

The DETONATOR

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Committed to the Army Core Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Integrity, and Personal Courage

In This Issue:

VIP Tour, 1

A Home for Ducklings, 2

Earth Day Festivities, 3

Employee Spotlight: Balancing Work and Motherhood, 4

May Calendar of Events/ Safety, 5

Safety / Commissary Sale, 6

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, 7

New! Depot Family Page, 8

A
Home
for
Ducks
PAGE
2



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Community VIPs Take Depot Tour



Chris Adams, STAR4D lead instructor, coaches Richmond Mayor Jim Barnes as he tests his painting talent with STAR4D, a virtual reality paint training technology, during the VIP tour of Blue Grass Army Depot April 7. Photo by Samuel G. Hudson.

Written by Heather Madden

The Blue Grass Army Depot welcomed a tour of epic proportions last month, with the guest list including State Senator Jared K. Carpenter, Richmond Mayor Jim Barnes, Richmond City Commissioner Rita H. Smart, and Mark D. Needham, the executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs.

Depot Commander Col. Brian L. Rogers invited the “big wigs” of the local community to the depot April 7 to present the community with a more in-depth look of the depot. The goal was to give local businesses and organizations an increased understanding of the depot and its work within the community. With over a thousand employees, the impact is more than meaningful, said Carpenter.

“The Colonel and the staff are going out to find business opportunities to have their needs met,” said Carpenter of Rogers. “(Rogers) really understands the process and is really enthusiastic.”

The VIP tourists started at the newly renovated Lake Buck Lodge before visiting the depot’s warehouses for building mortar fins and combat lock tools, the

new chemical washout area, and the ammunition loading platform, as well as some of the more scenic sites-- Lake Buck, Lake Vega, and the Horses for Heroes stable area.

Guests saw the training facility where Mayor Jim Barnes put his painting skills to the test on the virtual reality paint training technology called STAR4D, Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense. Barnes, egged on by fellow tour-takers, happily volunteered to take the test.

After taking the test, Barnes humbly laughed and asked, “Would you hire me?”

STAR4D, which provides hands-on customized training for the U.S. armed forces, is one of the many programs which the depot is promoting to surrounding cities as a vital program for the growth of the Kentucky economy. The depot has been in communication with local vocational schools to advertise this technology in airbrush painting certification.

State Senator Carpenter revered the tour as an educational experience and a blessing on the Kentucky employment

Continued page 4

The Depot Celebrates Earth Day with History, Wood Ducks, and Tree Planting



Above and Front Page Photo: Ducks Unlimited members from the Madison County and Eastern Kentucky University chapters construct a wood duck box to shelter ducklings on Lake Buck at Blue Grass Army Depot April 1 in Richmond, Ky. Photos by Mary Moses.

A Home for Ducklings

By Mary Moses

If you build it, the ducks will come.

This is the theory behind the work of seven Ducks Unlimited (DU) volunteers, who visited Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) April 1 to erect wood duck nesting boxes on the shores of Lake Buck.

Volunteer Jesse Godbold, from the Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) DU chapter, helped to dig the holes and erect the boxes close to the water's edge.

"We're putting out wood duck nesting boxes for a habitat," Godbold said. "More opportunities to lay their eggs, more success for them."

The boxes, designed to imitate the inside of a hollow tree, will give mother ducks a safe place to lay their eggs and raise ducklings, and hopefully set in motion a permanent wood duck population on the lake.

Tom Edwards, the depot's wildlife biologist, said that wood ducks love to visit the lake, but they do not stay here because they have no place to nest.

"This lake has very few places that would be good for wood ducks to lay their eggs," said Edwards. "There's a place for water, and the wood ducks come here, but they don't stay because they don't have a good nesting site."

Ducks Unlimited, a volunteer-based

organization that conserves wetlands and waterfowl, has a time-tested solution for this problem, said Edwards.

"(Ducks Unlimited) realized a long time ago that if you build a duck habitat, the ducks will return," Edwards said. "So they've been putting great efforts into restoring wetlands and then other parts of the habitat."

The duck boxes are attached to 12 foot poles, each wrapped with metal flashing as a predator guard. Inside the box are loose nesting materials similar to the inside of a tree cavity and woven wire to help the ducklings climb out of the box, said Edwards.

"The little ducks...climb out long before they ever learn to fly," said Edwards. "So they climb out, they just fall out, on the ground, and they bounce, and mama takes them on to their first trip to feed."

It takes thirty days to incubate the eggs, which are synchronized to hatch on the same day, but when the ducklings hatch, the mother must act quickly to feed her brood.

"(The mother duck) calls to them, and you can hear her calling, and she's

"If wildlife live in a place, then the people realize it must be safe for me."

-Tom Edwards, BGAD Wildlife Biologist

PAO Disclaimer

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trying to convince the babies at just a day or so old to come on out," said Edwards. "They've got to feed instantly, she's got to get them out of the box, and find them a place to get some food," he added.

Wood ducks are not the only birds the depot's environmental department has been trying to attract. The depot has also built boxes for barn owls and the American kestrel, and ECU students have built bluebird and phoebe boxes here with enthusiastic support from the depot, said Edwards.

"I'm interested in helping the organizations, like these, like Ducks Unlimited, that want to come in and have a particular interest in water fowl, and so do we," said Edwards. "Of course we depend and really appreciate their emphasis and their efforts to come and help us do more than we could do by ourselves."

Julieann Price, area chairman for the ECU DU chapter and a wildlife management major, was happy to volunteer.

"I really like the ducks, I'd like to help the duck population, bring it back to where it used to be, especially the wetlands, they've kind of disappeared over the last couple of years, like a major portion of them have disappeared," Price said.

"I'd really like to do this again, if I could, help put up these duck boxes," she added.

Why should the depot and its wider community care about all of this conservation?

"If wildlife live in a place, then the people realize it must be safe for me," explained Edwards. "So I usually use it as the canary in the coal mine type of thing. If we can have good wildlife populations, then it must mean that the health of the land is good."

Unlike wood ducks, humans are not allowed to live on the shores of Lake Buck, but they are welcome and encouraged to come and visit the Depot—and its ducks—at any time. 🌿

Depot Earth Day: Trees and Trails

Beautifying Our Depot, One Tree at a Time

By Carlye Michael

Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) celebrated Arbor Day and Earth Day with seedlings and a depot clean-up here April 19-21.

In celebration of both holidays, BGAD's Environmental Division handed out 2000 tree whips on a first come, first served basis April 19 and 20. Tree whip varieties included Eastern Redbud, Flowering White Dogwood, Kentucky Coffee, Persimmon, Black Cherry, and Pin Oak.

Allen Gilbert, BGAD Environmental Division, helped to lead the tree whip event and offered some seedling advice.

"All we suggest is that (employees) tend the soil and give them a little tender loving care," Gilbert said.

Alan Colwell, depot land manager, started the tree whip program last year with 600 seedlings. This year, the depot gave away 2000 trees.

Employees who plant their trees at home are helping to promote tree species native to Kentucky, Gilbert said.

In addition to bringing home seedlings for their yards, each depot department participated in a two hour clean-up April 21.

The depot has a long history of environmental stewardship. Since 1996, over 300,000 trees have been planted at the depot as part of the land management program. More than 54,000 trees were planted along Muddy Creek and other waterways in 2007. The depot has planted 5700 trees this year alone.

The tree planting program is part of the depot's partnership with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and involves staff from both organizations, using a tree planter on loan from the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The partnership has planted a variety of species native to



Top Left: Civil War reenactors pose before the trail marker during the Lake Buck Battlefield Nature Trail grand opening April 22 outside of Lake Buck Lodge on Blue Grass Army Depot. Photo by John Stephens.

Bottom Left: Allen Gilbert, Blue Grass Army Depot Environmental Division, passes out free tree seedlings to a depot employee in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day April 20. Photo by Mary Moses.

Kentucky.

Depot Opens a New Nature Trail on Earth Day

By Carlye Michael

BGAD celebrated conservation, history, and community with its first public Earth Day event on Friday, April 22, at Lake Buck Lodge.

The event started with a presentation by guest speaker Phillip Seyfrit, a member of the Battle of Richmond Association. Seyfrit spoke about the Battle of Richmond while dressed in authentic Civil War attire.

"With the Sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War upon

"For us preservationists, we will never have to worry about this area ever being lost."

- Phillip Seyfrit, Battle of Richmond Association

us, battlefield preservation is still paramount (in) this country," said Seyfrit.

Seyfrit said that when several Madison County organizations came together in 2001 and 2002 to start preserving the Battle of Richmond, they thought the piece of battlefield on the depot would be "off limits."

"But over the past ten years or so, the Blue Grass Army Depot has become a vital partner in the efforts to preserve and interpret as much of the Richmond Battlefield as possible," said Seyfrit.

The newest piece of preservation and interpretation for the battlefield is the Lake Buck Battlefield

- Lake Buck Battlefield Nature Trail opens to public; community helps beautify and clear the trail

- Free tree whips given to Depot employees for Earth Day

- 5700 trees planted on BGAD this year

- Ducks Unlimited puts up duck boxes to jumpstart new wood duck population on Lake Buck

Nature Trail, which celebrated its grand opening immediately after Seyfrit's speech with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The 2.5 mile trail highlights natural and historical aspects of BGAD; it also displays the site of the Battle of Richmond in August 1862.

"And we are celebrating another milestone today: the opening of a new section of depot battlefield trails for the public," said Seyfrit.

"For us preservationists, we will never have to worry about this area ever being lost," he also said.

Lake Buck trail, rated easy to moderate, travels through woods, fields, and along the shores of Lake Buck.

The nature trail is the result of a partnership between the depot, KDFWR, and the Battle of Richmond Association. BGAD received a \$6500 grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation and the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program to build the trail.

For this event, people from the community helped beautify the trail by placing trail markers, signs, setting benches, planting trees, planting river cane plugs, 3



Continued page 4

Mother's Day Employee Spotlight: Chasity Pearson Balances Work and Motherhood

Written by Heather Madden

"There is nothing in this world that prepares you to be a mother."

Chasity Pearson is an administrative assistant for the Chemical Operations Directorate in Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA). This directorate is responsible for the safe storage of chemicals on Blue Grass Army Depot. Chasity's primary duties include travel, payroll, scheduling, maintaining the calendar, and administrative management. Time management is a necessity for her job, which Chasity said is the strongest quality of being a do-it-all, working Mom.

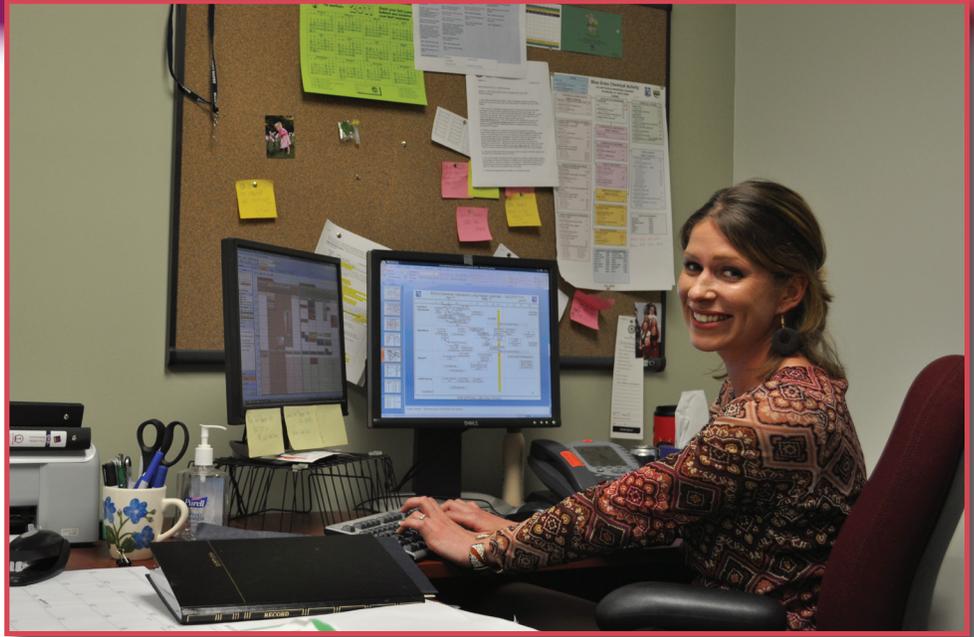
The depot's 4-day schedule gives Chasity more time to spend with family than her previous 5-day schedule. Weekends used to be set aside for cleaning, organizing, and laundry. Now her Friday consists of a day at the house with the family. Chasity believes the depot offers a more family-friendly environment.

"The best part is the people, most of the people are family oriented," said Chasity of the depot. "It really makes a difference when you actually enjoy the people you work with."

After six to seven hours of sleep, our genuine wonder woman wakes up to a supportive husband and her smiling 3-year-old daughter, Matalyn. Her mornings are crazy rushes to prepare Matalyn for daycare before she and her husband go off to work. After a long day in the office, Chasity picks up Matalyn from daycare. This usually means a car ride filled with the fond giggles of a mother and child as they reflect on the day's events.

Chasity said her life changed when little Matalyn was born. She blinked away tears as she sifted through her memories with her family.

"At three weeks old, (it) was the first time she smiled, that little giggle just



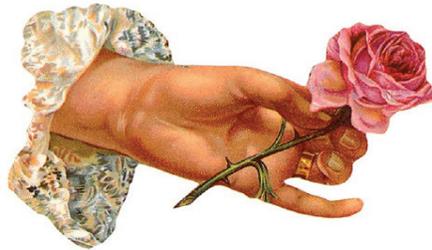
Chasity Pearson, administrative assistant for the Chemical Operations Directorate, Blue Grass Chemical Activity, shares her experiences as a working mother on the depot. Photo by Heather Madden

sealed the deal," Chasity said. "(Recently) she brought me home a necklace...it was a little piece of yarn with a cutout heart taped on it."

At home, Chasity's family life is managed with a Pareto philosophy, with an 80/20 balance between priorities and being healthy. Sundays are planning days.

Chasity refers to herself as the crock pot queen and recommends one for every family. She also said the key to success is to "keep yourself happy."

"The hardest part was learning to take



time for myself. I felt guilty. Once every three months, I will treat myself, get my hair cut, read, do something I enjoy."

"What they say," she chuckled, "if the momma is not happy no one is, is very true," she laughed.

This mother's day will be a time for relaxation. Her husband graduates from Eastern Kentucky University May 8, and relatives from all around will be coming into town to celebrate.

Chasity cherishes the memories she and her family are making as they learn and grow. To hold on to these memories, Chasity uses a memory journal to record the times her daughter does something just irresistible.

"You think you will remember every little moment in life," said Chasity, "But you won't. Materials are not of importance, and my daughter put that in perspective for me." ❁

VIP Depot Tour

Continued from Front Page

record. He appreciates what the depot is doing as far as the job market in Kentucky is concerned.

"We need to be working hand in hand with our local government, state governments, federal governments and this facility to continue to see this facility progress and be a great employer for our state and our county," said Carpenter.

4 As the warm, sunny day brought an

end to the tour, smiles could be seen all around. Carpenter reflected on the day's events with positive reverence.

"(The tour) was really good. I just didn't realize the process," said Carpenter. "I have lived in Berea all my life and I knew about the depot, but I never took a tour." ❁

Earth Day Trail

Continued from Page 3

and placing wood duck boxes, birdhouses and bird feeders. Students from the Model Laboratory School, Eastern Ken-

tucky University, Boy Scouts of America, Richmond Ducks Unlimited, and the Kiwanis Club are just a few of the organizations that participated in the celebration. All Earth Day volunteers took home a free Kentucky coffee tree, courtesy of the depot.

The trail is now open to the public from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. The depot welcomes visitors to enjoy the new trail as well as to participate in our other increasing recreational and educational opportunities. ❁

May 2011

Sunday May 1:

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month begins
Alumni Weekend EKU's "Rock the Lot"
Country Concert 2-8 p.m.

Monday May 2:

Summer Camp Applications Available 8 a.m.

Wednesday, May 4:

Wellness Luncheon "Positive Attitude"
11:30-12:30 p.m., Igloo Club

Friday May 6:

Run for Roses @Acres of Land Winery 7 p.m.

Saturday May 7:

Kentucky Derby; Derby Day at Keenland
Eastern Kentucky University Graduation

Sunday May 8:

Mother's Day
University of Kentucky Graduation

Saturday May 21:

BGAD Golf Scramble 10 a.m., Golf Course
Hoedown for Heroes
3-8 p.m., Lake Buck Lodge

Monday May 23:

Paradise Cove Season Pass Pictures 4 p.m.
(continues every day until May 26)

Wednesday May 25:

Laura Bush's "A Day Among Friends"
For tickets and more details, call 623-2989

Paradise Cove Season Pass Pictures 4:00pm

Wellness Luncheon by JMC Chaplain Flueger
11:30-12:30 p.m., Igloo Club

Saturday May 28:

Paradise Cove Opens 11 a.m.

Monday May 30:

Memorial Day



Your Health Awaits You: Spring into the New Spring Wellness Program!

Written by Mary Moses

Depot employees, your health awaits you!

The Blue Grass Army Depot safety office is encouraging a healthier lifestyle for all depot employees with a new Spring Wellness Program here on the depot. The new wellness program offers a holistic approach to personal safety and well-being with four free weekly programs in April, May, and June: the Tobacco Cessation program, the Wellness Luncheon Series, Spring into Fitness and CPR training.

The Tobacco Cessation support group held an orientation meeting April 19 at the Igloo Club. Eight brave men and women attended the first class, each determined to quit smoking for their health, their family, and the size of their wallets. The 12-week, step down program uses the Cooper/Clayton Method to Stop Smoking, a method developed by former smokers.

Bonnie Spencer, prevention coordinator for the program, said the meetings will give participants a built-in support group as they gradually let go of their nicotine addictions.

"We deal with every aspect of it, with weight gain, nutrition, and cravings, and every week you have a support group to go back to," said Spencer.

Depot commander Col. Brian L. Rogers opened the meeting with his personal story on giving up a tobacco addiction.

"The next time you quit is the next time you get past it," Rogers said, encouraging participants who had tried and failed to quit smoking in the past.

After Rogers' opening remarks, Spencer introduced the participants to some of the program's quitting strategies, including nicotine patches, physical fitness, blood pressure tests, and keeping a smoking record.

The Tobacco Cessation program will meet every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Igloo



Sandy Gross, American Red Cross, Daniel Boone Chapter, speaks about the "Services to the Armed Forces" program at the first Wednesday Wellness Luncheon April 27 in the depot Igloo Club. Photo by Mary Moses. **5**

Bringing the Store to You!

By Carlye Michael

Meat! Cheese! Diapers and more! These are just a few of the items sold at Madison County Fairgrounds during the commissary sale Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10.

In the summer months, the commissary sale travels from Fort Knox, Ky., to different areas around the state. These sales provide commissary goods to active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and retired service members and their families who live outside Fort Knox.

"Some people may not be able to get to Fort Knox, so we bring the store to the soldiers and retirees out here," said Carolyn Wilson of the Department of Defense Commissary.

The prices at commissary sales are cheaper than regular store prices. Wilson said this is a result of weeks of planning and researching the best vendors and deals for the store to bring to different places around Kentucky.

The commissary also depends on its hard-working employees to make the sales event a success. Angela Wolfy, a Fort Knox commissary employee, Army wife, and Navy mother, works in the grocery department. During the sale, her job was to unload the trucks and separate food and nonfood items. While doing this, she and her fellow employees tried to keep vendor names together to make it easier for vendor representatives to hand out coupons.

"I will do anything! If they need me on a forklift, or on a register, anything to help the customers," said Wolfy.

Wolfy said the most popular items sold were the meat items, such as rib eye and chicken. Within four hours the employees unloaded every chicken item the commissary had brought to the sale.

Wilson believes the commissary sales



Top: Two customers review coupons as they choose food items at the Fort Knox Commissary Sale April 10 on the Madison County Fairgrounds.

Right: A young boy tries out the John Deere vehicle being raffled at the Fort Knox Commissary Sale April 9-10. Photos by Samuel G. Hudson.



are very helpful to military service members and their families.

"A lot of military or reserves and guards can't come to the commissary, maybe it is too far, or they cannot afford it with these high gas prices," said Wilson. "So we try and bring it to them, and we try and get their opinions for the next time."

Cynthia Strait, Fort Knox commissary supervisory sales associate, said the customers are "very grateful and thankful that we are here, and we are supporting them. It makes it really nice when we hear these good things."

Don Weaver, Blue Grass Army Depot employee of ISD?, and wife Donna Weaver, are customers from London, Ky., who come to the commissary sale almost

every year. Donna said the last time they came to the sale was right before Thanksgiving, and she saved quite a bit in buying items to cook for the November holiday.

"I just wish they had a store that was closer to here," Donna said.

Many customers hope that someday there will be a permanent store here, because Fort Knox is just too far for the military families in the local area. Although there is not a store close to Richmond just yet, there is a commissary sale in Frankfort, Ky., on June 9 and 10. 🌟

Your Health Awaits You

Continued from page 5
Club until July 12.

Sandy Gross from the American Red Cross, Daniel Boone Chapter, opened the first of eight Wednesday Wellness Luncheons April 27, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Igloo Club. Gross spoke about the "Services to the Armed Forces" program, a Red Cross program that supports retired and active duty service members, deployed civilians, and their families.

Gross said military families living near Fort Knox have access to a wealth of informational resources not available to people in the Madison County area.

"We want to bring that same information and get it down here, and that's what I've been doing for the past year," said Gross.

The American Red Cross provides a wide variety of services, including CPR training classes, certified emergency response teams, pet emergency aid, babysitting services, and veteran's services. Most of all, they get the right information to the right people during an emergency, said Gross.

"(Sometimes) it's no more than getting the right people in touch with the right people," said Gross about helping family members during deployment.

Future luncheon topics include "Staying Positive in Stressful Times" on May 4, "Show me the Money!" on May 11, and a diabetes presentation on May 18.

Each luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. in the Igloo Club. Participating employees are authorized an additional 30 minutes

for lunch, with their supervisor's approval. For more information on future program

The Spring into Fitness program began April 21 at 10:30 a.m. The program will run from April 25 to June 16. Teams meet every Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5 p.m.

Finally, CPR/AED classes will be held each Thursday in May from 1-5 p.m. 🌟



Who: Depot Families, Local Community (600)

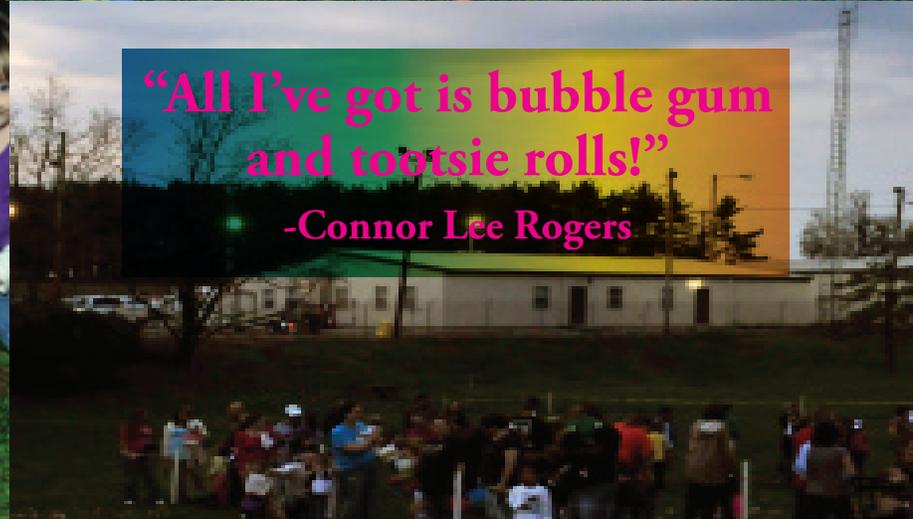
What: Fun games, crafts, and a Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 22

Where: Lgloo Club, Blue Grass Army Depot

Why: To celebrate Spring!

Hosted by: BGAO Morale, Welfare, and Recreation



“All I’ve got is bubble gum and tootsie rolls!”
-Connor Lee Rogers

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

The hunt lasted about 45 seconds with 5,000 eggs.

Find these pictures and more on the Blue Grass Army Depot Flickr site.



Depot Family Page

Welcome to Blue Grass Army Depot!

Please welcome the following new employees to our Blue Grass community:

Allen White

Blue Grass Chemical Activity

Emmett Wilent

Blue Grass Chemical Activity

Cisy Newman, CPAC

Cathryn Young, CPAC

Ivy Merrick, Medical Clinic

Thomas Kirkham, Engineer Technician,

Directorate of Services and Support

Mary Moses, Public Affairs

Office of the Commander

Congratulations to our Intern Grads!

Carlye Michael - EKU

Nicole Curtsinjer - EKU

Nicole Zimmerman - EKU

Jordan Dalrymple - EKU

Sports Schedules Men and Women's Track and Field

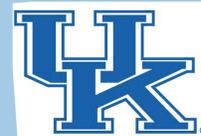


Eastern Kentucky University

May 5-7 Ohio Valley Conference
Outdoor Championship
Murray, Ky.

May 13-14 Louisville Twilight
Louisville, Ky.

May 26-28 NCAA East Region Championships
TBA



University of Kentucky

May 6 Billy Hayes Invitational
Bloomington, Ind.

May 12-15 SEC Championships
Athens, Ga.

May 27-28 NCAA East Preliminary Round
Bloomington, Ind.



University of Louisville

May 6-8 BIG EAST Outdoor Championships
Philadelphia, Pa.

May 13 CARDINAL TWILIGHT
CARDINAL PARK

May 26-28 NCAA East Preliminary Round
Bloomington, Ind.

Have any story ideas for the Detonator?

We'd love to hear from you!

Contact Sam Hudson at ext. 6221 or Mary Moses at ext.7221 to share your ideas and suggestions.