

### Army completes, releases digital Blue Book A7

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### Sportsmen's Center Snack Bar, Pro Shop, Recreation Equipment Checkout permanently closes next month

The Recreation Equipment Checkout and Sportsman's Center Snack Bar and Pro Shop will permanently close Nov. 15 due to budgetary constraints. The Sportsman's Center trap and skeet range will remain open. However, there may be minor disruptions during its transition to the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's recreation programs.

### Fort Cavazos hosts Retiree Appreciation Days

Fort Cavazos will hold its 49th annual Retiree Appreciation Days Friday and Saturday. The opening ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday in the main foyer of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center. Prior to the opening ceremony, there will be breakfast. Afterward, there will be a county fair, lunch and a 1st Cavalry Division Horse Detachment demonstration.

Friday, there will be a golf tournament for retirees at 9 a.m. at the Courses of Clear Creek, as well as a Bingo Social at 5:30 p.m. at the Phantom Warrior Center.

There will also be legal assistance with the Fort Cavazos Legal Assistance Office from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, and the ID Cards Facility will be open for walk-ins, for retirees and their family members from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

For more information about the Retiree Appreciation Days, contact the Fort Cavazos Retirement Services Office at 254-287-8761.

### Fort Cavazos organizations hold Halloween events

The Community Events and Bingo Center will host a "Ghostbusters"-themed bingo for children ages 2-17, 11 a.m. Saturday. The cost is \$7.50, with lunch included. Doors will open at 10 a.m., and goodie bags will be given to all children. Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will also have a trunkor-treat in the parking lot for attendees. Costumes are encouraged. For more information, call the center at 254-532-9253.

Additionally, the Fort Cavazos Exchange is hosting two trunk or treats. The first is from 1-4 p.m. Saturday at Comanche Express, located at 52021 Tank Destroyer Blvd. The second is from 4-6 p.m. Saturday at the Main Exchange. There will be candy, games, music, face painting and prizes at both events.

The United Service Organizations Fort Cavazos is also hosting a trunk or treat from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday in their parking lot. This event is open to the Fort Cavazos community and does not require registration.

### **Road closes Monday**

Legends Way and 24th Street between Olden Avenue and 16th Street will be closed 5-6:30 a.m. Monday. Please plan accordingly.



Photo by Samantha Harms, Command Information Chief

Chris Joplin, volunteer with Cowboys 4 Heroes, brings hot coals from a fire to sit on a pot; inside the pot are homemade biscuits. Biscuits are just one of the many items served during Cowboys 4 Heroes Bumpers and BBQ event Saturday at Fort Cavazos.

# Cowboys 4 Heroes, DFMWR support morale of Soldiers

### **BY SAMANTHA HARMS**

Command Information Chief

The smell of barbecue wafted through the air as dozens of people began lining up early to try one of the many offerings at this year's Cowboys 4 Heroes Bumpers and BBQ event Saturday at the Phantom Warrior Center.

The annual event provides attendees with an authentic chuck wagon barbecue experience, cooking food over open fire and wood-burning stoves, along with the chance to shop at local vendor booths, enjoy a pumpkin patch, rock climb, ride the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area train and vote on their favorite modern or classic car.

"Cowboys 4 Heroes comes out to honor the veterans and the active-duty — the first responders," said Norma Hernandez, Fort Cavazos Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation community activities coordinator. "It's their way of giving back to them and honoring

See Cowboys 4 Heroes, A6

## New type of Stryker unit modernizes air defense systems

### BY SGT. NICHOLAS LAROCCO 7th MPAD

A new Stryker unit has been designated to 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. This development marks a pivotal step in modernizing air defense systems to combat evolving threats in contemporary warfare environments by enhancing battlefield capabilities.

Staff Sgt. Craig Jordan is Alpha Battery's master gunner for 6-56 ADAR's newly formed unit. He plays an integral role in training and verifying the lethality and effectiveness of the unit's new weapons systems.

"We're on the A1 Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) Stryker that comes with a reconfigurable integrated weapons platform," Jordan said. "We started fielding the Strykers in late 2023, early 2024, and this is our second battery we're doing crew-level evaluations for."

The M1265A1 SHORAD Stryker is a versatile and highly mobile air defense platform capable of countering a variety of aerial threats, including drones, helicopters and low-flying aircraft. Recently, the SHORAD Stryker was renamed the "Sgt. Stout" in honor of Sgt. Mitchell W. Stout, the only air defense artillery Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor.

Utilizing the M1265A1, 6-56 ADAR adopts a variation of Stryker tailored for air defense; Jordan provides insights into this vehicle's specifications.

"It has a Stinger Vehicle Universal Launcher pod that holds four missiles, a XM914 30 mm cannon and the 7.62 M240 machine gun," Jordan said. By integrating the weapon systems of the Sgt. Stout in accordance with advanced radar systems and missile technology, the SHORAD Stryker enhances the 6-56 ADAR's ability to provide critical air defense coverage, particularly in fast-paced and dynamic operational settings.

The deployment of the SHO-RAD Stryker within the 1st Cav. Div. aligns with broader military strategies focused on increasing the mobility and responsiveness of air defense units.

"With the newer threats the Army is facing when it comes to aerial threats, adding a Stryker unit to air defense emphasizes the necessity of incorporating air defense into the close-range fight or into the maneuver force," Jordan said. "The SHORAD will help close the gap



Photo by Sgt. Nicholas LaRocco, 7th MPAD

A M1265A1 Short Range Air Defense Stryker from 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, fires a XM914 30 mm cannon during the anti-air defense portion of Table VI iterations for crew qualification gunnery Oct. 14 at Dalton Mountain Multiuse Range at Fort Cavazos.

See Stryker, A6

Fort Cavazos digs into fitness with ground-breaking ceremony



Photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor

Fort Cavazos leadership and representatives from the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and Kompan, a company that designs and constructs playground and fitness sites, participate in a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Abrams Outdoor Fitness Park Oct. 16 behind Abrams Physical Fitness Center at Fort Cavazos.

### **BY BLAIR DUPRE**

Sentinel News Editor

The sound of an excavator and a small bulldozer demolishing an outdoor basketball court echoed as people gathered Oct. 16 behind Abrams Physical Fitness Center for the Abrams Outdoor Fitness Park ground-breaking ceremony at Fort Cavazos.

The new facility, funded by Installation Management Command, will feature workout stations with equipment for different types of workouts, a multiuse court, walking/running track, play areas for children and more. There is no other like it in the Army, and the aim of the \$2-million facility is to give families a place where adults can focus on their physical fitness, however they see fit, while still being near their children.

"(This facility) symbolizes not only our commitment to fitness but our dedication to innovation, readiness and community well-being," said Col. Lakicia Stokes, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Cavazos commander, during the ceremony. "Physical fitness has always been a cornerstone of military readiness and building resilient units, Soldiers, families and communities. We recognize that the way we train must evolve to meet the challenges of tomorrow — this park represents that evolution.

"What makes the Abrams Outdoor Fitness Park unique is its holistic approach," she continued. "It's not just a place to conduct strength training or run laps. It's about creating a space that offers something for everybody in our community — Soldiers, families and civilians. We believe that

# **III Armored Corps makes difference**



Photo by Blair Dupre, Sentinel News Editor Soldiers assist with disposing of trash gathered at the installation during Spring Cleanup April 15 at Fort Cavazos.

### BY COL. KAMIL SZTALKOPER

III Armored Corps Public Affairs Director

In 1992, Make A Difference Day was created to inspire Americans to improve their communities through volunteer work. Over the past 32 years, this day has grown into a powerful movement, bringing millions together to help those in need.

Each year, on the fourth Saturday in October, people participate in various acts of service. From cleaning up litter to providing

meals for the homeless, it's a day dedicated to looking beyond ourselves and making a positive impact.

As service members, we understand the values behind Make A Difference Day. Our all-volunteer military relies on individuals who commit to serving others. Just weeks ago, many of

our Soldiers rushed to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, 18,000 Soldiers worked tirelessly to save lives.

The Soldiers of III Armored Corps exemplify this spirit of service. Earlier this year, after tornadoes hit Temple and Belton, Texas, our Phantom Warriors, led by Headquarters Support Company 1st Sgt. Robert Weicht and his wife Britnia, have helped more



Kamil Sztalkoper

nities, or reach out to local shelters, the YMCA and food banks for off-post volunteer opportunities.

than 180 families recover from the

Our civilians at Fort Cavazos

are no exception when it comes to

serving our community. In Sep-

tember, Yvette Flah, Paul Joseph

and Maddie Moortel from the Fort

Cavazos Education Center led an

outreach event called "Pitch-a-Dol-

lar Day" to raise funds for the Fam-

ilies in Crisis Shelter. Their efforts

allowed them to purchase a cake,

gifts and party favors for families

at the shelter to put smiles on the

faces of children and parents alike.

This Saturday, National Make

A Difference Day is

a chance for all units,

Soldiers and families

of III Armored Corps

to make a difference

again. We encour-

age you to connect

with the Army Vol-

unteer Corps, United

Service Organiza-

tions and Ameri-

can Red Cross for

on-post opportu-

tornadoes.

Remember, this day is just the beginning. We hope to see Phantom Warriors out in our communities Saturday and continuing to help in the future. Every small act of kindness makes our country stronger. Let's embrace the spirit of Make A Difference Day and continue to work together for a brighter future.





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# **GREAT PEOPLE AT THE GREAT PLACE**

On the fourth Saturday of October, celebrate National Make A Difference Day — an opportunity to come together and create lasting change in our communities.

### **SGT. ASHER ATKINSON**

III Armored Corps Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Sumiyabanu Wilson, attack helicopter repairer, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, is originally from Gujarat, India. Wilson moved to the Bronx borough of New York City in 2018 to be with her family, and after arriving in the U.S., Wilson struggled to settle on a career. In 2019 she enlisted in the Army to explore her opportunities and work in aviation.

"I found the best option, which was the Army," Wilson said.

She has been fascinated with aviation and the concept of physics, aerodynamics and engineering since she was young. Before joining the Army, she earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, with honors, from the University of Bolton at Bolton, England. Since enlisting, Wilson used the Army's Tuition Assistance, or TA, program to earn her master's degree in aviation maintenance, with distinction, from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at Daytona Beach, Florida. Her decision to enlist was created from her desire for independence and continuing education.

"The whole plan (was) to get into the military as a stepping stone and find a direction to move forward into," Wilson said. "Educationwise, I've earned a lot of certificates. I got my masters."

The TA program provides financial assistance for civilian education programs in support of a Soldier's professional and personal self-development goals. In fiscal year 2024, 5,642 Fort Cavazos Soldiers used TA for 14,593 courses, totaling over \$10 million of TA funding. Before obtaining TA, Soldiers must contact their education services specialist or visit the education center at Fort Cavazos' Soldier Development Center.

"Tuition assistance funding allows Soldiers to shape their careers and future goals through the pursuit of higher education while serving," said Keisha Hoffman, education service specialist at the Soldier Development Center.

Reflecting on her time in New York, Wilson had a difficult time adjusting to her environment and the culture that surrounded her. New York was not what she expected after living there for several months. Now, she believes joining the Army worked out for her in many ways.

"I have achieved a lot," Wilson said. "I made a lot of friends." Wilson's greatest challenges in her Army career so far has been her language barriers and rushing to complete tasks. She has since overcome her language barrier by watching television and reading books, allowing her to speak English with more confidence. She took up the "slow is smooth and smooth is fast" motto, allowing her to become an effective leader and focus on helping out her Soldiers.

Courtesv photo

"I know that whenever I get out of the Army, I know exactly which direction I'm going into," Wilson said of her future plans, one of which is to become a technical warrant officer before leaving the Army.

Wilson has inspired her two nieces with her growth in the Army. One of her nieces is considering participating in the U.S. Army Medical Program, while the other is a cadet in the Simultaneous Membership Program.



Photos by Sgt. Asher Atkinson, III Armored Corps Public Affairs

**LEFT**, Staff Sgt. Sumiyabanu Wilson, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, checks an AH-64 Apache Helicopter Oct. 8 at Fort Cavazos. She enlisted in the Army in 2019 to explore her opportunities and work in aviation. **RIGHT**, Wilson poses on an AH-64 Apache Helicopter on Oct. 8 at Fort Cavazos. She aspires to become a technical warrant officer.



Photos by Sgt. Alexander Chatoff, 89th MP Bde. Public Affairs Staff Sgt. Alexis Seales, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 89th Military Police Brigade dribbles a basketball against a high school student during the "Kids vs. Kops" event Oct. 16 at Bronco Youth Center at Fort Cavazos.



Spc. Abigale Niswander, 226th Military Working Dog Detachment, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, endures a bite as Spc. Gage Susino, 226th MWD Det., 720th MP Bn., 89th MP Bde., pulls off the bite from MWD Jago during a MWD demonstration Oct. 16 at Fort Cavazos.

# Youth, military police bridge gap through sporting event

### **SGT. ALEXANDER CHATOFF** 89th MP Bde. Public Affairs

**NEWS** 

In a display of community and camaraderie, the Fort Cavazos Child & Youth Services and the Cavalry Family Housing Resident Advisory Board hosted a "Kids vs. Kops" basketball game, where students from Killeen, Shoemaker, Harker Heights and Chaparral High Schools faced off against Soldiers from the 89th Military Police Brigade Oct. 26 at Bronco Youth Center at Fort Cavazos.

The event aimed to foster positive relationships between youth and law enforcement, breaking down barriers and dismissing negative stereotypes about police officers. Through friendly competition, the students were given the opportunity to see the Soldiers as individuals beyond their uniforms, showing the humanity of law enforcement personnel.

Ashley Floeder, event coordinator and member of the Resident Advisory Board, elaborated on the significance of the event and its broader impact on the Fort Cavazos community.

"Today is the very first 'Kids vs. Kops' event that is meant to put

tops even that is mean to put aspects of our responsibilities as

2nd Lt. Logan Bowling, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, performs a layup against high school students Oct. 16 at Bronco Youth Center at Fort Cavazos.

MPs into a more humane light in the eyes of the youth," Floeder said. "We want to show the teenagers that even MPs have a fun and goofy side while understanding they always have our safety as their number one priority."

In addition to the basketball game, the event featured a special military working dog, or MWD, demonstration by the 226th MWD Detachment, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th MP Bde. Attendees were given an up-close look at the skills and discipline of the dogs and their handlers.

"Being able to see these dogs in action and the training that they have is such a unique experience," Floeder said. "Usually, people only see these types of demonstrations in videos online, but this is an excellent opportunity for the youth to see the vast expertise of Soldiers within the Military Police Corps."

2nd Lt. Logan Bowling, a MP competitor from the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th MP Bde., expressed his excitement and importance of being part of this event.

"This really highlights the different aspects of our responsibilities as military police," Bowling said. "It really helps us show the youth, and their parents, that we can be approachable and we're here to assist, protect and defend the community members of this base. Any time you see an MP, they are really here for you."

A student competitor and senior from Shoemaker High School, Jarmal Gaines, shared his experience after their win over the Soldiers from the 89th MP Bde. 55-47.

"The basketball game really shows that MPs have lives outside of work, but also that they work for us too," Gaines said. "It has really helped us think of the bigger picture when it comes to the police and that they are more helpful and kind than what the news will ever tell you."

Khalif Richardson, another senior from Shoemaker High School, shared his experiences in participating in Kids vs. Kops.

"I do believe that these kinds of events can build a bond between kids and police," Richardson said. "Some kids are afraid of the police, but this can definitely help kids get to know the local police officers a little more and understand their job."

Through events like this, the bond between police and the public strengthens, reminding everyone that MPs are integral parts of the community, working to keep it safe.

"We're in charge of enforcing the law, and sometimes that can come off as a negative context to people that may not know exactly what our job entails," said Col. Jeremy Kerfoot, commander of the 89th MP Bde. "Events, such as this basketball game, in a community sense, helps build that bridge of potential divsion to show that MPs are humans and can have fun as well. Community policing like this helps us connect directly to the public, which are the people we serve."







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### **SGT. GABRIEL S. VILLALOBOS**

III Armored Corps Public Affairs

Honorable Shawn G. Skelly, who is performing the duties of the deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, visited multiple units on Fort Cavazos Oct. 7-8 to discuss various topics including quality of life, mental health and operational readiness.

During the two-day visit, Skelly held roundtable discussions with leadership of 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, where topics pertaining to the ADA branch were addressed. She also met separately with Brig. Gen. Robert G. Born, 1st Cavalry Division deputy commanding general of support, and Lt. Gen. Kevin D. Admiral, the commanding general of III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos, to talk about significant topics, including the impact of suicides within the armed forces and the resources available.

Discussion with Fort Cavazos

leaders focused on the People First Center, or PFC, where Soldiers can seek a variety of mental, emotional and spiritual support. Skelly modified her itinerary to watch a performance by the PFC cadre, allowing her to see how Fort Cavazos addresses these critical issues.

"Well-being is holistic," Skelly said. "Our personnel can perform at their best at work if we offer integrated services that look at every aspect of navigating life in the military. The PFC does just that. It was great to see and hear about the individualized support services they offer."

Fort Cavazos Soldiers from all ranks were able to talk with Skelly as she attended a luncheon with them at the Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dining Facility. The luncheon provided Soldiers a stage to be able to express their concerns with balancing home life with operational readiness and developing a higher quality of life. This occasion also allowed

Skelly to address some of the topics directly.

"She actually cares about the Soldiers; she wanted to know what the Department of Defense could do for us," said Staff Sgt. Kameron Pillow, 3rd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div. "It felt like my voice was actually being heard, my questions answered — it gave me assurance."

The visit also included discussions with the Scott Engel, director of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center Intrepid Spirit Center, which focuses on rehabilitation and treatment of active-duty military personnel who experience traumatic brain injuries. The talks pertained to blast overpressure, which is the shock wave caused by an explosion that results in a dramatic and instantaneous rise in ambient pressure. This is detrimental to soft tissue organs, including the brain. The DOD continues to prioritize

the well-being of its service members with a comprehensive approach to the management of risks from blast exposures involving risk mitigation focused on prevention through enhanced tracking and ongoing research.

"Our policy must be informed by practice and by the experience of our service members," Skelly said. "Interactions on trips like this provide those critical inputs that help senior leaders at the Pentagon ensure their voices are considered in the policymaking process."

In Skelly's current position, she develops, coordinates and integrates policies regarding force readiness, management and health affairs. She is also largely integrated in National Guard and Reserve Component matters, education, training and the requirements and management of civilian and military personnel. Skelly's oversight also includes equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation and quality of life affairs.



Well-being is holistic. Our personnel can perform at their best at work if we offer integrated services that look at every aspect of navigating life in the military.

- Hon. Shawn G. Skelly, performing the duties of deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness





Photos by Sgt. Jose Escamilla, III Armored Corps Public Affairs ABOVE, Honorable Shawn G. Skelly, who is performing the duties of

deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, speaks during a lunch Oct. 7 at Operation Iraqi Freedom Dining Facility at Fort Cavazos. RIGHT, Skelly visits Brig. Gen. Robert G. Born, 1st Cavalry Division deputy commanding general of support, with her military assistant, Col. Ada L. Cotto, to talk unit readiness during her visit Oct. 7 at Fort Cavazos. FAR RIGHT, Skelly coins Lt. Col. Kristin Leverett, III Armored Corps deputy G-1, Oct. 8 at the People First Center at Fort Cavazos.





ENUN APAGÓN. **UN BUEN** PLAN ILUMINARÁ MIS PASOS.

ANTES DE QUE PASE UN DESASTRE, TOMA EL CONTROL.





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13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26						
27	28	29	30	31								

Breakfast: 5:30-8:30 a.m. Sunday-Saturday .unch: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday-Saturday Dinner: 5-7:30 p.m. Sunday-Saturday COR: Richard Johnson: 254-535-6845

Building #56447 is only for overflow

(HOLIDAY): 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### Building #9205 **THEODORE ROOSEVELT** Battalion & 21st St.

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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### akfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Frida

Dunner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday Dinner: 5-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday COR: Richard Johnson: 254-535-6845

(BRUNCH/SUPPER): 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (BRUNCH/SUPPER): 5-6:30 p.m

#### **Old Ironsides and** CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD KIOSK **Pyongyang Drive**

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

BRK, LUN, DIN: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday

#### (WNK): 8 a.m.-6 p.m

### Food Advisor: CW2 Rogers: 931-378-2957

8	CULINARY OUTPOST FOOD TRUCK 2	1-44/4-5 ADA BN area parking Lot
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SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Breakfast: 7:30-9 a.m. Monday-Friday Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday Dinner: Closed

Food Advisor: W01 Greene: 843-901-0260

Culinary Outpost Food Truck 3 has the same hours of operation as Food Trucks 1 & 2, operating on an installation rotation

Installation Food Service: 287-6595 III Armored Corps Food Service: 287-0573

**Division Food Service: 287-3134** 



Volunteers plate beef tips with homemade biscuits for attendees during the annual Cowboys 4 Heroes Bumpers and BBQ event Saturday at Fort Cavazos.

# Serving support to heroes, communities

### Cowboys 4 Heroes: Continued from A1

them today."

The Houston-based organization was founded in 2009 to assist combat veterans during the challenging transition from active-duty to civilian life. The volunteers who comprise the organization help veterans with combat-related wounds of war as they and their families find and adjust to their new normal.

Since their inception, Cowboys 4 Heroes donors and volunteers have provided more than 1.5 million meals and nutritional support to active-duty military, veterans, their families and first responders. This is in addition to providing more than \$350,000 in educational support to Future Farmers of America and 4-H youth who raise the steer, which are locally processed and provided to the program partners to assist veterans and their families.

This year, they planned to serve around 18,000 meals to Soldiers, family members, retirees and Department of the Army civilians.

"When we first started doing this - the youth of Texas and then service members — it became such an easy group to serve," said Greg Liles, founder of Cowboys 4 Heroes. "It



Volunteers hand over a bowl of chili, one of many dishes available, for an attendee during the annual Cowboys 4 Heroes Bumpers and BBQ event Saturday at Fort Cavazos.

doesn't matter who you are, what side of the ledger you're on politically, male or female, young or old, — it doesn't matter. It's such an easy group to serve, and they're underserved in a lot of ways.

"People want to come serve," he continued. "We'll have around 200 people here today on cook team serving. They all come free. We love doing it. The sacrifices are real, and we're just trying to give back and say, 'Thank you."

Among those volunteers were Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from Texas A&M University, with the intent on giving back to the Central Texas community.

"The reason I came here today is because my corps commander is a very big advocate for volunteer service," explained Cadet Dallas Salazar, a senior at Texas A&M. "I really enjoy volunteer services at Texas A&M; they have this thing called the Big Event. It's a service opportunity that has the whole campus go out and help serve the local community. And I thought this would be an excellent

opportunity to get to meet new people and help volunteer and serve the local community."

Other cadets in attendance agreed. "This was just one of the ways I thought I could give back," said Cadet Natalie Perez, a sophomore at Texas A&M. "My dad was stationed on (then) Fort Hood for a very long time, so coming back around, giving back to the community that pretty much raised me, it was a really, really easy choice."

This is the fifth year for this event, which always has the intent to support the morale of the Soldiers stationed here.

"We want to make sure that the Soldiers know that they're appreciated, they're seen, they're heard, and there's people out there that are willing to come together and do something like this for them," Hernandez said.

"My team and I — we say this all the time: 'It's a labor of love,'" Hernandez added. "But as soon as we see all the crowds come out, ... we're all like, 'This is what we put together. This is what we did.' And we get a sense of joy and accomplishment in bringing this out to the community. We love it. It's just like I said. It's a labor of love, but we love it."

## Facility will provide fitness, fun



Photo by Sgt. Nicholas LaRocco, 7th MPAD

MQM-170 Outlaw drones prepare for takeoff in a holding area during the anti-air defense portion of Table VI for Alpha Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Oct. 14 at Dalton Mountain Multiuse Range at Fort Cavazos.

## 6-56 ADAR integrates new Stryker

### Stryker: Continued from A1

of engaging high-priority targets and the smaller targets that are harder to detect."

Over the last month, gunnery crew members from 6-56 ADAR's Alpha and Charlie Batteries have conducted qualification tables, as well as practical air defense maneuvering drills during an extensive field training exercise at Dalton Mountain Multiuse Range on Fort Cavazos.

"We're working toward building advanced gunnery tables," Jordan said. "These tables will essentially go from just showing crews how to use their weapons system lethally and shoot proficiently, to being able to fight proficiently as part of a maneuver force."

Focusing on the operation and maintenance of the SHORAD Stryker's complex systems, Jordan is working to create a standard for future training programs designed to ensure personnel are fully prepared to leverage the vehicle's capabilities effectively.

"We're looking at building section and platoon gunnery tables so that we can evaluate past the crew level," Jordan said. "We have to lay out a proper training guideline that will allow us to provide effective maneuver and short-range air defense for whatever asset or team we get embedded into."

This initiative is particularly timely

given the rising prominence of unmanned aircraft systems, or UAS, on the modern battlefield, which necessitates agile and adaptive defense solutions not previously capable with traditional stationary air defense methods.

"Being mobile, we're better able to integrate with forces that would need shortrange air defense, and we can provide a larger impact across the entire Army when it comes to a large-scale fight," Jordan said.

During the anti-air defense portion of Table VI qualifications, 6-56 ADAR utilizes MQM-170 Outlaw drones to provide Alpha Battery's gunnery crews with a realistic aerial training target.

"UASs are a realistic threat, and it's the most practical way for us to get aerial practice," Jordan said. "But we prepare for all types of low-flying aerial threats, including fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircrafts, as well as UAS."

As the 6-56 ADAR integrates the Sgt. Stout into their operations, the broader implications for both national defense and the strategic capabilities of the 1st Cav. Div. are substantial. The regiment has been given the unique opportunity to set the groundwork for how air defense Stryker crews will train and qualify in the future, which will, ultimately, allow for more efficiency both in training and in wartime.

### Groundbreaking: Continued from A1

supporting our Soldiers means supporting their families too, and this park reflects that belief. Moreover, this park will stand as a model for Army installations, demonstrating the Army's forward-thinking approach to Soldier and family fitness."

Brad Pittam, sales director, North American Agency Partners, Kompan, the company contracted to build the new facility, said the company has a 50-year history in play, and he is happy they are part of the project.

"It's a monumental change for the space," he said. "It's not fully utilized by the community here. Now we're going to change it to a space that will be engaging with the community. We try to create happier and healthier communities, and I think this (park) is going to do that."

Summer Inwood, chief of Sports Fitness and Aquatics for the Fort Cavazos Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said the ground-breaking event marked the culmination of four years of planning, and the facility will be a great place for families to gather.

"Army regulations really prevent children from accompanying the parents, spouses or active-duty, into the fitness facilities, so we really have to be creative and look for outdoor spaces where we can accommodate the need," she said. "This will be that. We will be able to provide a really great training modality - several modalities in fact. Whether it be group fitness or function fitness, CrossFit style, whether it be weight training — all of this will be encompassed by the ability to be able to bring your child into a safe environment while you work out."

Stokes concluded her remarks, just before the ground-breaking ceremony, by thanking the Soldiers and families of Fort Cavazos.

"Your hard work and dedication inspires us every day to bring facilities like this, which enhance both our physical and mental strength and the quality of life here at The Great Place," she said. "This park is for you, a space to push your limits, build each other up and prepare for the challenges that lie ahead. As we put the shovels in the ground today, let it be a symbol of our unwavering commitment to fitness, resilience and excellence."



Graphic courtesy of Kompan

A three-dimensional rendering shows what the new Abrams Outdoor Fitness Park will look like once it is completed. It's expected to be done February 2025.

NATION



Photo by Katisha Draughn-Fraguada, TRADOC Public Affairs

ABOVE, Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Harris, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, speaks about the development and release of the U.S. Army Blue Book at the sergeant major of the Army's "Leading Change Brief" Oct. 15 at the Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting. INSERT, Scan the QR code to view or download the Army's latest Blue Book.

# Army completes, releases digital Blue Book

### **SGT. MAJ. JASON STADEL**

**TRADOC** Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — During the "Leading Change Brief" at the annual Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting & Exposition Oct. 15 here, Sergeant Major of the Army Michael A. Weimer announced the Army has completed and released a digital Blue Book with a companion website. The Blue Book development was announced at last year's AUSA Annual Meeting.

"You can't build standards and discipline in a time of crisis," Weimer said last year. "If we're really going to be truly ready for largescale combat operations, we have to have those standards and discipline before we get called upon for that."

Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond S. Harris, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, was tasked to lead the Blue Book development.

"To meet the SMA's intent, we had to ensure that we created a digital version that can be accessed anywhere at any time on any device and that is what the team was able to do," Harris said.

The purpose of the Army Blue Book is to support history, heritage, lineage and standards and discipline while simultaneously reinforcing trust at echelon and strengthening the Army profession. The book also includes commonly violated or misunderstood standards.

The Blue Book is based on the original intent of Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus von Steuben's "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States" and will serve as the base for all unit standards books to create commonality and consistency throughout the Army.

The TRADOC team traveled to several installations across the Army to gather input for the Blue Book.

"We wanted to hear from the force during Blue Book development," said Sgt. Maj. Tyson Crosby, TRADOC Enlisted Initiatives Group and Blue Book lead planner. "We traveled to five installations, engaging with students and cadre from our noncommissioned officer academies. We also solicitated input and insight from senior Army leaders."

Although TRADOC was tasked with developing the Blue Book, Crosby said they wanted to ensure NCOs outside of TRADOC had input as well.

"The Blue Book mission was not a singular effort," Crosby said. "We received great input and feedback from across the Army, making it a collaborative work. The Blue Book is for the entire Army and our overall plan reflects that."

The final version of the Blue Book is 23 pages (three chapters), designed to be the first three chapters of a unit-level blue book. Once a user opens the Army Blue Book through the QR code, they can download the Blue Book progressive web app using the phones settings, which will create an app on the phone's screen.

In terms of usability, this will act no differently than app from an application store. Users can also download the app directly from the site itself.

Through Army University, TRADOC also developed a progressive web application centered around "Strengthening the Profession." The web app will serve as a leadership development and Army professionalism hub. It will also give users the ability to print a PDF version of the Blue Book. The Strengthening the Profession site will be contemporary, user friendly and will include hot topics, links to relevant sites and professional articles related

to strengthening the Army profession and leadership. TRADOC will be the proponent of the site with regular reviews and updates.

"The Army Blue Book was best developed as a PWA," said Matthew MacLaughlin, Army University's mobile division chief. "The instructional designers determined how the info in the book would be optimized for the format, and then the computer scientists built the framework to ensure the execution is seamless and for all screen sizes."

He added while native applications have their place, the PWA format for publications allows for faster updates and provide a nativeapp experience for the user. The website can detect the user's device type and will format accordingly.

Weimer said the Blue Book is for living by a standard and enforcing that standard amongst teams preparing for combat.

"Be disciplined and be brilliant at the basics," Weimer said.

TRADOC will review the Blue Book content often and conduct updates as necessary.

The new Blue Book can be viewed online at rdl.train.army.mil/catalog-ws/view/Army-Blue-Book/index.html or rdl.train.army.mil/ catalog-ws/view/The-Profession/index.html.





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### **SECTION B**

Sony A7 IV is my new daily workhorse ......B2

Energy Action Month, powering mission to support warfighter ..B3

**1CD commemorates 80 years since Leyte Landing .....B6** 



www.CavazosSentinel.com



Photos by Shawn Davis, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

Horseshoe Bay at Marble Falls, Texas, is dotted with vacation homes, hotels, marinas and so much more. It really is a hidden gem in the heartland of Texas.

# Marble Falls: Downtown you were looking for

### **BY SHAWN DAVIS**

Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

MARBLE FALLS, Texas -This November marks my first year living in Killeen. In my time spent learning its history, the resilliency of its people and tight-knit community, I've realized I want to explore more of the Lone Star State. So, I decided to travel here. If a developed waterfront paired with a vibrant historic downtown filled with parks, galleries, restaurants and local shops selling everything from gifts to confectioneries is your vibe, Marble Falls is the place to visit.

I felt a sense of familiarity in the bouquet of small shops and restaurants along Second Street, lined with eccentric sculptures, as the blue skies of Texas' "false fall" blended with the parched 90-degree heat across the rolling hills of the Texas heartland. The Colorado River, held back by Wirtz Dam, forms Lake Lyndon B. Johnson, creating a resort area less than 15 minutes away, known as Horseshoe Bay. I decided to visit the Horseshoe Bay lighthouse, which is accessible by a small gravel trail off a residential cul-de-sac with space for about three cars. The short trail cuts through the middle of a peninsula leading to the lighthouse, which, for some reason, occasionally plays bell noises at odd times. During my brief walk, I enjoyed the scenic views of the area, with locals cruising along the lake. There are a few boat rentals and rides along the shores, as well as the usual resort hotels, vacation homes and an abundance of golf

courses—perfect for a weekend getaway. I, however, have simpler tastes. For my first visit to this town, I decided to stop by the Downtown Beer Hall, which featured a couple of unique craft brews, including Starbase beers on tap. After trying out a few tasty beers, I decided to go "window shop" a few gift stores and a colorful, retro-lollipop-gift-shop-thing before before coming upon a riverside Chili's, which was an intriguing concept to me. I decided to eat there, indulging in Tex-Mex and magaritas. My visit to Marble Falls pro-

My visit to Marble Falls provided me a downtown experience coupled with great views and opportunities to do tons of quaint, fulfilling activities. I think it makes for a great change of pace for those who are just living in Texas for the first time.

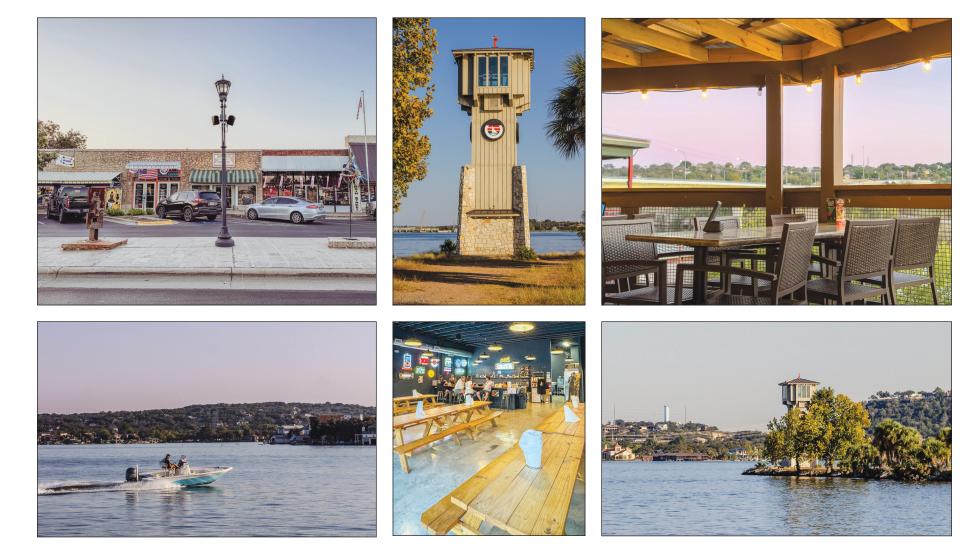
While an hour away, the drive is far more scenic and less stressful than, say, I-35 to Austin.

For this season, there's also a pumpkin patch, ran by the local Sweet Berry Farm, northwest of town. It's a popular spot for photoshoots, especially for those chasing that fall aesthetic. All in all, there are numerous ways you can plan your trip here by yourself, with friends or family. I know that I'll be going back — especially for that riverbank Chili's.





Nice houses lining the riverbank can be seen from the peninsula of Horseshoe Bay at Marble Falls, Texas. The area is known as a resort area, having hotels, vacation homes and many golf courses.



**TOP**, Downtown Marble Falls, Texas, has a vibrant downtown area with quirky sculptures and a variety of healthy shops and restaurants. The smaller streets with a raised median calm the streets and provide a quaint, relaxed atmosphere. **ABOVE**, A couple spend their evening cruising on Lake Lyndon B. Johnson. The lake offers many watersport activities, which provide reprieve from the Texas heat.

**TOP**, The Horseshoe Bay Lighthouse stands at about two-and-a-half stories tall at the tip of the peninsula leading into Lake Lyndon B. Johnson. **ABOVE**, The Downtown Beer House that I visited in Marble Falls, Texas, displays its "open garage" aesthetic. **TOP**, The riverside Chili's in Marble Falls offers stunning views in its outdoor seating area. It's a unique proposition by Chili's, providing its usual menu while overlooking the Colorado River flowing beneath the Marble Falls Bridge, which has been renovated and improved since 1891. **ABOVE**, The Horseshoe Bay Lighthouse sits at the tip of a peninsula that extends into Lake Lyndon B. Johnson. The rolling hills of the area, ideal for hiking, can be seen in the background.

LIVING



### BY ERIC FRANKLIN

Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

I've been using Sony cameras for 10 years now, with the A7 II as my go-to for many of them. While working across Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Southwest Asia, I needed a solid backup. Trusting my gear was critical — I couldn't risk making the wrong choice in such unpredictable environments. In November 2017, I picked the Sony A7R III to pair with my trusted A7 II, knowing it would perform under pressure and they both are mirrorless.

Initially, the transition to mirrorless felt like a gamble. I had relied on other brands for years and fully committing to a new system in an environment that already posed plenty of challenges — including finding a place to get repairs — came with risks. Would the new system hold up?

The A7R III, with its higher resolution, quickly overcame my initial doubts and earned its place in my kit. It provided stunning image quality and, over time, I came to rely on its capabilities. The camera handled everything from extreme heat to dusty landscapes, making it indispensable for my work.

Over the years, Sony released new mirrorless models, including the A7 IV in December 2021, but I didn't pick one up until recently. After returning from an assignment in Germany, my A7R III started showing signs of wear. Strangely, my A7 II kept going strong. The A7R III had endured dust, extreme temperatures and constant travel. So, when it went in for repairs last month, I decided to upgrade to the Sony A7 IV.

Once the A7 IV entered the picture, it quickly became my primary camera, and I knew my A7R III would likely take a backup role upon its return. The A7 IV's seamless integration into my workflow was a pleasant surprise. It didn't take long to appreciate the 33-megapixel sensor — lower resolution than the A7R III's 42.4 megapixels, but the versatility was undeniable. The A7 IV shoots 4K video at 60 frames per second with 10-bit color depth, making it ideal for video production. It also boasts an advanced autofocus system with 759 phase-detection

points, a significant upgrade from the A7R III's 399 points.

The mirrorless system wasn't just reliable — it was transformative. Both the A7 II and A7R III stood up to the rigors of travel, and, despite my initial hesitation, switching to mirrorless was one of my best decisions. With faster performance, a more intuitive menu system and enhanced flexibility, the A7 IV has become my daily workhorse. It handles every project with ease, whether for photography or video, and I'm confident the A7R III will continue to serve as a reliable backup.

The Sony A7 series is available for purchase at *shopmyexchange.com*.





Photo by Eric Franklin, Fort Cavazos Public Affairs

**LEFT**, The Sony A7 IV is known for its advanced video capabilities and sharp image quality, shooting 4K video at 60 frames per second with 10-bit color depth. **ABOVE**, A Sony A7 IV mirrorless camera with a 24-70mm G Master lens sits on a table next to a sign for the Great Big Podcast Oct. 22 at Fort Cavazos. The A7 IV is used to capture high-quality content for the podcast.

Photo courtesy of Sony

# Stray Animal Facility/Adoptions

Fort Cavazos

### Open 9a.m.-8p.m. everyday

4902 Engineer Dr., Fort Cavazos, TX 76544, 254-287-4675

### **OFF POST ONLY**



Coraline

1-yr-old, border collie/ pit bull, black & white, female.



Lily Pawtter

5-yr-old, pit bull, black & white, female.



**Toby** 5-yr-old, blue lacy mix, black & white, male.



Whiskey

2-yr-old, black mouth cur, brown & white, male.



## Bebe

2-yr-old, Labrador retriever mix, black & white, female.



**Candy Apple** 

1-yr, 5-mo-old, Chihuahua, tan & white, female.

### ADOPTED



### Frank

1-yr-old, domestic short-haired tabby, orange, male.

lgor

4-yr-old, domestic mixed hair, gray & white, male.



### Mitten

2-mo-old, domestic short hair, black, male.



### Faith

1-yr-old, domestic short-haired tortoiseshell, tricolor, female.



### Drusilla

1-yr-old, domestic short-haired tortoiseshell, tricolor, female.



1-yr, 2-mo-old, domestic

short hair, black,

female.

**B**3



Rows of solar panels make up the 15-megawatt solar array, constructed in 2017, which covers 132 acres at West Fort Cavazos.

Photos by Christine Luciano, DPW Environmental

## **Energy Action Month, powering mission to support warfighter**



Stephen Spencer, environmental protection specialist for the Directorate of Public Works, turns off the hallway light before leaving the office.

### BY CHRISTINE LUCIANO

DPW Environmental

Energy Action Month, observed in October, encourages the warfighter, civilians and their families to take part in fostering wise energy attitudes, behaviors and decisions.

This year's theme, "Powering the Mission," brings awareness to the critical role energy plays in the success of the warfighter and Army mission, and exploring technologies that will transform the future of energy.

To help combat the threats to energy security, the Fort Cavazos Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division is encouraging the community to reduce energy consumption on the installation and adopt smart energy practices both at work and home.

"Uninterrupted energy access is crucial to the Army's ability to operate, whether it's keeping the lights on at our installations or fueling the vehicles that drive the warfighter and mission readiness forward," said Bobby Lynn, chief of the DPW Energy Management Branch. "We're constantly finding ways to use less energy without sacrificing effectiveness, while integrating advanced energy technologies like solar arrays, microgrids and battery storage to increase energy resiliency."

With millions of dollars spent annually on electricity, Fort Cavazos faces high energy costs, making every energy-saving measure important. Savings on energy costs free up funds for other essential initiatives, such as building maintenance and road improvements.

Lynn and his team are leveraging energy conservation, power management and advanced technologies to enhance national security. Initiatives like the Net Zero Energy facility, a 15-megawatt solar array at West Fort Cavazos, and a microgrid for critical facilities at Robert Gray Army Airfield are key components of their strategy.

"DPW is committed to incorporating energy-efficient technologies into new projects that support the warfighter's mission and a resilient, sustainable future," Lynn said. "Together, as a community, we can amplify our environmental successes and conservation efforts by making smart energy choices daily."

Lynn encourages the community to help do their part to conserve energy by following these simple tips at home and at work:

• Use a programmable thermostat to reduce cooling costs by adjusting the temperature during off-hours. Set it to 78 F or higher when cooling is needed, and 85 F when the space is unoccupied.

- Turn off unnecessary lights in areas like conference rooms, restrooms and storage rooms. Consider using dimmers, motion sensors or occupancy sensors to manage lighting efficiently.
- Take advantage of natural lighting, when possible, especially in motor pools. Turn off lights near windows when feasible.
- Unplug devices such as chargers, fans, coffeemakers and radios when not in use to prevent energy drain, as they can still consume energy even when turned off.
- Close or adjust window blinds to reduce cooling needs by blocking direct sunlight out of your home during warmer months.

People can review their daily routine to find ways to conserve energy, inspire others to take action and work together to save energy and reduce costs to support the warfighter mission on Fort Cavazos.

For more information about energy conservation, call 254-287-SAVE. Alternatively, follow the Fort Cavazos DPW's Facebook page to stay up to date and informed at *facebook.com/ FortCavazosDPW*.



### CATHOLIC

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Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Main Chapel, www.https:// www.facebook.com/FtCavazosRomanCatholic Noon Mass, Monday through Friday, Main Chapel Confession after Mass or by appointment, call 254-286-6749, Main Chapel

### PROTESTANT

St. George Parish (Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopalian), Sunday, 9 a.m., Old Post Chapel, https://www.facebook.com/SaintGeorgeFortCavazos

### **SPANISH PROTESTANT**

Alcance, Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Veterans OIF Chapel.

### **GOSPEL CONGREGATION**

**Gospel Service,** Sunday, 11 a.m., Memorial Chapel, *https://www.facebook.com/ ComamcheHappeningsNow* 

### TRADITIONS

Traditions Service, Sunday, 10 a.m., Ironhorse Chapel, www.facebook.com/groups/fhtpws/

### **CHAPEL NEXT**

**Contemporary Service,** Sunday, 11:15 a.m., Main Chapel, *https://www.facebook.com/ FortCavazosChapelNext* 

### **OPEN TABLE**

All-Inclusive Christian Chapel, www.facebook. com/OpenTableChapel

### WFC PROTESTANT

**Non-Denominational Protestant,** Sunday, 10:30 a.m., West Fort Cavazos Chapel, *https://www. facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064944031364* 

### JEWISH

**Shabbat Service,** Friday, 6 p.m., Lucky 16 Chapel

### MUSLIM

Friday Jummah Prayers at 1:30 p.m., 25th Street Chapel

**OPEN CIRCLE** Camp Finlayson, contact Linn Vodisek, vodiseklinn@gmail.com

### BUDDHIST

Soku Gakkai International (SGI) Nichiren, Online, contact Martin Bonner, 254-258-0844 Theraveda, Thursday, 11:45 a.m., Memorial Chapel

### **NORTH FORT CAVAZOS**

Call 254-286-5223 for service schedule and Bible study

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES/STUDY

**Children in the Middle,** call 254-288-1913 to reserve, Family Life Chaplain Training Center **Men of Honor,** Contact Ken Wooten, 254-466-6254

### Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC),

Tuesday, 9-11:30 a.m., Main Chapel, www. facebook.com/FortHoodPWOC Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS), www.Facebook.

*com/FortHoodMOPS* Club Beyond-High School, Contact Frank Ayala, fayala@clubbeyond.org Club Beyond-Middle School, Contact Frank

Ayala, fayala@clubbeyond.org Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC), Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., bimonthly Thursday 5-7 p.m., Main Chapel. Facebook: Fort Cavazos CWOC (Catholic Women of the Chapel) **Catholic Youth Ministry-Crusaders,** 8-12 grades, Contact Maria Fuavia, 573-842-8181 **Catholic Religious Education-CCE,** Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Main Chapel, Contact Maria Fuavai, 254-287-0241

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,** Institute of Religion Classes, Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 13th ACSC Chapel, Contact Chap. Seth Porter, 281-235-7841

### \* Holiday hours and events are posted on the Garrison Chaplain's Facebook page, facebook.com/ FortCavazosChaplain\*

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Religious Support Operations office at 254-288-6545.





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(3)



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# SUPPORT OUR HERDES





Fort Cavazos spouses apply to participate in an 8-week peer-support group research study.

The University of Texas at Austin Institute for Military and Veteran Family Wellness Dell Medical School & Steve Hicks School of Social Work This research study is run by the Institute for Military & Veteran Family Wellness at The University of Texas at Austin

imvfw.utexas.edu/research/reach





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## DOD seeks to inspire youth in hypersonics career field through team video challenge

### BY DAVID VERGUN

DOD News

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Defense is sponsoring a Hypersonics Horizon High Speed Video challenge, open to high school and undergraduate students, with cash prizes.

"The Hypersonics Horizons High Speed Video Challenge is integral to building an enduring advantage by investing in the workforce of tomorrow," said Aprille Ericsson, the assistant secretary of defense for science and technology. "The Joint Hypersonics Transition Office continues to cultivate and invest in future talent by utilizing our Smart Scholarship program and partnering with academia which develops pathways for both a diverse and technically proficient workforce to protect both our national security and American prosperity for years to come."

"The challenge is designed to inspire the next generation workforce in hypersonics," said Mark A. Glenn, director of the Joint Hypersonics Transition Office.

Glenn said instructions for high school teams, of up to three students, involve making a three- to five-minute video explaining the type of challenges a spacecraft might encounter on Mercury, Venus, Titan (Saturn's moon), Ceres (asteroid) or Pluto. They would also have to address how the spacecraft design would be impacted by challenges of their chosen celestial body's environment and would need to explain how they would overcome those issues.

For post-secondary student teams, also of up to three students, Glenn said students are required to make a three- to five-minute video discussing a design for a plane-like spacecraft engineered to launch, reach hypersonic speeds and safely touch down on Mars. Then they must address challenges the spacecraft and astronauts may face upon landing. He added the problem sets involve multidisciplinary challenges and solutions so students can pull from diverse subject matter, not just physics and engineering.

Lori Michelle Stiglitz, JHTO workforce development lead, said this is the second year for a challenge involving hypersonics.

Last year's challenge involved ways to transport people at hypersonic speeds. Many college and high school students applied and the students, as well as their science and engineering teachers, were enthusiastic about it. The students conducted research, delving into many open-source documents on the topic and related topics, Stiglitz said. One of last year's university student who participated in the challenge, looks to pivot to hypersonics in grad school, she added.

Last year's high school winner knew nothing about hypersonics "so he took a deep dive into hypersonics and he's sharing his knowledge with all of the students, teachers and administrators at his high school," Stiglitz said. "Some of the physics teachers didn't even know about the topic. So that knowledge is spreading.

"Kids are very creative and enthusiastic about hypersonics," she added. "We get to gather their unique mindsets in hypersonics problems."

Awards will most likely be announced in February after evaluators who work across the DOD hypersonics community provide their feedback and assessment. They might also gain novel insights by this challenge, she said.

About a month ago, Stiglitz said she spoke to nearly 300 mechanical engineers at Montana State University and shared the upcoming challenge with them, and they all started chatting eagerly about it.

Groups can submit until 10:59 p.m. Central Time Nov. 24. For more details about the challenge, visit *www.challenge. gov/?challenge=hypersonic-horizons-2024-thehigh-speed-video-challenge.* 



Photo courtesy of NASA



Graphic courtesy of DOD

**LEFT**, A mock-up of the stainless-steel Pegasus Hypersonic Experiment Project's "glove" undergoes hot-load tests Nov. 21, 2010, at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards, California. **RIGHT**, The Defense Advanced Research Products Agency's Falcon Hypersonic Test Vehicle emerges from its rocket nose cone and prepares to reenter Earth's atmosphere.



## SPECIAL @ DELIVERIES

### **SEPT. 16**

A daughter, **Reyna Grace**, to Shaquille and Katelynn Pusey, 3rd Cav. Regt.

A son, **Liam Targen**, to Siafa and Tajhanique Massaley, 418th CSB.

A daughter, **Valentina Aurora**, to Gerardo and Guadalupe Rodriguez, 48th Chem. Bde.

### **SEPT. 18**

A daughter, **Emoni Desiree**, to Devin Benjamin and Ashley Gardner, 2nd ABCT.

### **SEPT. 19**

A son, Nolan Nathaniel, to Cornelius Oxendine and Alison Crawfor-Oxendine, 36th Eng. Bde.

### **SEPT. 24**

A daughter, **Charlotte Wren**, to Stephen and Riley Tyrrell, 3rd ABCT.

### **SEPT. 25**

A son, **Asher Etchi-Arrey**, to Edwin Assam and Belinda Eta-Ndo, 48th Chem. Bde.

### **SEPT. 30**

A daughter, **Isabella Rose**, to Brandon and Abigail Lyons, 2nd ABCT.

### **OCT. 1**

A son, **Kai Ryan**, to Andrew and Kristin Mckenrick.

### **OCT. 2**

A son, **Myles Noah**, to David Reid and Lianis Lopez, 36th Eng. Bde.

### **OCT. 4**

A son, **Jenson William**, to Jacob and Meghon Howell, 1st Med. Bde.

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Photos by Sgt. Lyca Williams, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

ABOVE, Filipino actors reenact the Leyte Landing during the 80th anniversary of the Leyte Landing celebration Oct. 20 at Palo, Leyte, Philippines. The event commemorated the historic Leyte Landing on Oct. 20, 1944, which liberated the Philippines during World War II. BELOW, The MacArthur Leyte Landing Memorial Park monument stands Oct. 20 at Palo, Leyte, Philippines. The monument commemorates the historic landing of Gen. Douglas MacArthur Oct. 20, 1944, at Leyte Gulf.

### commemorates 80 years since Leyte Landing **1CD**

**BY SGT. LYCA WILLIAMS** 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

**PALO, Philippines** — Brig. Gen. Robert G. Born, deputy commanding general of maneuver for the 1st Cavalry Division, attended the 80th anniversary of the Leyte Landing celebration Oct. 20 here.

The event commemorated the historic Leyte Landing on Oct. 20, 1944, which liberated the Philippines from Japanese occupation during World War II.

"This was the first conflict that the 1st Cavalry Division participated in, and we played a huge role," Born said.

The division's actions during this campaign laid the foundation for its reputation and effectiveness in future operations.

"The 1st Cavalry Division was decisive in seizing the Leyte beachhead," Born added.

Following the Leyte Landing, the division's next mission was to capture an airfield located just a few miles from the landing site.

Born also emphasized the vital partnership with the people of the Philippines, which contributed to the mission's success.

"Not only did they endure the hardships of Japanese occupation, but they also fought valiantly in a counterinsurgency, setting the conditions for success here," Born said. "It's evident the appreciation the Filipinos have, as well as the pride in their role in enabling us to be successful in the Philippines."

This collaboration was key to the success of the campaign and underscored the importance of unity in military operations.

"This is where America's First Team became America's First Team," Born said.





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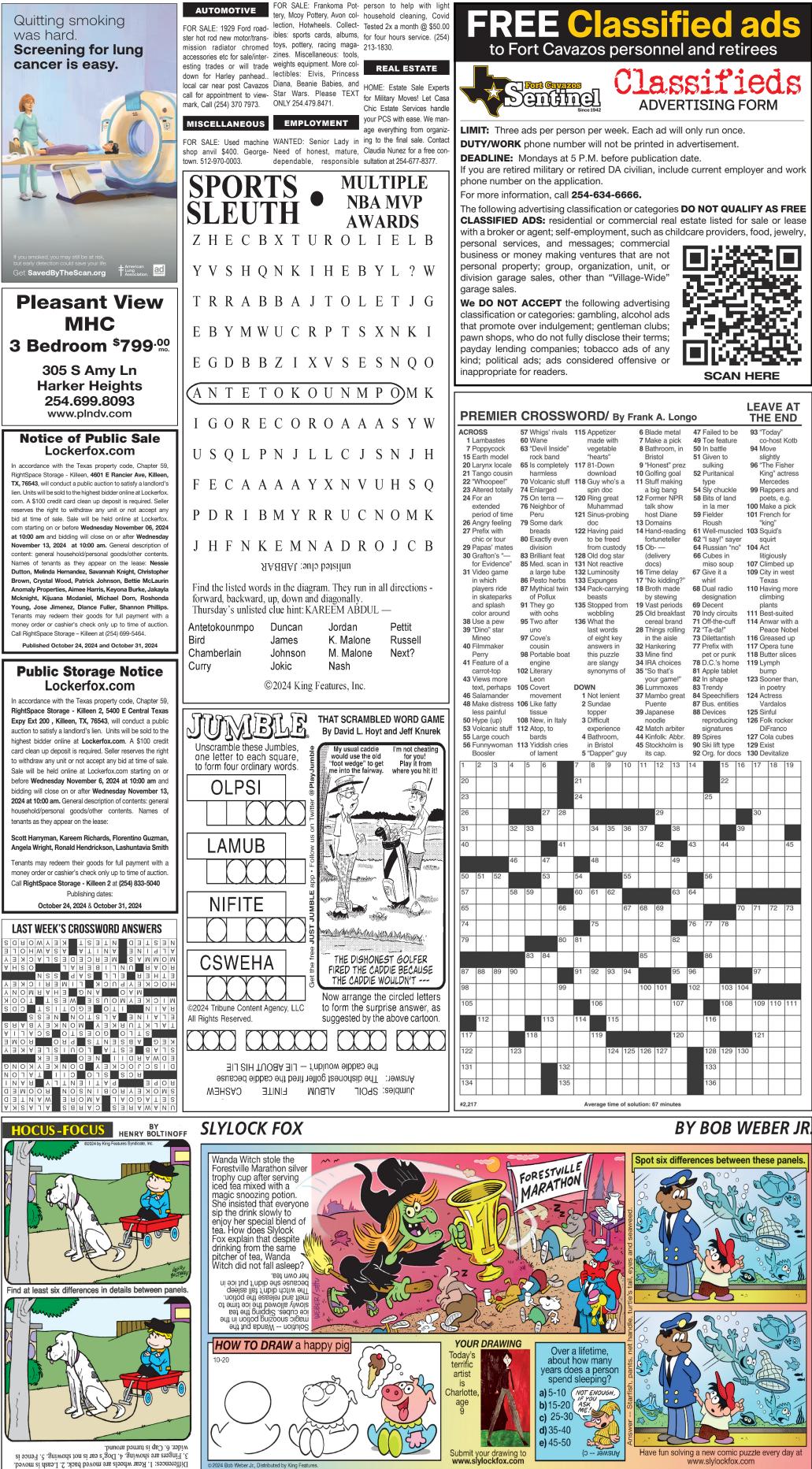
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