

RedstoneRocket

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Be thankful



Photo by Eric Schultz

John and Cynthia Knee and Jim and Susan Stone enjoy the Bicentennial Chapel's Thanksgiving Dinner held Sunday at The Summit. Event organizers ensured all Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations were followed during the event including social distancing, masks when not eating and seating people with their family pods.

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first sergeants
recognized for
leadership.
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RocketViews

Pandemic should factor in holiday celebration plans

I hear a lot of people talking about how important Thanksgiving is to them, but it reminds me of that insurance commercial where the woman is barely peddling an exercise bike and she's like "exercise is my passion," in the most unenthused voice she could muster.

That's what people are doing right now.

They're like "Thanksgiving is my passion," while they're up on a ladder on Nov. 1 stapling Christmas lights to their gutters.

They're like, "Thanksgiving is my passion," while they put up their Christmas tree on Nov. 7.

They're like, "Thanksgiving is my passion," while they blare "Jingle Bell Rock" from their car stereo on Nov. 13.

Really what they should be saying is "Finding new and inventive ways to catch, spread and die from COVID-19 is my passion."

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson
Assistant editor

Maybe that's a little dramatic, but the longer this pandemic goes, the closer that statement gets to being understated.

It's probably more fair for me to say that the defense of Thanksgiving this year really has nothing to do with the holiday. It's really more like people are just screaming into the ether hoping that if they say something loud enough or if they get mad enough or if they believe hard enough that it will change the reality we're all stuck in, which is that we're in the middle of a pandemic that's getting worse.

I get it. It's frustrating to feel helpless.

The argument for treating Thanksgiv-

ing, and all the other holidays this year, like business as usual is that it could be someone's last Thanksgiving, last Christmas, last birthday.

It could be. But I've been to a lot of funerals this year and neither I nor anyone else there ever thought to ourselves that this wouldn't be as bad if we'd just gone to that last (enter holiday here).

Do you know what could've made those situation worse?

If one of us were the reason someone caught COVID-19 and died.

We are not helpless, though.

In order for us to get through to the other side of this pandemic it's going to take everyone making some sacrifices.

Making the conscious decision to skip the large family gatherings is not being helpless. It's taking action. It's making a

difference. It's a small step toward making sure we don't get a year down the road and we're having the same conversation.

Remember, just because a turkey sacrificed its life for you, doesn't mean you have to risk yours to eat it. At this point the turkey doesn't care.

I realize this column won't come out until the day before Thanksgiving, which means most people will already be at their holiday destinations.

And let's be real, I doubt anything I've ever written has changed anyone's mind, but maybe – just maybe – someone will read this before digging into a dried out dead bird while being surrounded by their entire family and feel a little guilty.

Not for the turkey, mind you, remember it doesn't care, but for doing nothing in face of this crippling pandemic.

Quote of the week

“Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.”

– Oprah Winfrey

Send your letters to editor

The Redstone Rocket invites your signed letters to the editor and your commentaries. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send your letters and commentaries to skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com.

RedstoneRocket

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On this date in history: Nov. 25

In 2009: Freak rains swamped the city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, during an ongoing Hajj pilgrimage. Some 3,000 cars were swept away and 122 people perished in the torrents, with 350 others missing.

In 1984: Thirty-six top musicians gathered in a Notting Hill studio and recorded Band Aid's "Do They Know It's Christmas?" in order to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia.

In 1915: Albert Einstein presented the field equations of general relativity to the Prussian Academy of Sciences.

In 1863: At Missionary Ridge in Tennessee, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant broke the Siege of Chattanooga by routing Confederate troops under Gen. Braxton Bragg.

In 1783: The last British troops left New York City three months after the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

In 1758: During the French and Indian War, British forces captured Fort Duquesne from French control. Later, Fort Pitt would be built nearby and grow into modern Pittsburgh.

First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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How do you handle a bad situation?

"The most important step is to remain calm," Daniel Brown, a security guard at the gates, said. "If you allow your emotions to govern your behavior, then you could end up getting hurt yourself or someone else could be hurt. The priority after remaining calm is to gain control of the situation. We have rules and regulations that dictate how we respond to incidents. And we are trained on those rules and regulations. So it's important to remain emotionally neutral and step back and tap into that training."

Brown, 28, from Cullman, took this job in June. He served in the Air Force from 2011-17 and left as a staff sergeant. He graduated from Auburn University last December with a bachelor's in psychology. Brown plans to finish his master's in social work in 2023 from the University of Alabama. He and his wife of nine years, Mallory, reside in Cullman. He likes exercising, reading and gardening. Brown roots for the Auburn Tigers.



Daniel Brown

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Your favorite Thanksgiving memory.

"My dad has passed away. I think my favorite of course would be when your immediate family's still living and everybody's together," Susan Herring, the division chief for Security and Operations, or G-2, at the Aviation and Missile Command, said. "And of course I have grown kids now. After we eat the nice meal, I think just asking everybody to say what they're thankful for that year and also what they're looking for the coming year. I think that's what Thanksgiving is all about: the family enjoying each other. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays and I am truly blessed with a great family and friends."

Herring, 53, from Guntersville, has worked for the government 33 years. She has been the G-2 division chief three years. The Huntsville resident has two daughters. Emily Smith is an eighth-grade history teacher in Nashville; and the younger daughter, Allison Smith, is a registered nurse in Los Angeles.

"I love anything outdoors," Herring said. "I love golfing, hiking, gardening and traveling."

She roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Susan Herring

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Nov. 8-14:

Nov. 10: While traveling through a parking lot, a vehicle struck a parked vehicle. Both vehicles had minor damage.

Nov. 12: A vehicle exited a parking lot on Zeus Drive and inadvertently proceeded off the roadway. The driver was not injured but the vehicle had to be towed.

Citations included one for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for failure to obey traffic control device, three for expired registration and 10 for speeding.

Rocket plans holiday break

Dec. 16 brings the Redstone Rocket's final edition of the year before our two-week holiday break.

Jan. 6 is our first edition of 2021. Our staff wishes you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Kathleen Burgess Bestor

Position: Management analyst, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A registered nurse. Math and chemistry weren't my strengths so I chose to serve my country in the Army two months after I graduated high school.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2020?

To continue to improve my mental and physical health while striving to be a better person every day for my family and work organization.

Who is your hero, and why?

This is a tough one, as I have had a variety of significantly influential people in my



life. My Christian faith has helped guide a majority of the decisions in my life, but those within my community help clarify my purpose and direction.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

Visit my beloved friends and family in heaven.

What is the best piece of advice someone has given you?

To each its own – take care of yourself first. You have to be happy with yourself before you are pleasant with others.

What do you like to do for fun, to pass the time, during this time of social distancing or just in general?

I love camping, being outside where I can walk, run or bike. I love being a mother of a 9-year-old Tiger Rock Martial Arts student. I try to love spending time with my husband at home as we telework in the same office back to back. 2020 has had enough challenges for us all on many levels and we have to make the best of what we are all struggling with.

Know your laws:

Debt can have more than just financial consequences

By AMY WASYLUKA

Huntsville attorney

The holidays are right around the corner and for many that means holiday spending. MagnifyMoney found that just last year, Americans took on an average of an additional \$1,325 in holiday debt. With the added stress that this year has brought it may be even more tempting to go “all out” on the holidays but adding to debt can have more than just financial consequences.

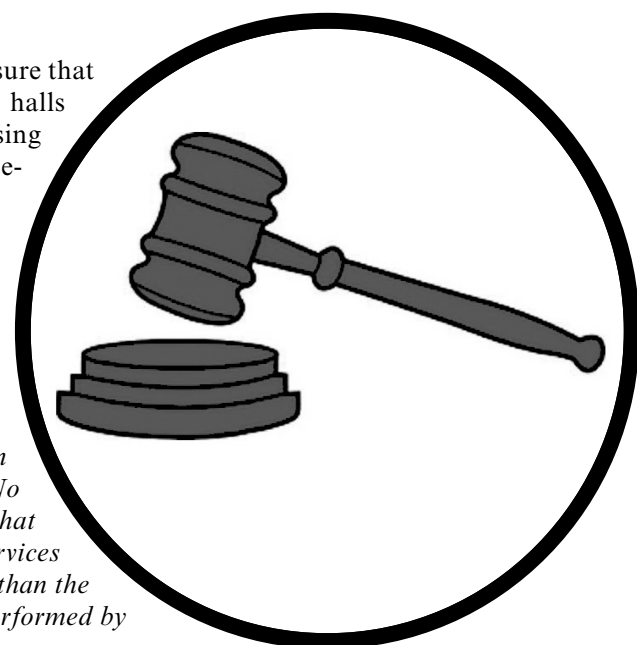
In general, outstanding debt can negatively affect your interest rates, credit scores, and insurance premiums making it more difficult to find jobs

and even housing. Additionally, if you default on a debt, you could be facing collection agencies, potential lawsuits, wage garnishment, bank account levies and even bankruptcy.

For federal employees and civilian contractors there is even more at stake as outstanding debt can affect your ability to both obtain and maintain your security clearance. Army Regulation 380-67 paragraph 2-4 indicates excessive indebtedness is a consideration in granting, suspending and revoking security clearances. The amount of debt that constitutes “excessive indebtedness” can vary based on the circumstances and an individual’s ability to meet their financial obligations. So remember, keep an eye on your debt this

holiday season and make sure that while you are decking the halls you are not also exposing yourself to negative consequences.

Editor's note: The opinions in this column do not constitute legal advice nor do they establish an attorney-client relationship. If you have questions concerning the issues discussed, contact an attorney of your choice. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.



Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

Flu shots encouraged

FORT DETRICK, Md. – With the annual flu season now upon us, the Army Medical Materiel Agency is working to distribute nearly 1.6 million doses of influenza vaccine to protect Soldiers, their families and retirees.

USAMMA's Distribution Operations Center, or DOC, oversees the yearly distribution of the vaccine to active-duty and reserve Soldiers, as well as civilian staff and family members. The Army makes up the majority of doses ordered throughout the Department of Defense.

As of Oct. 28, roughly half of the Army's doses had been shipped, heading to destinations across the U.S. and abroad. DOC officials plan to have distribution completed by the end of November.

USAMMA is a direct reporting unit to Army Medical Logistics Command.

The agency's DOC provides coordination and tracking for select temperature sensitive medical products, like the flu vaccine. It also conducts training for logistical and medical units to ensure proper distribution and storage practices for those products.

Lt. Col. Todd Reeder, USAMMA's pharmacy consultant and DOC director, said there has been a significant push throughout the Army and DOD to raise awareness about the importance of getting a flu shot, especially this year due to influenza symptoms mimicking those of COVID-19.

“Having the flu shot will assist health care personnel in determining the possible cause of

a patient's symptoms,” he said.

Patients that go to the emergency room with flu-like symptoms will still be tested for both illnesses, but “the hope is that the severity of symptoms from the flu will be much less” with a vaccine and won't add to the symptoms of COVID-19 in the unlikely event a patient catches both, Reeder said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it's unclear to what extent SARS-CoV-2 – the scientific name of the novel coronavirus strain that causes the disease called COVID-19 – will circulate over the 2020-21 flu season.

In any case, the CDC said the flu vaccine can reduce the prevalence of flu-like illness. It can also reduce symptoms that might be confused with COVID-19.

“Prevention and reduction in the severity of influenza illness and reduction of outpatient illnesses, hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions through influenza vaccination also could alleviate stress on the U.S. health care system,” the CDC said.

The DOD sets an annual goal of having at least 90% of all active-duty military members vaccinated by Jan. 15 each flu season, which generally begins in the fall and lasts until early spring.

Contract award announcements

BAE Systems, Nashua, New Hampshire, was awarded a \$49,937,097 firm-fixed-price contract for the Common Missile Warning System. Bids were solicited via the Internet with one received. Work locations and funding

will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of Nov. 15, 2025. The Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, is the contracting activity.

Psychological health research

ADELPHI, Md. – Army scientists have developed computer-based training to help Soldiers avoid unnecessary social conflict and mitigate anger-related outcomes.

Scientists at the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's, now referred to as DEVCOM, Army Research Laboratory and the Walter Reed Army Institute for Research, developed a Hostile Bias Modification Training protocol to reduce hostile attribution bias, anger and reactive aggression in ambiguous social conflict situations, which can jeopardize social bonds, relationships with significant others, team culture and performance.

“This was a unique across agency collaborative effort bringing together clinical psychology and cognitive science Army researchers to investigate reactive aggressive behavior,” Army researcher Dr. Sue Kase said. “After reading an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers conference publication on social bias factors associated with information transmission, Capt. Jeffery Osgood of WRAIR contacted the ARL co-authors for assistance.”

At the time, in 2018, the laboratory was very fortunate to have the effort and crowdsourcing platform resources available to respond immediately to Osgood's request, Kase said.

This established a scientific alliance between the organizations by translating WRAIR's re-

search needs to fit one of the laboratory's ongoing internal research methodologies — technological advances in large scale online data collection.

“Osgood's team brought clinical psychology expertise to the table while we offered our expertise in large scale crowdsourcing experimentation in cognitive behavior,” Kase said. “When a partner agency requests our assistance, it is important to think outside the box because the potential impact could be significant and directly transition to the welfare of the Soldier. As in this case, the research will improve the psychological health of Soldiers both in the field and in post-service.”

The study consisted of two crowdsourced experiments investigating if HBMT could reduce overall hostile attribution bias as well as perceived hostility, anger and aggression.

HBMT exposed participants to three types of word fragments: ambiguous, aggressive and non-aggressive. Participants were instructed to only form non-aggressive words and not respond in other cases.

Next, participants reacted to vignettes where in some cases the wrongdoer was clearly hostile while in others it was ambiguous.

Participants returned after several days to complete the second part of the study on real-world situations such as driving and social media behavior.

The results of the study, published in the journal Cognitive Therapy and Research, indicate that HBMT was effective in reducing hostile attribution bias, anger and reactive aggression in ambiguous situations.

Military

Outstanding first sergeants recognized for leadership

From combined reports

This year's Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Awards ceremony was canceled because of the pandemic but that has not stopped the recognition of winners.

For the 16th year, the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army has recognized senior noncommissioned officers from the Tennessee Valley. This leadership award highlights the accomplishments of Sgt. John Ordway who volunteered for the Lewis and Clark Expedition and was the senior enlisted Soldier.

This year's winners include active Army, 1st Sgt. Erika Vargas; Army Reserve, 1st Sgt. Stephanie Smith; and National Guard, 1st Sgt. Marcus Houser.

Houser, a Montgomery native, is the first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment with the 200th Regiment (Leader) at Fort McClellan. He resides in Montgomery with his wife, Keina, and their daughter and son.

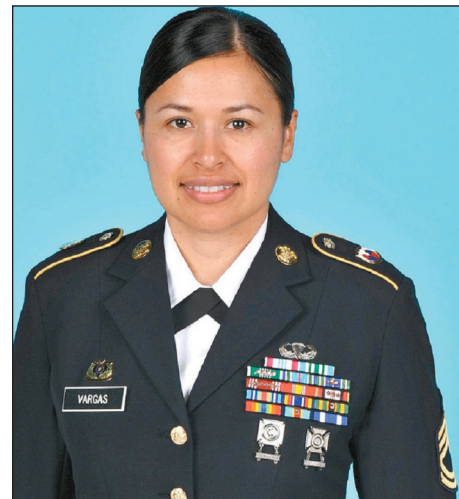
Vargas, a native of Mexico City, Mexico, is the first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Aviation and Missile Command. She has two daughters, Sofia and Camila Vargas-Lezama.

Smith was born in West Memphis, Arkansas, and raised in Joiner, Arkansas. She serves with the 326th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Company, 76th Operational Response Command in Huntsville. Smith and her husband, Rodofic, have two children, Rodofic III and Stephan.

The ceremony was sponsored by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA and the Redstone Arsenal Sergeants Major Association. The chairman was retired Com-



1st Sgt. Marcus Houser



1st Sgt. Erika Vargas



1st Sgt. Stephanie Smith

mand Sgt. Maj. Chad Cuomo, AUSA Chapter vice president for Soldier programs. Assisting him were retired Sgt. Maj. Dave Poehlein, AUSA Chapter vice president for noncommissioned officer programs; retired Command Sgt. Maj. John Perry, AUSA Chapter vice president for National Guard and Army Reserve programs; and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain, president of the Redstone Arsenal Sergeants Major Association.

Sponsors included the Redstone Arsenal Sergeants Major Association, Mentor Enterprises and the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA.

"As the positive cases of COVID continue to increase, we placed the safety of all involved first in deciding to cancel the (Nov. 20) event," the organizers said in a written announcement.

Courtesy photos

Veteran's flag of honor

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs has been recognized by the Flags of Honor Association and the secretary of the Army for his military career and operations during combat. He said many of the Soldiers in his

unit died over the years since the Gulf War because of the chemical gas that the enemy used on his unit during the war. Hobbs supported the First Marine Expeditionary Force in the Gulf War ground attack. "I dedicate this award to the Soldiers I led during combat operations and to the Soldiers that gave their full measure of dedication and left their lives on the battlefield," he said. "They will forever be in my mind and hearts as I pray for the families that were left without a loved one so we can enjoy the freedoms we have every day. Freedom isn't free and I want to continue to fight for freedom in my new life by treating everyone with dignity and respect." From left are Joe Fitzgerald, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army; Hobbs' wife, Erica; Zane Lynch, son of association founder Jim and Sara Lynch; and Hobbs.



Colonel caps career of Army modernization support

By **NANCY JONES-BONBREEST**

Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office

With a nod toward selfless service that he learned from his father, John Eggert joined the Army in 1984 and never looked back. Now, after almost 34 years of service culminating as a colonel, Eggert retired during a small ceremony Friday at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Known for his work ethic, foresight and being the ultimate teammate, Eggert most recently served as the chief of staff for the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, and previously as its acting director. His leadership at the RCCTO delivered stability during a period of change and provided steady guidance to an organization in its infancy. Because of his contributions, crucial prototypes were accelerated into the hands of Soldiers in support of the Army modernization strategy.

“He originally came to the RCCTO to become a project manager, but the Army asked more of him,” Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood, director of Hypersonics, Directed Energy, Space and Rapid Acquisition, which includes the RCCTO, who presided over Eggert’s retirement ceremony, said. “True to his nature, Col. Eggert rose to the

challenge. At the RCCTO he not only had to execute the organization’s high-priority programs, but also maintain mission continuity during a critical time. He handed off an organization with great momentum and remained as my chief of staff.”

Eggert joined the Army following in the footsteps of his father, Tooeey Eggert, who served as an enlisted Soldier in Korea.

“He would tell me about his Army experience, noting how important it was to work on something larger than himself and how that made him a better person,” Eggert said. “That quality of selfless service was appealing to me.”

He enlisted in the Army as a nuclear, chemical and biological specialist, serving three years with the 3rd Armored Division in Frankfurt, Germany and later at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. After attaining the rank of sergeant, he attended West Point, graduating in 1990 and receiving his commission in air defense artillery.

He went on to serve in numerous acquisition assignments, including as the project manager for the Lower Tier Project Office, where he oversaw development of the air and missile defense systems that defend the lower tier within the terminal defense segment of the Ballistic Missile Defense Sys-



Photo by Eric Schultz

Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood presents Col. John Eggert with a letter of appreciation during Eggert’s retirement ceremony Friday at Bob Jones Auditorium.

tem architecture. While serving at the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site, Kwajalein Atoll, he was on a team that, through remarkable testing achievements, progressed the Link-16 Joint interoperability and hit-to-kill technology for the Army. He served as a battery commander for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile defense weapon, responsible for one of two User Operational Evaluation Systems, and furthering the development of the system while being ready to deploy anywhere

in the world if called upon.

When asked about the most memorable part of his career, he points to the teammates with whom he served.

“It’s hard to whittle down to a singular accomplishment,” Eggert said. “I will say that whatever contributions I made were not my own. I had the incredible opportunity to serve with some great Soldiers and even finer human beings.”

Eggert received numerous awards over his career, including the Legion of Merit award, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. In 2000 he was named Army Tester of the Year for his efforts as the test director for Theater Missile Defense systems at Kwajalein, which included the Patriot, THAAD and Aegis. The award recognized his support to an operational test of the new Patriot hit-to-kill missile, or PAC-3, and several large joint interoperability tests.

In retirement, Eggert plans to remain in Huntsville, a place he’s called home for numerous assignments. He also plans to travel with his wife, Paula, and continue his hobbies of racquetball and running.

“I had a lot of help along the way from my remarkable partner Paula, in addition to my faith, family and friends,” he said.



Photo by Monica Ludwig

Air defender retires

Col. John Vannoy, right, accepts a certificate of retirement from Brig. Gen. Robert Barrie, program executive officer for aviation, during a ceremony Oct. 30 at the Redstone Test Center hangar. Vannoy served as the project manager of PEO Aviation's Multi-National Aviation Special Project Office since 2018. His career began in 1991 when he was commissioned as a distinguished graduate through ROTC in the aviation branch. During the ceremony, Vannoy was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Honorable Order of St. Michael, Silver Award from the Army Aviation Association of America. The Order of St. Michael recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the promotion of Army aviation.

Road to COVID-19 vaccine deemed fast, safe

By LISA SIMUNACI

Operation Warp Speed Public Affairs

Going fast doesn't mean going dangerous.

With recent reports that show Pfizer and Moderna vaccine candidates are more than 90% effective, Operation Warp Speed's Chief Science Adviser Dr. Moncef Slaoui compared the rapid search for a vaccine to driving a racecar.

"It's about understanding the safety limits of how fast we can go," said Slaoui, a 30-year veteran of the pharmaceutical industry who was involved with the development of 14 approved vaccines.

"We've analyzed the process of developing a vaccine, and determined the parts we can accelerate and those we shouldn't," Slaoui explained.

Operation Warp Speed launched in May as a collaborative effort between the federal government – namely the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense – in collaboration with industry and academia.

While Slaoui wears the scientific hat at Operation Warp Speed, Gen. Gus Perna is the chief operating officer. Perna, a 39-year veteran and military logistician, is leading the effort to scale up manufacturing and provide vaccine distribution solutions.

Both leaders are quick to note the operation is not cutting corners on safety, but is taking significant risk financially. Operation Warp Speed funded the produc-

tion for five of its six vaccine candidates while they were simultaneously being tested to determine safety and effectiveness.

"Our mission is about saving lives," Perna said. "We determined early on where we could take risk and where we couldn't."

Slaoui expressed optimism that a vaccine would be available soon, calling the recent efficacy reports "transformational."

"We have now demonstrated that a vaccine against COVID-19 is possible, and the choice we made for the antigen is appropriate," he said.

"Fortunately, the very same kind of antigen is present in the six vaccines we have selected as part of the operation, so the expectation is that the others will work and we will have many vaccines in the coming months."

To those who express hesitancy about taking a COVID-19 vaccine, Slaoui points to the science.

"The safety of COVID-19 vaccines will be demonstrated in facts and data through the clinical trials we're conducting," he said. "The outcome of these clinical trials will be analyzed by independent committees and the independent scientific communities that advise the FDA before a vaccine is approved. So the true performance will be available for the public to judge."

With thousands dying daily from COVID-19, Slaoui noted it would be unethical not to use a vaccine that is known to work.

"I think these vaccines, as they become available,



Courtesy photo

Operation Warp Speed Chief Science Adviser Dr. Moncef Slaoui discusses the operation.

will demonstrate the capacity of our country, our innovation and our industry ecosystem, to take the best science we have to design, develop and make available a vaccine," he said. "That, I believe, is one of the cornerstones of how we are going to be able to manage and control this pandemic and hopefully go back to our normal life."

Huntsville in contention for U.S. Space Command

By Redstone Regional Alliance

The Redstone region is honored and excited by the latest news that we were chosen by the Air Force as a finalist for hosting the headquarters of U.S. Space Command.

Huntsville and the surrounding area has the space legacy, business/government/community ecosystem and unmatched civic support to enable Space Command to forge the nation's domination of space. We are grateful for the opportunity to demonstrate why Redstone should be selected first among all others.

We are very grateful to our elected leaders, including our congressional delegation which is led by Sen. Richard Shelby, Gov. Kay Ivey, Mayor Tommy Battle and all of the local elected leaders in the greater Redstone region of North Alabama and South Central Tennessee who support Redstone.

Redstone provides all the assets necessary to assure the U.S. Space Com-

mand's success, including military housing, health care, childcare, commissary, and personnel and logistics support.

The region also has a very favorable cost of living, being among the lowest of any technology-based military communities.

The support structure required to successfully execute the mission of the Space Command is here. Redstone is home to many of the nation's key space and defense assets, including the Space and Missile Defense Command headquarters, the majority of the Missile Defense Agency's operations and a wide portfolio of specialized R&D capabilities addressing all aspects of space, missile and missile defense endeavors. Our region boasts the highest per capita concentration of engineering workforce in the U.S. Our universities offer research resources specifically tailored to address the most challenging problems facing both our military and other technology-centric agencies.

Guided missile destroys target in flight test

By Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs

The Missile Defense Agency and Navy sailors aboard an Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System-equipped destroyer intercepted and destroyed a threat-representative Intercontinental Ballistic Missile target with a Standard Missile-3 Block IIA missile during a flight test demonstration Nov. 16 in the broad ocean area northeast of Hawaii.

At approximately 7:50 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time, the ICBM-representative target was launched from the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site, located on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, toward the broad ocean area northeast of Hawaii.

In this developmental test, the destroyer used engage-on-remote capabilities through the Command and Control Battle Management Communications network as part of a defense of Hawaii scenario. After receiving tracking data from the C2BMC system, the destroyer launched a SM-3 Block IIA guided missile which destroyed the target.

“This was an incredible accomplishment and critical milestone for the Aegis BMD SM-3 Block IIA program,” MDA Director Vice Adm. Jon Hill said. “The Department is investigating the possibility of augmenting the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system by fielding additional sensors and weapon systems to hedge against unexpected developments in the missile threat. We have demonstrated that an Aegis BMD-

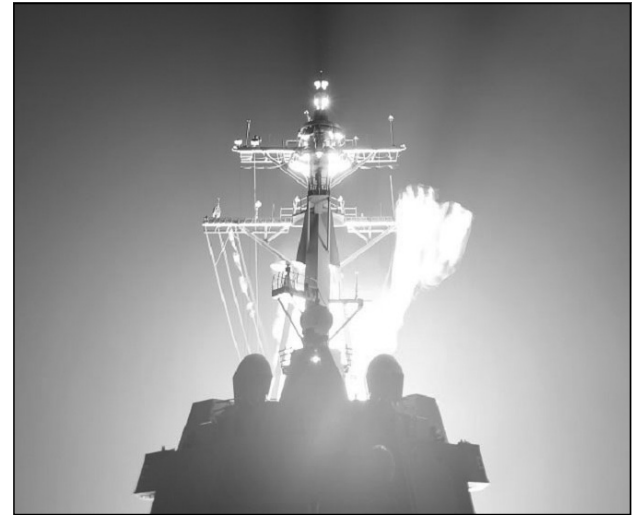
equipped vessel equipped with the SM-3 Block IIA missile can defeat an ICBM-class target, which is a step in the process of determining its feasibility as part of an architecture for layered defense of the homeland. My congratulations to the entire test team, including our military and industry partners, who helped us to achieve this milestone.”

Based on preliminary data, the test met its primary objective: demonstrate the ability for the SM-3 Block IIA missile to intercept an ICBM target. Program officials will continue to evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

This event, designated Flight Test Aegis Weapon System-44, was the sixth flight test of an Aegis BMD-equipped vessel using the SM-3 Block IIA guided missile. FTM-44, originally scheduled for May 2020, was delayed due to restrictions in personnel and equipment movement intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

FTM-44 satisfies a congressional mandate to evaluate the feasibility of the SM-3 Block IIA missile’s capability to defeat an ICBM threat before the end of 2020. The SM-3 Block IIA was originally designed and built for the Intermediate-range Ballistic Missile threat set. The Aegis Ballistic Missile Weapons System is the naval component of the Missile Defense System.

The MDA and the Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD system. Aegis BMD ships (and Aegis Ashore) receive track data via the C2BMC system, build the fire control solutions, then launch and guide



MDA photo

The Missile Defense Agency and Navy sailors aboard an Aegis destroyer intercept and destroy an ICBM target with an SM-3 Block IIA missile during a test northeast of Hawaii.

the SM-3 family of missiles to destroy incoming threats.

MDA’s mission is to develop and deploy a layered Missile Defense System to defend the U.S., its deployed forces, allies and friends from missile attacks of all ranges in all phases of flight.

Leaders share update on space defense domain

By **JASON CUTSHAW**

*Space and Missile Defense Command
Public Affairs*

Military leaders have met online to inform aerospace professionals of national defense space efforts that are out of this world.

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command and commander of Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, participated in the virtual Joint All-Domain Command and Control and Space Mission Integration panel Nov. 18.

“I really appreciate the opportunity to be able to talk with my joint partners here on this panel,” Karbler said. “In my 33 years in the Army, Army space has never been more relevant. I get to see day-to-day what our operations are doing between the operations at 1st Space Brigade as well as what our Satellite Operations Brigade is doing. You name it, the space domain is critical for what our nations does, and the Army’s contributions are significant.

“We have got to treat space as a warfighting domain. It is no longer just this



Army photo

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command and commander of Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, participates in the virtual Joint All-Domain Command and Control and Space Mission Integration panel Nov. 18. The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics hosted the panel at an Accelerating Space Commerce, Exploration and New Discovery event Nov. 15-17.

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Update

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medium that data and information pass through. First and foremost, we have to address the threat in that domain and what our adversaries are doing to contest us in space. We have to make sure space is integrated just like we integrate the air, the sea, the ground, and increasingly cyber and electromagnetic spectrum. We've got to make sure space is incorporated in our day-to-day operations as warfighters. Without Army space

enablers our ability to shoot, move and communicate come at risk if we are not providing those capabilities to the warfighter."

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics hosted the panel at an Accelerating Space Commerce, Exploration and New Discovery event Nov. 15-17.

ASCEND is a new experience designed to drive the space economy forward and to accelerate space commerce, exploration and new discovery. It is designed as the center of gravity for the space community and is intended to connect individuals in the propulsion

and energy, launch services, engineering, private enterprise, startups, investors, civil space, national, security, academia, research, space sciences, media, emerging technology and policy communities.

"We have a great opportunity to make sure operational requirements are identified and to be able to dialogue with our commercial partners," Karbler said. "Our partners need to help develop the common, operational picture. Our partners have got to make investments in the space domain – awareness, force tracking and some of those other missions we do with respect to space that will make us better."

AIAA serves professionals around the world who are shaping the future of aerospace by providing the tools, insights and collaborative exchanges to advance the state of the art in engineering and science for aviation, space and defense.

U.S. Space Force Lt. Gen. B. Chance Saltzman, deputy chief of Space Operations for Operations, Cyber, and Nuclear, said they are looking to create a digital, innovative, lean, agile service that supports joint all-domain operations and JADC2 is a critical enabler to making that happen.

"As the newest service in the newest warfighting domain, we have the opportunity to have a blank slate, if you will, to create our operations, our operational

concepts and develop our people from the beginning as a joint all-domain capability, and that's exactly what we are trying to do," Saltzman said. "We take that responsibility seriously and we are looking at innovative ways to develop our people. We're looking at new processes and products and how we best can provide capability."

ASCEND is built on the belief that every member of the space community has something in common: a commitment to human exploration, interest in the effective utilization of space resources, and a focus on the long-term sustainability of the space enterprise.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Dawn Dunlop, who serves as the director, Operational Capability Requirements, and as the deputy chief of staff for Strategy, Integration and Requirements, said JADC2 is going to be game-changing.

"If you think of what JADC2 is in terms of the warfighting construct or joint all-domain operations, it's pretty powerful in terms of the type of future warfighting constructs that we need," Dunlop said. "It's going to change how we organize, train and equip; It's going to change how we integrate our partners; It's going to change how we integrate with industry; and I have to tell you, it's here."

Strategic partners participate in missile defense flight test

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

Space and Missile Defense Command and U.S. Strategic Command partners have supported another test of the nation's missile defense capabilities.

Team members of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense and SMDC's Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site, Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands, worked alongside Navy ballistic missile defense forces as they intercepted and destroyed a threat-representative intercontinental ballistic missile target with a Standard Missile-3 Block IIA during a flight test demonstration northeast of Hawaii, Nov. 17.

The ICBM-representative target was launched from RTS, and in this developmental test, a Navy destroyer used engage-on-remote capabilities through the Command and Control Battle Management Communications network as part of a defense of Hawaii scenario. After receiving tracking data through the C2BMC system the USS John Finn, an Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System-equipped destroyer, launched an SM-3 Block IIA guided missile, which destroyed the target.

During the Flight Test Aegis Weapon System-44 mission, RTS provided the target launch location; target launch services, such as safety, weather and logistics; and the collection of truth data for determination of system performance.

"This is accomplished through extensive planning

and coordination between RTS, the Missile Defense Agency, and numerous other supporting organizations to accurately develop requirements and match those requirements to range capabilities that will meet the customers' needs," Michael Butler, chief of RTS Mission Operations Division, said. "These major missions require assistance from hundreds of supporting personnel to ensure that every detail is attended to, funding is in place, documentation is in order, equipment and instrumentation is fully mission capable, and test personnel are fully trained in critical roles.

"RTS is honored to be part of these test events – to team with the Missile Defense Agency with unity of purpose. It's a truly remarkable and gratifying feat

See Test on page 16

Courtesy photo

A SM-3 Block IIA is launched from an Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System-equipped destroyer as part of Flight Test Aegis Weapons System-44 Nov. 17. During FTM-44, members of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense and the Space and Missile Defense Command's Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands worked alongside American ballistic missile defense forces as they intercepted and destroyed a threat-representative Intercontinental Ballistic Missile target.



Test

Continued from page 15

when you consider the number of individual people, from multiple organizations, bringing together required and diverse skills and abilities, all working toward the singular purpose of accomplishing a safe and successful mission.”

Based on preliminary data, the test met its primary objective: to demonstrate the ability for the SM-3 Block IIA missile to intercept an ICBM target. Program officials will continue to evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

During these tests, the role of JFCC IMD’s Capability and Resource Integration Directorate, known as the J-8, is to advocate on behalf of the warfighter to ensure ballistic missile defense system capabilities coming from MDA are tested in an operationally realistic manner before being delivered to the warfighter. The J-8 coordinates testing requirements and objectives with the various services, MDA and the developmental and operational test community.

“JFCC IMD J-8’s involvement starts even before the event is added to the test baseline, i.e. years out,” said Navy Capt. Leo Albea, director, JFCC IMD Future Concepts, Test and Analysis. “The J-8 helps to steer the development of the BMDS through an understanding of what types of simulated ground tests and flight tests need to be completed in order to adequately obtain, via MDA, the mission-essential capabilities warfighters are seeking in their specific combatant commands. It’s important for JFCC IMD to participate in the flight test because it validates all the test planning and ground test scenarios that culminated in this event.”

During the test, there are two members of the JFCC IMD Flight Test Team, with additional support from throughout the larger J-8 organization, as needed. After testing is complete and the new or upgraded capability is ready to be added to BMDS operational capacity baseline, JFCC IMD J-87 assesses the testing program and provides a Warfighter Capability Assessment.

JFCC IMD is a component of USSTRATCOM, a combatant command with the responsibility for synchronizing global missile defense amongst the other combatant commands. Many tasks associated with this responsibility are delegated to JFCC IMD. It is commanded by Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler who simultaneously commands both JFCC IMD and SMDC.

Missile defense operations are conducted by various joint warfighting organizations across the globe using contributing sea, air, land, space and cyber capabilities, said Col. Todd Schmidt, Ph.D., director, JFCC IMD Plans, Policy and Allied Integration.

“Due to the depth and breadth of these operations and the expanding range and complexity of the missile threats we face, there is a need to synchronize some of the efforts between organizations,” Schmidt said. “These efforts requiring synchronization are what constitute global missile defense.”

JFCC IMD is the recognized subject matter expert across the missile defense enterprise in matters of operational support, policy, strategy, training and education. JFCC IMD operates the Joint Ballistic Training and Education Center in Colorado

Springs, Colorado, the Department of Defense’s only certified Joint Center of Excellence. This training facility provides joint missile defense courseware to more than 8,000 students around the world every year.

JFCC IMD also operates a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week operations center at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, to provide operational support to the Ground Based Mid-course Defense System, which protects the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii from missile threats.

“FTM-44 is a demonstration designed to show the feasibility of establishing a layered homeland defense,” Schmidt said. “Missile defenses are always more effective if designed with layers that provide multiple intercept opportunities as the threat missile gets closer to the target. The coordination and integration that a layered approach requires is no easy feat but the United States already possesses the individual capabilities and the benefits of linking them would be substantial to deterring potential attacks in a crisis.”



Community

Attorney explains nuances of estate planning

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

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Part of living a healthy life is planning for what happens when life is over.

That was the theme of Nov. 17's monthly Healthy Living and Working Web Series, presented by Team Redstone Employee Assistance Program and, this month, in partnership with Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program. EAP launched the online series via Microsoft Teams to highlight different topics and areas of interest impacting Redstone's workforce and their families. November's guest speaker was Scottsboro attorney Melanie Holliman, who specializes in estate planning.

Holliman said it was a common misconception that estate planning is only for the wealthy.

"Many of you may think that you don't need estate planning or it is too complicated for your situation," she told the audience, adding that anyone age 19 (the age that a person is a legal adult in Alabama) and older needs some sort of financial planning.

What that planning will entail depends on assets that a person has – but it also includes planning for what could happen if that person loses their capacity to make decisions.

Holliman walked the audience through the differences between a will and a trust. She said that one of the most common questions she receives from clients is how

to prevent someone in their family from receiving some of their assets after they are gone? Her advice: have a will that specifies who will receive those assets, because in the absence of one, the state has strict laws that they follow in bequeathing assets.

"The state of Alabama will not consider if you like or dislike someone," she said.

Holliman outlined the basics of the modern estate plan, which include:

- Last will and testament
- Revocable living will
- Financial durable power of attorney
- Advance health care directive (living will)
- HIPAA authorization

With the COVID-19 pandemic, people are confronting those hard decisions of what to do if they become seriously ill. She said that due to the coronavirus, Alabama changed the rules of what can or cannot be done in person and clients can now undergo the entire estate plan process virtually – even signing the documents remotely.

With the COVID-19 death toll at 257,000, handling a family member's estate has become the responsibility of many Americans in 2020. Holliman said having a plan already in place will reduce their burden.

"Estate planning is a way to get things to your loved ones the way you want," she said. ACS financial counseling is available to all members of the Redstone workforce. Due to COVID-19, all ACS financial counseling services are currently telephonic. Financial Readiness Program Manager Kathleen Riester can be reached at 876-6299. If someone is interested in being a presenter for the class in 2021 or have a future topic to suggest, email EAP coordinator Carolyn White at carolyn.g.white7.civ@mail.mil.



Screenshot by Katie Davis Skelley

Scottsboro attorney Melanie Holliman speaks with clients virtually. Holliman was the guest speaker for Nov. 17's Healthy Living and Working Web Series, presented by Team Redstone Employee Assistance Program and Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program. In the seminar, Holliman spoke about how her services have transitioned due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Redstone runners invited to virtual events

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

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Running is not canceled.

That has been a popular refrain among running enthusiasts in 2020, as COVID-19 has curtailed many other athletic pursuits. Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation invites Redstone members age 5 and up to participate in two separate free virtual running events in December and January, while keeping with coronavirus safety guidelines.

"We are doing this to help encourage people to get outside during this beautiful weather," Lori Ciranni, Family and MWR's sports, fitness and aquatics director, said.

The Holiday Hustle 5K/10K Telerun will be held Dec. 7-11 and the Goodbye 2020 Virtual 5K/10K is scheduled Jan. 4-8. Register for both events at www.RedstoneMWR.com.

Runners are invited to run at their convenience in a location of their choosing during each run's time frame. Participants who send their time to usarmy.redstone.usag.mbx.MWR-Fitness@mail.mil will receive a medal for each event they complete.

Family and MWR is asking runners to post a photo or video on their social media and tag @RedstoneMWR. Make sure to include the hashtags #RedstoneHolidayHustle or #RedstoneGoodbye2020 for each event.

"We are living during difficult times right now and anything to relieve stress and give people something to feel good about is bound to help," Ciranni said.

To learn more, call 955-6844.

GOODBYE 2020 VIRTUAL 5K/10K RUN FREE! January 4 - 8, 2021

Ages 5 and up.

Registration is FREE.

Register online beginning November 1
at www.RedstoneMWR.com.

Location: You choose your own location

Time: Anytime during January 4 - 8

Send your time to
usarmy.redstone.usag.mbx.MWR-Fitness@mail.mil
and receive a finisher's medal.

Post a photograph or video on your social media
and tag us @RedstoneMWR #RedstoneGoodbye2020

For more information,
please call 256-955-6844.



HOLIDAY HUSTLE 5K 10K teleRUN

December 7-11

FREE!

Ages 5 and up.



Registration is FREE.

Register online beginning November 1
at www.RedstoneMWR.com.

Location: You choose your own location

Time: Anytime during December 7-11

Send your time to
usarmy.redstone.usag.mbx.MWR-Fitness@mail.mil
and receive a finisher's medal.

Post a photograph or video on your social media
and tag us @RedstoneMWR #RedstoneHolidayHustle

For more information,
please call 256-955-6844.



Annual tree lighting to spread holiday cheer

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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The annual Redstone Tree Lighting will be virtual this year making sure the holiday spirit is the only thing that will be spread during the event.

The tree lighting will serve as the official kickoff for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's "12 Days of Holiday Craze" virtual celebration, which will feature book readings, prize giveaways, interactive contests and guest speakers on MWR's Facebook Page.

It will take place Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. It can be viewed on MWR's Facebook Page or the Team Redstone Facebook Page.

The tree will be on display at the Gate 9 Visitor Center.

"The ceremony has become quite the tradition here on Redstone and I'm glad we will be able to continue it this year despite the current COVID-19 pandemic," Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor said. "It's just another way the staff at MWR has continued to be innovative throughout these difficult times."

The ceremony will feature remarks from Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker and special guests Samantha and Lana Bell, the surviving family of Sgt. Christopher Bell who was killed in action in 2011.

Lana, 11, and her mother will assist with the lighting of the tree.

"This spin on our annual tree lighting ceremony will give patrons the chance to enjoy the occasion from their own home," Natalie Crawford, from MWR, said. "By spreading out our offerings over multiple days, we heighten the potential to reach more of our community with holiday cheer and a morale boost."



This illustration shows the location of this year's Christmas tree.

Courtesy graphic

Vietnam-era veteran says remember those who served

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Alan Langford received his draft notice as expected in May 1967. The Tulsa, Oklahoma, native had five days to decide on a branch of military service and a specialty.

He decided to join the Army and specialize in the Nike Hercules air defense missile.

“I went in on my birthday,” Langford said.

He served from May 1968 through October 1988 and he retired as a captain. Langford was stationed throughout the United States and had two tours in Germany. Unlike the Hawk missile, the medium-range Nike Hercules was not deployed in Vietnam.

“We moved 23 times,” Langford said. “And so we experienced the north, south, east and west in the United States. Cleveland, Fort Bliss, Seattle. We were all the way out to the DelMarVa (Delaware/Maryland/Virginia) peninsula and places in between. So we experienced different beauties of the U.S.”

After graduating from high school in Sand Springs, near Tulsa, in May 1966, he decided to leave college and start working. He married his longtime sweetheart, Cynthia, in August 1967. They first met as teenagers and have been married 53 years. Their son, Christopher, was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in April 1977.

Langford spent 10 years as an enlisted Soldier and 10 years as an officer. He received his commission as a second lieutenant in April 1978 through officer candidate school at Fort Benning, Georgia.

During the Vietnam War, military service was not held in high esteem by many Americans. But Langford said he never personally experienced that negativity while traveling stateside in uniform during the war.

“I really just stopped off to visit family and was well-received by family,” he said. “I never felt as if I was looked down upon or anything because the family, they were very patriotic. I was well-received by family. I guess it was because of where I lived in Oklahoma and Texas. It was not looked down upon by that part of the States that I recall.

“My father, who was a World War II veteran, was anxious for me to get through. But after I received additional technical training, he was very supportive of me staying in the military.”

Langford initially had air defense artillery training at Fort Bliss, Texas, as a radar operator for the Nike Hercules. He returned to Fort Bliss for a year of training as a fire control maintenance technician. In 1973 he reenlisted and went to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, to become a calibration specialist. Ordnance officer training brought him to Redstone Arsenal in 1978. He retired from the Army in 1988 in Seattle.

He received a bachelor's in general education with military science from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, in 1983. He has an associate of science degree from the University of the State of New York in 1977.

The Huntsville resident retired from Teledyne Brown Engineering in 2014 as the software test manager after 22 years.

He and Cynthia have their son, Christopher, 43, of Huntsville, and six grandchildren. Christopher works at Netivity as vice president of cybersecurity strategy.

Langford is a life member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and serves as an assistant chaplain for Chapter 1067. He also belongs to the American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue.

He is an elder at Monrovia Church of Christ in Madison. Langford is a certified pastoral counselor with the American Association of Christian Counselors. He volunteers at His Way Recovery Center for those with substance addictions.

“I spent about three years writing my autobiography. I'm not finished with that,” he said, laughing.

Langford, 72, shared his thoughts on this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

“It's good to bring to mind to our younger folks of the nation a remembrance of those who served,” he said. “There's no man left behind.”

Editor's note: This is the 297th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.



Courtesy photo

A Tulsa, Okla., native, Alan Langford resides in Huntsville.

Vietnam revisited Part 297 in series



Courtesy photo

Capt. Alan Langford retired in Seattle in 1988 after more than 20 years of service.

Thanksgiving hours announced for Exchange

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	26 th of November	27 th of November	28 th of November	29 th of November
Main Store	Closed	8 a.m.-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Class Six , Goss Rd Bldg.3234	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	6 a.m.-10 p.m.	7 a.m.-9 p.m.	7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Express Martin Rd	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Concessions				
Alteration Shop	Closed	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Closed
Barber Shop	Closed	8 a.m.-4 p.m.	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Barber Shop, VBC	CLOSED-COVID	CLOSED- COVID	CLOSED- COVID	CLOSED- COVID
Barber Shop, Sparkman Center Bldg.5302	CLOSED-COVD	CLOSED- COVID	CLOSED- COVID	CLOSED- COVID
Sports World	Closed	10 a.m.-5 p.m.	10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Closed
GNC	Closed			
Dry Cleaner, PX Bldg.3220	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Dry Cleaner MDA Bldg. 5224	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Dry Cleaner Sparkman Center Bldg. 5302	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Dry Cleaner AMC,Bldg.4400	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wireless Kiosk	Closed	8 a.m.-4 p.m.	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Nail Shop	Closed	10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	Closed
Optical Store	Closed	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Closed
Food Facilities				
Charley's	Closed	10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	closed
Subway (Food Court)	Closed	Closed	Closed	losed
Popeye's	Closed	10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Gathering Grounds, Mall Area	Closed	8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Closed
Gathering Grounds, Bldg. 4488	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Starbucks	Closed	8 a.m.-3 p.m.	8 a.m.-3 p.m.	8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Main Burger King	Closed	9 a.m.-4 p.m.	10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	Closed
Burger King Martin Road, Bldg.5215	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Subway Martin Martin Road, Bldg.5215	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
HR /GM/Services Office	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

By the numbers: *My favorite Rod Stewart songs*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

1. Maggie May
2. You Wear It Well
3. Tonight's the Night
4. Have I Told You Lately That I Love You
5. Stay With Me
6. Some Guys Have All the Luck
7. Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?
8. The First Cut Is the Deepest
9. All for Love
10. Young Turks
11. Reason To Believe



12. Rhythm of My Heart
13. Hot Legs
14. This Old Heart of Mine
15. The Motown Song
16. I Don't Want to Talk About It
17. Every Picture Tells A Story
18. Forever Young
19. You're in My Heart
20. Infatuation
21. Crazy About Her

Exchange helps with virtual Santa visits

Exchange Public Affairs

Though COVID-19 might put some holiday events on hold, Santa Claus will still be making the rounds virtually with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service and JingleRing.

JingleRing provides a platform for Redstone Arsenal families to spend time with St. Nick in a contactless, virtual environment from the comfort of home. Families can choose from a culturally diverse list of Santas who speak several languages, including American sign language.

“It’s comforting to know that Santa will always be there for our military families,” Exchange General Manager Sheila Enderle said. “The Redstone Arsenal Exchange welcomes the opportunity to help our warfighters and their families

create some cherished memories.”

Registration is available at jinglering.com/aafes. From there, families can select the Redstone Exchange and sign up.

Pricing packages start at \$19.96 for up to three children. Features also include visits from Mrs. Claus, storytime sessions and post-holiday thank-you visits from the Clauses.

After the visit, a link will be provided as a keepsake so Redstone Arsenal families can revisit their conversation with Santa. The only requirement is a device with Internet access.

Honorably discharged veterans who have verified their eligibility to shop the Exchange online can sign up for visits, too. Veterans can find out more on the Exchange’s community Hub page at <https://bit.ly/Vets4Life>.

DAU Corner

Growing Your Network (The Leading Acquisition series)

Wednesday, 12/2/2020 11:30 AM CST <https://www.dau.edu/events/>

Who do you turn to for advice or assistance? This webcast explores how to grow your network of co-workers to benefit you, your team, and your program or organization. We look at ways you can expand the networks with whom you interact each day, to:

- Exchange information
- Obtain career guidance
- Speed decisions and cut through bureaucracy
- Get advice
- Acquire new knowledge
- Find out what is going on
- Collaborate around innovative ideas

A successful leader has a robust and effective network. To get the most out of this webcast, think about who you could turn to for this kind of help.

Barriers to Entry (Roundtable Discussion, registration required)

Monday, 12/7/2020 12:00 noon CST
<https://www.dau.edu/events/>

Benjamin McMartin curates a discussion of persistent barriers to entry for companies seeking to do business with the US Department of Defense.

Sustainment Series: How Many Rubber Gloves Do You Actually Have?

Tuesday, 12/8/2020 10:00 AM CST
<https://www.dau.edu/events/>

Using lessons learned from Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlight the necessity for standardizing accountability/asset visibility/data management of common materiel across the Joint Force to enable rapid, decision quality aggregation and informed decision making.

Sustainment Series: The Challenges to Our Organic Industrial Base Mosaic

Tuesday 12/8/2020 12:00 PM CST
<https://www.dau.edu/events/>

Explore the complexities of ensuring the organic industrial base (OIB) keeps pace with the demands of rapidly evolving high-tech weapon systems and contested battlespace conditions.

Federal

SpaceX crew arrives at International Space Station

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Following the spectacular night launch Nov. 15 and subsequent rendezvous with the International Space Station a little more than a day later, NASA's SpaceX Crew-1 mission is ready to begin a six-month science mission on the station – and a new chapter in human exploration of space.

The four-person crew successfully launched – aboard the first NASA-certified commercial human spacecraft system in history – at 6:27 p.m. CST from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The Crew Dragon spacecraft “Resilience,” carrying NASA astronauts Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover, and Shannon Walker, and Soichi Noguchi of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, was lofted by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

Resilience docked autonomously with the space station's Harmony module at 10:01 p.m. CST Nov. 16. The new crew was welcomed aboard shortly thereafter by the Expedition 64 crew, which includes Commander Sergey Ryzhikov and Flight Engineer Sergey Kud-Sverchkov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, and Flight Engineer Kate Rubins of NASA.

The expanded Expedition 64 crew will conduct science and station maintenance, and will return to Earth in spring 2021 – marking the longest human space mission yet launched from the United States.

“This is an important mission for NASA, SpaceX, and our partners at JAXA,” NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said. “NASA is delivering on its commitment to the American people and our international partners to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective missions to the International Space Station using American private industry.”

Gwynne Shotwell, president and chief operating officer of SpaceX, concurred. “I could not be more proud of the work we've done here,” she said. “Falcon 9 looked great, Dragon was dropped off into a beautiful orbit about 12 minutes into the mission, and we'll get more data as we go.”

The mood was equally enthusiastic at Marshall Space Flight Center, where engineers spent months prior to launch supporting vehicle systems integration and checkout – including exhaustive tests, in partnership with SpaceX, to prepare the Crew Dragon's mighty Merlin

engines for flight.

“It was a beautiful night launch. We are thrilled with the liftoff of Crew-1 and this incredible accomplishment,” Marshall's Steve Gaddis, launch vehicle deputy manager for NASA's Commercial Crew Program, said. “Our team at Marshall leverages collective knowledge based on decades of launch experience. It is great to be part of the new era of commercial human spaceflight.”

The Crew-1 mission is the first of six crewed missions NASA and SpaceX will fly as part of the Commercial Crew Program. This mission has several firsts, including:

- The first flight of the NASA-certified commercial system designed for crew transportation, which moves the system from development into regular flights;
- The first international crew of four to launch on an American commercial spacecraft;
- The first time the station's expedition crew size will increase from six to seven crew members, adding to available research time; and
- The first time the Federal Aviation Administration has licensed a human orbital spaceflight launch.

The astronauts named their spacecraft Resilience to highlight the dedication of all contributing teams around the world and to demonstrate the limitlessness of human endeavor when they strive together for common goals.

The successful launch was “a special moment for NASA and our SpaceX team,” Steve Stich, manager of NASA's Commercial Crew Program, said. “I want to thank the teams for the amazing effort to make the next generation of human space transportation possible.”

“It is an honor to have our Japanese astronaut launch on this Crew-1 Dragon,” Hiroshi Sasaki, JAXA vice president, said. “We look forward to having him conduct lots of science and demonstrate the technology, for here on Earth and for the future. I would also like to thank NASA and SpaceX for their tremendous effort to make this happen.”

NASA's Commercial Crew Program provides safe, reliable, cost-effective transportation to and from the space station from U.S. soil through a partnership with American private industry – opening access to low-Earth orbit and the space station to more people, more science, and more commercial opportunities.



NASA photo by Joel Kowsky

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft lifts off Nov. 15 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, launching NASA's SpaceX Crew-1 mission to the International Space Station.



NASA photo by Fred Deaton

Marshall team members track the Crew-1 launch from the commercial crew control room, part of the Huntsville Operations Support Center facility that also houses the International Space Station Payload Operations Integration Center.

Marshall team boosts space station research operations

By WILL BRYAN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Flying silently through the void of space around a globe of blue and green is the most advanced science laboratory ever developed: the International Space Station. Inside humanity's orbiting outpost is a buzz of activity as explorers, pilots, doctors, and scientists from around the world conduct experiments, maintain the facility and develop new technologies.

For the past 20 years, between two and six humans regularly inhabit and work aboard the space station. The Payload Operations Integration Center at Marshall Space Flight Center schedules, assists with and coordinates all of the experiments on the U.S. Orbital Segment – the USOS.

On Nov. 16, the number of crew members climbed from three to seven when the Crew-1 mission docked to the outpost, and the four astronauts who launched and flew on a Crew Dragon capsule owned and operated by SpaceX of Hawthorne, California, the first NASA-certified commercial human spacecraft system in history, joined the Expedition 64 mission. With additional astronauts aboard the space station, the science capability increased. The team at Marshall was ready to put NASA astronauts Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover, and Shannon Walker, and Soichi Noguchi of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency to work.

“A few years ago, we started getting ready for the additional crew because we knew commercial crew was coming,” Chris Wakefield, a payload operations manager in the Payload Operations Integration Center, said. “We started putting into place different concepts as far as making sure we had the right amount of people working real-time to support the additional operations.”

During missions with three crew members on the space station – with one of them working in the USOS – approximately 40-50 hours of science can be performed each week. A seven-astronaut crew – in this case with five astronauts working in the USOS – can more than double the return and perform 80-100 hours of science each week.

Specialists at Marshall integrate each experiment into the space station's operational timeline. At any given moment, approximately 200 experiments are being worked remotely from the ground and by the orbiting crew. Resources, such as crew time and the availability of work stations where the experiments are set up and oper-

ated, are carefully managed to ensure each investigation is operated safely and properly and that the maximum amount of science is returned.

Scheduling the crew's time can be complex, though.

“You've got five USOS crew members. On a given day, three or four of them may all be doing payloads, but they've all got to be able to do those payloads at the same time,” Wakefield said. “We're looking at how things fit together across work stations to make sure the crew members won't be in each other's way.”

The team at Marshall is also prepared to help resolve any issues that arise as an astronaut is working on an experiment, having collaborated with each experiment's scientists from the time an experiment is selected to fly on the space station.

“We have the real-time control team that is following along with the operations every day,” Wakefield explained. “They're dealing with those issues that come up when something is not working quite right or a payload developer sees something unusual, like an unexpected result from their science. Sometimes you have changes that have to be made on-the-fly.”

Another complexity the Marshall team must work through is the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. According to Wakefield, the pandemic requires the team to schedule some members to work remotely, in order to maintain proper distancing. The increase in space station crew members necessitates additional staff on-site, requiring his team to determine the best way to have the needed staff in the Payload Operations Integration Center, while keeping everyone social distanced and safe.

Despite the pandemic and challenges, enthusiasm at Marshall is high.

“It's very exciting for all of us,” Wakefield said. “You can see it with the team: Folks are excited about having the extra astronaut up there. We love helping to take care of the science payloads, and this gives us more opportunity to do that.”

On a clear night, mission planners, scientists, and countless other people can step outside and watch the space station zip through sky; a bright, fast-moving dot. On-board that “dot,” the experiments managed by the Marshall team are improving life on Earth, igniting the inspiration and imagination of kids young and old, and helping humanity explore deeper into the cosmos than ever before.

Editor's note: Will Bryan, a Manufacturing Technical Solutions employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.



NASA photo by Fred Deaton

The Payload Operations Integration Center at Marshall is the heartbeat for International Space Station research operations.



NASA photo

NASA astronauts – including Christina Koch, left, and Drew Morgan – perform experiments and maintain the orbiting laboratory.

Contract tool makes first step toward space mission success

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Jason Detko's roots run deep in serving his country. His father, Tom, served in the Air Force for 20 years, and Detko upheld the tradition with nine years of active duty. Afterward, he lent his talents to the Air Force and Army as a civilian before landing at Marshall Space Flight Center in November 2018.

"It's nearly impossible to find any other organization that provides such an impact on the world that we live in," Detko said of the space agency. He has been an active part of that impact for the last two years as director of Marshall's Office of Procurement, where he manages approximately 130 team members focused on the contract execution efforts that keep the center running smoothly. The team accomplishes all pre- and post-award functions for Marshall procurement portfolios, and agency-wide or regional product service lines – ranging from institutional contracts supporting day-to-day center operations to large procurements supporting NASA's Space Launch System and Human Landing System programs.

Detko met virtually with Marshall media specialist Taylor Goodwin to discuss the business solutions behind NASA missions, a team connection that a pandemic could not breach, and advice for aspiring agency contributors.

Question: What is the team environment like in the Office of Procurement? How are team members collaborating and supporting one another to maximize success and innovation?

Detko: We are very fortunate to have a close-knit, family-like environment in the office. Through this relationship, we are able to leverage the skills and abilities of each team member to enable mission success. We enjoy ourselves and have a little levity from time to time, but the team always has their sights on maintaining our commitments. We're focused on executing our tasks to best support the customer.

Question: What kind of partnerships is your team pursuing to help the agency and the nation put the first woman and next man on the Moon in 2024?

Detko: One of the largest partnerships we have is with the other procurement offices across the agency. There used to be 10 independent offices, but now we are beginning to operate as one unified office. We're able to leverage some of the expertise and resources from the other centers to help support Marshall's mission. We're supporting missions and teams at other NASA centers with our personnel and their respective talents as well. I think that has really helped us connect, not just to the programs here at Marshall but to all agency programs.

Question: How does your team define and achieve mission success?

Detko: We always say that the contract is a means to an end. It's important for us to get these contracts in place. Though these contracts don't perform the mission tasks, they do often serve as a critical first step in enabling a mission's success. So we define our success as the success of our supported organizations. Success for them means success for us.



NASA photo

Jason Detko is director of Marshall's Office of Procurement.

Question: Can you describe the most rewarding moment for you in this role so far?

Detko: We've had a lot of stellar moments, but the most rewarding experience is seeing how my team has pulled together during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have continued supporting each other and connecting as a team as we're all struggling and adapting to this challenging environment. We're leveraging the technology we have access to and the team's creativity to make new connections and maintain the collaboration that we built before we left our on-site offices. We're assigning trainers to each new teammate to ensure that they are well integrated into the organization and that they feel connected to the resources needed to be successful. We're having virtual scavenger hunts, office trivia, and finding other innovative ways to maintain connection, outside of just doing work. To watch my teammates support the Marshall and agency priorities and to keep all of our commitments through all of this has just been fabulous.

Question: What advice would you give to students and young professionals who want to be part of NASA's mission?

Detko: NASA is an incredible, inspiring place to be. My advice to those who want to join the team would be not to wait. You have to be proactive and take advantage of the opportunities to connect with the people at NASA. Seek out and participate in internship and mentor programs, get involved with some of the professional groups that NASA is part of, and engage with the agency's social media platforms. Whatever avenue you choose, don't wait for the opportunities to come to you. Opportunity will rarely come knocking on your door, but you have every right to seek it out.

Editor's note: Taylor Goodwin, a Media Fusion employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Teams selected for human exploration rover challenge



NASA photo

The CETED Centro de Tecnologia em Educação team from Brazil tackles the course in the 2019 competition.

By WILL BRYAN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Nearly 50 years ago, astronauts drove the first crewed lunar rover on the surface of the Moon. Today, students from around the world – the Artemis Generation – are using the inspiration of the Apollo missions, the goals of the Artemis program, and their own ingenuity to design and build rovers for NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge, to be held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center from April 15-17.

On Nov. 13, NASA announced the 86 teams competing in the 27th annual event. Representing 22 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and eight countries, the students will pilot human-powered rovers that they designed, built, and tested over a grueling half-mile course simulating terrain found on the Moon, Mars and other rocky bodies in the solar system.

The course is composed of 14 obstacles and five tasks. Teams will be required to think like mission planners, developing strategies for efficiency and speed, to score the maximum points available within the eight-minute time limit. That time limit represents a virtual oxygen supply and emphasizes the importance of planning a mission to accomplish as many objectives as possible while balancing available time and resources.

New to the competition for 2021 will be the ice geyser slalom obstacle and the core sample retrieval task, which were slated to debut in the 2020 competition before the

coronavirus pandemic forced a cancellation of the excursion days.

Another unique aspect of the competition is the requirement that teams design and fabricate their own wheels, with the exception of the central hubs, which can be commercially purchased. Previous competitions featured precision-cut cardboard wheels, welded metal wheels and 3D-printed wheels.

In the event the ongoing pandemic forces modifications to the competition – including changes to planned in-person activities – competitors and the public will be notified.

The challenge, managed by the Office of STEM Engagement at Marshall Space Flight Center, reflects the goals of the Artemis program, which seeks to put the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024. It is one of seven Artemis Student Challenges that NASA uses to further the agency's goal of encouraging students to pursue degrees and careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. Students may also participate in NASA's newest competition to inspire the next generation – the Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest. The contest, which is open to U.S. students in grades K-12, launched Sept. 15 and runs through Dec. 17, and challenges participants to imagine leading a one-week expedition to the Moon's South Pole.

Editor's note: Will Bryan, a Manufacturing Technical Solutions employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Chandra detects a cosmic amethyst in a dying star

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

On Earth, amethysts can form when gas bubbles in lava cool under the right conditions. In space, a dying star with a mass similar to the Sun is capable of producing a structure on par with the appeal of these beautiful gems.

As stars burn through their fuel, they cast off their outer layers and their cores begin to shrink. Astronomers using NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and Hubble Space Telescope have found a bubble of ultra-hot gas at the center of one such expiring star in the Milky Way galaxy, a planetary nebula called IC 4593. Some 7,800 light-years from Earth, IC 4593 is the most distant planetary nebula detected with Chandra.

IC 4593's superheated gas bubble – reaching temperatures of more than 1 million degrees Fahrenheit – invokes similarities to amethysts found in geodes around the globe. The nebula's high temperatures likely were generated by material that blew away from the star's shrunken core and crashed into gas previously ejected by the star.

Chandra also detected a point-like X-ray source, emitting even higher energies than the bubble of hot gas, at the center of IC 4593. Researchers suggest its source could be the remains of the star that discarded its outer layers to form the planetary nebula, or a possible companion star in the system.

A planetary nebula such as IC 4593 is deceptively named, given that the class of objects has nothing to do with planets. The phenomenon was inaccurately named about two centuries ago because of its resemblance to the disk of a planet when seen through small telescopes.

Planetary nebulae actually are formed after the interior of a star with approximately the mass of the Sun contracts and its outer



NASA photo

NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory detects X-rays, seen here in purple, in the planetary nebula IC4593, some 7,800 light-years from Earth. The composite image also includes visible light data, seen in pink and green, from the Hubble Space Telescope.

layers expand and cool. When the Sun itself begins to cool several billion years from now, entering its red giant phase, its outer layers could extend as far as the orbit of Venus.

A paper describing these results was published in the April 2020 issue of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. The multinational research team includes astronomers at Instituto de Radioastronomía y Astrofísica in Mexico; Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía in Spain; Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore; the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics in Taiwan; and Macquarie University in Australia.

Marshall Space Flight Center manages the Chandra program for the agency. The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Chandra X-ray Center in Cambridge and Burlington, Massachusetts, controls science and flight operations.

Engineer refused to let genetic disorder deter NASA dream

By DANIEL BOYETTE

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Falling through a cloud, Harsha Rayapati could see a layer of condensation on his arm. He was hurtling downward from 30,000 feet, oxygen mask strapped to his face and contents of his stomach trying to make their way to his throat.

Rayapati wasn't dreaming. The aerospace engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center was in the midst of a tandem skydive. Rayapati made his first jump from 12,000 feet in 2012, got the itch for something more, and made two dives from 30,000 feet in 2018.

"I equate it to jumping off a tall diving board, but it's jumping off the tall diving board, on steroids," said Rayapati, a self-described adrenaline junkie who has also kayaked among killer whales in the Puget Sound along the coast of Washington state. "Once you get into free fall, it's just like sticking your head out of the window of a car and the breeze going through – a little bit stronger than that."

What would possess someone to take leaps from such dizzying heights? For Rayapati, it stems from his fascination of flying. He became interested in planes when, as a child, he flew twice from his native India to the United States. Rayapati dreamed of becoming a pilot, but he was born with achondroplasia, a genetic disorder that causes dwarfism, which made such a career impossible at that time. During a childhood flight in 1994, he got to visit the cockpit of a British Airways 747-400. There he met the flight engineer – an encounter that set Rayapati's new career ambitions in motion.

"I was like, 'I may not be able to be a pilot because of my physiology,' Rayapati said, "but I bet I could be a flight engineer.' In the years after that, it morphed into aerospace engineer."

Growing up, Rayapati was teased because of his physical condition. His mother, Lakshmi Movva, was a source of motivation.

"Whenever I was down, because I would let people's comments get to me," Rayapati recalled, "she would say, 'It's not how you look, it's how smart you are. Can you think smart and get things accomplished? If you can, the world is yours.' When I started seeing that my passion and interest for aerospace was there, I just started believing in myself more and did not care for what other people said."

In 1999, at the age of 12, Rayapati moved to Athens, Georgia, where his father, Naidu Rayapati, was a plant pathologist at the University of Georgia. The younger Rayapati went on to earn a bachelor's in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech in Atlanta in 2008. Following graduation, he spent 6½ years as a Department of Defense contractor, working with unmanned aerial vehicles. He joined Marshall as a contractor in 2015 and became a NASA civil servant in 2018.

"There have been many times when I was judged by my physical look," said Rayapati, who earned a master's in systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 2013. "Other times, people had low expectations of what I could produce. But, what they quickly find out is that I'm actually a lot smarter than what my body says I am."

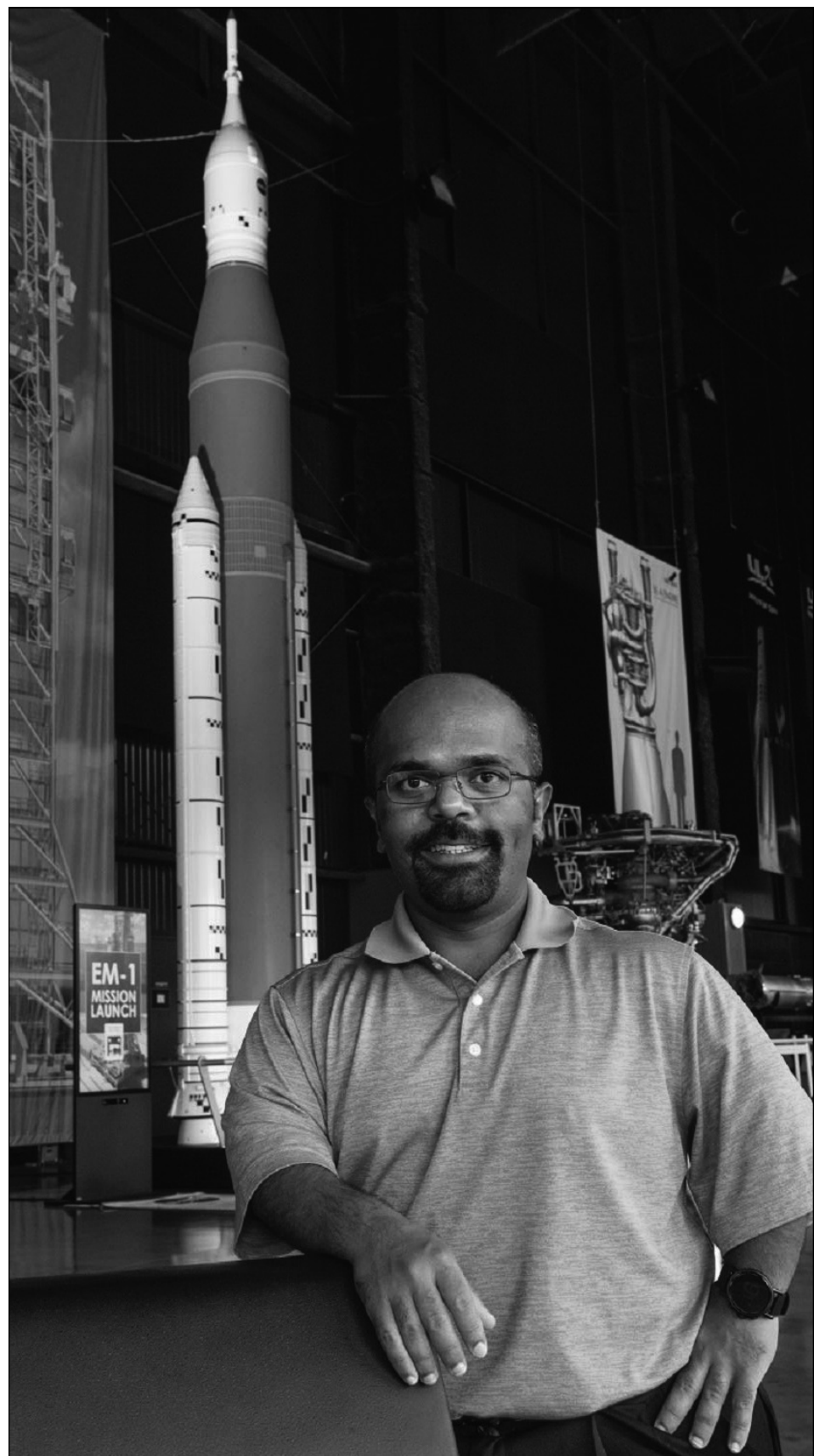
Rayapati started a detail with the Human Landing System program in July. As Avionics discipline lead, he manages a 20-person team representing four NASA centers that helps with the solicitation process, reviewing the avionics designs for the three vendors.

Prior to his detail, Rayapati worked on the Space Launch System Imagery Integration Team. The first SLS rocket configuration – Block 1 – has eight cameras attached, which will capture imagery to aid in the assessment of the rocket's performance apart from instrumentation data, and help design engineers make adjustments for future flights. The team was also responsible for making sure that ground cameras captured vital imagery.

Coming to NASA gave Rayapati the opportunity to work with some of the people who inspired him growing up, including co-workers in the SLS program who helped find what caused the Columbia accident in 2003. Among those on that flight was NASA astronaut Kalpana Chawla, an aerospace engineer who, like Rayapati, was a first-generation immigrant from India.

"Unfortunately, I only got to know about her after she passed away," Rayapati said. "I used that as motivation to come to NASA. Achieving the goal and working with some of the same people, it's kind of coming full circle. Once Artemis I launches, it will be like I paid tribute and homage to her and to all the engineers who got America back in the spaceflight business."

Editor's note: Daniel Boyette, an LSINC Corporation employee and the Marshall Star editor, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.



NASA photo by Emmett Given

Harsha Rayapati is an aerospace engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Sports

Records fall at national cross country meet in Huntsville

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Two members of the Redstone Ten-Miler Team organized a record-setting national cross country high school meet Saturday.

The first RunningLane National Cross Country Championships drew 1,100 athletes to John Hunt Park in Huntsville. Will Rodgers and Sean Allan, both Redstone 10-milers, are co-founders of RunningLane. The Huntsville Sports Commission assisted the event.

There were 63 individual state champions from 33 states.

Jenna Hutchins, 16, of Johnson City, Tennessee, set a national girls cross country record in 15:58, shattering the previous mark 16:06. She is the first U.S. high school girl to break 16 minutes in the 5K. Her previous best was 16:25.

"I was just really motivated today to come out and try my best," Hutchins, a junior at Science Hill High, said. "And I was really grateful to have the opportunity to compete at a national level."

Parker Wolfe, 17, of Denver, Colorado, won the boys race in 14:26. He is a senior at Cherry Creek High in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

"The goal was to wait till the last mile and kind of use that last mile to just kick as hard as I can," Wolfe, ranked No. 1 nationally, said. This was his personal best time by four seconds.

Wolfe took the lead on the backstretch after the two-mile mark, going up the hill. He passed Kamari Miller, who finished fifth in 14:37. Wolfe broke the previous course record 14:36 which was held by Ethan Strand of Vestavia Hills, who finished 14th in 14:47.

Thirty-two boys broke 15 minutes in the race, which was also unprecedented nationally.

"This is the first time for the RunningLane National Cross Country Championships," Rodgers said. "It was awesome. The weather was perfect. We had assembled the fastest kids in the nation from 33 states which included 63 individual state champions."

"We went back to all of the fastest races for the last 10 years. And the most guys to ever break 15 minutes for the 5K was 10 boys. This weekend 32 boys broke the elusive 15-minute barrier."

He said the organizers will rest the rest of the weekend and "then in a week or



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Parker Wolfe of Denver, Colo., the nation's top-ranked high school cross country runner, wins the boys race in 14:26.

two start planning to make it better for 2021."

The top 20 girls finishers included: 1. Jenna Hutchins (15:58), 2. Mia Prok (16:56), 3. Audrey DaDamio (17:03), 4. Avalon Meeham (17:05), 5. Lucca Fulkerson (17:16.44), 6. Madison Shults (17:16.46), 7. Sophia Gorriaran (17:20), 8. Katrina Schlenker (17:28), 9. Andie-Marie Jones (17:29), 10. Leigh Walters (17:33), 11. Mary Brady (17:34), 12. Isabella Edwards (17:41), 13. Allison Beasley (17:45), 14. Caroline Mehlhorn (17:48), 15. Zoe Arrington (17:49), 16. Kyra Hayes (17:50), 17. Hannah Schemmel (17:53), 18. Kiley Murphy (17:54), 19. Kaitlyn Vanderkolk (17:55.75), 20. Shayda Zarrin (17:55.83).

The top 20 boys finishers included: 1. Parker Wolfe (14:26), 2. Creed Thompson (14:34), 3. Nate Jaster (14:35), 4. Justin Wachtel (14:36), 5. Kamari Miller (14:37), 6. Christian Balcer (14:38), 7. Harrison Witt (14:39.36), 8. Zane Bergen (14:39.69), 9. Jack Scherer (14:40), 10. Davin Thompson (14:41), 11. Brayden Packard (14:43), 12. Lukas Haug (14:44.24), 13. Erik Le Roux (14:44.86), 14. Ethan Strand (14:47.22), 15. Jackson Shorten (14:47.24), 16. Gabe Montague (14:47.40), 17. Izaiah Steury (14:47.86), 18. Sully Shelton (14:48), 19. Walker Cole (14:49), 20. Miles Brush (14:51).

Girls team winners included: 1. Vista



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Jenna Hutchins of Johnson City, Tenn., runs a national record 15:58 Saturday in the RunningLane National Cross Country Championships at John Hunt Park in Huntsville.

Nation (average time 18:22), 2. Plus Cross XC Club (18:35), 3. Georgia Elite (18:44).

Boys team winners included: 1. American Fork (15:00), 2. Real Training (15:03), 3. Vista Nation XC (15:07).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Runners warm up before the RunningLane National Cross Country Championships held Saturday at John Hunt Park in Huntsville.

Friendships put the fun right on course

It's a sunny Saturday at the Links.

The men and women sit around and laugh and chitchat. One of the oldtimers confirmed what I already suspected. They visit the golf course every weekend just to be with each other. The main thing is the camaraderie, the friendships. The golf is secondary.

Sure they enjoy some time out on the course. But the real fun comes when they're together on the patio talking about whatever they want to talk about. That's the real fun on this beautiful fall day.

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn
Rocket editor

I've never been a golfer. But I can totally relate to the joy of being outdoors and the thrill of visiting with friends. The laughter. The smiles. Sometimes the tears. We all savor our moments together, especially during this year of struggling with a pandemic.

Classic replay: Miss State edges Ole Miss in 2019

From combined reports

Assuming the virus doesn't intervene, Ole Miss is scheduled to host rival Mississippi State on Saturday in Oxford.

Last year's game is worth rewinding.

Mississippi State won 21-20 in the 116th Egg Bowl on Nov. 28, 2019, in Starkville. The back-and-forth contest had a bizarre ending. Ole Miss fried their chances by losing their composure with an unsportsmanlike penalty.

Luke Logan missed a 35-yard extra point try after Ole Miss receiver Elijah Moore was penalized for celebrating a touchdown by

crawling and pretending to urinate like a dog. That would have tied the game for the Rebels instead of giving the Bulldogs the win.

Ole Miss pulled within a point with four seconds left on Matt Corral's 2-yard pass to Moore, but Logan hooked the extra point after Moore cost the Rebels 15 yards.

Mississippi State beat Ole Miss at home for the first time since 2013.

Saturday's game should go the Rebels way. Ole Miss has shown an explosive offense and a shaky defense. The Rebels should have enough firepower against the visiting Bulldogs.

Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

What is the highlight of your golf pastime?

"Probably the highlight of my golf pastime was getting into my high school golf team because it was a very exclusive golf team," Matthew Bajamundi, an aerospace engineering contractor for Combat Capabilities Development Command's Aviation & Missile Center, said. "I was there between the years 2013 and 2014. And I was probably around number six of the 15 golfers on the team (at Jesuit High School in Carmichael, California). I would say our team was about fourth in the nation at that time (in 2013-14)."

Bajamundi, 23, from Sacramento, has worked here for contractor I3 since 2019. He graduated from Arizona State in 2019 with a bachelor's in aerospace engineering. Besides golf the Huntsville resident enjoys hiking. "I like to tinker around with robots," he added.

He tries to visit the golf course every other week. "My handicap isn't what it used to be in high school," he said. "Right now it's around 12 or 13." Bajamundi roots for the Arizona State Sun Devils.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Matthew Bajamundi spends a Saturday afternoon at the Links.

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Senior softball leagues

Huntsville Senior Softball is recruiting players for next spring. The three leagues include: Rockets, 55-and-up; Recreation, 63-and-up; and Triads, 71-and-up. The season will begin in late April; and they play two nights a week through Labor Day. Players are needed. For the Rockets, email league director Chris Maggio at cmaggio51@aol.com. For more information about Huntsville Senior Softball, email Huntsville-srsoftball-info@googlegroups.com or call Becky Rollston of the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center at 880-7081.

Skating in the park

The Huntsville Museum of Art has opened its ninth season of Skating in the Park. Skating in the Park, located at 300 Church St. behind the museum in Big Spring Park, is a Huntsville holiday tradition. Skating in the Park has updated its health and safety policies. All patrons must wear a mask when inside Skating in the Park's boundaries. Guests should also practice social distancing. The rink is limited to 125 skaters at one time, and railings will be disinfected every 90 minutes. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m.; Friday 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 if you bring your own skates, \$10 for ages 9 and under, \$15 for ages 10 and older, \$13 for groups of 10 or more. Scooters may be rented for \$5.

Conferences & Meetings

Lance/MLRS veterans reunion

The Lance missile system and Multiple Launch Rocket System veterans homecoming celebration is May 20-22 at the Holiday Inn-Huntsville Research Park. Because of COVID-19, this is a limited attendance event. Openings are first-come, first-serve for local residents. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with sign-in at 5. Masks are required and social distancing will be the standard in the ballroom. For information call retired Sgt. 1st Class John Williams, the reunion host, 210-209-2000.

Sergeants major association

The Sergeants Major Association is still meeting every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. They are not meeting at a physical location because of the pandemic but they are meeting virtually through Zoom. Attendees must download the Zoom app on either their home computer, laptop or mobile device to participate. Once you get into the Zoom app, you will see Meeting ID number. Type in 710 211-4188. Then you will see the "Join meeting" button. If you have problems getting into Zoom, call retired Sgt. Maj. Willene Orr 410-533-2685.

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 conducts a monthly meeting every second Saturday of the month at noon at the American Legion Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. The detachment is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The league is a veterans/military service organization formed to promote the interest of the Marine Corps, to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps. For information call Commandant Earl Hokanson 881-2852, Senior Vice Commandant Albert Mallory 379-2904 or Adjutant Stephen Cecil 829-1839.

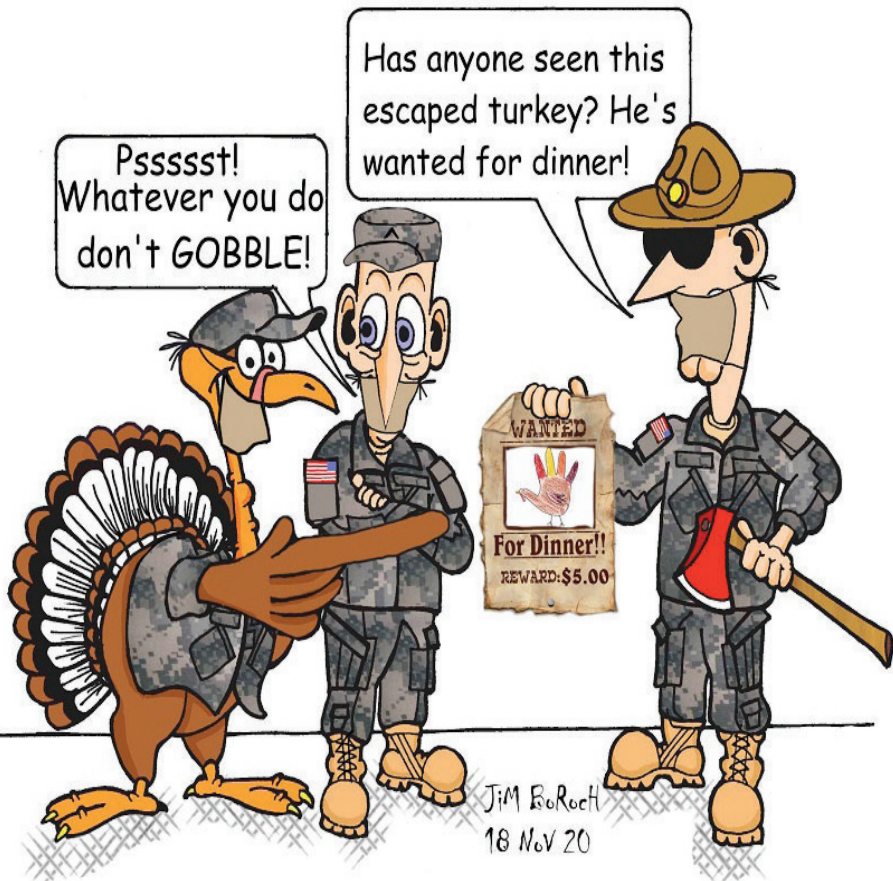
Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 237 at 2900 Drake Ave. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

Miscellaneous Items

Men's ministry

Men's Ministry addresses the needs of men and plants seeds for spiritual growth in Christ. Call Harry Hobbs at 783-1793 for more information.



Rocket Announcements

Young citizen of month

Do you know a young citizen in grades 7-12 who has done something special and deserves recognition? Rocket City Broadcasting/Community Awareness for Youth conduct the Young Citizen of the Month award program. Each month's recipient will meet the Huntsville mayor and City Council members, receive a Huntsville Human Relations Commission certificate and other prize packages. Sponsors include Rocket City Broadcasting, Huntsville Utilities, Huntsville Optimist Club, Huntsville Police Department, CAFY and the Florida Institute of Technology Huntsville Site. To nominate a young citizen, visit mystar991.com or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

Family advocacy advice

Jeannie Johnston, Army Community Service division chief, recommends the following website for good information about coping during this difficult time: www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-l-news.

AMC Inspector General

The Army Materiel Command Inspector General provides specialized support to AMC and Redstone Arsenal to assist military personnel, Army civilians, family members and contractors to obtain the help needed to resolve an issue. The AMC IG serves as the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the AMC commander. The AMC IG Team is a fair and impartial fact finder that will accept confidential and anonymous issues and complaints for assistance and resolution. Occasionally, requests for assistance will contain allegations that may require an informal inquiry or formal investigation; inquiry and investigation conclusions will be based on the preponderance of credible evidence. Inspections and investigations conducted by an IG or IG team are considered an IG record and cannot be used as a basis for adverse action against an individual without the written approval of the Inspector General of the Army. The IG is prepared to assist and operates under strict guidelines of confidentiality. To learn more about the IG, contact: DSN 320-7910/commercial 450-7910 or email usarmy.redstone.usamc.mbx.ig@mail.mil.

Marshall children's center

The Marshall Child Development Center, serving both the Marshall Space Flight Center and Redstone families, has openings. MCDC offers care for infants through pre-kindergarten children and has current availability in most classes. Visit the website at <https://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/>. For more information, email Kelli.L.Wright@nasa.gov.

Memorial wreaths for veterans

Wreaths Across America invites you to join them in laying wreaths Dec. 19 at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery to honor fallen service members. To sponsor a wreath, visit www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org and search for Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club code AL0033P.

Prayer walk

If you are looking for hope and inspiration during these troubled times, Madison United Methodist Church (127 Church St., Madison) has built a simple, guided prayer walk on the lawn east of its sanctuary, across Church Street in downtown Madison. The 11 stations of the prayer walk were all written by Jessica Sloan, one of the young adults in the church. Each station has a scripture, a reading, and a guided

prayer that takes you on a journey from hope to hope. The prayer walk will be open to the public until early January.

Commissary holiday hours

The Commissary announces its schedule for the holiday season. For Thanksgiving: open today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Thursday; and reopen Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... For Christmas: open Dec. 21; closing early (4 p.m.) Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25; and reopen Dec. 26. ... For New Year's: close early (5 p.m.) Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1; and reopen Jan. 2.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Nov. 9-13. The highest scores included Super Chix at Dynetics HC, 1002 Explorer Boulevard, 100; Coulture Creations Designs LLC, 6360 Alabama 53, Unit A, Harvest, 100; and Big Johns BBQ & Company LLC-Mo, 6360 Alabama 53, Harvest, 100. The lowest scores included Thanh Hung Asian Market, 8760 Madison Boulevard, Madison, 86; El Molcajete Mexican Grill Inc., 7407 Highway 72 West, Unit 1, Madison, 86; D.R.K. Inc. doing business as County Line Chevron, 820 Palmer Road, Madison, 85; and Jay Veedada Inc. doing business as Redstone Food Mart, 3801 Patton Road, 83.



Courtesy photo

Patriotic employer award

Marine Reserve Capt. Christian Brown nominated his employer, Resolution LLC, for a Patriotic Employer Award from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. After the company won the award, Brown, left, presents it to Jonathan Shultz, company president. "Christian's desire to see our company recognized for our focus on military families encourages us to continue to reach out and help even more," Shultz, a retired lieutenant colonel with the Alabama Air National Guard, said. "I am honored to receive this award and take pride in the environment we have created at Resolution." The veteran-owned company resolves complex problems for technical, geospatial, and environmental health and safety customers.