

Sill pools open May 27; swim lessons available

Did you know that May is National Water Safety Month?

It's that time of year, the Fort Sill Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation aquatics branch and Lake Elmer Thomas Recreation Area are gearing up for the upcoming summer season.

Pools

Fort Sill FMWR aquatics offers two outdoor pools and a spray park on post. Those facilities open May 27 and close Labor Day.

Geronimo Pool is at 5486 Honeycutt Road and

Quinette Pool is at 501 Quinette Road.

The Rinehart Fitness Center indoor swimming pool is open for laps and recreational swimming. Rinehart pool is open Mondays through Fridays from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The spray park is at the intersection of King Street and Fort Sill Boulevard. For hours of operation of these facilities, checkout the FMWR website at www.sillmwr.com.



Did you know?

By Col. Raymond Lacey
Fort Sill Garrison commander

Swim lessons

Along with the outdoor pools and the spray park, FMWR aquatics is offering four summer sessions of child swimming lessons. Each session is two weeks long, with four 30-minute classes a week, Mondays through Thursdays. The first session begins June 6.

To register for child swimming lessons contact CYSS or go online to <http://webtrac.mwr.army.mil>. The cost is \$35 per child.

LETRA

LETRA is preparing for the summer season. LETRA will have a soft opening May 21 and 22. The beach, water

slide, country store, mini golf and climbing wall will be open. LETRA opens for normal operations May 27.

LETRA provides a great opportunity to catch some rays with an outstanding view of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and Mount Scott. It also offers a variety of watercraft from paddle boats to fishing boats for rental. To ensure patrons are well versed in the safe operation of the watercraft, Outdoor Recreation offers boater safety courses throughout the year.

For more information

regarding aquatics and LETRA, checkout www.sillmwr.com or the Fort Sill FMWR page on Facebook. You can also call aquatics at 442-6200, LETRA at 442-5858 or Outdoor Recreation at 355-8270.

To reach me

To send questions or comments to me, please e-mail fscms@conus.army.mil or you can mail your comments to Commander, USAG-Fort Sill, 462 Hamilton Road, Suite 120, Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Thanks and have a great Fort Sill day.

FMWR journalist to receive top DoD award



Staff photo

Monica Wood covers the CG's Challenge fitness walk and run April 29 at Polo Field. Wood received the highest recognition a Department of Defense writer can receive—a first place Thomas Jefferson award. She will be honored at a ceremony May 13 at Fort Meade, Md.

By Marie Berberea

She is usually seen with a camera pressed to her face ready to capture the moment, a recorder in hand poised for great quotes, and a pen and paper nearby to write copious notes. Monica Wood recently stepped out of her work-mode to receive the highest award a Department of Defense writer can receive—a first place Thomas Jefferson Award.

"I didn't expect it. Just to place is exciting but to actually win a first place is more than I expected," said Wood.

She has spent 21 years covering events on post for Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation putting the stories into the Cannoneer as well as sharing them through other social media.

Although she has won numerous awards through

out her career she said this has been the most humbling.

"Honestly I didn't even know what story to turn in for the contest," said Wood. She credits a co-worker for picking out her story for submission and even before that she credits her other co-workers for copyediting.

"It really was a team effort. My name was on the article but the editor and several other staff members proof-read my articles and made sure everything makes sense. So that's a big part of it."

The Thomas Jefferson Awards Program recognizes military and civilian employee print and broadcast journalists for outstanding achievements in furthering the objectives of the DoD Internal Information Program.

Prior to the annual Thomas Jefferson awards contest, each service judges its own entries and selects

the best entry in each category for the final competition.

Wood's story kept rising through the different levels of competition as she received a first place Keith L. Ware award, then she won Armywide, finally taking the DoD contribution by a stringer category.

Her winning article covered Warrior Adventure Quest which is a program meant to help redeployed Soldiers transition from combat to a "new normal," reducing the potential for high-risk behaviors that are counterproductive to unit training requirements.

"One hundred and twenty recently redeployed Soldiers from 100th Battalion Support Brigade released stress, forged new friendships and learned to work together as a team — thanks to the Warrior

Adventure Quest program," stated her article.

Through her camera lens Wood shared how Soldiers used their transition and she used their words to tell the story.

"Monica is well-deserving of this award and once again shows that she is a huge asset, not only to the Cannoneer, but to the entire Fort Sill community," said Keith Pannell, Cannoneer editor.

Wood said the reaction from people on post is heartwarming but like a true photojournalist she doesn't take full credit as she said her work only reflected what was happening in real life and especially the lives of Soldiers.

"It wasn't about me, it was about representing our post and all the great people who work here."

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Registration: May 2-27

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