



FORGING THE

WARRIOR SPIRIT

THE JRTC & FORT POLK GUARDIAN

Vol. 46, No. 13

Home of Heroes @ Fort Polk, LA

March 29, 2019

Ausbun takes garrison CSM reins from Dodson

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — A change of responsibility ceremony for Fort Polk's outgoing garrison command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Dodson Jr., and incoming command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher M. Ausbun, took place March 22 at Warrior Field.

During the passing of the garrison colors, Ausbun was charged with the trust and confidence of the garrison commander to perform his duties with patriotism, dedication, integrity and leadership.

Col. Jarrett A. Thomas II, Fort Polk garrison commander, said it was a great day to not only recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Dodson, but also extend a warm welcome to Ausbun and his family.

Thomas said during the last two years, Dodson was not only his right hand man, but has provided invaluable guidance to commanders and command sergeants major ranging from the tactical to the strategic.

"He advised the population of nearly 32,000 Soldiers, civilians, family members and retirees and was a calming presence and steady rock our NCOs and officers looked to in times of crisis," he said.

Thomas said Dodson also had a true commitment to Soldiers and Families.

"With his 'adopted' son, Corporal Devon Douglas, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president, he worked diligently to elevate the BOSS program to one of the top programs in the Army. Through his direct leadership, the BOSS

program doubled its participation rate and more than doubled its community service hours," he said.

Dodson made it a priority to relocate the Soldier For Life — Transition Assistance Program from a stand-alone building at Fort Polk's airfield to the Education Center in the heart of Fort Polk to make the transition easier for Soldiers, said Thomas.

"The consolidation of these two entities streamlined the transition process," he said.

Additionally, Dodson helped manage more than 240,000 acres of training lands and assisted in the execution of a \$130 million dollar budget with precision and discipline, Thomas said.

Thomas said Dodson's involvement in the implementation of the Army Barracks Management program was invaluable.

"He identified key issues and helped resolve them while proactively partnering with units to increase the barracks occupancy rate to nearly 100 percent," he said.

Thomas thanked Dodson.

"The work you have done will leave a lasting impression on this great installation and it has been an absolute honor to serve with you. Thank you for a job well done," said Thomas.

Dodson addressed those gathered for the event.

He gave thanks for the opportunity to serve as Fort Polk garrison's command sergeant major. He said the mentorship and leadership that so many others provided was instrumental in setting him up for success.

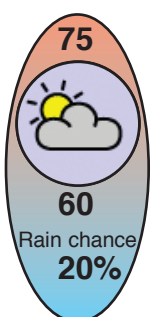


ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

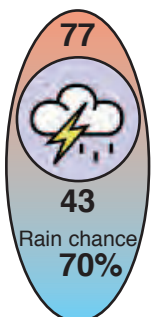
Col. Jarrett A. Thomas II, Fort Polk garrison commander, passes the garrison colors to the incoming command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher M. Ausbun during a change of responsibility held March 22, as outgoing command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Dodson, looks on.

Please see CoR, page 3

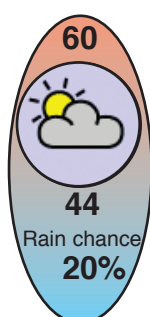
Weekend weather



Today



Thursday



Friday

Inside the Guardian

DGC speaks 2 Strong youth 12

Vietnam revisited 5 Soccer fun 14

353rd competes 9 BJACH breakfast 15

Viewpoint

DGC Corner

By **JOHNNY BEVERS**

Deputy garrison commander

My name is Johnny Bevers and I am your Fort Polk deputy garrison commander. I support the garrison commander and the senior commander to ensure our installation is the best place in the Army to work, live and play.

The garrison commander and I are responsible for everything from child care to facility maintenance. Our mission is to make your life as good as we can so you can focus on your day-to-day job.

To that end, we are laser-focused on Fort Polk's infrastructure, military Family housing and all aspects of life in the military. We read every single ICE comment that you submit and hold the garrison staff accountable to our customers. We have more than 800 employees whose sole mission is to support you.

We're currently working with our housing partner (Corvias) so your on-post quarters represent



Bevers

the quality that you deserve as members of our great Army. Command teams and civilian volunteers recently inspected 3,661 military family homes resulting in more than 1,000 work

orders being submitted to Corvias. During the process, we heard some concerns about potential

reprisal for submitting work orders for the repair of housing.

If any of you feel that you have been the subject of such reprisal, please contact me directly at 531-1601. This should never happen to our military members.

We are also working on a number of initiatives around the installation and encourage you to submit your ideas through ICE or by sending an email directly to me at johnny.d.bevers.civ@mail.mil.

I'd also like you and your Family member to download our Fort Polk app at either the Google or Apple App stores. It's free to download and is packed with an incredible amount of useful information.

We will be making a series of announcements through the app and have integrated multiple ways for you to send us concerns that you have about the installation.

I will publish regular updates about the installation in the Guardian to keep you up-to-date on our programs and look forward to hearing from you.

Message

In our view

Guardian staff asked Fort Polk community members, "What military occupational specialty would you like to explore?" Here are their responses:



Sgt. Elisa Battle: "I'd like to be a 68X, which is a mental health specialist. Since high school I've wanted to study the mind and help people with mental problems."



Spc. Lachundra Pegues: "I'd like to try the veterinary field, a 68T, because I like working with animals."



Spc. Hezekiah Pender: "A 25D — cyber defender. It's basically a hacker for the Army. I like computers and I'd like to get into that side of it."



Sgt. Traheem Williams: "I have already changed my MOS. I joined as a 91B mechanic but reclassified as a 68V, respiratory therapist, so I can get into the medical field when I leave the Army."



Guardian

Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank
Joint Readiness Training Center
and Fort Polk commanding general

Col. Jarrett Thomas II
Garrison commander

Kim Reischling
Public affairs officer

Chuck Cannon
Editor

Jean Dubiel

Angie Thorne
Staff writers

Editorial Offices
Building 4919, Magnolia Street
Fort Polk, LA 71459-5060
Voice (337) 531-4033
Fax (337) 531-1401

Email: Kimberly.Reischling@us.army.mil

Trading post ads:

tradingpostads@yahoo.com

Fort Polk Homepage

<http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil>

Advertising

For advertising contact
Theresa Larue
(337) 404-7242

Email: sales@thefortpolkguardian.com

The **Guardian**, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the **Guardian** are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Polk.

The **Guardian** is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk. Printed circulation is 13,000.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

All editorial content of the **Guardian** is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk.

The **Guardian** is printed by the **Natchitoches Times**, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Polk. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or the **Natchitoches Times** of the products or services advertised.

Briefs

SHARP golf event

The Fort Polk Sexual Harassment Awareness Response Prevention Team hosts a "Drive Out Sexual Assault" golf scramble April 18 at Warrior Hills Golf Course.

Check in for four-person teams is from 8-9:15 a.m. the day of the event, with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Team members must be from the same unit. Organizations may enter as many teams as they want. No mulligans. Cost is \$20 for WHGC members and \$35 for non-members, to be paid no later than April 11 at the Installation SHARP Office, bldg 1947.

Prizes will be awarded for the first place team, closest to the pin and longest drive. Call 531-1578.

Abandoned vehicles

The Directorate of Emergency Services traffic section will release the following vehicles to a towing company for disposal on May 6 if they remain unclaimed. Vehicles are listed with the last four numbers of their VIN number. Contact the Fort Polk Police Traffic Section at 531-1806/2677.

2002	Honda Accord	3509
2012	Hyundai Accent	8625
2017	Jeep Renegade	7070
1999	Ford Mustang	1308
2005	Subaru Legacy	4766
1993	Saab 900	3138
1996	Ford Explore	9654
1992	Chevrolet Camaro	1939
2004	Toyota Celica	7758
2010	Mazda MZ-3	7594
2008	Dodge Caliber	9554
2014	Dodge Charge	0771
2017	Ford Expedition	1780
2001	Jeep Cherokee	6867
2017	Honda Civic	7087
1992	Sea nymph boat	7340
	Boat trailer homemade	no number
	Boat trailer	no number

Road repairs

Fourth Street is under repair through May 24. Work includes shoulder repairs, culvert replacement, removing asphalt, repaving with new asphalt overlay and new pavement markings.

The work will require closures, detours and flagging operations. Repairs are planned for three phases to minimize impact to motorists. Alternate routes are encouraged to minimize delays and traffic congestion.

At the completion of Fourth Street repairs, Mississippi Avenue repairs will begin and include shoulder work, cross-walks, milling, repaving and pavement markings.



Golfers take a few practice swings at Warrior Hills Golf Course's driving range prior to the Wednesday evening scramble March 20.

WHGC Wednesday scrambles in full swing

DFMWR

FORT POLK, La. — Warrior Hills Golf Course's second Wednesday Night Scramble of the 2019 season teed off March 20 at 5 p.m. with five foursomes battling it out on the back nine. The scramble wrapped up with two teams tied for first place with five under par 31s. The usual tie-breaking method was ineffective, as both teams had identical scorecards, a rare occurrence.

Players spoke highly of the scramble, saying they're a fun and relaxed outing on a week day night.

The Wednesday Night scramble is a season-long series that takes place every Wednesday at 5

p.m. through Sept. 25. Prizes are awarded to the top two or three finishing teams, with points assigned to individuals based on placings. The top 20 point finishers receive year-end awards and prizes. Cost is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members and includes greens fee, cart and pre-scramble driving range use.

Don't forget about WHGC monthly scrambles! Today is the Spring Open four-person scramble with an 11:30 a.m. shotgun start. This scramble is \$45 for non-members and \$35 for members. Price includes greens fee, cart, range balls, prizes and lunch.

To sign up for the Wednesday or monthly scrambles call the pro shop at 531-4661.

CoR

Continued from page 1

"The knowledge and insight that I have gained is invaluable and will serve me well throughout the remainder of my career and I will leave Fort Polk a better leader because of it," he said.

Dodson thanked Col. Thomas (his battle buddy) for his vision, guidance and leadership.

"We have accomplished a lot in a short period of time. Fort Polk is now a better place for Soldiers, Families and those who live and work here on the installation.

"We won't be around to see many of our accomplishments come to fruition, but it's a great feeling to leave here and know those who come after us will ultimately benefit from them," he said.

Dodson wished Ausbun and his Family the best of luck.

"I know you are the right sergeant major for the job," he said.

Thomas also welcomed Ausbun and his Family to Fort Polk.

"He has a great reputation that speaks for itself. I will expect much from him and I know he will deliver," he said. "The Soldiers, Family

members and civilians of Fort Polk can be assured that they are getting an outstanding command sergeant major."

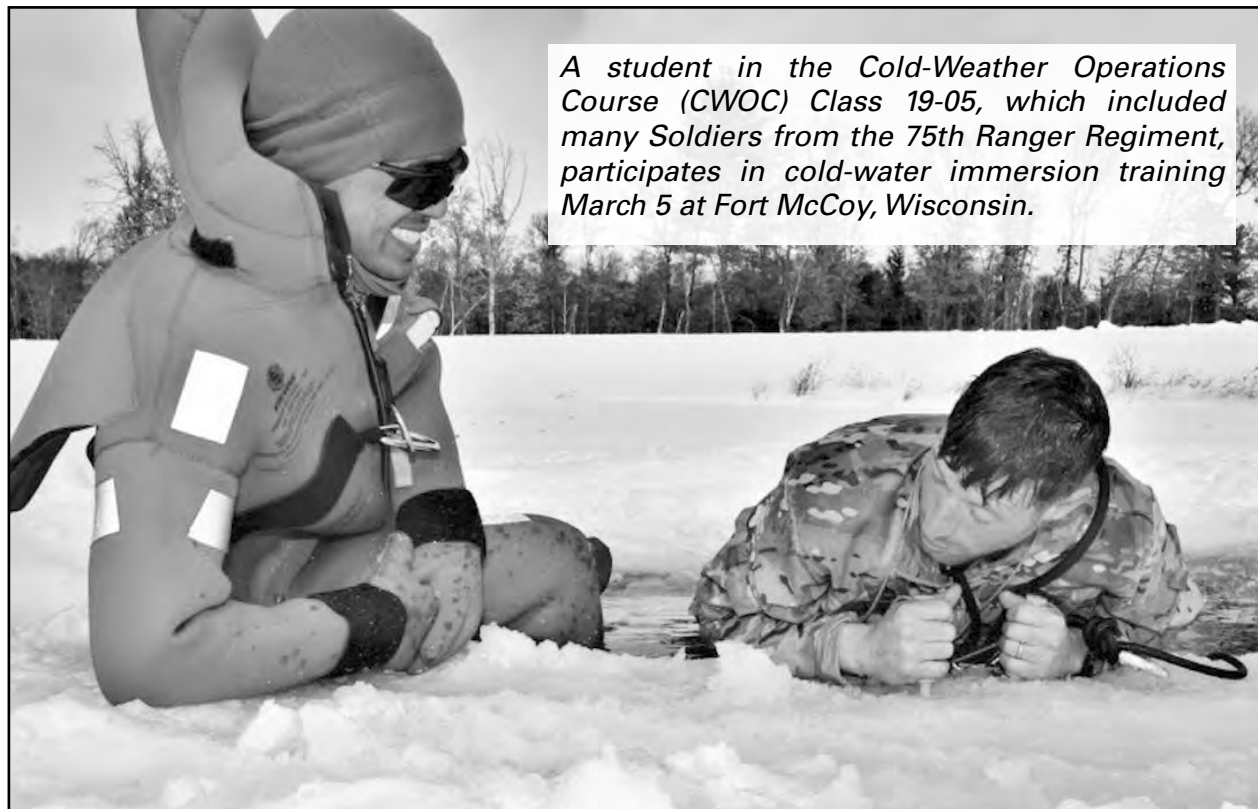
As the new command sergeant major, Ausbun said his job was going to be a highly rewarding challenge.

"I accept this challenge and don't take this opportunity lightly. I look forward to working with everyone as we provide the best possible service and quality of life for our Soldiers and Families. I'm ready to make a difference and proud to be part of the team," he said.

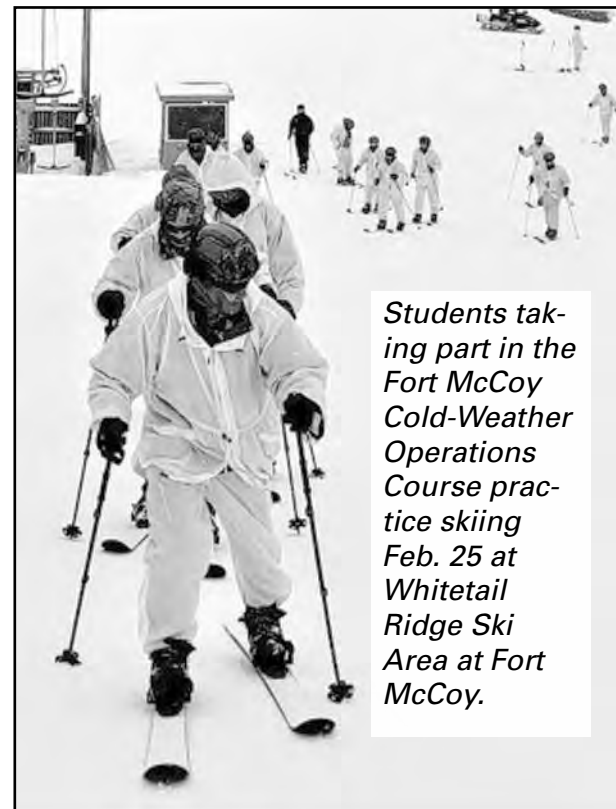
Among Ausbun's duty assignments: He served in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood Texas, United States Military Academy Bravo Company, 2nd Regiment at West Point, New York. His overseas assignments include Operation Bright Star, Operation Iraqi Freedom I and Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09.

Among Ausbun's schools: He is a graduate of the Primary Leadership Development Course, holds a degree in applied science from Central Texas College, a bachelor of science degree and a master's degree in criminal justice from Excelsior College.

Army news



A student in the Cold-Weather Operations Course (CWOC) Class 19-05, which included many Soldiers from the 75th Ranger Regiment, participates in cold-water immersion training March 5 at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.



Students taking part in the Fort McCoy Cold-Weather Operations Course practice skiing Feb. 25 at Whitetail Ridge Ski Area at Fort McCoy.

Army Rangers face frigid challenge in cold-weather ops course

By **SCOTT STURKOL**

Army News Service

FORT MCCOY, Wisconsin — More than two dozen Army Rangers with battalions from the 75th Ranger Regiment bolstered their skills in cold-weather operations during training Feb. 21 to March 6 at Fort McCoy.

The Soldiers were part of the 14-day Cold-Weather Operations Course Class 19-05, which was organized by Fort McCoy's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and taught by five instructors with contractor Veterans Range Solutions.

The Rangers received classroom training on various subjects, such as preventing cold-weather injuries and the history of cold-weather military operations. In field training, they learned about downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sled use and setting up cold-weather shelters, such as the Arctic 10-person cold-weather tent or an improvised shelter.

"Building a shelter with other Soldiers and being able to stay warm throughout the night were the best things I learned in this course," said Sgt. Paul Drake with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. "This training also helped me understand extreme cold weather and how to conserve energy and effectively operate while wearing the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS) uniform properly."

The Army ECWCS features more than a dozen items that are issued to Soldiers, said Fort McCoy Central Issue Facility Property Book Officer Thomas Lovgren. The system includes a lightweight undershirt and underwear, midweight shirt and underwear, fleece jacket, wind jacket, soft shell jacket and trousers, extreme cold/wet-weather jacket and trousers, and extreme cold-weather parka and trousers.

"It's a layered system that allows for protection in a variety of climate elements and tempera-

tures," said Lovgren. "Each piece in the ECWCS fits and functions either alone or together as a system, which enables seamless integration with load-carrying equipment and body armor."

Many of the Rangers praised the course's ECWCS training, but also appreciated the field training.

"Living out in the cold for seven days and sleeping in shelters makes me more competent to operate in less-than-optimal conditions," said Sgt. Austin Strimenos with the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. "Other good training included becoming confident with using the Arctic tents and the heaters and stoves and learning about cold-weather injuries and treatments. Also, the cross-country skiing and the trail area we used were awesome," Strimenos said.

During training, the students experienced significant snowfall and below-zero temperatures. Spc. Jose Francisco Garcia, also with the 2nd Battalion, said the winter extremes, along with Fort McCoy's rugged terrain, helped everyone build winter-operations skills.

"The best parts of this course is the uncomfortable setting that Fort McCoy confronts the Soldiers with during this kind of weather," Garcia said. "This makes us think critically and allows us to expand our thought process when planning for future cold-weather operations. It also helps us to understand movement planning, what rations we need and more."

Spc. Stephen Harbeck with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, which is near Fort Stewart, said he enjoyed the training, including cold-water immersion training. Cold-water immersion training is where a large hole is cut in the ice at the post's Big Sandy Lake by CWOC staff, then a safe and planned regimen is followed to allow each participant to jump into the icy water.

"The experience of a service member being in-

troduced to water in an extreme-cold environment is a crucial task for waterborne operations and confidence building," said CWOC instructor Joe Ernst.

"The best things about this course are the training about fire starting, shelter building, and the cold-water immersion," Harbeck said. "CWOC has helped me understand the advantages and disadvantages of snow and cold weather. Everything we learned has equipped me with the knowledge to operate in a cold-weather environment."

By Army definition, units like the 75th are a large-scale special-operations force and are made up of some of the most elite Soldiers in the Army. Rangers specialize in joint special operations raids and more, so gaining training to operate in a cold-weather environment adds to their skills.

"Learning about and experiencing the effects of cold weather on troops and equipment as well as learning about troop movements in the snow are skills I can share with Soldiers in my unit," said Cpl. Justin Galbraith, also with the 2nd Battalion. "It was cold, and it snowed a lot while we were here. So ... it was perfect."

Other field skills practiced during training included terrain and weather analysis, risk management, developing winter fighting positions in the field and camouflage and concealment.

"This course has given me insight on how to conduct foot movements and survive in the elements," said Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Bowman, also with 3rd Battalion.

"It's also helped me establish the (basis) for creating new tactics, techniques and procedures for possible upcoming deployments and training situations."

Editor's note: Male CWOC students are provided a command-approved modified grooming waiver during training to help prevent cold-weather injuries because of multiple days of field training.



Fort Polk plays role in training during Vietnam War

By **KEITH HOUIN**
Public Affairs Specialist

FORT POLK, La. — Today is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. It is a time not just to honor those veterans, but to take a few moments to reflect on the history of that era both overseas and at home.

The United States involvement in South Vietnam started political and economic action in an effort to end the growing communist domination in Vietnam, and deter what President Dwight D. Eisenhower called the domino theory. The domino theory speculated if one country in a region came under the influence of communism, then the surrounding countries would follow in a domino effect.

After years of providing logistical and advisory support to French and South Vietnamese forces in the 1950s and 60s in this effort, the U.S. found itself in direct combat operations after the destroyer USS Maddox was attacked by North Vietnamese Navy P-4 torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin on Aug. 2, 1964.

The U.S. conducted retaliatory air strikes against North Vietnamese naval and port facilities.

To meet the expected military requirements needed for potential ground combat in Vietnam, the U.S. military increased the role of numerous installations. Fort Polk was one them.

At the time Fort Polk was home to basic train-

ing, but in June 1962 Fort Polk was given a new mission — Advanced Infantry Training in preparation for war in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Basic training occurred on South Fort and upon graduation, the Soldiers would be sent to North Fort's Tiger Land for AIT.

There were two simulated Vietnamese hamlets that featured earthen berms, sharpened bamboo stake defenses and booby-trap simulations. The largest village was Tiger Land covering between three and four acres, according to the book "A Soldiers Place in History" by Sharyn Kane and Richard Keeton.

Tiger Land was complete with a school house, shrines and farm animals as well as bamboo

stake defenses, booby traps and tunnels. Everything a Soldier might encounter in and around a Vietnamese village was incorporated, Fort Polk Museum Director Greg Grant said.

Trainees would search the village for weapons caches and interview the villagers to determine whether they supported the North Vietnamese, according Kane's and Keeton's book.

Bunkers and perimeter foxholes would be manned throughout the night regardless of weather conditions. During the night enemy role players would make some type of probe on the defensive lines around the village, Grant said.

Instructors were always on hand watching everything they did. If the trainees did something wrong or something could be done better, the instructors explained it. Questioning the villagers, finding and defusing booby traps, finding the best fields of fire and maintaining their weapons and equipment were things instructors would focus on, according to Kane and Keeton.

By 1975, more than 1 million Soldiers of the 2.5 million American troops who saw action in Vietnam trained at Fort Polk. The training they received would help them survive what they would face in Southeast Asia.

Though the U.S. and its allies did not stop increased influence in Vietnam, not all results were bad. Tiger Land was a foreshadowing to the mock villages that pepper the training area more than 40 years later to help train Soldiers for current and future combat missions.

Pinning ceremony

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service honors Vietnam veterans for their service and sacrifice with a pinning ceremony at the Fort Polk Main Exchange today at 10 a.m.

Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces at any time from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, can receive a Vietnam Veteran lapel pin.

Quotes from Fort Polk veterans on Vietnam War Veterans Day

“That was an eventful day when the mailman showed up. He said ‘congratulations!’ and I said, ‘For what, sir?’ and he said ‘This is your draft notice,’ and I knew life was about to change.”

— Tom Brown served in Vietnam from 1969-1970.

“I was in my bare feet and there was crushed rocks on the ground between the barracks and bunkers. I ran across those sharp crushed rocks and dove into the bunker. I was so scared I didn’t even feel the rocks.”

— Mike Brown served in the Navy in Vietnam from 1968-1969

“I was only there six months for that tour because I got wounded. It was at the beginning of the Tet Offensive. It was late at night. There was a lot of activity hitting our bunker. We had to radio the other teams within the province and we could hear things going on. We were all in the main bunker and alert to what might be coming. Suddenly, they hit us. I left the bunker and

went to my position by the wall and that’s when I got hit with a bullet in the leg. I really didn’t notice it until I hit the ground at my position. I was bleeding along my leg from the knee down. A few minutes later the medic came by and he wrapped up my wound.”

— Steve Serna served two tours in Vietnam in 1966-67 and 1968-1969

“We were a mix of the American population. We were white, black and Hispanic, but the color of our skin didn’t matter. We got along great. We went to bat for each other and shared the same hardships and horrors.”

— Michael Kuk served in Vietnam from 1970-1971

“When you’re on point, you don’t know what’s out there. It was hair-raising all the time. Often the enemy was just minutes away. It was a scary thing the whole time, especially when you were on point.”

— Jerry Shirley served in Vietnam from 1968-1969



'There is a story behind each of these names'

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Guardian editor

Editor's note: From July 3-8, 2008, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall was set up at the Beauregard Parish Fair Grounds in DeRidder. This story originally appeared in the July 11, 2008 issue of the Fort Polk Guardian and is reprinted in honor of the March 29 commemoration of National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Jerome Goldwire, who provided the first vignette, died May 9, 2013.

FORT POLK, La. — In Washington, D.C., stands a granite wall bearing the names of more than 58,000 service members who gave their lives in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. For many veterans, a trip to the memorial is akin to a religious pilgrimage. But not everyone can afford the cross-country trip.

To make the wall more accessible, a moving version of it was created through the efforts of Vietnam veterans John Devitt, Gerry Haver and Norris Shears. Their creation has allowed many people — including veterans and Family members of lost loved ones — to get a glimpse of their service member's name.

On July 3, 2008, the Moving Wall arrived at the Beauregard Parish Fair Grounds in DeRidder for a five-day run. It was estimated by sponsors that more than 5,000 people visited the wall, searching for someone in particular or just gazing at the 58,256 names.

"It could have been my name on the wall."

Jerome Goldwire, an Army retiree who now lives in DeRidder, said he came to the wall to etch the names of 12 of his former Army buddies who were killed in Vietnam.

"This guy here, Roosevelt Wallace, we went to the same school," Goldwire said as he rubbed a piece of chalk on a white leaf of paper, creating an image of Wallace's name. "He was a couple of years behind me. He got killed in '69. I was in there in '67 and '68."

Goldwire said it took a while to find the names of all of his friends.

"I was planning on getting to Washington one day to see the wall, but I just never had the time," he said. "I'm glad this wall came here."

Goldwire stopped speaking for a moment and stared at Wallace's name. He reached up and wiped a tear from the corner of his eye.

"It makes you teary-eyed to see these names, especially the ones you knew and served with," he said. "It could have been my name on the wall. I guess I was just blessed."

Goldwire said people should never forget the sacrifices made by service men and women in Vietnam and other conflicts.

"We need to be reminded about the cost of freedom," he said. "That's a lot of names."

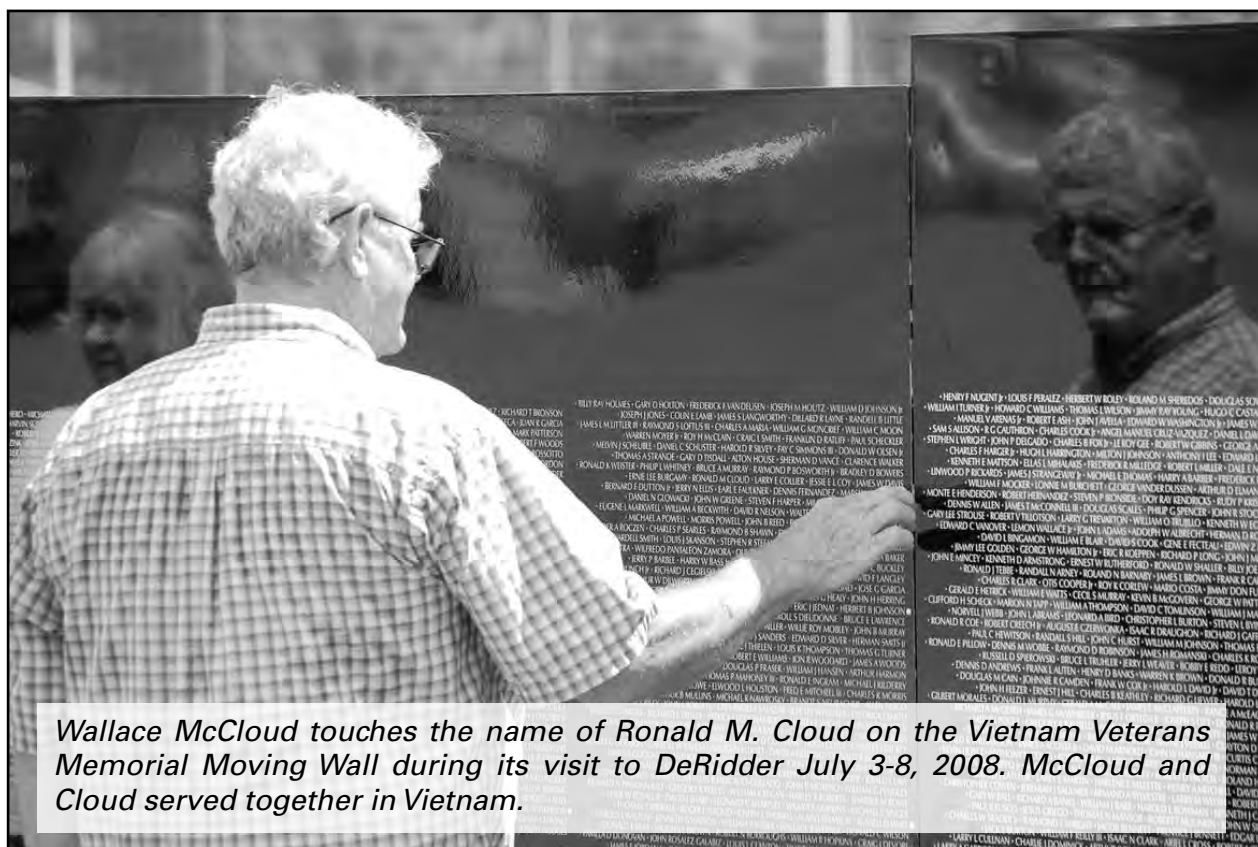
Goldwire said he often thinks about the Soldiers he knew who lost their lives.

"This guy, Purdy, from North Carolina, is one I went to AIT with," he said. "He had some problems he had to take care of at home and some of the folks told him not to worry about it, he could take care of it when he got back. But he never got back."

"It brings back some horrible memories."

Wallace McCloud stood gazing at the name of Ronald M. Cloud.

"When he was killed, they almost sent my name back home because our names were so



Wallace McCloud touches the name of Ronald M. Cloud on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall during its visit to DeRidder July 3-8, 2008. McCloud and Cloud served together in Vietnam.

similar," McCloud said. "He had been wounded and was on his way back to our unit when an RPG (rocket propelled grenade) round got him."

As was the case with most of the veterans who looked on names remembering friends and comrades, McCloud's eyes welled with tears.

"There's a guy here named Singletary," McCloud said. "He was the platoon sergeant for headquarters platoon and was riding with Captain White. There was an embankment we couldn't get over, so White took it on himself to take his APC up on that embankment and try to cross it. They hit a napalm bomb. Singletary had just gotten a ring with his son's birthstone on it. The napalm got him."

McCloud remembered another friend who was killed two days before he was scheduled to leave Vietnam.

"He didn't have to go out on patrol, but I remember he said, 'To heck with it, I'll go out tonight and pass the time,'" McCloud said. "He was killed that night. When it came time for your 10-day stand down, you'd better take your days. You didn't really know if you'd make it back or not."

A lot of what he remembers about the sweltering jungle heat is unpleasant, McCloud said.

"It brings back some horrible memories and sends cold chills down me," he said. "Even today, 40 years later."

"He should have been home with his Family."

Charles Beaton slid his fingertips across the name of Henry Garcia.

"We were stationed at Fort Devens, Germany, Fort Jackson and then Vietnam," Beaton said. "We were both in MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam). He was down country and I was middle way. It's been so many years. We

were such good friends."

Beaton said seeing Garcia's name brought back good memories.

"We had a lot of good times," he said. "I even shipped some stuff home from Germany in his hold baggage. We were tight."

Beaton said Garcia was overdue to return home when he was killed.

"He had been down to headquarters and was coming back to his hooch when he spotted some VC (Viet Cong, North Vietnamese soldiers) in a rice paddy," Beaton said. "He stopped and fired on them and they outflanked and killed him. It was sad. He should have been home with his family."

"He was the last."

Katie St. Romain, 15, scanned the wall looking for the name of her great-grandmother's cousin, Mitchell Furmin.

"It's heart breaking to see just how many

Americans were killed in Vietnam," she said. "I knew a lot of guys died, but when you see them all etched in stone, it's pretty overwhelming."

St. Romain said she came to see the name of a relative who died long before she was born.

"It makes me proud to see the name of someone who is kin to me," she said. "It's also sad. He was the last one to carry on the family name and he died. It's sad that branch of the Furmin family name is gone."

As the closing ceremonies at the moving wall drew to an end, a young woman — who said she had no ties to anyone who had served in Vietnam — walked quietly back to her car.

"I just wanted to see what it was all about," Telisha Fivas said of her visit. "This is one of the most impressive and humbling things I've ever seen. To think that all of those names gave their lives for others is mind-boggling. It makes me proud to be an American."



Moving wall bugler

Fort Polk Commissary hosts Vietnam Veteran commemoration

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — Fort Polk's Defense Commissary Agency hosted a Vietnam Veterans commemoration March 27 to thank and honor the nearly 6.6 million living Vietnam veterans and their Families for their service and sacrifices.

As an official commemorative partner, the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, joined more than 11,000 organizations around the world committed to hosting events each year recognizing and honoring Vietnam Veterans and their Families.

William Easter, Defense Commissary officer and retired from the Air Force after 26 years of service, said when he was in uniform, people were more accepting of him and his fellow Airmen than they were in years past.

"These men and women weren't appreciated as much as we were, so they deserve this recognition," he said.

Herbert Winchester, Defense Commissary Zone 1 (Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) manager, attended the ceremony and said it's amazing how quickly people forget the sacrifices of service members and their Families.

Winchester is a former Soldier who retired from the Army in 1996.

"We are blessed to live in this country and should never forget or fail to under-

stand where our freedom comes from. We only have those freedoms and privileges because of the Vietnam Veterans we are honoring today and all the Soldiers who served before and after them," he said.

Albert Walker, a retired Army staff sergeant, was honored at the event.

Walker said he deployed to Vietnam twice — each deployment lasted a year — as a combat field Soldier.

Walker said they received no recognition for their service during the war or for years after it was over.

"What we did is appreciated today more than it has ever been before. It's nice to be recognized," he said.

Otis Mertens, was a combat engineer in Vietnam. He also survived two year-long deployments and retired from the Army as a staff sergeant.

"The only reason I survived those two years was because I listened to my leadership and did what I was told," he said.

Mertens said it feels good to be acknowledged and thanked for his time in uniform.

Otis Mertens (left), a retired Army Vietnam Veteran, receives a handshake and commemorative pin from William Easter, Fort Polk Commissary officer, during a Vietnam commemorative service held at the commissary March 27.



ANGIE THORNE / GUARDIAN

Vietnam Veterans finally receiving respect they deserve

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Guardian editor

FORT POLK, La. — Theirs was an unpopular war, although I guess no war is truly popular.

But for the men and women who were called or volunteered to serve the U.S. during the Vietnam War, it was especially difficult.

Unlike World Wars I and II, where there was a specific goal — stopping rogue nations from attempting world domination — in Vietnam it was more stopping the spread of a specific ideology from the northern part of a country to its southern part.

The public grew increasingly tired of a war that continued for more than a decade with nothing to show for it except a growing list of American sons, daughters, mothers and dads who lost their lives in such faraway places as Saigon, Hue and Da Nang.

When those who survived the steaming jungles and Communist-backed forces of the

North Vietnamese Army returned home, it was often to jeers, stares and shouts of "baby killer."

Men and women who were touted as heroes when they returned from Europe and the Far East, were now despised. Even though most of those who served in Vietnam were draftees, they often had to hide the fact they were service members to avoid the derisive comments from those who were "fortunate" enough to escape the draft.

The only "crime" these young American patriots faced was answering their country's call, much as other had done throughout the nation's nearly 200 year history.

For years, many of those who served in Vietnam glossed over that part of their lives, almost pretending that time never happened. It was easier, less painful to pretend it never happened than to talk about it.

It's often said time heals all wounds, and to that end the American public has finally begun honoring Vietnam veterans for their service, realizing their only crime was obeying the law.

In November, the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk honored Vietnam veterans with a special recognition ceremony as part of Veterans Day activities on the installation. They were given thanks and honor long overdue.

Today, on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service honors Vietnam veterans for their service and sacrifice with a pinning ceremony at the Fort Polk Main Exchange at

10 a.m. Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces at any time from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, can receive a Vietnam Veteran lapel pin.

Veterans who typically do not have access to the post should stop at the Visitor Center on Entrance Road to receive a pass.

Everyone is invited to the ceremony to pay their respects to those being honored. And while National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a great time to thank these veterans for their service, we shouldn't do it just one day a year.

Each time we see these heroes, these Warriors, we should stop and thank them for answering their country's call even when it wasn't the popular thing to do. They did their duty and are due our heartfelt thanks.

Commentary



353rd 'Tigers' shooting team competes at Benning

By JEAN DUBIEL

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — A four-man small arms shooting team from 3rd Battalion, 353rd Training Brigade, Joint Readiness Training Center Operation Group, traveled to Fort Benning, Georgia March 8-17 to compete in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit small arms competition, also called the "All Army" shooting competition as it brings together Soldiers from across the force (Reserve, National Guard and active duty) for one event.

Sgt. 1st Class Daizon Alexander said the team used Sig Sauer M17s and Beretta M9s (both are military service pistols), as well as the M4 and M16 (military assault rifles).

The distances they aimed for at the pistol range were 10 to 35 yards for supported (two-handed) grip, and up to 50 yards for one-handed shooting.

Competitors were required to shoot while standing, kneeling or in the prone position.

For the rifle range, shooters aimed at targets that were 100-500 meters away. During some of the heats, shooters had to sprint between shooting positions, changing from standing to sitting to prone, and at times having to wait until they reached their positions before they could load the weapon.

Alexander said it felt amazing to represent the 353rd at this competition.

"There were a lot of people they could have picked, but they hand selected us for this team," said Alexander. "It was an honor to represent the unit."

While the competition tested the best of the best, many competitors used the event as a learning experience.

"It was great to get with other units and learn from their experiences and techniques," said Alexander. "I can increase my knowledge by adding the things I learned from them."

Tiger team member Sgt. Johnnie Mesch said his favorite part of the competition was the multi-gun assault course.



The 353rd Training Battalion "Tigers" small arms shooting team are (front row from left) Sgt. Johnnie Mesch and Sgt. Patrick O'Connell, and (back row from left) Sgt. 1st Class Daizon Alexander and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Zielinski.

"You'd start with the M4 (rifle) with targets on either side of you, and you had to put two rounds in each. Then you had to sling (the rifle), pull out your M9 (pistol) and engage more targets," said Mesch. "That event was graded for speed and accuracy, so there was a nice little stress factor there."

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Zielinski said he found the

multi-gun event to be the most challenging.

"It's not very often that you use two different weapons systems back-to-back with the time factor added in," he said, adding that he preferred the pistol events because he has more experience with handguns over rifles. "There was a steep learning curve on the first event, and I learned a lot about where I stand compared to people who train day in and day out for these kind of competitions. But I had fun and would love to do it again."

Sgt. Patrick O'Connell said none of the weapons used for the competition are his weapon of choice — he prefers larger calibers.

"I was a SAW (squad automatic weapon) gunner for the longest time and it's the weapons system I have the most experience with but the M4 works well for me," he said. "This event gave me a chance to learn more about the M9 (pistol), which is something I haven't shot very often, but I had plenty of opportunity to do that while we were there."

O'Connell's favorite event was the NTIT, or national trophy infantry team match.

"We had to run together from one berm to the next, but had no ammo — it was waiting at the berms. We had to load and shoot from the positions, and the event was for time so we had to work fast," he said. "The catch was that no speed loaders were allowed, so we had to load it all by hand."

O'Connell said he learned a great deal at the M9 range, not only by observing others but also through talking with fellow competitors about their experiences with the firearm.

"There are many ways to kneel or lay down to make a shot, and it was good to see all the different techniques," said O'Connell. "The competition was a great way to network and I think we all learned from each other."

Alexander advised that anyone considering entering next year's competition should spend plenty of time getting their shot group tight. "Qualifying twice a year is not going to be enough to win," he said. "Start practicing now."

Soldiers enhance Army readiness through instructor courses

By JEAN DUBIEL

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — Have you ever had a "bad" teacher? Were you in a class where the instructor was disorganized, ill prepared or easily distracted from the topic? Did it make the subject more difficult to learn?

In any classroom environment, the dynamic usually consists of an instructor giving information and students remembering it. The instructor uses examinations or other feedback mechanisms to grade the students on how well they learn the subject. But what happens to the students when the teacher is not very good at teaching? The likely outcome is a high rate of failure.

The Army wants to mitigate that outcome by ensuring its instructors are qualified and doing things the right way, according to 1st Lt. Aaron Hett, 3rd Battalion, 353rd Infantry Regiment, Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group, and recent graduate of an Evalu-

ator/Instructor Course, or EIC.

"Army instructors are first sent through an instructor course," he said. "Then, when you teach that course, someone is going to evaluate you to make sure you are following the correct principles."

Step 1 — CFDIC

The Common Faculty Development Instructor Course, or CFDIC, is the Army course that makes instructors. It qualifies someone to get up in front of a class and teach, and bestows them with basic instructor badge. Sgt. 1st Class David Holda, also with the 353rd, said the class "is how we build instructors."

Staff Sgt. Ryelle Snowden and Staff Sgt. Shane Searle of the Utah Army National Guard were the mobile training team sent to Fort Polk to instruct courses.

"The class is all about how to be a great facilitator," said Searle. "The Army has developed something called ALM, or Army Learning Model, which means instructors will get the students more involved in the learning

process instead of just presenting information."

Holda explained how the ALM improves learning.

"Facilitation gets students involved in their own training by promoting critical thinking and problem-solving among themselves rather than lecturing them and giving them answers," said Holda. "Students consider different perspectives and flesh out their own answers."

Twenty instructors in the 353rd were certified in March.

Step 2 — EIC

The MTT had a goal of getting the instructors at 353rd Training Regiment additionally certified as evaluators. The Evaluator/Instructor Course, or EIC is the next step in the process and qualifies the instructor to be an evaluator of other instructors.

Hett said the EIC allows instructors to progress in the Army program for obtaining

Please see Courses, page 10

Courses

Continued from page 9

the next badge — the senior instructor badge. “You first become a certified instructor through CFDIC, and then go through EIC which qualifies you to evaluate other instructors to ensure they are doing the right things, like critical thinking facilitation and learner involvement,” he said. “The EIC class promotes good evaluators so we can ensure good instructors are instructing our students.” Thirty-nine 353rd Soldiers were EIC certified in March.

Step 3 — CFDDC

The 353rd plans to offer the Common Faculty Development Developer Course, or CFDDC, this summer. This course is required to earn the master instructor badge. “Those with CFDDC qualifications are few and far between,” said Hett. “For every school house you generally have one developer. When they evaluate instructors, it is to make sure they are following the materials correctly, because they are the ones qualified to develop that material.”

Seale said when the ALM program began in 2013, it was only for a certain subset of Training and Doctrine Command classes, usually offered as part of an NCO leadership curriculum.

“Over the past six years, it has expanded to include all military instructors,” said Searle. “That includes civilians, NCOs — anybody that teaches a group of Soldiers can be part of the program.”

More than badges

Soldiers that take these courses will earn instructor badges, but Searle said the skills they learn are more important than earning a badge.

“Commands want their instructors to be part of this program because it makes them better facilitators,” said Searle. “We are moving away from the NCO-led, didactic training model to one that is more inclusive of the students.”

“I think it’s important to note that the badge helps bring credit and validation to the course itself. It helps promote instructors to become better instructors as well help each other,” said Holda.

These classes were the first iterations of CFDIC and EIC to take place at Fort Polk.

“We now have senior NCOs that can instruct and facilitate discussions on practical application of what the Soldiers will be doing downrange, whether that’s using an interpreter or talking to someone from a different

culture,” said Hett.

“Additionally, as a result of this course-work, we also have graders that can observe and critique the instructors to ensure they are correctly facilitating the students, and to help improve teaching skills.”

End state

The students that took part in both classes were combinations of observer/controller/teachers that work with rotational units, especially those from partner nations in the box and 353rd Soldiers that use their instructor skills in advise and assist roles down range.

The end state is that 353rd has certified instructors and a group of evaluators for those instructors.

“We are a one-of-a kind, stand alone unit that reports directly to FORSCOM, and we want to make sure we are meeting the intent with what we do within the organizations that we teach,” said Hett.

“One of the strategic focuses for the Department of Defense is readiness and readiness starts with training,” said Snowden. “So if we get good instructors that are continually improving themselves, the whole readiness of the Army improves.”

\$185

CREDIT HOUR

with valid military ID

40 Online Degree Programs Available



NORTHWESTERN STATE

Leesville / Fort Polk

Associate:

- Nursing

(Receive an additional \$4000 for the ASN degree through MyCAA)

Bachelor's:

- Business Administration
- Criminal Justice
- General Studies
- Hospitality Management and Tourism
- Nursing
- Social Work

(Qualifies for AMEDD/AECP)

Master's:

- Homeland Security



Denise Jackson
jacksond@nsula.edu
337-653-0812
nsufortpolk.com

Community

Briefs

School lunches

The following school lunch menu is for Vernon Parish schools for Monday through April 5. Meals are served with salad bar and choice of milk:

- **Monday:** Hamburgers on whole wheat bun, French fries, ranch style beans, lettuce/tomato/pickle cup, orange wedges.
- **Tuesday:** Cheesy chili mac, buttered corn, creamy coleslaw, fruit, whole wheat garlic bread.
- **Wednesday:** Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, green beans, chilled pear halves, whole wheat roll.
- **Thursday:** Taco salad with whole grain chips, Mexicana corn, taco salad cup, fruit, spice cake.
- **April 5:** Breaded fish sticks, oven fries, coleslaw, hushpuppies, cantaloupe.

Hiring, education event

Fort Polk hosts a hiring and education event for the military community April 25 at 10 a.m. at the Warrior Fitness Center. Information about education and career opportunities is offered to Soldiers, spouses, retirees, veterans and Department of the Army civilians. For more information call the Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program at 531-1591.

Color run

Fort Polk's Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts the Dye Hard Warrior 5K Color Run April 6 from 9 a.m.-noon beginning at Showboat Theatre, South 10th Street. To register or for more information visit the DFMWR Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fortpolkmwr/.

Exchange activities

The following activities are schedule for the Fort Polk Main Exchange in honor of April's recognition as Month of the Military Child:

- Military Brat Patch giveaway April 6 beginning at 10 a.m. while supplies last. Patches will be handed out in front of the store to military children ages 17 and younger.
 - Purple Up for Military Kids, April 13. Any child 18 or younger who wears purple is eligible to receive one free treat while supplies last from the following participating restaurants:
 - * Main Burger King — vanilla soft serve
 - * Charley's Philly Steaks — small lemonade
 - * Starbucks — cake pop
 - * Subway — two cookies
- For more information call 537-1001.



Corvias crawfish boil feeds Fort Polk Families

Tatyana Ouellette (left), Cassidy McGraw (right) and Aaron McGraw, chow down on boiled crawfish with all the fixings at a crawfish boil hosted by Corvias March 22 at the Camellia Terrace Neighborhood Center.

Fort Polk AER about 'Soldiers Helping Soldiers'

AER

FORT POLK, La. — The annual Fort Polk Army Emergency Relief Campaign is in full swing. The campaign ends May 15.

From the time AER was established in 1942 by the Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshall, AER has provided \$2 billion of assistance to more than 3.7 million Soldiers, retirees and their Families — more than \$1 billion of that since Sept. 11, 2001. In 2018, AER provided more than \$582,000 to 1,172 members of the Fort Polk Army team.

Other notable facts include:

- In 2017, Fort Polk Soldiers, retirees and their families received more than \$700,000 in AER loans and grants. The 2017 AER Campaign fund drive raised \$145,279.72.

- AER supported more than 43,000 requests for assistance in 2017 with a total value of \$69.7 million.

- AER approves 99 percent of all financial as-

sistance requests while most of the remaining 1 percent is unauthorized based on Army regulation.

- Loans from AER are interest free, and 10 percent of the assistance provided in 2017 was in the form of grants, meaning the money did not have to be repaid.

AER can help Soldiers and retirees with the following: Rent or mortgage, utilities or deposits, food, dental or medical, emergency travel, travel relocation (PCS), funeral expenses, vehicle repair, replacement vehicle, cranial helmets, essential furniture, car seats, repair or replacement for basic appliances and minor home repairs.

The goal of this year's campaign is to "Inform 100 percent of our Soldiers" about AER's programs and benefits and also offer them the opportunity to join the legacy of "Soldiers Helping Soldiers" through an appropriate donation to

AER.

To learn more about AER please contact the Fort Polk AER Office at 531-1957/1958 or visit the AER website at www.aerhq.org.



Fort Polk youngsters vie for 'Strongest Youth' title

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Guardian editor

FORT POLK, La. — Youth affiliated with the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Child and Youth Services Sports Program gathered on Fort Polk's Perez Field March 23 for the installation's strongest youth competition.

Participants ranging in age from 7 to 15 battled in five events: The tire flip, sand bag stack, weighted sled pull, timber toss and hanging pull up.

First- and second-place trophies were awarded to winners in each age group: 8-9, 10-11, 12-14 and 15 and older. Boys and girls competed against each other except for the age 15 and older group, which separated the sexes.

DFMWR CYS Sports Director John Stromberg had one of his staff members lead the kids in calisthenics before the competition kicked off to avoid issues such as pulled muscles. The move paid off as all of the youth made it through the morning's activities unscathed.

While the day's events were primarily head-to-head contests, one group of family members and friends showed their unity by wearing their own created uniform.

The Woods, Thomas, Kate and Mae, and the Smiths, Christian and Bethany, each sported black shirts and multicolored tie-dyed bandanas.

"We thought it would be fun to have matching uniforms," Mae Wood said. "Mom chose the bandanas for us."

Most of the Wood-Smith team said they were all about having fun and enjoying what turned out to be a beautiful spring Louisiana day. However, the senior member of the group, Thomas, said he had an ulterior motive.

"I want to show everyone how strong I am,"

he said. "I'm pretty stout. The tire flip will probably be my best event."

Mae was the oldest female competing and said she liked measuring herself against the male competitors her age.

"I wanted to have fun, so I just kept going," she said. "It makes me feel good to know I can compete with the guys. I'll probably be talking trash at school this week."

Stromberg said 35 youngsters participated in the activities.

"It was a great day for our kids to come out, exercise and have fun doing some unorthodox events," Stromberg said.

Winners included:

- Ages 8-9 — First place, Dallas Fowles; second place, Aubrey Bazan
- Ages 10-11 — First place, Jacob Pajinag; second place, Kate Wood
- Ages 12-14 — First place, Nate Pommer; second place, Christian Smith
- Ages 15 and up boys — First place, Christopher Pajinag, second place, Thomas Wood
- Ages 15 and up girls — First place, Mae Wood

Coach Tammy Wood, also known as mom and neighbor to the Wood and Smith youth, said it took a lot of work prepping her team for the event, and that she gladly took credit for her role in helping some of team members to victory.

"I spent years training them mentally, physically and spiritually," she said, jokingly. "Today, I think it came down to the bandanas and the face paint. My plan is to keep them off the couch and TV this summer, and to keep them outside. I know that's hard to do nowadays, so I might have to create our own competitions."

Please see **Strongest**, page 13



Nate Pommer participates in the arm hang during the strongest youth contest.



Bethany Smith tosses a timber during the Fort Polk strongest youth contest on Perez Field March 23.



Mae Wood tackles the sled pull during the strongest youth contest.

Strongest

Continued from page 12



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

Winners in the Fort Polk strongest youth competition include: Front row from left — Thomas Wood, second place, boys 15 and up; Christian Smith, second place, 12-14, Kate Wood, second place, ages 10-11 and Aubrey Bazan, second place, ages 8-9. Standing back row from left — Nate Pommer, first place, ages 12-14; Mae Wood, first place, girls 15 and up; Jacob Pajinag, first place, ages 10-11; Christopher Pajinag, first place, boys 15 and up; and Dallas Fowles, first place, ages 8-9.



Keegan Bross (left) and Aubrey Bazan compete in a leg lift after tying for second place in the age 8-9 division of the strongest youth competition. Bazan outlasted Bross to garner the trophy.



Top and middle: Aubrey Bazan shows her muscle while flipping a tire, as Segan Romero attacks his tire with a smile. Below: Isabella Mateo stacks sand bags as part of the strongest youth competition.



Sports



Soccer Fun

Fort Polk Intramural Sports hosted a seven-on-seven soccer tournament March 25-27 at the Soldiers Athletic complex. The tourney was open to active-duty Soldiers, Family members, retirees and Department of the Army civilians age 18 and up. Here are photos of some of the action.



Sports briefs

Gymnastic classes

The Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Child and Youth Services hosts the following gymnastic classes at bldg 2070, Youth Gym:

- Parent and child gymnastics, ages 12 months to 3 years, Mondays at 10, 10:30 and 11 a.m., and Fridays at 5:30 p.m., \$25 a month.
 - Preschool gymnastics, ages 3-5 years, Monday, Tuesday and Friday 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday 11 a.m., \$35 a month.
 - School age gymnastics, ages 6-9 years, Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., \$45 a month.
 - School age gymnastics, ages 10 and up, Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., \$55 a month.
- Children must be registered with CYS. Call 531-6004 for more information.

Jiu jitsu classes

The Fort Polk Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Child and Youth Services offers Brazilian jiu jitsu classes.

Classes are for ages 6 and up for \$48 a month.

Classes are held in bldg 744 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Participants must be registered with CYS.

Call 531-6004 for more information.

Soccer camp

Challenger International Soccer Camp is back at Fort Polk by popular demand for two sessions: June 3-7 and July 22-26. Classes for TinyTykes (ages 3-5) are 8-9 a.m. and cost \$96.

Classes for ages 6-12 are from 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and cost \$149.

Applications can be picked up at Child and Youth Services, bldg 400, 6880 Radio Road.

Mail applications and payment (checks payable to Challenger Sports) to:

Mike Rees
Challenger Sports
4403 Manchaca Road, Suite C
Austin, Texas 78745

Email mrees@challengersports.com for more information.

Intramural softball

The Fort Polk intramural softball season begins April 8.

Games are played on Fort Polk's Soldier Complex fields Monday through Friday beginning at 6 p.m.

For more information on how to sign up your team for league play call 531-2056.

CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

Dr. Seuss breakfast provides special treat for Fort Polk Families

By **KATHY PORTS**
BJACH Public Affairs Officer

FORT POLK, La. — Imagine having breakfast with Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and 2, and Sam I Am one Saturday morning. These colorful characters jumped off the pages of Dr. Seuss books to entertain Fort Polk children and their families for National Nutrition Month and the Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast hosted by Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital March 23.

Promoting healthy nutrition and celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday was the main object of this special breakfast.

"Breakfast is the most important meal of the day," said Alexis Motley, BJACH dietician.

The sold-out crowd dined in a transformed world of Seuss complete with characters anxious to pose for photos with children and families.

Each child received a Cat in the Hat top hat, a gift bag filled with goodies and feasted on green eggs, ham, Horton pancakes, Lorax toast, choice of syrups and whipped cream, juice, milk or coffee, all served on red plates.

BJACH's dining facility staff transformed the atmosphere with artistic artwork depicting Dr. Seuss'

books. Tables with brightly colored tablecloths and small bowls of swimming fish entertained the children as they ate their breakfast.

Story time started with Motley reading "The Cat in the Hat" as Thing 1 and 2 acted out the book. Seated on the floor, the children and parents listened intently, holding up "Sam I Am" signs on cue. Each child received a special ticket for door prizes. The readings finished up with Dr. Seuss' "Green Eggs and Ham."

And what would a special Dr. Seuss breakfast be without dessert — Dr. Seuss cake, cupcakes and a "ham" cake, crafted by Celestine Mundy, BJACH's DFAC civilian cook supervisor.

Parents commented on the beautiful decorations and one Soldier said the "green eggs" reminded him of the food at basic training, but they were a lot better.

A young mother, who declined to be identified, said that this was a great way to start the day — a healthy, nutritious breakfast that she didn't have to cook or clean up afterwards and the story time entertained the kids.

"I wish every Saturday was like this. There were no disagreements at the breakfast table and everyone ate. What more could a Mom ask for. I was even able to enjoy my breakfast this morning, which was a rare treat," she said.



Alexis Motley, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital dietician, reads Green Eggs and Ham, by Dr. Seuss, to Fort Polk children at the National Nutrition Month breakfast held at BJACH March 23.



SPECIAL EDITION

PUBLISHES MAY 17TH, 2019

Parents, grandparents and family place an ad for that special student who's achievements make you proud with your own message.

Must be submitted before Tuesday, May 7th, 2019

ALL ADS MUST BE PREPAID

We accept Visa & Mastercard, Check or Money order .

2x2-\$25 • 2x3-\$50 • 2x4-\$75

Email your ad's to:
sales@thefortpolkguardian.com
or you can drop off at
the Public Affairs Office,
Bldg. 4919 Magnolia Dr.

Sample ads not actual size.



PLEASE PRINT IN FORM BELOW

Student Name: _____ School: _____

Message: _____

Love: _____

Contact #: _____ Cell #: _____

For more information call Theresa Larue at 337-404-7242



Fort Polk Guardian
www.thefortpolkguardian.com
Published for the community of Fort Polk, La.

Theresa Larue
Advertising Manager
Fort Polk Guardian
337-404-7242
Sales@thefortpolkguardian.com

Girls Weekend
Natchitoches, La
April 5th-7th, 2019
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 318.652.7078
WWW.GIRLSWKND.ORG

Fort Polk NZW team hosts 30-day recycling challenge

NET ZERO WASTE

FORT POLK, La. — The Fort Polk Net Zero Waste team invites military Families to participate in the annual 30-day Recycling Challenge May 1-31.

Military families are encouraged to bring No. 1 plastic bottles and containers, aluminum cans, cardboard, white paper and mixed paper to be weighed at the Qualified Recycling Program Recycling Center located on Georgia and Maine avenues. The numbers will be recorded under the Soldier's name for 30 days.

The top three families will be awarded the following prizes:

- First place — \$75 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift card and a Strike Zone Bowling Center certificate.
- Second place — \$50 AAFES gift card and a Strike Zone Bowling Center certificate.

- Third place — \$25 AAFES gift card and a Strike Zone Bowling Center certificate.

Rules are as follows:

- Only military Families are eligible to join.
- Families are welcome to bring in all commodities accepted by the Recycling Center. However, they will only receive credit for No. 1 plastic bottles and containers, mixed paper, white paper, cardboard and aluminum cans.
- Items must be brought inside the QRP Recycling Center, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The center is closed federal holidays. Items left at the 24-hour drop off site will not be recorded.
- Please include contact information on the recording sheet you fill out when dropping off your recyclable material.

For more information visit the Net Zero Waste Facebook page @NetZeroWastePolk or call 531-1105.



WANDER OUR WONDERLANDS

**POVERTY POINT RESERVOIR & WORLD HERITAGE SITE
PIONEER, LA**

Fuel your hunger for hiking, and ponder majestic mounds as ancient as Stonehenge. Plan an outdoor escape by visiting LouisianaTravel.com/State-Parks.

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF LOUISIANA.



JOIN THE BAYOU KREWE TODAY!



©2018 Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.

LouisianaTravel.com

Military kids can enter art, essay contest

By **SUSAN A. MERKNER**

Army Installation Management Command

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Entries may be submitted Monday through April 30 for the 2019 Young Lives, BIG Stories contest sponsored by U.S. Army Installation Management Command Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The essay and artwork contest is open to children of active-duty Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve or U.S. Army retirees children in preschool through grade 12.

The annual contest coincides with the April observance of Month of the Military Child. This year's contest theme is, "Military Kids Can!"

Children are encouraged to answer the question: "What does it mean to you to be a military child?"

Drawings may be submitted by children ages 3 through third grade. Written submissions may be entered by children in grades four through 12. Entries are judged for content,

form, presentation of the main idea and creativity. Prizes are given for the winners of each age category and one overall winner.

Month of the Military Child recognizes and honors military children for their contributions and support to Soldiers and the Army mission. The observance was established in 1986 and reiterates the Army's commitment to Soldier and Family readiness and resilience, to excellence in Child and Youth Services, and to a supportive environment where children can thrive. MOMC.

Submissions, which must be accompanied by an entry form completed and signed by a parent, legal guardian or sponsor, will be accepted online and by mail Monday through April 30.

Find guidelines and more information at www.armymwr.com/ and search under programs and services, family assistance, month of the military child, young lives, big stories.



Shelton reflects on pursuit of academic excellence in VPSD

By **VIVIAN LOPEZ**
Fort Polk Progress

LEESVILLE, La. — For Leesville Junior High School eighth-grader Evan Shelton, succeeding academically is important.

"I really want that success for myself," Shelton said. "I want to have a good education so I can get a successful career and do well in the world."

Shelton, 14, has already hit milestones in his academic journey in the Vernon Parish School District. He has a 4.0 grade point average; attended the state Social Studies fair five times; is an assistant student teacher for the Leesville Maker Space Science, Technology, Engineering and Math class at the Vernon Parish Library; and was selected as the district-level middle school Student of the Year for the 2018-2019 school year.

"That was very important to me," Shelton said. "Not only does it allow me to be an example for my school and for Vernon Parish, but it feels good to know the things I've done throughout the years have gotten recognized."

He said he's received a lot of support from his teachers and school to get to this point.

"My teachers are helpful. They work with us and have a hands-on approach for future reference," Shelton said. "They encourage us. They're always telling us to do our best, and I feel like they give us the tools and knowledge needed to do what we need to do."

Shelton said he has worked hard for his achievements.

"I was always taught to put forth my

best effort in everything — whether it's hard or simple," he said. "As long as I do my best, that's what is important to me."

His mother, Tammy, expressed her joy in her son's accomplishments.

"He takes everything that he learns seriously," she said. "He's a really good kid, and we're proud of him."

Shelton is also a military-connected student. His father, Willie, is a military retiree from Fort Polk and works at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital. Shelton is a Junior Student 2 Student program member at his school, which entails welcoming military-connected students and easing their transition to a new school.

"It's an honor to represent the military community as a thriving student," Shelton said.

Looking to the future, Shelton has big dreams. He would like to attend a technology-oriented college, like Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Louisiana Tech University, or the Air Force Academy and pursue a degree in electrical, mechanical or software engineering. He said he would like to work at NASA one day.

"I've always had an interest in technology and I'd like to use it to help others," he said.

Reflecting on being a VPSD student, he expressed appreciation and is happy with what he has been able to achieve so far.

"I feel grateful for the opportunities I've been given," Shelton said. "Hard work pays off. And through enough hard work and determination, you can do anything."



Evan Shelton

VIVIAN LOPEZ / FORT POLK PROGRESS



Aymond Medical Spa
Facial aesthetics

337.239.2776

Dr. David &
Karra Aymond, MPAS, PA-C

100 N. 3rd Street | Leesville, Louisiana



CAZAN'S CRIMEFIGHTERS PRESENTS: Cold Case Conference



Where: Hotel Cazan
When: Reception, March 29, 2019 6pm-9pm
Conference, March 30, 2019 11am-5pm
Who should participate? Armchairs detectives, Press, Law Enforcement, Crime stoppers, opponents of domestic violence

Back by popular demand, our next cold case conference is coming up March 29&30. We will reexamine the case of Alice Marie Reeves, missing from Ville Platte since 1967. So much progress was made since the last conference and we will see this case out to the end. Another missing person is Crystal Dupuis Grebinger, who disappeared six years ago from Lafayette. Her family will be in attendance seeking resolutions. There were elements these two cases share, and we will highlight.

Acadia Parish has only one cold homicide and the Chief of Police of Church Point is committed to solving the case. Alex Babineaux was shot multiple times in July of 2017, found dead on north Wilson street.

Book direct at Hotel Cazan for the 29th/30th. Attend the reception Friday the 29th as our guest. Saturday session on the 30th will include interactive question & answer session, refreshments & prizes.

Women's History Month observance focuses on women of peace

By **ANGIE THORNE**

Guardian staff writer

FORT POLK, La. — The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk Women's History Month observance took place March 22 at Bayou Theater. JRTC and Fort Polk's Operations Group hosted the event.

Col. Gregory Cannata, JRTC Ops Grp deputy commander, said it is important to gather as a community to thank women for their sacrifices and contributions to America and the world.

"Today, we honor and appreciate all of you," said Cannata.

The theme of this year's Women's History Month is "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence."

Cannata told the audience they were there to remember and honor women who have not just sought peace and non-violence, but have achieved it in various ways.

As part of the observation, a visionary women tribute was performed. Five women each brought out a picture of the woman they were honoring and told their story:

- Staff Sgt. Brittany Ortiz, Ops Grp, talked about Susan B. Anthony, a leading figure in the women's voting rights movement. Anthony fought for women's suffrage and was even arrested for voting illegally to get her point across.

- Catherine Slade, Army spouse, spoke about Dorothy Cotton, an American civil rights activist and the only woman in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s inner circle.

- 1st Lt. Halle Edinboro, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment, told the audience about Deborah D. Tucker who advocated for laws, policies and practices at the local, state, national and international levels dealing with violence against women. Most notably, she wrote and helped pass the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

- Pvt. Charon Irias, Ops Grp, described the ef-

forts of Clara Louise Maass, a nurse in the Spanish-American War, who served in Cuba and provided care for Soldiers suffering from infectious diseases such as typhoid, malaria and yellow fever. She also volunteered to participate in research allowing herself to be infected by mosquitoes carrying yellow fever. She died from the experiment.

- Jessica Williams, Army spouse, highlighted the accomplishments of Malala Yousafzai who publicly denounced the Taliban's attacks on young girls' schools and fought for women's rights. In 2012, when she was 15, a gunman boarded her school bus and shot her in the head. After multiple surgeries and treatments, she continued as an advocate. She went on to become one of the youngest recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

Following the presentation, the guest speaker for the Women's History observance, Linda J. Bowers, was introduced. Bowers retired from the Army after 22 years of service in 1997, furthered her education and currently serves as an education counselor at Fort Polk's Education Center.

She said she felt special to be chosen to speak at the celebration.

"I'm honored and grateful," she said.

Bowers said the foundation on which the nation was built was supported by women well ahead of their time, including those who served in the military. "I would like to say thank you to all the women who have served or are currently serving. The sacrifice made to ensure freedom and protect the Constitution cannot and should not be forgotten," she said.

Bowers said this year's observance was focused on women who were champions of peace who sacrificed their time — and sometimes their lives — for what they believed. "They were motivated to initiate change," she said.

Bowers also extolled the virtues of Penelope Barker, who organized the Edenton Tea Party — the first documented women's protest to boycott

British tariffs in 1773; Julia Ward Howe, an American author and advocate for abolitionism and women's suffrage; and Ida B. Wells, an investigative journalist and early leader in the civil rights Movement who fought tirelessly to bring attention to racism. She was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

She finished her presentation with a spoken rendition of Maya Angelou's, "Still I Rise."

She said she chose the poem to convey strength and hope in times of trouble.

"I want everyone to understand that whatever trials they are going through — assault, bullying, hatred — they can still rise," she said.

Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, JRTC and Fort Polk commanding general, said there are some unbelievable examples of what women, whether civilians or members of the military, have contributed to society.

"The women in uniform at Fort Polk — officers, NCOs, warrant officers and Soldiers — that continue to help this formation move forward with pride are amazing," he said. "It's an incredible service they provide our Army and nation on a daily basis."

"In addition, the many female DA civilians and spouses also provide incredible contributions to the Fort Polk community that do not go unnoticed."

He thanked Bowers for her words. "Bowers is one of us," said Frank as he presented her with a coin and certificate of appreciation for her support and participation in the observance.

Chap. (Maj.) Omari Thompson, Ops Grp, said he is proud to be part of an Army community that appreciates the service and accomplishments women have achieved.

"They continue to succeed, in and out of uniform, to progress and help make our nation great," he said.

Spc. Anteria Fowlkes, Ops Grp, also attended the event. Fowlkes said it's important to acknowledge that women in the military haven't always had equal opportunities and have fought to get where they are today.

"Women in history have made an impact as they paved the way for female Soldiers today," she said.



Waste Connections is proud to be serving Fort Polk Home Of Heroes

We would like to provide some information each month to help us give Ft. Polk the best service possible

1. All dumpsters on Fort Polk are required to have top lids and side doors closed at all times, we ask that when you are done placing items in the container you ensure lids and doors are closed.
2. Please do not place any items in front of dumpsters as this prevents the driver from being able to service the dumpster.
3. There should be no field trash placed in any dumpster not marked "Mixed Field Waste", if a unit has field training to conduct they can call 535-1155 and schedule containers to be placed at their training location.
4. Please do not park vehicles around dumpsters, this will prevent the dumpster from being serviced.

If there are any questions and or concerns about dumpsters, bulk items or containers for field training please contact us at 535-1155 for Assistance.





GUN TRANSFERS PREMIUM PAWN

246 Keyser Avenue, Natchitoches, LA
318-238-4050

Call today to connect with a

SENIOR LIVING ADVISOR

INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE



A Place for Mom has helped over a million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.

There's no cost to you!
(855) 494-4381
! We're paid by our partner communities

Texas drive offers history, scenic beauty, ice cream

By **CHUCK CANNON**

Guardian editor

FORT POLK, La. — If you're looking for a way to spend a pleasant spring day taking in the sights and learning a little about the history of Louisiana's neighbors to the west, then a trip north of Houston could be just what you and your family are looking for.

Thanks to Lady Bird Johnson, wife of former Texas senator and U.S. president Lyndon Johnson, and her love for wildflowers, blooms cover the countryside of the area surrounding Brenham, lending a quilt-like look to the countryside of a part of the state known as the birthplace of Texas independence.

Bluebonnets, Indian paintbrushes and other flowers flooding the senses with blues, purples, pinks, yellows and oranges, dot the landscape, including acres of fields that seem to be covered in colorful carpets.

While the scenic beauty would be

enough to capture the fancy of most day trip visitors, there is so much more.

A trip to the area must include a stop at Washington on the Brazos, the spot along the Brazos River where plans were made to begin the fight for Texas' independence from Mexico. A park complete with an old church, panoramic views of the Brazos River, visitor's center and walking trail offers travellers the opportunity to stretch their legs while learning a bit of Texas history.

If your family includes children, then a must-see is the Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham where world-famous Blue Bell ice cream is produced. Stop in for a sample of more ice cream flavors than you can imagine.

As you soak in the breathtaking views of rolling hills of bluebonnets, don't forget to look for longhorn cattle and the largest jackrabbits west of the Sabine River.

From Fort Polk, take U.S. 171 North to La. Hwy 8 West. Once in

Texas (La. Hwy 8 becomes Texas Hwy 63), follow the signs to Livingston, Huntsville, Navasota then Brenham. It's near Navasota that you'll start to see the fields of wildflowers, especially bluebonnets.

Of course, if you're using GPS like most motorists do today, just plug in Brenham, Texas, and enjoy the scenery and the ride. You won't be sorry that you set aside the time for this day-long jaunt.

A view of the Brazos River at Washington on the Brazos, known as the birthplace of Texas independence.



CHUCK CANNON / GUARDIAN

One of many bluebonnet fields in southeast Texas.



45TH
ANNUAL



Photo by Mark Bills

NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK

Melrose Plantation Arts & Crafts Festival

APRIL 6 & 7, 2019

Saturday 9am - 5pm • Sunday 10am - 4pm

14 miles south of Natchitoches, Louisiana

From I-49 take Exit 127 (Cypress) East to LA HWY 1, turn Right approx. 4 miles, turn Left on HWY 493 to Melrose

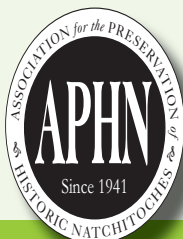
FESTIVAL ADMISSION

ADULTS - \$5.00 • CHILDREN (6-11) - \$2.00

Children must be accompanied by an adult • No pets inside gate entrance

GUIDED HOUSE TOUR - \$5.00

www.melroseplantation.org



“

As a teacher and a single parent, I work to provide for both my child and my students. I tutor in the afternoons. I teach summer school. I've worked as a store clerk and pizza delivery person.

Sometimes I drive for a ride sharing service on the weekends. I do a lot of things to make ends meet because I don't make enough in my career.

”

- Valencia Johnson -
Teacher • East Baton Rouge Parish

WWW.REDFORL.A.ORG

Lagniappe

BOSS

Check out Fort Polk's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers. The organization offers single Soldiers the opportunity to volunteer, as well as participate in fun events. Don't miss your chance to take part. BOSS meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10-11 a.m. at the Home of Heroes Recreation Center. The next meeting is April 10.

Festivals

• Boudin festival

Have you tried the Louisiana favorite called boudin? If not, you aren't going to want to miss the Boudin Festival held in Scott, a little over two hours away from Fort Polk along Interstate 10. The festival takes place April 5-7. There will be live music, fun carnival rides and plenty of chances to eat tasty Louisiana treats, especially boudin. For more information visit www.scottboudinfestival.com.

• Kite Fest Louisiane

Kite Fest Louisiane brings professional kite fliers and hobbyists to Port Allen in West Baton Rouge Parish. The event takes place at the West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex, 3383 Rosedale Road. Enjoy great family fun where the skies are filled with kites of all sizes and shapes. Inflatables, face painting, a kite-making workshop and kite designing are just some of the activities for children. Bring the entire family, some lawn chairs and enjoy a day of kite flying.

Enjoy Louisiana food booths and indoor flying performed by

indoor flying champions. Admission is free. For more information call (800) 654-9701 or visit www.westbatonrouge.net

• Arts and crafts

Check out the Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival April 6 and 7.

There will be more than 100 vendors featuring hand-made items such as original art works, stained glass, gourmet jellies, hand-made jewelry, photographs, plants, toys, woodworking products, wrought iron artwork, pottery and more. Tickets are \$5 per adults and \$2 per child ages 6-12. Tickets for tours of the Big House are \$5. Self-guided tours of the grounds and viewing of all the historic buildings are free.

For more information visit www.melroseplantation.org.

Miscellaneous

• Guided tour

Mansfield State Historic Site hosts a special guided battlefield tour to commemorate the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Mansfield. Park historians will conduct the 1.5 mile tour around the battlefield April 6 at 1 p.m. Appropriate footwear and clothing is recommended.

The cost is \$6 per person. Gate admission to the park is \$4 per person ages 4-61. Seniors 62 and over and children under 3 are admitted free. Mansfield State Historic Site is located at 15149 La. Hwy 175, three miles south of Mansfield. For more information call (888) 677-6267 or visit www.facebook.com/mansfield-shs.

• Texas Hold 'em

Stop by Spare Time Lounge, 2087 Ninth St., Fort Polk, today at 6 p.m. to participate in a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament. The event takes place every Friday at 6 p.m. There is a \$20 buy-in and one \$20 re-buy. Weekly prizes are awarded to the top three players. Call 531-8139 for more information.

• CyPhaCon

If you love anime, science fiction, fantasy and gaming, you won't want to miss CyPhaCon, a sci-fi/fantasy and gaming culture convention set to be in Lake Charles April 12-14 at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Tickets can be purchased on the CyPhaCon website via the Civic Center box office through Ticketmaster.

For more information visit www.cyphacon.org.

• Symphony feast

The Lake Charles Symphony hosts its annual Wild Beast Feast April 6 from 5-8 p.m. at VFW post 2130, 5676 Lake St., Lake Charles. The event features culinary creations of game including pork, poultry and seafood from local cooking teams, with a dash of Cajun flair. Prizes will be awarded to the top three chef teams, as well as a people's choice award.

Live entertainment is provided. General admission is \$50 per person or \$25 per student. For more information or to purchase tickets go to www.lcsymphony.com.

• Concert series

The City of Leesville, in conjunction with KJAE radio, hosts the 2019 Leesville Concert Series each Friday on the Polk stage in

downtown Leesville at the corner of Texas and Fourth streets at 6 p.m. The event includes live music, food trucks and encourages dancing. The lineup is as follows: April 5 — Casey Peveto Band, April 12 — The jazz sounds of Robert Richard, April 19 — Dani Lacour, April 26 — Michael Kuk and May 3 — Rootsicana.

Clubs/groups

• Language club

Immerse yourself in learning a foreign language such as Russian, Spanish, Brazilian, Portuguese or Tagalog by attending the Language Immersion Table. The club meets the first Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. The next meeting is Wednesday. For more information call Miguel Moyeno at (636) 577-4274.

• Bass Masters

Join the Fort Polk Community Bass Masters. The club meets monthly on the Tuesday before each tournament. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the New Llano American Legion, Post 387, 500 Vernon St., New Llano.

The March tournament takes place on Sam Rayburn Lake Saturday. The entry fee is \$40.

For more information call (337) 535-7591 or visit www.fortpolk-communitybassmasters.com.

• Lose weight

Join Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) every Thursday at the Vernon Parish Library meeting room. Weigh in is from 5-5:50 p.m.

The meeting starts at 5:50 p.m. For more information call (337) 208-0896.

SERIOUS ILLNESS?

You May Qualify for a Living Benefit Loan

Have you been diagnosed with cancer or another serious medical condition?

Do you have at least \$75,000 of life insurance?

Through our program you can borrow money from your life insurance and receive up to 50% of your policy's death benefit today.

Call today to see if you qualify.

1-877-305-6035

life credit
company

AW18-1024

83rd Annual NEW ORLEANS SPRING FIESTA

Come see what is behind those mysterious shutters



MARCH 30 - 31

Saturday, March 30

- French Quarter Guided History Tour - 10am

Sunday, March 31

- French Quarter Guided History Tour - 10am
- Brunch at Famous Antoine's Restaurant - 11am
- French Quarter Home Tour - 1-4pm

APRIL 6-7

Saturday April 6

- French Quarter Guided History Tour - 10am

- The Queen's Promenade - 11:30am
- Horse Drawn Carriage Parade - 4:30pm

Sunday April 7

- French Quarter Guided History Tour - 10am
- French Quarter Home Tour - 1-4pm

Tickets Sales, Reservations & Information call
504-581-1367 • 800-550-8450
springfiestanola.com • bestofneworleans.com/SpringFiesta2019
NewOrleansSpringFiesta@yahoo.com
826 St. Ann Street • New Orleans, LA 70116

32ND ANNUAL ACADIANA RV & BOAT SHOW



Cajun Field • March 29-30-31
AcadianaRVBoatShow.com

Fort Polk Guardian

www.thefortpolkguardian.com

Tradin' Post Ads

Published for the community of Fort Polk, La.

Deadline For All Classified
Ads Is Noon Tuesday

Turn in ads to the
Public Affairs Office,
Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr.
or fax to: 318-352-3667
or email to
tradingpostads@yahoo.com

SCHOOLS

CHILD CARE OPENING'S at First Assembly Christian Academy! 6 Weeks to 3-years-old. Also Enrolling Pre K - 4 for 2019-2020! Call 337-239-6553 or visit us at 1201 South 9th in Leesville.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: TWO 28-FOOT ALUMINUM PONTOONS, connected with partial cover. Pontoons sit on 28-foot trailer, \$6,000. Call 318-352-3618.

VACATION PACKAGE FOR SOUTH PADRE ISLAND from 19 May to 26 May 2019. You will stay at the Royal Beach Tennis Resort. Asking \$500, Call 337-396-1832 for more information.

PRO-FORM TREADMILL for sale. Asking \$100. Call 337-396-1832 for more information.

FOR RENT

ONE BEDROOM HOUSE with two baths and Townhouses (\$700 per month), References required. Call 318-793-8901

FOR LEASE IN DERIDDER'S GREEN ACRE SUBDIVISION. Move-In Ready! Beautiful 4 BR, 2 Bath, 2 car garage, extra large living and dining areas, kitchen, den and patio with fenced backyard. Call 318-717-5057.

REAL ESTATE

NOTICE: All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination. The Guardian will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All dwellings advertised in this newspaper are

available on an equal opportunity basis.

STATEWIDES

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? CALL us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-855-780-8359 (LA-SCAN)

APPLYING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY OR APPEALING A DENIED CLAIM? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Social Security Disability Attorneys, 1-844-883-2045 FREE Consultations. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. (TX/NM Bar)] (LA-SCAN)

AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING GET FAA CERTIFICATION. No High School Diploma or GED-We can help. Approved for military bene-

fits. Financial aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance. 877-902-6315 (LA-SCAN)

HEALTHCARE CAREER TRAINING ONLINE. Start a New Career in Medical Billing & Coding. Medical Administrative Assistant. To learn more, call Ultimate Medical Academy. 1-855-400-1967 (LA-SCAN)

BECOME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing- Trusted by Authors Since 1920 Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-866-593-1462 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/la-press> (LA-SCAN)

FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR THOSE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS. You may qualify for a Living Benefit Loan today (up to 50 percent of your Life Insurance Policy Death Benefit.) Free Information. CALL 1-844-297-7783 (LA-SCAN)

OVER \$10K IN DEBT? Be debt free in 24-48 months. Pay a fraction of what you owe. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-855-419-8260 (LA-SCAN)

NOTICE OF DECISION

Environmental Assessment and Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the Expansion and Operation of Geronimo Drop Zone in Support of Dual Row Airdrop Systems (DRAS) Operations at Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk, Louisiana

The Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk has decided to pursue the expansion of Geronimo Drop Zone in support of Dual Row Airdrop Systems (DRAS) at JRTC and Fort Polk, Louisiana. The purpose of the action will enable JRTC and Fort Polk the capability to train on a broader range of air delivery techniques safely and efficiently and includes DRAS operations for home station, rotational aircraft, or future units that could be stationed at JRTC and Fort Polk. One comment was received during the 8 February – 11 March 2019 public comment period and has been addressed in the Final Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA and FNSI are available online at <https://home.army.mil/polkguardian/about/garrison-directorates-and-support-offices/public-affairs/media-relations> under the Environmental Assessment Reports tab or may be requested by contacting the JRTC and Fort Polk Public Affairs Office at the number and address below. Copies of the EA and FNSI are also available at the following libraries: Beauregard Parish Library, 205 South Washington Avenue, DeRidder and Vernon Parish Library, 1401 Nolan Trace, Leesville.

Information regarding this action can be obtained by contacting: JRTC and Fort Polk Public Affairs Office, 7033 Magnolia Drive, Building 4919, Fort Polk, LA 71459-5342; or email: usarmy.polkguardian.mbx.pao-public-response@mail.mil

Advertising in The Fort Polk Guardian

With a phone call
your ad can be
seen by over
40,000
readers!

call
Theresa Larue

337-404-7242

or email her at

sales@thefortpolkguardian.com



Guardian Tradin' Post Ad

* Advertising is FREE for soldiers, family members and DA civilians.
* Businesses will not receive free advertising. All business ads must be prepaid. We accept Visa and Mastercard.
(This includes child care, quarters-cleaning, or the sale and/or breeding of multiple pedigreed/registered animals)
* Only single soldiers living in barracks may list numbers with 531 prefixes.

Turn in ads to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr.
Or fax to 318-352-3667 or email to tradingpostads@yahoo.com

Deadline for FREE ads is NOON Tuesday.

Category: ☐ Household Appliances ☐ Furniture ☐ Sporting goods ☐ TV/Radio/Stereo
☐ Motor Vehicles ☐ Computers ☐ Pets ☐ Garage Sales ☐ Real Estate ☐ Misc.

Advertisement: In 25 words or less (one word per block) give description, price, telephone number and other pertinent information. For garage sales, list time, date and location.

I am a: ☐ Soldier ☐ Retiree ☐ DA Civilian ☐ Military family member

In signing this form, I certify that the items I am advertising will be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Phone: _____

Put Your Career In High Gear!



CALL
1-800-443-3780

**Class openings now in
Alexandria, Baton
Rouge, Hammond,
Harvey, Lafayette,
and Monroe.**

Earn a Class A, B or C CDL

- **FULL-TIME**
4 WEEK PROGRAM
-160 Hours
 - **PART-TIME**
8 WEEKEND PROGRAM
-160 Hours
 - **Refresher Course**
-40 Hours
 - **Passenger/School Bus**
Course
-40 Hours
- We are a 3rd party tester.**

LA-0001845913

SAVE YOUR HOME!
ARE you behind paying your **MORTGAGE**? Denied a Loan Modification? Threatened with **FORECLOSURE**? Call the Homeowner's Relief Line now for Help! 1-866-470-1641 (LA-SCAN)

ASSUME PAYMENT, GOOD CREDIT, BAD CREDIT, NO CREDIT, NO PROBLEM! Singles and Doublewides! Equity Programs Available. For More Information Call 337-948-0925 (LA-SCAN)

DIRECTV & AT&T 155 CHANNELS & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/SELECT Package.) AT&T Internet 99 Percent Reliability. Unlimited Texts to 120 Countries w/AT&T Wireless. Call 4 FREE Quote- 1-866-734-0452 (LA-SCAN)

GET A SMARTPHONE FOR \$0 DOWN* with AT&T Next® and AT&T Next Every Year? \$250 Gift Card for Switching to AT&T! (*Requires well-qualified credit. Limits & restrictions apply.) 1-844-334-8365 (LA-SCAN)

HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET - 25mbps starting at \$49.99/month! Get More Data **FREE** Off-Peak Data. **FAST** download speeds. Wi-Fi built in! **FREE** Standard Installation for lease customers! Limited Time, Call 1-844-253-8788 (LA-SCAN)

SPECTRUM TRIPLE PLAY! TV, Internet & Voice for \$29.99 each. 60 MB per second speed No contract or commitment. More Channels. Faster Internet. Unlimited Voice. Call 1-844-669-6795 (LA-SCAN)

VIASAT SATELLITE INTERNET UP TO 12 MBPS PLANS STARTING AT \$30/MONTH. Our Fastest Speeds (up to 50 Mbps) & Unlimited Data Plans Start at \$100/month. Call Viasat today! 1-855-801-0860 (LA-SCAN)

ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS! GAIN freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 855-382-4168 (LA-SCAN)

ATTENTION: VIAGRA AND CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - \$99 + **FREE** Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-855-403-6345 (LA-SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR FOR BREAST CANCER! Help United Breast Foundation education, prevention, & support programs. **FAST FREE PICKUP** - 24 HR **RESPONSE** - **TAX DEDUCTION** 1-844-898-5943 (LA-SCAN)

HAVE A CPAP MACHINE FOR SLEEP APNEA? Get replacement FDA approved CPAP machine parts and supplies at little or no cost! Free sleep guide included! 1-877-830-2909 (Mon-Fri) (LA-SCAN)

START SAVING BIG ON MEDICATIONS! Up To 90% Savings from 90DAYMEDS! Over 3500 Medications Available! Prescriptions Required. Pharmacy Checker Approved. CALL Today for Your **FREE** Quote. 1-855-631-6419 (LA-SCAN)




SYCAMORE POINT
TIMBER RIDGE

2 Bedroom Apartments starting at \$795/month

ALSO AVAILABLE

2 BR/2 Bath Flat @ \$815/month
2 BR/2.5 Bath Town home @ \$795/month
3 BR/2 Bath Flat @ \$850/month

Washer/Dryer Included with a 12 month lease

Sycamore-Point.com • (337) 537-0028
Timber-RidgeApt.com • (337) 537-2900

Fort Polk Guardian

www.thefortpolkguardian.com

Tradin' Post Ads

Published for the community of Fort Polk, La.

Deadline For All Classified Ads Is Noon Tuesday

Turn in ads to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 4919, Magnolia Dr. or fax to: 318-352-3667 or email to tradingpostads@yahoo.com

****STOP STRUGGLING ON THE STAIRS**** Give your life a lift with an ACORN STAIRLIFT! Call now for \$250 OFF your stairlift purchase and FREE DVD & brochure! 1-866-541-7841 (LA-SCAN)

YOUR MEDICATION, MADE EASY! PillPack is a full-service pharmacy that sorts your medication by the dose and delivers to your door -- For free. Learn more: 877-811-5046 (LA-SCAN)

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 1-855-798-4865 (LA-SCAN)

AT&T INTERNET. GET MORE For Your High-Speed Internet Thing. Starting at \$40/month with 12-month agreement. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & service restrictions apply. Call us today 1-866-297-0160 (LA-SCAN)

DIRECTV NOW. NO SATELLITE Needed. \$40/month. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual

Contract. No Commitment. CALL 1-877-201-3648 (LA-SCAN)

DISH TV \$59.99 FOR 190 CHANNELS \$14.95 HIGH SPEED INTERNET. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-855-721-4040 (LA-SCAN)

EARTHLINK HIGH SPEED INTERNET. As Low As \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-866-794-6858 (LA-SCAN)

SECURE YOUR HOME WITH VIVINT SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY. Call 1-888-894-0402 to learn how you can get a professionally installed security system with \$0 activation. (LA-SCAN)

AUTO INSURANCE STARTING AT \$49/MONTH! Call for your fee rate comparison to see how much you can save! Call: 844-430-4651 (LA-SCAN)

DENTAL INSURANCE. CALL PHYSICIANS Mutual Insurance Company for details. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures.

1-855-268-0108 or <http://www.dental50plus.com/morningAd#6118> (LA-SCAN)

WE SHOP; YOU SAVE ON YOUR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE! Call 1-844-318-1309 today to compare Medicare benefits and costs from up to 20 top-rated carriers. Receive the best option for you. (LA-SCAN)

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION! World Health Link. Price Match Guarantee! Prescriptions Required. CIPA Certified. Over 1500 medications available. CALL Today For A Free Price Quote. 1-877-784-6520 Call Now! (LA-SCAN)

CRAFTMATIC ADJUSTABLE BEDS FOR LESS! Up to 50% Off Leading Competitors. #1 Rated Adjustable Bed. Trusted Over 40 Years. All Mattress Types Available. Shop by Phone and SAVE! CALL 1-877-852-8167 (LA-SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-844-605-9298 (LA-SCAN)

STUDENT LOAN HELP IS HERE! Out of school & OVERWHELMED with federal STUDENT LOAN DEBT? We may be able to help reduce your debt with loan consolidation! Call: 1-877-625-1059 (LA-SCAN)

MEET SINGLES RIGHT NOW! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange messages and connect live. Try it free. Call now: 1-866-233-2480 (LA-SCAN)

VIAGRA AND CIALIS USERS! Cut your drug costs! SAVE \$Money! 50 Pills for \$99.00. FREE Shipping! 100% Guaranteed and Discreet. CALL 1-866-565-8358 (LA-SCAN)

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? CALL us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-855-780-8359 (LA-SCAN)

APPLYING FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY OR APPEALING A DENIED CLAIM? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Social Security Disability Attorneys, 1-844-883-2045 FREE Con-

sultations. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. (TX/NM Bar)] (LA-SCAN)

AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING GET FAA CERTIFICATION. No High School Diploma or GED-We can help. Approved for military benefits. Financial aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance. 877-902-6315 (LA-SCAN)

HEALTHCARE CAREER TRAINING ONLINE. Start a New Career in Medical Billing & Coding. Medical Administrative Assistant. To learn more, call Ultimate Medical Academy. 1-855-400-1967 (LA-SCAN)

BECOME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing- Trusted by Authors Since 1920 Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-866-593-1462 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/la-press> (LA-SCAN)

FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR THOSE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS. You may qualify for a Living Benefit Loan today (up to 50 percent of your Life Insurance Policy Death Benefit.) Free Information. CALL 1-844-297-7783 (LA-SCAN)

OVER \$10K IN DEBT? Be debt free in 24-48 months. Pay a fraction of what you owe. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-855-419-8260 (LA-SCAN)

SAVE YOUR HOME! ARE you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Denied a Loan Modification? Threatened with FORECLOSURE? Call the Homeowner's Relief Line now for Help! 1-866-470-1641 (LA-SCAN)

ASSUME PAYMENT, GOOD CREDIT, BAD CREDIT, NO CREDIT, NO PROBLEM! Singles and Doublewides! Equity Programs Available. For More Information Call 337-948-0925 (LA-SCAN)

DIRECTV & AT&T 155 CHANNELS & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/SELECT Package.) AT&T Internet 99 Percent Reliability. Unlimited Texts to 120 Countries w/AT&T Wireless. Call 4 FREE Quote- 1-866-734-0452 (LA-SCAN)

Full Time Medical Secretary, Medical Biller, & Medical Assistant

Needed for Medical Office
Experienced required
Bring resume to
1760 S. 5th Street
Leesville, LA 71446
or fax to 337-238-5703
Attn: Mariam

EXTENDED STAY

Fully furnished, Jacuzzi, TV cable & internet, quiet location.

UNFURNISHED HOUSES & APARTMENTS for lease.

OFFICE & RETAIL UNITS for lease.

MORRIS TEAM REALTY LLC
337-239-3885

NOW LEASING RAILWAY OFFICE/RETAIL SUITES

Suite	Sq. Ft.	Rent
#300	110	\$160
#301	345	\$230
#302	906	\$530
#306	132	\$190
#308	659	\$390
#309	257	\$200
#311	259	\$200
#313	305	\$230

CAN BE COMBINED FOR LARGER UNIT, UTILITIES INCLUDED IN ABOVE IN LEESVILLE, CLOSE TO FT. POLK
Also Available:
#1 1227 \$1030
#2 297 \$250
#3 264 \$220
#4 336 \$280
Units may be combined Six Month and Up Lease Terms
337-239-3885
Morris Team Realty, LLC

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE ARCHERY PRO-SHOP

STARTING AT:

\$340

QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AT SPECIAL PRICES!
AR & AK ACCESSORIES FFL TRANSFERS



FINANCING AVAILABLE!

ARCHERY PRO SHOP



P: (337)537-1756 1074 ENTRANCE RD.
F: (337)537-2579 LEESVILLE, LA 71446
WWW.STARGUNANDARCHERY.COM



COMPLETE FAMILY DENTISTRY

Including:
• Orthodontics • Preventive Dentistry • Oral Surgery
• Same Day Service On Dentures & Partials
• Cosmetic Dentistry • ZOOM Whitening
• Botox • Juvaderm • Restylane

Dr. Charles Hudson • Dr. Warren Thomas
Dr. Grace Garbo • Dr. Sandra Culp • Dr. Julie Evans-Steiner

DENTAL INSURANCE WELCOME

LEESVILLE
238-3384
1-800-737-7363
706 S 6th St



FINANCING AVAILABLE

DERIDDER
463-6545
1-888-737-2423
1808 Hwy 190 W Ste. D

REPAIRS, REMODELING & PAINTING

Residential or Commercial
Small jobs welcomed.
When your time is tight, call on us!

MORRIS TEAM REALTY LLC
337-239-3885
or 337-424-9522

Walker



318-445-6421 | WalkerAutoMitsubishi.com
1616 MACARTHUR DR., ALEXANDRIA LA 71301



BUY FOR ONLY: **\$13,900**



NEW 2019 **MIRAGE** ⁽¹⁾

BUY FOR ONLY: **\$19,800**



NEW 2019 **OUTLANDER SPORT** ⁽²⁾

BUY FOR ONLY: **\$19,900**



NEW 2019 **ECLIPSE CROSS** ⁽³⁾

BUY FOR ONLY: **\$20,900**



NEW 2019 **OUTLANDER** ⁽⁴⁾

WE'LL GIVE YOU THE **ABSOLUTE MAX** FOR YOUR TRADE!

(1) Example stk# 819056. MSRP \$15432.75. Includes \$1000 customer cash. and \$532 dealer discount. Excludes TT&L, registration, insurance & \$150 dealer fee. Ends 4/1/19. (2) Example stk# 819049 MSRP \$23820. Includes \$2750 customer cash. and \$1208 dealer discount. Excludes TT&L, registration, insurance & \$150 dealer fee. Ends 4/1/19. (3) Example stk# 818052. MSRP \$25450. Includes \$3000 customer cash. and \$1334 dealer discount. Excludes TT&L, registration, insurance & \$150 dealer fee. Ends 4/1/19. (4) Example stk# 819006. MSRP \$25825. Includes \$3250 customer cash. and \$1331 dealer discount. Excludes TT&L, registration, insurance & \$150 dealer fee. Ends 4/1/19.