

Environmental forum

There will be a bi-monthly environmental forum meeting Jan. 16 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Bliss Museum and Study Center, Bldg. 1735. The agendas are as follows: 1. Environmental Program Assessment System, 2. Hazardous Waste Management, 3. Environmental Management System, 4. Waste Water Management Oil Water Separator-New Contract. Target audience is MSC budget analyst to discuss new waste water contract and environmental compliance officers. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Stan Green at 568-7041.

FCC

The Family Child Care Program of Child and Youth Services will conduct orientation class Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. for applicants and former providers from any military installation. Applicant training for new potential Family Child Care Providers is Jan. 29 through Feb. 2. Both classes are at Bldg. 1743 Victory Road. The classes start at 8:30 a.m. Classes include USDA Food Program, Child Growth and Development, Business Practices, Food Handlers, Fire, Safety, Health, Child Abuse Prevention and others. Background clearances are completed during the week of training; therefore, applicants with favorable background clearances for their family may qualify to become FCC providers. The FCC program has homes off post. Applications are at Bldg. 1743 (ITR office). For more information, call FCC at 568-4198.

ACAP

The ACAP Center will sponsor a visit by World Financial Group who will be interviewing and collecting resumes for positions in the El Paso area. World Financial Group will be at the ACAP Center Jan. 9, 23 and 30 at Bldg. 515A, room 308. For more information, contact Randy Stovall at 568-7165.

Organ donor registry

Texas now has an online organ donor registry. By taking time to register your wish to be a donor, you give Southwest Transplant Alliance and its sister agencies an opportunity to clearly indicate to family members that you chose to be a donor. This registry can be accessed at any time of the day or night, in order to print confirmation of a person's wish to donate organs and tissue. Visit www.texasdear.org and register your wish to be a donor, and share this most precious gift of knowing your wishes with those close to you. For questions about the organ donation, visit www.organ.org.

POV training

IAW HQDA implementation and training guidance for the Army Traffic Safety Training Program the following information is provided. Successful completion of the ATSTP IAW AR 385-55 is required for all Soldiers under 26 years of age. TRADOC is providing the first hour of Traffic Safety Training (Introductory Course) during Advanced Individual Training/One Station Unit Training, effective June 1, 2006. IMCOM is providing the follow-on training at select installations across the Army. All Army personnel newly assigned to an Army installation will receive local traffic hazards (30 minutes) training. All Soldiers less than 26 years of age will receive Intermediate Traffic Safety Training when newly assigned to an Army installation. These training courses (Local Hazards and Intermediate Traffic Safety) are scheduled to be given at Fort Bliss Jan. 9 and 11 and Jan. 23 and 25. Course duration is 3 hours starting at 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and again from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. IMCOM is providing the training instructor under the Cape Fox Professional Services contract and the Installation Safety Office is providing the location, training equipment, and materials for classroom presentation. To sign up for this required training, call the safety office at 568-7772, or stop by the Installation Safety Office, Bldg. 515-B, 2nd floor, room 208, to register. If units wish to submit an attendance roster of their Soldiers please hand carry to the safety office or fax it to the safety office at 568-7952.

EFMP

A special needs Webinar is scheduled for Jan. 10 at 9 a.m., noon and 9 p.m. EST. The founder and director of STOMP is conducting the training. It is focused on advocacy training for military special needs parents. For more



CATRINA FRANCIS

Fort Bliss Tax Center ready for tax season

For Bliss Tax Center, located at Bldg. 50, is set to open Feb. 1 at 8 a.m. Their service is free and fast with e-file returns taking as little as eight days to deposit. Their office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. They will operate Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the convenience of the community, they will be open three Saturdays this season Feb. 10 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and April 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

information, visit www.militaryonesource.com.

VITA seeks volunteers

With the 2006 tax season rapidly approaching, the Fort Bliss Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Office is beginning its preparation to open for business. The office is now seeking motivated individuals who are interested in providing services to the Fort Bliss community. Volunteers must be available for training Jan. 8 through 11 and Jan. 16 through 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. After training, volunteers must be willing to commit to a minimum of fifteen to twenty hours a week to the VITA program. For more information, contact Capt. Jason Fu at 568-7141.

NFL playoffs

Starting Jan. 6 the Officers' Club and the Centennial Club offers the NFL Playoff games throughout the post-season (including Saturday games). Wild Card weekend is Jan. 6 and 7. Divisional playoffs are Jan. 13 and 14, conference championships Jan. 21 and Super Bowl XLI is Feb. 4 at Dolphin Stadium (Miami, Fla.). Come watch the games, and enjoy free snacks. The Officers' Club will also feature Sunday Brunch before the game. For more information call 568-7013 or 562-5969.

Free wireless Internet

MWR would like to remind all Soldiers and their family's free wireless Internet is offered at many of their locations. This includes the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center, Fort Bliss Officers' Club and Mickelson Library, the Fort Bliss Bowling Center, the RV Park, Fort Bliss Inn and Pace Hall. Wi-Fi is also accessible at the Main Street Café and the PX food court, so while having lunch or studying hard, surf the net free and go wireless at any of the MWR Facilities. MWR will also be offering wireless service at the Underwood Golf Complex and the Stout Gym within the next year. For those who don't have access to a laptop visit Mickelson Library, ACS or the Fort Bliss Inn Business Center for free computer access with Internet service. For more information call 568-6741.

Financial readiness

All classes are held at Army Community Service in the financial readiness classroom, Bldg. 2494, Ricker Road. Unit and Family Readiness Group classes are available upon request. To schedule or for more information, call 568-1132. A free child care slip is available for classes. Call the Child Development Center at 568-5689 to make child care arrange-

ments.

Financial Readiness offers the following preventive classes at the ACS, Bldg. 2494, Ricker Road from 1:30 to 3 p.m.: check-book/debit card management classes are Jan. 29, Feb. 5, March 19, April 16, May 14 and June 11. Banking and checking accounts classes are Jan. 17, Feb. 14, March 14, April 11, May 11 and June 8. Planning and budgeting classes are Jan. 24, Feb. 23, March 21, April 18, May 18 and June 15. Understanding credit classes are Jan. 10, Feb. 9, March 9, April 4, May 2 and June 6. Debt Management classes are Jan. 19, Feb. 21, March 16, April 13, May 16 and June 13. Saving, investments and TSP classes are Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 23, April 20, May 23 and June 30. Car Buying and insurance classes are Feb. 7, March 7, 28, April 25, May 30 and June 22. Consumer scams and getting help classes are Jan. 26, March 30, April 27 and June 29. Mandatory first term financial readiness classes for E-1 to E-3 IAW AR 608-1 also available upon unit request. Subjects covered include planning and budgeting, banking and checking account, pay and LES, understanding credit, insurance, savings and investment/TSP, car buying, and consumer awareness. Classes are offered from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 8, 22, Feb. 12, 26, March 12, 26, April 9, 23, May 7, 21 and June 4, 18.

Mentors needed

A shortage of available volunteers is keeping more than 20 special children waiting for a friend of their very own. Through its "Connections" program Community SOLUTIONS of El Paso provides specialized mentoring to children with the misfortune of having a parent in prison. These children are at exceptional risk for school drop out and involvement with the legal authorities. Mentors can make a great difference in the road these children will choose to follow. The Connections program offers one on one mentoring as well as a variety of group mentoring activities to encourage these at-risk children to achieve their highest potential during a very difficult time in their lives.

The most important qualifications for becoming a Connections mentor are a desire to make a difference in the life of a child and a willingness to serve as a positive role model to a child. The agency will hold a Mentor Information and Training Session Jan. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at their offices at 203 Cortez. A light lunch is provided, and registration is required. To learn more about the Connections mentoring program and to register for the information and training session, call 861-7733.

Operation SSAS

Operation Support Soldiers and Spouses are now in effect. Total Defense Systems is offering a 50 percent discount to all spouses of Soldiers or civilian contractors currently deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. This is a serious opportunity to learn self defense and rape prevention training. Total Defense Systems is located off of Airport and Hiller Street right next door to Angel Wings Daycare. The class is for ages 10 and up and discounts are available to children and military. For more information, call 843-2000 or 526-9734 or e-mail at Lrigrmaden@elp.rr.com.

Being prepared

Are you ready to put your planning skills to good use? Are you ready to help your family get prepared for the unexpected? Your family can use this Web site to create a plan that will help you be ready for many different kinds of unexpected situations and emergencies. For more information, visit www.ready.gov/kids/home.html.

Mystery Troupe

Mystery Troupe is looking for fresh talent. Can you act, sing or dance? Are you between 18 and early 50s? Do you like to be in front of an audience? Our performers receive a stipend to off set expenses. We have performed all over the Southwest. We audition weekly.

April 2007 we are back by popular demand at the Fort Bliss Officers' Club. Western night sees "Showdown" being performed. A night of dinner, theatre, laughing, singing, dancing and audience participation contests. Open to El Paso residents. Call (915) 472-4932 for information.

Volunteer Corps seeks you

The Fort Bliss Army Volunteer Corps is seeking a few good men and women to volunteer with the following programs:

- Air Defense Artillery Museum- ADA Museum Greeters
 - Army Family Team Building- Army Family Team Building Instructors
 - Army Community Service- Army Community Service Adm. Assistant
 - Army Volunteer Corps Office- Administrative Assistance
 - Child and Youth Services- Basketball Coach
 - Family Advocacy Program- Puppeteers
 - Family Advocacy Program- Parent Education Assistance
- To volunteer or for more information call 568-1132.