

Annual Fort Lee Safety Day set for May 23; to feature displays, giveaways seat checks, more

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FORT LEE TRAVELLER

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF FORT LEE, VIRGINIA, SINCE 1941

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HOYLE BECOMES 41ST CHIEF

Ordnance Corps and School welcomes experienced Army officer with extensive leadership background

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FROM HARRIED TO HOPEFUL

A fledgling military couple coping with a natural disaster and a child with cancer finds unexpected hope and help from their Fort Lee family



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DANGERS OF DISTRACTION

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TRIBUTE TO CULINARIANS

Latest in series of statues honoring QM professions unveiled at museum ceremony

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Legacy of Maj. Gen. Fred C. Sheffey Jr. honored at building naming ceremony

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COMMAND SPOTLIGHT | HIGHWAY SAFETY

Survey of Virginia motorists indicates increase in distracted driving incidents

RICHMOND – Distracted driving tops the list of perceived dangers on America’s roads, according to a recently released survey from the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety.

The annual Traffic Safety Culture Index shows that 88 percent of motorists believe distracted driving is on the rise, overtaking other risky behaviors like aggressive driving (68 percent); drivers using drugs (55 percent) and drunk driving (43 percent).

The number of drivers who report talking on a cellphone regularly or fairly often when behind the wheel jumped 46 percent since 2013. Nearly half (49 percent) admit to juggling handheld devices while in the vehicle is in motion. Roughly 35 percent have sent a text or email. A somewhat strange twist to these statistics is the number of drivers (58 percent) who agree that talking on a cellphone while driving is a very serious threat to their personal safety. A whopping 78 percent believe behind-the-wheel texting is a significant danger.

Multiple studies by AAA and other safety groups have confirmed that those talking on a cellphone are up to four times more likely to crash, while those who text are up to eight times at risk of causing a collision.

In Virginia, distracted driving fatalities increased by an alarming 18 percent from 2016 to 2017, according to crash data provided by the Department of Motor

Vehicles. Last year, 208 individuals died and nearly 15,000 others were injured in crashes involving inattentive drivers. An analysis of accident investigations in 2017 uncovered these three categories of distractions reported most often:

1. Eyes Not on Road
2. Looking at Roadside Incident
3. Cellphone/Texting

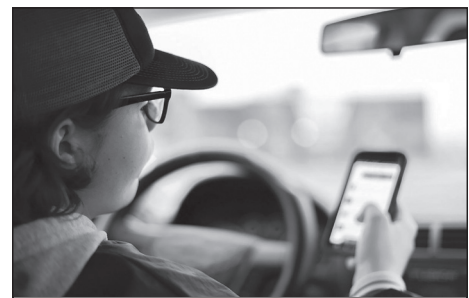
“Distracted driving injuries and fatalities are tragic and preventable, and most likely, vastly understated as not every driver will admit to being distracted when involved in a crash,” observed Martha Mitchell Meade, manager of Public and Government Affairs for AAA in Virginia. “It is not surprising that fatalities are on the increase as the number of possible distractions are rising as well. The temptations are plentiful, however, the lack of self-discipline and the will to ignore them is not.”

This year, 38 lives have already been lost in the commonwealth due to distracted driving. Nationwide, the numbers are staggering.

“With more than 37,000 deaths on U.S. roads in 2016, we need to continue finding ways to limit driving distractions and improve traffic safety,” said Dr. David Yang, executive director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. “(Our) work offers insight on drivers’ attitudes toward traffic safety and their behaviors, so we can better

understand the issue and identify potential countermeasures to reduce crashes.”

Participants in the AAA survey believe the problem of distracted driving has increased over the past three years, with nearly 50 percent reporting they regularly see drivers emailing or texting while operating a vehicle. Counterintuitively, federal estimates show a two percent decrease in



Contributed Photo

A teen driver checks social media messages with a cellphone while operating a motor vehicle.

reported distracted driving crashes because it is difficult to detect if witnesses or the driver does not indicate it as a potential cause of the accident, thus creating the dilemma of being one of the most underreported traffic safety issues.

Further proving this point is another recent AAA Foundation study focused on teen drivers – one of the most vulnerable driving populations – and using in-vehicle dash-cam videos provided by insurance companies. The report showed distraction was a factor in 58 percent of crashes, whereas federal estimates hovered around 44 percent.

“As the number of distractions behind the wheel increases – from the latest phone apps to in-vehicle dashboard technology – it is important that we better-educate drivers on the dangers of distraction,” said Jake Nelson, AAA director of Traffic Safety Advocacy and Research. “There is a clear disconnect between what drivers do and what they believe. While most recognize the dangers created by taking their eyes off the road, they engage in distracting behaviors anyway – creating a ‘do as I say, not as I do’ culture on the roadway.”

Any level of risk is too high when it comes to safe driving, Nelson insisted. Tasks that require a driver to take his or her eyes or attention off the road should be avoided while the vehicle is in motion – including the use of cellphones and infotainment or navigation systems. AAA urges drivers to act responsibly when behind the wheel. Distracted driving prevention includes the following:

- Eliminating electronic gadgets: never use text, email, video game or internet functions, including those built into the vehicle, while driving.
- Pre-program GPS devices and adjust seats, mirrors, climate control and sound systems before pulling out on the road.
- Properly secure children and pets. Contain loose possessions and other items that could roll around in the car.
- Snack smart by avoiding messy foods that can be difficult to manage.

SEE **DISTRACTED DRIVING**, PAGE 9



Commanding General.....Maj. Gen. Paul C. Hurley Jr.
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ON THE COVER



Dani Johnson, CASCOM Public Affairs
 Brig. Gen. Heidi J. Hoyle becomes the 41st Chief of Ordnance during a change of command ceremony May 8 on Whittington Field. She will simultaneously serve as commandant of the Army Ordnance School.

Ordnance welcomes Brig. Gen. Hoyle as corps chief, school commandant

Dani Johnson

CASCOM Public Affairs Officer

Brig. Gen. Heidi J. Hoyle became the 41st Chief of Ordnance and commandant of the Army Ordnance School during a May 8 change of command ceremony on Fort Lee's Whittington Field.

Maj. Gen. Paul C. Hurley Jr., CASCOM and Fort Lee commanding general, presided over the formalities that included the presentation of a framed certificate proclaiming Hoyle's new leadership position. She is the first Army officer from the explosive ordnance disposal community to lead the corps. The outgoing chief, Brig. Gen. David Wilson, will next serve as the deputy assistant chief of staff, C/J-4, for U.S. Forces Korea, headquartered at Camp Humphreys.

"This is truly a great day for Ordnance as we bid farewell to the 40th Chief of Ordnance and welcome the 41st Chief of Ordnance to Fort Lee and CASCOM," Hurley said as he opened his remarks. "Drawing from his amazing array of experience across the sustainment enterprise, Brig. Gen. Wilson lit a fire under his staff, and instituted a wide array of programs, events and initiatives designed to improve readiness and ensure our Army has the best trained and equipped mechanics, ammo handlers and explosive ordnance disposal technicians to meet the brutal demands of ground combat in complex, urban terrain and beyond.

"Brig. Gen. Hoyle is literally the quintessential ordnance officer, having directly served in every aspect of her field and commanding a multifunctional sustainment battalion in combat," he further noted. "Heidi Hoyle has done it all, and is absolutely the right woman, at the right time – now, today – to lead



the Ordnance School and prepare (its students) for the challenges to come."

Hoyle comes to ODS and CASCOM from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., where she oversaw the Army Joint Munitions Command and the Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command. Her 23-plus years of Army service began with an ordnance officer branch assignment after graduation

Photos by Dani Johnson, CASCOM Public Affairs
Brig. Gen. Heidi J. Hoyle accepts a framed certificate designating her as the 41st Chief of Ordnance from Maj. Gen. Paul C. Hurley Jr., CASCOM and Fort Lee commanding general during a change of command ceremony May 8 at Whittington Field. Brig. Gen. David Wilson (pictured left giving remarks at the ceremony) has held the position since August 2016.

from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

During her time in the Army, Hoyle has held leadership positions at regiment, company, battalion, brigade and logistics command levels. She was an instructor and associate professor in systems engineering at USMA. She has commanded a special troops battalion and an ordnance group. Hoyle

represented the Army in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Service Chief's Fellows Program and received a master's degree from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

"It's a privilege to be called upon to continue this mission with the dedicated civilian and military workforce (at the ODS)," Hoyle told the assembled audience. "You have a unique mission; you are training the man behind the man behind the gun. I'm looking forward to the task of continuing to build the readiness of the organization."

Wilson held the ODS commandant position since August 2016. Under his leadership, the school – distributed across 26 training locations – educated and developed more than 50,000 ordnance professionals – active duty, Guard and Reserves – in 31 enlisted military occupational specialties, two officer branches, nine warrant officer branches and six advance courses in support of maintenance, ammunition, explosives safety and explosive ordnance disposal.

He established the Army Ordnance Crucible, a decisive-action training event in three core competencies, providing feedback that has shaped and refined ordnance doctrine. His efforts in the realm of emerging technologies and opportunities served as a conduit to ensure the Army of 2025 and beyond remains postured to meet the demands of the multi-domain battlefield in large-scale combat operations.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to work in support of the TRADOC mission while training and developing adaptive ordnance professionals," Wilson said in his parting remarks. "Our best assets are the people. The organization doesn't accomplish anything without the people. I'm grateful for the high performing military, Department of Army civilians, contractors and families who have accomplished all the missions across ordnance."

Traveller returns to newsstands under new publishing contract

Amy Perry

Production/News Assistant Editor

The *Fort Lee Traveller* is returning to newsstands as a result of a new printing contract with Gatehouse Media Virginia Holdings, Inc., the same company that publishes *The Progress-Index* and *Hopewell Herald – Prince George Post*. As before, the weekly publication will be distributed on Thursdays, to include home delivery within the installation housing areas.

The re-established contract brings new opportunities. While not yet guaranteed, efforts are underway to restore weekly coupon inserts. The publisher also is exploring an off-post home delivery option with the idea of making the *Traveller* more readily available to retirees, reservists, government workers and others associated with the military community.

“Our excitement of being able to carry on the *Fort Lee Traveller* is tempered with understanding and accepting the awesome responsibility to uphold its traditions,” said Craig Richards, the publisher and contract manager for Gatehouse Media. “We do not take this honor and privilege lightly. We value our partnership with Fort Lee and see this as a key part of our commitment to serve our communities.”

Contributors to the *Traveller* need to be aware of new submission deadlines associated with the contract arrangement. All materials must be received at the Garrison Public Affairs Office (ArmyFortLee.PAO@mail.mil) by close

of business Thursday for the following week’s paper. This is a day earlier than the previous deadline.

“We cannot guarantee late submissions beyond Thursday will make it into the next paper,” noted Patrick Buffett, the *Traveller’s* managing editor. “The publisher is now performing all page layout functions, which means PAO has to get the properly edited and formatted content to them in a timely manner. The controlled movement of content also promotes visibility (where articles are placed in the newspaper) and accuracy (sufficient time for editing).

“In actuality, we’re not discouraging people from submitting materials at any time,” he further noted. “Our foremost goal is to tell the Fort Lee story – your story – through whatever means available to us, including mediums with immediate visibility around the world, like the *Traveller* website, Army News, social media, and others. The print publication ultimately complements the many facets of our public information program.”

To report any distribution issue (i.e. no newspapers delivered by Thursday evening), contact the editor at 804-734-7147 or assistant editor at 734-7484.

Requests for *Traveller* coverage also can be arranged through these phone numbers or the G-PAO office email previously cited. Same- or next-day requests for coverage are rarely supportable. Coordination at least two weeks before the desired coverage date is strongly encouraged.

NEWS BRIEFS

Kenner Memorial Day Closures

Kenner Army Health Clinic and Troop Medical Clinic 2 will be open with normal business hours on May 25 (training holiday) for patient care. Troop Medical Clinic 1 will be closed May 25. All Kenner clinics and services will be closed in observance Memorial Day on May 28.

To schedule appointments, call the Kenner appointment line at 1-866-533-5242. To request an authorization to visit an urgent care center, call the nurse advice line at 1-800-TRICARE and choose option 1.

For medical emergencies, dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Exchange Give and Get Back

The Fort Lee Exchange’s first “Give and Get Back” donation period of 2018 for Army Emergency Relief and the Air Force Assistance Fund runs from May 15-20.

Fort Lee shoppers will receive a coupon for \$5 off a \$25 purchase at the Exchange for every \$5 they donate at the register.

There is no limit to the number of coupons shoppers can earn, and the coupons can be redeemed in stores or online at ShopMyExchange.com.

Exchange Lifestyle Festival

The Fort Lee Army and Air Force Exchange Service and commissary will hold a Healthy Lifestyle Festival June 15-17, 1-2:30 p.m.

Special events will feature health and wellness activities, including protein shake tastings, nutritional bar tastings and a Mini Athletic Competition for Soldiers and their families. Shoppers can save 25 percent on all active wear while the festival is running.

For details, call 804-861-5970.

Army 10-miler registration begins soon

Priority registration for the Army 10-miler is currently underway at www.armytenmiler.com and general registration begins May 23.

The Army 10-miler is set for Oct. 7 in Washington, D.C.

QM Instructor Reunion Set

The Quartermaster Instructor Reunion is scheduled for June 2, 10:30 a.m., at Crystal Lake Park, Hopewell. Those having stints at the QM School from 1960 until present are invited. Cost is \$40 per person but free for spouses and significant others.

For more information, contact Greg Duncan at (804) 704-0756 or Sterling Hunt, (804) 691-3522.

AAFES to give away \$500 in tire gift cards monthly

Soldiers, Airmen, family members and veterans can enter an Exchange sweepstakes online at www.shopmyexchange.com/sweepstakes each month to win a \$500 Order Tire gift card. The contest runs through 2018.

Exchange-Hershey Contest Offers Cash Prizes

Ten military shoppers will win \$500 Exchange gift cards in Hershey’s Flavors of America sweepstakes.

To enter, authorized Exchange shoppers can visit ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes through May 31. There is no purchase necessary to enter, and entrants need not be present to win.

Authorized shoppers 18 and older are eligible to enter Exchange sweepstakes online. Honorably discharged veterans are eligible to enter too.



Annual Safety Day observance set for May 23 in Exchange area

Community members are invited to a Safety Day observance set for May 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., in front of the Fort Lee Main Exchange.

This annual information and awareness gathering has proven to be an effective tool for bringing the leading causes of injuries and fatalities to the forefront of everyone's mind, noted Tim Lawrence, director of the Garrison Safety Office – the host of the event.

“The observance takes place around the same time every year,” he further noted, “because the community is heading into the summer months when, statistically, the frequency of accidents climbs to peak levels, which is clearly attributed to the increase in outdoor activity, vacation travel and seasonal opportunities like swimming, boating and recreational motorcycle rides.

“Recognizing our responsibility to put safety and risk management at

the forefront of everyone's minds,” Lawrence continued, “we build this event in partnership with other organizations at Fort Lee and from the surrounding community with the idea of planting that one thought in everyone's mind – ‘have I assessed the dangers of the activity I'm about to engage in and taken steps to eliminate, or at least lower the likelihood, of a tragic accident occurring?’

“Safety is a mindset,” he further noted. “The goal is to change the lifestyle of as many people as we can touch so they are aware their actions have consequences. We want them to think about whether something is safe or not before they ever

perform an activity.”

Safety Day will feature displays from Range Control (unexploded ordnance), the Environment Management Office, the Army Wellness Center, Outdoor Recreation, Personnel Security, Emergency Management, Environmental Health, the Alcohol Substance Abuse Program, Suicide Prevention, and the Garrison and CASCOS Safety Offices. Many of these organizations will have giveaway promotional items for attendees.

Child Safety Seat inspections also will be performed at the event from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Members of the Southeast Virginia Safe Kids coalition will be manning 4-5 lanes for seat checks that could take up to 30 minutes for each vehicle. Last year, 77 child seat checks were conducted. From those, only three didn't have an issue such as proper size, positioning within the vehicle or incorrect routing of the seatbelt.

“Overall, this event has received enthusiastic support from our installation leaders,” Lawrence observed. “They are adamant about maintaining the Safety Day mindset over the summer and throughout the year. In addition to our annual awareness event, they're promoting organizational training and usage of the education and risk management tools on the safety.army.mil website. It's about saving lives and protecting team members, a goal that is unarguably important and requires total buy-in by service members, civilians, family members and all who visit Fort Lee.”

– Garrison Safety Office and Staff Reports



Contributed Photo

Virginia State Trooper Dustin Eggleston fills out an inspection form while he and Dawn Lee from the Rural Infant Service Program check a child safety seat belonging to a Fort Lee Soldier during the 2017 Safety Day observance outside the Main Exchange. This year's event is set for May 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the same location.



Photos by Amy Perry

Brig. Gen. Rodney Fogg, Quartermaster General, along with others from the Quartermaster regiment, prepare to unveil a statue paying tribute to culinary specialists during a ceremony May 1 at the Quartermaster Museum. The lifelike bronze casting (also pictured below) depicts a culinarian chopping vegetables. An actual culinarian specialist, Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Owens, modeled for the likeness in February 2016.

Culinary specialist statue unveiled in QM Museum Subsistence Gallery

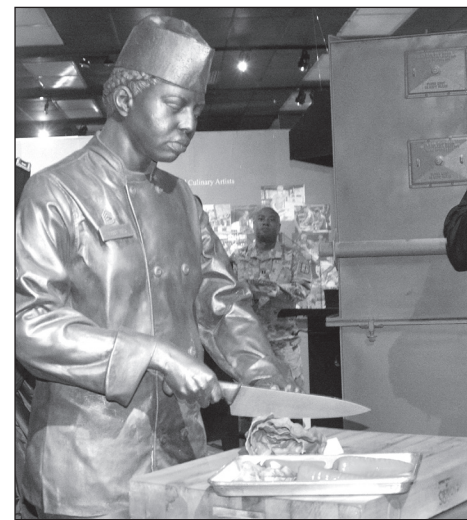
Amy Perry

Production/News Assistant Editor

A lifelike bronze statue paying tribute to the 92-Golf culinarian specialist profession was unveiled May 1 in the Subsistence Gallery of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum here.

The figure is the fifth and final installment of a QM military occupation tribute series that has been taking shape since concept planning in 2015. The museum also commissioned statues for the 92R parachute rigger, 92M mortuary affairs specialist, 92A automated logistics specialist and 92F petroleum supply specialist. Hand-picked Soldiers representing each of those professions traveled to New York City in February 2016 to serve as models for the castings that were used to create the likenesses.

Brig. Gen. Rodney Fogg, Quartermaster General, and command representatives from the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence participated in the unveiling of the statue. The female figure (modeled after Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Owen who was not available for the ceremony) depicts a culinarian chopping vegetables at a food preparation counter. Other elements of the exhibit will be added in the coming weeks, according to Weldon Svoboda, QM Mu-



seum director. He said the staff will be replacing some of the outdated Vietnam-era artifacts with equipment that represents the modern dining facility environment. The refit is projected for completion in the fall.

Prior to the statue unveiling, Lt. Col. Bryon T. Coleman, JCCoE director, recited a brief history of the culinarian specialist and noted how it “exemplified the transformation” of the Army food service program and the change of image it has undergone.

“Today, we are continuing to adapt and modernize garrison and field feeding operations to enhance Soldiers' cognitive and physical performance with quality and nu-

Logisticians can pave career path with free credentialing program

T. Anthony Bell

Senior Writer/Special Projects

Two nationally recognized credentials are available free of charge to Soldiers holding select quartermaster military occupational specialties.

The Certified Logistics Associate and Certified Logistics Technician documents can be earned by enlisted 92A automated logistical specialists and 92Y unit supply specialists, as well as warrant officer 920A supply systems technicians and 920B property accounting technicians.

Both certifications are awarded by the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council, based in Alexandria, and are recognized by the American National Standards Institute.

The Quartermaster School's Logistics Training Department serves as the admin-

istrator for the credentialing effort. Sgt. Maj. JennyAnne Bright, LTD's senior enlisted leader, said the credentials' strength lies in their potential to pay dividends beyond military service.

"It's an outstanding opportunity that's going to help in the long run," she observed. "A Soldier with two or three years of service who decides to get out of the Army will at least have a nationally recognized credential that could help with future employment."

The CLA/CLT credentials, which typically cost \$800-\$1,200 when obtained in a civilian classroom environment, each consist of nine modules covering various aspects of the logistics industry followed by a proctored examination. Enrollees of the Army-funded program are required to complete the course of study within 90-

days.

In addition to the no-cost advantage, there are other positives to earning the certification, said Sgt. 1st Class Andre Corbin, credentialing noncommissioned officer in charge at LTD.

"One, it's worth promotion points to the 92-Alphas and 92-Yankees," he said. "Additionally, it's going to help them understand their jobs better. It's going to empower them with knowledge they'll be able to share with fellow Soldiers. Also, the CLA is listed in Army Career Tracker as the most highly recommended credential by the proponent for 92-Alphas and 92-Yankees. Ultimately, when they make the transition from green-suit to three-piece suit, it's going to give them credentials that will make them more appealing to civilian employers."



T. Anthony Bell
Spc. Antonious McMiller, unit supply specialist, 111th Quartermaster Company, 11th Transportation Battalion, inventories compasses at his unit's supply room May 8. McMiller and his fellow unit supply specialists as well as automated logistical specialists are eligible for credentialing opportunities free-of-charge through the Army's credentialing website www.cool.army.mil. The opportunities also are available for warrant officers who are property accounting technicians and supply systems technicians.



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Currently, 92A and 92Y Soldiers attending the Advanced and Senior Leadership courses at the Logistics Noncommissioned Officer Academy are afforded the opportunity to earn the credentials prior to graduation. In total across the Army, roughly 1,250 Soldiers have earned CLAs or CLTs since the program was initiated in 2015. Bright said the goal is to greatly increase those numbers.

“This is just the beginning, and we intend to get after it,” she said. “We have a strategic plan to further include those in the Reserve and National Guard to increase their opportunities. We aim to reach as many Soldiers as possible.”

Two main elements of the strategic plan are: expanding the availability of the credentialing program to Soldiers who were previously not able to participate by establishing the first CLA/CLT Assessment Centers (where the proctored exams are conducted) in such locations as Germany, Korea and Kuwait; and increasing Soldier awareness of the credentialing program through targeted briefings, social media

and community communications on ACT. According to the latest statistics, there is a combined total of 19,128 92A and 92Y Soldiers in the active Army. There are 18,191 more in the reserve components. Active duty warrant officer 920A property accounting technicians and 920B supply systems technicians number 612, while those in the reserve components amount to 998.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Raul Davila, LTD training management officer, is a 920A. “The CLA/CLT Credentialing Program,” he said, “is a win-win-win for warrants as well. It enhances the knowledge and understanding of logistics for 920-Alphas and 920-Bravos while they are still in the Army; makes them more competitive in selection boards; and they will be more appealing to civilian employers after making the transition from the Army.”

The Army’s credentialing programs were bolstered by the We Can’t Wait initiative launched by President Obama’s administration in 2011. It aimed to provide

support to service members and veterans seeking employment after the military.

Corbin, a prior service Soldier who spent nearly 20 years in corporate America prior to rejoining the Army in 2009, said service members and veterans often face hurdles in articulating their military experience for civilian employment.

“I saw resumes from Soldiers that human resources would not look at because they didn’t understand the individual’s qualifications,” he said. “The CLA and CLT will make a difference on a Soldier’s resume when they apply for a civilian job,

so I think it’s a great program and a fantastic opportunity for our troops to take advantage of while it is available.”

For more information on the CLA/CLT credentialing program for 92A, 92Y, 920A and 920B MOSs, send an email to: usarmy.lee.tradoc.mbx.qms-logistics-certification@mail.mil. For details regarding credentialing opportunities for all Soldiers, visit the Credentialing Opportunities Online website at www.cool.army.mil. For more information about the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council, visit www.msscusa.org.

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T. Anthony Bell

Senior Writer/Special Projects

Team Ordnance rallies in support of Soldier's family facing health crisis

Ten-year-old Navila Rios has a thin frame, prominent eyes and a broad, warm smile. Her playful manner is accentuated by the tiny giggles she freely shares in conversation. Other than the brimless cap that sits atop her head, Navila is without visible signs of the cancer that invaded her world several months ago.

Her parents, Pfc. Neftali and Jennifer Rios, bear signs of a trauma lifted – their faces aglow with life-affirming relief and optimism, and their demeanor alive with purposefulness and the reassurance they no longer have to glance over their shoulders to know somebody has their back.

Indeed, the visuals indicate calm where there was once crisis; where there was once fear during the course of a storm that metaphorically gave way to clear skies and warm rays of sunshine on recent news Navila's life is no longer in the balance.

"I think we're closer, more faithful," said Jennifer while describing the aftermath of the family's ordeal. "We've found the meaning of family and how to face life when things go wrong."

The troubles for the Rios family began last September when Hurricane Maria crashed into Puerto Rico and laid waste to much of the island including their hometown of Cabo Rojo. The category 4 winds blew off roofs, overturned automobiles and uprooted powerlines. Eight months later, Puerto Ricans are still reeling from its effects.

On the heels of that storm was the tempest of Navila's illness. She became feverishly sick and was debilitated by serious jaw pain three weeks after her 36-year-old reservist father had arrived at Fort Lee to undergo training as a wheeled vehicle mechanic.

Navila was eventually diagnosed with a sizable tumor in her belly. She was transported with her mom by ambulance to a medical center in the capital of San Juan, where she saw a specialist and received a battery of tests. Doctors pointed to something known as "Burkitt's," which initially elicited a "What the hell is that?" response



T. Anthony Bell

Pfc. Neftali Rios along with his wife Jennifer and 10-year-old daughter Navila are native Puerto Ricans who now call the mainland their home. Their daughter fell sick roughly three weeks after the reservist arrived Sept. 13 to attend the Ordnance School for training as a wheeled vehicle. She was later diagnosed with cancer following surgery. Neftali went back to Puerto Rico on emergency leave to care for his family, then brought them to the mainland to continue Navila's treatment and resume his training. He was later allowed to transfer to active duty status to continue his daughter's treatment. He said his chain of command and others were responsible for his good fortune. He is now assigned to Joint Base Langley-Eustis.

from Jennifer.

She learned Burkitt's lymphoma or leukemia is a non-Hodgkin malignant disease mostly affecting children. A distinguishing characteristic is its aggressiveness. The cancerous cells in Navila were duplicating every 12 hours, said Jennifer.

Surgery was imperative, which meant the Red Cross had to be notified in order to excuse Neftali from military training and bring him home. For him, it was crushing to ponder all that was going on, all that could go wrong and the fact he was nearly 1,500 miles from consoling his daughter with a loving hug or reassuring her with words of encouragement.

"It was the worst news I received in all of my life," he said, upon learning the di-

agnosis and departing for Puerto Rico the next day. "I was crying and couldn't hold my emotions."

In the meantime, Jennifer did the best she could for Navila and her 7-year-old sister.

"I always tried to be very positive and strong for everyone," said Jennifer, noting she typically restrained her emotions in the presence of Navila "so she would not be scared or concerned."

The surgery confirmed it was Burkitt's, recalled Jennifer. Chemotherapy treatments started the next day and uncertainty loomed.

"It was very confusing," said Jennifer, her voice trembling. "I was thinking 'How're we going to deal with this?"

How're we going to fight with this? How can I be supportive for my daughter and the whole family?"

Neftali, given the sudden course of events, also felt the sheer weight of the unknown. He found out the Cabo Rojo seafood restaurant where he worked for 20 years had been destroyed. He had no livelihood to return to and Puerto Rico was in the throes of a recovery that could take years, further lowering the odds of gaining immediate employment on an island with a 10-percent jobless rate prior to the hurricane.

Continued contact between Neftali and his Charlie Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Yolanda Walker, provided a ray of light amid the gloom.

"She told me I had two options," recalled the junior Soldier. "I could leave the Army (and eventually return when Navila was well) or I could fly with my family back to the U.S., continue my training and get my daughter treated at a hospital nearby."

The Rios' decision was made easier by the drawbacks of the devastation. The San Juan hospital was working on emergency generator power and service was inconsistent, said Jennifer. Additionally, the facility ran out of platelets, a blood component essential for clotting. They were factors that put Navila's treatment in jeopardy.

Left with no other courses of action, Neftali, Jennifer and Navila departed for the U.S. at the end of October, leaving the youngest child with grandparents. Arriving stateside, their immediate agenda was to find a hospital in the Richmond area to treat Navila, obtain lodging for Jennifer as she cared for her daughter, and resume Neftali's Army training. They chose Virginia Commonwealth University hospital for medical care, and Jennifer and Navila stayed in a nearby Ronald McDonald House.

In the meantime, Neftali – a novice to English language skills – returned to the Ordnance School and began to learn how the Army Family takes care of its own. Walker, who was handling her first class as a platoon sergeant, marshalled the empa-

thy and compassion needed to deliver for the Soldier. She helped coordinate medical care, speaking with Neftali frequently and keeping leaders informed about his family situation.

“I think I did what any professional noncom would do,” Walker observed. “The Soldier’s home (Puerto Rico) was destroyed by a hurricane; he finds out his daughter has cancer; the Army is new to him, and he has difficulty with English. With all that going on, why wouldn’t I do all I can to help this Soldier and his family?”

There also was an admiration for Rios, the individual, said Walker.

“We have a lot of junior troops who come through here with issues,” said the nine-year Soldier. “Compared to many others, though, this Soldier never wanted to quit. Initially, going home to take care of his family was the only thing on his mind, but once we started working things for him, all he wanted to do was get back here to finish school and still ensure his family would be OK. We witnessed that commitment to doing what’s right and taking responsibility. I think if we had a thousand Soldiers like Rios, we’d have an even better Army.”

The chain of support below, above and sideways of Walker was just as impressive, said Neftali. He remembered sharing concerns about his situation in Richmond with Command Sgt. Maj. Mauricio CardonaVe-

ga, his battalion CSM. “I told him we were alone here and we didn’t know anybody,” Neftali said. “(The CSM) replied ‘Who said you are alone? You have a new family – the Army Family. You’re not alone.’”

Support for Neftali and the reassurance he could confidently move forward to take care of his family culminated with a command visit to Navila’s hospital room in early November. In addition to Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Eric L. Booker and CardonaVega, the entourage included Capt. Michael Clark and 1st Sgt. Mindy Shearin, the command team from Neftali’s unit, Walker and several other NCOs. The uniformed gaggle disrupted the hospital’s staid environ, turned the heads of staffers and concerned Jennifer, who wondered how she could have visitors without knowing anyone on the mainland.

Furthermore, she had already been the subject of leery eyes and insults during her visit. Constant questions like “Are you an American citizen?” and “Do you have a Social Security number?” made her feel like an alien despite Puerto Rico’s status as a U.S. territory. Given her frame of mind and unfamiliarity with Army ways, she admitted being seriously afraid she was in some sort of immigration trouble.

“My reaction was ‘Oh my God, what is this? Why are they here?’” she recalled.

The Soldiers came in, introduced themselves, asked the couple about Navila’s health and condition, spoke with medical

staff and offered reassurances of support. After their departure, Jennifer felt the family had a solid foundation upon which to lean.

“I was grateful – ‘happy’ is a good word to use – to know they were there for us; that we could depend on them,” she said, becoming emotional and expressing how touched she was with the visit.

Neftali agreed. “Wow, I felt like I had a new family,” he said. “I heard ‘the Army is a family’ many times. I now know it is true.”

Navila went on with her treatment that lasted seven months. Neftali resumed his schooling with allowances to visit his family on weekends using a rental car financed by an Army Emergency Relief grant. The only nagging issue that persisted was the near-future return to P.R. where the prospects of life without a job and inability to pay expensive medical bills loomed.

The Soldier approached Walker about a request to serve on active duty. She told him there were options but nothing could be guaranteed. The chain of command and others got involved. On Jan. 31, after receiving his certificate of completion for the Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic Course, Neftali got word his request for active duty service was approved. The next day, the scene switched to the Military Entrance Processing Station at Fort Lee where he received the Oath of Enlistment after signing a new enlistment contract.

Neftali’s look of pride and elation while describing that moment spoke volumes.

“It’s still a relief to know I don’t have to worry about finances or insurance to keep up my daughter’s treatments. It’s true my journey into the active Army didn’t happen in the best situation,” said Neftali, “but it happened when it had to,” interjected Jennifer, completing her husband’s sentence.

The Soldier is now assigned to the 155th Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 53rd Transportation Bn., 7th Trans. Brigade (Expeditionary) at Joint Base Langley-Eustis. His family is living in a quiet, tree-lined apartment complex just a short drive away from the installation. They are thankful for the support they received – from their families at Fort Lee and Fort Eustis – and the blessings of renewed hope following the team’s defeat of Navila’s invaders.

“The tumor is completely gone,” said Jennifer with a beaming smile. “After the first round of chemo, she was without the bad cells so she was clear of leukemia. We just needed to fight the tumor, and the last scan they made on April 2 revealed she is cancer-free.”

Navila will continue to have follow-ups as a precaution and does need surgery to fix a hernia she had from the initial biopsy. The prospects are good, however that she and her family can live a normal life – looking forward to clear skies and warm rays of sunshine, but fully equipped to weather future storms.

DISTRACTED DRIVING, continued from page 2

The AAA Foundation survey data was extracted from a sample of 2,613 licensed drivers ages 16 and older. The latest report is available at www.AAAFoundation.org.

In a follow-up discussion about the survey, Maj. Brian Bishop, Fort Lee Provost Marshal Office operations officer, reported 24 illegal use of handheld device violations on the installation since April 2017.

“This covers any cellphone use to include talking, texting and emailing, which is prohibited on military installations under 32 CFR 634.25,” he said. “The penalty for violating this ordinance on Fort Lee is an \$85 fine (\$55 federal penalty plus \$30 pro-

cessing fee). The off-post fine for texting-while-driving is \$125 for the first offense and \$250 for any subsequent offenses.”

Like lower speed limits on the installation, handheld device restrictions while driving are strictly enforced here to reduce the potential of marching troops, pedestrian workers, community children and others being struck by a vehicle, Bishop noted. “The restrictions are well-publicized, including warning signs at all of the access gates, and they have been in effect for years,” he added, “so, there’s really no excuse for violating the rules.”

– AAA and Staff Reports

STATUE, continued from page 5

tritional food choices in innovative and agile delivery options,” he observed.

Fogg also reflected on the significance of the display and expressed excitement about “showing off” the new statue and a respected profession of his QM Corps. He further offered thanks to the Soldier who posed for the casting. Owens is the first sergeant of a forward support company based at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Additionally, Fogg recognized Technician 5th Grade T. Eric Gibson, a culinarian who served during World War II and trained at Fort Lee. His actions during combat earned him a posthumous

Medal of Honor, one of 33 that quartermasters have received over the years.

“He was a cook in charge of a squad who had all trained here,” Fogg said. “He was a part of our legacy and a hero.”

Fogg urged the audience to think about the first sergeant who posed for the statue, as well as Gibson, a hero the likeness equally represents. It is the type of reflection the exhibit is meant to invoke, he noted while giving accolades to the museum for its steadfast training and heritage support of the Quartermaster Corps.

Fort Lee MEPS dedicates room to Marine Cpl. Jonathan T. Yale

T. Anthony Bell

Senior Writer/Special Projects

Standing guard at an entry control point in Ramadi, Iraq, Marine Cpl. Jonathan T. Yale and Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter used small arms fire to engage a speeding truck carrying 2,000 pounds of explosives. Their actions caused the vehicle to explode, killing the driver and thwarting the attack.

Fifty Marines and 100-or-so Iraqi security forces inside the perimeter were saved that day, according to witnesses. However, the 21-year-old Yale and the 19-year-old Haerter were killed in the explosion.

The Secretary of the Navy posthumously awarded the Navy Cross to the pair for the courage and sacrifice they demonstrated on April 22, 2008.

Though it has been 10 years since the incident, the Marines' acts of heroism still resonate with reverence and honor. That was the sentiment April 20 when the Fort Lee Military Entrance Processing Station rededicated its oath

and ceremony room to Yale, a Burkeville native who swore to defend the country within those same four walls when he entered the military.

"It's hard to say Cpl. Yale without including Lance Cpl. Haerter as well," said the ceremony's guest speaker, Maj. Charles E. Miller of the Richmond Marine Recruiting Battalion. "Those two Marines, in demonstrating a belief in something bigger than themselves, have continued the legacy of a lot of great Marines who have come before them – a legacy all of us across the services can look to and hope to build."

Yale's mother, Rebecca, and sister, Tammy, were among the family members present for the ceremony. MEPS personnel as well as members of the greater Fort Lee community also were in attendance. Devil Dogs from the Fort Lee Marine Detachment provided the ceremonial elements for the event.

In telling the Marines' story, Miller said the pair's decisive actions in the face of impending danger was more than remarkable because they

had alternatives.

"At that split second, they made the hard right decision over the easy wrong one," he said. "The easy wrong decision in that situation is to take cover or run away. An Iraqi police officer was there, and that's exactly what he did. While he lived on, those two Marines held their ground. When they did that, they contributed not only to the Corp's legacy, but to the protection of Americans abroad who are trying to do right by their country and trying to look out for one another."

Looking back on Yale's life, the MEPS commander said his decision to fight was a culmination of who he was as a person and Marine ... traits that are worthy of remembrance, honor and emulation. Army Maj. LaToya M. James also said Yale's deeds are part of a history audience members can use to write their own stories.

"Most of us would not be held as a hero when we leave this world," said the Soldier during her remarks, "but we have the opportunity now to model a fraction of Cpl. Yale's bravery and courage. I challenge each of you to ask yourself 'What will the headlines read when your story comes to an end? What will

your family, friends and strangers say about the content of your character? Will you be the hero in your story?"

Sgt. Dominique McDaniel, the MEPS operations noncommissioned officer, is charged with making sure roughly 15,000 future recruits are sworn in on an annual basis. He also was the ceremony coordinator and said it was a matter of the heart to head the effort.

"Cpl. Yale was a Marine, and I felt like I was taking care of my own," he said. "There also was some significance for me when I became a Marine. That hit home when I learned he had processed through this installation. I felt like it was my responsibility at that point."

Toward the end of the ceremony, a new framed picture of Yale along with his Navy Cross citation was unveiled. It was ceremoniously hung on the wall of the room where he took the oath more than 10 years earlier.

More than nine years ago, the Honorable Donald Winter presented the Navy Cross to the families of Yale and Haerter at Quantico's Museum of the Marines Corps. He said the two can stand tall for what they did for their comrades and what they did for the Marines on that fateful day.

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QM Corps recognizes storied leader at battalion headquarters rededication

Amy Perry

Production/News Assistant Editor

The storied career of Maj. Gen. Fred C. Sheffey Jr. was the focus of a building rededication ceremony here May 1.

Members of the Quartermaster Corps – including Brig. Gen. Rodney Fogg, QM General and commandant of the QM School, and Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, Army Assistant Chief of Staff for



Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, U.S. Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, speaks during the building rededication ceremony here May 1.

Installation Management – were joined by representatives of Sheffey's family – including his wife, Jane, one of his sons, Alan, and daughter, Patricia – for the early morning 266th QM Battalion headquarters naming event.

The previous battalion headquarters building here also bore Sheffey's name, and organization leaders said it was "a fitting gesture" to carry the dedication over to the new brick-and-mortar facility that is nestled alongside recently constructed barracks for its advanced individual training companies.

Sheffey commanded the unit in 1966 while it supported troops in Vietnam.

Later in his career, he would become the first African American to command Fort Lee, the Quartermaster Training Command and the Quartermaster School. He is credited as the "creator and implementer" of Army-wide training strategies for supply storage, distribution, maintenance and accountability.

The major general retired from the Army in 1980. He was inducted into the QM Hall of Fame in 1994. He passed away in July 2000 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Bingham played a role in the original 266th headquarters building dedication to Sheffey 18 years ago while she was serving as installation commander here.

Fogg offered additional details about Sheffey's military career during remarks at the event. He alluded to his initial term of service as an infantry commander in Korea and the Purple Heart he received after being wounded in battle there. "It's a brave and wonderful history," Fogg summarized. "(Sheffey) is one of the most influential and historical commanders we've had."

Bingham was then introduced by Fogg who pointed out the career similarities she shares with the honoree. She too served as the 266th QM Bn., commander and was selected for one of the top command billets here (garrison commander). She was the first female officer to serve as the Quartermaster General.

In remarks, Bingham recalled her time at the 266th and said it was an honor to lead the charge of dedicating the headquarters building to Sheffey. "Without doubt, we counted it a tremendous honor to pay tribute to (his) extraordinary leadership and magnanimous body of work," she said. "(He) laid the foundation for the men and



Photos by Amy Perry

Leaders from the Quartermaster Corps, former and present, help cut the ribbon to rededicate the new 266th QM Battalion headquarters building to Maj. Gen. Fred C. Sheffey during a May 1 ceremony. Those pictured from left are: Brig. Gen. Rodney Fogg, Quartermaster General; Alan Sheffey, the honoree's son; Jane Sheffey, spouse; Patricia Marshall, daughter; and Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, U.S. Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

Lt. Col. Brian Neill, 266th Quartermaster Battalion commander, presents Jane Sheffey, the surviving spouse of retired Maj. Gen. Fred Sheffey, with a brick from the previous battalion headquarters building as a memento to her husband's legacy.



women of the Army's logistics corps." Sheffey's wife and two children helped Fogg and Bingham cut the ribbon to the new facility. Lt. Col. Brian

Neill, the battalion commander, presented Sheffey's spouse and children with a brick from the former facility, along with a photo collage.

CALENDAR

LOCAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE FORT LEE COMMUNITY

'All Shook Up' performances until May 27 at Lee Theater

The Lee Playhouse theater group is closing its 2017-2018 mainstage season with a production title that prognosticates its projected effect on participating patrons.

Translation: Get ready to be "All Shook Up."

Performances of this American jukebox musical, featuring the songs of Elvis Presley, are now showing in the Lee Theater, building 3400, Mahone Avenue. Additional shows are set for Fridays and Saturdays, May 18, 19, 25 and 26 at 8 p.m.; and Sundays, May 20 and 27 at 3 p.m. Community members and the general public are welcome.

"All Shook Up" first premiered on Broadway in March 2005. The script is based on a book written by Joe Di-Pietro. The storyline closely resembles the playful who's-falling-in-love-with-whom plot of William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

The stage-play version of the musical comedy tells the story of a small town girl who dreams of life on the open road, and a guitar-playing roustabout who brings romance, rebellion and rock-'n'-roll into the life of a small town. The show is well-peppered with song and dance numbers featuring classic Elvis hits like "Heartbreak Hotel," "Burning Love," "Love Me Tender," "Hound Dog" and many others including the title tune "All Shook Up."

The 22-member cast features local actors Sarah Erway, Storm Burks, Dorothy "Deed" Miller, Michael McClain, Caitlin Rose Sneed, Khalila Roney, Christopher Henry Stephens, Troy West, Jana Frances-Fisher and Mike White.

Frank Foster is directing the show with his music director sidekick Alisa Erway. The creative team also includes Kate Belleman (choreography), Mark Souza (costume design), Cindy Warren (lighting), John Redling



Contributed Photo

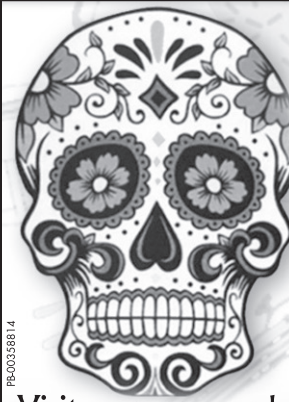
Local actor Storm Burks is surrounded by his fellow cast members in a promotional photo for "All Shook Up," the final Theater Company at Fort Lee production for the 2017-2018 season. Burks will play the part of "Chad," a central character in this American jukebox musical. The show opened May 4 at the Lee Theater and performances will continue each weekend through May 27.

(sound) and Linda Allen (properties). The production is stage managed by Leah White.

Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$7 for youth. For reservations and further information, call the box office at (804) 734-6629.

As a reminder to Fort Lee visitors who do not have a DOD identification card or a valid previously issued post pass, a background check is now required by Army security policy for authorization to enter the installation.

These individuals should proceed to the Visitor Control Center adjacent to the Lee Avenue Gate to complete the access control procedure that typically takes around 10 minutes. Access requests can be submitted in advance. For VCC hours of operation and other helpful information, go to www.lee.army.mil/pmo/access.aspx and click on the "Visitor Access" tab.



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CALENDAR CONTINUED

LOCAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE FORT LEE COMMUNITY

Live at Five Concerts | Fridays in June/July

Free, festive and fun for the whole family, Fort Lee's Live at Five summer concert series begins June 1 at the HideAway's outdoor party area on 5th Street, next to the Outdoor Recreation facility. Featuring a whole new line-up of local bands, the weekly FMWR-sponsored event continues through July 27. All are welcome, to include the general public.

A deejay kicks off the party at 5 p.m. The bands hit the stage later, performing popular favorites songs. Admission is free.

The Live at Five June line-up:

June 1, Trademark Band

June 8, Red Neck Pool Party

June 15, Jive Brothers

June 22, Klaxton Brown

June 29: Bar Stool Jones

For details, call 804-765-1539.

Fitness Expo | May 19

It's fitness and health day at the Strength Performance Center May 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission is free at the Fitness and Health Expo at the A Avenue and 6th Street facility.

A full schedule of fitness demonstrations is planned throughout the event including TRX workouts, Wellbeats demonstrations (including a spin class), Tensho Goju cardio kickboxing and AiKi Jitsu, Colonial Crossfit demonstrations and more. For details, call 804-734-5979.

Hump Day Scrambles | Every Wednesday

The Cardinal Golf Club hosts Hump Day Scrambles every Wednesday through Sept. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The next two dates are May 23 and 30.

The cost is \$10 for members; \$15 for E-1 - E-5; \$17 for E-6 - O-3; \$19 for other authorized patrons and \$21 for non-DOD participants. The fee includes golf, a cart, use of the practice range and prizes. The weekly events are limited to the first 60 registered. Payment is required at signup, which begins each Thursday morning for the following Wednesday. For details, call 804-734-2899.

Kayaking on Appomattox | May 22

The kayak season has begun. An excursion on the Appomattox River, coordinated by Family and MWR Outdoor Recreation, is scheduled for May 22, 5:30 p.m., at Roslyn Landing, 265 Charles Dimmock Parkway, Colonial Heights.

All equipment will be supplied with a trip map at the starting point. The cost is \$25. Participants must register at least two days prior to the session and should arrive at the boat dock by 5:15 p.m. Future dates are June 5 and 19. For details, call 804-765-2059.

Battle Drive Pool Opening Weekend | May 26-28

The summer begins with a splash when the Battle Drive Pool opens for the season on Memorial Day weekend, May 26, 27 and 28, noon - 8 p.m.

Located behind the Lee Club off Battle Drive, the pool will offer the Fort Lee community fun, exercise and sunshine throughout the summer. From May 29 - June 15, hours of operation will be: weekdays, 3:30-8 p.m.; and weekends and holidays, noon - 8 p.m. From June 16 - Sept. 3, hours of operation will be noon - 8 p.m., seven days a week. The daily entry fee is \$5 for active duty, retirees and family members; and \$7 for DOD Civilians. Pool patrons also may purchase monthly passes. The cost is \$40 for individual active duty, family members and retirees and \$60 for DOD Civilians. Family rates and seasonal passes also are available. For details, call 804-765-3053.

Cardinal Picnic and Putts | June 17

In honor of Father's Day, the Cardinal Golf Club will host a Picnic and Putts event for fathers and children June 17, noon - 3 p.m.

The event includes putt-putt golf and a picnic lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs and bratwurst with sides. The cost is \$11 for adults and ages 13 and older; \$6 for ages 5-12; and free for ages 4 and under. Participants must RSVP by June 13. For more details, call 804-734-2899.

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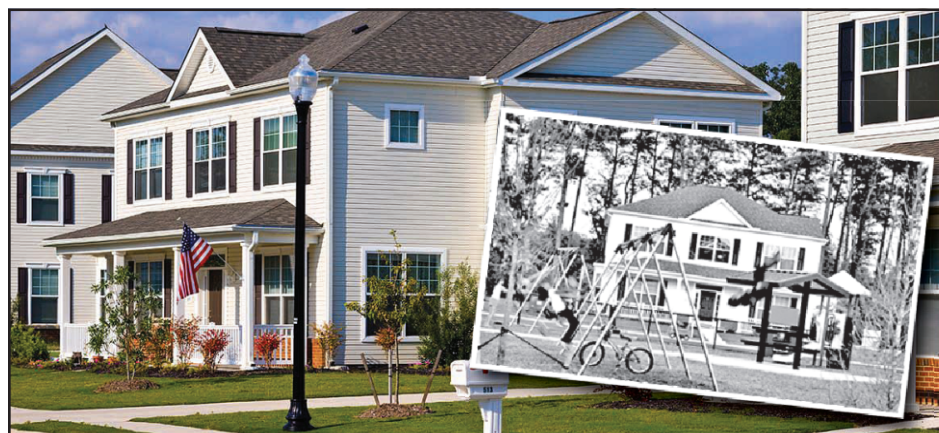
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