



KEESLER NEWS



Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Volume 68, No. 43
Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007

Deliver the nation's best trained, highly motivated expeditionary Airmen

INSIDE

COMMENTARY

Honoring veterans, **2**

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

New course rollout, **4**

NEWS AND FEATURES

AETC awards, **8**

Hunting safety, **11**

Dragon of Week, **12**

Keeping 'em rolling, **14**

Connected, **15**

Coffee break, **18**

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Fore!, **19**

SECTIONS

Commentary.....**2**

Training, education....**4-7**

News, features.....**8-18**

Sports, recreation.....**19-20**

Digest.....**21-23**

Classifieds.....**24-25**

Keesler on the Web:
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>



Dragons deployed
— 138

Base joins Gulf Coast in marking day for vets

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler is represented at several Veterans Day observances this weekend.

Friday

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Veterans Day observance — 11 a.m., downtown Moss Point. Col. Richard Pierce, 81st Training Wing vice commander, is the keynote speaker. For more information, call Carla Todd, 763-4810.

Saturday

Mississippi Gulf Coast's eighth annual Veterans Day parade — 11 a.m., downtown Gulfport. The parade route begins at the intersection of 19th Street and Highway 49 and ends at the Harrison County courthouse on Highway 49.

Col. Greg and Charlene Touhill, 81st TRW commander and his wife; Colonel

Please see **Veterans**, Page 9

Making an impression



Photo by Steve Pivnick

Paxton Belle's hand is placed into a cup of material used to make dental impressions by Airman 1st Class Veronica Torres at Child Pride Night at the youth center Nov. 1. Paxton, 5, is the son of Staff Sgt. Phillip and Keisha Belle, 81st Security Forces Squadron. Airman Torres, an 81st Dental Squadron technician, made hand impressions for children.

This week in the Triangle

Aerospace control and warning system operator, 9:30 a.m. today, Bryan Hall

Financial management and comptroller, 9:30 a.m. today, Wolfe Hall

Command post, 10 a.m. Friday, Bryan Hall

Communications-computer systems, 10 a.m. Friday, Thomson Hall

Ground radio communications, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jones Hall

Communications-computer systems, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Thomson Hall

Precision measurement equipment laboratory, 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wolfe Hall

Personnel, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Wolfe Hall



Student numbers

Total students — 3,087

Non-prior service — 2,031

Temporary duty — 885

Joint service — 118

Combat controllers — 25

Medical — 28

Non-prior service arrivals — 200

Guard, Reserve — 684

International — 44

FY08 graduates — 1m632

Total since 1942 — 2,266,627

COMMENTARY

Veterans Day about honoring all warriors, past and present

By Col. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

As Veterans Day approaches, we should all think of the true meaning of this day — it's more than just a day off; it's a time to contemplate our roles as members of the Air Force.

We shouldn't confuse Memorial Day in late May with Veterans Day, because the two have very different meanings. Memorial Day is when we honor those who've made the ultimate sacrifice, while Veterans Day honors all those who've served.

Childhood memories

When I was growing up in western Pennsylvania, Veterans Day was a big event. It included a parade where those who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam would march in memory of their fallen friends. Our high school band would march with them and we'd have a ceremony recognizing all our veterans. The Boy Scouts would also recognize fallen veterans by placing small flags along the tombstones in the cemetery.

I recall with a sense of awe chatting with a World War I veteran about his experiences as an 18-year-old soldier in France, meeting a female ferry pilot from World War II and seeing one of my high school gym teachers, a Vietnam helicopter gunner, pinning his medals to the suit none of us knew he had — we thought he only wore shorts.

Respectful celebration

We respected those men and women for their service and sacrifice and celebrated their patriotism.

When you attend a Veterans Day observance, you're likely to meet those who've served before you and find they all have much

in common. No matter what the conflict — World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, Persian Gulf — their stories are taken straight from the pages of our country's history.

Stories we need to hear

The stories from the men and women who served our country in the past tell of sacrifice and courage, of hardship and dedication, of doing the right thing just because it was right, no matter the consequences. These are stories we need to hear, because we follow in their footsteps. What they've done over the years has kept this country free, and is no less than what's expected of us.

The focal point of the national Veterans Day ceremony Sunday is at Arlington National Cemetery on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and Washington, D.C. There a color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The bugler plays "Taps" to honor them. In that memorial amphitheatre and at venues all across the country, veterans young and old come together in reverence, to remember both what they risked and what they accomplished in service to their country.

Honoring all who serve

Veterans Day honors all those who were the vanguards of freedom to protect our nation, as well as those presently serving in the global war on terrorism. Whether in the sands of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan or many other locations worldwide, this day honors all who took an oath to preserve, protect and defend our great nation.

It's a solemn day. We should all take a moment to remember the enormity of the task at hand, as well as to feel pride in ourselves for we're the next generation to carry on the tradition of integrity, service and excellence.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Col. Greg Touhill

81st Training Wing commander

You're encouraged to work your concerns through your chain of command or to contact an appropriate helping agent. For matters left unresolved, call the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81st TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81st TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest

Base locator — 377-2890

Base operator — 377-1110

Base taxi (official use) — 377-2430

Career assistance adviser — 377-3697

Central medical appointments — 1-800-700-8603

Child development center — 377-2211

Civil engineering — 377-5561

Civilian personnel — 377-2268

Military personnel flight — 377-2276

Keesler Federal Credit Union — 385-5500

Emergencies — 911

Family campground — 594-0543

Airmen and family readiness center — 377-2179

Finance — 377-4212

81st Communications Squadron help desk — 377-0066

Housing — 377-9741

Identification cards — 377-3203

Inspector general — 377-3010

Legal assistance — 377-3510

Library — 377-2181



Colonel Touhill

may appear in this column.

For your convenience, below is a list of key customer service phone numbers at Keesler:

Lodging (reservations) — 377-9986

Medical center information — 377-6550

Military equal opportunity — 377-2759

Military pay — 377-7272

Pass and registration — 377-3844

Pharmacy (refill call-in) — 376-1000

Satellite pharmacy — 377-9791

Public affairs — 377-2783

Red Cross — 377-0732

Sexual assault prevention and response team — 377-8635

Law enforcement desk — 377-3040

Shoppette, Class Six — 432-2367

Telephone trouble — 377-2130

Traffic management (outbound) — 377-2446

Traffic management (inbound) — 377-7813

Visitor center — 377-2595

Youth center — 377-4116

**Seat belts:
1) save lives,
2) are the law.
What's your excuse?**



KEESLER NEWS

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2004, 1997.
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2004, 1998, 1996;
No. 2, 2006, 2003,
2001, 1999, 1997,
1991, 1989, 1986;
No. 3, 2005, 2002, 1995;
honorable mention,
1992.

81st Training Wing commander

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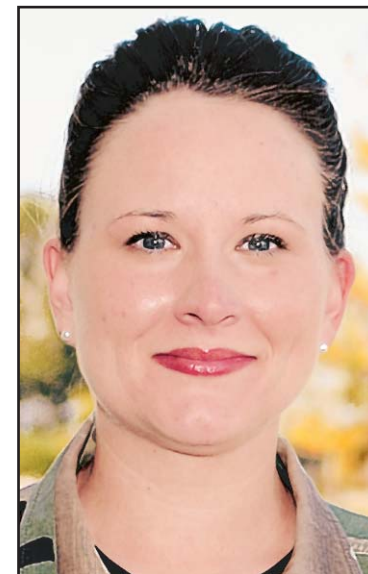
Report
sexual
assaults
to

377-7278.

DIAMOND NOTES

The new sage green
combat boots are authorized
for wear with both
the Airman battle uniform
and battle dress uniform.

— Master Sgt. Jessica Liebegott, 338th Training
Squadron first sergeant



Sergeant Liebegott



Phone numbers and Web sites
for information and accountability
for Keesler members:

Personnel Accountability Team
1-800-673-9356

Air Force Personnel Center
1-800-435-9941

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw>

81st Civil Engineer Squadron readiness
377-3811 or DSN 597-3811

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.msema.org>

National Weather Service
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

Keesler Public Web site
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Create a family checklist,
review it often,
make changes as needed
and activate it at the first sign
of a hurricane threat.



Could your work center
run more efficiently?

Is time being wasted
where you work?

Do you have an idea
to save money
or streamline your job?

If so, we want to know.

Contact
81st Training Wing
Air Force Smart Operations
for the 21st Century Office,
377-0123.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Pentagon official visits new finance officer school

By Senior Airman
Carlos Rodriguez

Keesler Public Affairs

John Vonglis, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management and comptroller, officiated the rollout ceremony for the new officer schoolhouse at Keesler Oct. 29.

The event marked the official opening of the newly-renovated facility in Allee Hall and the introduction of the new basic financial management and staff officer course curriculum in the 335th Training Squadron.

Crafting the future

"Today is about crafting the future of the Air Force financial management career field," said Mr. Vonglis.

The curriculum change focuses on the transformation of financial managers from performing transaction-oriented service to becoming strategic financial advisers to commanders.

"The new schoolhouse provides the foundation to build the skills officers and civilians need to gain this world-class knowledge in a world-class setting," said Mr. Vonglis.

The new course represents the largest financial management curriculum change in 20 years.

Proactive, not reactive

"We revamped over 70 percent of the course material in the basic and staff level courses," said Mr. Vonglis. "In the past, our officer and civilian courses concentrated on how to complete the day-to-day job. The new courses prepare our officers and civilians to think ahead and problem solve, allowing them to be proactive instead of reactive."

A major curriculum change

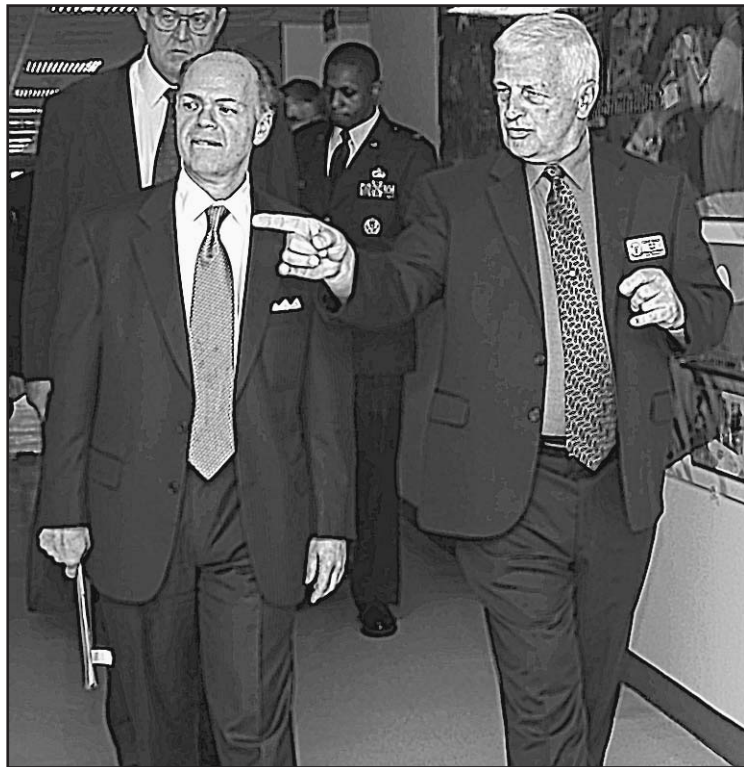


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Mr. Vonglis, left, tours the upgraded financial management officer training area in Allee Hall with Jerry Haynes, 335th TRS.

normally takes 18-24 months to conceive and implement. This change was completed in less than a year.

"The curriculum review started in November of last year; we began teaching the new curriculum this month," said Mr. Vonglis.

While this is a huge change for officers and civilians, plans are also afoot to change the curriculum for the enlisted corps.

"The new enlisted curriculum and facility renovations are under way," said Mr. Vonglis. "The curriculum will be rolled out in April of 2008 and the facility will be completed soon thereafter."

The schoolhouse rollout is not the first transformation under Mr. Vonglis. A new Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force

Base, S.D. recently opened, merging numerous financial transactions under one roof.

"By consolidating military and travel pay functions in one location, the Air Force will save \$210 million over 10 years," said Mr. Vonglis.

These Air Force financial management accomplishments are part of ongoing Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century and transformation efforts.

"Financial management's transformation is a great success story and it shows how the Air Force can work smarter and leaner and transform itself to meet the challenges of the 21st century," said Mr. Vonglis. "The transformation story also shows that the AFSSO21 initiative works and provides results."



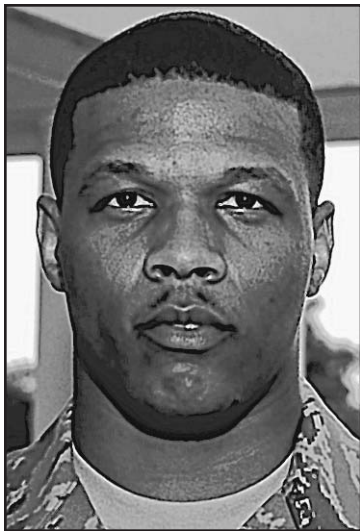
Sergeant Browning



Sergeant Chapa



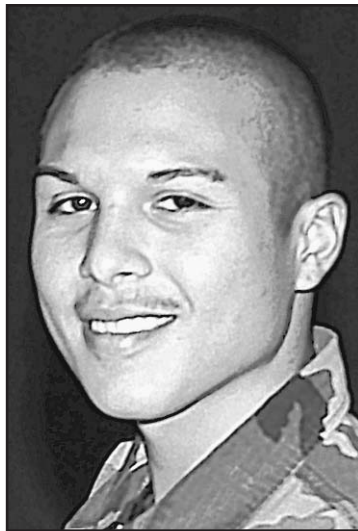
Sergeant Shema



Sergeant Hartson



Sergeant Outsey



Airman Ebanez

CCAF students earn scholarships

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Six students were presented scholarships at the Community College of the Air Force fall graduation ceremony, Oct. 30 at Welch Auditorium.

Three CCAF graduates received both a \$500 Pitsenbarger Award from the Aerospace Education Foundation and the Air Force Association, and a \$100 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Excellence Award for textbooks and supplies:

Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Browning, 2nd Air Force, recently earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Faulkner University. He's a graduate student at Mississippi State University working on a master of business administration degree.

Staff Sgt. John Chapa, 334th Training Squadron, has completed three CCAF associate degrees and is enrolled with Kaplan University to pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, with plans to attend law school.

Staff Sgt. Amber Shema, 335th TRS, has earned two CCAF degrees and is enrolled with National America University to work on a degree in applied management. Her goal is a master's degree in human resource management.

Other award winners:

Staff Sgt. Michael Hartson, 335th TRS, received one of the Embry-Riddle awards. He's working on a bachelor's degree in information management with an emphasis in Web development from Strayer University.

Staff Sgt. Sherita Outsey, 334th TRS, received a \$150 William Carey University Excellence Award for textbooks and supplies. She's pursuing a bachelor's degree in general studies with a concentration in psychology.

Senior Airman Dallas Ebanez, 81st Training Support Squadron, received a \$150 scholarship for textbooks from the Keesler Chiefs Group. He's attending Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College to continue coursework toward a CCAF degree in electronic systems technology.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Fishbowl celebration

The chapel celebrates 30 years of "Fishbowl" technical training student ministry, 3-6 p.m. Saturday on the drill pad behind the Levitow Training Support Facility.

The event includes a cake-cutting ceremony, food, music, games, contests and drawings.

For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Jeremy Gorline, 377-8256.

MGCCC winter term

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Keesler Center's winter term is Nov. 19-Feb. 22.

Web registration for current students is under way.

Registration by appointment in Room 214, Hangar 2, begins today for active duty.

A skills assessment is required for those taking English composition I, oral communication or mathematics for the first time.

For more information, call 377-2287.

Parade

A student parade is 6 p.m. Nov. 15 on the parade field.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Kwame Felton, 377-3245.

USM spring term

The University of Southern Mississippi Keesler Center's

spring semester starts Jan. 14.

Undergraduate degree programs in psychology, American studies and technical occupational education and classes in administration of justice and computer science are offered.

For more information, call Jennifer Williams, 377-2309; visit Room 208, Hangar 2, or visit <http://www.usmedu/gulfcoast/military/index.ph>.

USM degree

The University of Southern Mississippi-Keesler offers a degree in technical occupational education.

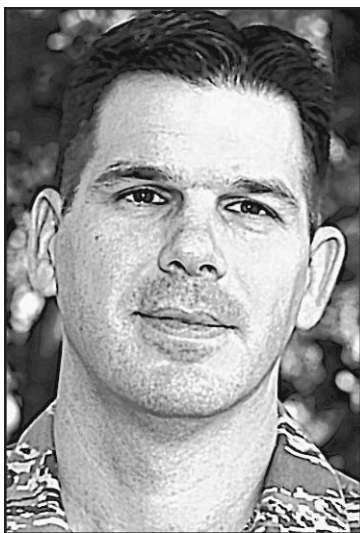
For more information, call 377-2309.



Proud Papa

Airmen 1st Class Korey Papa graduates today from the airfield management apprentice course in the 334th Training Squadron with a perfect score. His hometown is McDonald, Ohio. He's working for two weeks with the recruiter assistance program in Youngstown, Ohio, before he heads for his assignment with the 21st Operations Support Squadron at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

NEWS AND FEATURES



Sergeant Davis



Ms. Green



Ms. Lyons

Mission supporters earn 4 awards

Keesler News staff

The 81st Mission Support Squadron claimed four awards from Air Education and Training Command for 2007.

The manpower and organization flight is the flight of the year in the large base category.

The flight received an "excellent" rating during this year's operational readiness inspection for its expertise in managing services for the 81st Training Wing and 2nd Air Force, as well as the 381st Training Group at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. This encompassed more than 8,400 personnel authorizations valued at \$520 million.

Master Sgt. Keith Davis won the enlisted professional military education achievement award in the Airmen Leadership School flight chief category.

"This award recognizes the contributions made by the entire ALS staff and is a reflection

of the entire team's efforts," said Sergeant Davis. "It's one of the proudest achievements in my career because this is an award that can only be won by bringing together a dynamic team."

Becky Green, education office director, was recognized as outstanding education/training manager for the second consecutive year.

"Being a good leader means taking care of the mission and your people," said Ms. Green. "I strive to lead by example and encourage the staff to reach beyond their comfort zones to grow professionally."

Lisa Lyons was named outstanding education/training technician/specialist.

"Hard work and dedication" is what the 24-year civilian employee credits for her success. "This is confirmation that I am not only enjoying what I do, but I'm doing it well."

Airman David Salanitri and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

Tricare incentives from employers banned

Air Force Print News

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Many Tricare beneficiaries are getting letters from their employer stating they no longer offer Tricare supplements as an employer-sponsored medical option as of Jan. 1.

Employers are barred from offering their employees incentives to use Tricare rather than a company group health plan. The legislation applies to any employer, including states and units of local government with 20 or more employees, and mirrors the same prohibition that currently applies to Medicare.

Beneficiaries have earned their right to Tricare benefits through their service and this remains unchanged.

Tricare beneficiaries are advised to take measures to understand and look closely at all health care options offered by Tricare and their current employer before deciding what is best for them and their families. Eligible beneficiaries can enroll in Tricare on their own without taking employer incentives if desired.

The employer can offer "cafeteria plans" to their

Tricare-eligible beneficiaries as long as the plans are offered to all employees, including those who aren't eligible for Tricare. The legislation has no impact on Tricare supplement plans that are sold by beneficiary associations or commercial insurers.

The legislation was initiated after evidence showed many employers shifted their health care costs to Tricare by offering financial incentives urging eligible employees to use Tricare rather than the employer's group health plan.

IN THE NEWS

CFC pledges 177 percent of goal

A total of \$191,471.55 was pledged during Keesler's Combined Federal Campaign, 177 percent of the base's \$107,947.28 target for 2007.

Keesler's pledge percentage was the highest among 2nd Air Force installations, according to Capt. Breanne Roeckers, base project officer. Second Air Force pledged \$1,468,661.60, or 114 percent of its goal of \$1,288,723.28.

Donation for Fisher House

Keesler Federal Credit Union and the Armed Forces Financial Network recently presented \$1,000 in prepaid \$50 AFFN "thank you" cards to Keesler's Fisher House.

The cards are distributed to military family members to help with daily living expenses while staying at a Fisher House during the upcoming holiday season. The cards are accepted at commissaries, base exchanges and other AFFN point-of-sale locations around the world.

The Fisher House provides a "home away from home" for families and patients receiving medical care at Keesler Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Biloxi.

Motorcyclists ride for children

A fundraiser for the Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund is hosted by the Mississippi Chapter of the Armed Forces Motorcycle Club, noon to 7 p.m. Saturday.

Registration begins 10 a.m. at the starting and finishing point, The Phoenix, 4307 Dedeaux Road, Gulfport. The cost is \$15 per rider and \$5 per passenger.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Bob Madigan, 297-5692 or 377-5958.

Early Keesler News deadlines

The deadline for submissions to the Nov. 15 and 21 issues of the Keesler News are noon today and Nov. 15, respectively, four days earlier than usual, due to the Veterans Day (Monday) and Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22) federal holidays.

The Thanksgiving Day issue is published one day earlier than usual because the holiday falls on a Thursday.

The newspaper office is closed Monday and Nov. 22-23.

Off-limits establishments

Off-limits establishments for military members are the Blue Note Lounge, Boulevard Nightclub and Henry Beck Park (except during daylight hours or official events) in Biloxi; Carver Village, Bunksmall Apartments and H&H Hideaway in Pascagoula, and Toni's Lounge in Moss Point.

Veterans,

from Page 1

Pierce and his wife, Linda; Col. Rodney and Nina Croslen, 81st Mission Support Group commander and his wife; the American flag team, the 338th Training Squadron's state flag team and the 81st Training Group's drum and bugle corps participate. Lewis Shank, a retired World War II Army Air Corps crew member, is the

parade marshal.

For more information, call Capt. Ted West, 377-7343, or visit the Web site, <http://www.msveteransparade.com>.

Port Hudson National Cemetery's Veterans Day ceremony — noon, Zachary, La. Master Sgt. Brent Misita, 336th TRS, represents the Air Force in a joint service candle-lighting ceremony.

Sunday

Veterans Day ceremony — 11 a.m., Temple Baptist Church, 14190 Dedeaux Road,

Gulfport. Colonel Touhill is the guest speaker.

American Legion Post 33's Veterans Day observance — 11 a.m., Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, Highway 90 at Main Street. Colonel Pierce delivers the keynote speech and the color guard posts the flags. A reception follows at the post home, 131 Lameuse Street.

American Legion Post 119's Veterans Day observance — 2 p.m., old train station west of Hancock Bank on 14th Street, Gulfport. The color guard participates.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Civilian retirement seminars

Three one-day civilian employee retirement planning seminars are scheduled this month.

Federal Employees Retirement System employees — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 27 and 28.

Civil Service Retirement System employees — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 29.

All three seminars are in Room 5, Keesler NCO Academy, Building 2901.

Deborah Hatch, Federal Benefits Services, LLC., conducts the seminars, which are intended for employees planning to retire within three to five years who've not previously participated.

Reservations are required because space is limited to 50 people. Those who don't make reservations are considered on a space-available basis the day of the seminar.

To register by the Nov. 15 deadline, first obtain your supervisor's approval, then e-mail Cecilia Schefsky, cecilia.schefsky@keesler.af.mil.

Spouses may attend and aren't counted against the 50-person limit.

AFPC Web site now on Air Force Link

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force Personnel Center's new public Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>, went live as part of Air Force Link, the official Web site of the Air Force, on Friday.

The public site features AFPC mission information of interest to the general public, along with information on civilian employment, personnel records requests, Worldwide Locator Service, Air Force Casualty Services and more.

Air Force members seeking detailed personnel information should update their Web browsers to <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil> where such information is available for military personnel and Defense Department civilians.

People seeking additional personnel-related information find contact information for the Air Force Contact Center, a 24-hour, 365-day per year call center staffed by personnel professionals.

WAPS test schedules

Weighted airman promotion system test schedules:

Senior master sergeant — Dec. 3-14.

Master and technical sergeant — Feb. 1 to March 31.

Staff sergeant — May 1 to June 15.

Members should be prepared to test on the first day of the cycle.

For more information, contact unit WAPS monitors.

Civilian employment information

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Civilian appropriated fund employees and prospective applicants can get answers to questions about employment opportunities, benefits and entitlements online at the Air Force's Customer Service Center.

A database at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst> includes hundreds of questions and answers. For online inquiries, users who don't find an answer to their specific question can submit a query through the "Ask-A-Question" tab at the top of the page.

Long-term care insurance

For information on the long-term care insurance program and how to enroll, go online to <http://www.ltcfeds.com> or call 1-800-582-3337 or TDD 1-800-843-3557, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Civilian benefits programs

Open season opens Monday

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — An open season is Monday through Dec. 10 for three civilian benefit programs:

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program and Federal Flexible Spending Account Program.

FEHB — premiums for 2008 rise an average of 2 percent for the second consecutive year. There are 283 plan choices in 2008, one less than in 2007; 13 plans dropped out and 12 new plans are joining. The number of high-deductible health plans is increasing to 32, up from 29 in 2007.

Air Force-serviced civilian employees make their FEHB open season enrollments or changes by the Employee Benefits Information System or BEST phone system.

EBIS, a secure Web application, is located behind the Air Force Portal, <https://www.my.af.mil>, and the AFPC Secure Web site, <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure>. An advantage of making an election via EBIS is employees can print a copy of Standard Form 2809, the health benefits election form, as soon as they complete the election.

The BEST automated phone system, 1-800-616-3775 for employees in the U.S. (press 2 for Air Force-serviced civilian, then 2 for BEST benefits and entitlements, and follow the prompts. Direct access numbers can be found at http://www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp. Hearing-impaired employees may call the TDD line, 1-800-382-0893. Benefits counselors are available weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time.

FEDVIP — provides supplemental dental and vision insurance coverage. FEDVIP is group coverage on an enrollee pay all basis. Seven plans offer dental benefits and three plans offer vision benefits, including regional, national, and international coverage. Three enrollment categories are available: self only, self plus one, and self and family. Coverage and benefits vary, but generally include preventive-care services, oral and eye exams, orthodontia and a variety of eye- and oral-care products and procedures.

Federal employees eligible to enroll in the FEHB program may also enroll in FEDVIP.

FEDVIP enrollment automatically continues from year to year like FEHB enrollment. FEDVIP enrollment also continues when enrolled employees retire.

Federal employees who wish to enroll, change plans, or cancel their enrollment in the FEDVIP program during this open season must do so by visiting the BENEFEDS Web site, <http://www.BENEFEDS.com>, or by calling BENEFEDS toll-free, 1-877-888-3337 or TTY 1-877-889-5680. BENEFEDS won't accept paper enrollment forms this year.

BENEFEDS "turns on" all enrollment func-

tions by 5 a.m. Eastern Time on Monday and "turns off" open season enrollment functions at 12 a.m. Eastern Time on Dec. 11.

Enrolling is easy and involves two steps. First, employees must create a BENEFEDS .com account by providing demographic and employment information. When this one-time step is complete, eligible employees can compare plans and enroll.

The effective date of FEDVIP coverage for the 2008 plan year is Jan. 1. Premium deductions begin for Air Force-serviced employees with the pay period beginning Jan. 6 and are reflected in their Jan. 25 leave and earnings statement. Premiums are deducted on a pre-tax (premium conversion) basis for employees. Enrollees pay the full premium for dental and vision coverage, with no government contribution.

FFSA — during this open season, eligible employees may enroll in the FSAFEDS program for calendar year 2008. There are three types of FSA accounts: the Health Care FSA, the Limited Expense Health Care FSA, and the Dependent Care FSA. The FSAFEDS program allows federal employees to set aside pre-tax money for a wide range of medical and dependent care expenses. The money is set aside before salary is taxed. The money is exempt from federal income taxes, Social Security taxes, Medicare taxes, and from most state and local taxes.

Employees who are eligible to enroll in the FEHB program may participate in the FSA program, even if they aren't currently enrolled. Employees who enroll in one of the high-deductible health plans and are eligible for a health savings account may not have a regular Health Care FSA account, but they may enroll in the LEX Health Care FSA. All employees with qualified dependents may enroll in a Dependent Care FSA, except temporary employees with no fixed work schedule whose tour of duty is six months or less.

There are no benefit changes in FSAFEDS for 2008. The maximum annual election is \$5,000 for the Health Care FSA and for the LEX Health Care FSA. The Dependent Care FSA annual maximum is \$5,000 per household or \$2,500 if married and filing separate tax returns. The minimum annual amount for each type of FSA account is \$250.

The FSA program also has a 2.5-month grace period. If the 2008 account isn't exhausted by Dec. 31, 2008, eligible expenses incurred Jan. 1 through March 15, 2009, are applied to the remaining 2008 balance.

FSA enrollments are made via the FSAFEDS Web site, <http://www.fsafeds.com>, or by calling toll-free 1-877-372-3337 or TTY 1-800-952-0450. Enrollment doesn't carry over automatically from year to year — employees must submit a new enrollment for each year they wish to participate.

State requires classes before some can hunt

Safety office

Mississippi's gun-hunting season for various types of small game is during the fall and winter months.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks offers free hunter education classes. Everyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1972 is required to complete the classes before purchasing a Mississippi hunting license.

For more information on class dates and times, call the hunter education office, 1-800-354-5033.

For hunters who've completed the course, here are some important firearms safety tips:

Treat every firearm with the same respect due a loaded firearm.

Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle. Carry your gun safely, keeping the safety on until ready to shoot.

Identify your target and what's beyond it.

Know the identifying features of the game you hunt.

Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that you have ammunition of the proper size for the firearm you carry.

Unload guns when not in use. Leave the action open.

Carry firearms empty in cases to and from shooting areas.

Never point a gun at anything you don't intend to shoot. Almost 95 percent of



the people shot in hunting accidents were within six feet of the person who shot them.

Avoid all horseplay with firearms.

Never climb a fence or tree, jump a ditch or log with a loaded firearm.

Never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.

Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water. During target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.

Store firearms and ammunition separately, beyond the reach of children and careless adults.

Avoid alcoholic beverages or other mood-altering drugs before or after shooting.

Never pick up or accept a gun from anyone unless you can visually determine it's unloaded. If you don't know how to check the weapon, don't handle it until you learn.

DRAGON OF THE WEEK

Name — Airman 1st Class Kwadwo “Apong” Agyen-Frempong

Unit — 81st Comptroller Squadron

Position — customer support travel pay technician

Time in Air Force — 22 months

Time at Keesler — 19 months

Noteworthy — originally from Ghana, he recently became a U.S. citizen; received a Hard Charger Award for the 81st Training Wing staff agencies during the operational readiness inspection and was selected as his unit’s most valuable peer in July.

Hometown — East Hartford, Conn.

Why did you join the Air Force? for the opportunity for a better career and future.

What are your short- and long-term goals? Short-term, enroll in college; long-term,



Photo by Kemberly Groue

earn my master’s degree and retire from the Air Force.

What’s your favorite quote? Allow yourself to be yourself — you can never be happy in someone else’s shoes.

What are your hobbies? Traveling and spending time with my family, which includes my wife, Stephanie; my 13-month-old son, Xander, and my parents, Monica and Adu.

Senior Airman Robert Shavers, 81st TRANS vehicle operator, performs an inspection of a van. Such inspections are conducted on a daily basis to ensure vehicles are ready to be put into service.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



Mission: Keep 400-plus sets of wheels rolling

Imagine you're responsible for ensuring more than 400 vehicles — cars, trucks, vans, buses, forklifts — are on the road in support of the mission at least 90 percent of the time.

Mission impossible?

Not for the 81st Transportation Squadron.

"The shop at Keesler is among the best I've seen throughout my career," said Master Sgt. Kevin

Benjamin, 81st TRANS fleet manager.

Throughout Keesler, the squadron's 143 members service more than 400 vehicles, including 88 General Services Administration vehicles.

These vehicles stay on the road more than 90 percent of the time because of the efficiency of the maintainers at 81st TRANS, according to Sergeant Benjamin.

In an average month, the shop completes about 150 vehicle repairs and 3,000 maintenance actions.

"We are proud of the product we put out and consider ourselves to be in the upper echelon of service organizations on base," said the sergeant.

For more information call Robert Kroll, 377-3943, or Master Sgt. Marten Matthews, 377-4109.



Staff Sgt. Richard Tagert dispatches 81st TRANS Airmen on daily operational runs which include busing technical training students, base taxi service, wrecker recovery of disabled vehicles, forklifts, tractor trailer rigs and other tasks.



Senior Airman Pedro Rivera, an 81st TRANS mechanic, checks brake fluid in a truck in the maintenance shop.

Connected

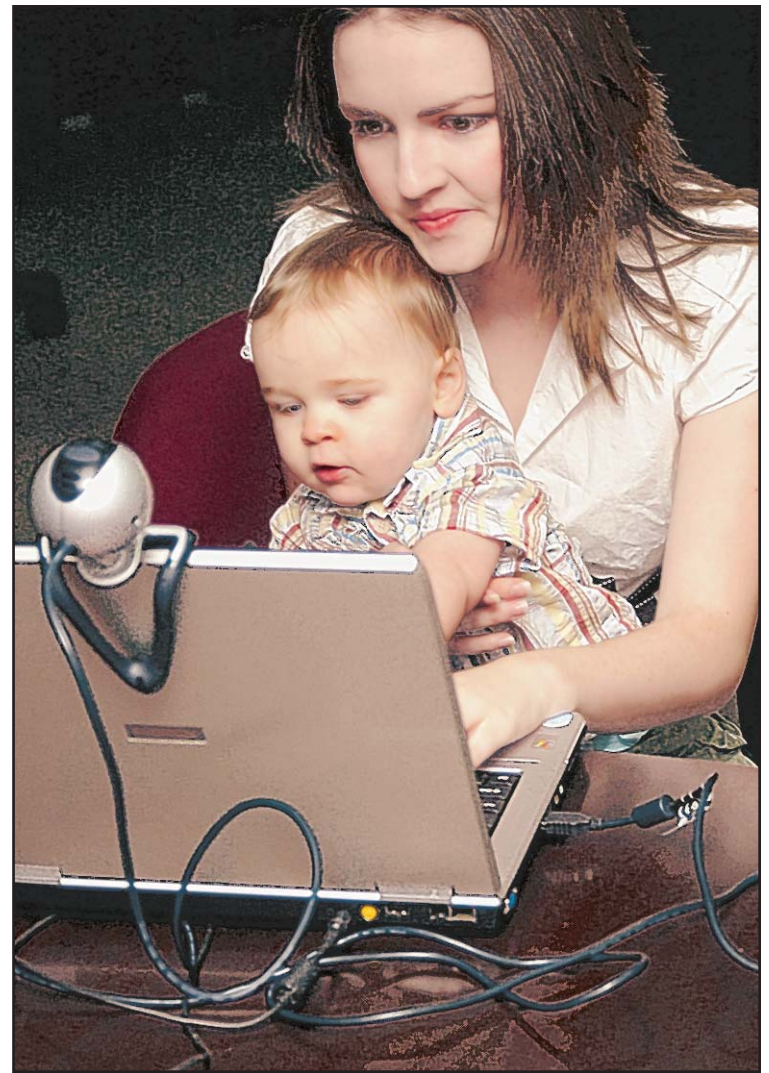


Photo by Airman David Salantri
Cinnamon Parks and son Matthew, 11 months, try out a computer and Web camera donated to the airman and family readiness center by Career Blazers, a Florida-based company. Similar donations are being made to Air Force bases across the country to help families stay in touch with their deployed loved ones. Mrs. Parks' husband is Airman Basic Gregory Parks, 338th Training Squadron ground radar student.

Keesler generosity brings comfort to assault victims

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Keesler's compassion is making personal tragedies a little more bearable for sexual assault victims along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Thanks to a drive initiated by 2nd Lt. Stephanie Lutz, deputy sexual assault response coordinator, 131 "comfort bags" were donated to the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence, an agency that provides services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and their families.

Each bag contains clothing, toiletries and other items that have been taken to seven area emergency rooms where rape victims receive initial treatment.

In addition to \$2,000 in cash donations, the base's sexual assault prevention and response office collected tote bags and back packs, toiletries, T-shirts and sweat pants in different sizes, flip flops, underwear, notebooks, pens and personal care items from groups and individuals across the base and in surrounding communities.

Keesler volunteers assembled the bags, and a truckload of excess supplies was donated to the center for use by temporary residents or for future needs.

"People gave not just money and supplies, but their time to assemble the bags," Liz Waters, Keesler's sexual assault response coordinator, pointed out.

The response to Keesler's efforts has been heartwarming, said Lieutenant Lutz.

"A nurse from Ocean Springs Hospital told me at a recent Jackson County Sexual



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Lieutenant Lutz, left, and Ms. Waters inventory items for the comfort bags.

Assault Response Team meeting that the bags have been a great help already," the lieutenant remarked. "She told me it's hard to find the needed clothes and hygiene articles, and now they're all in one place. The victims have some dignity now."

"This is a wonderful project," remarked Mary Buffington, volunteer coordinator at the women's center. "People often don't realize what victims go through. To be able to give them clean clothes and let them feel like a person again, instead of a statistic, is a very compassionate gift of hope."

Col. Richard Pierce, 81st Training Wing vice commander, recognized Team Keesler for its generous response to the project.

"That level of compassion combined with the understanding of the need to provide support to sexual assault victims was truly unparalleled," the colonel said. "We thank everyone for going above and beyond."

HOLIDAY NOTES

Toys for Tots

The annual Toys for Tots campaign continues through Dec. 18.

Donated new and unwrapped toys are given to needy children on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

For more information or to volunteer to assist with the campaign, call Cheryl Moore, 81st Communications Squadron, 377-3900.

Hosting Airmen

The chapel marks its 11th year as sponsor of Home Away From Home for non-prior service Airmen.

The annual event brings together families from the Keesler community with the Airmen for Thanksgiving Day.

Host families volunteer invite two or more Airmen in their homes for the Thanksgiving Day meal.

Host sign-up forms are available and can be turned in at the Fishbowl in the Levitow Training Support Facility and the Triangle and Larcher chapels. Families may also register by e-mail or phone, jeremy.gorline@keesler.af.mil or 377-8256 or 2331.

Student sign-up forms are available in the Fishbowl.

Mailing deadlines

Army and Air Force Exchange Service

Mail to deployed service members going parcel post must be sent by Wednesday and first class mail by Dec. 10 to arrive by Dec. 25, according to the Military Postal Service Agency.

To help facilitate the mailing process and avoid obstacles that come with the traditional care packages, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service created "Gifts from the Homefront," allowing direct and tangible contributions to military morale with gift certificates that can be redeemed.

"Gifts from the Homefront" can be sent to deployed troops by going to <http://www.aafes.org> or calling 1-877-770-4438.

KEESLER NOTES

Parking lot closed

The parking lot southeast of the Keesler NCO Academy is closed today for drill evaluations.

In case of rain, the lot opens.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Lisa Arnold, 377-2740.

Welcome lunch

Keesler Spouses Club hosts a potluck lunch to welcome Col. Greg and Charlene Touhill, 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Triangle Chapel Annex.

For more information, visit the club's Web site, <http://www.keeslerspousesclub.com>.

Housing closure

The housing office is closed 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday for an official function.

Advocate training

Victim advocate training is Nov. 28-29 and Dec. 5-6.

Times and locations may vary, according to sexual

assault prevention and response officials.

For more information, call SARC, 377-8635.

Services hours

For hours of operation of 81st Services Division facilities, go to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Lactation services

Lactation services are available at Keesler Medical Center.

Included are prenatal teaching, breast-feeding education, breast-feeding assistance following discharge from the medical center, care for infants with special needs and breast care for non-breast-feeding mothers.

For additional information, call Brenda Valdez, the newly-assigned lactation consultant, 376-3121.

Public affairs moves

The public affairs office is in Room 201-A, Wall Studio.

Coffee break

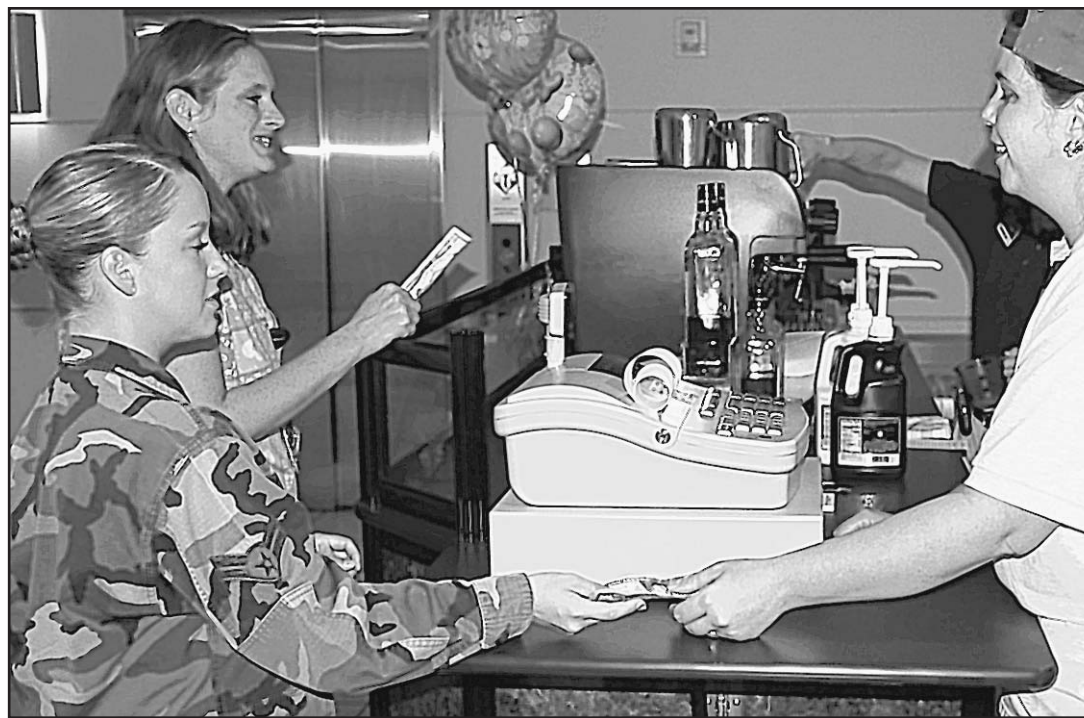


Photo by Steve Pivnick

Airman 1st Class Christina Schaffer and Rebecca Gavins, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, pay Nola Loskamp for their purchases at Java Gypsy's coffee bar in Keesler Medical Center. Located in the outpatient clinic lobby behind the escalators, Java Gypsy's began service Oct. 18. Hours are 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday.

SPORTS AND RECREATION



Air Force photo



Cries of 'Fore!' heard again at Bay Breeze

Above, the comfort station at the north end of Bay Breeze Golf Course immediately after Hurricane Katrina flooded it, Aug. 29, 2005. Left, Mark Mesenbrink, 335th Training Squadron commander, follows through on this putt on No. 9 Friday as the course reopened following a \$4.5 million restoration project. The restoration included scraping off dead grass, spraying the course with new grass seed, digging up and replacing greens and replacing dead trees with flower beds. The layout is unchanged, although the contours and grass on the greens are different. The pre-Katrina green surfaces are now covered in Tifdwarf Bermuda, a grass that's easier to maintain and better suited to the climate on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, according to Tama Manu, golf director for the 81st Services Division.

Photo by Kemberly Groue

SCORES AND MORE

Basketball

Varsity home schedule

Editor's note: Home games played at Blake Fitness Center. For more information, call coaches Jesse Harris (men), 228-257-7756 or 376-3398, or Richard Vincent (women), 228-343-9951.

Today — Faulkner State, women only, 6 p.m.

Nov. 17 — Moody AFB, Ga., women 2 p.m., men 4 p.m.

Dec. 8 — Ft. Benning, Ga., women 2 p.m., men 6 p.m.

Jan. 5 — Eglin AFB, Fla., women 2 p.m., men 4 p.m.

Feb. 9 — Mayport Naval Air Station, Fla., men only, noon.

Bowling

League standings

Monday Budweiser (as of Oct. 29)

Team	Won	Lost
Perry's Refrigeration	34	15
3 Steps Forward	33	16
Old Skool	32	17
Slater's Shooters	30	19
Wayne's World	30	19
Gannon's Cannons	28.5	20.5
Our Gang	28	21
Endangered Species	27.5	21.5
Man On	26	23
Hoops Gang	26	23
Team 3	23	26
Unpredictables	23	26
Team 2	18	31
Pin Heads	18	31
Ghost Riders	17	32
B-Busters	16	26
The Corner Pins	13	29
Martini's	11	38

Wednesday Mixed (as of Oct. 31)

Team	Won	Lost
Oceans Eleven	47	16
Clyde's Team	45	18
Jokers Wild	37	19
Hang Chucky	39	24
Ichiban	35	28
70s Plus	33	30

2 Old 2 Bowl	32	31
3DR	31	32
MUDD	28	35
Misfits	26	37
Neighbors + 1	23	33
Team 13	22	41
Lucky Strikes	17	39
Team 14	0	0

Thursday Retired Seniors Mixed (as of Nov. 1)

Team	Won	Lost
6-Pack	40.5	22.5
Team 1	38.5	24.5
2 Bees & a D	38	25
Freda's Kids	37	26
Team 16	37	26
Dummys Dummies	36	27
Team 5	34.5	28.5
Delema	34.5	28.5
The Very Best	33	30
Team 2	31.5	31.5
Team 12	31	32
Team 15	29	34
Guys and Dolls	26	37
Friends	26	37
Amy's Bunch	26	37
Full Speed	24	39
Team 13	23	40
Barb's Boys	21.5	41.5

Thursday Federal Intramural (as of Oct. 25)

Team	Won	Lost
Team 3	46	10
85th EIS	42	14
332nd TRS	40	16
Team 4	36	20
Team 14	32	24
81st MSS	32	24
GCCS Squad	30	26
81st TRSS	30	26
403rd Rolling Thunder	30	26
Team 5	28	28
Team 10	22	34
403rd MXS	22	34
Misfits	20	36
81st CPTS	20	36
338th TRS	16	40
Ghosts	2	54

Friday Mixed (as of Friday)

Team	Won	Lost
Lady and the Tramps	43	20
Team 10	41	22

Team 3	41	22
Pin Busters	39	24
Sandbaggers	28	35
Harry's Team	27	36
3 Guys and A Babe	26	37
Pin Pals	23	40
Dreamers	23	40
Jax Hax	19	44

Other

Logo apparel — wear your college logo clothing on Saturdays and get \$1 off shoe rental. Wear Mississippi Sea Wolves apparel anytime and get \$1 off shoe rental.

League event — turkey shoot Tuesday through Nov. 16 and 19. \$2 per entry during league play only. One entry covers all three games.

Holiday youth special — 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 19-21; 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 21. Youth 17 and younger bowl for 50 cents a game.

Open play on league nights — first come, first served. For lane availability, call 377-2817.

Children's birthday party package — available 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1:30-3 p.m., or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays. Includes bowling and food package. Call for more information.

Youth special — ages 17 and younger, \$1.50 game.

Open bowling — for days and times, call 377-2817.

Lunch and bowl — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays. Bowl free with purchase of a lunch combo or buffet.

Tuesdays — teenagers bowl for \$5. Ten lanes available.

Nonprior service students bowling special — 5-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, all nonprior service students bowl for \$1.50 game including shoe rental.

Glow bowling — 9 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays.

Hurricane alley and fundraisers — for more information, call 377-2817.

Fitness centers

Push/pull contest — Nov. 16. Weigh in at noon, start at 1 p.m.

Push is bench press, pull is deadlift. Weight classes for men and women. Register at Triangle Fitness Center through Nov. 15.

Walk your way through the holidays — record your daily steps Nov. 22-Jan 1. Register and pick up a free pedometer and log book, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Nov. 15 at Dragon Fitness Center or health and wellness center. Turn in log books Jan. 2-3. Medal ceremony and 1-mile walk, 11 a.m. Jan. 10, Crotwell Track.

Fitness classes — step aerobics, turbo-core, cycle/spin, slo-robics, boxing workout and new fencing class. For more information, call 377-2907.

Triangle Fitness Center — open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays and weekends; closed holidays. For massage appointments, call 263-5515. For more information, call 377-3056.

Blake Fitness Center — open 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Dragon Fitness Center — 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays. Parent-child fitness room open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-working Fridays. Parental supervision required.

Golf

Course open — 7 a.m. to dusk daily. For tee times call 377-3832.

Pro shop — Open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Limited merchandise available.

Driving range — open 7 a.m. to dusk daily; 40 balls, \$2.

Golf lessons — \$25 for 30 minutes. For appointment, call 424-0479.

Outdoor recreation

Free turkey throwing contest — noon, Nov. 17. Longest throw wins a Thanksgiving turkey.

Veterans Day special — Monday, 10 percent discount on boat rentals.

November fish of the month — weigh in the largest crappie for the month and win \$250 savings bond.

Deep sea fishing — charter the Boston Whaler for \$600. Captain and tackle provided. \$300 deposit.

Back Bay cruiser — 17-foot vessel for rent. Mississippi boater registration card required. For prices, call 377-3160.

Deep sea fishing trips — compressed work schedule Fridays and Saturdays. \$60 fee includes everything you need to fish. Payment due upon reservation. No fishing license required. Bring food and beverage. Minimum 10, maximum 22.

Canoe trips — for more information, call 377-3160.

Pontoon boat training — required before rental. For more information, call 377-3160.

Recreational vehicle, boat and trailer storage — \$15 per month. For more information, call 377-3180.

Marina park pavilions — to reserve, call 377-3160.

Resale area — snacks, beverages, fishing and rental equipment, Mississippi hunting and fishing licenses.

Disk golf — distance, fairway, multi-purpose, putt and approach disks for sale or rent.

Paintball

Paintball course — open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays for recreational play. Group play by reservation only, compressed work schedule Fridays and Sundays. For more information, call 377-3160.

Running

Great American Smokeout "Run Your Butts Off" 5K fun run/walk — 7 a.m. Nov. 15, health and wellness center; sign up 6-7 a.m. Gatorade, water and fruit provided; prizes to top finishers.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Julis Alarcon, Jamie Anderson, Phillip Beesley, Jeanine Bell, Andrew Birarelli, Sean Carlson, Derek Case, Wade Clark, Robert Consoletti, Steven Cooper, Mario Davis, Robert DeLeon, Paul Doepker, Benjamin Draves, Michael Epling, Bradley Evens, Joshua Fielder, Jason Greca, Tiffany Guthrie, Jared Hahn, Billy Haile, Joshua Harris, Brandon Harry, Toby Harter, Crispin Hasley, Matthew Hayes, Joseph Infantino, Billy Kessell, Andrew Knippenberg, Shawn Lamaster, Michael Lausier, Anthony McAlexander, Mark McClure, Shilo McCombs, Arcenio Muniz, Aaron Munro, Zachary Myers, Joey Navarro, Axel Nieves, Milo Nunez, Paul Ohnemus, Justin Packard, Cody Paris, Benjamin Pecarina, Richard Prestia, Matthew Proctor, Lucas Rider, Benjamin Riexinger, Ryan Riley, Christopher Roberts, Andrew Roesler, Zachary Rossiter, Kelby Rossmiller, Ryan Seamster, Clinton Stanford, Saul Tamez, John Thompson, Micah Thorstenson, Nicholas Tucci, Justin Vest, Daniel Vrabel, Tyler Weese, James Willis and Vincent Young; Airmen Drew Bellah, Richard Bure, Paul Fornum, David Lipps, Robert Momsen, Michael Nyman, Joel Ruiz-Hernandez, Brian Stephenson and Christopher Webb; Airmen 1st Class Raymond Brown, Adam Carr, Von Collins, Xylina Dilley, Christopher Dzikowski, Dandre Floyd, Caleb Hill, Chad Hirsch, Benjamin Lawlor, Richard Lienhop, Kaitlyn Linde, Giancarlo Mattei-Lago, Luke Nelson, George Nobles, Ian Norway, Christopher Payton, Thomas Popersky, Wayne Reid, Jason Rogers, Jeremy Ruffin, William Stanford, Michael Thompson, Jonathan Thrasher, Luis Varela, Eric Walker and Mark Wojdylo; Senior Airmen Lucas Bailiff, Brian Fackler, Christopher Fehlman, Alexis Galatis, Keel Hughes, Nicholas Jenks, Jarrod Manuel and Mohd-Firdaus Mohd-Aliff; Staff Sgts. Andrew Burgert, James Platten, Ouseynou Sonko and Gary Walters; Tech. Sgts. Marcus Nakashima and Marcos Saldana; Cpl. Timothy Brush.

334th TRS

Aerospace control and warning systems — Airmen Basic Amanda Baker, Michael Fleming, Timothy Moynihan and Genny Taylor; Airmen 1st Class Kriston Brown, Ronald Bryan, Kaleigh Curran, Jacob Johnson, Nicholas Nodurft and Chystal Stratton; Senior Airman Jeffery Reiman; Staff Sgts. Keith Barber and David Myers.

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Joshua Arias, Michael Clay, Kyle Gibson, Taylor

Groschick, Ashley Heidel, Chris Kagan, Lane Strunk, Jacob Titus and Kristina Zacherl; Airmen 1st Class Mark Forester, Randy Gonce and Daniel Zummach; Senior Airmen Thomas Bauhs, Robert Bonello, Matthew McKenna, Jeremy Schlaubach and Christina Wegmann; Staff Sgts. Theodor Hofknecht and Nathan Nordheim.

Airfield management apprentice course — Airmen Basic Sarah Strasen and Brittany Jacobs; Airman 1st Class Corey Papa; Joel Rocha.

Command post apprentice course — Airman Basic Noelle Johnson; Airmen 1st Class Antonio Cobb, Dustin Place, Kristen Smith and Cameron Walker; Senior Airman Shane Leavitt; Staff Sgts. Mary Blanton, Jason Garstka, Leon Henderson, Tracy Huffman, Chris Longworth, Andrea Morrison and Jonathan Perkins; Tech. Sgts. Michael Adams, Robert Henderson and Don King; Master Sgts. Michelle Jarreau, John Klein and Stacy Salmond.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Kyle Saxon and Kyle Woodward; Airman Travis Rich; Airmen 1st Class Austin Heller, Ryan Orr and Quentin Schmick.

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Michael Fowler and Joshua Story; Airman Saunter Simmonds; Airmen 1st Class Bryan Behr, Steele Cary, Geoffrey Estes, Kevin Glynn, Brandon Hamilton, Philip Newquist, Jacob Palmer, Luke Sanders, Stephen Shambra, Andrew Stuhmiller, James Walker and Benjamin Wilkie; Senior Airmen Bryant Marzan and Ronald Wood; Staff Sgts. Kendall Bearden, Paul Brown, Jason Crossley, Cravadias Ferebee, Danielle Ganga-deen, James Griffis, Honorio Moya, Damian Scott, Marjorie Selser, Walter Shivel, LeRay Smedley, Renee Teague, Chad Wallace and Carl Washington; Tech. Sgt. Aileen Castro; Capt. Ahmed Youssef; Maj. Aamir Abro; David Forney, Gregory Hunter and Keith Lucas.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Veterans Day

Editor's note: Hours reflect changes in observance of the Veterans Day federal holiday, Monday.

Keesler News — closed.

Commissary — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Main base exchange — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Mini-mall — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Furniture store — closed.

Class Six — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Service station — closed Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday for attended fuel.

Military clothing sales — closed.

Mobile units — closed.

Charley's Grilled Subs — closed.

Anthony's — closed.

Seattle's Best — closed.

Subway — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

General Nutrition Center — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beauty Shop — closed.

Barber shop — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nail station — closed.

Optical shop — closed.

Sprint — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, closed Monday.

Force One Rental — closed.

Laundry/dry cleaners — closed.

Enterprise Car Rental — closed Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Car wash — open 24 hours.

Mini-mart — open 24 hours.

Arts and crafts center — closed.

Auto hobby shop — closed.

Bay Breeze Golf Course — closed; driving range open 7 a.m. to dusk.

Child development center — closed.

Family child care office — closed.

Live Oak Dining Facility — 7:30-9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30
:01	:31
:02	:32
:04	:34
:06	:36
:08	:38
:09	:39
:11	:41
:12	:42
:13	:43
:14	:44
:15	:45
:16	:46
:17	:47
:18	:48
:19	:49
:20	:50
:21	:51
:22	:52

332nd TRS, Building 6957
338th TRS, Building 6965
Welch Auditorium
AAFES Furniture Store
Jones/Bryan/Hewes Hall at gazebo
Thomson Hall
New Cody Hall
Supply, civil engineering
Rental store
Shaw House
Old base exchange
McBride Library
Credit union, Blake Fitness Center
Medical center, Tyer House
Sablich Center
Dental clinic
Allee and Wolfe Halls
Base operations
Hangar 4

Technical training route 5:10-5:37 a.m. weekdays

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:10	Building 5025
:12	Building 5022
:14	Shaw House
:16	Muse Manor
:18	Tyer House
:20	TLQ east side 2000 block
:21	TLQ east side of Locker House
:25	332nd TRS
:28	Welch Auditorium
:33	Thomson/Dolan/Cody Halls
:34	McClellan Hall
:36	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:37	Stennis Hall/Weather

Prior-service students lodged off base

Morning pickup from hotels north of Keesler — 5 a.m., Red Carpet Inn; 5:10, Travel Inn; 5:15, Beaujolais Villas; 5:20, Suburban Inn and Super 8.

Afternoon pickup to return to hotels north of Keesler — 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., street side of Hewes Hall for Bryan, Jones, Hewes and Garrard Halls; 3:33 and 5:33, Cody Hall bus stop for Hangar 3, Thomson, Cody and Dolan Halls; 3:36 and 5:36, E Street side of McClelland Hall; 3:38 and 5:38, back side of Allee Hall for 7-level building, weather training center and Allee, Wolfe, and Stennis Halls; 3:41 and 5:41, front of Muse Manor.

Wait at the main entrance of hotels for pickup. Allow a five to 10 minute window on arrival time. Traffic in the local area impacts base taxi times.

Call 377-2432 for transportation needs for classes starting after 6:30 a.m. or for service to hotels not listed.

Editor's note: Duty passengers have priority over "space available" riders. Schedule may be impacted by increased official operations or severe weather. Those who are physically challenged, have excess baggage, medical appointments at off-base hospitals or clinics or unable to ride the base shuttle, call 377-2432 for the base taxi. For more information, call 377-2430. Until further notice, weekend shuttle service isn't available. Taxi service is available on an "as needed" basis.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2520.

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.
Triangle Chapel contemporary worship service...10:30 a.m.
Triangle Chapel gospel service.....Noon

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Triangle Chapel.....9 a.m.

Weekday Mass

Medical Center chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jumma congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 2 p.m. Sundays, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.

Please see **Digest**, Page 22

Digest,

from Page 21

Magnolia Dining Facility — 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Azalea Dining Facility — closed.

Blake Fitness Center — 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dragon and Triangle fitness centers — closed.

Gaudé Lanes — closed.

11th Frame Cafe — closed.

Information, ticket and trip office — closed.

Katrina Kantina — closed.

McBride Library — closed.

Outdoor recreation — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Vandenberg Community Center — noon to 6 p.m.

Halftime Café — closed.

Veterinary clinic — closed.

Youth center — closed.

Fam camp — open 24 hours.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 08-1 — graduates Dec. 13.

Class 08-2 — Jan. 4-Feb. 13.

Keesler NCO Academy

Class 08-1 — graduates Friday.

Class 08-2 — Jan. 8-Feb. 15.

Arts and crafts center

Thursday night special in the multi craft shop — today, family crafts; Nov. 15, cookie making with discount for nonprior students; Nov. 29, holiday gift workshop. Fees based on chosen craft.

Clay hand building — 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17. \$40 includes five pounds of clay and firing.

Paint a Santa cookie plate — 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday. \$32.50 includes project and paint.

One-stroke painting with acrylics — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Class does not require pre-painting experience. \$32 including project and paint.

Beginner's woodworking — 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday. \$25 including materials. Earn your safety certification and get your operator's card for future shop use.

Beginning intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$15 including materials. Intarsia is the art of cutting and shaping pieces of wood in a decorative pattern.

Advanced intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. Nov. 17. \$20 including materials and tool use.

Picture framing and matting — one class, four sessions, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. \$60 includes materials, shop use and completed framing.

Free auto care briefing — 4:30-6 p.m. Nov. 15. Hints and advice for do-it-yourself repairs.

COAST AREA TRANSIT

Keesler Express — runs between the Triangle and Edgewater Mall. Bus service begins from the base, 5:50-8:30 p.m. work days, 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays and Saturdays, and 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sundays.

The route is limited to specific pickup and dropoff points:

Minutes after hour, bus stop

:30 Hercules Street bus stop

:32 Welch Auditorium

:45 Pass Road Wal-Mart

:54 Arrive Edgewater Mall

:00 Depart Edgewater Mall

:09 Pass Road Wal-Mart

:22 Welch Auditorium

:24 Hercules Street bus stop

The regular adult fare is \$1. An unlimited one-day pass is \$5 and one-month pass is \$45.

For more information, call 896-8080.

Youth gift workshop — Dec. 1. Early registration encouraged.

Chapel

All classes are held at the Triangle Chapel Annex through May. For more information, call 377-2520.

Catholic religious education — after 9 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Protestant Sunday School — 10:30-11:30 a.m. for pre-school, elementary, teens and adults.

Men's prayer breakfast — 9 a.m. to noon second Saturday of the month.

Women's prayer breakfast — 10 a.m. to noon first Saturday of the month.

Tuesday Bible study — 6-7:30 p.m. at the Haven.

McBride Library

Commanders, first sergeants, instructors orientations — 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Story time — 10 a.m. Wednesday, ages 3-5.

Family story time — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Pick a day to celebrate — Nov. 23, National Flossing Day; pick up information on dental care.

Native American Heritage month — poster and book display.

Data base reference orientations — 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays for commanders, instructors and first sergeants.

Tours/orientations — call 377-2827.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Editor's note: All events, except dances, are open to all Keesler personnel.

Football on the big screen — noon Sundays, 6:30 p.m. Mondays. Free popcorn.

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays before working Fridays.

Puzzle challenge — 6:30 p.m. Nov. 8. Free popcorn.

Marine Corps birthday observance — 6 p.m. Saturday. Marines get into the dance free.

Animal shelter dance — 6 p.m. Nov. 16. Bring donations for local animal shelter.

Texas hold'em tournament — noon Nov. 23; nonprior service students only. Sign up early.

Movie day — 12:30 p.m. Nov. 23. Free popcorn.

Pool tournaments — 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

Movie night — 6 p.m. Wednesdays. New releases, popcorn.

Dances — 6 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before compressed work schedule Fridays, and Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

Free ping pong tournament — 7 p.m. today.

Katrina Kantina

All ranks invited — open 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays. Snacks, beverages and music.

End of hurricane season party — 5 p.m. Nov. 29. Cajun dinner, tropical music and hurricane drink special. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers.

Karaoke night — 5 p.m. Thursdays before compressed work schedule Fridays.

Taco Tuesdays — members two tacos for \$1, nonmembers \$2.

Catering — experts can assist with event planning.

Lunch specials — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers. Different menu each week. For menu information, call 377-2219.

Taco Tuesdays — members get two tacos for \$1, nonmembers pay \$2.

Youth center

Annual membership — \$25, ages 9 and older. Discounts on programs, classes and sports.

TRAIL — Training responsible adolescents in leadership; 6 p.m. Monday and Nov. 26, ages 13-17. Plan games, trips, activities and more.

Thanksgiving camp — Nov. 19-23, ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. Breakfast, lunch and snacks served.

Art club — 4:30 p.m. Mondays, ages 9 and older. Learn about arts and complete a project.

Sewing club — 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 9 and older. Learn

Please see **Digest**, Page 23

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — herbed baked chicken, beef and noodles, fried catfish, blackeyed peas with rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, peas, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, cheeseburger soup, frontier chicken chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Dinner — roast pork loin, jaegerschnitzel veal, chicken cordon bleu, potato halves, orange rice, gravy, carrots, pinto beans, corn combo, fruit salad, potato salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, cannonball sandwich and Italian pepper beef sandwich.

Friday

Lunch — Mexican baked chicken, country-style steak, stuffed peppers, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn on the cob, beans, Spanish beans, peas and carrots, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chicken with wild rice soup, onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwiches and burritos.

Dinner — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, rice, gravy, broccoli, cauliflower, Italian baked beans, corn O'Brien, pasta salad, three-bean salad, chicken with wild rice soup, onion soup, chili, barbecue pork sandwiches and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, beef yakisoba, canned ham, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, broccoli, peas, carrots, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, raisin sauce, clam chowder, tomato florentine soup and buffalo wings.

Dinner — fish almondine, stir-fry chicken with broccoli, pork chops, rissole potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, calico corn, club spinach, fried okra, fruit medley, kidney bean salad, clam chowder, tomato florentine soup, chicken frontier chili and buffalo wings.

Sunday

Veterans Day lunch — roast turkey, barbecue spareribs, fried shrimp, gravy, mashed potatoes, bread dressing, glazed carrots, Mexican corn, broccoli, cream of broccoli soup, fruit medley salad, holiday candy and cheese pizza.

Dinner — ginger barbecue chicken, fried shrimp, beef manicotti, potato wedges, mashed potatoes, gravy, black-eyed peas, collard greens, corn O'Brien, tomato salad, German coleslaw, cheesy chicken tortilla soup, baked potato chowder, chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — Swiss steak, baked chicken, sausage, peppers and onions, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, carrots, cucumber and onion salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumplings soup, minestrone, chili with beans, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — turkey, ribeye steak, tempura fish, mashed potatoes, cornbread dressing, gravy, succotash, tempura vegetables, green beans, garden cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, cannonball sandwich and chicken nuggets.

Tuesday

Lunch — lemon garlic fish, pork schnitzel steak, beef and yakisoba, ginger rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans, spinach, squash, spinach salad, waldorf salad, frontier chicken chili, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

Dinner — roast pork loin, barbecue beef cubes, chicken fajitas, O'Brien potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower, corn on the cob, lima beans, waldorf salad, frontier chicken chili, beef pot roast soup, vegetable soup, steak and cheese subs and tacos.

Wednesday

Lunch — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, noodles, baked potatoes, baked beans, green beans, simmered squash, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza

Dinner — spaghetti with meat sauce, Swiss steak, fried chicken, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, fried cauliflower, asparagus, simmered cabbage, coleslaw, country style tomatoes, chicken noodle soup, potato soup, chili with beans, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Digest,

from Page 22

basic hand stitch and how to sew on buttons.

FitFactor Club — 4:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9 and older. Call for more information.

Open recreation — 4-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9 and older.

Friday night frenzy — 6:30-11 p.m. ages 13-17. Games, skating, music, snacks. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

Super Saturdays — 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Nov. 24, ages 6-12. Assorted activities.

Classes — registrations being accepted for martial arts, gymnastics, ballet, tap and jazz.

Auto hobby shop

Air conditioning checks — no reservation required.

Qualified mechanics — can assist with vehicle maintenance.

Oil collection site — for personal vehicles.

24-hour coin-operated car wash — wash, rinse, wax system, towelettes, Armorall and vacuum station.

Vehicle resale lot — to place a car on the lot, call 377-2821.

TICKETS, TRIPS

Discounted tickets — for many attractions including Busch Gardens, Sea World, Universal Studios and Disney World in Florida. For price list, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Information on area and out-of-state attractions — free brochures for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

University of Southern Mississippi vs. Arkansas football game — Nov. 24 in Hattiesburg. Vandenberg Community Center is offering a free trip, including game tickets. Bus leaves the center at 10 a.m. To register or for more information, call 377-3308.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — noon today and Dec. 13, Room 151, Hangar 2. To pre-register or for more information, call 377-2179.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 p.m. for retirees. Briefings are in Room 122, Hangar 2. Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation/retirement date. For short-notice separations or retirements, the

briefing should be done as soon as possible.

Transition assistance program workshop — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Nov. 15 and Dec. 10-12, Room 151, Hangar 2. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms. To preregister or for more information, call 377-2179.

Retirement briefings — intended for those with less than a year until retirement, 8-11 a.m. Dec. 6, Room 151, Hangar 2 (old Cody Hall). To pre-register or for more information, call 377-2179.

Employment opportunities

Career focus program for spouses — information on area employment opportunities, job Web sites, human resources contacts, temporary jobs, on-base listings and free training programs. Computer lab available for resume preparation or job search; located in Room 121, Hangar 2 (old Cody Hall). For an appointment, call Ron Bublik at the airman and family readiness center, 377-8592, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Air Force Reserve opportunities — for members separating within 180 days, call Master Sgt. Neil Sherman, 377-7116; visit Room 229, Hangar 2 or e-mail anthony.sherman@keesler.af.mil.

Palace Chase — for information about how to apply for a program to attend college full time and work part time, call Master Sgt. Neil Sherman, 377-7116; visit Room 229, Hangar 2 or e-mail anthony.sherman@keesler.af.mil.

Junior ROTC — immediate employment opportunities for retired or retiring Air Force officers and noncommissioned officers. Those who retired within the past 10 years or are six months from retirement may qualify to be an instructor. To apply or for more information, go to <http://www.afrots.af.mil> and select "AFJROTC" or call Jo Alice Talley, toll free 1-866-235-7682, extension 7742; DSN 493-7742, or commercial (334) 953-7742.

Web sites

Defense Manpower Data Center — <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dors> or <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tbb>.

Air Force Blue to Corporate Gray — <http://www.bluetogray.com>.

Air Force Federal Employment Resume and Information — <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb>.

Civilian job certification and licensing requirements for military personnel and veterans — <http://www.dol.gov/dol/vets>.

Department of Veterans Affairs — <http://www.vba.va.gov/efif/index.htm>; for members returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Southern Region Military and Civilian Job Fair — <http://www.mesc.state.ms.us/job-fair>.

New military spouse career center — <http://www.military.com/spouse>. Extensive job board including public and private sectors. For more information, call Vince Patton, 703-269-0154, or e-mail at vince@militaryadvantage.com.

Military Connection — online resources database for military family members seeking civilian employment at <http://www.militaryconnection.com>.

America's Job Bank — <http://www.ajb.dni.us>.

MEETINGS

Editor's note: To list time, place and contact for organization meetings, call 377-3837 or e-mail KN@keesler.af.mil.

African-American Heritage Committee — 3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month,

Room 109, Taylor Logistics Building. For more information, call Paulette Powell, 377-2270, or Kurt Higgins, 377-1390.

Air Force Sergeants Association — 7 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, Live Oak Dining Hall. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kat Hataway, 377-5566 or visit the group's Web site, <http://www.afsa652.org>.

Air Force Sergeants Association Auxiliary — 6 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. For more information, call Michelle Foster, 273-4591 or e-mail auxiliary.president@afsa652.org.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving — 3:15 p.m. first Tuesday of the month, Vandenberg Community Center second floor conference room. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Brian Yelton, 377-0167, or e-mail keesler.aadd-officers@keesler.af.mil.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — 11 a.m. Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information, call Dewi Clark, 377-2714 or e-mail dewi.clark2@keesler.af.mil; Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Company grade officers council — meets first Wednesday of the month. For time and location, call Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Howard, 377-4859.

Keesler Amateur Radio Club — 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Hangar 3, Room 215. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Justin Meyer, 377-4149 or 324-5806, or e-mail justin.meyer2@keesler.af.mil.

Keesler Christian Home Educators Association — 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of the month, September-May, Larcher Chapel. For more information, call Heather Melancon, 831-8895.

Keesler Spouses Club — second Tuesday of the month. For time and place, call Gretchen Gorline, 374-8024, or visit <http://www.KeeslerSpousesClub.com>.

Native American Heritage Committee — for more information, call R.I. Whiteside, 863-0479, or Capt. Elizabeth Taillon, 377-6242.

Retired Enlisted Association Magnolia Chapter 81 — 6:30 p.m. second Thursday of the month, Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call Larry McKean, 377-3252 or 374-5922.

Rising VI Association — 3:15 p.m. third Wednesday of the month; location varies. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Toyshaline Young, 377-0591, or Tech Sgt. Jodi Evans, 377-2835.

Top III — meeting times and locations vary. For more information, call Master Sgt. Nicole Pearson, 377-6510.

Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Col. Lawrence E. Roberts Chapter — 11 a.m. third Wednesday of the month, Katrina Kantina. For more information, call Glenda Mosby, 243-1992, gmosby1@bellsouth.net, or Charles Bowers, 860-3665.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movies are at Welch Auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children for regular features, and \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children for matinees. For a recording about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 6:30 p.m., Eastern Promises (R, 100 minutes).

Saturday — 2 p.m., The Kingdom (R, 110 minutes); 6:30 p.m., Good Luck Chuck (R, 96 minutes).

Sunday — 12:30 p.m., The Game Plan (PG, 107 minutes).

