

THE ROCK



Serving the employees and residents of Rock Island Arsenal.

October 2008 Vol. 7 No. 9

Arsenal Salutes Local Hero

By

MARK KANE

Rock Island Garrison Public Affairs

On Oct. 3, Arsenal employees poured onto Rodman Ave. to salute one of our nation's fallen Soldiers who gave his life in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Hundreds of people on the Island showed their respect for the ultimate sacrifice made by Staff Sgt. Nathan Cox as his funeral procession made its way across the Arsenal followed by nearly 100 of Cox's family and friends, as well as 60 area members of the Patriot Guard Riders on their way to burial services for Cox at Rock Island National Cemetery.

Cox, 32, of Fort Hood, Texas, formerly of Davenport, Iowa, was killed in action on Sept. 20, when the vehicle he was in was hit by a roadside bomb while he was serving in Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He was with the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Blue Spaders, from Ft. Hood, Texas. He was assigned to Viper Company after being posted to the Korengal Valley. Cox was an 11-year member of the U.S. Army and had served in combat missions in Bosnia, Iraq and

Afghanistan.

Cox received many awards during his military career, including the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart, awarded posthumously. He received full military honors as part of his burial at the National Cemetery.

Earlier, at his funeral held at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Blake told about 300 family and friends that Cox's men are better soldiers for having learned from him.

"We, too, share your sorrow and pain," Blake told the crowd who gathered to say farewell to Cox. "Your strength, love, commitment and sacrifice bring credit to us all."

Blake described Cox as a gifted leader.

"He will forever be an inspirational leader to many," Blake said, noting that those who served with Cox still face danger in Afghanistan. "They will know the right move (to make) because he inspired them to do it."

At the cemetery, Patriot Guard Riders surrounded the committal service shelter filled with family and friends. A lone bagpiper played "Amazing Grace," and a rifle team underscored Cox's sacrifice by rendering a 21-gun salute. A lone bugler played taps.

Maj. Gen. Robert Radin, commander,

Army Sustainment Command, said Cox was a natural leader. Radin said he was extremely inspired by the outpouring of community support for the Cox family. He said Cox's widow and his mother both have an inner strength to deal with Cox's death.

"The emotions she has given me is to come back to the community and talk about Afghanistan and how it is the forgotten fight," he said of Annie Cox.

Radin, presented Cox's mother, Jane Cox of Walcott, Iowa, and wife, Annie, medals for his service in Iraq and Afghanistan and gave his 5-year-old daughter Sophia a teddy bear.

The Associated Press and Dustin Lemmon, Quad-City Times, contributed to this article.

On the 'Net

Rock Island National Cemetery:

www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/rockisland.asp

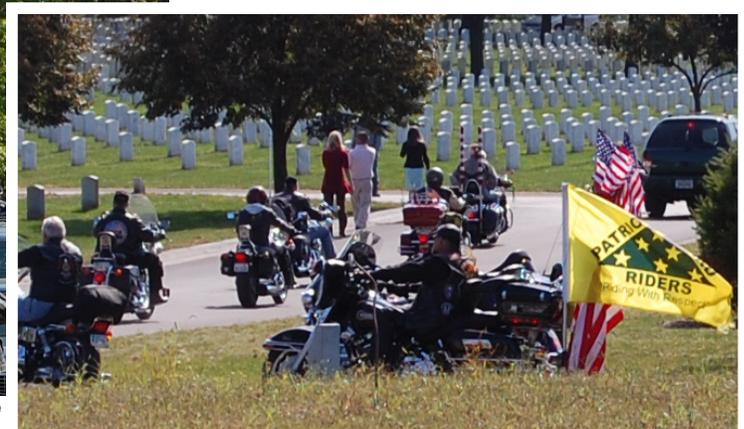
Patriot Guard Riders:

www.patriotguard.org



Photos by Mark Kane

Left, attendees salute and cover their hearts in front of the committal during burial services for Staff Sgt. Nathan Cox held at Rock Island National Cemetery. Below, area members of the Patriot Guard Riders depart the National Cemetery after the conclusion of Cox's burial services.



Fall Brings Challenges, Opportunities for Success

Autumn is usually a time we celebrate mildly around military installations. It's the end of the annual fiscal year, and once the year closes out we have the opportunity to buy a few year-end items, and we have the knowledge that the holidays are still in front of us.

This fall also brings the Combined Federal Campaign. Sometimes we as federal employees get wrapped up in CFC events – the CFC Olympics or the Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers annual chili cook-off, and we gloss over the enormous goodness which our annual contributions provide for the communities in the Quad Cities area. The Illinois Bi-State CFC drive runs through Oct. 12. This year's CFC essay contest winners were Lori McFate, Dawn Stanley, Rene Robinson, Donna Evans, James McFarlen and Marcia Jay. We have established a solid CFC drive this year under the leadership of our Chair person, Debra Gudlewski. Remember that our goal to contact every employee to ensure they have been afforded the opportunity to contribute this year; so seek out your CFC keypersons and identify the good you'd like your contribution to do. Be a star in someone's life.

The fall can, however, come with challenges. Last year, an

early autumn led to a difficult winter with a good deal of severe weather. We met this challenge safely, without shutting down any operations, and we will persevere again this year if similar conditions present themselves.

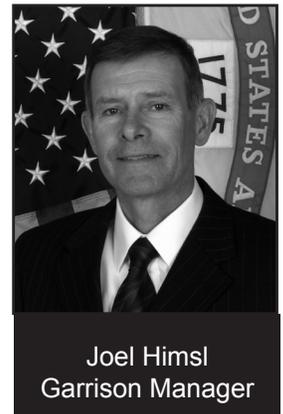
Autumn comes with the fact that the end of one fiscal year leads to the beginning of another, and a new fiscal year presents its own challenges. In the past year, the Garrison staff buckled down, reduced expenditures, and managed to work its way through a budget shortfall that touched on almost every aspect of our operations.

This year we are faced with a similar challenge, and we will meet it in similar ways. We can't do it all, so we must focus on prioritizing what's important and accomplish the priorities. We will take care of our great work force, so salaries will not be affected. Our focus will be on funding life, health, safety and mission failure work; we will reduce overtime and temporary duty and again the focus is on work which is essential to life, health, safety and mission success.

The guidance I've put out remains the same – we will not have impacts on people or payroll, and we will accomplish our vital base operations mission. We will do the right things for the right reasons to support Soldiers and Families during these wartime conditions.

Those are the key things – we protect the life, health and safety of our people, and we do so without failing in our mission to provide complete base operations support to Rock Island Arsenal and the many organizations that make up the on-island community.

So, let's enjoy the fading of summer and an autumn that brings its own benefits and challenges. The daylight is growing shorter each day as we head toward winter. We will proceed forward with the knowledge that autumn leads towards the holidays and ultimately to spring. Please be safe in everything you do!



Joel Himsl
Garrison Manager



JOEL HIMSL

Garrison Manager

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Public Affairs Officer

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THE ROCK

The ROCK is an unofficial publication for members of the Rock Island Arsenal community. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Garrison or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of The ROCK is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Garrison – Rock Island Arsenal. Contributions to The ROCK are welcome. Postal address: Garrison Manager, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, ATTN: IMWE-RIA-PA, Rock Island, Ill. 61299-5000. E-mail address: ROCK-RIA-PA@conus.army.mil Phone: (309) 782-1121. The ROCK is available on-line at www.ria.army.mil/sites/news.

On the Cover: *Batman and his princess stroll down Rodman Ave. as part of the Child, Youth and School Services' Fall Festival Parade held on the Arsenal on Oct. 29. Zachary Hemmen and Ana Lampert are the cute couple pictured who were "masquerading" as the "caped crusader" and his princess, which were their Halloween costumes this year. See the back page for more on the parade. Photo by Mark Kane*

If you have a suggestion for the



Army Suggestion Program, log on <https://armysuggestions.army.mil>

Combined Federal Campaign

Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign Kicks Off with Workplace Olympics

By

REBECCA MONTGOMERY
TACOM LCMC RI Public Affairs

Amid relay races and cheering fans, the Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign kicked off the region's 2008 campaign during its Workplace Olympics held in a packed Rock Island Arsenal Fitness Center Oct. 1.

Twenty employee, management and union teams from Rock Island Arsenal and federal agencies competed in four events. Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, Army Sustainment Command commander and Illowa Bi-State CFC honorary chair, delivered the keynote address.

This year's monetary goal is \$665,000, Radin said, "but what's more important is the opportunity to give." He emphasized that this year's participation goal is 100 percent contact.

"Get the word out. Get the word out to employees and to people who sit next to you," Radin told civilian and federal employees and military members attending the games.

Radin noted that last year over 46 percent of donations were designated for local charities. "The CFC is important to this local community and we can make a difference," he said.

Radin praised employees for donating to those in need in the local area and said, "Before we kicked off this campaign, the

CFC's special one-day bucket collection for flood relief on Rock Island Arsenal raised more than \$4,000."

Representatives from more than 40 local and national CFC participating non-profit organizations had displays and information tables set up for employees to learn how their money is put to good use.

This year's theme is "Be a Star in Someone's Life." The campaign will run through Nov. 12.

The 2008 Workplace Olympics winners were first place, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Young Guns; second place, U.S. Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal, Army Gold; and third place, Rock Island Arsenal AFGE Local-15, The Negotiable.

The Combined Federal Campaign is the only authorized solicitation of federal and postal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

The Illowa Bi-State CFC covers all federal, postal and military employees in the 24-county area of Boone, Carroll, Henry, Jo Daviess, Knox, Lee, Mercer, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson, Winnebago and Whiteside counties in Illinois; and Allamakee, Clayton, Clinton, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Henry, Jackson, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine and Scott in Iowa.

These employees gave \$625,199 to local, national and international charities through the Illowa Bi-State CFC in 2007.

For more information, visit <http://illowacfc.org>.

Illowa Bi-State CFC Announces Essay Contest Winners

The Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign has announced the winners of its 2008 "How CFC Helped Me" essay contest.

Entries described how a CFC sponsored charity benefitted the writer or his or her family. A committee of judges rated each essay on sincerity and how well it described how CFC helped the individual or family.

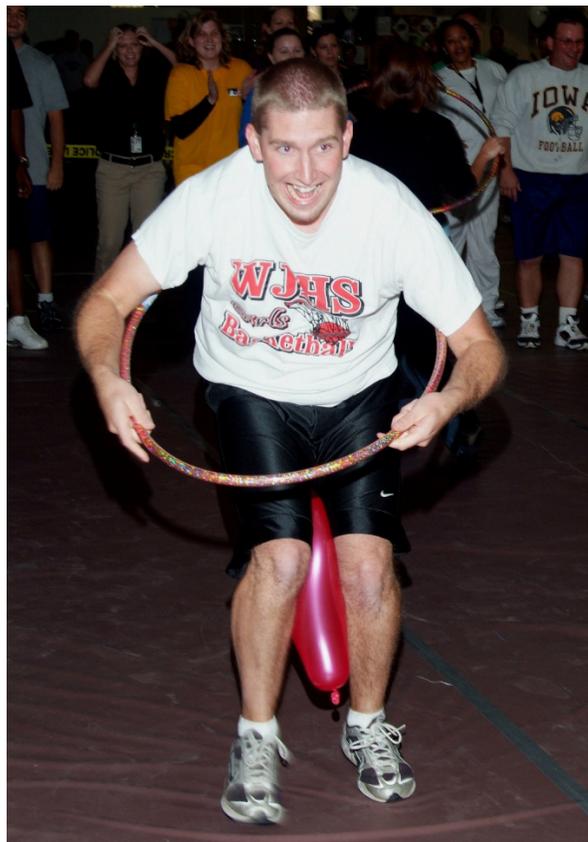
The winners are:

First Place: Lori McFate, The Reason I am Alive
Second Place: Dawn Stanley, Helping Each Other
Third Place: Rene Robinson, The Right Thing To Do.
Honorable Mention:

Donna Evans, A Beneficial Journey
James McFarlen, The One Bright Spot
Marcia Jay, Hope for Other Families

Winners will receive plaques and all entrants will receive certificates of participation at the awards presentation to be held next January.

To view the essays visit <http://illowacfc.org/>.



Nate Bowers of TACOM keeps on hoppin' during the Stick to It relay at the Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign Workplace Olympics kickoff held Oct. 1 at Rock Island Arsenal's Fitness Center.

Photo by Rebecca Montgomery, TACOM LCMC Public Affairs

FORCE PROTECTION EXERCISE TESTS ARSENAL'S EMERGENCY CAPABILITIES

By

EDMUND PETERSON
Antiterrorism/Force Protection Officer
Emergency Services Directorate

With lights flashing and siren's wailing, emergency vehicles throughout the Quad Cities responded to the Rock Island Arsenal as part of the annual Force Protection/Antiterrorism Exercise on Aug. 24.

The scenario involved a terrorist parking a vehicle at Memorial Field, which exploded during a company organization day. A secondary device was also found on the scene and later an attack was made on some of the information systems on the Arsenal.

The exercise put the Arsenal to the test.

"We're required by regulation to conduct a force protection exercise annually," said Edmund Peterson, the Arsenal's Garrison antiterrorism officer. "It tested our first responder capability, as well as our ability to rapidly react to emergency situations by deploying elements of the emergency services to an incident. It also gives us an opportunity to test our agree-

ments with off post emergency services and to test the Garrison Emergency Operations Center."

The Arsenal Police Department, Arsenal Fire Department and emergency medical technicians joined with the East Moline Fire Department, Rock Island City Fire Department, MEDIC Ambulance Service, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Rock Island County Coroner and Quad-City Bomb Squad responded to the drill.

Simulated casualties were used from the Arsenal work force, including a terrorist and several volunteers with injuries ranging from walking wounded to life-threatening injuries.

The simulated casualties were evacuated to a triage area and then transported to either Trinity West Hospital or Genesis

East Hospital for further treatment.

During the exercise, the Garrison Emergency Operations Center was also activated to test the Garrison staff on its ability to communicate and execute missions in a crisis.



Fire fighters kneel down inside the smoke used during the force protection exercise on the Arsenal.

Photos by Edmund Peterson



Participants in the Force Protection Exercise show off their "war wounds" after successfully completing the Aug. 24 exercise.



Combined Federal Campaign

Be a Star in Someone's Life -- CFC

By

REBECCA MONTGOMERY
TACOM LCMC RI Public Affairs

The Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign is in full swing on Arsenal Island and throughout the 24-county campaign region.

Even before the campaign officially started, Illowa CFC chair Debra Gudlewki was convinced that people in the region have a strong desire to make life better for people throughout our community and throughout the world.

"I knew I made the right decision to be a part of the CFC when the Island Community raised over \$4,000 in support of flood relief funds in our special bucket campaign. In this year that will be remembered for its weather-related disasters as well as its financial extremes, I am incredibly proud to be associated with people that are able to see beyond their own financial pinch to reach out to those charities in their communities and abroad to support a need that is greater than their own -- very inspiring," she said.

Special events across the island championed by senior leaders have lent special emphasis to the campaign, starting with the CFC Kickoff Workplace Olympics presided over by honorary chair Maj. Gen Robert Radin, commander of the Army Sustainment Command.

Events that employees look forward to each year and some new ones include the Corps of Engineers Chili Cook Off and Silent Auction, the recently resurrected Army Sustainment Command Cadence and March and new Boot Drive, the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center Bake Sale and Chili Cook Off, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command Goblin Fest, the Illowa Bi-State CFC Essay Contest, the Armament Research Development and Engineering Center Taco Lunch and the Joint Munitions Command Salsa Contest.

This year's four Loaned Executives, Bobbi Goodin of the Army Sustainment Command, Juanita Heald of the Corps of Engineers, Alex Papke of the Civilian Human Resources Agency, and Jeff Varner of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center serve as liaisons, speak to island organizations and lend their expertise to other federal organizations throughout the campaign region. Each LE is responsible for six of the 24 counties in the region.

"Being a CFC LE volunteer has given me a whole new outlook on my federal service and the big picture that CFC plays in our community. I have a young handicapped child and have had the opportunity to see first hand some of the good that CFC has done for the handicapped community, and that my son has a good chance at a promising future thanks to the many caring contributions from the federal workforce. I have always given to CFC in the past but now my giving has a bit more heart felt reasons than ever before. I also have another son who has recently deployed to Iraq and will add another CFC agency to donate to for military support. Funny how things change

Chad Pregracke, founder, Living Lands & Waters, judges one of the many entries at the Corps of Engineers' annual chili cook-off. Winners included: 1st - Angie Freyermuth, Corps of Engineers, "Bloody Mary Chili"; 2nd place - Angie Freyermuth, "Buffalo Chicken Chili"; and 3rd place - Bob Steele, Corps of Engineers, "Ready, Aim, Fire." The cook-off raised more than \$655, which will go toward the QC United Way.

when life's challenges hit home. I truly believe in CFC and all its good works," said Juanita Heald.

Bobbi Goodin's family has also felt the need for assistance. "I volunteered to be a CFC Loaned Executive this year because my family and I saw tragedies last year but also observed many miracles happening. I believe I am very blessed and it is my turn to really give back this year. I have had the opportunity to visit many charities in the area. All the individuals who hosted tours truly impress me as very positive, caring, giving individuals concerned with improving the quality of life for people, animals, or the environment we live in. Our major goal this year is ensuring 100 percent of the workforce has been touched and given the opportunity to give to one or more charities of their choice," she said.

"In my mind, the CFC campaign is really about the smaller or less visible organizations that offer services to citizens everywhere, especially those right here in the Quad Cities," said Jeff Varner. "It really hit home for me when my son came home from school telling me about a friend, whose family was massively affected. Their home was flooded with more than six feet of water when the Mississippi River burst its banks. Generally, most of us know how to give to the big charities. However, we all need to keep our own community in mind when tough times hit, and nothing brings that to the forefront like a disaster close to home," he said.

Alex Papke is also committed to getting the word out about giving to CFC. "As a CFC Loaned Executive, I have had the opportunity to share the CFC message with a bunch of great folks. Workers from the shops in JMTC to the Soldiers that work in Veterinary Services, all have been receptive and have so far responded positively to the campaign. This place is great! When someone's in need, the Arsenal family reaches out a hand to help. It makes me feel good to be a part of something this big."

Maj. Gen Radin expressed similar thoughts in his Rock column last month. "As a military leader, I've seen how teamwork can yield some remarkable results. As honorary chairperson of the Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign -- a position I am truly honored to hold -- I've see how joining many caring individuals together into a community of caring can produce some tremendous benefits and make a very positive difference"



Photo by Ann McCrery, Public Affairs, Corps of Engineers

Ground is Broken, Full Speed Ahead on New CDC Facility

By

MARK KANE
Rock Island Garrison Public Affairs

The Rock Island Arsenal officially broke ground and took a step forward toward building a new facility for the post's Child Development Center on Oct. 16.

The ground breaking event, held on Island property west of the CDC Bldg. 16, drew a crowd who had the opportunity to learn about the plans for a building that's scheduled to be completed and used next year.

"We're breaking ground today on a facility that will greatly enhance the service we provide to families who live and work here on Rock Island," said Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager.

The new Child Development Center, slated to be completed in summer 2009, will have spaces for 144 children expanding the CDC's current capacity by 84.

"We're helping the parents of 84 children to know their children are safe and well-cared for when their parents are at work," said Himsl. "The CDC offers both full-day and part-time programs,

and those programs are certified by the Department of Defense and accredited by the National Association of Young Children. On the old 'MASH' TV show, the MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) unit was said to provide 'the best care, anywhere.' That is true here, when it comes to the way we provide care for children in our CDC."

The CDC program strives to offer quality services, which include a trained staff and a developmentally appropriate program to stimulate children's physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth.

The new facility, which will be an element used to enable the CDC to continue offering those services, is a \$5 million project funded under the Army Family Covenant.

"It shows again that the Army is backing up the words of that covenant with dollars and with action to improve the lives of our Soldiers and civilian employees and their families," said Himsl. "We want to thank the contractors, Atlantic Marine Construction and Murillo Modular Group LTD, who'll be working over the next several months to

build our new CDC."

The Army Family Covenant represents a \$1.4 billion commitment to improve the quality of life for Army Families. It formally recognizes the sacrifices made on the home front while the Army is at war and pledges to standardize funding for existing Family programs and services. The covenant also seeks to increase the accessibility and quality of health care, improve Soldier and Family housing, ensure excellence in schools, youth services and child care, and expand education and employment opportunities for Family members.

On the 'Net

Arsenal CDC: <http://riamwr.com/CYS/CDCmain.htm>

Army Child, Youth & School Services: www.armymwr.com/portal/family/childandyouth



Participants at the ground breaking ceremony toss the first shovels full of dirt to mark the beginning of construction of the new Child Development Center. Pictured above: Kelli Overturf, Rock Island Arsenal Child, Youth & School Services; Maj. Joe Flood, Army Sustainment Command, with his son Sebastian; Maj. Gen. Robert Radin, commander, Army Sustainment Command; Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager; Salvador Murillo, general manager, Murillo Modular Group LTD; Sgt. 1st Class DeShonda Davis-Locke, Army Sustainment Command, with her daughter Kyasue; 1st Lt. Tonda Thomas, Community Based Health Care Organization, with her daughter Tamber, and Debi Behl, Rock Island Arsenal Child, Youth & School Services. Left: Davis-Locke and Thomas give their daughters another shot at the dirt.

Photos by Ted Cavanaugh

Child, Youth and School Services Hit the Pavement with Fall Festival Parade



Photo by Mark Kane

By
 MARK KANE
 Rock Island Garrison Public Affairs

The Rock Island Arsenal's Child, Youth and School Services put on a Fall Festival Parade, which came down Rodman Ave. Oct. 29. The parade was filled with children from the CYSS program, many dressed in their Halloween costumes.

Left: Debi Behl and Stacy Whipple, Rock Island Arsenal Child, Youth & School Services, display the CYSS banner during the Fall Festival Parade. They're followed by Nate Ermels (Superman), Campbell Claendon (Batman), and Zachary Grissom (pirate); all of whom use the Child Development Center.

Coast Guard Design Earns First Place in Pumpkin Contest

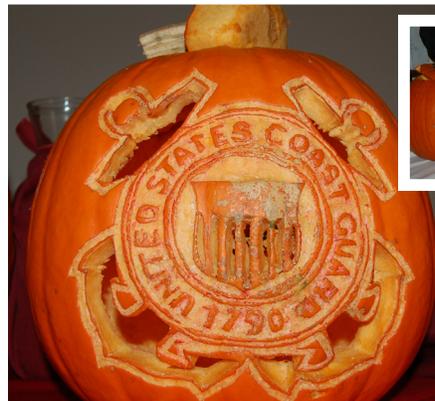
By
 MARK KANE
 Rock Island Garrison Public Affairs

Natasha White's attention to detail and focus paid off for her Oct. 8, with a first place win in the MWR Pumpkin Carving Contest. White's Coast Guard design was far and away the most detailed carving. As a reward, White received an iPod Nano, which she said might be given to her son Seneca (pictured) as a gift.

White's husband, Petty Officer 2nd Class Travis White, is in the active duty U.S. Coast Guard.

Other winners were: Second place - Todd Marshall, a retiree who carved a pumpkin with children; and 3rd place - Shari Marshall, Installation Management Command, who carved a pumpkin of a witch.

Photos by Mark Kane



Photos by Mark Kane

Top: Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager, shows the 1st place prize of an iPod Nano off with the winner of the MWR Pumpkin Carving Contest, Natasha White and her son Seneca. Left: White's winning Coast Guard design is displayed. Above: The other pumpkin entries are displayed, including the second place winning entry (second from left) and the third place winning entry (middle). Photos by Mark Kane