

Zama Briefs

Emergency Numbers

In case of a medical emergency, all cellular phone users stationed on mainland U.S. Army Japan installations may program the following number on their speed dial: 046-407-2911. Land line users on all U.S. Army Japan and Garrison installations, including those located outside the Kanagawa Prefecture, may dial 9-1-1. SOFA-status members living off-post may dial 1-1-9.

Leadership Development Program

The next LDP, sponsored by Army Substance Abuse Program, is scheduled for 1:30–2:30 p.m. March 13 at the Community Cultural Center. The speakers will be Vera Jordan and Karen Collins.

New Passport Requirements

Effective immediately, minors under the age of 16 filing for a new or renewal passport must have the application paperwork filled out in person by both parents. For more information, visit <http://tokyo.usembassy.gov>.

Charge Cards for MEDDAC-J

Effective immediately, patients can use a Visa, American Express, MasterCard or Discover credit card to pay for medical expenses incurred through BG Crawford F. Sams U.S. Army Health Clinic. Payments may be made over the phone or in person at the cashier's office. Furthermore, there are no processing fees associated with credit card payments for services rendered with Sams USAHC. For more information, call 263-4693.

Chinese Food Product Recall

Packages of frozen gyoza made from JT Food Co., a subsidiary of Japan Tobacco Co., were recently recalled due to pesticide contamination. This product is currently not sold in the commissaries, but caution is recommended when buying similar products from the local economy. For more information, visit http://www.japannewsreview.com/society/national/20080131page_id=3877.

Postal Stamps

Effective May 12, the new postal service rates will be as follows:

First-Class Mail letter (1 oz.) .42 cents

First-Class Mail letter (2 oz.) .59 cents

Postcard .27 cents

First-Class Mail large envelope (2 oz.) \$1

Certified Mail \$2.70

First-Class Mail international letter to Canada and Mexico (1 oz.) .72 cents

First-Class Mail international letter to all other countries (1 oz.) .94 cents

Government Travel Cards

A new banking contract for all Government Travel Charge Card holders will be in effect Nov. 31. To ensure a smooth transition from Bank of America to the new banking contract, Agency Program Coordinators will contact all GTCC holders prior to the change. For more information, call 263-3277 or e-mail myron.bettencourt@us.army.mil.

Free Income Tax Preparation

The Camp Zama Tax Center is now operating in Rm. CS-109, Bldg. 101. The hours are weekdays from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. through June 15. Appointments are recommended. A seasonal tax position will be available through the month of June. For more information, call 263-8268 or visit <http://cpol.army.mil>.

ZaCSA raises thousands for high school scholarships

By Esther Dacanay

Torii Editor

A few lucky seniors from Zama American High School will soon be getting a break on college tuition, thanks to some scholarships funded by the Zama Community Spouses' Association (ZaCSA).

Nearly 160 Soldiers, Civilians and Family members bought tickets to ZaCSA's 3rd Annual Basket & Service Auction held Feb. 23 at the Camp Zama Community Club. Proceeds from all winning bids and extra donations totaled \$8,776.

ZaCSA is a community service and social association open to all community members affiliated with Camp Zama and its sister installations.

Auction guests were treated with southern hospitality the moment they walked through the door and feasted their eyes on a delectable spread of refreshments while making bids on a selection of more than 50 themed baskets and other creative services donated by military units, community organizations and individuals.

Approximately 16 items were up for bid on the silent auction, which raised \$1,029 throughout the duration of the event.

The auctioneers for the live auction, dressed in cowboy apparel to complement the western theme of the event, were Ponce Espinoza, Eric Harmon and Tommy Hampton. They wowed and engaged the crowd with humorous antics and stretching exercises as they showcased each of the 36 items from the live auction, bringing in bids totaling \$6,555.

Nearly \$2,000 in additional funds came from guest donations given throughout the evening, according to Arlene Dulay, ZaCSA president.

The monetary goal for the event was



Photos by Esther Dacanay

Nearly 160 guests gathered in the ballroom at the Camp Zama Community Club on Feb. 23 to bid on baskets and services offered by units and organizations on post. Proceeds and donations from the auction, totaling \$8,776, will go directly to ZaCSA scholarship winners from Zama American High School.

originally set at \$6,000 on ZaCSA's "cactus cash-o-meter," but with help from an enthusiastic and generous crowd, the association was able to meet and exceed that goal.

"An event of this nature takes a community effort," said Dulay. "We received so many monetary donations, as well as donations of the baskets and services. We were overwhelmed with the response."

Some of the basket and service themes included family home movie night, hiking/camping, running gear, Zama Booster's sport pack, Aloha snacks, spa/relaxation baskets, gift certificates and hand-made quilts. The list goes on.

One of the most coveted services was a progressive dinner for eight people, courtesy of the USARJ command group. The winning bid for the dinner was \$1,100. The winner will enjoy the dinner, prepared and hosted by the command

group at the Eagles' Nest.

For more information on ZaCSA, visit www.ZaCSA.com.



Arlene Dulay, ZaCSA president, participates in stretching exercises led by an auctioneer. Also pictured is Arlene's husband, Lt. Col. Danny Dulay from U.S. Army Garrison Japan.

