What Carnival celebration was introduced to the western world in Alabama?

Please email your answer to crossleyb@cdpemail.dhs.gov for a chance to win two free movie tickets by May 22. The email should have “MOVIE TICKET GIVEAWAY” as the subject and the answer in the body.

This is a contest and by submitting a correct answer within one week of publication (May 22), your name will be entered into the random drawing for the free movie tickets.
As a Contracting Officer’s Representative in the CDP’s Training & Education Directorate, John McKenzie is responsible for the oversight of the URS and SMRC contracts, both of which support Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological Training Facility (COBRATF) operations.

McKenzie’s work day consists of surveillance on the two contracts, consulting on matters related to the COBRA Training Operations and Maintenance Support (TOMS) contract and the Medical Support Services (MSS) contract, numerous administrative functions and attendance at meetings.

Born in the Republic of South Korea, McKenzie says, “I don’t really have one place that I call home because I grew up as a military brat.”

McKenzie joined the CDP staff in August 2011. He had served in the U.S. Army for more than 20 years as an administrative specialist. His career was highlighted by a five-year assignment at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of the Army as a military assistant. In fact, McKenzie was working in the Pentagon on 9/11. He was in his office watching the first twin tower building in New York burn and, like most people, observed the second tower get hit. Shortly afterwards the Pentagon was attacked and there was a lot of confusion as to what had happened; nobody wanted to believe a plane had hit the building. Within 10 minutes an announcement was made throughout the Pentagon to evacuate to the center courtyard. McKenzie said, “Later as we were able to leave the center courtyard I walked around to the impact site that was on fire and watched the enormous flag get unfurled from the roof.”

As a military assistant, McKenzie spent a year deployed in Baghdad, Iraq, working for the Coalition Provisional Authority. When he retired in 2006, McKenzie worked as a Treaty Compliance Specialist working with United Nations Weapons Inspectors from the Organization for the Proliferation of Chemical Weapons then later as a Project Manager at the Chemical Demilitarization site in Anniston.

In his two-plus years working at the CDP, McKenzie said being one of five federal staff members to work during the government shutdown, performing tasks that were not directly related to his day-to-day job, was the most unusual work he has done.

“I support the CDP mission by ensuring the COBRATF and MSS contractors perform the assigned tasks that support training for our first responders and receivers,” said McKenzie.
Single filed and carrying black mesh bags, students from across the country pour into the logistics room to collect their daily ration of equipment. Tyvek suits, rubber boots, compressed air, among many other training tools line the racks and walls for students to grab as if grocery shopping. Along the aisles Leidos logistics personnel are assisting. This direct interaction is one of the very few that logistics staff will have with students, but without logistics, training would never happen.

“They make training happen, day in and day out,” said Billy Wooten, Leidos assistant logistics manager.

Leidos has 28 full-time, part-time and temporary employees that operate the four major logistic areas spread throughout campus, as well as a craftsmen’s workshop, said Mike Purner, Leidos logistics manager.

“In Building 61 and Noble Training Facility (NTF), we have maintenance recovery facilities,” said Purner. “We have a fleet of 17 vehicles which include 11 support vehicles and six training-aid vehicles (fire engines, ambulances, etc.) and six cargo trailers. We have more than 4,700 barcoded items and numerous items that are not barcoded.”

“Our key and essential goals are to manage, maintain and service training equipment to include consumables, vehicles and storage facilities associated with training not only found at NTF, but throughout the campus at the CDP,” said Zachary Hood, NTF Leidos logistic team leader. “We are about providing customer service to both internal and external constituents in a professional, quick and timely manner.”

The logistics team manages and maintains millions of dollars’ worth of equipment and supplies required for the state-of-the-art training at the CDP.

“The biggest job is the equipment, having it where it is supposed to be, when it is supposed to be and ready to go, cleaned and working,” said Wooten.

Ensuring equipment is working properly and ready for distribution is a team effort. Coordinating manpower is a huge challenge, said Wooten. The team needs to be flexible and move...
from area to area to tackle the mission.

“In logistics, we are a family,” said Hood. “We may be separated by locations but our operations are unified.”

It is not uncommon for a person to work two or three areas of operation throughout the day. From equipment sanitization to allocation to fabrication, logistics personnel come together as a team to ensure CDP students are prepared, said Wooten.

The logistics personnel pride themselves on their ability to go unnoticed throughout training at the CDP.

“A lot of what is done is completely under the radar,” said Wooten. “You never see it, but if it is wrong, you’ll know it.”

“The [Integrated Capstone Events] always make our operations tempo increase dramatically,” said Purner. “It takes all of our available resources to effectively support these exercises.”

The ICE is a multi-course exercise using NTF, the Advanced Responder Training Complex (ARTC) and vast amounts of equipment. Role player actors, patient simulators and manikins are used throughout the entire exercise.

“Special projects that we have accomplished that required special effort were to fully dress more than 100 manikins to include shoes and socks,” said Hood. “We had to pay special attention to children-, female- and male-specific clothing so the manikins’ genders matched during the exercise.”

Each area of logistics offers different challenges and goals. With approximately 13,000 resident and 5,500 nonresident students a year, logistics employees stay well-versed in courses offered at the CDP to anticipate the student’s needs.

“The employees in the logistics department are unique,” said Hood. “They have various backgrounds in areas such as law enforcement, HAZMAT, military and emergency management. Many of our employees have logged thousands of miles on the road, in the air and have represented the CDP in most of the United States.”

Logistical support doesn’t stop at the CDP; Leidos has mobile units specifically for nonresident training. Two employees are the fabricators for the logistics team and create the training props necessary for onsite, nonresident training.

“We drive the equipment to where it needs to be in Ohio, Texas, or whichever state the training is in,” said Wooten. “After the course we pick it up and bring it back to the CDP to clean and get ready to go back out on the road.”

With CDP training in such high demand, more classes are being booked that require logistical support. More classes mean more overlap of equipment and logistics are rising to the challenge.

“We may have a day or two to recover equipment, but sometimes we may have to turn it around the same day,” said Wooten.

The logistics team tries to get the equipment as it becomes available from students, said Wooten. They are constantly moving and operate as a single unit. Used equipment and kits come in, and after a little maintenance, it is back on the shelves ready for another student.

Without the logistics team, CDP training would be an impossibility. All 28 of the employees make sure our Nation’s finest receive the best training available by making sure their gear is where it needs to be and ready for use.

“It takes a good team to make it happen and we have one of the best,” said Wooten.
CDPEA & Calhoun Women Behind the Badge present:

The Fourth Annual CDPEA 5k

Twenty-four ran/walked the CDPEA 5k and 36 volunteers helped set up the race to include the Blue Knights Motorcycle club who provided road guards along the course. The race raised $2,285 from runners and sponsors.
The CDPEA presented a $500 check to Calhoun Women Behind the Badge to go to Children of Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund. The rest of the proceeds were awarded to the Derek Jensen Children’s Educational Trust.

Rebecca Hearn runs the last 100 yards of the CDPEA 5k placing first in the women’s category.

Mark and Hiromi Zeid participate in their first CDPEA 5k.

A runner crosses the finish line at the CDPEA 5k.

Sophie and Kim Martin run in the Kid’s Trot after the CDPEA 5k.

Rodney Singleton waves during his run of the CDPEA 5k.
4th Annual CDP Family Fun Day

ABOVE: Kids participate in a sack race at the 4th Annual CDP Family Fun Day.
BOTTOM LEFT: Haley Kellum and Macee Harbin jump in the bouncy house at the 4th Annual CDP Family Fun Day.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Steve Buckley mans the grill at the 4th Annual CDP Family Fun Day.
ABOVE: Haley Kellum eats watermelon at the 4th Annual CDP Family Fun Day.

ABOVE RIGHT: Kids play on the bouncy slide at the 4th Annual CDP Family Fun Day.

RIGHT: Toney Battle holds Heather Hollingsworth’s baby boy, Jett, at the 4th Annual CDP Family Fun Day.

BOTTOM: Ken Saunders gives his granddaughter, Savannah, a bite of a hot dog on the bouncy slide at the 4th Annual CDP Family Fun Day.
**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CHILDHOOD TV SHOW?**

**Jessica Joiner**
Training Support Services, Beacon

“I would pretend I was **MacGyver** at my grandparent’s house. I would tinker and solve all sorts of complex problems with stickers and stamps and whatever else I could get to stick underneath my grandmother’s vanity.”

**Faith Palmreuter**
Mass Care, FEMA Corps

“My favorite childhood TV show was **Recess** because I wanted to be like my older sister who watched it every Saturday, which was ‘SCANDALOUS’.”

**Clyde Parker**
Security Supervisor, G4S

“I would say **Sanford and Son**. I was in a lot of sports growing up and it was usually on when I got home from practice.”

**Thomas J. Wilczek**
IT Specialist, FEMA

“**Speed Racer**, it’s an incredible car, the Mach 5, that could leap canyons and won every race, the self-exiled brooding brother that Speed doesn’t know the true identity of and pet chimpanzee named Chim-Chim constantly getting into trouble.”

**Candice Gilliland**
Healthcare Senior Instructor, Leidos

“I got up early on Saturday to watch Bugs Bunny, but the first thing I watched when I got home from school were the classics on TNT; **The Munsters**, **Addams Family**, **Dennis the Menace**, **Leave it to Beaver**, **The 3 Stooges** and **The Little Rascals**.”

**Andrea Higgins**
Biologist, FEMA

“My favorite childhood TV show was **The Smurfs**, because I’ve always enjoyed fantasy.”