The proper identification

Things to do ...

POW/MIA observance: The Roy Benavidez-Robert Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc., will hold a national POW/MIA recognition day observance at 6 p.m. Friday at the association's head quarters at 3009 Fort Blvd. Free. 240-8104

Planning and budgeting: Struggling to find a way to balance your expenses with your income? Don't let your finances run your life. It's time to set up a budget you can live with and build a plan to financial freedom.

16 De Septiembre celebration: El Paso Parks and Recreation hosts the celebration of Mexican Independence Day from 5-11 p.m. Saturday at San Jacinto Plaza, with live music by Hugo Cortes "La J G de Juarez," Mariachi Cualitico, La Magistral Sonora and various folklorico dance groups. Free. 212-1704 or elpasotexas.gov/parks

Running of the Chihuahuas: The fifth annual event is 4-7 p.m. Saturday at the Asylum Rescue League of El Paso, 7256 La Junta in Canutillo. Races for Chihuahua and Chihuahua mixes, under 20-pound category and a costume contest for all dogs. All well-mannered dogs and their families welcome. Races begin at 5 p.m. Cost: $20 per dog (limit two per family); includes T-shirt and goodie bag. Entry fee day of race is $25, if any slots are open. 877-5002, arep.org, or on Facebook

¡Vivamos Mexico!: The celebration of 207 years of Mexican Independence is 4-9:30 p.m. Saturday at Chamizal National Memorial, 800 S. San Marcial, with invited musical groups Almacenes Musical, Ballet Folklorico Guadalupe, Ballet Folklorico Paso del Norte, Mariachi Cuauhtemoc, Los Anfitriones and various folklorico dance groups. Free. 323-4124 or chamizal.org

Lumberjack Day: The annual event is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday in Zenith Park, Cloudcroft, N.M., with an axe throw and standing block chop and "hot saw" competitions, demonstrations and more. Visitors can test their own lumberjack skills. Kids' activities, food and drink available. A lumberjack pancake and coffee breakfast is 7:30 to noon in Zenith Park. Admission is free for spectators. Participant fee is $5 per event (registration in advance). 575-682-2723 or cool-cloudcroft.com/lumberjack-day

Hueco Tanks birding hike: More than 200 species of birds visit Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site throughout the year, and you can see some of them beginning at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at the park, 6900 Hueco Tanks Road, El Paso, TX, 79938. Cost: $2 fee for the tour in addition to the admission fee to enter the park, which is $7 for ages 13 and older. Water, binoculars, camera, bird identification book, good hiking shoes and enthusiasm. Call 849-6684 to reserve a spot.

Prehistoric Trackways: Tour the Prehistoric Trackways Discovery Site, Rocky Acres Trail, Las Cruces, N.M., with paleontologist Colin Dunn, beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday. Travel back 280 million years to the Early Permian, a time when the area was a tidal flat on the edge of a wide seaway. Learn about the creatures that lived on the coast and left numerous footprints and trackways in the muds and sands. From the mighty sail-backed Dimetrodon, to small insects and arachnids, tracks of all sizes have been preserved. Also tours at 9 a.m. Oct. 14 and at 9 a.m. Nov. 18. Cost: $33, $75 VIP; $110 VIP meet and greet. Ticketfly.com, 778-4001, southwestuniversity.com

Fort Bliss celebrates Oktoberfest

By Jonathan LaBlanc
Fort Bliss Bugle Staff

Hundreds from the Fort Bliss and El Paso community came out to Biggs Park Friday, Saturday and Sunday to celebrate Oktoberfest with Fort Bliss Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and members of the German Air Force stationed here.

"It is important to us to keep Oktoberfest as authentic as we can. We want people to really feel like they are in Munich," said Sarah Morgan, a marketing assistant for FMWR.

Fort Bliss has been celebrating Oktoberfest for the past 60 to 70 years with the help of the GAF. Attendees have the opportunity to taste authentic German beers and eat a plate of German food. Entertainment included the GAF’s Schützplattler dance group and Terry Ca- vannya and the Alpine Express, from New Braunfels, Texas. In addition, vendors sold German themed hats and goodies and a free photo booth was available.

Fort Bliss goes the extra mile to keep with tradition and authenticity of Germany’s Oktoberfest intact, Morgan said.

"We really hope people come out and have a great time enjoying the food, beer and music," Morgan said.

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More than just providing fun, the event helps hold the connection the Army has with the GAF here that dates back to the 1950s.

Col. Steve Murphy, commander, Fort Bliss Garrison, said Friday he has had a great deal of experience in Germany and Oktoberfest, having been stationed in Germany with his family as a child, and then stationed there as a Soldier himself.

"Oktoberfest here at Fort Bliss has really exceeded my expectations. It’s really hard to imagine how difficult it is to replicate an Oktoberfest in Germany, here in West Texas," Murphy said. "The MWR team that was in charge of putting it together, from the beer tent to the music to the food, they really did a fantastic job."

Oktoberfest is about coming out to enjoy a night of food, drinks, music and fun with friends and family to experience the German culture, participants said.

Mary Bonnell, a veteran of the festivities stateside and in Germany, said she can’t get enough.

"My favorite parts of Oktoberfest is the music and the people," Bonnell said. "I’m going to attend two of the days."
Knowledge is power: Understanding powers of attorney

By Capt. Sydney Haanpaa
Fort Bliss Legal Assistance Office

If you are gearing up for a deployment, a temporary duty assignment or an extended time away from home, you should consider obtaining a power of attorney so important acts may be carried out on your behalf while you are away. Through a POA, you, “the grantor,” give authorization for someone, your “agent,” to act on your behalf. As the grantor, you have the responsibility to assure your agent is not a minor and is mentally competent. It is also critical your agent is trustworthy and financially responsible. If you are appointed as an agent, you have a serious responsibility when stepping into the grantor’s shoes to manage his or her property or financial affairs. You must only act within the scope of the POA and with the grantor’s best interests always in mind.

There are two main types of POAs: general and special. A general POA gives your agent power to act on your behalf. A special POA limits your agent by detailing the specific actions he or she may perform on your behalf. Generally, a POA will contain the following elements: 1) the appointment of a named agent, 2) a description of the powers granted to the agent, 3) an expiration date, 4) a signature block for the grantor and 5) a signature block for the notary.

There are several ways for a POA to be invalidated or terminated in the future. A POA will terminate automatically upon the expiration date or the grantor’s death. Although incapacity or illness may also terminate a POA, the POAs supplied by the Legal Assistance Office are “durable.” A durable POA means it remains effective if you become disabled, incapacitated or incompetent. Alternatively, you always have the power to revoke, terminate or modify a POA at any time. To revoke the POA, you should notify your agent of the termination and then he or she should return the original to you. You can also distribute a written revocation to all the organizations where you believe your agent may try to use it, so they will be on notice of the revocation (otherwise, they could legally honor the POA when your agent presents it). It is important to note the risks that accompany a GPOA. First, because a GPOA is so broad in nature, you risk the possibility that your agent may act in a way detrimental to your well-being. For example, your agent can use a GPOA to take out a loan on your behalf to buy any car, purchase real estate or pay off your student loans. Second, it may be impossible to undo your agent’s actions. With a POA, your agent’s signature will have the same legally binding effect as if you had personally signed. Third, GPOAs are not accepted by all private companies or military organizations, including DFAS, TRICARE, transportation and others. Organizations may prefer a POA that is specifically tailored rather than one that grants broad, general power to an agent. To limit the risks associated with GPOAs, you should use SPOAs. The Fort Bliss Legal Assistance Office provides SPOAs that deal with the following circumstances: real property, military housing and household goods release and acceptance, guardianship, DFAS, banking and medical records. A customizable POA is also available for you to designate the specific powers you wish to grant your agent.

Under a GPOA for real property, you can grant your agent the power to buy, receive, lease or accept any real or personal property. The GPOA does not specify the property or limit the terms for the agent. Therefore, for example, even if you intended for your agent to lease an apartment in a certain school district, with a GPOA, the agent has the power to lease an apartment in a less desirable location. With an SPOA, you can specify that your agent must “enter a 12-month lease for the property located at: 113 Pershing Road, El Paso, TX, 79915 at $1,000 a month.” Similarly, the SPOA for your Honda Civic allows your agent to use, register, purchase, sell and accept the title on your behalf. Alternatively, with a GPOA, your agent is empowered to sell or exchange “any and all” of your personal motor vehicles, including your 2017 Maserati GranTurismo. The Military Housing/Household Goods SPOA, DEERS/TRICARE SPOA, and the DFAS SPOA provided by the Legal Assistance Office are specifically tailored to be recognized by military organizations and offices on-post. The Military Housing/Household Goods SPOA authorizes your agent to do the following: to take possession of and/or terminate military quarters; to receive/return all furniture or appliances authorized for use in the quarters; and to ship and accept household goods. The DEERS/TRICARE SPOA allows your agent to obtain an Armed Forces identification card and to conduct any transaction with DEERS and TRICARE for the benefit of your dependents. Finally, the DFAS SPOA grants your agent the power to do the following: to conduct any transaction with DFAS; to appear and defend during litigation involving your interest; to receive your Leave and Earnings Statement; and to apply for any loans or grants from service relief organizations. For other banking concerns, you should check with your bank to determine if they prefer a POA tailored to their institution. Otherwise, if you use USAA, their SPOA is available from the Legal Assistance Office. It allows you to authorize your agent to manage your investments, banking transactions, and/or insurance transactions.

Whether you are headed downrange or planning to spend an extended period of time away from your family, it is important that you consider using a GPOA or SPOA so your affairs are capable, responsible hands of someone you trust while you are gone. The Legal Assistance Office, located on the first floor of Bldg. 113 on Pershing Road, provides POAs and notary services as a walk-in service on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., 1 p.m. to 4:20 p.m., and on Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.
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A great place to lead and work.
Paws for Reading relieves reading anxiety

By Sgt. Apryl N. Bowman
24th Press Camp Headquarters

For some children, reading aloud can be intimidating and scary. The Mickelsen Community Library here uses the Paws for Reading program to help children practice their reading in a way that makes them feel more comfortable.

The program allows children to read aloud to a therapy dog in an effort to improve reading and communication skills. Children can read individually or in a group with trained therapy pets and their handlers in schools, libraries or other settings where they feel comfortable and at ease. After all, a dog will not correct them or make them feel awkward.

“Paws for Reading is a community based, nonprofit organization with a goal to provide a nonjudgmental atmosphere in which children can learn to love reading without any correction or interruption,” said Jamie Buckner, the library’s lead library technician. “This program really helps children with all kinds of learning disabilities to build confidence without being judged.”

“The therapy dog makes the children feel less inhibited,” said Zahn Camacho, a certified professional dog trainer. “This program fosters the appreciation of dogs as family members and for people. It’s all about just getting through to their kids.”

While the dogs are the stars of the show, having someone furry to lean on and read to makes children feel more comfortable and at ease. After all, a dog will not correct them or make them feel awkward.

“If they struggle while reading, ‘It makes my heart so happy when I see children reading to the dogs. I love children,’” said Jamie Buckner, the library’s lead library technician. “This program really helps children with all kinds of learning disabilities to build confidence without being judged.”

“The program is incredible,” Buckner said. “Please, come join us.”

“Since the program has started, it has helped my daughter’s reading leaps and bounds,” said Nicole Fout, a proud parent whose daughter participates in the program. “She was always afraid to read in front of other people because of her visual discrimination issues. She would get very uncomfortable reading, so she would read very slowly, but the therapy dog gives her confidence to not worry about any of that.”

Paws for Reading is a free, recurring, drop-in event on the children’s side of the library. Children can come in every Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. to read to a registered therapy dog.

“My children have been attending this program for two years,” said Kimmerley Liperson, a former fifth-grade teacher. “The program has given my daughters a desire to read. My oldest daughter was really discouraged before she started reading here and being able to read to the dogs really encourages her; she loves it.”

“The program is able to deal with a vast majority of children who have learning disabilities, such as attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, sensory processing disorder and executive disorder, Camacho said.

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“A struggling reader might be embarrassed to read in front of a group or even a teacher but a therapy dog will provide a comforting atmosphere,” Buckner said. “Children will love reading to a therapy dog and their parents will see an improvement in their attitude and academics.”
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Catholic Women of the Chapel (Bldg. 11272)
Friday 9:11 a.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel (Bldg. 11272)
Thursday 9:11:30 a.m.

Protestant Youth Group
(2911 Cassidy Road, next to Stout PFC)
568-4884
Grades six and seven
Saturday 5-7 p.m.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICES

Chapel Two
(1342 Sheridan Road)
Weekday Mass 11:35 a.m.
Saturday Confession 4 p.m.
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8 a.m.
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.

WBAMC Hospital Chapel
(5005 N Piedras Dr.)
Weekday Mass 5 p.m.
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8-11:30 a.m.

German Chapel
(3312 Buffalo Soldier)
Sunday Mass 10 a.m.

OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Jewish Chapel (Bldg. 1441)
Friday Shabbat Service 7 p.m.
Saturday Torah Study 10 a.m.

Islamic Service (Bldg. 442)
Friday Jummuh 12:30 MST, 1:30 p.m. DST
Sunday Ta’Alem 12:30 p.m.

WBAMC Protestant Community
(5005 N Piedras Dr.)
Protestant Service 10 a.m.

Introduction to Nichiren Buddhism
(Bldg. 11276 USAF Annex)
4th Friday of every month at 6 p.m.

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We the People

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Before Axl Rose belted out classics such as “Welcome to the Jungle” and “Sweet Child O’ Mine,” during the Guns N’ Roses “Not in This Lifetime” concert in El Paso, Sept. 6, members of the El Paso media were invited to a behind-the-scenes look at the production aspect of the tour and interview the production team. A production manager revealed many mysteries about the show’s production, but one question remains: “Was Axl Rose ever a Soldier?” He has the crest of the 32nd Armored Regiment tattooed on his left arm, and the regiment’s page on the Association of 3rd Armored Division Veterans website claims him as one of their own, saying he served with the regiment’s second battalion at Ayers Kaserne, Kircgröms, Germany, in the early 1980s. Other sources, however, say he never served, and it appears Rose has never issued a definitive statement. We’ve queried the band, but have yet to receive a reply. In the meantime, we’ll have “Patience.”

From top: The Guns N’ Roses stage is nearly ready at the University of Texas at El Paso’s Sun Bowl Sept. 5, the day before Guns N’ Roses performed at the venue. Axl Rose’s tattoo of the crest of the 32nd Armored Regiment is visible on his left arm in this photo of him performing with Guns N’ Roses in Medellin, Colombia, Nov. 23, 2016. The crest includes the words, “Victory or Death.”

Ron Chamberlain, production manager for Live Nation Tours, speaks to the media at the University of Texas at El Paso’s Sun Bowl Sept. 5, the day before Guns N’ Roses performed at the venue.