

Off Duty

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Library room reopens

Mickelson Community Library children's room is now open for 10 a.m. story time. The room received new paint and shelving. Mickelson Library hosts "read me a story" every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. for children 2 to 5 years old in the Children's Room of the library. The library also hosts "family story time" for 2 to 6 year olds at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays. Each session lasts 30 to 45 minutes, and parents or guardians must stay with their child throughout the duration. Each week features a new theme and includes some movement, singing, and crafts. Mickelson Community Library is located in the basement of E-wing, Hinman Hall Bldg. 2. For more information, call 568-6156.

Information technology

All personnel are invited to attend the free Information Technology Expo at the Fort Bliss Officer's Club, today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To see a complete listing of participating vendors and a description of their product, or to pre-register, go to www.fedpage.com/eventslist.asp (not required to attend, but appreciated). All pre-registered attendees will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win an iPod Shuffle. Complimentary refreshments and a light lunch will be served. This event is made possible with the support of the Fort Bliss DOIM. For more information, e-mail mark@fbcdm.com.

OER and NCO-ER forms

In accordance with MILPER message number 06-035 issued February 1 the focus on Soldier safety must be added by the rating chain in objectives and task supporting their safety programs and plans for both officers' and noncommissioned officers' evaluation and developmental support forms and counseling checklists. Reference materials to meet this new requirement are available at the Combat Readiness Center Web site: <https://crc.army.mil>. The results from the counseling should be reflected on the evaluation report and the new requirement will be closely observed by the chain of command. For more information, call Wade Beckner at 568-7226.

Financial readiness training

Financial readiness training for first term Soldiers is a mandatory class (AR 608-1) for E-1 through E-6 on their first enlistment. Monthly checkbook and debit card management refresher course for individuals who have abused and misused their account. The following February class is being offered: Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The class is located at the ACS building. To reserve a seat, call 568-7088.

Veteran nomination

Nominations are now being taken for decorated veterans. They will be selected from each of the conflicts and recognized at the Veterans Day Gala Nov. 2 at the Centennial Club at Biggs Army Airfield. Recognized veterans will be dinner guests of the ADA Association. Summarize wartime service such as dates, unit, location, awards and decorations (include copies of citations if available) and subsequent community service. Submit to: ADA Association, P.O. Box 6101 Fort Bliss, Texas 79906 or fax to 568-0965 or by e-mail FanningE@bliss.army.mil. Forms are due NLT Aug. 18. Forms can also be picked up at the Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office Bldg. 15. For more information, call 568-6056.

ACAP

Soldiers who are within 1 year of ETS or 2 years of retirement may establish an appointment with the ACAP Center for their mandatory pre-separation briefing to



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El Paso Symphony

Maestra Sarah Ioannides and the members of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra are offering a special package for the military community to attend their Feb. 24 concert at 8 p.m. at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. As a special tribute to the military the symphony will offer their dinner and concert package for \$25 a person or the concert tickets for a 30 percent discount. Dinner will be served at the Maestra's Café located at the grand tier lobby of the Abraham Chavez Theatre. Service will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. To make reservations, call 532-3776. Reservations are required. Discounted tickets for the concert are \$7 to \$24.50. Student tickets are available for \$5 or \$7 in certain sections. To purchase a ticket from the symphony office, call 532-3776.

complete the DD Form 2648. This form is required prior to separation from the service. PL 102-484 §1142 requires the form be completed no later than 90 days before the date of separation. Soldiers who are contemplating retirement are not required to have an approved retirement application or be in possession of orders to register with the ACAP Center. The appointment for the pre-separation briefing may be accomplished by calling 568-3870 or 568-7996 or by visiting the ACAP Center Bldg. 515A, third floor, room 308. Appointment slips are provided if needed. It takes approximately 1 hour to complete the pre-separation processing.

SMA scholarship

The El Paso Sergeants Major Association is holding competition for the award of scholarship grants for the 2006 academic year. Funds for these grants are gathered through fund-raising activities throughout the year and also through individual donations from the association membership. The association is now taking applications for the award of their 2006 scholarship grants. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors from an El Paso area high school with a "B" average or above, and be the dependent of an active-duty or retired noncommissioned officer. Persons interested in applying should send a #10 size self-addressed stamped envelope to: El Paso Sergeants Major Association, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 6050, Fort Bliss, Texas 79906-0050. Application forms and a letter detailing requirements will be sent to the applicant. The deadline is April 30

Selective Service

The Selective Service is looking for men and women in Texas who are interested in serving as volunteer members of local draft boards. Local board members are appointed by the president and play an important role closely connected with our nation's defense. Little time is needed for such an important job with training being conducted once a year in the com-

munity. Qualifications for becoming a member are: must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, males must have registered with Selective Service, not a current employee of any law enforcement occupation, not a current or retired member of the armed forces and not have been convicted of any criminal offense. For more information, contact Capt. Jill Trahan at 307-5995 or jilljoy@juno.com. Information can also be obtained from the Selective Service System Web site at www.sss.gov.

ASE certification

The Automotive Service Excellence Certification Exams will be administered by the education center testing center Bldg. 639 room 9 May 8, 10 and 15 from 7 to 11 a.m. to active duty and reserve component personnel only. To register, prospective examinees must see Roberto Chavez at the education center Monday through Friday 8 to 11 a.m. or before the deadline March 10. For more information call Chavez at 568-5315.

Bataan Memorial march

The annual Bataan Memorial death march will be held March 26. Visit www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1273906 to register or go to www.bataanmarch.com. This year, participants entering the Bataan Memorial death march may choose between two routes – 26.2 miles or 15 miles. The different routes are clearly marked with colors or signs directing marchers.

Fort Bliss tax service

The Fort Bliss Tax Center, located at Bldg. 50, is now open. Their service is free and fast with e-file returns taking as little as eight days to deposit. Their office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. They stay open till 7 p.m. Tuesday and close at 3 p.m. Friday. For the customer's convenience, they are open three Saturdays this season. Feb. 11 the tax center will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 15, the tax center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For

more information, call Cpt. Gerard Kenna at 568-7141.

Business start-up

For those interested in starting a local small business or a home-based business, representatives from the Women's Business Border Center of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce are available to speak with you about entrepreneurship and available avenues to get your business up and running. Assistance is provided in formulating a business plan, applying for small business loans, understanding permits and taxes, and much more. They are located inside the employment readiness office at ACS, Bldg. 2494, Tuesday and Thursday morning. For more information or to make an appointment, call 566-4066.

Air Force health profession

The Air Force Medical Service is hiring nurses, dentists and physicians. Current military dentist, nurses and physicians within one year of completing their military service obligation who would like to apply for the Air Force may call or e-mail for details. The representative for the Fort Bliss and El Paso area is Tech. Sgt. Bill Malcolm at (505) 888-1975 or e-mail william.malcolm@rs.af.mil.

Blood donor center

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, 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 on Fort Bliss. For more information, call Carmen Dietrich-Williams blood donor coordinator at 568-5365 or e-mail Carmen.dietrich-williams@cen.amedd.army.mil. The 6th Brigade will