



Honoring veterans

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Keeping the Covenant
Special Family Edition

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The Signal



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News
UPDATE

Freedom Park Book Fair

Buy children's books (Kindergarten-8th grade) from 99 cents and up, **today** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school.

Join in for some early holiday shopping.

For information call (706) 796-8428.

Massing of the Colors

The Fort Gordon Massing of the Colors ceremony will be held 3 p.m. **Nov. 16** in Alexander Hall.

For information call (706) 791-3702.

Housing Services office closure

The Housing Services Office will be closed on **Nov. 17** to complete office renovations. The office is expecting to reopen Nov. 18.

For information call (706)791-9658

Burger King reopens

The Fort Gordon Burger King restaurant has reopened. The restaurant recently closed due to minor damage sustained during a fire.

Christmas House opening

The 42nd Annual Fort Gordon Christmas House opening ceremony will be 10 a.m. **Nov. 24** in Gym 6, Building 21711. For information call (706) 791-3880.

Financial Education

Financial experts will visit Fort Gordon to offer free management and much more. The financial education forum is being presented by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, which regulates all securities firms in the United States, in partnership with the Leader College for Information Technology and Fort Gordon's Army Community Services. They will present information from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. **Dec. 10** at Alexander Hall, noon to 2 p.m. **Dec. 11** in the break room of the Active Duty Rehabilitation Unit at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center; and from 9 to 11 a.m. and again at 1 to 2:30 p.m. **Dec. 12** in the first auditorium of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center. The programs are free.

For more information contact Sonya McCaw at (706) 791-2147 or visit the website: www.SaveAndInvest.org.

Commanding general links veterans and patriotic values

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

The backdrop for Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley at Lakeside Middle School on Nov. 7 was an oversized flag hanging from the ceiling.

"My father always displayed an American flag on the front of our house," said Foley at the school's 10th annual Veterans Day celebration.

"He was a World War II veteran, and he always had a small flag on his desk. My father was a patriot, and we were a patriotic family."

Over the years, Foley said, his sense of patriotism grew especially when he pledged to defend that flag and all it stands for by serving in the military. Seeing the turnout at the middle school event fueled that patriotic feeling.

"I'd argue that you are the Patriotic Panthers," he said.

The 10th annual Veterans Day celebration at the school

filled the gymnasium with students, parents, active duty service members and veterans.

There were other community heroes such as law enforcement personnel and other emergency responders.

As he spoke about the flag, Foley touched on the pledge of allegiance which was recited during the opening of the program.

For Foley, the pledge of allegiance has taken on new meaning since donning the Army uniform.

"Once you serve, once you deploy in service to your nation and put your life at risk, it's no longer the same pledge of allegiance," he said.

In saluting the flag and those who have served to defend the nation it represents, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Clark, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon command sergeant major recited the poem, Ragged Old Flag.

In addition, there was patriotic music played by

the school's eighth grade band and sung by the combined choruses.

The school population has many military children included in it, and two of those, Allison and Lauren Harvey, the daughter of Kathy and Warrant Officer Michael Harvey, who is currently deployed to Afghanistan, assisted in the presentation of the Army Community Covenant.



Photos by Charmain Z. Brackett



(Above) Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Foley, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general speaks to students at Lakeside Middle School Nov. 7 as he leads the post in many activities designed to focus efforts on Families, schools and education. (Left) The Lakeside High School JROTC drill team performs during the event.

Family Assistance Center continues service expansion

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

In less than a year of operation, Fort Gordon's Soldier and Family Assistance Center has made an impact on the lives of many wounded and injured warriors.

"We've had 2,500 people sign in for services," said Kent Brickman, the SFAC's director.

The SFAC opened fully in January bringing about a dozen people into its offices to assist Soldiers who are part of the Warrior Transition Battalion.

"It's been fast moving. We took a lot of different people from a bunch of different areas," he said.

Most of the staff moved to the area to be part of the SFAC.

The SFAC office first opened in Darling Hall, but it moved to a newly constructed 3,000 square foot building closer to the WTB buildings in July.

"The original idea was a USO-type of service," he said. "There's a waiting area for Families here. They can feel free to come

here to be away from the hospital. It's grown past that and become a one-stop shop."

The SFAC assists with a variety of services from child care to financial planning.

The most commonly requested services are human resources military benefits, information, referral and follow-up and financial counseling.

"We have eight in-house programs," he said.

And its staff works to connect people with needed services that are not in-house.

The office also houses a representative for Child, Youth and School Services and a federal recovery consultant. The representative for the Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance recently left, but a replacement will soon be found.

Brickman said the response from Soldiers has been positive. His staff is committed to their work with the wounded warriors, and they enjoy what they do.

"It's so satisfying to be able to help people on a daily basis and being told thank you. We are told thank you on a daily basis. We service heroes every day. Very few people do that," he said. For more information about SFAC and its services, call (706) 791-8777.

Great American Smokeout urges kick the habit

Alice Potosky
Army News Service

Falls Church, Va.—The Department of Defense and TRICARE are encouraging military service members and their Families to take part in the annual Great American Smokeout on November 20, 2008.

Participation in the Smokeout is an important component of the DoD-sponsored educational campaign, Quit Tobacco—Make Everyone Proud. Its mission is to assist active-duty service members in their efforts to quit tobacco—for themselves and for the people who look up to them and care about them.

"The uniform is a symbol of strength and pride—and that's what it takes to give up tobacco. We urge military men and women to take up the challenge of the Smokeout. Use this day as a launching point to become tobacco free and begin a healthier lifestyle," said Capt. David Arday, M.D., M.P.H., a U.S. Public Health Service officer and chairman of the DoD Alcohol and Tobacco Advisory Committee.

He added, "There are resources available to help you." Despite decades of work focused on reducing the use of tobacco by military populations, it remains firmly entrenched, especially in the youngest segment of the military population, with new smokers and smokeless tobacco users starting every day.

In 2005, the prevalence of smoking among 18 to 25 year olds on active duty was significantly higher than among their civilian counterparts (42.4 percent vs. 37.6 percent of men, 29.2 percent vs. 25.8 percent of women). Nearly 23 percent of those men started smoking after joining the military. The use of smokeless tobacco, or "spit tobacco," is also relatively high among military men in this age group, at roughly 25 percent.

DoD urges service members to take advantage of the Great American Smokeout to kick off their quit plan. "Join millions of members of the uniformed services, their Families and the American public who quit smoking for one day," said Rear Adm. Steven Galson, M.D., M.P.H., Acting U.S. Surgeon General.

During November, military personnel, their Families and others who support them are invited to visit the campaign Web site at <http://www.ucanquit2.org>.

This interactive information and support tool is specifically aimed at enlisted active-duty personnel who want to become tobacco free. Here they can access live instant-message help from a trained Cessation Coach, privately and anonymously.



Family Covenant celebration

Fort Gordon will reaffirm its commitment to the Army Family Covenant in a ceremony 11:30 a.m. Nov. 19 at the Gordon Club.

Christine Hernandez, Army Community Service says the event is open to all members of the Fort Gordon community.

The observance marks the first anniversary of the signing of the Army Family Covenant.

The Family Covenant aspires to the following tenets. The Covenant recognizes the commitment and increasing sacrifices that military Families are making every day and that the strength of our service members come from the strength of their Families.

The Covenant pledges commitment to providing service members and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service, providing military Families

a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive and building a partnership with military Families that enhances their strength and resilience.

The Covenant also indicates a commitment to improving Family readiness by:

- Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services
- Increasing accessibility and quality of health care
- Improving Soldier and Family housing
- Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services and child care
- Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members.

For more information, contact Christine Hernandez, Army Community Service at (706) 791- 0792; send e-mail to christine.hernandez1@us.army.mil or visit the website www.fortgordon.com.

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