



KEESLER NEWS

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Train to Fight. Train to Win.

NOV. 24, 2010 VOL. 71 NO. 46

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General's experience echoes safety message

By Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog

2nd Air Force commander

Thanksgiving — one of my favorite holidays of the year. It's a time to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in this great country and be a member of the world's greatest Air Force. Thanksgiving also kick-starts the holiday season when we gather with our friends and families, near and far, to celebrate. In fact, from now until New Year's Day there are all kinds of things to celebrate. But unfortunately this is also the time of year (November and December) when we try to squeeze too much into short periods of time and overextend ourselves. This is the time of year the Air Force is vulnerable to losing Airmen to recreational and vehicle accidents.

Thanksgiving also brings to mind the stress of traveling, the increased hazards of winter driving, our crowded highways, and potentially bad weather. And I don't need to remind anyone of the dangers of drinking and driving after a holiday party (but I am reminding you of it)! But I also want to foot stomp the importance of safe food preparation and leaving the cooking to the professionals!

I'm sure many of you have read the stories of people who have burned down their garages or kitchens when they decided to deep fat fry a turkey indoors, and of course, there's always the chance of food poisoning if certain foods are not prepared properly.

In fact, that reminds me of my very first Thanksgiving as a newlywed many, many years ago. I was a second lieutenant working swing and midnight shifts; I had worked a midnight shift the



night before and had to work another midnight shift Thanksgiving night.

But that was not going to deter me from trying to impress my husband of four months with my culinary skills. After a few hours of sleep, I got up to prepare my first turkey dinner, hoping to start a tradition that would endure for years. Now I had never roasted a turkey in my life, but had seen it done a few times, so how hard could it be? Well, I remembered to rinse it, baste it, stuff it and put it in the oven. Several hours later I was exhausted by the effort of all the food prep, but finally I took the turkey out of the oven and brought it to the table, very proud of my cooking prowess.

My husband fired up our new electric knife and cut into the turkey. All of a sudden plastic started flying from the turkey. My husband dropped the knife and said, "What the heck?" He looked at me, looked at both ends of the turkey, and stuck his hand in one cavity and pulled out a mutilated plastic bag

filled with turkey parts—you know, the gizzard, the neck and stuff like that. He asked, "Why did you leave this in the turkey?" All I could say is I didn't know the turkey had two cavities you could stuff!! Needless to say, my husband was not impressed with my cooking skills. In fact, he stated he was not going to eat any turkey because he was convinced he'd get sick or suffer from food poisoning from the plastic bag I had left in the turkey.

Well that was certainly the wrong thing to say to a sleep-deprived woman who had spent several hours cooking while he was watching football. I proceeded to let him know it was in his best interest to sit down and eat the turkey, which he wisely did. He survived and here we are 31 years later, still married, and I'm still a bad cook. In fact, most Thanksgivings we eat out, go to someone else's house or eat in the dining hall with our Airmen after we serve them dinner.

I relate this personal story because we rarely concentrate on food preparation safety, but this is the time of year we really need to pay attention to it. So get out the cookbook, read the directions, move the deep fat fryer away from the house or garage or just go out to eat!

Please remember to put safety first, in everything we do, and use common sense to make the right choice. Every day we do this we preserve the combat capability of the Air Force. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving and take the time to remember those who are deployed or working shifts who cannot spend this time with their family and loved ones.

Holiday revives recollections of deployment

By Lt. Col. Jonathan Wright

81st Contracting Squadron commander

Each year in my family, Thanksgiving is a time for turkey, football, get-togethers and, of course, thanks. For me, this Thanksgiving marks my return from Afghanistan one year ago this month. As I look back, I'm still thankful for the graces that I said then and would like to offer them again this Thanksgiving.

I'm very thankful for the health and safety for all who have served and those who serve today in harm's way. Everyone who's been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan can relate to the imminence of rocket attacks, improvised explosive devices and car bombs. Does it stop us? Absolutely not. Meanwhile, we receive support from family, friends, our units back

home, children who send cards to "Any Soldier," and even fellow countrymen who are simply anonymous yet care enough to send a package. This helps us go the extra mile, or as they say in Afghanistan, "climb the mountain." How extraordinary, considering the toll that we, as a nation, pay in the currency of efforts and sacrifices.

Our country's sons and daughters serve with dedication and commitment toward helping a war-torn country. Since the 1980s, all it has ever known was conflict. Sadly, some service members pay the ultimate sacrifice in their service to the United States. This is truly priceless and they will never be forgotten. I am thankful for those sacrifices they made toward what we, as a country, are doing for Afghanistan. It's much more than a response to 9/11 that started in October 2001.

I can mark the day when this really hit me. During my time "over there," I had to go on convoys several times a week. My routes were always through high-threat areas in the capital city, Kabul. One of the most challenging days was traveling the route where a 900-pound bomb had exploded several hours earlier and through another point in which a bomb had exploded two days prior. Essentially, your "head is on a swivel," as the saying goes, to keep a sharp eye on every single car — expecting the worst and being prepared.

One day, we approached a traffic circle that was heavily congested. We remained at idle for what seemed like an exorbitant amount of time. "When can we move?" was the thought that must have drummed through all of our minds. Moving is much better

than being a sitting duck. Seconds felt like minutes. Any moment, one of these cars, vans or even a donkey cart could have exploded. Which one will it be? We waited far too long.

Then I noticed an Afghan girl about 4 years old right outside my window. She stood in the median all by herself. She had brown, uncombed hair and emerald eyes. Clothed in a ragged, smudgy tunic, she was obviously poor. I was thinking about the challenges she must endure. For example, poverty runs so rampant in Afghanistan that some children beg for water bottles. They'll pour out the water in order to resell the plastic.

At this point, I'm wondering what kind of life she may have in front of her. All of a sudden, she waved at me.

Please see **Wright**, Page 3

ON THE COVER

An student in the 366th Training Squadron Detachment 6 practices different types of flames in a welding class at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport. The mission of the detachment, which falls under the command of the 82nd Training Wing, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, is to teach Airmen technical proficiency in the structures career field and integrate the Air Force's core values into every facet of their lives. The Air Force students train with Sailors and Soldiers at the Seabee Base.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Heather Holcomb



KEESLER NEWS

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DRAGONS ON THE STREET

By Adam Bond

Keesler News photographer

Thanksgiving —
for what are you
most grateful?



"My family, friends and co-workers."

**Capt. Brian Miller, 335th
Training Squadron**



"I'm thankful for the opportunity to be part of the Air Force."

**Airman 1st Class Jasreen
Kaur, 338th TRS.**



"For a wonderful fiancée, family, friends and being part of the base ops team."

**Rosco Fairley, 81st Operations
Support Flight and 41st
Aerial Port Squadron.**

Wright, from Page 2

I was quite surprised that she would do so, considering I'm in an armored vehicle, wearing my full battle rattle and dark sunglasses, and my convoy appears quite menacing. After all, it's manned by the U.S. military, the world's best-trained fighting force and equipped with weapons and ammo. But she waved at me.

In other words, she thought we were the good guys. In a city where terrorism runs rampant, she knew we were on her side. I waved back. She waved again, this time smiling with a big, toothy grin. We exchanged waves back and forth about 10 times, each time making her giggle just a bit more as if it were a game. She reminded me of my daughter, who also likes to make people smile. Here I

am in Afghanistan, seeing a girl about the same age trying to make me do the same.

But wait, where are her parents? Why is she in the middle of the road? Up ahead, further into the traffic circle, I spotted her mother, begging from car to car. She wasn't just standing on a street corner with a cardboard sign. Instead, she was subserviently bowing before each car in the hopes that she may receive alms for her family. The vehicles started to dissipate, so we started moving forward. I couldn't get out and do anything for the girl or her mother. Quite the opposite, considering the threat and our procedures.

But on this day, in this brief exchange, I was looking at the future of Afghanistan. And I realized that I, along with other U.S. and Coalition members, am doing something for this little girl and the thousands like her. Every single day, we must all ask "What difference am I

going to make?" No matter if we're on the front line, providing logistics support or sending support from back home, our actions enable the fielding and development of the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police as well as defeating the terrorists who attempt to derail these efforts. These two institutions will provide enough law and order so that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's democratic government can function. The change won't happen overnight. Yet collectively, we are making a difference.

We do this so that in the years to come, when this little girl is a mother herself, that she may have a government that can provide basic services for her and her family. So on Thanksgiving, I will continue to say thanks for my family, the Air Force and our country. I am thankful for my family who endured sacrifices

while I was away. Military families make such an incredible difference. My wife, like many other spouses, had to take on twice the responsibility. Also, our children learned to cope without dad. Yet military families continue to be fully supportive so that we can help this country establish itself. Additionally, I owe much appreciation to the members of my squadron. As my Wingmen, they dropped me a line from time to time and never hesitated to ask what they can do to support my unit and me. I am also thankful for the men and women I got to know and serve alongside in Afghanistan. And ultimately, I am thankful to serve our country — one that will stand up for others, like this 4-year-old little girl, who cannot protect themselves so they look to the United States for a better tomorrow.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

366th Training Squadron Detachment 6 'Structures Airmen' train at Gulfport Navy installation

By Airman 1st Class
Heather Holcomb

Keesler Public Affairs

Construction is often mistaken for mindless grunt work, but upon closer inspection, it's really a delicate intertwining of mathematics, art and physical finesse. At the 366th Training Squadron, Detachment 6, the mission is not only to teach Airmen technical proficiency in the structures career field, but also to integrate the Air Force core values into every facet of their lives.

Detachment 6 falls under the command of the 82nd Training Wing at Sheppard



Air Force Base, Texas, and is located at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, more commonly known as the Seabee Base, in Gulfport.

Upon arrival from basic training, new Airmen are given

a three-hour newcomers briefing from the detachment commander, Lt. Col. David Hargy, and the first sergeant, Master Sgt. Gerald Huffman.

At this briefing the students are given a mission — to graduate.

To fulfill their mission, students must be both technically proficient and good Airmen.

"Their mission sounds so simple and seems obvious, and it is, but it's an integral part of developing future structures Airmen," said Sergeant Huffman.

Becoming technically proficient is achieved through completing a rigorous and fast-paced four-month or 90 academic day structural apprentice course.

The course, known by the Navy hosts as the Builder A-school, is broken down into three segments. The first two segments are integrated with Army and Navy students in an inter-service training review organization system and the third segment is unique to the Air Force.

The first ITRO segment is known as A/B phase, is 34 academic days and includes math, masonry, basic carpentry, framing and roofs. Army students graduate after this segment.

The second ITRO segment is known as C phase. Its 14 academic days include interior finish, drywall, ceilings, tile and paint. Navy students graduate after this segment.

Finally, the Air Force students are halfway done with their technical training and move on to the Air Force-unique segment where they spend 42 academic days learning sheet metal, welding and structural contingency.

Detachment 6 also teaches



Photos by Airman 1st Class Heather Holcomb

A student in Tech. Sgt. Tracy Human's class practices arc welding.

four supplemental courses including roof installation, maintenance, inspection and repair; metals layout, fabrication and welding; bare base structures erection mobile training team and structural contingency, which is taught at Holloman AFB, N.M.

Detachment 6 received an

"outstanding" rating in technical training and an overall "excellent" rating on their October 2010 unit compliance inspection, the highest rating ever received in its 15-year history.

Please see **366th TRS**, Page 5



Airman 1st Class Steven Irons marks sheet metal to be cut and bent into a model air conditioning duct.

Shane Clark, instructor supervisor for the ITRO portion of the course, said, “Our current core group of 24 instructors represents the best group of educators the detachment has ever seen and the “outstanding” rating in technical training is a testament to their professionalism and dedication to developing the very best structures Airmen.”

Master Sgt. Wendell Snider, instructor supervisor for the Air Force-unique segment of the course, said the best part of the structures career field is, “that you can start with nothing, and by the time you finish, you’re enamored that you’ve turned nothing into something.”

After a day of sawdust, cinderblocks, molten metal, sketchpads and calculators, students form up and march back to the dormitories. The duty day may be over, but students continue their mission and uphold the core values even after they shed their uniforms.

Colonel Hargy said, “We stress to the students that as they make personal decisions

in their free time, they need to ask themselves how each decision affects their mission to graduate.”

Volunteering is one opportunity available to students and permanent party alike to uphold service before self. The detachment’s students, led by military training leaders and instructors, have performed more than 2,700 hours of community service this year.

Tech. Sgt. Shannon Danko, assistant MTL flight chief and community service coordinator for the students, plays a major role in organizing volunteer events.

“It’s very important to instill a sense of pride and community service in our Airmen early in their careers,” Sergeant Danko said. “Volunteerism is a key component of developing well rounded leaders.”

Military training is extremely important to Detachment 6.

“Military training is a ‘contact sport’ and you have to be fully engaged with the Airmen to ensure standards are taught and enforced,” Sergeant Huffman said. “Military training flows seamlessly from the dorm to the class-



Photos by Airman 1st Class Heather Holcomb

Instructor Bill Carter, a retired Navy chief, shows students how to place concrete blocks.

room — whatever the MTLs teach the Airmen, the instructors reinforce.”

Everyone walks into a building at some point in their day, but most people are completely unaware of every-

thing it took to put a roof over their heads.

At Detachment 6, Airmen not only learn what it takes to construct a building — the entire detachment’s pride in themselves, their career field

and the Air Force shines through in everything from the way they crisply snap to attention and march in harmony to their ability to create aesthetically-pleasing and precise structures.



Airman 1st Class Zachery Poppell sketches schematics in the metals layout segment of the Air Force-unique segment of the course.



Top, Airman Oscar Montoya cuts sheet metal to make a model air conditioning duct.

Right, Sergeant Human evaluates a student’s completed weld. He checks to make sure the bead has gone through pieces of metal completely and that the weld was completed in no more than three passes.



Keesler instructor overcomes testicular cancer

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Prevention has always been a key focus for women's health, particularly monthly breast self examinations and annual PAP tests to screen for cervical cancer.

But what kind of reminders do men receive to take care of their health — particularly young men in the prime of their lives?

Staff Sgt. Brian Margavich has asked himself that question countless times since 2008, when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer at age 28.

"I began having discomfort while doing normal activities — walking, running, even sitting down," said Brian, a network courses administration instructor in the 333rd Training Squadron. "I waited so long and dealt with it because my parents raised us to 'press through' and go to school. Unless something was seriously wrong, we didn't go to the doctor — we toughed it out.

"It was also foreign to me that I had a physical problem that wasn't going to heal itself," he added.

Brian did an online search of his symptoms and learned that they could either indicate cancer or a simple infection that occurs regularly with some people. He put the thought of cancer out of his mind, assuming it was something that would get better.

"My reaction was sheer numbness — I was unable to compute what was happening," he recalled about learning the diagnosis. "At that point, I had been in pain for so long, I figured there was nothing they could do to me that would hurt more. They asked me if I wanted to call my wife — it never even occurred to me to call her!"

Brian and his wife, Amanda, met about 10 years ago when they were first-term Airmen living in the dorms at Keesler. She's the assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of installation personnel readiness for the 81st Force Support Squadron.

"I was shocked at first," she recalled. "I just couldn't believe that this was happening to us. Then I started to worry about our future."

That future included their



Photo by Kemberly Groue

As a cancer survivor, Brian volunteers with the American Cancer Society, providing sound, lighting and DJ services for area Relay for Life events. He also provides these services without charge to some base and community organizations

daughter, Haley, who was 2 years old at the time.

"The first step of treatment came the very next day when I was on the table having the testicle on that side removed," Brian remembered. "I had a week of convalescent leave to recover and I was good. They did a few more blood tests and all the tumor indicators went back to normal."

There were several treatment options to follow.

"My doctor wanted to remove and test my lymph nodes on that side and make sure that nothing had spread," Brian explained. "One option was to do the surgery laparoscopically — make small incisions and use cameras to do what needed to be done. This method had a high chance of missing something, though.

"The other option was to make a 14-inch vertical incision right up the middle of my abdomen and go in there," he continued. "This was the most invasive, but also had the highest chances of success, so I opted for that. I was on convalescent leave for a month after that and on restricted duty for several more months."

Brian didn't require chemotherapy or radiation. The lymph nodes were tested and came back negative.

"Everything is good," he said

of his current health. "This type of cancer has a high cure rate and, if caught early enough, tends to be in the affected region."

Because of the invasive nature of the second surgery, Brian and Amanda don't expect to have other children.

"Our family's size is now set by God, but we're extremely happy with our family life," Brian commented.

"I never once thought that I might die from this," he emphasized. "I have too much to live for — too much going on in life to let this be it."

One positive aspect of Brian's experience is his growing involvement with the American Cancer Society.

"As soon as we arrived back at Keesler in March, I volunteered at three different overnight Relay for Life events," he pointed out. "I provide sound, lighting and DJ services, saving them \$1,500 per event that can go toward cancer research. When I attend these events, I get to wear a purple survivor's shirt and walk the survivor's lap. I've never been so proud to wear purple!"

"Here's the thing — you know when something isn't right with your body," he emphasized. "Get checked — don't ignore it! It could literally save your life."

Doctor recommends monthly self-exams

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

Only one or two patients are treated each year for testicular cancer at the 81st Medical Group Hospital, according to Lt. Col. Michael Morris, a urologist with the 81st Surgical Operations Squadron.

"The first treatment is typically surgery," Colonel Morris explained. "Then patients either receive close observation, additional surgery, chemotherapy or radiation therapy, depending upon the type of cancer and whether or not it appears to have spread or is at particularly high risk for recurrence.

Colonel Morris thinks many men hesitate to seek treatment because of the personal nature of the disease.

"Testicular cancer typically presents with a painless nodule on the testicle, so it may not even be noticed unless a man does frequent self-testicular exams," he said. "Since this disease is not typically uncomfortable, I think many men hope that it will go away rather than seeking prompt medical attention."

Colonel Morris recommends that men 15 to 35 years old do monthly self-testicular exams.

"Testicular cancer, while not common, is still the most common malignancy for men in this age group," he pointed out. "When it's diagnosed early, it's almost always curable. The non-curable cases are typically those with a greatly delayed diagnosis."

Here's what you need to know

National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society

Testicular cancer forms in tissues of the testis, one of two egg-shaped glands inside the scrotum that produce sperm and male hormones.

It accounts for only 1 percent of all cancers in men.

It's estimated that this year, 8,480 new cases will be diagnosed and 350 deaths will occur.

It's one of the most treatable and curable cancers. The survival rate for men with early-stage seminoma, the least aggressive type of testicular cancer, is more than 95 percent. The disease-free survival rate for Stage II and III cancers is slightly lower, depending on the size of the tumor and when treatment is begun.

Symptoms may include discomfort or pain in the testicle or a feeling of heaviness in the scrotum; dull ache in the back or lower abdomen; lump, swelling or enlargement of a testicle or a change in the way it feels; or excess development of breast tissue (however, this can occur normally in adolescent boys who don't have cancer).

A physical examination typically reveals a firm lump in one of the testicles. When the doctor holds a flashlight up to the scrotum, the light doesn't pass through the lump. Other diagnostic tests may include abdominal and pelvic CT scans, blood tests for tumor markers, X-rays and ultrasounds.

College classes move

On-base college classes for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, William Carey University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and University of Southern Mississippi have relocated to Dolan Hall while Allee Hall is undergoing renovations for the next nine months.

Academy briefing

An Air Force Academy briefing is 10 a.m. Nov. 30 in the education services center, Room 224, Sablich Center.

Jan. 31 is the deadline for enlisted members to submit applications.

**Joint Expeditionary
Tasking Airmen
now on Facebook
[www.facebook.com
jetairmenfanpage](http://www.facebook.com/jetairmenfanpage)**

Parking lot closed

The Mathies NCO Academy parking lot is closed 7-10:45 a.m. Dec. 7 for drill evaluations.

ROTC at USA

The University of South Alabama offers a four-year ROTC program for qualified students wishing to pursue an Air Force commission.

The campus is 60 miles from Keesler and offers Alabama in-state tuition rates to residents of George, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Perry and Stone Counties in Mississippi.

For more information, call 1-251-460-7211 or e-mail robertpatt@usouthal.edu.

OTS boards

The Officer Training School recruiting services board schedule is:

11OT01 — rated board; application cutoff Dec. 2; board date Jan. 24-28, estimated release date Feb. 25.

11OT02 — nonrated board; application cutoff Feb. 24; board date April 11-15; estimated release date June 2.

11OT03 — rated as needed; application cutoff June 23, board date Aug. 8-12; estimated release date Sept. 9, 2011.

Civilian training

Information about civilian training opportunities is available from the civilian force development corner on the Keesler public Web site, <http://www.keesler.af.mil/civilianforcedevelopmentcenter.asp>

CCAF program

The Community College of the Air Force's General Education Mobile is a partnership between CCAF and civilian academic institutions that offers clustered online general education courses to meet CCAF degree requirements.

For more information, call 376-8708. or 8710.

Armed Forces Retirement Home residents 'mugged' by warm military welcome

By Senior Airman
Eric Summers Jr.

Keesler Public Affairs

Airmen, Sailors and Soldiers gathered at the Armed Forces Retirement Home Friday to hand out welcome home gifts to residents.

The Gulfport retirement facility closed in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina destroyed several buildings and the steel and concrete perimeter around the structures.

A new \$187 million facility opened in October.

Service members went from door to door handing out coffee mugs with the AFRH logo containing an American flag, candy and an Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift card.

Keesler joined the 366th Training Squadron Detachment 6 from the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport in fundraising for the project. Master Sgt. Wendell Snider, 366th TRS, initiated the project and spearheaded Air Force participation.

"I feel extremely excited," Sergeant Snider said about passing out the mugs to the returning veterans. "I am just glad that it all worked out."

Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Jennings, 81st Mission Support Group superintendent, led fundraising efforts at Keesler.

More than \$4,000 was collected to purchase the mugs and gifts, of which \$3,000



Photo by Senior Airman Eric Summers Jr.

Sergeant Woolford delivers a welcome home mug to Edward Sullivan, one of the AFRH residents.

was collected by various Keesler organizations.

The 81st Training Group raised \$3,000, the first sergeants and the Air Force Sergeants Association both donated \$300. Chief Jennings told fellow members of the chiefs group he'd match whatever they donated, so the chiefs gave \$200 and Chief Jennings matched it.

"I hope that they can feel the love from the Gulf Coast," Sergeant Snider remarked. "It was a collective effort from both military and civilians — a team effort to help these veterans feel welcomed."

Handing out the mugs gave Airmen a chance to meet fellow service members who have served in the past and help shape the military's present and future.

"I think that this is a really good cause and the people here have given the country so much through their sacrifices and its nice to give a little something back," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Woolford, 366th TRS instructor. "They seemed very positive and appreciative and the people here are very friendly. It was good to be able to hear some of their stories. This was a very good experience for me."

22 medical officers chosen for promotion

81st Medical Group

Twenty-two Keesler medical officers have been selected for promotion.

To major

81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron — Capts. Nicholas Lancia and Erin Weeden.

81st Medical Group — Capts. Chad Edwards and Andrew Matthies.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Capts. Peter Blatz, Charles Borders III, Kieron Dillingham, Steven Doshi, Lauren Herrmann, Minh Ho and Patrick Jewell.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Capts. Brian Bane, Brent Brimhall, Scott Eisenhuth, Tonya Bernell Henderson, Adam Nicholson and Sean Selig.

To lieutenant colonel

81st MSGS — Maj. Michael Hogan and Yekaterina Karpitskaya.

81st MDOS — Maj. Colleen Kersgard and Jon Marti.

To colonel

81st Medical Support Squadron — Lt. Col. Michael Dietz.

IN THE NEWS

Ploesti Drive closes for repairs

81st Infrastructure Division

At 8 a.m. Monday, Ploesti Drive from the Pass Road Gate to just west of Triangle Chapel closes for repair of a gas leak near the intersection of Ploesti and Hercules Street.

Hercules Street is closed south of Falcon Street to Ploesti.

The work should be completed by Dec. 13.

CFC surpasses goal

Keesler's Combined Federal Campaign ended Nov. 15.

A few donations are still trickling in, according to Capt. Kara Wisniewski, project officer, but as of Friday, the total pledged was \$181,445.29, nearly 134 percent of the base's target of \$135,542.

Storm water plans

81st Infrastructure Division

Keesler is reviewing and updating its Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and the Storm Water Management Plan as required by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information or to participate in storm water program development, call 377-1262.

Wing calendar event-planning

The 81st Training Wing events calendar at <http://www.keesler.af.mil/events/index.asp> is designed to help organizers avoid conflicts with other events.

Once an official date is set, event planners should send details to the public affairs organizational box, 81trw.pa@keesler.af.mil. Most items are posted within one business day.

Items that must be included are the name of event, date, time, location and a point of contact.

Events should be coordinated and approved through respective chains of command and be mission-relevant to a wide audience. All inputs are subject to review and editing by the 81st Training Wing Public Affairs office.

Off-limits list

These establishments have been declared "off-limits" to all armed forces personnel by the Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board:

Biloxi — Ya-ya's, 2623 Pass Road.

Pascagoula — Bunksmall Apartments, 708 S. Pascagoula Street.

Ocean Springs — Pugs, 6213 Washington Avenue.

D'Iberville — Guitars and Cadillacs, 4031 Popp's Ferry Road

Gulfport — Herbal Alternatives, 1909 East Pass Road and 11530 U.S. Highway 49.

Service members are ordered not to enter or patronize these off-limits establishments or their locations. This restriction doesn't apply to armed forces police on duty or others on official business. Violations of this order are punishable under Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Former Apollo 13 astronaut recounts history



Photo by Adam Bond

Former Apollo 13 astronaut, Fred Haise, takes audience questions at the Bay Breeze Event Center Nov. 17.

By Tech. Sgt. Donald Allen

334th Training Squadron

Air Force Association John C. Stennis Chapter 332 celebrated its return to Keesler by inviting a Biloxi native to speak who once celebrated his own triumphant return — former Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise Jr.

Mr. Haise, whose famous exploits with NASA were chronicled in the movie “Apollo 13,” came to the Bay Breeze Events Center Nov. 17 to narrate a 30-minute video before turning things over to a question-and-answer session.

Mr. Haise started by addressing what most people probably had on their minds, “What did you think of the ‘Apollo 13’ movie?” His candid response was, “The only line in the movie that was ours was, ‘Houston, we’ve had a problem.’ Everything else was theirs.”

The video highlighted candid footage shot by the astronauts on Apollo 13, but it went beyond the infamous space flight into Mr. Haise’s

post-mission adventures. He was slotted to fly on Apollo 19, which was cancelled due to budget shortfalls, but he soon began flying stunt planes. This decision ultimately led to an aircraft crash that left him with burns on more than 65 percent of his body.

The skin grafts he required would normally need a pin to be inserted into his ankle, but the surgery to insert the pin would have prevented him from returning to flying status, ending any chance of flying for NASA. A team of doctors, colleagues and friends came together to help devise a device that would perform the same function as the pin, but without the need for surgery. This allowed him to make a full recovery and return to flight status.

When an audience member asked Mr. Haise what his finest moment had been in his career, he replied without hesitation, “Being the first person to fly the Space Shuttle Enterprise during flight testing.”

When a Boy Scout asked Mr. Haise if he had ever seen an alien, Mr.

Haise replied, “Never seen any aliens, and I’ve never seen any proof to convince me, either.”

When asked about physical fitness, he responded wryly, “Well, I probably shouldn’t be saying this, but we did not care much about it. I used to run five times a week, but Neil Armstrong never worked out. No, he used to say he didn’t ‘want to waste a heartbeat on it’”

Mr. Haise also offered advice to Keesler’s instructors, officers and noncommissioned officers.

“Find the things in your students that they’re interested in and drive them towards the mission,” he recommended. “By helping them make goals that support the mission while keeping them interested, it makes them feel like a real part of the mission.”

Lt. Col. Janet Pattison, chapter president, presented Mr. Haise a commemoration certificate that highlighted his career and support of aeronautics.

To view the tribute, visit <http://www.veterantributes.org/TributeDetail.asp?ID=1197>.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Health insurance open season

The open season for health benefits runs through Dec. 13. During this period, employees can enroll or change your plans in the Employee Benefits Information System by logging on to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or calling 1-800-525-0102.

For more information, visit Room 214, Sablich Center, or call 376-8326.

Classes for job hunters

Job hunters can improve their chances for success with several upcoming classes at the airman and family readiness center.

Classes are held in the center's conference room in Sablich Center. There's a limit of 10 per class, and registration is required.

Interview skills and salary negotiation — 9 a.m. Jan. 20 or Feb. 24.

Federal format resume writing — 2 p.m. Dec. 8; 9 a.m. Jan. 19 and Feb. 2.

Civilian format resume writing — 2 p.m. Dec. 2 or 16; 9 a.m. Jan. 25.

Career skills assessment — 9 a.m. Jan. 26, Feb. 10, or March 10.

This class is particularly valuable for upcoming high school graduates or those entering college.

After attending a class, call 376-8728 to have your resume reviewed.

For more information, call 376-8728.

Transition assistance briefings

The airman and family readiness center has a number of upcoming programs for members planning to separate or retire.

Mandatory pre-separation briefings — 1 p.m. Tuesdays for those separating with honorable discharges and 2:30 p.m. for retirees; Room 110, Sablich Center. Bring one copy of separation or retirement orders. This appointment is required by law, and must be accomplished 90 calendar days before the separation or 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. Dec 13-15, Room 108A, Sablich Center. Dress is business casual; no jeans, T-shirts or uniforms.

Women veterans after-TAP gathering — 8:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Room 108A, Sablich Center.

Veterans benefits briefing — 8-11 a.m. Dec. 16, Room 108A, Sablich Center.

Retirement briefings — intended for those with less than a year until retirement, 1-3:30 p.m. Dec. 16, Room 108A, Sablich Center.

To pre-register or for more information, call 376-8728.

Permissive TDY procedures

All newly-arrived permanent party active-duty members, must report to their units upon arrival at Keesler.

Unit personnel coordinators assist members with completing permissive temporary duty requests and obtaining the commander's signature. Members may not depart on permissive TDY without in-processing the military personnel section and obtaining a leave number.

For more information, call 376-8347.

Leave after the fact memo

If a member is attempting to process leave after the leave has already occurred, a memorandum signed by a level no lower than the squadron first sergeant is required.

For more information, call 376-8347.

**Base
construction
sites
are off-limits
without
authorization.**

Smokeout run celebrates quitters and winners



First place finisher of Thursday's Great American Smokeout 5-kilometer run was 1st Lt. Justin Hyde, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.



Senior Airman Monik Oubina, 81st Force Support Squadron, was the first female finisher and ninth overall.



Photos by Adam Bond
Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, 81st Medical Group commander, gives a pep talk to runners before the run began at the health and wellness center.

Key spouse is lifeline for families during deployments, relocations

By Steve Hoffmann

Keesler News staff

You've just arrived on base and you need to get to the TMO PDQ because your belongings that were PCS'd broke and your spouse just received another DEPOD from the UDM and your own personal FPCON is bordering between CHARLIE and DELTA. What do you do? Calling your key spouse might be the safest, quickest and easiest way to get you where you need to go.

The Key Spouse program exists to help Airman spouses and family members navigate the sometimes confusing and turbulent Air Force life. A key spouse is a volunteer, generally a spouse or family member, who represents the unit and is a conduit of information between commanders and the family unit.

"It never fails. As soon as someone gets deployed, something happens with your car, your house or the kids. Life still happens," said Rebecca Stanley, personal and family life program manager with the airman and family readiness center. "A key spouse plays a vital role in connecting you with resources to help you solve your problems, as well as someone who will just take the time to listen to your concerns. They are becoming a real energy source on the base."

The Key Spouse program was developed as an initiative to enhance the quality of life for Air Force families. Voluntary implementation was encouraged in 1999, but the program varied from base to base. But in 2009, the program was standardized with formal training, not only for the key spouses but has been incorporated into first sergeant and officer training as well.

"Key spouses are not baby sitters or taxi drivers. They're professionals and we're training them to be professionals,"



"A key spouse plays a vital role in connecting you with resources to help you solve your problems, as well as someone who will just take the time to listen to your concerns. They are a real energy source on the base."

— Ms. Stanley

said Ms. Stanley. "What we're doing here is teaching this system to the spouses and family members. We're teaching them that this is the way to get information, get connected and find commonalities. It's really starting to become part of the Air Force culture."

Each key spouse has a mentor who knows the system, has been a key spouse themselves or are spouses of unit commanders. Together with the key spouse, they put together newsletters and send out e-mails to squadron families to keep them informed during important transitions.

"The old telephone tree has become the email tree," Ms. Stanley explained. "Most of the communication has to go through active duty and a lot of it gets lost sometimes. Key spouses and mentors disseminate and organize that information and make sure it gets into the hands of active duty spouses and family members. They get the word into the household."

During a brief at the

Sablich Center Nov. 9, Ms. Stanley gave refresher training to first sergeants and commanders.

"We want them to know that key spouses are part of their team and serve the mission through improved communication into the household."

Since the key spouse is also a member of the squadron they are serving, they know what their squadron family members and spouses are going through and how best to help them.

"Many of them tell us that their lives are so frenzied and out of control during deployments and transitions," said Ms. Stanley. "But when they get a call, or an email or a newsletter from their key spouse that lets them know who they need to contact or what step they need to take next, it is a real stabilizing force. That, in itself, can be a lifeline."

To learn more about the key spouse program, call the airman and family readiness center, 376-8500.

Doctor ensures care for wounded warriors

81st Medical Group

Retired Col. (Dr.) James Gasque continues to play a major role in Keesler's Wounded Warrior Program.

Dr. Gasque, who retired in July with 25 years of Air Force service, transitioned back to clinical medicine after serving as the 81st Medical Group chief of medical staff from 2006-2009. Col. (Dr.) Susan Perez de Tagle, current chief of medical staff, appointed him as medical director of the Wounded Warrior Program based on his clinical and administrative background. In this role, Dr. Gasque is the primary care manager for wounded warriors and ensures their deployment-related conditions are documented and fully addressed.

As the first chief of medical staff following Hurricane Katrina, he found several programs needed to be re-established. Once the medical facility again was functioning with the clinical services, inpatient capabilities and the return of the graduate medical education internal medicine and surgery residency programs, Keesler was capable of caring for Wounded Warriors, except for those with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. With Keesler able to accept patients from Iraq and Afghanistan, a wounded war-

rior platform was essential.

Dr. Gasque said, "Initially I called upon the hospital's medical management staff, consisting of registered nurses and social workers, to coordinate wounded warrior care. Donna Anderson, working in medical management, took a special interest in them, ensuring they obtained the care they needed and that none of them 'fell through the cracks.' Mrs. Anderson was later appointed the wounded warrior consultant, establishing the Wounded Warrior Program using care coordinators and other military services' liaisons."

Dr. Gasque said a major challenge for service members is obtaining information about their entitlements and how to access them.

"This is the reason the program was established — to provide a centralized office to assess the service members as well as help our providers determine the best way to care for our wounded warriors," Dr. Gasque commented. "The Wounded Warrior Program staff coordinates care and schedules medical appointments for the service member. The staff also addresses concerns regarding proper documentation, line of duty determination, medical evaluation boards and other social and financial entitlements."



Dr. Gasque



"Although we have the Wounded Warrior Program, another challenge of my job is providing the service member continuity of care," he continued. "Wounded warriors come from all areas of the Gulf Coast. Although we address their concerns and place referrals, long-term follow-up care is transferred back to their home PCMs. Many of the reserve and guard wounded warriors may have PCMs in Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida and all areas of Mississippi."

Dr. Gasque is only able to participate in the Wounded Warrior Program on a part-time basis. His full-time internal medicine responsibilities involve inpatient and outpatient clinical duties and helping to instruct internal medicine residents.

"While my duty day is busy, the rewarding aspect of working with wounded warriors is helping them recover," Dr. Gasque observed. "The reward is seeing their satisfaction in being able to share their story with someone they know cares and they can trust."

He mentioned many times service members cry as they "get things off their chest."

"At times, I'm the initial spark of a larger team that helps lead to a wounded warrior's recovery," Dr. Gasque explained. "That is why my job is so important; I serve as a liaison aiding the service members in putting their lives back together. You listen to their stories and offer a caring ear and heart. Many recount enduring physical pain such as broken bones, loss of a limb, eye sight or hearing. And there are more stories of mental and emotional struggles resulting from flashbacks, nightmares and insomnia."

"At times, you can only be a good wingman and listen to the service members as they talk

about their post traumatic stress disorders, traumatic brain injuries, anger, isolation, depression, despair or destructive behavior as they try to cope and rebuild their lives," he went on. "As team members, our job is to be good listeners and a bridge for the service members, providing them the resources they need to feel whole and function again."

Dr. Gasque is happy that the various service branches are taking care of wounded warriors, but there's one thing that often brings him to tears at the end of an interview with one of these service members.

"It's the forgotten family members, especially spouses who suffer from the turmoil that often tears families apart," he pointed out. "As one service member agonized, 'I am driving my wife away, but I cannot help it.' I sometimes speak with their spouses and they cry out for help. Service members often state that they're unable to talk with their spouses and they just don't understand what the service members have and continue to experience."

"In spite of the challenges, we are making progress and are a big difference in the lives of our wounded warriors," Dr. Gasque concluded. "I'm happy to be a part of a team that cares."

Sculpture stories

Florida sculptor Marlin Miller sprays a coat of varnish on an eagle sculpture he created in front of the base exchange in March. The eagle, carved from a 7½-ton remnant of a tree toppled by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, is part of Mr. Miller's Katrina Sculpture Project that gives hurricane-battered trees new life as works of art. Mr. Miller, who was stationed at Keesler in 1982, is signing copies of his new book, "Katrina Sculptures — Reflections of the Resilience of the Mississippi Gulf Coast," in the exchange lobby, 2-5 p.m. Friday. The Keesler sculpture is featured on the front cover. Mr. Miller said, "This book contains a large chapter on Keesler and how the eagle sculpture was integrated into the rebuild of the base."

Photo by Kemberly Groue



Hail to the chiefs



Photo by Adam Bond

From left, Senior Master Sgts. Lisa Boothe, 81st Comptroller Squadron; Anthony Pearson, 334th Training Squadron, and Thomas Cimenski, 338th TRS, have been selected for promotion to chief master sergeant.

For more news, photos and videos,
log on to www.keesler.af.mil

Family fun day begins, ends with flying colors



From left, 3-year-old Tyler Brasher; Marjorie Arfa and her 3-year-old daughter, Abigail; and Dave Smith play with a colorful parachute at the child development center's family fun day, Nov. 17. Tyler's parents are Staff Sgt. Vincent and Angela Brasher, 81st Security Forces Squadron. Abigail's dad is Master Sgt. Jacob Arfa, 335th Training Squadron. Mr. Smith and his wife, 1st Lt. Aimee Smith, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron, have two children at the center, 3-year-old Cole and 2-year-old Wyatt.



From left, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Smith, 81st Comptroller Squadron, plays in a sandbox with 2-year-olds Jaden Alexander, her son Parker and Gavin Butler. Jaden's parents are Staff Sgts. Dan and Brigitte Alexander, 335th Training Squadron. Parker's dad, Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Smith, is deployed from the 403rd Maintenance Squadron. Gavin's parents are Senior Airman Thomas Butler, 81st Comptroller Squadron, and Amber Butler, 81st Force Support Squadron.



Photos by Adam Bond
Three-year-old Christian Threath hugs his mom, Airman 1st Class Melissa Burrows, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, as they work on a puzzle.

Ultimate fighter gets a little PT

Adam Belcher, top, works out with Maj. James Clark, front, 81st Security Forces Squadron commander, and Capt. Jason Williams during an exercise session with Keesler cops Nov. 15 at the exercise pad by the Triangle Track. Mr. Belcher is a Ultimate Fighting Championship middleweight fighter with a record of 16-6. He fights out of Remix Mixed Martial Arts in Biloxi.

Photo by Adam Bond



News tips?
Call the Keesler News, 377-4130,
or e-mail keeslernews@us.af.mil



Holiday in Park is Wednesday

Keesler celebrates Holiday in the Park, 4-7 p.m. Wednesday in marina park.

Festivities start with a performance by the drum and bugle corps, along with free food and drinks, hayrides, children's activities, horse and buggy rides and balloons.

At 5 p.m., Santa arrives by fire truck, the chapel choir sings carols and the petting zoo opens.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, 81st Training Wing commander, speaks at 6 p.m., followed by the tree lighting and announcement of the holiday card contest winners.

"Holiday Season" is the theme of the card contest, which offers an opportunity to display unit spirit.

Organizations provide supplies, including card size of a 4-foot by 8-foot sheet of plywood for a free-standing display so no holes will be dug. The entire plywood card is painted front and back, with the name of squadron and point of contact on the back. Entries must be registered at the marina's outdoor recreation office, in place by noon Tuesday and removed by Jan. 4.

"Dragon Dollars" are the prizes — 300 for first place, 200 for second and 100 for third. Dragon Dollars may be used to offset the cost of holiday parties, rent a pavilion at the marina, use the bowling center, golf tournaments or other recreational facilities.

A holiday tree will be erected in the field along Larcher Boulevard in the former Muse Manor location where the holiday cards will be displayed.

For more information, call 377-0002.

Reduce, reuse, recycle



Photo by Adam Bond

Sherrie Watson, left, and Phi Dang from CSC's environmental office gives pencils and stickers to 5-year-old Mia Sandoval at the America Recycles Day information booth at the base exchange Nov. 15. Mia and her mom, Melissa Sandoval, are from Sterling, Ill. Ms. Sandoval's brother is retired Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Shipman. The booth collected donations for the Cell Phones for Soldiers program that uses proceeds from recycling old cell phones to buy calling cards for deployed troops. The office also sponsored a universal waste turn in for base organizations.

Base chapel worship schedule

Roman Catholic

Daily Mass (except non-training Fridays), 11:15 a.m., Triangle Chapel.

Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., Triangle Chapel.

Protestant

Traditional service, 9 a.m. Sunday, Larcher Chapel.

Contemporary service, 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel.

Gospel service, noon Sunday, Triangle Chapel

Islamic

Prayer is five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah congregational prayer, noon on Friday, Building 2003. For more information, call 377-2520.

Latter-Day Saints

Student group service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Triangle Chapel. For more information, call 396-5274 or 1-616-881-1994.



Toys for Tots drive needs volunteers

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News editor

One of Santa's helpers is looking for volunteers for this year's Toys for Tots campaign at Keesler.

"Last year, volunteers helped us to collect toys and monetary donations to provide 2,338 toys for needy children in the area," said Cheryl Moore, 81st Communications Squadron, who's spearheading the base drive for the 10th consecutive year. "This year, Master Sgt. Ernesto Alvendia

at the airman and family readiness center has volunteered to help me with the drive."

This year's campaign runs through Dec. 17, but at Keesler, toys must be turned in by Dec. 11 for Dec. 12 pickup by members of the Marine Corps Reserve, sponsor of the annual drive.

Collection boxes are available in Room 107 or 110, Sablich Center, where donations will be turned in this year.

For more information or to volunteer, call 376-8501 or 209-7052.

Volunteer — get connected.

Fisher House donation

Representatives of Airmen Against Drunk Driving, the airman's council and dorm council present a \$300 donation to Keesler Fisher House Nov. 9.

The donation was the result of funds collected for the Oct. 1 "enlisted bash" to repay base volunteers for all their efforts.

The planning committee ended up with more money than they needed to finance the event and decided to donate \$1 for each of the 300 people who attended.

Housing office closed

The housing office is closed Thursday and Friday.

Project Cheer benefit

A bowl-a-rama, noon Dec. 3 at Gaudé Lanes, benefits the Project Cheer program that provides the food for a holiday meal for junior enlisted families who need assistance.

There's a 9-pin no tap format. There's a limit of 20 five-person teams. Team trophies are presented to the first and second place high series teams.

The \$10 fee per person fee

includes shoes and three games. Participants are also asked to donate one non-perishable food item to be donated to an area food bank.

Sign up by noon Dec. 2.

The event is sponsored by the Keesler First Sergeants.

For more information, e-mail rogers.trahan@us.af.mil or call 377-4157.

Parenting class

Family advocacy is sponsoring a program covering effective parenting.

The two-class program, "1-2-3 Magic Parenting Class for Children 2-12," is a humorous look at parenting and a serious look at discipline, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7 in the Arnold Medical Annex conference room. Participants are encouraged to attend both sessions.

To register, call 376-3457 or 3459 by Monday.

For more information, log on to www.parentmagic.com

Healthy eating classes

The health and wellness center offers two classes to plan more healthful during the holiday season:

Dec. 9 — 11 a.m.-noon, Holiday Eating.

Dec. 16 — noon to 1 p.m., Eating on the Run/Dining Out.

To sign up, call 376-3170.

Clinic holiday hours

The 81st Medical Group Hospital's primary care and specialty clinics align operating hours with the 81st Training Wing holiday schedule.

Except for the actual holidays, the clinics are open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. Clinics have reduced staffs on non-training Fridays.

Clinics close on federal holidays and Air Education and Training Command family days — Friday, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. The emergency department is always open.

Airman's Attic

Airman's Attic, at the corner of Meadows Drive and 1st Street, assists junior enlisted members with obtaining free basic household items.

Donations are needed such as furniture, area rugs, cutlery, dishware, infant wear and maternity clothes which are clean and in good condition. Bring donations to Airman's Attic during regular hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, non-training Fridays and the last Saturday of the month.

Thrift shop

The Keesler Thrift Shop, operated by the Keesler Spouses Club, is at the corner of Meadows Drive and First Street.

Profits benefit base and area charities and provide scholarships.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Consignments are accepted 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays.

Pickup is available for donations, such as kitchen items, small appliances, furniture, rugs, household items and infant and children's items.

For more information, call 377-3217.

Supply issues

For supply issues, contact the CSC supply customer service element, Room 126, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002; call Michael Cashion, 377-8891, or e-mail michael.cashion.2.ctr@us.af.mil

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Belief in self, devotion are keys to success in Ironman competition

By Steve Pivnick

81st Medical Group Public Affairs

Mark Roberts isn't a masochist, but he put his body through an extreme workout Nov. 6 as he joined more than 2,400 other athletes in the Ford Ironman Florida held in Panama City Beach.

Roberts, director of endodontic resident education and training for the 81st Dental Squadron, completed the grueling event with an overall time of 11:35:10. His times for the individual events were 1:07:32 in the 2.4-mile swim, 5:56:15 in the 112-mile bike ride and 4:10:15 for the 26.2-mile marathon run. His time placed him 649th in the field of 2,402 representing all 50 states and 48 countries.

"Ironman Florida is one of six Ironman events held annually in the U.S.," he explained. "Top finishers in each age category qualify for the world championships in Hawaii. I'm not there yet, but would love to compete in Kona someday."

He said this was his fifth Ironman competition, adding he's been doing triathlons for 11 years. His first Ironman was the Florida event in 2002 and this year was the third time he has participated there.

Discussing his preparation for an Ironman, Roberts said, "The hardest part is finding a balance between the three sports. Since I'm a good swimmer, I concentrated on cycling and running. I typically did three bike rides, five runs and two or three swims each week. I'm always training, but I specifically focus training for the Ironman for about four months."

Roberts noted this event proved a bit more difficult than those in the past.

"This one was harder for me because I had to balance training and time with my two young boys — James, 2, and



Roberts

Daniel, 6 weeks," he explained. "I was glad when it was over because the training is so time consuming. Actually, this was the first Ironman I've competed in since the boys were born. They were both there cheering for me on race day."

He has encouraging words for anyone who would like to test themselves through an Ironman.

"You need the determination to train and the belief you can do it," he pointed out. "During the event, you see a cross-section of participants from the 'pros' who finish in eight hours to people who have lost 100 pounds and want to test themselves completing it by the midnight deadline. Anyone can do it if they have the commitment."

Originally from Michigan, Roberts has been a member of the Air Force for five years and at Keesler since April. His previous assignment was at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

He, his wife Katy, a three-time Ironman finisher herself, reside with their sons in Ocean Springs.



Courtesy photos

Roberts lets the rubber hit the road during the 112-mile cycling leg of the Ironman Florida triathlon Nov. 6. Having finished a 2.4-mile swim, Roberts has a full marathon awaiting him after he dismounts his bike.

'Tis the season to be jolly

By Lisa Campbell
CSC marketing director

Whether you're looking for a romantic outing, a family friendly event, or a place to mix and mingle, the 81st Force Support Squadron has the perfect holiday event. So deck the halls, break out your party hats and join us in celebrating the most wonderful time of the year.

The "V" holiday party

8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 19 at Vandenberg Community Center for nonprior service students only. This special holiday party is part of the "V's" late night dance. \$3 cover charge.

Santa at holiday brunch

Dec. 19 in the ballroom of the Bay Breeze Event Center. Seatings are 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. \$24.95, Keesler Club members receive \$2 discount. Children ages 4-10 eat for half price, ages 3 and younger eat free. Santa will be there for pictures, so bring your camera.

New Year's Eve party

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 ring in the New Year at the Bay Breeze Event Center. Our celebration includes music,

dancing, prizes, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a midnight champagne toast and late night breakfast. Price is \$40 per person, Keesler Club members receive a \$5 discount. For reservations, call 377-2334 or 377-0545. Open to all ranks, contractors are welcome; must be age 18 or older to enter.

Family festivities

There's nothing greater than seeing the spirit of the holidays through the eyes of a child. This December, bring your family closer together and enjoy some of the greatest holiday activities on the Coast.

Holiday in the Park

4 p.m. Wednesday at marina park. Bring the whole family for a magical evening that includes a tree lighting ceremony, food and beverages, train rides, hay rides, Wally Wizard balloons and even a special visit from Santa, so bring your camera for photos. The chapel provides a live Nativity and holiday music by the Keesler Choir This "don't miss" event is sponsored by JCPenney, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Mississippi Coast Sports Pavilion and USAA.

Library open house

10 a.m. to noon Dec. 15 join the McBride Library for refreshments, children's story time and ornament making as we celebrate "The Spirit of Giving."

New Year's Eve bowling

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31 at Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center. Ring in the New Year with a night of bowling, music, prizes, dancing, party favors, finger foods and a nonalcoholic midnight toast. \$30 for adults, \$25 for ages 6-17, ages 5 and younger free. Ages 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Alcoholic beverages sold separately.

Season for singles

The holidays are a great time to gather with friends and to make new ones, especially at Keesler's upcoming holiday events. Whether you're an athlete, movie buff, golfer or just enjoy a good party, we've got something for everyone.

Jingle Bell 5-K

Noon Dec. 1 at Blake Fitness Center. Register at 11:30 a.m. Prizes awarded to first-third place male and female winners.

Deck the "V"

Noon to 9 p.m. Dec. 1 get into the holiday spirit by helping us decorate the "V." There will be holiday music, cookies and hot cocoa. Personal decorations are welcome.

Holiday movie night

5 p.m. Dec. 9 at the "V." Bring your favorite holiday movies and watch them with your fellow nonprior service students. There'll be free popcorn, hot cocoa and drinks.

Santa's Scramble golf

9 a.m. Dec. 11. Hit the greens at Bay Breeze Golf Course. Two-person teams, select shot with handicap. Inclusive members, \$20; greens members, \$25; non-members, \$30. Fee includes greens, cart, food, beverages and prizes. Sign up by Dec. 7.

Free golf

Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, play a free round at Bay Breeze Golf Course. Carts and rental clubs not available.

New Year's Eve party

6 p.m. to midnight Dec. 31 at the "V" for nonprior service students only. Free entry.

December 2010



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Keesler Club Thanksgiving Buffet

Seatings are 10:30 a.m.,
noon and 1:30 p.m. Nov. 25
at the Bay Breeze Event
Center Ballroom.

**\$26.95, members
receive a \$2 discount.**

Call to reserve,
377-0545 or 377-2334.



KEESLER CLUB New Year's Eve Party \$40 PER PERSON \$35 CLUB MEMBERS

Ring in the New Year at the Bay Breeze Event Center

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31

- Music • Dancing
- Prizes • Hors d'oeuvres
- Late Night Breakfast
- Midnight Champagne Toast

Be safe, reserve a room at the Inns of Keesler, call 374-0088.

Purchase tickets from the cashier at the Bay Breeze Event Center.

For more information, call 377-2334.



EXTRA! Here's what's happening! EXTRA!

11TH FRAME CAFÉ

Editor's note: Located inside Gaudé Lanes Bowling Center, 377-2036. Contractors welcome. Menu is subject to change without notice.

Kingpin daily specials \$6.95 — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays. Call-in orders accepted 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays feature meat loaf, Thursdays get chicken fried steak or chicken, and Fridays enjoy golden fried catfish.

New menu items — now serving pizza and milkshakes.

Lunch punch card — purchase nine combos or Kingpin daily specials and your tenth one is free.

BAY BREEZE COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor's note: Located inside the new Bay Breeze Event Center. For more information, call 377-2509.

Free pool — enjoy a game of billiards on the house. Brand new tables and a flat screen TV, what more could you ask for?

Internet gaming — the cyber sports room has computers dedicated solely to internet gaming. Play for free.

Tae kwon do classes — 6-7 p.m. Monday-Friday for ages 18 and older. \$75 per month. Class held at the "V."

Private guitar lessons — \$50 per month for ages 18 and older, your first class is free.

Ballroom variety dance lessons — 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays, \$50 per month.

Piano/voice and drums instructors needed — please call if you're interested in becoming an instructor.

AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS CENTER

Editor's note: Registration is required for all briefings, classes and workshops below, call 376-8728. Space is limited.

Preparation counseling — Tuesdays, 1 p.m. for separatees, 2:30 p.m. for retirees. This is a mandatory requirement for all personnel separating from the service. Suspense for completion is 90 days prior to separation/retirement.

Post-deployment brief — 9 a.m. Tuesdays or 1 p.m. Thursdays for all those returning from deployment. No briefing Dec. 9.

Civilian jobs resume writing course — 2-4 p.m. Dec. 2 and 16. Learn about formatting options and how to concisely present accomplishments. Bring a resume if you have one.

Survivor benefit briefing — 9-11 a.m. Dec. 8 for single and married members and their spouses.

Smooth move seminar — 1-2:30 p.m. Dec. 8. Get expert advice on how to make relocation easier for you and your dependents. Open to anyone with access to Keesler.

Federal resume writing/job search — 2-4 p.m. Dec. 8. Learn how to prepare a resume for federal employment. Print a federal job announcement and bring to class. Limit 15 people.

Predeployment brief — 7-9 a.m. Dec. 9 for all individuals deploying. See your Unit Deployment Manager to schedule.

Sponsor training — 10-11 a.m. Dec. 9, 13 or 27. Learn about resources and tips for making newcomers feel welcome.

Transition assistance workshop — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 13-15. This three-day workshop is conducted by the Department of Labor to help with transition to the civilian work force. Open to those 12 months or less from separation or 24 months from retirement. Spouses are invited.

Veterans Administration benefits brief — 8-11 a.m. Dec. 16. Active duty members and their spouses are invited.

BAY BREEZE GOLF COURSE

Editor's note: For more information or tee time, call 377-3832.

Clubhouse — pro shop, snack bar, gift certificates and more.

Santa Scramble golf tournament — 9 a.m. Dec. 11. Shotgun start, two-person scramble, select shot with handicap. Shotgun members \$25; greens members \$30; nonmembers \$40; includes greens, cart, food, beverages and prizes. Sign up by Dec. 7.

Twilight golf special — 2 p.m. Mondays-Thursday pay one price and golf until closing; includes cart. E1-E4, \$12; E5-O3, \$20; O4 and up, \$22; and guests \$22.

Golf lessons with a teaching professional — \$30 for a half-hour lesson for any level golfer, from those learning the basic fundamentals to fine tuning the most advanced golfers' skills. Lessons are by appointment Monday-Saturday; call to schedule.

"UBU" nonprior service students' special — \$15 for 18 holes or \$10 for nine holes includes greens fee and cart; \$20 for 18 holes or \$15 for nine holes includes greens fee, cart, and rental clubs.

DINING FACILITIES

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2200.

Daily menu — call 377-DINE (3463).

Monthly birthday celebration — 5:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month for all nonprior service students, permanent party enlisted, and Essential Station Messing members. Reservations must be made in advance by the 25th of the previous month; call 377-3854. Personnel collecting Basic Allowance for Subsistence must pay cash and surcharge. December's celebration is Dec. 8.

GAUDÉ LANES BOWLING CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2817. Bumpers are available on 19 lanes by reservation for ages 10 and younger.

Keesler Kingpin Challenge — 7-10 p.m. Dec. 28 for nonprior service students only. Nine-pin, no-tap bowling tournament, dart tournament and pool tournament. \$5 cover charge. Prizes.

Bowl at lunch — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays, \$1 per game and \$1 for shoes.

Club member special — Thursdays. Show your current club card and bowl for \$1.50 with free shoe rental.

Team building — 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-5 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, bring your employees and bowl for \$1 a game plus shoe rental. Call for reservations.

Glow bowling — 9 p.m. Fridays and 7 p.m. Saturdays.

Birthday parties — 1:30-3 p.m. or 3:30-5 p.m. Saturdays. The birthday child is free, you provide the cake. Parties range in price from \$8.95 to \$15.95 per child. Reservations are required.

"UBU" special — nonprior service students, show your UBU card and bowl for \$1.50 per game any time, shoes included.

Fundraiser idea — an exciting way to score over \$450 cash in just a few hours.

INNS OF KEESLER

Editor's note: For reservations and more information, call 374-0088 or DSN 597-4900.

Check-in/out — at Tyer House located on Fisher Street. If you're arriving after 6 p.m., please call with credit card information to hold reservation.

Rooms available — Space-available reservations can be made three days in advance. Rooms offered are visiting airmen's quarters \$34.75 with a queen bed, refrigerator, microwave and shared bathroom; visitor's quarters \$39 with a queen bed, refrigerator, microwave and private bathroom; and temporary lodging facility \$41.50 for one- and two-bedroom family units with full kitchen. Pet TLFs available for an additional \$10 per night.

Plan ahead for holiday visitors — now accepting reservations for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.

INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TRAVEL

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3818.

Discounted tickets — log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us> and click on the ITT link.

Disney® military special — four-day park-hopper ticket, \$138. **Disney® resort military special** — rooms discounted up to 40 percent. Blackout dates apply.

Armed Forces Vacation Club® — A space-available vacation program. No membership fee, no dues and no gimmicks; just a great vacation value for members of the uniformed services, Department of Defense and nonappropriated fund employees. Pay \$369 for seven nights and eight days in a resort condominium. Log onto <http://www.afvclub.com> to reserve. When making reservations, please designate installation No. 121 as your base.

Leisure travel

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-1658.

Now offering — discounts on cruises, airline tickets, hotel reservations and more.

Seven-day Alaskan group cruise — May. Inside cabin \$1,066.19 per person; ocean view \$1,601.19; balcony is \$1,707.19. Price is based on double occupancy and includes tax, transfers, meals and entertainment. Passports are highly recommended.

KEESLER COLLOCATED CLUB

Editor's note: All ranks and contractors welcome. Club members must show club card to receive discounts. Must be 18 or older to enter the collocated lounge. For more information, call 377-2334.

Jazz music — 4-8 p.m. Friday.

"Football Frenzy" — every Sunday. Keesler Club members enter to win a free round trip to the 2010 Super Bowl.

Tailgate brunch — noon to 5 p.m. every Sunday. \$8.50, members receive a \$2 discount.

"NFL Sunday Ticket" — available in both the collocated lounge and casual dining room. Catch the games on any of our big screens. Free Wi-fi access for fantasy football. Casual dining room opens at 11 a.m. and the collocated lounge opens at noon. Free giveaways.

Monday night football — enjoy the game in the lounge.

Social hour — 4-7 p.m. daily. \$5 domestic pitchers, \$1.50 domestic draft and \$2 domestic bottle beer.

Wingman Wednesdays — \$5 domestic draft pitchers. Wings and things free for members, nonmembers pay \$3 at the door.

Dance night — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturdays. Drink specials. Free admission.

Daily lunch specials — served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For menu log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Bonanza bingo — cards \$1, available at the cashier or ask your bartender; you could win a \$500 prize.

Children's menu — available upon request.

Catering — professional services for your special occasions.

LEGENDS CAFÉ

Editor's note: Dine-in or take-out. Located inside Vandenberg Community Center. For more information, call 377-2424.

A fast and inexpensive place to grab a bite — serving pizza, wings, chicken tenders, hamburgers, wraps, quesadillas, sandwiches, salads and more. Open evenings Thursdays-Saturdays.

"UBU" special — nonprior service students, show your UBU card and get a free large fountain drink with a \$5 purchase.

MCBRIDE LIBRARY

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2181.

Holiday open house — 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 15. Stop by for refreshments, children's story hour and ornament making.

Children's story time — 10 a.m. Dec. 15 for ages 3-5.

Free Wi-fi — available 24/7. Ask at front desk for login access.

Search our online catalog — search for print and audio books, DVDs, CDs, VHS, magazines, periodicals and more, log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

Free movie check-out — check-out up to five movies free and keep for up to two weeks.

Research orientations — learn how to access, search, locate and save/use information in online databases. Call to schedule.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND MARINA

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3160.

Big buck contest — bring in your game and enter for a chance to win a \$100 savings bond. Points are calculated by placing a ring on the antler, if the antler supports the ring, it's considered a point. Buck with the most points wins.

Holiday special — get 10 percent off fishing equipment Dec. 14-16.

Recreational, boat and trailer storage — \$20 per month.

Deep sea fishing trips — \$75 includes everything you need to fish, bring food and beverages. Payment is due upon reservation. Minimum 10, maximum 22 people. Call for reservations.

Mississippi Sound fishing charter — aboard the Dolphin II, Keesler's 50-foot fishing vessel. Price is \$750 for first 10 people, \$50 for each additional person with a maximum of 22 people. Fishing licenses are not required. A \$100 deposit is required.

Towable campers for rent — clean and roomy with side slide out. \$50 per day. Tow to your destination and enjoy.

Back bay fishing trips — \$20, bring your own food and beverages. Mississippi state fishing license is required. Call to schedule.

RESALE LOT

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2821.

Buy, sell, trade — \$10 per month to place your vehicle on the lot, \$20 for recreational vehicles and boats. Located on Meadows Drive. Register at the arts and crafts center 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Registration, license and insurance required.

SPORTS AND FITNESS

Editor's note: Keesler has three fitness centers for your convenience — **Blake Fitness Center, 377-4385; Dragon Fitness Center, 377-2907, and Triangle Fitness Center, 377-3056.**

5-K jingle bell run/walk — noon, Dec. 1 at the Blake Fitness Center, register 11:30 a.m. the day of the event. Prizes awarded to first-third place winners in the male and female divisions. Safe holiday running attire is encouraged.

Push/pull power meet — noon to 6 p.m. Dec. 18 at Triangle Fitness Center; preregistration is not required.

Free fitness classes — Zumba, boot camp, step aerobics, Pilates, cycling/circuit training, kick boxing and yoga are available at the Dragon Fitness Center. For class descriptions and schedule, log onto <http://www.keeslerservices.us> under the fitness center link or stop by any of the base fitness centers.

Parent/child fitness room — inside Dragon Fitness Center featuring workout equipment and a play area for ages 6 months to 7 years. Children must be directly supervised at all times.

Massage therapist now available — hour and half-hour appointments available at Triangle Fitness Center. Swedish, deep tissue, aromatherapy, reflexology and La Stone original body therapy massages are offered. To schedule or for more information, call (228) 348-6698. Gift certificates are available.

Professional certified personal trainers, fitness testing and exercise prescriptions — schedule an appointment with one of our certified personal trainers. They can administer a fitness test and compose a personal exercise prescription just for you based on your fitness goals, physical limitations and time restrictions. These services are free and available at any of the three fitness centers. For an appointment or more information, call 377-4409.

Boxing room — inside Triangle Fitness Center. Six heavy bags, three speed bags and one double-end bag. Boxing gloves available at front desk.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

GAUDÉ LANES BOWLING CENTER

8 P.M.-1 A.M. DEC. 31

\$30 FOR ADULTS

\$25 FOR AGES 6-17

BOWLING - SHOES INCLUDED!
MUSIC! PRIZES! DANCING!
PARTY FAVORS! FINGER FOODS!
NONALCOHOLIC MIDNIGHT TOAST!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 377-2817.

AGES 5 AND YOUNGER FREE. AGES 14 AND YOUNGER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SOLD SEPARATELY.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

Editor's note: Preregistration is required for all classes. Register at craft sales, Building 5904. Space is limited. For more information, call 377-2821.

Specials

Gifts to go — get a décor mug filled with goodies, just \$10 each. Choose one with a picture of a magnolia and the Biloxi lighthouse for a souvenir.

Sale — check out our discount bin; selected products reduced by up to 50 percent.

"UBU" special — UBU card holders get 10 percent off all items in the crafts resale store.

Multi-crafts shop

Editor's note: Potter's wheels, ceramic molds, air brushing, and tools are available for use in the shop. Classes include materials.

Children's penguin class — 2-3 p.m. Dec. 4, 11 and 15; use bowling pins to decorate your own tuxedo-clad friend.

Wood shop

Editor's note: Hardwoods and plywood in stock for sale. Stock includes walnut, mahogany, pecan, maple, oak, poplar, cypress and cedar.

Beginning woodworking — 8:30-10:30 a.m. Dec. 4, 11 and 18. Make a cutting board to take home for yourself or use as a holiday gift. \$25 includes shop use, instruction and materials. Class certifies you to use the equipment in the future.

Engraving shop

Custom items — we can etch glass items and customize your order of plaques, trophies, awards, mugs and writing pens for gift giving, special mementos and squadron functions. Organizational name tags are our specialty.

Frame shop

Framing class — Noon to 2 p.m. Dec. 3, 10 and 17. \$30. Bring a picture or piece of art no larger than 5x7 inches for framing.

Custom orders — we will customize all work to individual orders. We can coordinate framing awards with engraving shop accessories.

Auto hobby shop

Editor's note: Indoor and outdoor stalls and lifts available. For more information, call 377-3872.

Qualified mechanics — on hand to help with car care needs.

Tire service/air machine — coin-operated, available 24-7. Located at the vacuum station.

Collection site — for privately-owned vehicle oil, antifreeze, transmission and brake fluids.

24-hour coin-operated car care — vacuum station and car wash featuring foamy brush wash, high-pressure rinse, wax, towelettes and Armorall.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-2211 or 377-4116.

Give parents a break — 4-10 p.m. Dec. 4. Air Force Aid Society program offers free child care at the center for Air Force families who are referred by base agencies such as the airman and family readiness center and family advocacy, first sergeants, commanders and chaplains. Certificates must be coordinated through the airman and family readiness center. School-age children go to the youth center.

FAMILY CHILD CARE

Editor's note: For more information, call 377-3189.

Child care slots — call for availability.

Be your own boss — we're recruiting military spouses on and off base who wish to care for children in their homes. Providers are also needed to care for children with special needs including asthma, allergies, cerebral palsy and other physical impairments, and to work swing and evening shifts.

Child care assistance programs — Air Force Aid Society, returning home care, expanded duty care and Air Force subsidy programs are available to assist parents with child care. Call for guidelines.

HELP WANTED

Editor's note: The 81 Force Support Squadron's human resource office is located in Sablich Center, Room 211.

Nonappropriated fund positions — apply online at <https://nafjobs.afsv.net>.

Current job openings — for complete list, call the 24-hour job line at 377-9055 or log on to <http://www.keeslerservices.us>.

VANDENBERG COMMUNITY CENTER

Editor's note: All events, except dances and weekend competitions, are open to all Keesler personnel. For more information, call 377-5576.

* Free to compete, regular \$3 cover charge applies.

Open mic night — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Three minute limit to showcase your talent. Midnight karaoke Saturday.*

Elf Vandy — provides goody bags for those who must work Dec. 24-25. Register your personnel Monday through Dec. 17. Bags will be ready for pick-up Dec. 24.

Deck the "V" — noon to 9 p.m. Dec. 1. Get into the holiday spirit by decorating the "V." Music and refreshments. Personal decorations are welcome.

All night country blowout — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 3. Grab your hats and boots for a night of pure country. Prizes for the best dressed country male and female. Line dancing, square dancing and an open floor for a hoe-down.*

Karaoke party — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 4. Take the stage, grab the mic and let your talents show.*

Holiday movie night — 5 p.m. Dec. 9. Bring your favorite holiday movies to watch. Free popcorn, hot cocoa and soft drinks.

First annual "Club V" fashion show — 9-11 p.m. Dec. 10. Put on your best outfit and walk the runway for our first annual fashion show. Cat walkers will be judged on creativity, originality and swag.*

Re-jingle a jingle — 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 11. Remake a popular holiday song. Choose a song from our selection and re-jingle the jingle. The best re-jingle wins a party at the "V" next month.*

Holiday party — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 17 - Celebrate the holidays during our late night dance.*

Going away party — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dec. 18. In honor of Exodus, come share your New Year's resolutions.*

Late night dances — 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursdays before nontraining Fridays and every Friday and Saturday. \$3 cover charge.

Pool tournaments — 7 p.m. Tuesdays 9-ball, Wednesdays 8-ball. Free to enter.

VETERINARY TREATMENT FACILITY

Editor's note: Located on 3rd Street, Building 0408. All animals in base housing must be registered with the veterinary office. For appointment call, 376-7495.

Eligible patrons — active duty, retirees, reservists and National Guard on active duty for more than 72 hours with orders may use the clinic.

Sick call and vaccines — by appointment only, call to schedule.

Health certificates — available for interstate and overseas travel.

Purchase pet care products and save — we carry heartworm prevention, flea and tick control products, shampoos, ear cleaners and pet-tabs. To purchase heartworm prevention, your pet must have been examined by the veterinary clinic with the last 12 months.

Microchip pet identification — a tiny, numbered computer chip is simply injected under the skin of your pet where it stays for the life of the animal. It is a safe and inexpensive way to protect your pet against loss or theft. Should your pet become lost or stolen, local Humane Societies have a device which reads all manufacturers' microchips to check for pet ownership. If you're interested in having your pet receive the chip, notify the staff when you make your next appointment.

YOUTH CENTER

Editor's note: All children registered in a youth center program receive free membership. For more information, call 377-4116.

Co-ed basketball registration — register through Dec. 13 for ages 3-14. \$50 for first child, \$25 each additional child includes a uniform and participation award. Ages 3-4 will participate in the "Start Smart" program. Coaches are needed. Season runs January-March.

Basketball skills and drills camp — 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 18 for ages 6-14, \$10.

Homeschoolers — meet 1-3 p.m. Thursdays.

Open recreation — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 3-6 p.m. Fridays. Computer media center, homework assistance, sports and fitness.

Instructional classes — tennis, tae kwon do, piano and guitar. Call to schedule.

Teen open recreation/TRAIL meetings — 4-8 p.m. Saturdays. Recreational and sports activities, video games and tournaments, team building games, computer center and more.

HAPPENINGS is a monthly supplement to the Keesler News produced by the CSC marketing department. Information is subject to change without notice. Federal endorsement of sponsors not intended.

Lisa Campbell, marketing director; Diana Egger, marketing specialist; Cindy Milford, publications administrator; Hank D'Aquila, graphics illustrator; Tanja Smith, commercial sponsorship coordinator.

PLEASE PULL OUT AND KEEP THIS SUPPLEMENT AS A HANDY REFERENCE FOR MONTHLY EVENTS OF THE 81ST FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON.