



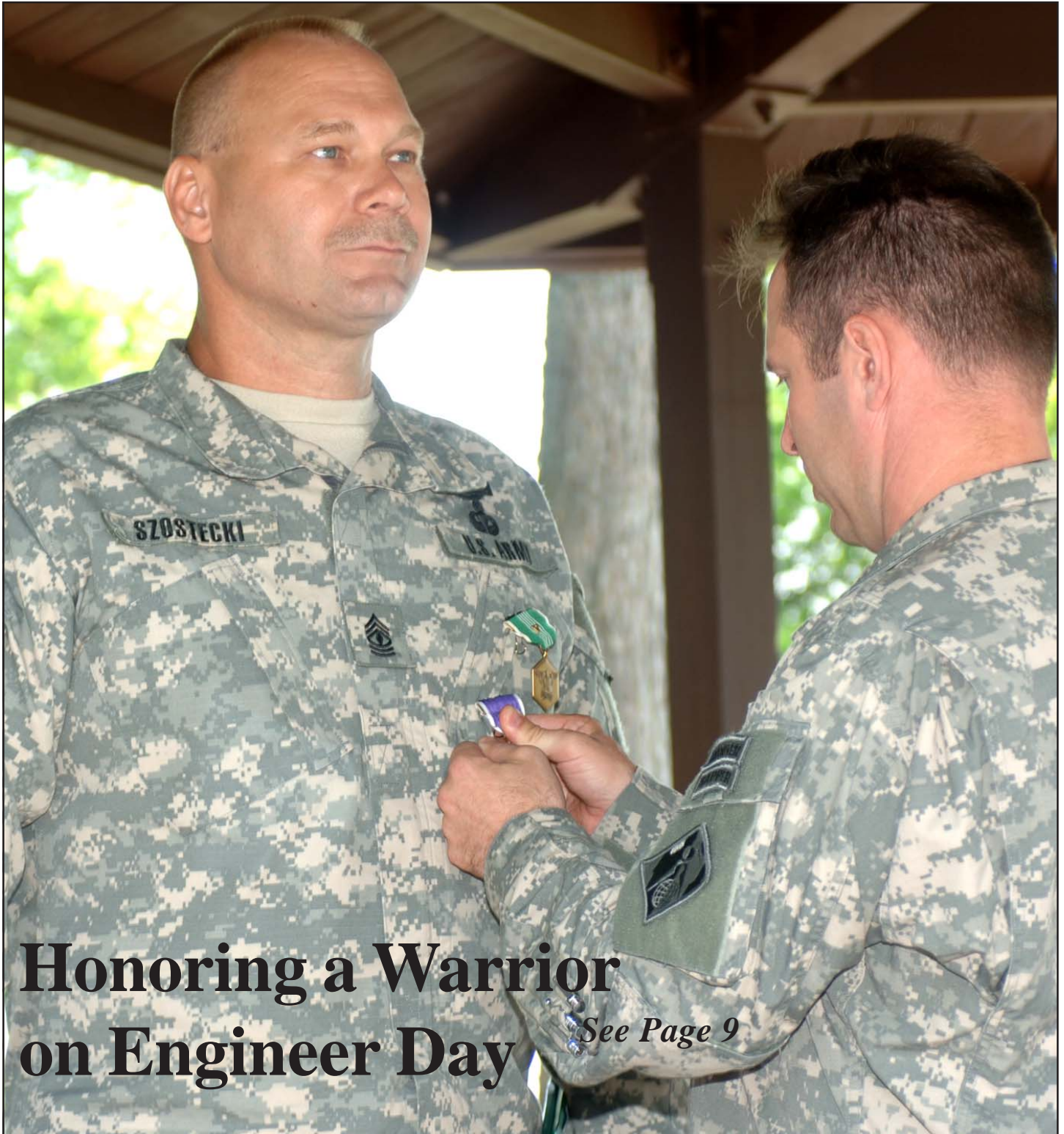
US Army Corps
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Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable

June 2006



**Honoring a Warrior
on Engineer Day**

See Page 9

Contents

All For One . . . Players Honor Comrade	4
Ribbon Cut for new Zam Zam Primary School in Iraq	4
Seven Win Employee of the Year Awards	5
Corps Recreational Areas Become Today's Classrooms	5
Wilson Lock Dewatering . . . a Photo Essay	7
District Celebrates Engineer Day 2006	8
The Story Behind the Teller	10
Volunteers Work to Produce a Cleaner Tomorrow	11
Police Officer Shares Safety Tips With Employees	12
Student Wins Life Jacket Design Contest	13
There is NO Good Reason Not to Wear It!	13
The Corps Crowd	14
Test Your Knowledge With Free Online Safety Course	15
Employees to Wear Test Inflatables	15
Just to Be on the Safe Side	16
Parking Congested at Smith Springs Recreation Area	16

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photo by Dave Treadway

On the Cover

First Sergeant Charles D. Szostecki, United States Army Reserve, receives an Army Commendation Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart Medal during Engineer Day festivities at Old Hickory Lake on June 9. District Engineer Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt presented the awards. For complete story, and other Engineer Day photos, see pages 8 and 9. More photos are on the Q drive, PAO/2006Picnic.

District Digest

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Articles, photographs, and other contributions are welcomed and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to all material submitted for publication.

Story ideas and articles may be submitted to P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. Details may be obtained from the editor at (615) 736-7163.

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Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil>.

Commander's Corner

We recently received the results of the Command Climate Survey that the Engineer Inspector General (EIG) conducted within the District between March 28 and April 28 of this year. I would like to share a summary of the results and our "action plan" to address many of the concerns this survey identified. You can find the survey results and comparison to USACE and past District averages on our Intranet site, <http://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/news.htm>. I would like to thank all who took the time to complete the survey; your input is valuable as these results provide us the opportunity to make changes or enhancements to our workplace.

Communication

Overall, employees are generally satisfied with conditions at work and the results are consistent with past trends and USACE averages. Compared to the same survey conducted in 2005, in regard to the District average, our "score" was lower, or slightly worse in 15 areas and higher in 13 areas. In comparison to the USACE average, we scored lower in 19 areas and higher in seven areas. Nashville is typically at or above the Corps average in most areas of the survey and in those few areas where we were below the average, the difference was only slight. The number of responses, 249 or 36%, is down from last year; however, I attribute this lower number to the numerous other surveys that we previously conducted and generally assume that those who did not take the time to comment are generally content with the organization.

With our working environment, employees generally have a sense of accomplishment in their work, believe their bosses understand honest mistakes will be made, and are proud to be part of the organization. Many do not feel positive changes have occurred in the past year and that management does not adequately address poor performers. There is definitely angst over A-76 implementation, NSPS and P2.

The majority of employees feel top management has set clear goals for the

organization and have communicated these goals and objectives throughout the workforce. Most employees feel that their supervisor treats them with respect and care; however, less than 80% report face-to-face counseling with their immediate supervisor. Very few employees reported counseling with their senior rater.

In regard to personnel issues, results are consistent with other organizations that EIG has surveyed. There is the perception that processing time for personnel actions is too long and that some employees receiving awards, promotions and training are not necessarily the ones most deserving. A common response was lack of sufficient personnel to accomplish the mission. Many felt a lack of opportunities for professional development.

The vast majority of employees reported they have not experienced discrimination or harassment; however, there were some concerns provided in written comments that we need to note and address. All of the responses help "paint" a picture of current perceptions that exist within the District and are



invaluable in providing direction as to how to implement programs or focus attention in addressing these items. We primarily will utilize the Nashville Business Plan as the mechanism to foster and monitor change. We are analyzing the data and preparing work plans to address the findings in the following areas:

Communications: There are a number of items that are beyond our sphere of influence such as NSPS, P2 and the various A-76 studies. We can better manage the consequence of those changes, communicate status, and provide periodic updates on

(Continued on page 11)

May Employee of the Month

Julie A. Reeves was named Nashville District Employee of the Month for May. Reeves is recognized for her excellent work administering the Operations Division training program and for providing exceptional support to the District-wide Automated Training Management Program (ATMP).

She maintains Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for Operations team members and independently researches, schedules and contracts for courses to ensure required training is accomplished and IDPs are consummated.

Reeves makes the best use of available funds to accomplish this work and minimizes work disruption and overtime through careful planning.

She also provides exceptional support to other elements outside Operations Division, particularly during the ATMP

update cycle, and consistently demonstrates the highest level of loyalty to the Corps.

Senior Leaders select the Nashville District employee of the Month from the many excellent employees identified by the District's

chain of command. Selected individuals personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.



Julie Reeves

All For One . . . Players Honor Comrade

by Park Rangers Mark Willis and Jamie Summers

One for all, and all for one ...There aren't many situations, nowadays, when that legendary phrase from 'The Three Musketeers' comes to mind, but it may have occurred to visitors at Dale Hollow Lake's Pleasant Grove Recreation Area on May 13.

Curious boaters and fishermen were at first astonished, and then appreciative, as they were handed water safety brochures by the Macon County High Football Team and reminded to "...be safe."

On that sun-drenched Saturday, Dale Hollow Lake Park Rangers were joined by 13 members of the Macon County team to honor a fallen member and to promote the importance of water safety.

Jonathan Hudson, an outstanding member of the Macon County Tigers, drowned March 27 when he fell overboard from a 17-foot vessel while boating with two friends. After an extensive search, his body was recovered on April 14.

The Macon County team members were accompanied by Tiger's Coach Daniel Cook, and Assistant Football Coaches Bob Fitzpatrick and Brandon Robertson.

"We just want to show people how this touched our lives," said Cook. "It touched home here so much and we want people to know how to be safe on the water."

The Macon County High School Tiger's unusual and poignant water safety endorsement serves as the 'Kickoff' activity for National Safe Boating Week on Dale Hollow Lake, which began May 20 and ran through May 26. Wearing their blue-and-white Tiger football jerseys, the team members talked to boaters and fishermen, and distributed literature about the importance of boating safely and wearing life jackets to visitors at Pleasant Grove Recreation Area, Cedar Hill Marina and Resort, and Dale Hollow Dam Campground.

"After losing a friend and valuable member of the team, the players wanted to



Tiger football player Nick Hall hands a pamphlet to a passenger in a pontoon boat May 13. Hall and 12 fellow members of the Macon County High School football team joined Corps rangers to talk to boaters and campers about boating safety.

draw attention to safe boating," said Coach Cook. Team members wanted to bring honor to Hudson's memory, and let the community know they cared. These are the same team members who recently raised \$11,000 to help pay for Hudson's funeral expenses.

On that Saturday in May, the Macon County High School Football team demonstrated - for a second time - that they are '...all for one'. 🏈

Ribbon Cut for New Zam Zam Primary School in Iraq

by Polli Barnes Keller

Mosul Iraq - The ribbons were cut and formalities were exchanged at the grand

opening of the Zam Zam Primary school; the last of 52 Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction-funded schools to be built in the Tameen Province.

The Deputy Director General of Education, Ms. Fawzia Abdullah, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer, Major Craig Guth, cut the ribbon to formally open the six-room school that will educate 100 students from the local neighborhood of Tawilah.

After the ceremony, Guth, along with Michael Gilchrist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Resident Engineer, delivered school supplies donated by the USACE Jacksonville District employees. Zam Zam's Headmaster, Khalid Rafia Zainal

and Abdullah passed out the pencils, paper and books to the excited children as Guth and Gilchrist handed out sodas and snacks.

The Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) was established by the U.S. Congress on November 6, 2003. It allocated \$18.4 billion dollars to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure which had been damaged from years of neglect, sanctions and war.

In the Tameen Province, construction of the 52 schools, costing \$5.4M, began in November 2004.

The first of the schools was completed in January 2005 and the last to be finished was Zam Zam Primary, completed late last month. The hand-over of the Zam Zam Primary school signals the end of the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund program in this province. 🏫



Major Craig Guth helps the Deputy Director General of Education, Ms. Fawzia Abdullah, cut the ribbon to formally open a new school. (GRD photo)

Seven Win Employee of the Year Awards

Seven Nashville District employees were honored by the Federal Executive Association in May.

Kathy Canaday, secretary, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, was named the Outstanding Secretarial/Administrative Support winner for 2006.

FEA President Carol Warren read the citations at the presentation ceremony and was assisted in the awards presentation by Phil Ponder, the community liaison for U.S. Representative Jim Cooper and a noted local artist, a local community leader and former Metro Councilman.

"Kathy Canaday is recognized for outstanding support to the Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division," said Warren. "She not only provided support to her team but also performed a four-month temporary duty assignment as a management analyst. In addition to these added duties, Kathy has assisted in coordinating the District's 'Employees Achieving Greatness and Leadership Excellence' Program.

Stephanie Coleman, equal opportunity assistant, was named winner of the Achievement in Diversity Award for 2006.

Coleman was cited for her performance in the EEO Office. She is the manager of the District's Special Emphasis Program that annually

coordinates programs to educate and inform employees about Black Employment, Federal Women's Programs and Hispanic Employment Programs.

Safety Specialist William Bennett was named winner of the Award for Heroism for 2006.

On April 12, 2005 at 1 p.m., Bennett found Christy Beuerlein on the floor of the

food preparation area of DJ's Cafeteria in the federal building after the staff called for help. She was unconscious and not breathing. He directed employees to call 911 and to send paramedics to the scene. He elevated Beuerlein's feet and legs and placed towels under her head. He checked for a pulse, but it was undetectable, and she was turning blue. Bennett cleared her airway and she began breathing on her own.

Doctors later determined that Beuerlein had suffered a seizure due to an earlier fall that had fractured her skull and that without medical assistance she would not have survived. Bennett's quick action and positive application of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and emergency response techniques saved her life.

Carl Grady Moore, Jr., attorney advisor, won the Professional Award for 2006.

"Grady Moore is recognized nationwide as an expert in Contract and Natural Resources Management law," said Warren. "He was instrumental in beginning the Corps of Engineers Contract Law Course in 1989 and has been an instructor of the course since that time. In 2005, he was recognized as one of the top attorneys in the Corps of Engineers when he was awarded the 'Ramon J. Powell Legal Scholarship Legacy Award' for thoughtful and principled legal scholarship throughout his career."

Robert Sneed, chief, Water Management Section, was named the Scientific Award winner for 2006.

"Bob Sneed has led the effort," said Warren, "to increase the dissolved oxygen levels

in the tail waters below the dams on the Cumberland River and its tributaries. This has led to better environmental conditions for fish and better fishing for anglers in the area."

Sneed was also recently recognized by Tennessee Wildlife Federation as their 'Conservationist of the Year.' That award honors outstanding achievement in the prevention of water quality degradation through effective planning and management.

Avis Kennedy, chief, Natural Resource Branch, was selected as the Outstanding Supervisor for 2006.

"Avis Kennedy is a gifted supervisor," said Warren. "She directly supervises a staff of 20 and manages the natural resource program at 10 beautiful lakes in the Cumberland River Valley. She is responsible for ensuring that visitors to these lakes have great recreational experiences and last year these 10 lakes had over 36 million visitors. She has spearheaded many initiatives which have become role models for the entire Corps of Engineers including recently leading the implementation of the Corps' first Clean Marina Program."

Jerry Wisdom, lock and dam equipment mechanic at Lake Barkley, was selected for the Outstanding Trades or Crafts Award for 2006.

The lock and dam equipment mechanic is known as the District expert on electronic controls. And his reputation has spread throughout the nation. The Corps' Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign, Ill., has purchased equipment and even performed the Research and Development for Wisdom to search out new techniques in electronics.



Canaday



Bennett



Moore



Coleman



Sneed



Kennedy



Wisdom

Corps Recreational Areas Become Today's Classrooms

Story, photos by Steven Foshee

More than 300 students from Southside Elementary, Watertown Elementary, Ruby Major and Mckissack Professional Development School held class outdoors May 9 and learned many things about the environment during Environmental Day at J. Percy Priest Lake. The Resource Management Staff hosted the 5th and 6th graders at Cook Recreation Area.

Corps Environmental Awareness Day is an annual event held at numerous resource management projects throughout the District. Robert Davis, park ranger, J. Percy Priest Lake, started the planning process for the event at Cook Recreation Area in January.

"An event like this takes a lot of planning," Davis said, "but impacts hundreds of students who may one day have the answers to some of our major environmental concerns."

Corps Conservation Biologist Dena Williams made a class on wildlife habitat come alive for the students by playing a creative game of "Oh Deer!" She asked them to describe things animals need to survive. She then congratulated them on naming food, water and shelter but urged them not to forget the importance of sufficient space for animals to survey. The demonstration of each habitat component generated discussion during the game.

Hugh Jackson, Natural Resources Conservation Services, utilized a display board to discuss environmental concerns related to agriculture. Jackson demonstrated how pesticides and fertilizers can indirectly end up in our lakes and streams. Many students made the connection between farmers and homeowners not using chemicals in accordance to package instructions.

The Native American station with Linn Ann Welch, Tennessee State Parks, was a big success with the students. She demonstrated how to use a blow gun and hit a target approximately 12 feet away. After she hit the target several times,

students lined up to see how their marksmanship compared to hers.

Old Hickory Lake staged an Environmental Day at the Rockland Recreation Area on May 2. Despite bad weather, this event attracted 150 students from Lakeside Park Elementary School, Hendersonville, Tenn. Guest speakers included representatives from the United States Department of Agricultural Wildlife Services, Tennessee State Parks, National Bow Hunter Education, Wildlife Conservancy, Cumberland River Compact, and Adventure Science, Department of Education.

Richard Tippit, biologist, Water Management Section, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, gave the students an opportunity to learn about watersheds and water quality. Students were encouraged to handle examples of the animal life, mostly invertebrates, that live in various aquatic ecosystems. Tippit pointed out how water quality in our waterways can be determined by knowing what kinds of animals inhabit these areas.

"They learned that sediment (mud) is the number one pollutant in most areas now, rather than sewage or chemicals," said Tippit.

The Corps biologist noted that Environmental Day programs may be the students' only exposure to this fascinating area of the natural world. He said every school group that experienced these programs seemed to find the information quite interesting. Kids often can't wait until the speakers are finished talking before they get right in and start



Linn Ann Welch, Tennessee State Parks (left), instructs students at J. Percy Priest Lake on the art of using a blow gun to hit a target more than 12 feet away.

handling the materials on display. Skittles the opossum, brought in by Tangled Wing, Wildlife Conservancy, proved to be one of the most exciting displays. The faces of the children were transformed as they engaged the animal.

Cheatham Lake hosted Environmental Day April 27 as Lock A Campground became an Environmental Classroom for more than 150 students.

Biologist Tippit's presentation on water quality educated students on different types of living organisms. A second station introduced Carolyn Dillard and Janice Weiss from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. They presented information on the watershed and non-point source pollution that runs into streams, creeks and lakes from everyday farming, industry, housing and roadways.

Wildlife Officers Mark Ventura and Joe Hall, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, operated from an educational

(Cont. on page 12)

Wilson Lock Dewatering - - a Photo Essay



(photos by Civil Engineering Technician Gerald Choat)



TOP PHOTO

With the Caisson in place on the lower end of Wilson Main, five dewatering pumps of various capacities work to remove water from the lock chamber and create a dry environment for workers from the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority to effect necessary repairs. The Lock is dewatered every two to four years. TVA completed the main single-lift lock, along with several related improvements, to replace the original double-lift lockage system. The larger lock began operating on November 10, 1959. An average of 3,700 vessels and 12.8 million tons of commodities pass through Wilson Lock each year. Regular maintenance keeps the lock functioning 24 hours a day for the benefit of recreational and commercial navigation.

MIDDLE PHOTO

In a joint effort with Tennessee Valley Authority, which owns the lock, workers from the Nashville District drill new weep holes on the lower miter sill as a way to add fill material where water had eroded the gravel from under the concrete. Workers appear as miniatures from the top of the lock wall. The 110-foot by 600-foot chamber is the highest single lift lock east of the Rocky Mountains with a normal lift of between 93 and 100 feet, depending on the current water levels above and below the dam.

BOTTOM PHOTO

Over the years of locking commercial tows, barges make contact with the miter gate fenders causing damage and wear. During this dewatering the two lower gate fenders on both miter gates were replaced.

Engineer Day 2006 Celebrations



Holly Taylor takes a dunking (left) while children enjoy the ideal weather June 9 during Engineer Day Festivities. For a collection of photos from the event, go to the Q drive, PAO/2006Picnic. Please only copy those you like. Do not delete them.



Distinguished Civilian Curtis Mal Roemhildt, unveils a bronze nameplate. The veteran of 34 years service to the company. Engineer Day festivities.





one, with the assistance of District Engineer Lt. Col. Steven Szostecki, U.S. Army Reserve, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor by District Engineer Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt for distinguishing himself by exhibiting extraordinary courage under fire while serving as Brigade Command Sergeant Major Advisor for 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force Military Transition Team, Rustimiyah, Iraq, on Aug. 15, 2005 during OPERATION IRAQIFREEDOM.

photos by Dave Treadway

Global War on Terror

Medal Honors Valor

First Sergeant Charles D. Szostecki, U.S. Army Reserve, was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valor by District Engineer Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt for distinguishing himself by exhibiting extraordinary courage under fire while serving as Brigade Command Sergeant Major Advisor for 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force Military Transition Team, Rustimiyah, Iraq, on Aug. 15, 2005 during OPERATION IRAQIFREEDOM.

Szostecki was a member of a vehicle convoy on a mission from Camp Rustimiyah to Camp Victory when it came under fire at an Iraqi checkpoint.

Although hit twice by small arms fire, he continued to engage the enemy with his own

weapon and dispersed the attackers.

“The First Sergeant’s bravery, incredible discipline, and superb marksmanship resulted in his breaking up the ambush thereby preventing the enemy from engaging the rest of the vulnerable convoy. His courage and inspiring example under fire reflect great credit upon himself, the Spartan Brigade Combat Team, the Third Infantry Division, and the United States Army,” according to the medal citation,

He was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in the attack.

Szostecki, who is from Ashland City, is currently serving as a member of the District Readiness Branch.



District Engineer Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt pins the Army Commendation Medal with Valor on the uniform of First Sergeant Charles D. Szostecki June 9 during Engineer Day festivities at Old Hickory’s Rockland Recreation Area.

The Story Behind the Teller

Story and photo by Mark Willis,
Park Ranger, Dale Hollow Lake

It all began with a bedtime story for his little girl. That's what Darren Shell will tell you when asked how he came to be known as one of Clay County's most prolific writers.

Shell's most recent book, *Stories from Dale Hollow: Short Stories, Pictures and History of Dale Hollow Lake and the Obey River Valley*, has created quite a stir among local history buffs since its completion in January.

Shell's new book is a treasure trove of short stories, old photographs, and an in-depth look at the history behind Dale Hollow Lake's communities, marinas, and the creation of the lake itself, during the early 1940s.

The Clay County author and his wife Beth, along with the help of Mickey and Lori Ledbetter, operate Willow Grove Marina and Resort on Dale Hollow Lake. Shell also currently serves as President of the Dale Hollow Dock Owner's Association.

As a young boy, Shell was fascinated by the legends and lore of the community around him. He was particularly drawn to the almost forgotten history of the town of Willow Grove, the community inundated when Dale Hollow Lake was created. Like the fabled city of Atlantis, Willow Grove was also fated to vanish beneath the water's surface, never to be seen again. Although Shell has since chronicled Willow Grove's history in the book, most of his previous writing accomplishments have been fiction.

"I finished my first book in January 2005," said Shell. It was entitled *The Old Lady of the Lake: Stories of the Obey River Valley*. He was encouraged to write the poignant lead story for this book by his daughter Lauren, who wanted her Dad to put down on paper the beloved childhood story he'd created for her and told each night at bedtime when she was a



Author Darren Shell is framed by the headstones in a Clay County cemetery, the subject of several non-fiction books he has recently written.

little girl. Shell's next book, *The Old Lady of the Lake: Book Two*, re-visited characters from his first book, and many other short stories and books were to follow.

Shell's fascination with the past and his strong interest in preserving neglected and sometimes forgotten Clay County cemeteries has led to the creation of several non-fiction books, including the *Graveyards of East Clay County, Tennessee*, and *The Gravedigger's Guide to Dale Hollow Lake*.

What prompted him to write the far more extensive *Stories from Dale Hollow*? "It was partially due to the positive feedback I'd received about my earlier stories," Shell explained, "and also because readers were asking to hear about some of the 'real history' of the area."

With five books – three of which involved exhaustive historical research – in little more than a year, Shell truly is a writing phenomenon.

In addition to fiction and historical non-fiction, the marina operator has also developed an interest in poetry. He

enjoys this form of writing so much that he sponsored a poetry contest for students at Clay County's Maple Grove School – the only remaining one-room school in the state. Shell recently awarded cash prizes to First, Second, and Third Place winners, as well as those deemed Honorable Mentions. He also presented every student who entered the contest with a gold Sacajawea dollar. Teachers later said the 39 young poets were brimming with excitement about the contest, right from the start. Shell plans to continue sponsoring the activity in the years to come, hoping the contest will help spark a lifelong interest in writing and poetry in some young minds.

Even as Darren Shell now drafts the opening chapters of his new novel, history buffs and those who love Dale Hollow Lake can breathe a collective sigh of relief that he decided to delve into non-fiction last year. By doing so, he managed to track down literally hundreds of Dale Hollow historical facts – many of which were remembered by only a few – before they may have been lost forever. ■

Volunteers Work to Produce A Cleaner Tomorrow

by Park Ranger Tasha Alexander

Forty volunteers gathered along the shoreline in Drakes Creek May 13 to remove trash and make Old Hickory a cleaner lake. An astounding four trailer loads of trash was removed by day's end including two water heaters and the hood of a car!

Park Ranger Charlie Leath worked in cooperation with the newly formed Old Hickory Lake Watershed Association to organize the cleanup. Afterwards, volunteers enjoyed lunch along with feelings of accomplishment and pride in producing a clean area for others to enjoy.

National River Cleanup Week was started in 1991 by America Outdoors, to combat the rising problem of careless dumping of trash in and around our nation's streams and rivers. National River Cleanup Week® is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising

public awareness of this problem. The organization will provide trash bags and cleanup kits to groups that register during the designated week, usually the second or third week in May.


For more information, go to www.americaoutdoors.org or call (865) 558-3595. For more about the Old Hickory Lake Watershed Association, go to www.cumberlandrivercompact.org. 



photo by Ranger Mike Adcock

A fire on June 13 at the Hidden Harbor Marina, Center Hill Lake, destroyed 11 houseboats. Several others were damaged. There were no personal injuries. Hidden Harbor Access Area, which is managed by the Corps, will be temporarily closed to the public until the damaged boats are removed.

Commander's Corner

(Continued from page 3)

implementation plans. Look for such updates on our Intranet and other forums in the near future.

Training: You will see a better focus on training starting the next FY. Supervisors can expect annual training guidance to aid in prioritization and scheduling. I will emphasize leadership training at all levels with special emphasis on improving skills for our new supervisors. Parts of this leadership training will address TAPES, counseling and NSPS. I also look forward to implementing a formal professional development program and hope to provide opportunities for in-house cross training and a framework to foster better mentoring relationships.

A miscellaneous item that was noted involved an air quality issue within the federal building and especially on the fifth floor. We will readily address this through some initial testing and will provide results and action plans based on those results. Although not specifically mentioned, look for safety awareness in the parking areas. We are implementing various programs to increase safety

through buddy programs for walking escorts and increased security patrols. We are also coordinating with the city for a better safety system at the Broadway crosswalk. I look forward to providing future updates on the status of these initiatives. I appreciate your input into the EIG survey as it provides quality feedback upon which we can base our action plans. I firmly believe the main job of management is to establish clear goals, develop subordinates, and provide a positive work environment for our team members. We are a learning organization,


devoted to continuous improvement and one that provides measurements of success. Within this framework, these survey results provide management the opportunity to create an even better working environment for all. 



photo by Dane Owens

Robert Franklin, Internal Review, is greeted at the Nashville Airport May 27 by District Engineer Lt.Col. Steven Roemhilt and Gail Floyd, Resource Management, upon his return from a Special Assignment in Iraq. Franklin was in Baghdad for 60 days.

Police Officer Shares Safety Tips With Employees

by Steven Foshee

Corps employees in the District Office learned some valuable crime prevention tips May 18 from Sergeant David Rueff, community affairs coordinator with the Metropolitan Police Department, so they could better understand how a criminal views targets of opportunity.

One of the first tips Rueff suggested applied to those moments before employees depart for work. In the morning rush to leave home, some people may forget to lock their residence or the garage door after taking out the morning trash. Both points could create access for a criminal; the first to gain entry, the second to provide a hiding place from which forceful entry could be accomplished. Do not neglect security before the morning commute even begins.


The Metro Police Officer demonstrated why car keys should not remain in the ignition of a car at a routine stop. He placed a set of ignition keys between his fingers and lunged in a threatening manner towards the audience. "A set of keys can do a lot of damage to a criminal's face, providing a few minutes to escape," said Rueff.

He urged employees to alternate stops and routes to work. All routes should be well lit and include several businesses that open and close at varying times. These establishments could assist in case of vehicle problems or at least provide a safe area to wait for help. It is always a good idea to have a flashlight and cell phone in the vehicle in case of such emergencies.

The officer addressed safety concerns regarding parking in the downtown area.

When driving into the parking lot, avoid the corners along a wall, fence or hedge. These are target areas for a criminal. Make it a routine to wait for others before walking to and from a place of employment. Also, do not hesitate to cross the road if someone up ahead is blocking the sidewalk or panhandling for spare change.

"A final tip is to be prepared to run, scream or use a defensive action if threatened by an assailant," said Rueff.


"This will allow time to escape or seek additional help." 

No Good Reason . . .

(Cont. from page 13)

are in the water. If you are faced with strong currents or unfavorable weather conditions you will not only have trouble making sure you are safe and secure in your life jacket, but you will be unable to help friends, relatives, children or passengers who accompany you in your boat. Wearing your life jacket will allow

you to be safe in case of an accident and also allow you to assist others who may be in danger.

Remember to practice safe and responsible boating, always wear your life jacket, and be alert and aware while on the water. By practicing these simple steps, you can save your life as well as the lives of the people boating with you. Boat Smart. Boat Safe. **WEARIT!** 

Today's Classrooms

(Cont. from page 6)

where students could walk through and view birds and mammals found throughout the state. Students were thrilled with molds of animal footprints and bones and marveled at the feel of tanned skins.

Linn Ann Welch spoke about Native Americans and the types of tools they used. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Officers Donnie Dill and Greg Smith showed children the various ways mammals and birds camouflage themselves for protection. In a game called "Birds and Worms", teams had to


find the different colored pasta in the grass.

Center Hill Lake held its annual Environmental Day May 4 at Long Branch Recreation Area and entertained more than 150

students from Cornerstone Middle School in Baxter, Tenn.

The "Fatal Vision" and Center Hill Power Plant tours quickly captured the attention of both teachers and students. Participants at the "Fatal Vision" station wore goggles to simulate the effects of impaired vision due to alcohol consumption.

The power plant tour amazed the students as they viewed the gigantic generators.

Environmental Day again was a huge success in the Nashville District and planners are already looking forward to next year. 



Sonia Harvat, Metropolitan Nashville Water Service, Storm Water Division, discusses with the students at J. Percy Priest Lake the effects of development and urbanization related to water quality, local flooding and residential drainage issues.

Student wins Life Jacket Design Contest

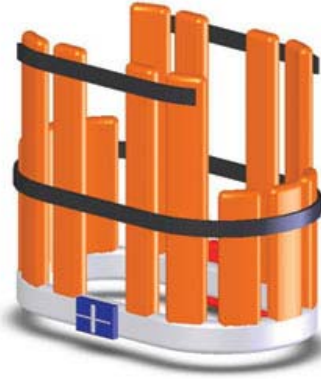
Adam Malcom, a graduate student in the University of Virginia's Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Program, was awarded the \$5,000 grand prize in the first Innovations in Life Jacket Design Competition sponsored by the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and the Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Association (PFDMA).

The award was presented during ceremonies at the Miami Boat Show on February 16.

"Boaters complain that life jackets are uncomfortable, restrict movement, or make you hot. So we decided to sponsor a competition to encourage innovative ideas to design a life jacket that more boaters might wear," said BoatU.S. Foundation President Ruth Wood.

Competition criteria included wearability; reliability; cost; and innovation. What was notably absent from this list was the need to adhere to any of the established life jacket design regulations.

"We received 182 submissions from armchair inventors, average boaters and students from as far away places as China and Australia," said PFDMA Executive Director Bernice McArdle. "Some designs focused on improving existing life jacket



models with new technology or style enhancements. Other designs were completely outside the box with little or no regard to current design guidelines, while others blended the two.

Two design elements emerged as judges' favorites: the use of high-tech fabrics that could improve upon current designs, and devices that were the least obtrusive," she said.

Malcom's winning entry was essentially the latter - a slender belt worn around the waist. The unit would stay out of the way and not retain body heat. When activated either manually with a ripcord or automatically via a CO2 gas cylinder, slender, symmetrically-arranged air bladders stored inside the belt inflate rising up to surround the wearer on all

sides. No secondary action, such as sliding flotation over the head, is necessary. You simply float much like you would in an inner tube.

Born into a boating family, Malcom owns both a fishing boat and sailboat and plans to use the \$5,000 to jump-start a career as an independent inventor. "We frequently don't wear our life jackets aboard for the same reason as everyone else - they are uncomfortable and restrict movement. But I know how important they are so my design focused on remedying those aspects," he said. 🏆

There is No Good Reason Not to Wear It!

National Safe Boating Week began May 20 but safe boating should continue throughout the year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers urges everyone to boat safely, responsibly, and to always wear a life jacket. With the many comfortable styles available today, there truly is no longer a "good" excuse not to wear it. Dale Hollow Lake has experienced 125 drownings. Of these, not a single one was wearing a life jacket.

"It's too hot!" "It doesn't look cool." "I know how to swim." "Nothing is going to happen to me."

These are just some of the many reasons people give for not wearing a life jacket. But with approximately 700 people drowning nationwide each year from recreational boating accidents, it is imperative for you to wear your life jacket at all times while you are on the water.

Life jackets are no longer the orange, hot and bulky vests commonly associated with water safety gear. Innovations and developments in life jackets have produced a smaller, sleeker, and much more comfortable version, leaving you with no reason not to **WEAR IT!!**

Much like a helmet to a biker or skateboarder, life jackets are an essential part of your safety equipment and should be worn at all times. In 2004, of the 676



recreational boating fatalities 90% of those victims were not wearing life jackets. Life jackets are now lighter, less obtrusive and more attractive than ever before. The new inflatable life jackets, or Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs), allow mobility and flexibility that boaters need when boating, fishing, paddling or hunting and are much cooler in warmer weather. Inflatable jackets range from those that inflate instantly when a victim hits the water to those that are manually inflated. All are designed to be more comfortable and wearable than the traditional life jacket.

Accidents can happen at anytime. Although many boaters stow life jackets on their boat, very few choose to wear one. There just isn't time to grab a life jacket and put it on properly before you

(Cont. on page 12)

The Corps Crowd

Welcome to ...

...Robert Franklin, Internal Review, who returned on May 27 from a 60-day tour in Iraq.

Congratulations to ...

...Marva Strong Morris, EEO, whose son Adrien DeLoach earned a Master of Arts Degree in Education (Student Affairs) from Western Kentucky University on May 12.

...Wade Whittinghill and Carl R. Olsen, Regulatory Branch, on their retirement. Whittinghill retired January 3 and Olsen retired June 3.

...Jerry D. Sizemore, Upper Cumberland Real Estate Office in Pineville, Ky., who graduated from Eastern Kentucky University on May 13 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in

General Studies of Business and Technology. Sizemore is being promoted from the Student Coop program to the Intern program.

... John Tribble (Operations-Hydropower) and Vickie Isham

(Information Management), the winners of the Engineer's Day Picnic General Jackson cruise tickets.

... Jody Robinson, mechanical engineer at Kentucky Lock Addition, and Emily Creekmur who were married May 27 at First Baptist Church in Princeton, Ky.

... Elaine Bustillos, who completed the half marathon April 29 (Music City Marathon) with her sister Sandy in 3 hours, 29 minutes. Daughter Susannah ran the marathon and finished in 2 hours, 17 minutes.

... Lt.Col. Richard Shelton (former District DDE) who retired from active duty on June 1. He now lives in Fairfax, Va., with his family where he is working for Dewberry, an Architectural/Engineering firm.

Baby Brigade to ...

... Marva Morris, EEO, whose first grandson, Kerry Martin Cox, II, arrived

May 15, weighing in at 7 pounds, 7.7 ounces, and measuring 18 1/2 inches long.

Daughter Andree and son-in-law Kerry Cox are the proud parents.

... Corrine and Jim Paris on the birth of their 13th grandchild May 12. Navaeh Hope Hatley weighed 7



Kerry M. Cox



Navaeh Hatley

pounds and 9 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Parents are Ryan and Laura Hatley. Corrine is the park resource office assistant at Cordell Hull Lake.

Sympathy to ...

... Julie and Tadd Potter, conservation biologist at Cheatham Lake, whose son Avery T. Potter, passed away May 17.

... Billy Grantham, retired District executive officer, whose wife Dorothy passed away May 18 after a long illness.

... the family of Lynn Keith, retired Dale Hollow Power shift operator, on his death May 19.

Thank you to ...

... I deeply appreciate the many expressions of sympathy in the recent death of my mother, Mildred Christian. Your visit to the funeral home, the arrangement of plants you sent, and the cards sent have comforted my family during our loss. With gratitude, *Shirley C. Puckett, Park Contract Inspector, Center Hill Lake.*

... I'd like to thank everyone for the cards, care packages, and other expressions of concern during my recent surgery and on-going recovery. It truly meant a lot to me and provided a lift to my spirits during a rough time. It continues to aid my recovery knowing you were thinking of me. It's too bad it sometimes takes something like this to realize it but the Corps is family. Again, thanks to everyone who took the time and I hope by

the time you read this I'll be back at work. *Michael Zoccola*

... Dear Corps Family – Thank you for all you've done in the sudden loss of Dan. Your words of sympathy, kindness, encouragement, and flowers have helped sustain us. Dan loved the Corps and valued the friendships for so many years. The support you've given has comforted us. God Bless you and your families – Gratefully, Emma, Alan and Vicki Hall, Brian and Carol Ragan. *Emma Hall*

... Nashville District: On behalf of the City of Jackson and our citizens, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Army Corps of Engineers for your generous gifts. The assortment of fine toys and toiletry items donated by your agency to families displaced by Hurricane Katrina benefited many individuals and we are grateful. In addition to helping the Katrina families, your wonderful gifts brought joy and comfort to other families in Jackson.

During the week of Christmas, 2005, house fires devastated two families who lost everything, and local agencies had exhausted their budgets assisting Katrina victims. Your kind benevolence made it possible for these residents to provide Christmas for their children.

The outpouring of support of your agency is most commendable and I salute everyone who participated in this noble endeavor. I feel certain that your associates are living examples to young people that taking personal responsibility for the welfare of others builds character. Best wishes in your inspiring effort to enhance the quality of life for citizens in your community and beyond. May blessings continue to be bestowed upon each and every member of your staff. *Sincerely, Frank E. Melton, Mayor*

Upcoming Events

June 20-23 – the Special Emphasis Program committee will hold the 9th Annual Career Enhancement Workshops, in room A-640. Specific times and sessions will be announced later.

These sessions are designed to address barriers which limit advancement of minorities or women. Sessions, however,

(Continued on page 16)

Test Your Knowledge with Free Online Boating Course

Many boaters boast of years of practical experience, but whether a novice or a pro, are you sure you know everything there is to know about staying safe while boating?

With summer weather upon us and the fun that comes with it, the BoatU.S. Foundation challenges all boaters to test their boating knowledge with a free, online safety course at <http://www.BoatUS.org/onlinecourse>.



The course covers a broad range of topics for both power and sailboaters. Accepted by many states as a certified boating safety course, completion can also bring possible insurance discounts.

"The best part of this course is that it's free and can be done any time of the day or night," said BoatU.S. Foundation Boating Safety Director Chris Edmonston.

"While it's great for less-experienced boaters, we get feedback from older salts who tell us they have benefited from it as well. They thank us for learning something new or reminding them of something they learned long ago. This is a great way for all boaters to start fresh for the season."

The course is recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and is based on 60 multiple choice questions.



Designed as a teaching tool, background material on question topics is available throughout the exam and corrections and explanations are given when a question is answered incorrectly.

Any unfamiliar topics can be reviewed with a "study topics" button.

Those with 80% or more correct answers are given a certificate of completion.



A Corps ranger simulates a fall overboard during an earlier test of an inflatable life jacket. Feedback from employees will help the Director of Civil Works make a decision about Corps-wide adoption of the devices.

District Employees to Wear Test Inflatables

Four members of the Nashville Dive Team, four members of the Hydrographic Survey Team, and 10 employees from various Resource Offices will wear-test inflatable life jackets this summer and provide feedback about the devices.

Divers Carl Scott, Joe Faustina, Ross Cunningham and Chris Clabough, along with Survey Team members Wayne Ligon, Ray Bess, Bob Taphorn and Owen Traugher, and Resources personnel Brock Jones, Brian Mangrum Jeff Hancock, John Derby, Gary Bruce, Mark Willis, Jamie Summers, Gregg Nivens, Sondra Carmen and Mark Klimaszewski will wear test either a Stearns model or one of two Mustang models.

Their observations will help the Director of Civil Works make a decision about Corps-wide adoption of the devices and use by all employees.

Inflatable PFDs offer wearers several advantages over conventional PFDs. Comfort, increased visibility, superior in-

water performance – specifically the ability to turn a victim face-up in the water once inflation occurs, are only some of the advantages offered by the unique designs.



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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Preventing Back Injuries


by John Tibbels

Back injuries are the nation's number one workplace safety problem. Preventing such injuries is a major workplace safety challenge. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than one million workers suffer back injuries each year, and back injuries account for one of every five workplace injuries or illnesses. Furthermore, one-fourth of all compensation claims involve back injuries, costing the government millions of dollars on top of all the pain and suffering borne by employees.

Moreover, though lifting, placing, carrying, holding and lowering are involved in manual materials handling (the principal cause of compensable work injuries) the Bureau of Labor Statistics survey shows that four out of five of these injuries were to the lower back, and that three out of four occurred while the employee was lifting.

No approach has been found for totally eliminating back injuries caused by lifting, although safety experts feel that a substantial portion can be prevented by an effective control program and ergonomic design of work tasks. There are two major methods for preventing lifting injuries—administrative controls and engineering controls. The

former includes carefully selecting and/or training workers so they can safely perform lifting tasks. Engineering controls attempt to redesign a job so lifting becomes less hazardous.

Remember when making a lift, keep the object close to your body, and lift with your legs. Most of all do not lift and twist your back at the same time. This can result in serious back strain. Remember, "Safety, because you are important." 


Parking Congested at Smith Springs Recreation Area

Visitors to Smith Springs Recreation Area on J. Percy Priest Lake who park outside a designated parking space will now receive a parking citation. Vehicles which restrict traffic will be towed.

Smith Springs Recreation Area has become increasingly congested. The popularity of the park has created an overcrowding situation on many weekends and holidays. This overcrowding is a safety issue and destroys park features. Visitors who park

in and drive through the picnic area damage the area and put others in danger.

Visitors who find the park full should try other recreation areas at Hamilton Creek or Elm Hill. Both areas offer picnicking and boat launching. Hamilton Creek is a free area and Elm Hill charges a fee.

For more information about recreation areas at J. Percy Priest Lake, contact the Resource Manager's office at 615-889-1975. 

Upcoming Events

(Continued from page 14)

are made available to all Corps employees. Participation in past workshops has helped employees become more competitive for employment opportunities.

This year's career workshops will include some topics recently identified in the Special Emphasis Programs survey.

Point of contact is Stephanie H. Coleman, Special Emphasis Programs Manager, 736-5273.

June 23 – The Red Cross will stage a blood drive Friday, June 23, in Cafeteria Conference Rooms A and B from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call or e-mail Phillip Owen at 615.695.6815/ phillip.owen@gsa.gov for an appointment. 