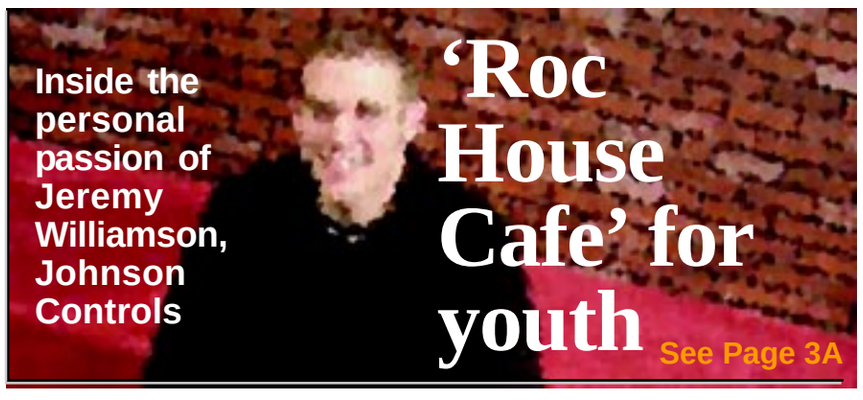


Inside the personal passion of Jeremy Williamson, Johnson Controls

'Roc House Cafe' for youth

See Page 3A

Sports Safety

See Page 5A

Index

Viewpoint Page 5A
Chaplain Page 7A
Community Events Page 9A
Sports and Leisure Page 15A

The Signal

Friday, April 18, 2003 | Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community | Vol. 23, No. 15

News UPDATE

Road closure notice

Road closure is announced that affects Chamberlain Avenue traffic.

Closes: 9a.m., April 28 - Chamberlain Avenue at 27th Street, including parking lot north of Building 25717 and parking lot east of Brant Hall, Building 25811.

Reopens: 9 a.m., May 5.

Braves tickets

Military personnel will be able to buy two tickets for the price of one at Atlanta Braves home games this season.

Sunday through Thursday, two upper-box tickets can be purchased for $12 by showing military, Reserve, National Guard or military dependent identification at Turner Field ticket windows on the day of the game, based on availability, the team said Monday.

The Braves also plan a celebration in honor of the Army's 228th birthday, reserving 1,000 seats in the Field and Terrace Pavilion sections of the stadium for Fort McPherson personnel and their families to attend the **June 8** game against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Quarterly awards

The quarterly installation awards ceremony will be held **April 24**, 8:30 a.m. in Conrad Hall.

The following individuals will be recognized: Service member of the 2nd Qtr: Spc. Pamela R. Burke (HQS and Co. A, 551st Sig Bn); Noncommissioned Officer of the 2nd Qtr: Sgt. Cornelius D. Boyd (Co. B, EAMC); Instructor of the 2nd Qtr: Staff Sgt. Kimbriel L. Odell (Co. A, 369th Sig Bn); Civilian of the 2nd Qtr: Princella Washington (Inspector General); Volunteer of the Month of January: Carrie Little (Enlisted Wives' Club); Volunteer of the Month of February: Kari E. Abbott (Officers' Wives' Club, 202nd MI Bn Family Readiness Group); and Volunteer of the Month of March: Rosemary A. Marshall (Enlisted Wives' Club, Blacks in Government).

Everyone is encouraged to attend and congratulate these deserving individuals.

Easter Services

Post-wide Easter Sunrise Service: **April 20**, 6:30 a.m., Freedom Park

Catholic Activities/ Masses:

Good Shepherd Chapel, Building 29608, Barnes Avenue

Protestant Activities/ Services:

Good Friday**, today,** 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil Mass, **Saturday,** 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Masses, **Sunday**, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

(No CCD or Sacramental Preparation on April 20)

Good Friday Service, **today,** noon, Bicentennial Chapel

Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Masters 2003

Another Masters tournament for the annals of sports history is complete. A sudden death playoff against Len Mattiace, the first playoff for the Masters title since 1990, added to the drama of Sunday's play. Canadian Mike Weir donned the green jacket with help from Tiger Woods, 2001 and 2002 Masters champ. Woods who survived the final cut admitted he made some bad decisions during the tournament placing him lower on the leader list. Woods is invited back for next year's tournament with his finish.

April's flowers, trees and fairways were in full glory for the 2003 tournament, despite the heavy rainfall which cancelled play for the first day of the tournament. With tournament play reopened, players were required to complete additional holes to make up for the lost day.

Photos (left) the beauty of the flowers are accented by the colors worn by the patrons and players during practice rounds and day one of the tournament. Rain cancelled play early in the day.

Not just another waiting room

Kathleen Haskell
Special to The Signal

The renovated nuclear medicine waiting room at EAMC is not decorated like any other.

The newly renovated nuclear medicine waiting room was recently re-opened with little fanfare. However, this is not a typical hospital waiting room. It provides a trip down memory lane for many Veterans. Lining the walls are felt-covered boards with row upon row of unit crests and insignias, exhibiting a part of military history going back to pre-WWII.

The collection belongs to Nuclear Medicine Technologist Warner Wish. "Unit crests or unit insignias have been around as long as the Civil War," Wish advised. "They're very distinctive to the individual unit they represent. Each branch of the Army has its own special color, for example, medical is maroon, infantry is light blue, signal is orange, artillery is red and gold, engineers are red and silver, and so on. I've tried to match the background color to the branch they represent so the unit crests can be identified easily."

When asked where all the crests and insignias came from Wish said, "I started collecting in 1979 with the crests a friend gave to me. It was like collecting coins or stamps. While stationed at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver, Colo., the collection started to grow and I now have over 3,000 crests.

"I've traded with other collectors, bought some at shows and sometimes unit crests just show up on the boards. Someone just placed one on the board to add a little bit of their own history and memories to the collection. When the collection came down during the waiting room renovation it was missed by the Veterans. They are glad the collection is back up," he continued.

Photos by Kathleen Haskell

Nuclear Medicine Technologist Warner Wish loaned his collection of unit crests and unit insignias to dress up the waiting-room walls.

"My favorite crests are from the old Armor Divisions that fought during WWII. They are shaped the same with the difference being their unit numbers. All but a few armor divisions remain, most were deactivated after the war and placed on Reserve or National Guard status," Wish explained. "Changes in the military are common and unit crest changes are no exception. Shapes, colors, and logos have changed over the years."

What better place to display them than in a military setting? "I decided to hang them in the waiting room for the patients, retirees, active duty and their spouses. It's their history, a road map of a soldier's Army career. The patients love it and they can tell you where the units were stationed, their friends, their company information, and who was left behind. It means a lot to them," he concluded.

Editors note: *One of the crests displayed is from Elvis Presley's unit in Germany.*

Extended warranty

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

The Warrant Officer Leader Development Council's Semi-Annual Meeting will be coming to Studio B, Nelson Hall here on Fort Gordon April 29, 30 and May 1.

So why is that a big deal, one might ask?

Well, as Regimental Chief Warrant Officer of Signal, Chief Warrant Officer Pete B. Hewitt explained, the conference is significant because warrant officers from across the Army will come together to discuss changes within the warrant officer program.

Hewitt explained that the WOLDC was established in 1999 by the Chief of Staff of the Army to "review and address potential issues and develop courses of action for the Army's systems, policies and programs that affect warrant officer leader development." Since that time, periodic meetings have been held with this intention.

The chairman of the conference, Hewitt said will be Chief Warrant Officer John Sparkman of the Center for Army Leadership, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

"The primary focus of the conference will be the implementation of a study done by the Army Leader Development Training Panel, which came up with a list of 63 recommendations for the warrant officer program," Hewitt said.

Hewitt said these 63 issues were later trimmed to 49, and an implementation meeting for these issues was then held in October. He described this meet-

See ***Warrant****, Page 2*

Courtesy photos

Triumphant entry

Christ's Triumphant Entry was re-enacted on Palm Sunday, April 13 on post. Jesus and his disciples walked from Rice Road and Brainard Avenue to the Bicentennial Chapel. Actors from the "Living Last Supper" drama portrayed Jesus and his disciples. About 50 members of the Protestant Sunday School and chapels walked carrying palms and singing.

Armed Services News

From American Forces Press Service

U.S. troops to be in Iraq 'Not one day longer' than necessary, Myers says

WASHINGTON – American troops will be in Iraq "as long as required and not one day longer," the U.S. military's senior officer said here today.

Saddam Hussein's regime is history and "the process of returning Iraq to the Iraqi people has begun," Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Arab and Muslim journalists at the Foreign Press Center.

And Iraq's global coin of the realm – oil – has been secured for the future of all Iraqis, Myers pointed out.

The general asserted that that oil revenue will be harnessed by newly freed Iraqis "to develop their country after decades of neglect" by Saddam's despotic regime.

Myers pointed out, however, that while major combat operations are finished in Iraq, U.S. and coalition forces continue to run into pockets of regime diehards.

In fact, President Bush noted today during a Rose Garden press briefing that victory in Iraq isn't complete.

"There is more to do," Myers agreed, including finding and eliminating any weapons of mass destruction, expanding humanitarian relief and assisting Iraqi's to get their infrastructure –- to include the country's police and fire departments — back on its feet.

And "we must help the Iraqi people create the conditions for a rapid transition to a representative self-government that is not a threat to its neighbors," Myers continued, "and is committed to ensuring the territorial integrity of that country."

Myers pointed out that Iraqi leaders were meeting today in Ur to discuss their future government with retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, who heads the U.S.-led interim administration in Iraq. The delegates agreed to meet again in 10 days.

At today's meeting in Ur, U.S. administration official Zalmay Khalilzad told Iraqi delegates the United States has zero interest in ruling Iraq.

"Iraq has to figure out how to govern itself in the future," Myers emphasized.

More than just reading

Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons
Military Editor

Along with libraries all across the country Woodworth Library celebrated the 45th National Library Week.

"The event honors the contributions of libraries and library staff throughout the states. The event celebrates every type of library. Public, school, academic and special libraries participate," said Liz Knight, Woodworth Library technician.

Prior to the week's events students were asked to write essays explaining "They love the library because…" A total of 56 students wrote down their reasons. The essays were then judged and on April 7 when the kickoff began, the essay winners were announced. They are:

First Grade: Kathryn Allmond, 1st Place; Sofia Altamirano, 2nd Place

Second Grade: Shalisha Austin, 1st Place; Julia K. Gray, 2nd Place

Third Grade: Chenille Hunter; 1st Place; Ashley Sobers, 2nd Place

Fourth Grade: Erica M. Ponder, 1st Place; Tevin Lamb, 2nd Place

Fifth Grade: Kiana French, 1st Place; Mykayla Fernandes, 2nd Place

Seventh Grade: Morgan Howall, 1st Place

All the first place winners received a gift certificate to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

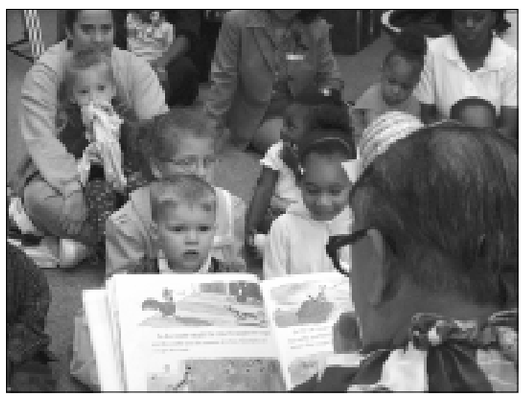
Throughout the rest of the week special guests came in to read to the children at storyhour. What is usually an event that only occurs on Wednesdays increased to allow kids to hear others come in and read.

Some of these guests included, soldiers from Company D, 551st Signal Battalion, McGruff the Grime Dog, Capbo the Clown, Dr. Walter Branch from Eisenhower Army Medical Center, along with other volunteers.

"I'm always glad to see kids read, because they grow up to be reading adults," said Bill Bowman, retired master sergeant and volunteer.

However National Library Week is not just geared for children.

"Many people are still not aware of all the library has to offer, it is so much more than a collection of books," said Fred Danes, Woodworth's Librarian. "The library provides a wide range of informational sources, as well as recreational reading, viewing, and listening."



Capbo the Clown takes an opportunity to read to kids at the Woodworth Library during National Library Week.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

Support our troops - Be a blood donor

Blood supplies are critically low

While you're reading this, someone in America needs blood:

- Blood is needed every three seconds.
- One out of three people need donated blood in their lifetime.
- One out of ten hospital patients needs a blood transfusion.
- Blood is always needed for treatment of accident victims, cancer patients, hemophiliacs and surgery patients.
- Blood cannot be manufactured or harvested.

Our blood supply comes from healthy, caring donors. When you give blood, you give someone another laugh, another hug, another chance.

Editor's note: *More information about donating blood can be found at Kendrick Memorial Blood center or the following website:* ***www.americasblood.org/***

High definition capability added to Paul S. Simon Discovery Theater at Fort Discovery

"We are very excited to be the first location in the southeast to join with the leading museums in the country to present hi-def programs to our visitors."

Joe Edwards,CEO and chairman of the board for National Science Center, Inc.

National Science Center's Fort Discovery

Years before high-definition ("hi-def") will be widely available on television and in movies, the Paul S. Simon Discovery Theater at the National Science Center's Fort Discovery will bring audiences the most advanced audio-visual presentation capability in the world, with images that are five times sharper than standard video.

The National Science Center, in conjunction with CineMuse, one of the nation's leading companies in hi-def production, programming and distribution, offers audiences a rare opportunity to see science and nature, visual and performing arts, documentary, and family fare programs in hi-def - which has images that are five times sharper and more colorful than currently available.

"We are very excited to be the first location in the southeast to join with the leading museums in the country to present hi-def programs to our visitors. These programs offer outstanding entertainment that is made even more exciting by the dazzling colors and detail that hi-def offers and to have yet another opportunity to enhance the visitor experience to the National Science Center's Fort Discovery," said Joe F. Edwards, Chief executive officer and chairman of the board for National Science Center, Inc.

Over the last year, many of the nation's leading cultural and educational institutions have established hi-def cinemas. And now, the National Science Center joins the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Canadian Museum of Nature and 41 other members of the CineMuse Network in the U.S. and Canada.

According to Ted Geier, CEO of CineMuse, "Hi-def is closer to a live, in-person experience than any other audio-visual presentation medium. Audiences have been anxious to experience it, and we are thrilled to be working with the National Science Center to bring this new visual experience to audiences in Augusta."

To find out more about hi-def presentations at Fort Discovery, visit our website at **www.NationalScienceCenter.org.**

Warrant

From Page 1

ing as a status report on the implementation of the new suggestions.

"It's basically to see where we're at on these issues," Hewitt said.

Hewitt, who will be hosting and attending the meeting as the Signal representative, said he expects about 60 senior warrant officers from throughout the Army to attend the meeting, which he said is being held at Fort Gordon for the first time.

The main topic discussed at this year's meeting, Hewitt said, is the ongoing integration of warrant officers into the ranks of commissioned officers, particularly in the area concerning education.

He said that since 1985, warrant officers at the W-2 level and above are commissioned as officers in the United States Army and have all the same rights and responsibilities as other officers. He said that warrant officers and commissioned officers share a very similar officer candidate school, and that some merging may take place in the future.

"With warrant officers and commissioned officers, it had always sort of been an 'us' and 'them' situation," Hewitt said. "Now they're looking at more fully integrating the two."

Other reformations in the area of education are being considered and debated in the warrant officer program, Hewitt said. He said more training programs are needed to keep warrant officers proficient in the area of their technical expertise. He said currently there is a disparity in the amount of training afforded officers and warrant officers in their fields.

Hewitt said one reason Fort Gordon was selected to host the conference is that because many of the conference's issues deal with education and training, and Fort Gordon has been identified as an Army leader in these areas. Hewitt said the post has gained recognition by developing such training methods as assignment oriented training, University of Information Technology and life-long learning. He said the conference provides an opportunity "to show off what we have here."

As a symbol of their newfound integration into the commissioned officer ranks, the warrant officer program has decided to undergo a surprising new transformation. The symbol of the warrant officer, the warrant officer eagle, will no longer be worn on military uniforms. The eagle has been, and will remain the official symbol of the warrant officer since 1918 when the Warrant Officer Corps began with 40 mine planters. However, starting July 9, 2004, the eagle will no longer be worn on military uniforms. Instead, the branch insignia will be worn in the eagle's spot, the same as on the uniform of a commissioned officer.

"That's going to be a very emotional time for some of us older guys," Chief Warrant Officer Wayne H. Jensen Jr., Signal Warrant Officer Proponent Manager, Office Chief of Signal said.

Even though the two types of officers may be growing increasingly integrated, Jensen said a warrant officer will still not be in charge of a commissioned officer.

He said with the exception of aviators, one cannot enlist as a warrant officer. Jensen said a warrant officer is typically a noncommissioned officer with to 12 years in the military who has become a technical expert within his/her chosen military occupation speciality and who puts in an application and is selected for WOCS.

Jensen explained the conference is important for another reason.

"The warrant officer population in the Army is very small," Jensen said. "There are only about 25,000 of us in the entire Army. Of that number, in the active force there are only about 12,000; 6,000 of which are aviators."

Jensen said because the number of warrant officers is so small, "their voice is not always the loudest."

Still, Jensen said this conference will be part of developing the plan for the warrant officer program for the next 10-15 years.

"Basically what we're doing is planting the seeds," Jensen said.

Post employee Williamson's personal mission is 'Roc the House' for youth

Denise Allen
Staff writer

Jeremy Williamson takes the Bible literally.

Jesus told his disciples to take the gospel to all the world, and through a local Christian television show, the Johnson Controls employee may be able to do just that.

"It's a Christian music video television show," said Williamson of the show called "Roc House Café," which airs locally at 11 p.m. Friday on Comcast Channel 12 and at 11 p.m. Friday, noon Saturday and 5 p.m. Tuesday on Knology Channel 13.

Recently, the television show, which is shot on location in Augusta and in the television studios of WBPI-TV 49 in North Augusta, has been picked up by stations in Atlanta and Monroe, La. and by the satellite network, SkyAngel.

Cast members are working on packaging 13 shows for consideration by the Trinity Broadcasting Network's new teen network JC-TV, and a producer in Atlanta is working out details to take the show to Europe.

Over the next few weeks, the show's creator, Tamara Luscombe, will be meeting with six other networks for the show's possible broadcast.

The 30-minute television show focuses on contemporary Christian music videos with the hosts - Williamson, his wife, Nikki, and Luscombe, throwing in brief segments on topics such as fear and godliness.

The television studio set has a café theme. On the last Saturday of each month, they open up the studio for area teens to attend the filming. The café setting provides a casual, non-threatening atmosphere.

"We try not to be churchy," said Williamson, who has worked at Johnson Controls for six years. He is currently in the logistics division. "The message never changes but the method always changes. We never water down or change the message."

The show is targeted to teens and young adults.

"MTV and Fear Factor - all these shows are winning young people," he said.

Williamson and his wife teamed up with Luscombe before Thanksgiving.

The show has been in production since March 2002 but was a live one-hour show until a few weeks ago.

Williamson also has a ministry called Elect, which targets the teenagers living in the Augusta area. Elect produces large scale, community wide events to get teenagers from other churches excited about their faith and make a difference to their generation, he said.

The first community wide event by Elect was held in November. Luscombe and her show teamed up with the Williamsons to promote the event. From that relationship, the Williamsons landed the co-host role on the show.

"He's the energy behind it all," said Luscombe. "He's crazy and out there."

Williamson, a 1997 graduate of Rhema Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow, Okla., became youth pastor at New Life Christian Center only days after graduating. He started working at Johnson Controls a few weeks later.

He has always had a passion to reach teenagers with the gospel.

"All this just fits together. Every ministry supports one another," said Williamson. "Together we can reach this generation."

Courtesy photo

Jeremy Williamson, Johnson Controls employee, pursues his calling to bring the gospel to teens through the Christian TV show *Roc House Cafe*. The show is produced locally and is broadcast to the local and a broader market by satellite network, SkyAngel. The medium allows him to fulfill his passion for the gospel and reaching youth on a large scale.

Commissary Awareness Month on horizon for May

Bonnie Powell
DECA

FORT LEE, Va. – May is the second annual Commissary Awareness Month, but many of America's armed service members are deployed overseas. Is that like having a party that no one can attend?

Never fear. "Deployed service members may not need to worry about trips to the commissary, but educating military families and new arrivals about commissary shopping is more important now than ever," said Kaye Kennedy, chief of corporate communications for the Defense Commissary Agency. "Guard and Reserve personnel are being activated in increasing numbers, sometimes losing a higher paying civilian paycheck. The changes can be traumatic, both emotionally and financially."

Normally, Guard and Reserve personnel can shop in the commissary a maximum of 24 days per year. During active duty they receive full military benefits – including unlimited commissary privileges. "The opportunity to save 30 percent or more at the commissary can help families living near a commissary," said Kennedy. "But first we need to get the savings message to them." Savings for a family of four shopping regularly in a commissary can amount to over $2,400 per year.

"Commissaries worldwide take the opportunity to give special focus to outreach efforts during Commissary Awareness Month," said Kennedy. "We not only make a special effort to reach Guard and Reserve, but new active duty, spouses and families, and single service members as well. Many stores hold commissary tours with single service members to let them know the commissary is not just for those who are married. Single service members often don't realize they can obtain substantial savings in frozen and convenience foods, snacks and beverages and health and beauty products."

Military family outreach is also an important element of Commissary Awareness Month. Tyson, Minute Maid, Heinz, Clorox, Kellogg's and Keebler have teamed up for a "Salute to the Military Family" promotion with the National Military Family Association, a volunteer organization devoted to defending military families and their benefits. The special promotion will provide additional savings to commissary customers on name brand products and participating manufacturers will donate operating funds to NMFA. In conjunction with the promotion, most commissaries will have limited-edition boxes of "Frosted Flakes" featuring NMFA's 2002 Very Important Patriots (VIPs). The VIP Program recognizes exceptional military community volunteers.

"Commissaries are an essential benefit and a focal point of the military community," said Kennedy. "We encourage organizations that support military families, singles, Guard and Reserve and retirees to contact your local store director if you want to arrange a group tour, or if you simply want to obtain more information to pass along to those who may not realize the value of their commissary benefit. That's what Commissary Awareness Month is all about!"

Editor's note: *Reach Bonnie Powell at* ***bonnie.powell@deca.mil.***

A Masters like no other

James Hudgins
Fort Gordon Public Affairs officer

The 2003 Masters Golf Tournament will go down in sports history for many reasons, not just because a lefthanded player from Canada won.

There was a lot of drama at this year's Masters. Mother Nature and the lengthened fairways joined to make this year's competition even more challenging, suspenseful and riveting. Although Tiger Woods came up a bit short in his quest for a third straight green jacket, the golf being played almost seemed secondary to the other happenings of the week.

First, Mother Nature seemed intent upon ending any thoughts of future drought conditions here in the C.S.R.A.

Dropping continuous bucketfuls of rain days on end at the beginning of the week made for leaden skies and saturated grounds. It was so wet and rainy that there were sightings of local wildlife lining up two-by-two as if in wait for a passing ark. On the bright side, the rain cleared the pollen and left us with crystal clear air to breathe and a clearer view of the majestic azaleas, dogwoods and other flowering plants that set this pristine course apart from all others.

Also, many of the players seemed in shock and awe of the longer course. Tiger did not bring his 'A game' for all four rounds, but still persevered to make the leaders nervous, looking over their shoulders for his usual charge until late Sunday afternoon.

The course was as dangerous as it was beautiful. Every azalea hid an unplayable lie, every blade of grass hid an unseen break on the fast and undulating greens, and every trap and bunker seemed capable of grabbing wayward shots and even tossing them back at the players.

At times, it seemed unfair that each golfer were armed only with a single club as they faced imposing shot after imposing shot. If Julius Caesar had been a golfer in this year's field, he would have said " I came… I saw…. I bogeyed."

This year, more than any of the more recent Masters, the vast majority of players were overcome by the elements and by Augusta National. So lush….so captivating….so overpowering. Seeing the debris of inflated numbers on the massive scoreboard brought back the memory of the famous last line of an equally famous movie…'It was beauty that killed the beast!'

And yet, that is what makes the Masters so compelling and so much more than just a sporting event.

The Masters transcends sport. Yes, a golfer from Canada is wearing his fairly-won green jacket in his home country (which is probably the only thing green this time of year in Ontario).

There were enough wonderful shots and enough terrible shots to make any golfing fan anxious for next year's play. But it is the aura that grabs everyone's attention lucky enough to walk the grounds.

Even with muddy shoes and milling fans blocking the view of most shots, there was nary a discouraging word said. Just being there was enough.

You have to be a baseball fan to enjoy the World Series. You have to be a racing fan to truly enjoy the Indy 500. Everyone enjoys and savors the Masters, not just golfing fans.

That's what makes the Masters so different … and so special.

A tale of two Masters

Though the weather may have started a bit rough (left), nothing could dampen the spirit of the world's most famous golf tournament. By week's end, ideal spring conditions (above) replaced the rain that had plagued the area from Monday through Thursday. In either case, the usual throngs of fans came out to enjoy the tournament come what may.

Corporate donations go to soldiers' families

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - At least two companies are aiding deployed troops by honoring the sacrifices of their family members with donations of gifts and volunteer hours.

Mary Kay Cosmetics has donated items such as sun block and lip balm to troops through their families and Home Depot has pledged household repairs.

Home Depot pledged $1 million and 1 million volunteer hours to make general household repairs for the loved ones of deployed troops. "Project Homefront" was first organized to assist the family members of the more than 1,700 Home Depot employees that have been mobilized, but since has been extended to include family members of all deployed active-duty military.

Extending the project was made possible officials said by a partnership that includes "Rebuilding Together," a volunteer organization that restores low-income houses and communities, and USA Freedom Corps, a White House council that's working to get more Americans to volunteer.

Not only is Home Depot willing to help with general home repairs, the company is adorning homes with military memorabilia. Blue Star Service Banners, which were designed in 1917 to be displayed by families who have loved ones serving in the Armed Forces, will be given to each of Home Depot's 1,700 mobilized employees.

Each blue star represents one family member serving in the Armed Forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently on active duty.

For more information on Project Homefront and Blue Star Service Banners, visit, **www.projecthomefront.org.**

Mary Kay Cosmetics could not send tubes of shaving cream, sun block, lip balm and lotion to the troops in Kuwait because of mailing restrictions to safeguard against terrorist threats. However, the company shipped 60,000 items to family members at the 3rd Infantry Division rear at Fort Stewart, Ga.

The Georgia infantrymen are in one of the units currently occupying Baghdad, and they have captured thousands of enemy forces, including key members in the Special Republican Guard.

"How could we do anything less for these troops?" said Michael Lunsden, Mary Kay's senior vice president for government relations. "I'm a sponge for news, and I could see that the 3rd ID was going to be the tip of the spear going into Baghdad."

This is the second Gulf War were Mary Kay has made contributions. In 1991 50,000 items were delivered from Texas to family members at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

On April 3 donations rolled onto Fort Stewart in an 18-wheeler tractor-trailer, which brought on "shock and awe" for some onlookers.

"I was so impressed with Mary Kay's desire to want to do something for the families that have been left behind," said Susan Wilder, the mobilization, deployment manager for the local Army Community Service. "As a military spouse, I know that sometimes we're forgotten, and this donation was so sweet."

The gifts will be given to families in the form of goodie bags, Wilder said. Spouses will most likely share the gifts by sending some items to the front lines, she said.

Only family members and close friends of deployed troops are able to send mail to Kuwait or surrounding countries, and programs that allowed the general public to send mail addressed to "Any Service Member" were cancelled more than a year ago after anthrax hit the mail.

However, an Army contractor who wanted to help end boredom for soldiers in Kuwait was able to get temporary assistance from the American Red Cross.

James Kratzer, a contractor at the Army Research Laboratory in White Sands Missile Range, N.M., enlisted the help of some of his colleagues and started "Paperbacks for Troops."

"It became obvious they were bored at times," said Kratzer. "The soldiers spent most of their time cleaning their rifles or playing cards, but there was nothing for them to read. That planted a seed in my mind."

After collecting 3,500 books, the Red Cross delivered half of them to Camp Doha, Kuwait. The rest of the shipment has been curtailed to allow existing military support carriers to focus on combat-specific shipments, said an official from the American Red Cross.

Public Notice

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of Eisenhower Army Medical Center on May 20-23, 2003.

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The requests must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to:

Division of Accreditation Operations Office of Quality Monitoring Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations One Renaissance Boulevard Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181or Faxed to 630-792-5636or E-mailed to **complaint@jcaho.org**

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such request in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

"While I am waiting..."

While I am waiting…and I am still waiting. The longer he is gone, the more abnormal, normal becomes. I talked about how smells trigger memories, this time, what has hit me more lately, as the smells fade, is the music. It is rare to go out and about without hearing a song that triggers a memory of a moment we have shared together. Some of the songs make me so happy when I hear them. I think back to a time and a place he and I have shared, some before the children, some after the children. As maybe you have figured out we have been married a while, and have shared a lot. How can you not share a lot being married in the military? You move more than most people, you live different places than most of your family (unless they are military too). You share.

I hear music, when I am shopping, or riding in my car, and it does funny things now. I get mushy, sometimes I cry. Or I go home and download the song off the Internet and listen over and over again. Sometimes it helps. Sometimes, it makes things brighter, and at this point that is a good thing.

For my children there is a silly song on the Nickelodeon channel, which they dance too. They tell me their dad knows the song, and when they start dancing together, I fall out laughing because it is just so silly, and I miss him. They do too, cause they think he would be part of the dance if he were here (I don't think so, but it is nice to dream). And now when my kids sense I am frustrated, or starting to feel blue, they will start dancing, and I can't help but laugh, and laughter is good medicine.

There are songs that make me proud. I can not help but hear certain songs, foremost the bugle calls on post to start and end the day, and I think of the great American my spouse is. I hear other songs that fortify that feeling that he is a great American. And for me some days, that does make things better. I would rather things be better, brighter, while I am waiting.

Editor's note: *"While I am waiting" is a series of comments and events from the spouse of a deployed soldier who wishes to remain anonymous.*

Prevention tips to sports injuries

Sport activities is one of the leading areas where soldiers are injured. If leaders and soldiers do not prepare and control these physical training events, soldiers can get seriously injured and lose time from work/school- and some may sustain injuries permanently.

The Army Safety Center has identified basketball as the top accident producer, with football and softball not far behind.

The most common injury received while participating in these sporting events was not physical contact, but from the individual changing direction quickly and slipping on the playing surface; i.e., court, wet grass or loose gravel/ sand, resulting in a broken ankle or leg.

Other less serious injuries occurred from improper warm-ups or the lack of stretching, causing torn leg muscles and injured tendons.

How do we mitigate these risks without removing the esprit de corps? Leaders must plan and inform participants of the proper equipment and rules required to play. Participants should be prepared with the proper equipment, such as wearing shoes designed for the sport-shoes with cleats provide better traction while performing fast starts, stops and changing directions.

Tips to mitigate risk:

• Always stretch and warm up muscles prior to physical activities.

• Postpone event if thunderstorms or other severe weather conditions are anticipated.

• Drink plenty of fluids before, during and after vigorous activities. Avoid alcohol (it causes dehydration).

• Stay out of high grass to avoid holes and ruts. Don't run when you can't see where your feet will land.

• Use the necessary personal protective equipment.

• Cool down after intense physical activity. It helps to lessen stiffness and soreness felt in muscles.

Remember that PT should enhance your physical fitness and not result in an injury that requires medical treatment or ends your military career.

Injuries

• Ankle sprains are one of the most common sports injuries. The starting, twisting and stopping motions of running, basketball, volleyball, soccer, baseball and tennis place athletes at higher risk for this type of injury. Typically, ankle sprains occur during a fall, jump or turn. The athlete lands on the side of the foot or the foot is accidentally turned inward. This movement stretches or tears the small ligaments that support and stabilize the ankle. Sometimes, a snap is felt or a pop is heard. The ankle swells, is tender and painful.

• Stress fractures and tears or strains to the muscle or ligaments can result from over training with resting the body. Running long distances without a break from training is a common example.

• When the Achilles tendon (the tendon that connects muscles in the lower leg with the heel bone) is overstressed, it can become strained or torn. Sports such as basketball and jumping that tighten the calf muscles put athletes more at risk for this type of injury. A direct blow to the foot, ankle or calf in contact sports such as soccer and martial arts can also injure the Achilles tendon.

What should I do if I injure my foot or ankle during exercise or sports?

1) Immediately treat the injury with RICE. This means

• Rest the ankle.

• Ice the area to decrease swelling.

• Compress the area by wrapping or taping the ankle.

• Elevate by placing the ankle on a chair or stool.

2) When applying ice, be careful not to leave it on too long to prevent damage to skin or nerves. There are several good methods to use:

• Wrap a thin, damp cloth around the injury and place a plastic bag filled with crushed ice over it. Keep the bag in place by wrapping the area with an Ace bandage.

• Fill a bucket with water and ice. Place your ankle in the bucket just until it gets numb.

• Freeze water in a short Styrofoam cup or hold an ice cube with a hand towel. Slowly rub the injured area with the ice in a circular motion, being careful not to ice any area for longer than 20 to 30 seconds.

• It is best to ice the injury several times a day.

3) If the discomfort persists or you feel a professional opinion is needed, see a specialist.

Easy exercises to strengthen the ankle after an injury

• After the swelling goes down, gently exercise the ankle by moving it up and down to help restore motion and flexibility. Sit comfortably in a chair and raise one leg at a time. Gently rotate the ankle in a circle to the right; then reverse the direction.

• After about a week, you can add exercises for the heel and calf muscle. Gently turning the heel in and out. Stretch the calf muscles by point the toe and holding the stretch for about 10 seconds.

• As strength returns, restore your balance by standing on one leg at a time with your hands out to the sides. You can also do the "runner's stretch" by placing both hands against the wall for support and putting one leg in front of the other. Bend the knee in the forward leg while you straighten the muscle in the other leg, keeping your heels on the ground. Change legs and repeat the exercise.

• Stand with both feet firmly on the ground. Push off with the toes, slightly lifting the ankles. Do this repetition a minimum of 10 times.

• Muscles and tendons that are warmed up are more flexible. You can soak the ankle in warm water before you begin to exercise. Then apply ice after the exercise session to reduce any irritation or inflammation.

When can I return to sports or exercise?

When any discomfort or swelling is gone, and you have complete range of motion in all directions, you can return to your normal routine. The muscles around the ankle should be strong, and you should have good balance. The most important guideline is to listen to your body; don't continue if it hurts.

You can use a brace for support to help prevent re-injury. However, a brace is not a substitute for strong muscles or a fully healed injury.

Wear the right shoe for the activity

The right kind of footwear is the key to comfort and injury prevention. Shoes that don't fit well can be harmful, especially if they're too small, too narrow in the toe, too big in the heel or not suited to the specific activity. If you only jog once in a while or ride your bike around the block on occasion, all-purpose cross-training athletic shoes will do the job. But if you are a more serious exercise enthusiast or actively play sports, select a shoe designed for the activity. For example, aerobics shoes have extra impact-absorbing cushion. Walking shoes have extra shock absorption at the heel and soles that aren't too thick to keep the ankle stable side to side. Court shoes help the body move forward, backward and side to side abruptly. Most athletic shoe stores group shoes by activity. Select the type you need and the brand that fits best.

Selecting the shoe for the best fit

• Try on shoes at the end of the day when your feet are at their largest.

• Wear the same type of sock that you wear for the sport or exercise.

• Allow about one half inch between your toes and the end of the shoe.

• Don't go for a break-in period. Shoes should fit comfortably in the store.

• Shoe that are wide enough don't crowd the toes

• The heel should have a firm grip and not slip when you walk.

• Measure your feet periodically; they get longer and wider with age.

• Try on both shoes; most people have one foot longer than the other.

• Shoe size varies by the manufacturer.

• Wear the new shoe for a short time so it adapts to your foot before you have an important game to play.

• Buy more than one pair and rotate them for longer wear.

• Replace athletic shoes when the tread or heels wear out.

Six general warm-ups tips to prevent injury

• Warm-up your muscles before any sports activity by doing jumping jacks or running in place for three to five minutes. Then slowly stretch, holding each stretch for 30 seconds.

• Moderate physical activity for 30 minutes every day, rather than two intense days of activity on the weekend is better for your body and reduces your risk of injury.

• If you are beginning a new sports activity, take lessons or get coaching so you develop proper form and reduce your risk of injury.

• We're less flexible as we age, even if the body is in good shape.

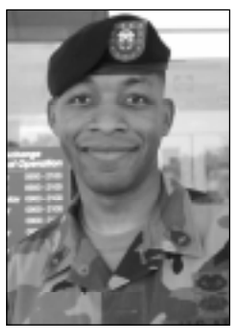
• Build up slowly. Some experts call it the 10 percent rule. Increase by no more than 10 percent every week. For example, don't double your weights weekly or go from a two-mile run every day to a four-mile run.

• The best fitness routine combines cardiovascular (aerobic) exercise, muscle toning, strength training and flexibility.

Editor's note: *The above information was compiled from the Signal Branch Safety Office and the following website,* ***www.orthofootandankle.com/ prevention.***

Feedback

April 19 is Earth Day, what do you do to help the environment?



"We separate our trash. We keep cans separate from plastics, that sort of thing."

Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Gooden; Eisenhower Army Medical Center

"I recycle and I never litter. I also organized our Air Force beautification project."

Airman Tina Moore Detachment 1, 338th Training Squadron

"I try to conserve resources and electricity and pick up litter as I see it ."

Airman Colin Wilson Det. 1, 338th TRS

"I recycle and conserve energy."

Renita Savage Retired

"I recycle and I don't litter."

Spc. Gina Lucius 801st Combat Support Hospital

The Signal

• **News Office 791-7069**

Signal Towers Room 134, Fax 791-5463
www.gordon.army.mil/pao

• **Advertising Office 724-2122**

P.O. Box 948, Waynesboro, Ga. 30830
Ads may be faxed to **706-554-2437**

Commanding General: Brig. Gen. Janet A. Hicks
Public Affairs Officer: James L. Hudgins
Command Information Officer: Nancy Martin
NCOIC: Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey III
Signal Editor: Janet A. McElmurray
Military Editor: Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons
News Editor: Spc. Zoe Morris
Staff Writer: Spc. Ryan Matson, and Denise Allen

Editorial Office: Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 29808, Room 134, Signal Towers, Chamberlain Avenue, Fort Gordon, GA 30905
Civilian Printer: Citizen Newspapers
Publisher: Roy F. Chalker Jr.
General Manager: Bonnie K. Taylor
Sales Representative: Faye Watkins and Deborah Kitchens

This Civilian Enterprise Newspaper is an authorized publication for all personnel at Fort Gordon. Contents of *The Signal* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or the U.S. Army Signal Center. *The Signal* is published weekly using offset production.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Citizen Newspapers, of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Signal is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon. The Signal is published by the Citizen Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon.

The contracting officer serves as liaison between the civilian printer and the commanding general. Letters to the editor must be signed with the author's printed name and address included.

Requests for use of information by other news organizations should be directed to the Public Affairs Office. Pictures not otherwise credited are official U.S. Army photographs. Army News Service and American Forces Information Service material is used. Opinions expressed are those of individuals, and are not to be considered those of the Department of the Army or its agencies.

Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.

Out of the ashes

Chaplain (Maj.) Barb Sherer
6003rd ASB Chaplain Corps News Release

The central dining facility in Camp Udairi is gone. A fire that began in one of the dining facility tents quickly spread to engulf all five and completely destroyed them in less than 30 minutes. No surprise there...the wind was blowing quite hard and the tents were close together.

After the smoke cleared, and all units checked the status of their soldiers, it was apparent that everyone had made it out alive. Amazing. It was Sunday morning and a service had just concluded, but most of the worshippers had left. A Catholic service was scheduled next, and one of the tents would have been packed. During breakfast, all the tents were packed, but not at the time of the fire. Some sharp NCOs pushed military and civilian cooks outside and propane tanks were removed to safety. Firefighters arrived quickly and kept the flames from spreading to the rest of the camp.

What could have been a major catastrophe merely resulted in the loss of some equipment and soldiers eating MREs for a few days. I call this a miracle. God takes care of his children, even when they are deployed far, far away from homes. Especially when they are deployed far from home.

But let me tell you the rest of the story. The fire occurred on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This is the day many Christians observe the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a time of penitence, as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. We mark our foreheads with ash as a sign of this penitence. I had planned to offer ashes for Protestant soldiers who wished to observe this ritual. I didn't have any ashes, though. Traditionally, you burn palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration to make ash for Ash Wednesday. I didn't have any. So, it seemed to me that the most significant ash to use for this occasion would be ash from the DFAC.

The site was under guard, so I asked an MP to escort me to the firefighters who were working there. Things had calmed down, and they were just watching to make sure there were no flare-ups. I explained to the officer in charge what I wanted. He agreed it was a very appropriate request. I handed a cup to one of the firefighters, who walked to the rubble, scooped up some ash, and returned to me.

"Is this enough?" he asked.

"Perfect," I replied. I placed the cup in a Ziploc bag and headed to my tent.

Two days later I decided to open the bag and see if I needed to crunch up the ashes into smaller pieces. I was digging around in the cup with a plastic knife when I noticed the edge of something metallic. I reached in, and pulled out a cross. A flat, metal cross. It had some dark smudges on it from the fire, but it was otherwise undamaged. I could still read the etching on it: "Jesus is Lord."

I can't even fathom the odds of picking the exact site of that cross out of the acreage destroyed by the fire. It doesn't matter. The message to me is clear: God walks with us through the terrible firestorms of our lives and we are lifted unharmed out of the ashes. We may be marked in some way, like the cross of ash placed on our foreheads during Ash Wednesday. However, that mark is a symbol of God's love and protection.

I wear that cross now on my dogtags. No matter where the Army may send me, or what God may ask of me, I will cherish this special reminder that God will never leave us alone to face the tragedies in our lives. With God's help, we will always rise out of the ashes.

Spotlight on:

Name: Drill Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Kenric Brooks

Unit: Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion

Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.

What do you enjoy most about being a drill sergeant?
The opportunity to train soldiers, to impart my experience on newly developing soldiers so that they too can become successful NCOs and officers. I also enjoy the teamwork between the drill sergeants, the bond is like none that I have seen.

How long at Fort Gordon? One year, four months

What do you want to accomplish in the military?
I have accomplished a lot while I have been in the military. I have been to Germany, I made staff sergeant, and I am a drill sergeant, the only thing I have left to do is Audie Murphy, become a first sergeant and command sergeant major.

Brooks

Easter

Christian

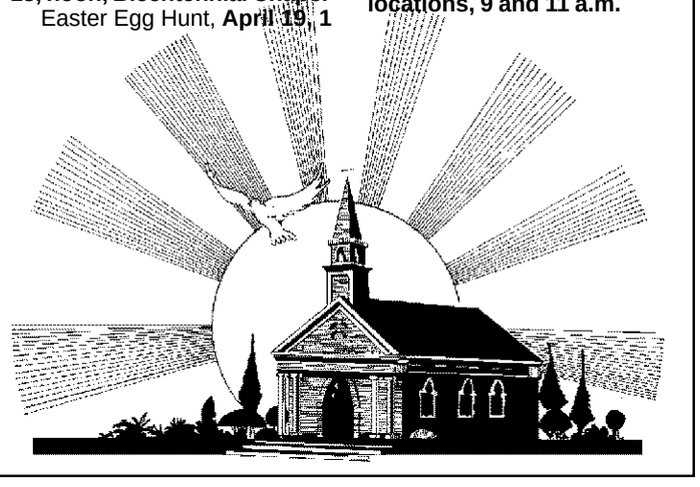
Post-wide Easter Sunrise Service: **April 20**, 6:30 a.m., Freedom Park

Catholic Activities/ Masses:
Good Shepherd Chapel, Building 29608, Barnes Avenue

Good Friday**, April 18, 7 p.m.**
Easter Vigil Mass, **April 19, 7 p.m.**
Easter Sunday Masses, **April 20, 9:30 and 11 a.m.**
(No CCD or Sacramental Preparation on April 20)

Protestant Easter Events/ Services:

Good Friday Service, **April 18, noon, Bicentennial Chapel**
Easter Egg Hunt, **April 19, 1 p.m., Religious Education Center, Bldg. 39713**
Protestant Sunday School Program**, Royal Signal Hall, April 20, 9 a.m.**
Easter Sunday Services **April 20, regular times/ locations, 9 and 11 a.m.**



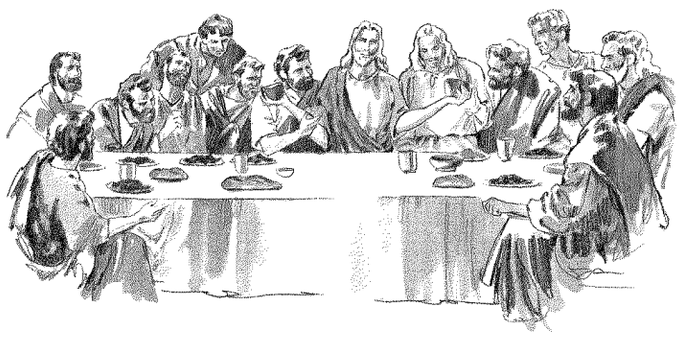
Judas *The man who might have been ...*

Chaplain (Col.) Wilfred Brewster Jr.
Installation Chaplain

Frank S. Meade called Judas the man who might have been. He was a person with infinite possibilities. Yet his potentiality never became actuality. For all his promise as a human being, he was indeed just a might-have-been.

Judas might have been a model for the rest of us to emulate had he lived up to his name. Judas derives from the same Hebrew root word as Judah and means worthy of praise. The two most popular names in first century Judaism were Judas and Simon. These were the names of two Jewish heroes who lived in the second century B.C. In Jesus' day the name "Judas" was given with a great sense of national pride.

Judas might have been a great disciple had he lived up to his calling. Jesus called Judas to discipleship on the same basis as others of the twelve.



He had infinite potential for good. He was sensitive to the social and economic problems of the poor. He preached and ministered with the other disciples three years. And he was the only one of the twelve disciples to have an official position. He was treasurer for the group — a responsibility Jesus apparently gave him for his unusual ability.

Judas, like all of us, had limitless capacity for good. He had considerable abilities. He lived under the influence of the greatest teacher who ever lived.

He enjoyed an enviable environment with the other disciples. Yet he squandered his opportunities. He was like a seed sown in the early spring, which never develops. His potentiality never became actuality. He was just a man who might have been.

The bottom line for me is clear. If we are to avoid walking in Judas' footsteps, we must surrender our personal ambitions to Jesus instead of trying to force Jesus to comply with our own desires.

Remaining faithful to Jesus is the only way we can become the person God wants us to be.

If we follow the Judas inclination, which is in all of us, we will only be a might-have-been person.

Corporate donations go to soldiers' families

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - At least two companies are aiding deployed troops by honoring the sacrifices of their family members with donations of gifts and volunteer hours.

Mary Kay Cosmetics has donated items such as sun block and lip balm to troops through their families and Home Depot has pledged household repairs.

Home Depot pledged $1 million and 1 million volunteer hours to make general household repairs for the loved ones of deployed troops. "Project Homefront" was first organized to assist the family members of the more than 1,700 Home Depot employees that have been mobilized, but since has been extended to include family members of all deployed active-duty military.

Extending the project was made possible officials said by a partnership that includes "Rebuilding Together," a volunteer organization that restores low-income houses and communities, and USA Freedom Corps, a White House council that's working to get more Americans to volunteer.

Not only is Home Depot willing to help with general home repairs, the company is adorning homes with military memorabilia. Blue Star Service Banners, which were designed in 1917 to be displayed by families who have loved ones serving in the Armed Forces, will be given to each of Home Depot's 1,700 mobilized employees.

Each blue star represents one family member serving in the Armed Forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently on active duty.

For more information on Project Homefront and Blue Star Service Banners, visit, **www.projecthomefront.org.**

Mary Kay Cosmetics could not send tubes of shaving cream, sun block, lip balm and lotion to the troops in Kuwait because of mailing restrictions to safeguard against terrorist threats. However, the company shipped 60,000 items to family members at the 3rd Infantry Division rear at Fort Stewart, Ga.

The Georgia infantrymen are in one of the units currently occupying Baghdad, and they have captured thousands of enemy forces, including key members in the Special Republican Guard.

"How could we do anything less for these troops?" said Michael Lunsden, Mary Kay's senior vice president for government relations. "I'm a sponge for news, and I could see that the 3rd ID was going to be the tip of the spear going into Baghdad."

This is the second Gulf War were Mary Kay has made contributions. In 1991 50,000 items were delivered from Texas to family members at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

On April 3 donations rolled onto Fort Stewart in an 18-wheeler tractor-trailer, which brought on "shock and awe" for some onlookers.

"I was so impressed with Mary Kay's desire to want to do something for the families that have been left behind," said Susan Wilder, the mobilization, deployment manager for the local Army Community Service. "As a military spouse, I know that sometimes we're forgotten, and this donation was so sweet."

The gifts will be given to families in the form of goodie bags, Wilder said. Spouses will most likely share the gifts by sending some items to the front lines, she said.

Only family members and close friends of deployed troops are able to send mail to Kuwait or surrounding countries, and programs that allowed the general public to send mail addressed to "Any Service Member" were cancelled more than a year ago after anthrax hit the mail.

However, an Army contractor who wanted to help end boredom for soldiers in Kuwait was able to get temporary assistance from the American Red Cross.

James Kratzer, a contractor at the Army Research Laboratory in White Sands Missile Range, N.M., enlisted the help of some of his colleagues and started "Paperbacks for Troops."

"It became obvious they were bored at times," said Kratzer. "The soldiers spent most of their time cleaning their rifles or playing cards, but there was nothing for them to read. That planted a seed in my mind."

After collecting 3,500 books, the Red Cross delivered half of them to Camp Doha, Kuwait. The rest of the shipment has been curtailed to allow existing military support carriers to focus on combat-specific shipments, said an official from the American Red Cross.

Masters 2003

Oh, Canada!

Mike Weir (right) took home the coveted green jacket for the 2003 Masters golf tournament held at Augusta National golf course April 11 to 14 (the tournament was rained out April 10.) This was Weir's first Masters title, and the first time a Canadian has won a major golf championship. Weir finished the first 72 holes at a score of seven under par, forcing a play-off between himself and Len Mattiace, the first play-off at the Masters since 1990. With the win, Weir advanced to the number five ranking in the world.

photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Augusta's own

Augusta native Charles Howell III finished this year's Masters tied for 28th at +6 for the tournament. It looks as if there are plenty of Masters in Howell's future, however, as he is just 23 years old and was the 2001 PGA Rookie of the Year. Howell, who's currently ranked 16th on the money list and is in his third year on the PGA Tour had a second place finish at this year's Nissan Open, where he lost to Mike Weir. Howell currently lives in Orlando, Fla.

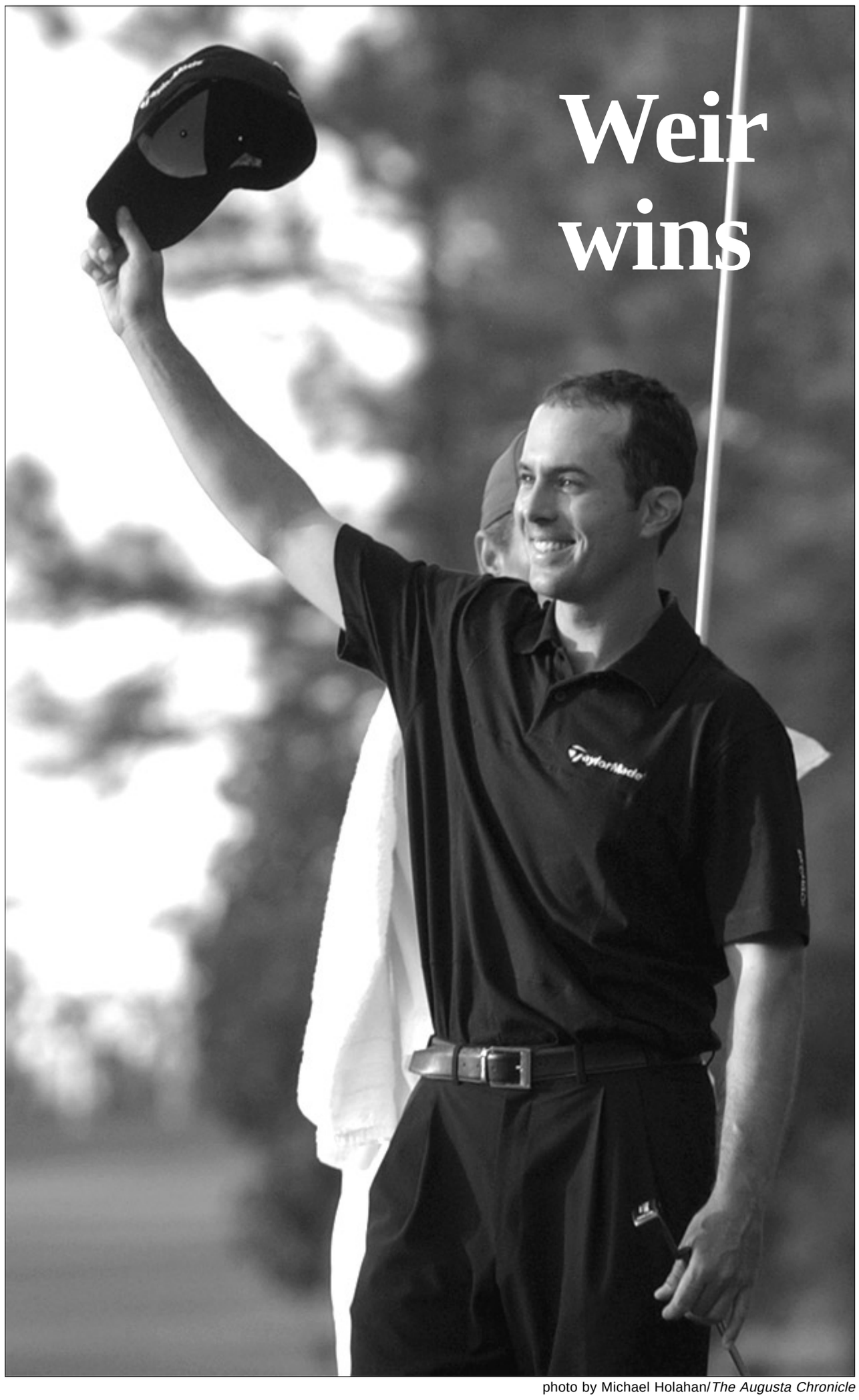


photo by Michael Holahan/*The Augusta Chronicle*

Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Not this time

Tiger Woods, the 2001 and 2002 tournament champion, may be all smiles in the photo above, but he was unable to capture his third straight title. Woods was favored by many coming into play to become the first Masters three-peat champion. Tiger, who had shot a 66 the second day of the tournament to return to contention, had a rough final day and finished tied for 15th.

‘The big three’

Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Three legends of the game, (left to right) Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus, stride down the fairway toward the green on the Par 3 course. On April 9, a one-hole Par 3 tournament was held at Augusta National before the opening of the Masters tournament. The event gave fans the chance to see their favorite golfers up close and personal.

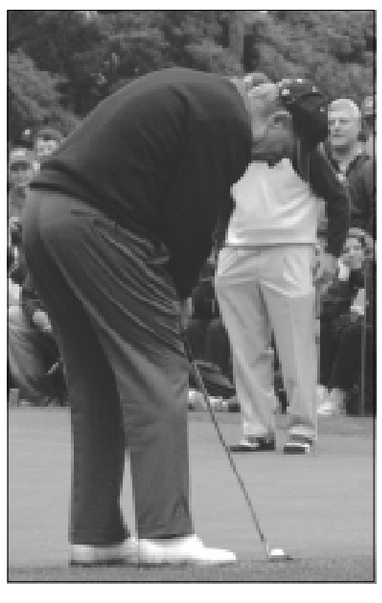
Palmer reacts after missing a short putt. The 74-year-old has won four titles.

Player, a three-time Masters winner, putts on the Par 3.

Fuzzy Zoeller, the 1979 Masters winner.

(Above) Vijay Singh, the 2000 Masters tournament champion, tees off in a practice round April 9. Singh finished in a tie for sixth in this year’s tournament.

(Right) Jack Nicklaus putts during the Par 3 tournament. Nicklaus has won a record six Masters titles during his career.



We are family...

Palmer, Nicklaus and Player, along with several other golfers, added to the fun of the Par 3 tournament by employing family members as caddies during the practice rounds.

Community Events

AER car wash

Donations are being accepted for the Army Emergency Relief Fund Raiser Car Wash sponsored by Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 116th Military Intelligence Group **today** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. across the street from Burger King.

All proceeds are going to Army Emergency Relief Fund.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Derrion Johnson 791-0969.

Career fair

SmartStart for New Vets is hosting a Military/Civilian Career Fair, **April 25** at Clayton College and State University's Center for Continuing Education in Morrow, Ga.

The Career Fair will be from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will have recruiters from local and national companies seeking qualified applicants.

Clayton College and State University's Center for Continuing Education is located approximately 20 miles south of Atlanta.

Visit the SmartStart website at **www.smartstartvets.org** for more information and directions.

Flea market

The Officers' Wives' Club and the Directorate of Community Activities host the Spring Flea Market, **May 3,** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Engineer Field.

Spaces to sell items are available for $25, $35 and $45. Single spaces for E-4 and below and/or residents of on-post housing are $15 with a limit of 2 per family.

For more information, call 706-481-8065 and leave a message.

Military Child Month

The Directorate of Community Activities will sponsor a celebration for "Month of the Military Child." Activities will take place on the Youth Services Football Field **April 26**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will have clowns, games, displays, pony rides and free popcorn.

For more information, call Michelle Linder at 791-6500/ 7575.

CMU

Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning at Fort Gordon offers a master of science in administration degree with concentrations in information resource management, health services administration and human resource administration.

Registration for classes starting in May (Term IV) will be held through **April 25.**

For additional information, call 798-5739 or visit the CMU office in the Fort Gordon Education Center, Bldg. 21606, Barnes Avenue.

National Volunteer Week

The annual observance of National Volunteer Week is scheduled for **April 27 - May 3.**

While all volunteer program managers on the installation have been encouraged to sponsor an event to express their appreciation to their volunteer corps during this week, the Command Group is hosting its Top 100 Volunteer Luncheon on **April 29**. The luncheon will be held in the North Grand Ballroom of the Gordon Club from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Each program will receive complimentary luncheon tickets based on the number of volunteers registered with their program.

Additional tickets are available for $12. Reservations may be made by calling 791-3579.

Vehicle registration new hours

To better serve our soldiers, civilians, family members and retirees, the Vehicle Registration Office in Darling Hall, Room 151, is extending its hours.

New hours of operation are as follows: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7 a.m - 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays.

Personnel are reminded to bring their state vehicle registration (registered in the name of person registering vehicle or notarized letter authorizing someone else to register the vehicle), proof of insurance, ID card, and valid driver's license.

For more information, call 791-3132.

Spring cleanup month

April has been declared the Fort Gordon's Environmental Cleanup Month. This is the time designated for all area and facility supervisors to ensure a concerted effort is made to cleanup, fix up and beautify their areas of responsibility that are not normally done on a daily basis. The day dedicated for cleanup of housing areas will be **April 25** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Steven Goulet at 791-6483.

Army Community Service

Surviving Military Separation, Support Group, meets the **first Wednesday** of each month, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. in Darling Hall, Suite 367.

Surviving Military Separation is a support group for spouses awaiting spouses during a deployment or unaccompanied tour. This is an opportunity for spouses to share ideas and strategies on how to cope with stress and anxiety associated with the service member's absence.

For more information, call 791-3579.

Family Readiness Group bowling

Gordon Lanes Bowling Center is offering monthly "Bowling for deployed families" at an incredible price of $1.25 per game and free shoes.

The first event will take place on **April 24**, at 7 p.m. and thereafter on the fourth Thursday of every month. For additional information, call 791-3579.

Technology expo

Fort Gordon will host a Technology Expo for local Central Savannah River Area high school students **April 24-25.**

Fort Gordon's 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, 93rd Signal Brigade, and Leader College of Information Technology will work with the Augusta Recruiting Company to highlight the Army's high tech career opportunities.

Any JROTC military science instructor or others interested in participating, should contact Capt. Gina Mitcham, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, at 791-1003.

Graduation exercises

Military personnel who completed college during the last 8 months and did not have the opportunity to participate in college graduation exercises should contact the Education and Career Development Division, Directorate of Human Resources.There will be graduation exercises on **June 11** in Alexander Hall at 2 p.m.

This action is directed at military students who had a permanent change of station and missed, or will miss, graduation exercises at other installations (i.e., Central Texas College, University of Maryland, University of Oklahoma, etc). Requests must be received at the ECDD no later than **April 25.**

For more information, call Gloria McIntyre, 791-0178.

Pre-command course

The Fort Gordon Brigade/ Battalion Pre-Command Course will be in session April 21 l – May 2. The following Command Designees will be attending Class 008-03: Col. Bryan W. Ellis, 35th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.; Col. Nathaniel Smith, 93rd Signal Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga.; Col. Michael A. Brown, ISEC, Fort Huachuca, Az.; Col. Stephen L. Rust, PM Instrumentation Target and Threat Simulators, Orlando, FL; Lt. Col. Michele P. Bolinger, 36th Signal Battalion, Tague, Korea; Lt Col. Edwin M. Drose Jr., 440th Signal Battalion, Darmstadt, Germany; Lt. Col. Gabriel Ruiz, PM Defense Data Network, Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Lt. Col. John W. Baker, 124th Signal Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas; Lt. Col. Leith A. Benedict, 25th Signal Battalion, Doha, Qatar; Lt. Col. Marc D. Harris, 16th Signal Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas; Lt. Col. LaVon R. Purnell, 58th Signal Battalion, Fort Buckner, Japan; Lt. Col. Cedric T. Rice, 50th Signal Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and Lt. Col. Jochen A. Thomas, 51st Signal Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Anyone needing further information concerning any of the commanders may do so through, John Helmick or Master Sgt. Nathaniel Brown at 791-5920 or 3007.

Adolphous Greely Chapter meeting

Adolphous Greely Chapter of the Signal Corps Regimental Association is having a General Membership Meeting and Social on **June 4** at 4:30 p.m. in the Gordon Club North Wing.

Nominations will be taken and the meeting will also have board member elections for the upcoming year. Free food is available.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Dempsey at 791-1761.

Asian Pacific Heritage month

The Asian Pacific Heritage Month Command Program will be **May 15** at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. The theme for the program is "Salute to Liberty". The guest speaker is Evelyn Dacalos Gay, a Director for the Georgia Legal Services office out of Gainesville, Ga.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Garcia B. Patterson at 791-2014/6644.

Days of Remebrance

Days of Remembrance command program is **May 5** at 1:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. The guest speaker is Charlene Schiff. The United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon will recognize and honor the fallen and surviving members of the Jewish Holocaust.

There will also be a Days of Remebrance workshop **May 6**, from noon until 1 p.m. also in Alexander Hall. Schiff will be telling her story and answering questions. The workshop is open to the public, but is specifically addressing the Family Readiness Groups.

For more information, call 791-2014.

Family classes

The Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program will offer a two-part class on **April 28** and **May 5** entitled "Helping You and Your Children Cope With Divorce." The seminar is designed to help parents establish a co-parenting relationship that will help them associate with the pain of divorce. The class will also help participants learn how to talk with their children and give them guidelines as well.

The class is free but registration is required. The classes are held from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

For additional information and to register, call 791-3579.

The School Yard

Do you have a family member deployed?

Evans Middle School will host a social for military families whose children attend Columbia County Schools on **April 24**at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to the public.

For more information, call 863-2275.

Need tips on Helping Children Cope with Deployment?

Visit the School Liaison Services web site. **www.gordon.army.mil/liasvc**

Fort Gordon Report

COMING UP

The newest edition of the "Fort Gordon Report" premieres **April 21** and includes the following stories:

- Reserve Soldiers return from Kuwait
- National Library Week
- Military Police Bike Patrols

The "Fort Gordon Report" and "Army Newswatch" alternate weeks on *Charter Cable Channel 13*: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

You can catch the latest "Fort Gordon Report" on *Comcast Cable Channel 66* on: Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" will premiere **April 28**.

The "Fort Gordon Report" is the Signal Center's official television news program and is produced on post by the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training and Support Center.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Golf tournament to support deployed troops

The 297th Military Intelligence Battalion Family Readiness Group will hold a golf tournament **May 9** at Gordon Lakes golf course to support deployed soldiers and their families.

Lunch will be held at 11 a.m. prior to the tournament, which starts at noon.

The cost of entering the tournament is $35 for soldiers E-5 and below, and $40 for other entrants. Mulligans may be purchased for $5 each, with a limit of two per person.

The tournament will be played under a Lauderdale format with a Peoria scoring system.

The deadline for entry is **April 30.** Sign up by calling 791-4200/9444 or by faxing 791-8383, or stop in at the course to submit an entry form.

Easter brunch

The Gordon Club offers an Easter brunch **April 20** in the North Ballroom.

There are two seatings available from 10:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The brunch is open to the public. Tickets are required and cost $14/adults, $8/children 5-8 and $4/children 4 and under.

For more information, call 791-6780.

Send some love

The following quality of life items are needed on a continuing basis to help bring a touch of home to deployed U.S. Forces:

1) Individually wrapped hard candy and gum,

2) Microwave popcorn,

3) Peanuts, pretzels and crackers,

4) Toiletry items (shaving cream, razors, individually wrapped tooth brushes, toothpaste, shower soap and travel size shampoo/conditioner)

5) Hand sanitizer, hand lotion,

6) Wet wipes,

7) Ziploc storage bags,

8) Sunscreen,

9) Wrap-around sunglasses (protects eyes from sun and blowing sand),

10) Batteries (assorted sizes),

11) Blank greeting cards (birthday, anniversary, get well, miss you, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.)

12) Note pads and phone cards,

13) Videos, DVDs, music CD's and cassettes (pack separately),

14) Small board games such as chess, checkers, dominoes, parcheesi, Yahtzee!, Uno, cribbage, jigsaw puzzle and playing cards.

15) Recent paperback books, puzzle books and comic books.

As a reminder, American Red Cross offices are responsible for helping to ensure the safety and security of deployed military personnel. This can be done by sending items from Red Cross office to Red Cross office.

For more information, call 787-6311.

What it's like to attend The Masters

Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

(Above) Walking the course, a spectator can come to appreciate the beautiful scenery of the course that often is taken for granted when watching the event on TV.

(Left) Food was reasonably priced (about $2 for a sandwich, and $1 for a glass of lemonade) and consisted of sandwiches and snack foods.

(Above) One of the week's early highlights was a par three shoot-out on Wednesday, in which golf fans got to watch some of the top names in golf, past and present, shoot for the lowest score on a special hole.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Sports editor

Writing for The Signal has allowed me the opportunity to experience some truly "once-in-a-lifetime" moments.

In October of last year, while covering the AUSA convention in Washington, D.C., I was able to run the Army 10-Miler through the city. Last week, I was afforded the opportunity to attend one of the premier viewing events in all of sports, the Masters golf tournament.

All year long, I had many of my friends telling me how lucky I would be if I got to attend the Masters. My hometown friend Jeremy Skillings described it as "something he wants to do just once in his life." And they were absolutely, 100-perecent correct. I was very blessed to be able to attend this event.

With that said, here's the point in my column where I am going to irk some people. There's no other way to say it other than flat out - I am not particularly a golf fan. But that doesn't mean I didn't love going to the Masters. I guess that's what this column is about - how attending the Masters changed my view of a sport I used to, well, hate.

Watching the tournament made me better appreciate a sport I had avoided all my life, mostly because by growing up on a dirt road in Northeastern Pennsylvania, golf was not exactly a top sport. There were really not too many courses around, and if you wanted to play golf, you had to travel a decent distance to do so. Therefore, I grew up believing quite a few myths about the game, which I plan to dispel now.

MYTH #1: "Only rich people play golf, and it is a snob sport."

I used to think that the only people who golfed were rich, sneaky lawyer types who wanted a rather secluded place to chat about how they could jack someone over. I didn't even have to go to the Masters to find out this is not true. As I found out once I arrived here at Fort Gordon, all types of people play golf. On any given sunny day, one can wander out to Gordon Lakes and see soldiers, family members, retirees and other people out on the course relieving stress by playing a relaxing (or at least challenging) round of golf. Surely not all of these people are millionaires, but if some are, good for them. The majority are simply people who are spending an afternoon enjoying the outdoors and doing something they love to do.

One thing I learned from attending the Masters is how truly universal the sport of golf has become. True, they aren't a whole lot of professional golfers from Harlem, but who knows, maybe soon golf will enter more inner cities. At the Masters, I saw golfers from South Korea, Fiji, Australia, England, Spain, Japan, Canada, and practically all around the globe. Virtually every race and region of the world (with the possible exception of the Arctic region, where not too many athletes come from) was represented at the tournament. Other than the Olympics, there aren't many athletic events that bring together such a broad spectrum of people.

Another thing I noticed when I attended the Masters was how friendly the people were, even if you admitted not being a big fan. People were more than willing to share their knowledge about the sport with you, which made watching the tournament all the more pleasurable and interesting. No one I met was snobby, even though some had forked over a lot of money to watch the tournament. They were simply people brought together by a common love of a game, just like at any other sporting event.

The other thing that impressed me was how intense the fans were. They were "hardcore." Since golf is a game requiring a high level of concentration to play, fans at golf tournaments aren't usually screaming at the tops of their lungs throughout the duration of the match. Nonetheless, the fans I encountered at the Masters were truly die-hards. They supported their favorite golfers, as well as the up-and-coming golfers, applauding after every shot, but being respectfully quiet before and during them.

Just talking to the average fan, I learned information on every golfer I saw. It was amazing how closely they followed the sport. And when it got a little messy at the beginning of the week, the fans still battled through the rain and mud to watch their favorites play. It was clear that no one would have gone anywhere, even if it had been snowing.

MYTH #2: "Golf is not a REAL sport."

Here we go. I used to think that since you don't have to be built like Carl Lewis to be a good golfer (example, Craig Stadler) - it was not a "real" sport, and you didn't have to be an athlete to participate in it.

Since going to the Masters, my views on this have also changed significantly. These guys are unbelievably talented, and most of them are in great shape. It has been said that Tiger Woods can bench over 300 pounds, at a body weight of around 160 pounds. That's not too bad.

When I was watching the South African golfer Gary Player, who is 66 years old, practice putting for over an hour in cold and rainy conditions on Wednesday, I gained a lot of respect for professional golfers. First of all, Player was probably the least likely person to win the tournament out of the field. He was obviously out there 1) because he loved the game and 2) to give the fans who came out some fun.

I was close enough to hear Player talk to some younger golfers seeking advice. They asked him where he got his strength for his drives. He said in his stomach, then said that, at the age of 66, he still does 1,000 crunches a day with a 90 pound weight on his stomach.

When the other golfers felt his stomach, they knew he wasn't kidding. And Gary Player seemed to represent the norm. Most of the golfers I saw looked to be in great shape. Just walking the course for all that practice and tournament golf demands some level of fitness. A certain amount of strength is also needed for drives, especially with more and more holes being lengthened on courses throughout the PGA.

And the amount of coordination, body control and unshakable concentration and determination these golfers exhibit is amazing.

It is truly a spectacle to see a golfer over a hundred yards away hit a ball an inch or so in diameter onto an area of land only a few feet wide and long. And usually that area was full of miniature hills and slopes, with meticulously groomed grass that made the ball travel lightning fast upon landing, surrounded by sand traps and water.

There is very, very little room for error in professional golf, as I learned at the Masters, and what these guys do is incredible. In my mind, they are definitely athletes.

So what was the best thing about going to the Masters?

Aside from witnessing in person the beautiful sights of the course - the historic holes, the vibrant flowers making up the landscape - and meeting some wonderful people, it was the golf. I used to think my friends were crazy for their rabid interest in golf. Now I can appreciate what they were thinking.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. All shows begin at 6:30 p.m. The late show on Saturday begins at 9:30 p.m.

Children 12 and over and all adults are $3. Children 6-11 are $1.50. Children under 5 are free.

For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

April 18 - 20

Friday - Life of David (R)
Saturday - Cradle to the grave (R)
Late show - Daredevil (PG-13)
Sunday - Cradle to the grave (R)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

Photos by Kathleen Hancock

Eggin' them on

An Easter egg hunt was held Saturday, April 12 at 10 a.m. on Engineer Field on post. Among three separate age groups, a total of 8,000 eggs were given out to several hundred children. The event was sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation in conjunction with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.