many other federal agencies will once again participate at the Black Engineer of the Year Award program (Becoming Everything You Are), Feb. 17-19 at <https://intouch.ccgmag.com/mpage/beya-home>. The event includes a virtual career fair, professional mentoring, networking sessions and on-the-spot hiring opportunities focused on students, recent graduated and existing employees. To join our AMC booth, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y4l5zvm1>.

As we continue to celebrate and recognize diversity, we also remember what unites and strengthens us as one team: our patriotism and dedication to this arsenal and our great Nation. Thank you for being the best of America!

People First - Winning Matters - Army Strong!
- Lt. Gen. Flem B. "Donnie" Walker, Jr.



Lt. Gen.
Donnie Walker

On this date in history: Feb. 9

In 1986: Halley's Comet last appeared in the inner Solar System.

In 1971: Apollo 14 returned to Earth after the third manned Moon landing.

In 1965: The U.S. Marine Corps sent a MIM-23 Hawk missile battalion to South Vietnam, the first American troops in-country without an official advisory or training mission.

In 1964: The Beatles made their first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show, performing before a record-setting audience of 73 million viewers across the United States.

In 1907: The Mud March was the first large procession organized by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

In 1870: President Ulysses S. Grant signed a joint resolution of Congress establishing the U.S. Weather Bureau.

Quote of the week

“There is always some madness in love. But there is also always some reason in madness.”
— Friedrich Nietzsche

RedstoneRocket

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 4488 Room A-213, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is Tennessee Valley Media Co., Inc., located at 201 1st Ave., SE, Decatur, AL 35603.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

Email: samuel.c.vaughn2.civ@mail.mil

Email classified ads to rocketads@theredstonerocket.com

Rocket articles are available at:

<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>

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The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley Media Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the

Editorial office: **256-876-1500** Editorial Fax: **256-955-0133** Retail Advertising: **256-340-2463**

Classified Advertising: **256-260-2218**

Advertising Fax: **256-260-2211**

Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army or the civilian publisher TN Valley Media, of the products or services advertised within this publication.

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First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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What are your goals for 2022?

"My goal for 2022 is to become the best real estate agent that I can become," Crystal Carter, 911 dispatcher for Redstone from December 2019 until Feb. 1, said. "I've been a dispatcher for two years. It's been wonderful helping people. Another goal of mine is to continue helping people. I'm going to be a real estate agent and continue helping people because it's something I enjoy doing. It's been wonderful working in dispatch. I love everyone that I work with. They truly care about everyone's well being."

Carter, 38, a Huntsville native, resides in Madison. She and her husband of four years, Fernando, have a combined three children: daughter, Alycia, 20; and sons Mitchel, 15, and Elliott, 4. Her hobby is applying eyelash extensions. "I like making women feel empowered and beautiful," she said. Carter roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Crystal Carter

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Why you joined the Army.

"The reason I joined the Army was to continue my education," Sgt. 1st Class Sanqwey Walker, career counselor for Army Contracting Command, said. "I was in college at Alabama State University and I was expecting the birth of my first child. And I decided to join the Army Reserve in 2005. I went on active duty in 2008 as a general equipment operator. I became a career counselor in 2017. I've been active duty 14 years now. The Army for me has been great. It provided me with all the resources I need to support my family. I'm planning to do at least 20 years of service."

Walker, 39, from Atlanta, arrived at Redstone in November 2020 from Fort Drum, New York. The Toney resident and his wife of 13 years, Tiffany, have three daughters: Aniya, Reagan and Kyndall. Walker said he enjoys any outdoor sporting activity. He roots for all the Atlanta teams.



Sgt. 1st Class Sanqwey Walker

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Rodney Shepherd

Position: Safety specialist in the Garrison Safety Office since Jan. 18

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I was actually going to be an accountant. In high school I always wanted to be an accountant because I liked running numbers and math was my favorite subject. I graduated from high school and joined the Air Force. The accountant position was not available in the Air Force immediately so I accepted a position as a security specialist. After 10 years as a security specialist, I applied for a career change which led me into safety and health.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?

To become a valuable asset to the Redstone team by increasing safety awareness and education.

What is the best part about your job?

Meeting and partnering with various people throughout the Redstone team.

Who is your hero, and why?



My mother (Wilma Shepherd of Houston, Texas). She provided me guidance, a good work ethic and continued discipline throughout all of my upbringing.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

Travel the Mediterranean Sea on a luxury yacht.

What is the best piece of advice someone has given you?

My pastor in Houston told me to always put God first in all of your decisions.

What do you like to do to pass the time?

I like to exercise and lift weights as a stress reliever. And I love to travel.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Jan. 23-29:

Jan. 26: The driver of a government vehicle contacted Redstone police and reported damage to the vehicle. An investigation revealed the driver was reversing in a parking area when the vehicle struck a light pole, causing functional damage to the vehicle's rear. The light pole had no visible damage.

Citations included one for failure to obey traffic control device, one for failure to register vehicle, one for failure to use seatbelts, six for expired registration, one for reckless driving and 36 for speeding.

Know your laws: Patent application review

By ANN DENNEN

Huntsville lawyer

There are four types of patent applications, including a nonprovisional (utility) patent application, a provisional patent application, a design patent and a plant patent. Before an applicant can be awarded a patent based off an application, the patent application must be examined.

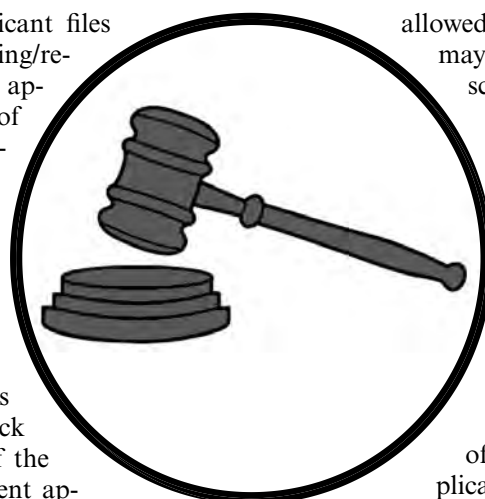
The examination of a patent is performed by an examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The examiner searches a patent database in order to find patents that are like the patent filed. Furthermore, the applicant may file an Information Disclosure Statement when the patent application is filed, and the examiner may use patents disclosed in the IDS when examining the patent.

In some patent applications, the applicant may have filed more than one invention in the application. This may mean that the claims in the patent under examination describe more than one invention or the drawings in the patent application represent more than one invention. If the applicant files a patent application, the patent application will be subject to an election/restriction requirement. In

response, the applicant files a response electing/restricting the patent application to one of the inventions disclosed by the patent. Notably, the claims that were restricted or elected may be filed in a continuation patent application, which stands on its own and refers back to the filing date of the originally filed patent application.

After election/restriction is accomplished, the examiner substantively examines the patent application. In substantively examining the patent application, the examiner searches for patents (both foreign and domestic), patent applications that have been published or patented (both foreign and domestic), and publications (e.g., white papers).

After initially examining the patent, the examiner may issue a Non-Final Office Action. The office action indicates if any claims in the patent application are



allowed, a patent attorney may determine that the scope of the allowed claims adequately protect the invention. If so, the applicant timely files a response canceling any rejected claim and addressing any informality issues. If the office action includes a notice of allowance, the applicant pays an issue fee, and the patent is allowed to

issue.

If no claims are allowed in the outstanding office action, the applicant should file a timely response. In filing the response, the applicant should dispute the patent examiner's determination that the cited prior art (patents (both foreign and domestic), patent applications that have been published or patented (both foreign and domestic), and publications (e.g., white papers). In addition, the applicant may amend the claims so that the claims are narrower than the prior

art cited to get around the prior art cited.

After the response is filed, the examiner reviews the patent application again. After the second review by the examiner, the examiner issues another office action, which is typically a final office action. If the final office action allows any claims in the patent application, the patent attorney determines if the allowed claims adequately protect the invention. If the patent attorney determines that the pending claims adequately protect the invention, the applicant files a response canceling any rejected claim and addressing any informality issues.

After the response is filed, the USPTO issues a Notice of Allowance and Fees Due. Thus, the applicant only need pay the issue fee and submit a Fee Payment PTOL 85 form.

Editor's note: The opinions in this column do not constitute legal advice nor do they establish an attorney-client relationship. If you have questions concerning the issues discussed, contact an attorney of your choice. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

Super Bowl promises halftime show for the ages

For the first time that I can remember – granted that's not much of an accomplishment these days – I actually know who the performers at this year's Super Bowl are.

I don't know what that says about the Super Bowl's ability to "be cool," but maybe it means that people of my age have finally become a demographic market that's worth being catered to.

You're thinking, aren't you a millennial? Yes, but barely. You're confusing people in my age range with the group that marketers have been trying to figure out how to reach for decades, which they called millennials but really meant Gen Z, because they couldn't believe that millennials were as old as we were. Case in point, remember when millennials were mistakenly accused of eating Tide Pods.

The only catering my generation has been the recipient of is getting blamed for killing everything.

We've been blamed for killing the golf

industry, even though I love to golf.

It's been said we've killed cans of tuna, even though I enjoyed a can the other day.

Oh, and don't forget we've killed Lowe's and Home Depot, despite the fact I usually find myself at one of those establishments three or four times a month.

I'm sure people younger than I am are killing those things and probably a lot more.

I realize that since I was born on the edge of a generation that it only makes sense that I would not share as many things with that generation as someone born in the middle of it.

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson

Assistant editor

And, I'm not saying I'd rather be a part of Gen X, either.

I've got a buddy who is a Gen Xer and he is the personification of misery. He's also kind of a hipster, but I don't think the two have anything to do with each other.

And, I'm not saying I haven't played a role in killing off some things like napkins, bars of soap, and gyms.

Although, I'm confident that I would not be frequenting a gym regardless of which generation I was born into. I feel like that particular life choice reaches deeper into my soul than not using napkins when it's 10-times easier to just rip off a paper towel or preferring an all-in-one hair, face and body wash, because not going to a gym is more about who I am as a person.

All that said, if this year's Super Bowl halftime show is not the result of a lack of options on the NFL's part, but instead an intentional booking of Eminem,

Snoop Dogg, Kendrick Lamar, Mary J. Blige, and Dr. Dre, then maybe it marks the dawning of some sort of golden age for people my age.

I would Pepsi said this year's halftime show meant "12 minutes of unforgettable greatness."

And, they've never misjudged the impact of one of their promotions.

Well, I mean except for that one time in 2017 when they had to issue this statement: "Pepsi was trying to project a global message of unity, peace and understanding. Clearly we missed the mark, and we apologize. We did not intend to make light of any serious issue. We are removing the content and halting any further rollout. We also apologize for putting Kendall Jenner in this position."

But, I digress. Here's to 2022. The year of the old millennial.

Military

Security enterprise reinforces partnership with Ukraine

By Maj. MACKENZIE DEAL

SATMO Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Allies and partners play an important role in U.S. defense strategy through interoperability gained from Army materiel and training, and it is truly a balancing act to incorporate doctrine and military education. That is exactly what personnel from the Security Assistance Training Management Organization accomplished in Ukraine in advance of the current crisis.

Since 2016, SATMO's Doctrine Education Advisory Group has advised Ukrainian security forces at the operational level to revise doctrine, improve professional military education, enhance NATO interoperability and increase combat readiness.

Lt. Col. Robert Nesbit, DEAG's team leader, defines the group as, "an economy of force advisory team that supports Ukraine's defense reform objectives. We have two broad missions, advising on doctrine revision, and professional military education advisory efforts. We support the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine, and, to a lesser extent, the Ukrainian Marine Corps and Air Assault/Airborne Forces."

In addition to successfully sustaining their advisory mission, DEAG is assisting the Office Defense Cooperation with receiving urgent security assistance materiel for delivery to the Ukrainian security forces as part of the U.S. government Presidential Drawdown Authority.

On Jan. 22, DEAG braved frigid temperatures to inventory close to 200,000 pounds of lethal security assistance, including ammunition for the front-line defenders of Ukraine. This was the first of several shipments totaling \$200 million in security assistance for the Ukrainian armed forces authorized by President Biden in December 2021.

"The arrival of additional lethal aid will have the effect of changing the 'calculus' on both sides of the crisis," Nesbit said. "The quick arrival of this materiel under urgent circumstances, along with the support already in place, reinforces the strong partnership between the U.S. and Ukraine."

According to Nesbit, SATMO is a unique Army entity that tailors its training and advising for ally and partner militaries to align with each country's military structure and even its culture.



Courtesy of the U.S. Embassy Ukraine

Army security assistance materiel arrives in Kyiv, Ukraine on Jan. 22. The Security Assistance Training Management Organization Doctrine Education Advisory Group has assisted with security assistance deliveries in Kyiv in addition to their core mission of guidance and training to Ukrainian security forces.

When training with our allies and partners, it is necessary to have a deep understanding of our counterparts' militaries and personnel. Nesbit highlights that the collaboration between SATMO team members and their foreign counterparts are crucial to strengthening the mil-to-mil relationship.

"Within the realm of strategic competition, the DEAG is a component of the United States and NATO efforts to counter Russian influence not just in

Ukraine but in Europe as well," Nesbit said.

Representative of SATMO teams supporting the DEAG is a small team of subject matter experts with extensive experience at both the tactical and operational levels. SATMO employs experts in special operations, aviation, infantry, air defense artillery, field artillery, logistics and other specialties. These teams enable interoperability and increase ally and partner capacity through hands-on

training and relationship-building.

Since 1974, SATMO's teams have delivered continuous embedded presence worldwide with allies and partners in support of geographic combatant command theater strategies. As part of the Security Assistance Command, SATMO provides advanced and specialized training, professional military education, and tactical level expertise. Key aspects of military education include strategic planning and military doctrine.

Security enterprise honoree manages Afghan portfolio

By **TERRI STOVER**

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

Giovanni Estrada has been named the Security Assistance Command employee of the fourth quarter, fiscal year 2021. He is the country program manager of Afghanistan, managing a portfolio valued at over \$14.5 billion.

As the CPM for the most challenging foreign military sales program, he oversees the development and overall program management for the transfer of defense articles, services, education and training for the Afghanistan program. Included in this portfolio are 226 active foreign military sales cases.

From July through September, Estrada was “the cog in the wheel for supporting Over the Horizon Plan for Afghanistan,” said Fred Heaggans, CENTCOM deputy director, and nominating official. The Over the Horizon Plan turned into a full-scale evacuation of military personnel from the country.

During this tumultuous time, Estrada was the conduit for information from the Defense Security Cooperation Organization-Afghanistan to the FMS enterprise. “During this chaotic transition, Mr. Estrada remained determined and flexible. This flexibility started with the diversion of (weapons) from Army stock in 20 days to the development of a plan to start canceling requisitions as the situation deteriorated,” Heaggans said.

In one of the most distressing times, Estrada stood out as a leader and expert in handling this most difficult situation.

He is known as a team player, gladly assisting his colleagues and leadership with his vast experience. He has worked as a CPM for over a decade in the CENTCOM directorate – which is easily the most complex directorate within USASAC.

He also served as a foreign affairs officer in South America.

Some of the duties of a country program manager include overseeing the transfer of defense articles, services, education and training for the country represented. A CPM will manage the lifecycle of FMS programs and coordination of logistics. CPMs should communicate regularly with the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, which advances U.S. defense and foreign policy interests by building the capacity of foreign partners. The DSCA encourages and enables allies and partners to respond to shared challenges.

Estrada is an active member of his church where he supports the teachings and passes them to his children as well. He has been married for over 20 years and he and his wife are active members of the community. They serve as both foster parents and parents for eight children. He enjoys spending time with family and friends and traveling the world.



Giovanni Estrada

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

Contract award announcements

Pond Constructors Inc., Peachtree Corners, Georgia, was awarded a \$9,742,238 modification to contract W912DY-21-F-0025 for recurring maintenance and minor repair of petroleum systems. Work will be performed in Aiea, Hilo, Kaneohe, Kekaha, Wahiawa, Pearl Harbor, Ewa Beach, Wainae, and Honolulu, Hawaii; King Salmon, Shemya Island, Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Anchorage, Alaska; and Peachtree Corners, with an estimated completion date of Jan. 31, 2023. Fiscal 2010 revolving funds in the amount of \$9,742,238 were obligated at the time of the award. Corps of Engineers' Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is the contracting activity.

Women vital to our armed forces

Women are an integral part of the American military, and DOD officials are working to ensure their concerns are addressed.

Women make up roughly 20% of the Air Force, 19% of the Navy, 15% of the Army and 9% of the Marine Corps. Tens of thousands of women contribute every day to defending the nation. Their differences and needs must be considered for the United States military to function.

This is especially true since 2013, when then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, repealed the combat exclusion policy. From privates to four-star generals, women serve in

every rank and can serve in any specialty in the military.

"I think we're doing a great job in terms of recruiting the right kinds of people, providing access to people from every corner, every walk of life in this country," Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said on CNN last year. "As long as you're fit and you can qualify, there's a place for you on this team."

But simply changing the policy is not the end of the process, and that is where programs like the Air Mobility Command's Reach Athena and the Department of the Air Force Women's Initiative Team come in. These groups look at the totality of women's service to find and eliminate barriers to ensure all can serve to their full potential.

Take responsibility to preserve security clearance

By Aviation and Missile Command G-2

The Department of Defense has implemented a phased risk-managed approach to better protect national security, ensure the trustworthiness of the national security workforce and mitigate insider threat incidents.

Instead of reinvestigating secret security clearances every 10 years or top secret clearances every six years, the DOD is now continuously vetting clearance holders.

Under the continuous vetting program, the DOD Consolidated Adjudications Facility randomly runs automated checks of commercial and government data sources. These sources scan for criminal activity, suspicious financial activity, public records, foreign travel and court activity on a daily, monthly, quarterly or annual basis. With all automated checks being conducted continuously, the need for six- and 10-year reinvestigations is now obsolete.

Security clearances are evaluated against 13 adjudicative standards ranging from criminal conduct to financial considerations to use of information technology. It is imperative holders of security clearances take an active role in protecting their security clearance.

How do you do this? Remember those questions about finances, drugs, alcohol and criminal activity when you last completed a SF-86 via the electronic security questionnaire known as eQip? Avoid those issues, if

possible.

The leading adjudicative standard that places security clearances and jobs in jeopardy is financial.

What can you do? Pay your bills, keep accounts in good standing and contact G-2 Personnel Security for advice prior to accounts going delinquent. If you have delinquent accounts, contact G-2 PERSEC now. Take a moment to review self-report requirements and all 13 adjudicative standards.

Take an active role in maintaining your security clearance. Personnel are required to self-report changes or incidents that may impact their security clearance eligibility. Should a life event occur, it is imperative you consult with your security manager and obtain guidance on self-reporting.

Self-reporting in and of itself is not a reason to revoke or deny eligibility for access to classified information and may go far in receiving a favorable adjudication of the incident and protecting your security clearance.

Whether you are a Soldier, civilian or contractor, maintaining an active security clearance is essential to your ability to work for the Aviation and Missile Command and is a personal responsibility.

If you have any questions regarding the management of your security clearance, consult your security manager or contact G-2 PERSEC.

DAU Corner

CONNECT Live!

Thursday, 02/10/2022
10:30 A.M. CST

<https://www.dau.edu/events>

CONNECT Live is where contracting professionals learn from each other. Ask questions, share best practices, discover valuable tools & resources, and so much more. Nothing is off limits. Best of all, it is a place where contracting professionals can connect with each other, and leverage our collective contracting knowledge.

COR Office Hours

Thursday, 02/15/2022
10:45 A.M. CST

<https://www.dau.edu/events>

DAU hosts the virtual COR Office Hours every Tuesday starting at 11:45 a.m. ET for one hour. These live virtual office hours were created for the DoD COR community, which not only includes CORs, but also program managers, contract specialists, contracting officers and requiring activities who manage CORs. The idea is to connect people, ideas, resources and information in this community together.

Let's Talk Agile: Operational Test for Agile Software Programs- What You Need to Know About What You Need to Test

Tuesday, 02/08/2022
10:00 A.M. CST

<https://www.dau.edu/events>

Operational testing (OT) is key to informing warfighters whether their system is operationally effective and suitable, and if OT is unable to adapt to the rapidly changing world, the relevance of what OT can accomplish will diminish. Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center (AFOTEC) is the Air Force's independent test agency with a mission to inform the warfighter and acquisition through operational test. AFOTEC evaluates the capability of systems to meet Warfighter needs.

SAVE A DATE

February 23-24, 2022

DAU's Virtual Acquisition Update - South Region
Hosted Virtual Event

“Acquisition 2022: Embracing the Digital Environment”

Event is open to Government, Contractor, and Industry Workforces

<https://www.dau.edu/event/2022-Acquisition-Update>

Registration closes on February 17th

Contracting professional honored for pandemic response

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

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A contracting and agreements officer has received a framed letter of thanks from President Joe Biden for her efforts and accomplishments at work.

Hillary Roy, who works at the Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, was working for the Army Contracting Command last summer when she was tapped as part of an Operation Warp Speed task force to support the country's acquisition of items in the battle against COVID-19.

"I am so proud of the Army Contracting Command-Redstone Arsenal workforce," Joseph Giunta, executive director for ACC-Redstone, said. "Hillary's contributions to the nation's fight against COVID-19 are a direct reflection of the outstanding talent that our Army contracting professionals bring to the fight. Our ability to pivot the workforce from our primary Army mission to support the nation's pandemic fight validates their exceptional skills."

Roy and 15 other acquisition professionals from across the country worked

late nights and weekends to oversee the government's purchase of COVID-19 vaccines to help fulfill Biden's June 10, 2021 promise to provide 500 million vaccines to low-income countries around the world.

The group was part of the "Joint Covid Response Division" at Army Contracting Command, which worked in concert with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense in order to execute this action.

They were assigned the \$4.9 billion contract around July 4 and "they needed it awarded by the end of July," Roy said.

Normally, such a massive contract would take up to a year or two to fulfill, she said. "It's unheard of to do that in a month."

But do it, they did.

Roy and others on the team were notified in November that they were going to be the guests of honor at a thank-you ceremony at the Pentagon, to be hosted by Kathleen Hicks, the deputy secretary of defense.

"Omicron blew that up," Roy said, so in January, a ceremony was hosted virtu-



Hillary Roy

ally instead.

Team members were praised during the ceremony for their actions, which Hicks said "helped advance the health and welfare of people throughout the

world."

Days later, Roy received a matted, framed letter of appreciation from the president for their help in the COVID-19 supply chain global effort.

In his letter, also praised the team's efforts.

"Because of your determination and hard work – performed at an unprecedented pace –

we were able to negotiate critical vaccine purchases for donation, including to the poorest countries in the world, proving to our allies and partners that America is leading once again by the power of our example," Biden said.

Receiving the letter was "surreal," Roy said. "It was humbling and powerful to know I was having a big impact on the world. I didn't know it was possible for me to do that kind of work."

A native of Huntsville, Roy received her bachelor's and master's in business administration from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

She has worked for the Army since 2009.

She and her husband, Jonathan Roy, a site development manager for iSpecimen, live in Huntsville.

Huntsville Center awards \$200M medical contract

By WILLIAM SCOTT FARROW

*Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville
Public Affairs*

The Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville awarded the \$200 million multiple award indefinite delivery contract Jan. 19 to provide architect-engineer services in support of the Medical Division Architectural-Engineering program and its customers.

An IDC is an acquisition vehicle awarded to one or more vendors to facilitate the

delivery of supply and service orders.

The Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, supports the Corps of Engineers by providing specialized technical expertise through centrally managed programs in support of national interests.

The center's Medical Division provides outfitting and transition, repair and renewal and operations and maintenance engineering services to Department of Defense medical facilities around the world.

This fourth-generation award supports the Defense Health Agency, its subordi-

nate medical services (Army Medical Command, Navy Bureau of Medicine, and the Air Force Medical Support Agency), and other non-Department of Defense customers by providing full-service specialized medical facility architecture, engineering, and planning services to support the medical Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization program.

The scope of services includes design and engineering for hospitals, clinics, medical administration buildings, health facilities, warehouses and wellness centers.

The contracts will support locations throughout the contiguous United States, U.S. Territories, and the Republic of Korea, Japan, Italy, and Germany. The ordering period totals seven years, from 2022-29.



Army photo

Huntsville Center's \$200 million multiple award indefinite delivery contract provide architect-engineer services for projects like the 772,000 square foot Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital and Ambulatory Care Center at Camp Humphrey, Republic of Korea.

The contract capacity is shared among five small businesses. The awarded firms are: Global Engineering Solutions; GoldenWolf-EwingCole; Health Facility Solutions Company; Shadpour Consulting Engineers Inc.; Sherlock, Smith & Adams Inc.

Army aviation welcomes senior enlisted Soldier

By PAUL STEVENSON

Program Executive Office for Aviation

The Program Executive Office for Aviation introduced its new sergeant major, as Sgt. Maj. Carlos Loeza assumed the role from Sgt. Maj. Roy “Woody” Sullivan during a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 27 at The Summit.

The ceremony was officiated by Program Executive Officer Brig. Gen. Rob Barrie.

Sullivan, the first ever PEO Aviation sergeant major, held the position since June 2018.

Loeza comes to PEO Aviation from Fort Hood, Texas, where he previously served as the command sergeant major for the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

“I’m excited to contribute to Army aviation modernization and acquisition, and look forward to learning and contributing alongside each one of you,” Loeza said. “I am humbled to serve as a leader in PEO Aviation, and I will serve proudly and conduct myself as a professional during every interaction.”

A native of El Paso, Loeza entered the Army in 1999 as an aircraft structural repairer.

In a separate retirement ceremony held later in the afternoon, Sullivan brought to close an Army career that spanned almost four decades.

“He is an inspiration as someone who has dedicated his life of service to us, service to our Soldiers and service to his country,” Barrie said during about Sullivan’s commitment to duty over the course of his career.

Before his groundbreaking role as the first PEO Aviation sergeant major, Sullivan served as the command sergeant major of the 59th Aviation Troop Command at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, South Carolina.

Sullivan began his service in 1984 when he enlisted into the Army to become an attack helicopter repairer. He attended basic combat training at Fort McClellan, and advanced individual training at Fort Eustis, Virginia. He remained on active duty for three years, spending two and a half years in the 101st Airborne (Air Assault), before joining the South Carolina Army National Guard. He subsequently served in numerous leadership positions with increasing responsibility including, section sergeant, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and command sergeant major.

With his wife, Kim, and their daughter, Tori, in the audience, he thanked



Photo by Paul Stevenson

Program Executive Officer for Aviation Brig. Gen. Rob Barrie, right, passes the noncommissioned officer sword to incoming sergeant major Carlos Loeza during a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 27. The outgoing sergeant major, Roy “Woody” Sullivan, center, relinquished responsibility of the position after becoming the first ever PEO Aviation sergeant major in June 2018.

them along with other family members and colleagues for their support over the course of a career he called “a great ride with so many awesome memories along the way.”

During his remarks, Sullivan said three very important ingredients to his career success were people and friendships, the steady counsel and candid feedback of mentors, and his father’s advice to leave places better than he found them.

He also said that as a Soldier, he relied on a primary tenet that he has carried from his first day in the Army, and believes will help guide the next generation of Soldiers and leaders.

“Take care of the organization and the organization will take care of you,” he said.

Sullivan earned numerous awards and medals over the course of his career including the Legion of Merit, Bronze

Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Global War On Terrorism Expedition Medal.

Community

Thrift Shop seeks volunteers for consignment store



Photo by Erin Elise

Ruth Soracco is a volunteer and board member at the Thrift Shop.

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

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Whether you're looking to collect new treasures or trying to declutter your house, there's a one-stop shop that is seeking volunteers.

The Redstone Thrift Shop at 3209 Hercules Road is a smooth machine that relies heavily on volunteers.

Sophie Gentry, manager of the Thrift Shop, said she needs as many helpers as she can get to sort donations, check people in with their consignments, tag clothes and so on.

The only real qualification required is good customer service, she said.

Otherwise, the duties fall into place: help people, hang out with people, have a good time.

There are other perks, including no-cost consignment to volunteers, and, of course, first access to items for sale, from clothes and furniture to household goods and books.

Volunteers are asked to work a minimum of two hours per consignment day in

order to bypass the required fees and work a total of nine hours per month.

To apply, they simply complete some paperwork and will then be connected with the shop's volunteer coordinator to talk about training and scheduling.

It's mostly a matter of shadowing other volunteers around as you learn the ropes, Gentry said.

Elaine Macealnia has been volunteering at the Thrift Shop since 1999.

"You get to meet lots of people. You help the community. It's a nice place to meet people," she said. "You can shop. You can clean out your house."

Many retirees in the community enjoy selling via consignment to "make a little extra money on the side," she said.

Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to call the shop during opening hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

Consignments are accepted only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Before bringing items to sell, consigners are asked to call the "no list line" on the day prior to learn what items are not being accepted at any given time.

The Thrift Shop also accepts donations during store hours or via a covered donation box outside the store for things brought after hours.

For more information, call 881-6992.

Home

Continued from page 1

said. "I'm glad to be here today and hope to do it again."

Ceci said the house is the perfect example of communities coming together for the veterans.

"This location is in the town of Triana, in the Madison City Schools district and Huntsville Fire Department (jurisdiction)," he said. "So you have the best of all three communities that have in common their support for the warfighter and recognition of our veterans."

"You may have heard a couple of explosions on your way here," Strong told the large audience, referring to nearby Redstone Arsenal. "We don't apologize for that ... we never apologize for what we do for America."

Cox nominated Brown for the program and had some words of advice for the local veteran.

"I know it's a big deal," Cox said. "Just show up, breathe, smile, shake hands ... it will all be over soon."

On a serious note, Cox, who is also an amputee, told the crowd, "We didn't lose our legs, we gave them ..."

Brown, who is still active duty, related his struggles during rehab at Walter Reed Hospital, where he had to relearn how to walk.

"The struggle is not the important part, but how you deal with the struggle is what defines you," he said. "The jewel of experience was learning to walk with my daughter."

"While she was taking her first steps, I was taking my second set of first steps."

And, in a few months, thanks to Helping a Hero, Greenwood and Breland, they will be taking their first steps into a new home.



Staff Sgt. Mike Brown speaks during the ground-breaking ceremony. From left are Helping a Hero Founder Meredith Iler, Brown, singer Lee Greenwood, Brown's daughter Alyssa and his wife Kimberly.

Photo by Erin Elise

Discount tickets service continues on Redstone

From combined reports

The Information Tickets and Reservations Office offers a variety of discount tickets to local and regional attractions.

Located in the Pershing Welcome Center, the office is provided by Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

It previously also was the site for the MWR Leisure Travel Office, but that service closed Jan. 31.

“We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our customers,” the office said in a statement.

So, while the leisure travel portion ended, that doesn’t mean you can’t get those discount tickets for your next trip.

For information, call 876-4531 or visit <https://redstone.armymwr.com/programs/itr>.

Community opens heart to Afghani families

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

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It's the middle of the night somewhere in Afghanistan.

A family is sleeping except for one. He can't sleep because the Taliban has been going house-to-house looking for him. You see, he's worked with and helped American forces in and around his village for several years.

Now, it's time.

He wakes up his wife and children and others in the household. They sneak out with only the clothes on their backs.

Thus become the first steps of a long journey to freedom.

"We all talk about 'starting over' in our lives, but we don't know what it means to start from scratch," said Guy Hardman, president of Operation Zulu 18, a coalition of veterans, law enforcement officers, local business and church partners working together to support our Afghan allies. "The stories and their sacrifice ... most of the people in this room won't understand.

"These are stories that make me go

GLOBAL TIES > Alabama

home and cry."

On Thursday, a reception was held welcoming two Afghan families into the Huntsville community through Operation Zulu 18 and Global Ties Alabama.

Operation Zulu 18 helps provide enduring support to legal, vetted Afghan allies arriving in the United States and their family members left behind in hostile territory.

"These brave Afghan allies have sacrificed so much for us over the last two decades," said Hardman, a 16-year Army veteran, who served in Afghanistan. "They have fought, bled and many died by our side.

"Operation Zulu 18 will work to ensure these families have the second chance at the safe and happy lives they all deserve."

For nearly 60 years, Global Ties Alabama has helped international military trainees at Redstone Arsenal feel at

home, coordinating multicultural events in the Huntsville area, providing information about immigration and naturalization services to area residents, and hosting international visitors traveling to Alabama under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Hardman cited Jacqui Shipe, CEO of Global Ties Alabama, for the help in rallying the business and religious community to support the families.

"Without Jacqui, who introduced me to the heart of Huntsville, we wouldn't have been able to do this," he said.

"We are the largest city in the state because we have the biggest hearts," said Kenny Anderson, Huntsville's director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

For information, email operation.zulu.18@gmail.com or visit globalties-alabama.org.



Retired Redstone firefighter grows up in Vietnam

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Steve Dunham was a mechanic at a Huntsville car dealership in 1965. One day he saw his father walking down the aisle with a letter in hand.

"He knew and I knew what it was," Dunham, then 19, recalled. "But he wanted me to open it. He didn't open it."

It was Dunham's draft notice.

He had dropped out of school in 1963 after ninth grade at Westlawn and then enrolled in Tennessee Valley Vocational Technical School. "I was a poor student, bad student," he said. He graduated in 1965 and received his certification as a mechanic. He started working at a Volkswagen dealership that summer.

But he got drafted into the Army in November 1965 and saw his life change.

"I had it in my mind they weren't going to do that," he said of being drafted. "But one day they come knocking on my door."

Dunham, a retired Redstone firefighter, served in Vietnam from 1966-67.

After basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he went to Fort Rucker for advanced individual training in firefighter crash and rescue. But when the private first class arrived in Vietnam in July 1966, he became a shipping and receiving specialist with the 611th Ordnance Company at Cam Ranh Bay.

"When they sent me to Vietnam, we got there to process area and they said they had way too many firefighters," he said. "Well, they sent me to 611th Ordnance Company and I had to learn on my own."

Ironically the Soldiers the Huntsville native began working with had received their training at the Ordnance school at Redstone.

Dunham and the others served as ammunition handlers at the ammo dump which received ammunition brought off the ships. That was his place of duty for his yearlong tour through July 1967.

"The biggest thing was being away from home and family," he said. "I can't give you any war stories. I didn't shoot at anybody. Nobody shot at me. At that time, Cam Rahn Bay was pretty secure."

He did not see mortar attacks but "you could hear it way in the background, off the peninsula, from where we were," he



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Huntsville native Steve Dunham was a Redstone firefighter from 1973-2000.

said.

The Soldiers rotated their shifts, either night or day. Shifts were roughly 10 hours. They also had to pull guard duty at least monthly around the perimeter at night.

Dunham's lone injury was a broken little finger on his right hand which happened when he was disconnecting a trailer from a truck. He had surgery at the Cam Rahn Bay hospital and was off work about two weeks.

"Growing up," he said of his memories from the year. "And I got to know the guys real well, their personal problems. Other parts of the world, where they were from."

One night a Soldier shot himself in the foot so he could go home early.

"I never did understand why that guy did that," Dunham said. "When he left that night, nobody saw him again. I imagine he got in trouble."

In another incident, two Soldiers from Montana who were friends with each other got in an argument and a fistfight after drinking one night. One whipped the other about the face with glass insulators; and he needed more than 100 stitches in his face. "It wasn't Viet Cong. It wasn't anything like that," Dunham said. "It was American on American."

He also remembers the Vietnam heat



Courtesy photo

In 1967, Specialist Steve Dunham was a shipping and receiving specialist at Cam Ranh Bay. Behind him is "our shower, where we took our showers," he said.

Vietnam revisited Part 356 in series

and the monsoon season when everything mildewed.

"Another thing I remember, two friends that I had. They were both married. They got Dear John letters over there," he said. "They were in such bad shape. It was pitiful."

Dunham said he most remembers the friends he made. But everyone that he kept in touch with over the years has since died.

When he returned to the U.S., some taxicab drivers took advantage of him and other returning Soldiers at the airport in California. They were walking from the airport to the buses to take them to Oakland. The cab drivers yelled out that they could get the Soldiers to Oakland faster than the buses. Dunham and four others took the cabs. But when they arrived in Oakland, they had to sit and wait for the buses so they could out-process.

Dunham left the Army as a specialist in November 1967. He worked four years as a mechanic at a Ford dealership. Next

he became a firefighter with Huntsville Fire Department from 1970-73. In 1973 he became a firefighter at Redstone Fire Department and he retired in December 2000 after 27 and a half years.

The Huntsville resident and his wife of more than 54 years, Dorothy, have two sons and three grandchildren. Their oldest, Brian, died in 2007 from infection from surgery. Their youngest, Mark, of Huntsville, is a manager at Athens-Limestone Hospital.

Dunham, 76, is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He enjoys taking care of his grandchildren.

He shared his thoughts on this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

"They need to do more, a lot more," he said. "A lot of us need help and especially the ones in nursing homes, assisted living."

Editor's note: This is the 356th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Photo Booth

By Skip Vaughn



What is your favorite pastime?

"Fishing. I've been fishing for about 50 years. It gives me peace of mind. I fish on the Tennessee River." – **Retired Sgt. 1st Class LaVance Griffin**, correctional lieutenant for the Limestone Correctional Facility, Alabama Department of Corrections

Redstone newcomers ready to serve community

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

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Two new employees have joined Army Community Service.

Bringing expertise in their respective fields are Mark Thomas, victim advocate for the SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) program and Maria Mackall, home visitor for the New Parent Support Program.

Thomas, a native of Tuscaloosa, came to the Arsenal from Fort Irwin, California, where he served as a victim advocate for almost four years.

"I advocate for those who have been sexually assaulted and sexually harassed," he said.

A sociology graduate of Louisiana Tech University who obtained a master's in social work from Simmons College in Boston, Thomas completed an 80-hour, two-week SHARP Course and a six-week career course at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to prepare for his job as a victim advocate.

At Redstone, he will conduct classes and network with the community to get the word out about the SHARP program and its services, including a 24-hour hotline to report harassment or assault.

Thomas, who lives in Harvest, is married

to Sorepa Thomas, a chief warrant officer 4 stationed at Fort Irwin. She hopes to transfer soon to the Arsenal.

The couple have five children, Joseph, 21, and M.J., 19, both college students in California; Deserae, 15, a sophomore at Sparkman High School, where she plays basketball; Denise, 13, an eighth-grade student at Sparkman Middle School, where she plays basketball; and Mark Jr., 3, who lives with his mother.

In his spare time, Thomas enjoys working out, playing PlayStation 5, listening to music, watching football and cooking.

Mackall, who lives in Huntsville, joined the ACS team under the Family Advocacy Program as a home visitor to support parents and expecting parents of children birth to 36 months.

A native of Baltimore, she is a social work undergraduate of Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) who obtained a master's from the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

She worked as a social worker for about four years in Baltimore before relocating to Huntsville five years ago to join her ex-husband. Mackall has held jobs with Specialized Services for Youth and Families, the Department of Human Resources, and Wellstone Behavioral Health.



Erin Elise

Maria Mackall and Mark Thomas are new staff members at Army Community Service.

Her goal in her new position is to revive in-person programs that were ceased due to COVID-19 as soon as possible, including the popular ChildWise play mornings for families with children birth to age 5, as soon as it's deemed safe.

She maintains a page on Facebook for the ChildWise community called CW Mommys, where she communicates activities as they become available and provides parent education on various topics.

Meanwhile, Mackall said she is available to speak one-on-one with parents/caregivers of children newborn to 36 months and help with such topics such as nutrition, behavior management and more.

Her hobbies include singing, playing tennis, playing with her boyfriend's children, and styling hair.

For addition information on these ACS programs, contact the front reception desk at Army Community Service at 876-5397.

Tax center successfully returns for another year

From staff reports

Redstone Tax Center is back in business.

The tax assistance center, which provides free services to the military community, held its annual ribbon-cutting Jan. 24. Sixteen volunteers prepare tax returns through April at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 3439 on Honest John Road.

“We’re very excited that we could staff and open again given the pandemic that we’re in,” Rachael Yeoman, the tax center manager, said. “We’re going to have the same practice that we had last year. So we’re going to be open Monday through Friday 8:30 (a.m.) to 4 (p.m.). Drop-offs will be from 8:30-12:30 and pickups will be from 1 to 4. We’re open from now to the end of April.

“We would also encourage people to come in sooner rather than later as the IRS has already announced significant delays are expected.”

Services are provided to the military community on a first-come, first-served basis, no appointments. Bring all tax documents, previous year’s tax return, and completed intake form.

“Thanks to all the volunteers for making this hopefully another successful season,”

Col. Chuck Halverson, the staff judge advocate for the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said.

Nat Causey, chief counsel for AMCOM, joined him and several volunteers in cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

“This has been a great operation ever since I’ve been here – 14 years ago,” Causey said. “This is about taking care of Soldiers and their families. This is a great initiative.”

Lisa McCrary, 58, of Huntsville, has been a tax center volunteer 24 years, including 12 years at Redstone. The wife of retired Maj. Jud McCrary, she volunteered throughout her husband’s career.

“I started doing it because I had small children at home and I needed an out, something to do,” McCrary said. “I love helping the Soldiers and retirees. It’s been something I’ve been able to do at every installation we’ve moved to throughout our Army career.”

Retired Lt. Col. Eric Deets, 75, of Huntsville, is in his 10th year as a volunteer at the center. His other volunteer activities include an organization called Senior Cadre of Retired Executives, or SCORE, which is under the Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C.; and he serves as the biographer for the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes. He is a Vietnam veteran.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Cutting the ribbon Jan. 24 for the Redstone Tax Center are, from left, volunteers Lisa McCrary and Eric Deets; Col. Chuck Halverson, the staff judge advocate for the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal; Nat Causey, chief counsel for AMCOM; and volunteers Jenn Mills and Sandy Hovde.

“There’s this thing that is hard to describe that says ‘I want to help,’” Deets said. “And that’s what we all do in there is that we all help our service members and families.”

Deets mentioned one of the center’s annual customers, a 90-year-old widow from World War II. “She comes in because she likes to have some social interaction with the military. When we’re all done, she says

thank you. So that is our reward.”

The volunteers include Jenn Mills, Min Wallace, Eric Deets, Lisa McCrary, Cheryl Burns, Lee Smith, Sandy Hovde, Jan Berry, Lindsay Coop, John Patch, Rob Morris, Emily Hsi, Katherine Karlinger, Cathy Johnson, Greg Knight and Ed Sekerak. Serving as the center’s attorney is Dustin Bowen, the chief of legal assistance.

Federal

Space station research improves life on Earth

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

More than 3,000 experiments have been conducted aboard the International Space Station during the 21 years humans have been living and working in space. These experiments have provided insights helping improve life back on Earth and explore farther into the solar system. Researchers have shared these results in thousands of scientific publications.

The Payload Operations Integration Center at Marshall Space Flight Center oversees all experiments and science communications aboard the station. It is staffed around the clock, 365 days per year.

Here are some of the important new discoveries and inventions made thanks to space station research and technology demonstrations:

Closing the water loop for exploration: Future deep space exploration missions will require spacefarers to have a nearly self-contained water system in which they can recover, recycle, and reuse more than 98% of the water loaded aboard their spacecraft from the beginning of their mission. The Urine Processor Assembly, part of the station's environmental control and life support system, can achieve close to 94% recovery, but some water remains in the brine waste product after urine is processed, and that water has potential to be recovered. The new Brine Processor Assembly is a technology demonstration system that is now recovering that water on station.

The Brine Processor Assembly technology demonstration has completed five de-watering cycles. Bladders from these operational runs are planned to return to Earth on the SpaceX Dragon capsule and will be analyzed to confirm assembly efficiency. All indications from in-orbit telemetry are that the assembly is functioning as intended. Paragon Space Development Corporation of Tucson, Arizona, developed the assembly in cooperation with Marshall and NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Mixing cement in space to learn to construct Moon bases: Lunar regolith simulant, mock lunar soil that emulates the properties of material from the Moon, has been used to create metals, glasses and cement on Earth. The Microgravity Investigation of Cement Solidification study conducted aboard the station recently published results examining JSC-1A for its potential use as a lunar construction material. Researchers found a fine portion of lunar soil simulant can be used as a cement supplement, a coarse portion can be used as filler, and that mixing the lunar regolith simulant, cement and water results in a hardy mortar. These results indicate it might be feasible to use lunar dust as a material for building lunar bases.

The Redwire Regolith Print study launched aboard the Northrop Grumman Cygnus on its 16th commercial resupply services mission builds on these results, using a JSC-1A/polymer mixture to see if regolith can be used for 3D printing to study the feasibility of printing structures on the Moon or Mars. Marshall's Christopher Roberts, Tracie Prater and Alex Blanchard are collaborators on the Redwire study.

The study also investigated the effect of micrograv-



NASA photo by Robert Markowitz

Tish is preflight imagery of the Brine Processor Assembly. Its dual-membrane bladder works to recover additional water from urine brine.

ity on the reaction that occurs when cement and water are mixed together. Results recently published in ScienceDirect showed that the cement mixed in space had a microstructure marked by long lines and more trapped air than cement created on Earth. By learning this aboard the space station, scientists can better anticipate the strength of cement structures in space, and the results will contribute to the development of new materials for the construction of extraterrestrial habitats.

A new way to grow plants in space: The Passive Orbital Nutrient Delivery System is a newly patented plant growth approach that was tested aboard the

station to water plants both in Earth's gravity and microgravity. The system provides reliable water delivery to seeds, transports water from a reservoir, and provides nutrients and aeration to roots. The system is passive, meaning it operates with no electricity, no pumps and no moving parts. On future deep space missions, astronauts could use this method to grow fresh vegetables to supplement their diet as they venture deeper into space.

Communicating back home: SOLISS, a small Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency communication terminal attached to the station, was tested for its laser

See Research on page 30

Research

Continued from page 29

pointing accuracy. The SOLISS team published their results detailing how they succeeded in establishing a bidirectional optical Ethernet link between low-Earth orbit and the ground. This technology transmits information faster than ever before, potentially supporting Earth's needs while supplying needed capabilities as humans travel farther from Earth.

Studying effects of space radiation on fertility: The Space Pup experiment sent mouse sperm samples to the station and returned the samples to Earth at different times, first at nine months, then two years and nine months, and finally after 5 years and 10 months – the longest time period any samples have been preserved in station biological research. The intent was to determine the effects of space radiation on DNA mutations. New results published in *Science Advances* from the experiment indicate that space radiation did not affect mouse sperm DNA or fertility and yielded normal offspring on Earth with the same success rate as ground controls.

Sustaining life beyond Earth either on space stations or other planets requires a clear understanding of how the space environment affects mammalian fertility. Before this experiment, only non-mammalian reproductivity had been studied in space.



NASA photo

European Space Agency astronaut Alexander Gerst works on the Microgravity Investigation of Cement Solidification experiment aboard the International Space Station. Observations of how cement reacts in space during the hardening process may help engineers better understand its microstructure and material properties, which could improve cement processing techniques on Earth and lead to the design of safe, lightweight space habitats.



NASA photos

Space agency update

Leaders of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center listen as Associate Director, Technical, Larry Leopard, top right, reads a question during the first all-hands meeting of the new year in a live virtual address Jan. 31. The leaders discussed recent accomplishments, continuing to work through the COVID-19 pandemic, and the future of work before answering questions submitted by team members. Marshall Director Jody Singer, top left, discussed Marshall leadership changes, including welcoming new Associate Director Rae Ann Meyer, bottom right. Singer highlighted ongoing work with NASA's Space Launch System, as well as support Marshall provides for the Human Landing System, the International Space Station, and other science and technology missions. "It is amazing when you see dreams become reality," Singer said. "We're approaching the first launch of SLS with the Artemis I mission, and it's only possible because of what you have done. It's such an important part of writing the next chapter of history." Deputy Director Rick Burt, bottom left, discussed milestones reached for the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer, the James Webb Space Telescope, and the Commercial Crew Program, each of which have significant contributions from Marshall. Meyer spoke about telework and team members remaining flexible while continuing to navigate the pandemic. She said discussions continue about the future of the center's work environment. "I know it can be frustrating to be continually disrupted by COVID, and your safety remains our priority," Meyer said.



NASA photo by Danielle Burleson

Marshall flags

The U.S. and NASA flags atop building 4200, left, Marshall Space Flight Center's original central laboratory and office building, were retired Jan. 21. Building 4200 served as Marshall's headquarters from 1963 to 2021, when it was decommissioned. A flag-raising ceremony marking the transfer of Marshall headquarters to building 4221, right, was held Jan. 26. The doors to building 4221 opened on Earth Day, April 22, 2019.

Sports

Paralympics Cycling Open returning to Rocket City

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

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The upcoming U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open in Huntsville will feature a veteran lineup of competitors.

“Veteran” as in military veteran.

“A high percentage of the athletes, about 25%, are veterans,” said Ian Lawless, director of the U.S. Olympics Paracycling. “Hopefully, we’ll have many, if not more, in April.”

“The athletes had an absolutely amazing time in 2021.”

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle announced Feb. 2 that the city will once again host the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open. Huntsville hosted the initial competition last year which also was a qualifier for the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Team for the 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

“Huntsville is becoming a destination for large sporting events,” the mayor said. “And we welcome athletes from all over the United States.”

The event is April 8-10 and will host the inaugural handcycling relay with the U.S. team racing against Team Mexico and Team Canada on a downtown course, which includes Big Spring Park. The other events will be on a course through Cummings Research Park.

“If you didn’t get a chance to see these athletes last year, they are exciting and they are outstanding,” Battle said.

And, he said, there is a treat for the fans downtown – a food truck event, “something we all can participate in.”

Patty Dare with Raytheon Technologies, one of the local sponsors, volunteered for last year’s event and saluted the veterans who will be competing.

“The veterans who participate, it was an awesome honor” to work with them, she said. “What a joy and honor to meet them and hear their stories.”

Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Alabama is the presenting sponsor for the second year and company President Jason Puckett said it’s “a wonderful opportunity” to showcase Huntsville and “I hope to have a loud Toyota cheering section for you.”

This will be the first competition of the year for the cyclists and Lawless said this year’s event will feature athletes from other countries. It is sanctioned by the UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale), the Switzerland-based world governing body for sports cycling and oversees international competitive cycling events.

“More than 100 athletes will participate in this international event,” he said. “It’s hard to know exactly how many athletes due to the pandemic and travel restrictions.”

Air Force veteran Ryan Pinney said he’s eager to return to Huntsville.

“I’m looking forward to racing in the Rocket City again,” he said. “I’m excited about the course in Cummings Research Park – it’s fast and technical.”



U.S. Paralympics Cycling photo

Air Force veteran Ryan Pinney will be competing in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open in Huntsville.



See Cycling on page 36

Photo by Erin Elise

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle discusses the 2022 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open scheduled April 8-10.

Cycling

Continued from page 35

Pinney flew 100 combat missions in the Middle East before a spinal cord injury ended his career. He now competes with the Air Force Wounded Warriors and Paralyzed Veterans of America racing teams.

The Arizona resident said he was impressed by the reception the athletes received last year.

“They were eager to learn, know and help,” Pinney said. “It really showed their genuine side in wanting to get to know us.”

Photo by Erin Elise

Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Alabama is the presenting sponsor for the second year and company President Jason Puckett says it's “a wonderful opportunity” to showcase Huntsville. At right is Mayor Tommy Battle.



1926 Rose Bowl put southern football on map

It is known as The Game That Changed the South.

The University of Alabama football team, making their first bowl appearance, traveled to Pasadena for the 1926 Rose Bowl. The Crimson Tide was 9-0 but was a decided underdog against Washington (10-0-1) in the New Year's classic.

The Huskies jumped out to a 12-0 half-time lead but missed both extra points. Alabama answered with 20 points in the third quarter, including two touchdowns by Johnny Mack Brown. The Crimson Tide held on to win 20-19 and earned their first national championship.

Brown, the Tide's star running back from Dothan, went on to a long career as a movie actor, mostly in westerns.

This game was a watershed moment in southern football history. Alabama put this region on the national map for college football prowess.

Imagine what it would have been like to be in the stands watching that game. You can find historic black-and-white photos by searching the Internet. I would have

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn

Rocket editor

loved interviewing both coaches, Alabama's Wallace Wade and Washington's Enoch Bagshaw, and of course Brown.

I would have written my story on a manual typewriter, maybe while sitting in the press box next to famed sportswriter Damon Runyan.

Even in defeat, Washington's George "Wildcat" Wilson was named the game's most outstanding player. Despite being knocked out of the game for 22 minutes due to an injury, he still rushed for 134 yards and completed five passes for 77 yards and two touchdowns.

Alabama was led by quarterback Al-lison "Pooley" Hubert and halfback Brown. I would have picked Brown as the MVP. The Crimson Tide rode their future Hollywood cowboy to victory that day.

Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?

“I got two ducks with one shot,” Paul Taylor, a retired manufacturing engineer in Madison, said. “It was 2011 on Wapole Island in Ontario, Canada. The birds were coming in and I got two of them with one shot. I was using a 20-gauge, 3-inch magnum shotgun. It was probably 35 to 40 yards away. It was probably about 8 in the morning. I’ve been hunting 74 years. This happens very rarely, maybe one in a thousand shots. It made me feel excellent and surprised.”

Taylor, 84, from Cleveland, Ohio, served in the Navy from 1959-63 and left as a lieutenant. He spent 31 years as a manufacturing engineer until retiring in 1994 as vice president and part owner of a company. He and his wife of 62 years, Patricia, have four children – two sons and two daughters – and 14 grandchildren. Taylor enjoys playing golf, hunting, walking and flyfishing. He roots for the Cleveland Browns.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Paul Taylor, of Madison, enjoys playing golf at the Links.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone's Khalil Jones scores late in the third quarter against Lakewood's Kinsley Mathews (23).

6U Redstone warms up, pulls away from Lakewood

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Despite outnumbering their opponent, the Redstone 6-and-under team struggled early against Lakewood.

And then their shots started falling.

Khalil Jones and Beau Daniel scored six points apiece as Redstone beat Lakewood 14-6 on Jan. 31 at the Youth Center. Lakewood led 4-2 after one quarter.

"It was fun," Jones, the point guard, said. He finished with 10 rebounds, four steals and two assists for Redstone (6-2).

Daniel, post/guard, had six rebounds and six steals.

"It was a pretty good game," Redstone coach Darelle Jones said. "Missed too many layups. But all-in-all, a good game."

Redstone led 6-4 at halftime and 14-4 after three quarters.

Kinsley Mathews had four points and four steals for Lakewood (2-3). The visitors returned to Lakewood for a game the next night against a fellow Lakewood team.

"Good game," Lakewood coach Jonathan Cantrell said. "Played with great energy, great attitude. We came up a little bit short but we're right back in action tomorrow."



8U Redstone team shines on defense

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The Redstone 8-and-under team practiced their trapping defense in pregame warmups. And then they executed in the game.

Carter Paulino and Roshann Brown scored 10 points apiece as Redstone blanked American, 32-0 on Thursday at the Youth Center. Redstone led 22-0 at halftime.

"It was a great game. Good team win," Redstone coach Ronald Miller said. "Defense won the game."

Paulino, point guard, made seven steals for Redstone (6-1). Brown had four steals.

"It was a very good game," Paulino, 7, said. "The other team, they were great. They stopped us a couple of times. And at the end we just worked our hardest and won."

Adam Trenkle and William Troyer had three rebounds apiece for American. The Rockets finished their season at 1-8.

"It was a tough loss," Rockets coach Ashley Haraway said. "But we enjoyed our season immensely."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone point guard Carter Paulino races up court making a steal. Giving chase is American's William Troyer (10).

By the numbers ... Love songs for Valentine's Day

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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1. **Your Song (Elton John)**
2. **I Will Always Love You (Whitney Houston)**
3. **Unchained Melody (The Righteous Brothers)**
4. **My Girl (The Temptations)**
5. **Crazy for You (Madonna)**
6. **Here and Now (Luther Vandross)**
7. **Up Where We Belong (Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes)**
8. **Always and Forever (Heatwave)**
9. **I Don't Want to Miss a Thing (Aerosmith)**
10. **Something (The Beatles)**
11. **This Magic Moment (The Drifters)**
12. **I'll Be There (Jackson 5)**
13. **I Would Die 4 U (Prince)**
14. **Endless Love (Lionel Richie and Diana Ross)**
15. **Maybe I'm Amazed (Paul McCartney)**
16. **Kiss From A Rose (Seal)**
17. **Let's Stay Together (Al Green)**
18. **Ain't No Mountain High Enough (Marvin Gaye)**
19. **When We Were Young (Adele)**
20. **The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face (Roberta Flack)**
21. **Precious Love (Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell)**

See? Like I said.
Raised by wolves!

What I see is a young man
who's concerned about
the planet!

This doesn't
belong, and
this doesn't...



Sports&Recreation

Pagano Gym locker rooms

Due to necessary work by Directorate of Public Works, the ladies locker room at Pagano Gym was closed through Feb. 7. Showers and lockers were unavailable during that time. You can also visit the Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Work continues in the men's locker room from Feb. 7-18. While showers are open, lockers are limited. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff members appreciate your patience and understanding.

Bass/kayak tournament

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Army Aviation Association of America will sponsor their annual Bob Vlasic Classic Bass/Kayak Tournament at Jackson County Park, May 12. Entry is \$30 for kayakers and \$60 for boaters and will launch at safe light 5:30 a.m., weigh in 2 p.m. There is a 100% payout. Places will be determined by number of entries and five fish total: (length) Kayak and (weight) Boat. There is also Big Fish (length) prize for Kayak, \$200; and Big Fish (weight) prize for Boat, \$400. A picnic will follow. For more information, call Kayak: Mitch Delk 755-0730 and Boater: Rich Arnold 842-9061.

Senior softball

Get into the swing of senior slow-pitch softball. They have three leagues beginning with the Rockets League for those 55 and older, the Recreation League for those 63 and older, and the Triads for 71 and up. All games will be played at Bragan Springs Park, fields 1 and 2. Practices will begin in late March, and their seasons will begin in late April. They play two games a week, ending around Labor Day. Players are needed. For information email Huntsville-srsoftball-info@google-groups.com or call Becky Rollston of the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center at 880-7081.

Conferences&Meetings

Sergeants major association

The Sergeants Major Association is meeting every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room of Garrison headquarters building 4488 on Martin Road. If you are not able to attend in person, you can still attend through Zoom. Attendees must download the Zoom app on either their home computer, laptop or mobile device to participate. Once you get into the Zoom app, you will see Meeting ID number. Type in 710 211-4188. Then you will see the "Join meeting" button. If you have problems getting into Zoom, call retired Sgt. Maj. Willene Orr (410) 533-2685.

Warrant officer association

The Redstone Arsenal Silver Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association continues to meet monthly at 11:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday via Zoom. They look forward to in-person meetings at the Redstone Lanes bowling center later this year. For a virtual meeting link, email retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Weist at mweist63@gmail.com.

Veterans of foreign wars

VFW Gentry-Isom 2702 meets the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in its post home on the corner of Sparkman Drive and 2900 North Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Bobby Lee Jr. (931) 265-5685 or email bobbyleejr01@gmail.com.

Blacks in government

Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government has its general membership meeting the third Thursday of the month via Zoom at 7 p.m. BIG functions as a knowledgeable, problem-identifying and solving organization for civil servants. For more information email Mary Peoples at maryd6519@gmail.com.

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 conducts a monthly meeting every second Saturday of the month at noon at the American Legion Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. The detachment is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The league is a veterans/military service organization formed to promote the interest of the Marine Corps, to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps. For information call Commandant Earl Hokanson 881-2852, Senior Vice Commandant Albert Mallory 379-2904 or Adjutant Stephen Cecil 829-1839.

Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, will resume its meetings soon; time and place to be determined. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

Vietnam veterans

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1067, meets the second Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue. For information visit www.vietvethsv.org.

MiscellaneousItems

Men's ministry

Men's Ministry addresses the needs of men and plants seeds for spiritual growth in Christ. Call Harry Hobbs at 783-1793 for more information.

Young citizen of month

Do you know a young citizen in grades

RocketAnnouncements

7-12 who has done something special and deserves recognition? Rocket City Broadcasting/Community Awareness for Youth conduct the Young Citizen of the Month award program. Each month's recipient will meet the Huntsville mayor and City Council members, receive a Huntsville Human Relations Commission certificate and other prize packages. Sponsors include Rocket City Broadcasting, Huntsville Utilities, Huntsville Optimist Club, Huntsville Police Department, CAFY and the Florida Institute of Technology Huntsville Site. To nominate a young citizen, visit mystar991.com or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

ACS volunteers needed

Army Community Service seeks volunteers for its information and referral desk in the Pershing Welcome Center, building 3443 on Aerobee Road. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. You get to build a rapport with the community. You're supporting Soldiers, family members and civilians. If interested call Stephanie Young 876-6661.

Lifesaving class for Redstone

Redstone fire department offers a "Stop the Bleed" program which teaches how to use a tourniquet and stop major bleeding. Anyone on post is invited to take the class. "It's free. They get a certificate afterward, and they get a lifesaving skill," lead instructor Ian Voisine, fire captain/paramedic at Station 1 on Rideout Road, said. To schedule a free four-hour class, call Station 1 at 842-2584.

Merit award scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club will award educational merit awards in 2022 to eligible students who are affiliated with and acting as contributing members of the Redstone military and government civilian community. There are two types of scholarships to apply for this year: RSAMCC Merit Award, for members of the club and their dependents; and the Military Community Scholarship, where applicants do not need to be a member of the club. More information and the online application form can be found on the RSAMCC webpage, www.rsamcc.org/merit-awards. The deadline to apply is midnight Feb. 27. For information email rsamccmeritawards@gmail.com. RSAMCC is a 501c private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Tax assistance center

Aviation and Missile Command's Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar took a moment to meet with and thank the volunteers who will be manning this year's Redstone

Arsenal Tax Center. The tax assistance center is open through April from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 3439 on Honest John Road. Services are provided to the military community on a first-come, first-served basis, no appointments. Bring all tax documents, previous year's tax return, and completed intake form.

Comedy show/dinner

North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition will present "An Evening of Laughter with Jody Fuller" comedy show and dinner April 2 at The Summit. Tickets are \$50 per person, dinner included. Social starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner/show at 6. Purchase tickets online at <https://contacc3fE2KjL> or contact KC Bertling at 541-0450 or presidentcoalition@gmail.com.

Thrift Shop update

The Redstone Thrift Shop's shopping hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. They are open the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignment hours are Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m. The shop always needs volunteers. For information call 881-6992.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Jan. 24-28. The highest scores included The Fresh Market Inc. (Produce), 4800 Whitesburg Drive, 100; Nothing But Noodles at Northrop Grumman, 5000 Bradford Drive NW, 100; Urban Cookhouse at Northrop Grumman, 213 Wynn Drive NW, 100; The Casual Pint doing business as J2Dettman, 2 Off Broadway St., Suite 1, 100; Walmart 6878 (Fueling Kiosk), 14595 B Highway 231/431 North, Hazel Green, 100; Urban Cookhouse at Aerojet AMF, 7800 Pulaski Pike, Toney, 100; Publix Super Market 1218 (Bakery), 5850 Highway 53, Harvest, 100; Marissa's Grille, 9655 Pulaski Pike, Unit D, Toney, 100; Harvest Nutrition, 5850 Highway 53, Harvest, 100; The Dessert Fork, 107 Brookridge Drive, Madison, 100; Rhythm on Monroe (Rooftop), 700 Monroe St., 100; Governors Medical Tower-C Store, 200 Governors Drive, 100; and Apple Lane Farms Madison LLC, 1430 Wall Triana Highway, Madison, 100. The lowest scores included Urban Cookhouse, 325 The Bridge Street, 82; and Dunkin Donuts, 1221 North Memorial Parkway, 73.