

Off Duty

Editor: Catrina Francis catrina.francis@bliss.army.mil

Road closure

Robert E. Lee road will be closed until tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. The road will be closed west of Jeb Stuart.

Combatives tournament

There will be a combatives tournament today and tomorrow at Stout Physical Fitness Center. The preliminary round will be held Jan. 12 and the semifinals and final rounds will be held Jan. 13. For more information call Mark Dominik at 568-5677 or Joseph Fedak at 568-5995.

Armed Forces Blood Program

The William Beaumont Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center wants to thank those who have supported us in the past and remind others to participate. Donating a pint of blood is priceless and without it, we wouldn't have been able to save lives. While blood is traditionally in short supply during the winter months due to the holidays (block leave), travel schedules, inclement weather and illness, the WBAMC Blood Donor Center is already experiencing a critical shortage on blood supply. Please review the schedule below of the upcoming blood drives at Fort Bliss. For any questions contact the blood donor coordinator at 568-5365 or by email at Carmen.dietrich-williams@cen.amedd.army.mil. The Officer Basic Course will have a donation Jan. 17, 4th Brigade Combat Team Jan. 18, White Sands Missile Range Jan. 19 and 108th Brigade Jan. 31.

MLK commemoration

The United States Army Sergeants Major Academy and class 56 will host the Fort Bliss Martin Luther King Jr. observance Jan. 18 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the USASMA East auditorium, Biggs Army Airfield. "The theme is Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!" This event is free and everyone is invited to attend. Former Sgt Maj. of the Army Gene C. McKinney will be the guest speaker. For more information, call 568-9383.

ACS closure

The Army Community Service and Family Assistance Center located at Bldg. 2494 will be closed Jan. 13 through 16 for observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

For financial emergencies Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. call 549-1142. For financial emergencies after duty hours, weekends and holidays call the American Red Cross at (877) 272-7337.

VITA seeks volunteers

With the 2005 tax season rapidly approaching, the Fort Bliss Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Office is beginning its preparations to open for business. The office is now seeking motivated individuals who are interested in providing services to the Fort Bliss community. Last year, VITA volunteers helped save the Fort Bliss community more than \$450,000 in preparation fees and processed over \$5 million in tax refunds using the latest filing software. Volunteers assisted over 4,000 Soldiers, retirees and their families.

Volunteers must be available now through Jan. 20 for eighty hours of training in Tax Law and VITA certification to be completed here. From Jan. 23 through the end of tax season, volunteers must be prepared to commit a minimum of 15 to 20 hours a week to the VITA program. For more information, call Capt. Gerard Kenna, at 568-7141.

ADA reunion

The 2-7 Air Defense Artillery 15th reunion will be held Feb. 25. The weekend's activities will include an ice break-



COURTESY PHOTO

Music festival

El Paso Pro-Musica brings the Music Festival to Fort Bliss, Jan. 17 at noon, at Sage Hall. El Paso Pro-Musica has established itself as one of the city's most respected organizations with a celebrated annual concert series and bringing great music to the city. This is a free concert but donations can be made to the organization. For more information, call 833-9400.

er, golf scramble and dinner at the Great American Land and Cattle Company. For those who served with 2-7 ADA during Operation Desert Shield or Desert Storm and wish to attend, contact Lt. Col. James Spangler

at james.r.spangler@bliss.army.mil or at 568-2409, or Master Sgt. Michael Kern at Michael.kern@bliss.army.mil or 568-4471. RSVP no later than Feb. 1.

Installation banquet

The 9th and 10th horse cavalry association Donnie W. Brown chapter will have their 6th biannual installation banquet Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. The banquet will be held at the Vista Hill Country Club. For more information, call Peter Wallace at 821-9617 or 593-8376.

ICE site

Fort Bliss has officially entered the interactive customer evaluation age with a Web site that allows customers to give direct and immediate feedback to service provider managers about installation products and services. The Fort Bliss ICE site was launched with an extensive selection of on-line service provider comment cards. Click on the ICE logo at the Fort Bliss home page www.bliss.army.mil or log on at <http://ice.disa.mil> and click on "Fort Bliss." Select a category from the list and click the info column to see service provider information such as hours of operation, phone numbers and upcoming events. Click the service provider list to fill out a comment card and with a click of the mouse, the system sends your suggestion, complaint or compliment to the proper service provider manager for action. ICE is the difference between the speed of paper and the speed of electrons. All you need is an Internet browser to access the ICE system from literally any computer, any time, and any place. For questions concerning the ICE system, call Art Ronquillo II at 568-3341.

Essay contest

The National Guard Bureau has announced a unique opportunity for the

young people of America. Students who will be high school juniors or seniors by August are eligible to participate in the National Guard's Youth Rendezvous essay contest. Ten students from each state and territory will be involved in this once-in-a-lifetime experience and earn all-expenses-paid trip to North Dakota Aug. 13 through 18. Students need to write a Lewis and Clark focused essay in order to be a state finalist. The Lewis and Clark focused essay needs to address the following questions: In your opinion, what military value most describes the Lewis and Clark corps of discovery journey and why. The essay must be a minimum of 1,000 words, but not more than 1,500 words; and can be submitted online or by mail and must be received before midnight Feb. 28. To submit an essay or learn more about planned events, activities and essay contest rules, go to www.lcyouthrendezvous.com. For more information, call Davina R. French at (703) 607-9310 or Lt. Col Thomas Palladino at (512) 782-6748 or by email at Thomas.palladino@tx.ngb.army.mil.

EFMP meetings

The Exceptional Family Member Program will have a monthly support group meeting Jan. 30. It will be held at the Army Community Services Bldg. 2494 Ricker Road from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Al Velarde from The Child Crisis Center of El Paso, who will be explaining respite care services and providing information on who to qualify and receive this service. Respite care is care that is given for the child at no charge to relieve stress upon a family who regularly cares for a special needs child. They will also have representatives present from EPISD and Region 19 to answer any questions about special educational services. They will have a pot luck dinner so feel free to bring a favorite dish to share. Door prizes will be given for the first five families who arrive. Children are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Should you require child care, RSVP by Jan. 15 at 568-7088. We look forward to meeting

with each of you. EFMP is always looking for volunteers to help with the program. Research, administrative projects and assistance with EFMP functions are all extremely important to their program. Bring your knowledge, talents and experience to share with their program and families in the community.

Gus and Goldie B-ball

The Pavo Real Recreation Center will host Gus and Goldie basketball for 4 to 7 years-old. Gus and Goldie basketball will be held Saturday mornings and the cost is \$25 per child. For more information, call Raquel Ramirez at 858-1929 or 858-2621.

Music festival

For those who are ready to fulfill their New Year resolution of getting in shape this year let Stout fitness instructor's help. New classes redesigned spinning room and weight management support is just a few of their changes. Join them for boot camp, spinning, step and body sculpting and many more. Get in shape this year. For more information, call 569-5162, or come by Stout Fitness center and get a copy of the class calendar today.

Special Forces briefings

Special Forces will conduct briefings at Soldier Hall Bldg. 2, Room 120, C Wing, Jan. 24 through 27 and Jan. 30 through Feb. 2. Briefings will be 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. Contact Sgt. 1st Class Drawbond at 1-877-839-4047.

Warrant officer recruiting

For those interested in becoming a warrant officer the Office, Chief of Air Defense Artillery is assisting soldiers putting together packets for preparation of the upcoming warrant officer selection boards. Openings are available for MOS 140A, Command and Control Systems Technician, and MOS 140E, AMD Technician/Tactician (Patriot System Technician). Air Defense is seeking applicants from CMFs 14, 25, 35, and 94 for the 140 series MOS. Information on pre-