

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

Vol. 66, No. 11
Thursday, March 23, 2006

Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

INSIDE

COMMENTARY

Repairing ourselves, **2**

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

New Cody Hall, **4**

Combat training, **6**

NEWS AND FEATURES

Air Force awards, **8**

Courts-martial results, **11**

Fund gives relief, **13**

Helping hands **15**

Top NCO in Iraq, **18**

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Slugfest II, **21**

Something special, **22**

SECTIONS

Commentary.....**2**

Training and education.**4-7**

News and features.....**8-20**

Sports and recreation...**21-23**

Digest.....**24-25**

Classifieds.....**27**

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



Dragons deployed —
105

Counterfeit coupons

Commissary adopts countermeasures

Have you given your fair share?

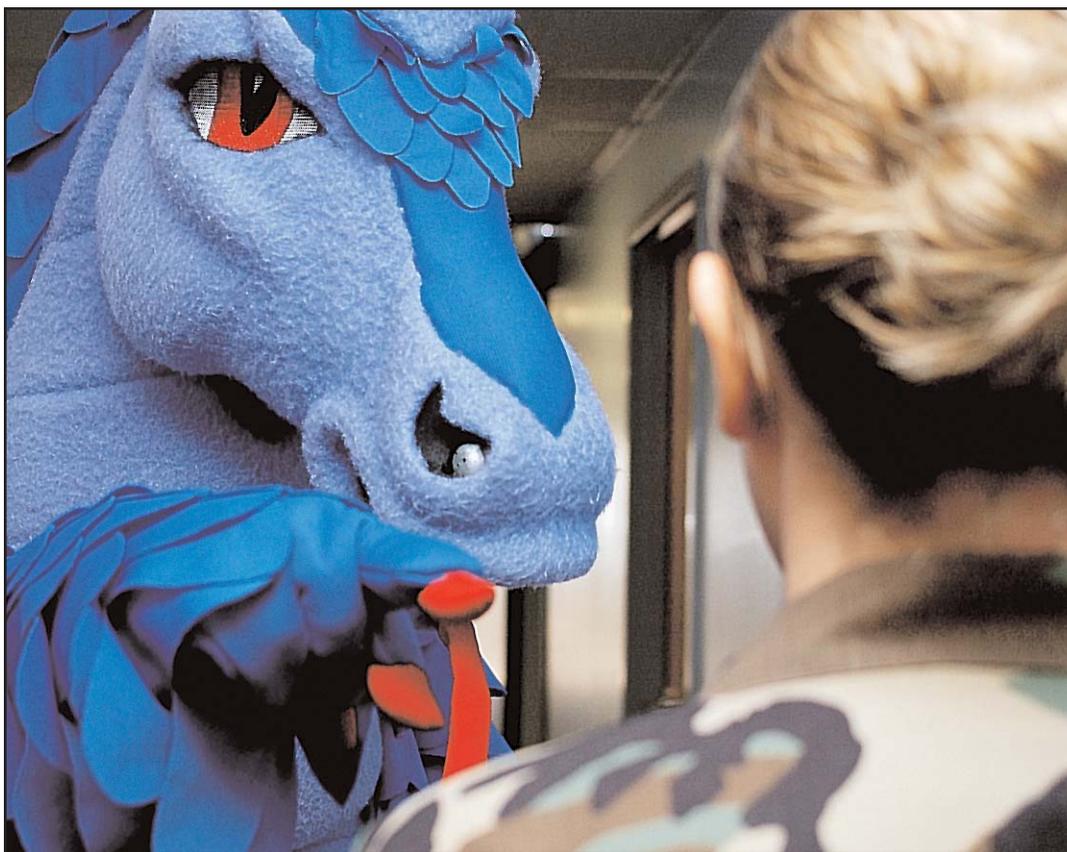


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Blaze, Keesler's dragon mascot, campaigns for the base to reach its goal of \$66,145 for the Air Force Assistance Fund. The drive continues through April 26. For the latest on how much has been raised so far, see Page 8.

Defense Commissary Agency
and Keesler News staff

Commissary officials have taken steps to protect the Keesler store and customers from counterfeit coupons.

Kathy Martin, assistant customer service manager, said the commissary here was notified in February about the counterfeit coupons.

"We have the e-mail traffic in our office from the Defense Commissary Agency headquarters, so all of the cashiers are familiar with the information," she said. "We also have a copy of a bad coupon pictured on each of the registers."

Mrs. Martin said customers who try to pass fraudulent coupons will be turned away.

"They won't be arrested or anything; we'll simply tell them that we will not accept them," Mrs. Martin said. "In the past, we haven't had many fraudulent coupons passed here. In fact, this is the first alert concerning fraudulent coupons we have had."

Commissaries accept Internet or home-printed coupons

Please see **Coupons**, Page 9

This week in the Triangle

Keesler's newest technical training graduates

Communications-computer systems operations craftsman — 9 a.m. today, Thomson Hall.
Communications-computer systems planning and implementation management craftsman, 10 a.m. today, Thomson Hall.

Computer network cryptographic and systems apprentice, 10 a.m. today, Bryan Hall.

Airborne mission systems specialist apprentice, 9 a.m., Monday, Dolan Hall.

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

Information management apprentice "S" shift, 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.

Airborne battle management systems operator apprentice, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dolan Hall.

Information management apprentice "T" shift, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Thomson Hall.



February Honor Flight

Student numbers

Non-prior service — 2,328

Non-prior service arrivals — 155

Temporary duty — 1,113

Guard, Reserve — 699

International — 3

Total — 3,469

Assessing, repairing damage done to ourselves by Katrina

By Col. (Dr.) Tony Van Goor

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron acting commander

All of us who weathered Hurricane Katrina were surely in awe of the storm's destructive power that caused such incredible physical damage and loss of life in this area.

Although saddened by the losses we bore, all of us were also grateful when the winds died down and the water receded so we could leave the shelters and begin piecing our lives and base back together.

We thought the hurricane was over and the storm damage was done. But even now, as our buildings are being repaired and services restored, there's another kind of storm damage that hasn't always been recognized and is still occurring. That damage is to Keesler's greatest remaining asset — ourselves.

The destructive changes may be subtle, but they're unmistakable.

That strapping young Airman with his consistent "excellent" on the Air Force fitness test got out of his exercise regimen when storm damage affected the gym and his work hours doubled in the cleanup effort. So he's gained 20 pounds of fat and gets winded running up a flight of stairs.

That fine captain, the defining picture of professionalism, courtesy and consideration before Katrina, is now the very incarnation of stress as she races through traffic and impatiently cuts into lanes with a rush of speed and flurry of profanities for her fellow drivers.

That military couple who lost their house and all their possessions in the storm surge, worn down by the battle with insurers and

contractors and the struggle to get a toe-hold on normal living again, has taken up smoking and drinking heavily to ease their depression, anxiety and sense of hopelessness.

These are some of the people upon whom the herculean task of restoring Keesler has been placed. I suggest many of these people must be repaired or rebuilt before we have a credible chance of successfully rebuilding Keesler to its pre-Katrina greatness.

We have fine tools available for the asking to help us repair ourselves. Under the direction of Capt. Ron Leczner and Maggie Landry, the health and wellness center is beginning an outreach program in physical fitness, smoking cessation, stress reduction and healthy eating. The chapel and 81st Medical Group life skills support center have always offered expert and confidential counseling and crisis intervention services. Numerous base service agencies have well-developed programs to address physical fitness, family services, finance, housing and rental needs.

Please look deeply and assess the storm damage done to you physically, socially, spiritually and emotionally. Supervisors, help your troops recognize how they were affected. Then resolve to rebuild yourself to a state of well-being and operational readiness better than that before the storm.

Do this and no type of contingency can stand up to a strong Keesler and a stronger you.

Smoothing bumps in road Good relationship is key

By Annie Davison

Equal employment opportunity manager

One cornerstone of being a good manager is having a good relationship with subordinate employees.

Sometimes there's a bump in the road when a subordinate employee files an equal employment opportunity complaint grievance. An immediate way to curb the underlying problem is to agree to participate in a mediation conference with an open mind. The only cost is the time spent preparing for and participating in the mediation.

Even if the dispute isn't resolved, the participants have opened the lines of communication and gained a better understanding of the issues causing the disruption or discomfort in the organization.

The manager and employee usually have to work with one another after the grievance. Therefore, it benefits everyone to maintain a good working relationship. That's why it's imperative that we resolve disputes expeditiously and at the lowest level possible.

Remember, mediation can help and should be considered as a viable option.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to 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, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 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 may appear in this column.

Food for thought

Comment — I've been eating lunch at the Pecan Dining Facility since Hurricane Katrina — good, nutritious meals with vegetables and salads (I need to watch calories and my cholesterol). A lot of civilians have been doing the same.

I was told today we're no longer allowed to eat there because other facilities are available. I've checked out some of these facilities — they sell burgers, fries, po-boys, etc., all high in fat, calories and sodium.

They're also very busy. At Gaudé Lanes, by the time I stood in line to order and finally got my food, I barely had time to get back to work before my lunch hour was over.

We're told civilians are as important to the mission as military, so the Air Force should be just as concerned with our health.

Why can't we continue to eat healthy at the dining facilities, even if it's only to buy "to go" meals?

Response — It isn't a matter of what we'd like to do, but a matter of entitlement, capacity and contracted service.

In accordance with Air Force instructions, only those with meal cards and military and civilian employees on temporary duty to school are authorized to use our enlisted dining facilities. With Air Force approval, we were able to waive the restrictions temporarily in the aftermath of Katrina due to the low number of authorized personnel on base and lack of dining facilities in the area.

Our training mission is now back to normal. The dining facilities are at maximum capacity serving the people authorized to use them. Further, the dining facilities contractor is paid by the Air Force for those entitled to eat in them.

Area establishments are now able to support permanent party personnel and civilian employees.

Drinking
+
driving
=
deadly duo

KEESLER NEWS

No. 1 in Air Force,
2004, 1997.
No. 1 in AETC,
2004, 1998, 1996;
No. 2, 2003, 2001,
1999, 1997, 1991;
No. 3, 2005, 2002,
1995.

81st Training Wing commander

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso

Public affairs director

Lt. Col. Claudia Foss

Editor

Perry Jenifer

Staff writers

Susan Griggs

Staff Sgt.

Lee Smith

Senior Airman

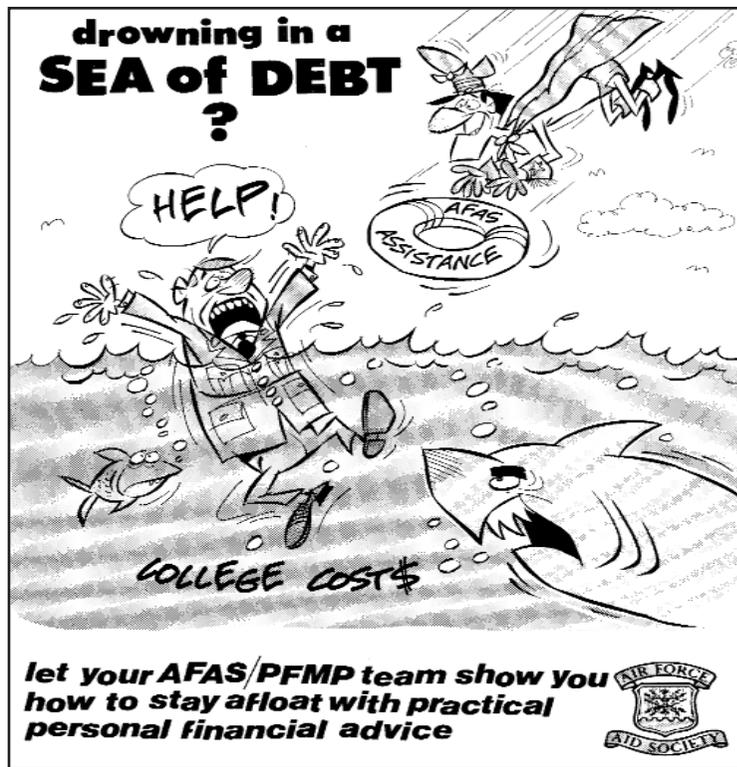
Sarah Stegman

Staff photographer

Kemberly Groue

The Keesler News office is in Room 113, Taylor Logistics Center, Building 4002. The mailing address: 81TRW/PAIN, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2120. Phone: 377-4130, 3163, 3837, 7340. Publication date: Thursday. News deadline: noon Monday. Classified advertising deadline: see Classified section. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 81st TRW Public Affairs Office in compliance with Air Force journalistic standards. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The Keesler News is published by Gulf Publishing Co., a private firm in no way connected with the Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 81st TRW and as an authorized publication for U.S. military service members. Contents aren't necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Air Force. The appearance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. government, DOD, Air Force or Gulf Publishing of products or services advertised. Everything advertised shall be made available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor.



Keesler's 2006 safety goals

Make safety ...

a core value,

a best business practice,
a competitive and asymmetric
advantage.

**Make every employee ...
feel safe at work and home.**

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Airman 1st Class Riley Ross, left, an air traffic control student in the 334th TRS, trains on a radar simulator in Keesler's newest training facility with his instructor, Master Sgt. Derreck Boring.

Photos by Kemberly Groue



New training hall honors fallen Mississippi pilot



Staff Sgt. Jason Revercomb, 334th TRS, places a portrait of Captain Cody on an easel in the lobby of the building that will bear his name. The painting is the work of Keesler artist Suzy Templin, an employee of K-Mar Industries at Wall Studio.

Keesler Public Affairs and History Offices

Keesler's newest technical training facility is the namesake of a Gulfport native and Air Force pilot killed in Vietnam almost 43 years ago.

Cody Hall is dedicated in honor of Capt. Howard Cody, 9 a.m. Tuesday at the building's main entrance on Hangar Road.

Hangar Road is closed in front of Cody Hall from B Street to Z Street, including access from the Dolan Hall parking lot, from 8:45-9:30 a.m. for the ceremony.

Captain Cody, a graduate of Gulfport High School, attended the University of Southern Mississippi. He entered the Air Force's aviation cadet program in 1954 and was commissioned the following year.

He flew air rescue and transport flights before joining the Air Commandos special operations program in 1961.

Old Cody Hall, built in 1941, was dedicated to Captain Cody after his plane was shot down in 1963. The original 123,602-square-foot structure cost \$3.2 million to build and included 87 classrooms among its 179 rooms.

The new 193,000-square-foot facility, with a \$23.5 million price tag, is constructed of concrete and brick with a steel frame. It houses 239 rooms, including 179 classrooms for courses conducted by the 334th and 338th Training Squadrons.

The new Cody Hall accommodates air traffic control tower and radar training, Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System system administrator training, the airfield operations officer course, airfield management training, aviation resource management training, air traffic control radar maintenance training, the terminal instrument procedures training course, combat airspace course and the chief airfield management course.

Old Cody Hall, which had been slated for demolition, has been given a reprieve and serves as a temporary location for many administrative functions and mission support offices displaced from Sablich Center in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon, Keesler Public Affairs; James Gildea, base historian, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.



Second Lt. Kyle Moats, 334th TRS, polishes the plaque that will hang in the foyer in Cody Hall.

Aggressors

Aircrew enemy simulation moves into cyberspace, ground, space arenas

Air Force Print News
and Keesler News staff

To become the best Airmen in the world, the Air Force trains against the best Airmen in the world.

Aggressors, as they're called, scrimmage against their fellow Airmen, much like football teams preparing for a game.

Traditionally, aggressors have focused on aircrews, but soon, the Air Force is expanding instruction to encompass ground, space and cyberspace training, as well as streamlining the way air combat is taught.

"The Aggressor squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., is comprised of aviators and aircraft," said Lt. Col. Shane Courville, 81st Training Group deputy commander. "During my flying days in bombers, I've flown against them many times during Red Flag exercises.

"Basically, they're Air Force pilots who emulate our potential enemies, including their flying tactics, their flying skills and military philosophy," Colonel Courville explained. "The Aggressor squadron goes to flying units and operates and offers training at their home stations."

The 57th Adversary Tactics Group at Nellis has managed this type of training since 1972 when the Air Force realized it needed to train its aircrews more effectively.

During the Korean War, the Air Force benefited from a 10-to-1 ratio in defeating enemy fighters; that ratio dropped to 1-to-1 during Vietnam. The Air Force can't let that happen again, said Maj. Gen. Norman Seip, assistant deputy chief of staff for air, space and information operations.

The threat is no longer just air-to-air or surface-to-air, so Airmen must prepare for different types of attacks. In addition to the F-15 Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons the 57th ATG flies, there are aggressors for space, cyberspace and information operations.

The Air Force has dedicated

aggressors whose sole mission is to operate as potential adversaries in every realm the service operates.

For example, pilot aggressors train as air-to-air threats, while information operation aggressors train Airmen to counter tactics like enemy propaganda and false rumors.

Aggressor training isn't limited to just the Air Force. The program includes officers from other services and other nations. The Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard also hold significant roles.

"This is some of the best training in the world, so it only makes sense to include the total force, our sister services and some of our coalition partners," General Seip said.

While the tactics group will be the managing organization, Nellis isn't the only place Airmen will receive aggressor training. Geographically separated space and information operations units will also conduct and receive the training.

When its Airmen aren't preparing for training exercises at Nellis, the 57th ATG will send its aggressors on "road shows" to various bases. The tours ensure Airmen who need the training get it, General Seip said.

"It sounds like much more in-depth training than the basic skills and other lessons included in our current pre-deployment training," said 1st Lt. Michael Chavarria, Keesler's deployment officer. "The aggressors would be the people our pre-deployment training students would have to fight."

"Regardless of their job in the Air Force, we need to do everything to make it possible for our expeditionary Airmen to succeed," General Seip said. "Our job is to prepare the force to take on the threat, wherever it may come from. Aggressor training does just that."

Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski, Air Force Print News, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Technology expo

The 11th annual Information Technology Expo sponsored by the 81st Training Support Squadron is 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today at Royal Ballroom A, Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino.

For more information, call 1-877-332-3976.

Testing dates

The education office offers ACT, SAT and PRAXIS tests.

Deadlines are:

SAT — April 13 for May 16 test.

ACT — June 8 for July 11 test.

PRAXIS I — June 26 for Aug. 7 test.

PRAXIS II — June 26 for Aug. 8 test.

To schedule, call 377-2323.

Drill downs, parades

The 81st Training Wing holds drill downs every other month, and student parades in alternate months.

Parades — 6 p.m. today

and Nov. 16; 7 p.m. May 18, July 14 and Sept. 21.

Drill downs — 8 a.m. April 21 and June 16; 7 a.m. Aug. 11 and Oct. 20.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Kwame Felton, 377-9527, for drill downs and Master Sgt. Deanna Attaway, 377-2103, for parades.

Special duty briefing

Air Education and Training Command's special duty assignment team conducts a briefing, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Welch Auditorium.

The briefing is aimed at Airmen from all Air Force Specialty Codes interested in becoming a military training instructor, military training leader, technical training instructor or professional military education instructor.

Assignments are open to airmen first class with at least 24 months time in service through master sergeant with less than 17 years service.

For applications or more

information, call Tech. Sgt. Kelle Turner, 377-3697.

ASMC scholarships

The Mississippi Sound Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers offers a \$1,000 scholarship to an outstanding high school senior entering a collegiate financial or resource management course of study.

Application packages have been forwarded to area high school guidance counselors.

Application deadline is March 31. For an application or for more information, call Kristin Vollbrecht, 377-7013.

Pitsenbarger Award

Fall 2005 and spring 2006 Community College of the Air Force graduates are eligible for \$500 Pitsenbarger Awards from the Aerospace Education Foundation.

April 3 is the application deadline for graduates pursuing bachelor's degrees. Prior winners aren't eligible.

For more information, call

377-2323 or 2171.

Spouse scholarships

These scholarship programs are available to spouses:

National Military Family Association — eligible are uniformed service spouses — active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve or survivor — studying toward professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school. The deadline to apply for the \$1,000 scholarships is midnight April 15. To apply, visit <http://www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006>.

Aerospace Education Foundation — for civilian spouses of active-duty Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Reserve members. For more information, visit the education office, Room 212, old Cody Hall, or go to <http://www.aef.org/aid/scholarships.asp>.

USM program

The University of Southern Mississippi offers a technical and occupational educational

bachelor's degree program on base.

The next term starts May 30.

An academic adviser is at Keesler Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons in Room 208, old Cody Hall.

For more information, call 377-2309.

Nursing assistant class

Funding from the Air Force Aid Society allows the family support center to partner with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College to train 15 Air Force spouses as certified nurse assistants.

Classes are at the MGCCC Jeff Davis campus in Gulfport, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 12-Nov. 9.

The course requires more than 80 hours of class time and practical application sessions in medical facilities.

Only non-military spouses of Air Force active duty personnel are eligible.

For more information, call Lana Smith, 377-8593.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Keesler News, Gulf Wing win Air Force media contest honors

By Perry Jenifer

Keesler News editor

Keesler publications won two 2005 Air Force media awards. Susan Griggs placed first in the contract/stringer writer category for her article on the cesarean section delivery of a baby by flashlight at the medical center during Hurricane Katrina.

Ms. Griggs, a Keesler News staff member since 1996, also won this award in 2002. In 2000, she won in the contract/stringer photographer category at Air Force and Defense Department levels.

She's also an eight-time Air Education and Training Command individual award winner and contributor to tabloid category AETC and Air Force awards won by the base newspaper in 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997 and 1996.

The 403rd Wing's Gulf Wing, edited by Tech. Sgt. James Pritchett, placed third in the magazine format publication category. The magazine placed first in this category in 2004.



Ms. Griggs

Fort Gordon NCO, Katrina response team earn communication, information awards

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The 81st Training Wing claimed two Air Education and Training Command Communications and Information Awards for 2006.

Tech. Sgt. Gregory Jackson, 338th Training Squadron, Detachment 1, Fort Gordon, Ga., was named non-commissioned officer of the year in the communications-electronics systems category.

The 81st Communications Squadron Hurricane Katrina Crisis Response Team won the Gen. Edward Rawlings Award which honors teams of two to 25 members for a one-time act, project or process improvement that enhances operations.

Sergeant Jackson supervises 10 satellite communications instructors for the 81st Training Wing's largest detachment, with about 75 permanent party members and up to 250 non-prior service students.

"Not only is Sergeant Jackson a leader in his career field, he's one of the best all-around NCOs I've ever worked with," said Maj. Douglas Shahan, detachment commander.

Sergeant Jackson led devel-



Sergeant Jackson

opment and implementation of the new Air Staff-directed air expeditionary force block and scrubbed redundant course objectives to provide warfighters 50 percent faster.

He implemented a specialized individual assistance program which eliminated retraining for 55 students. He also provided unprogrammed onsite training for more than 270 deploying Soldiers and Marines and supervised creation of a mobile training team for formal tactical satellite training.

Later this spring, Sergeant

Jackson becomes an instructor at the Keesler NCO Academy.

The crisis response team, comprised of four Air Force Specialty Codes and seven different ranks, provided vital technical skills before, during and after the disaster.

The team kept the base's DSN and unclassified networks operational, and had communications working within hours of the 97th Air Expeditionary Group's arrival.

The team worked with area companies to restore telephone and cell phone service.

Team members are Maj. Alan Estes, 81st CS commander; Capt. John Wilkins; Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Marotte; Master Sgts. John Herrington and Randy Schneider; Tech. Sgts. Dennis Baker, William Byrd, Kevin Gates, Christina Kurt, Wrenroy Lamey, Kevin Patterson, Brian Swinford, James Thacker and Joshua Warren; Staff Sgts. Shamar Jones, Ethan Masslow, Ja'Kendric Pearson and Alvin Rabi-deau; Senior Airmen Joseph Giametta, Rafeal Hughley, Adam Léspérance, Jonathan Lowe and Anthony Robinson, and Airman 1st Class Christopher Allen.

IN THE NEWS

Air Force Assistance Fund

As of Monday, Keesler has raised \$5,937 toward this year's goal of \$66,145 for the Air Force Assistance Fund.

The campaign runs through April 26.

For a list of unit representatives, see page 25.

Community survey available

The Keesler community survey for permanent-party active-duty members and their spouses, retirees and their spouses and civilian employees is available through March 31.

The anonymous Web-based survey takes less than five minutes to complete. It's intended to assess the needs of the base community, availability of resources, effectiveness of information flow and ways to improve morale.

Access the survey at <http://www.keesler.af.mil>. For people who don't have a computer, survey sites are available at the military personnel flight and retiree activities office in old Cody Hall, the Keesler Thrift Shop, McBride Library and the Triangle Shoppette.

For more information, call Capt. Kristi DiVirgilis, 377-2308, or Maj. Teresa Roberts, 377-2179.

7-digit phone numbers coming

April 1, Keesler begins a seven-digit intrabase calling plan.

Customers dial 377-XXXX instead of 7-XXXX for base extensions. Units using modem services with on-base dial-up capability and phones with call-forwarding features must be reprogrammed to accommodate the new system.

Off-base, FTS and DSN dialing aren't affected.

For more information, call 377-2130.

Sidewalk closed

The sidewalk along Ploesti Drive leading to the turnstile entrance to Jeff Davis Elementary School is scheduled to reopen April 3.

In the meantime, the turnstile remains open and accessible.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Vivian Burgess, 377-5858 or 348-2697.

Physical training uniform wear

Air Force members are required to wear physical training shorts and T-shirts together, not mixed with other clothing, but the running suit may be worn in any combination or with civilian clothes.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jay McKenzie, 377-1091.

2 legal staff members cited by 2nd Air Force

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Two members of the 81st Training Wing staff judge advocate are winners of 2nd Air Force awards for 2005.

Maj. Patrick Franzese, deputy staff judge advocate, received the Kuhfeld Award for outstanding judge advocate.

Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Chandler, assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the claims division, won the Swigonski Award for outstanding paralegal airman.

Among Major Franzese's accomplishments were helping the legal office handle

2,000 claims as a result of Hurricane Katrina and processing more than 900 claims which distributed more than \$6 million to Keesler personnel.

He also created a database of photos and reports that's being used Air Force-wide to protect Air Force personnel from fraud and support claims.

Sergeant Chandler was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and assisted with Katrina claims upon her return.

She also served as a witness for more than 600 last will and testaments.

Coupons,

from Page 1

provided they have "dot-scan" bars below expiration dates or bar codes with product identification numbers. They can't be for free products. Legitimate Internet coupons feature new dot-scan bars below their expiration dates. The dot-scan bars look like bar codes with broken bar patterns.

This is an expansion of acceptance criteria for home-printed coupons because counterfeit coupons have shown up recently in commissaries and other supermarkets nationwide. Officials are pointing to Internet trading as the source of the counterfeit coupons.

Fraudulent coupons presented recently at commissaries were for products ranging from laundry detergents and deli meats to sodas and over-the-counter medications. Defining more stringent requirements for stores to accept home-printed coupons is one phase of action DeCA is taking to combat the problem.

Educating customers is the other phase.

People who purchase or trade coupons are at risk of receiving counterfeit coupons;

therefore, customers shouldn't buy or trade for coupons. The sale or transfer of coupons is a violation of virtually all manufacturers' coupon redemption policies, according to the Coupon Information Center, a coupon industry watchdog.

Customers can be assured they aren't obtaining counterfeits if they get their coupons directly from newspapers or magazines, manufacturers or some other legitimate channel.

Here are some tips to avoid possible counterfeit coupons:

Look for the dot-scan bar below the expiration date or a PIN and bar code on Internet coupons.

Look out for coupons printed on photocopy, plain white, photographic or card stock or with fuzzy images or misspelled words.

Look out for unusually long expiration dates.

Look out for coupons sent in electronic format by someone other than a manufacturer or its authorized representative.

Look out for coupons printed on only one side.

Look out for multiple coupons for the same product with identical PINs.

Staff Sgt. Lee Smith, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

Streamlining hiring process

Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — The Air Force Personnel Center has created a request for personnel action checklist to help managers during the hiring process.

The RPA checklist is used to assist managers and hiring officials in managing their civilian positions in a more efficient and timely manner. It was designed to provide AFPC and civilian personnel flights with pertinent information for all staffing actions, including recruit, fill and noncompetitive actions.

The checklist also eliminates the requirement of calling and speaking to management officials every time an RPA is submitted.

When AFPC receives a recruit, fill or noncompetitive RPA, the career field employment team sends the manager an e-mail with a courtesy copy to the civilian personnel flight, stating the RPA was received and immediate action is under way.

The enhanced checklist provides all the required information necessary for AFPC and civilian personnel officials to take immediate action.

In order to make the checklist more user-friendly and eliminate duplication, position information, such as staffing and classification, has been combined under one heading.

Several checklist items are bolded in red online with a reference to either "Note 1" or "Note 2." The career field employment team returns RPAs and checklists without action if the red bolded items aren't completed.

For more information and instructions, go to the AFPC Web site, <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/default.asp>.

Commander selection meetings

81st Mission Support Squadron

During May and June, Air Force Personnel Center hosts calendar year 2007 medical squadron commander candidate selection development team meetings.

Candidates are selected to fill C-prefix squadron commander positions scheduled to rotate in 2007. Many units are reorganizing to the new Air Force Medical Service flight path, and the goal of the meetings is to provide wing commanders enough qualified candidates to choose medical squadron commanders based on their new organizational structure.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Shirley Bailey, 377-2244.

Hurricane relief medals

Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Service members and civilians who took part in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief efforts may be eligible for a medal.

The director of the Joint Staff has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal for military personnel. Department of Defense civilians may receive the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal.

For more information, contact the local military personnel flight or civilian personnel office.

Force shaping

For information on force shaping, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm>, or call the AFPC contact center, 1-800-616-3775.

Courts-martial convictions end 2 Air Force careers

Legal office and Keesler News staff

The careers of an Airman and a captain at Keesler ended with their convictions at courts-martial in February.

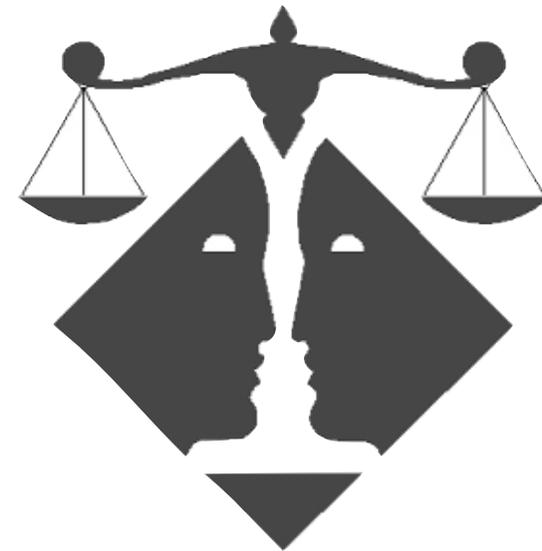
An airman first class assigned to the 81st Supply Squadron was convicted of underage drinking, rape, distributing and using cocaine, using the controlled substance psilocybin, larceny, wrongful appropriation of property, writing bad checks, unlawfully entering the dormitory room of another Airman to commit larceny, wrongfully ingesting excess amounts of cough and cold tablets to become intoxicated and distributing a prescription medication to a fellow Airman.

The Airman was sentenced to a reduction to airman basic, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for 52 months and a dishonorable discharge.

A captain assigned to the 81st Training Support Squadron was convicted of using his grade or position in an attempt to gain sexual favors from a female Airman trainee in the same organization, making sexual advances toward the Airman and obtaining sexual favors from her, attempting to develop a personal, intimate or sexual relationship with another female Airman trainee, attempting to develop a personal, intimate, or sexual relationship with another female Airman trainee, engaging in verbal conversations of a personal, intimate, social and sexual nature with several female noncommissioned officers and Airmen, engaging in verbal conversations of a personal, intimate, social, and sexual nature with a female Airman and inducing her to pull down her pants in order to expose her hip to him and engaging in similar conduct with three more female Airmen trainees.

The captain was sentenced to be reprimanded, confined for 90 days and dismissed from the Air Force.

Ted Jordan, legal office, and Perry Jenifer, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.



DUIs drop in February

81st Security Forces Squadron and Keesler News staff

Incidents of driving under the influence of alcohol at Keesler dropped dramatically in February.

Underage drinking incidents rose slightly.

Three civilians were charged with DUI last month, according to 81st Security Forces Squadron officials. In January, nine DUIs were recorded.

Two of the February DUIs occurred at the Pass Road Gate. The other was at the intersection of Larcher Boulevard and H Street.

Security forces officials recorded eight underage drinking incidents in February, compared to six a month earlier.

All of the underage drinkers last month were students — six Air Force, one Navy and one Marine Corps. They ranged in age from 18-20.

Four of the eight incidents occurred in buildings on base, two at the Meadows Drive Gate and one each on Ploesti Drive and in Biloxi.

Tech. Sgt. James Kirk, 81st SFS, and Perry Jenifer, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

Alcohol leads to Articles 15

Legal office and Keesler News staff

Three technical training students at Keesler received Articles 15 in February for alcohol-related offenses.

An airman basic assigned to the 336th Training Squadron forfeited \$636 per month for two months for providing alcohol to a minor, consuming alcohol while in Phase II training and driving under the influence of alcohol.

An airman first class assigned to the 335th TRS was reduced to airman, forfeited \$713 pay per month for two months and restricted to the Triangle for 30 days for DUI.

An airman first class assigned to the 338th TRS was reduced to airman basic and forfeited \$636 pay per month for two months for failing to go to his place of duty at the prescribed time, failing to obey a general regulation by visiting a hotel room on several occasions and underage drinking. The forfeiture of pay exceeding \$636 per month for one month for six months was suspended pending successful completion of the suspension.

Ted Jordan, legal office, and Perry Jenifer, Keesler News editor, contributed to this report.

Dragon Fitness Center court before, after



Courtesy photo

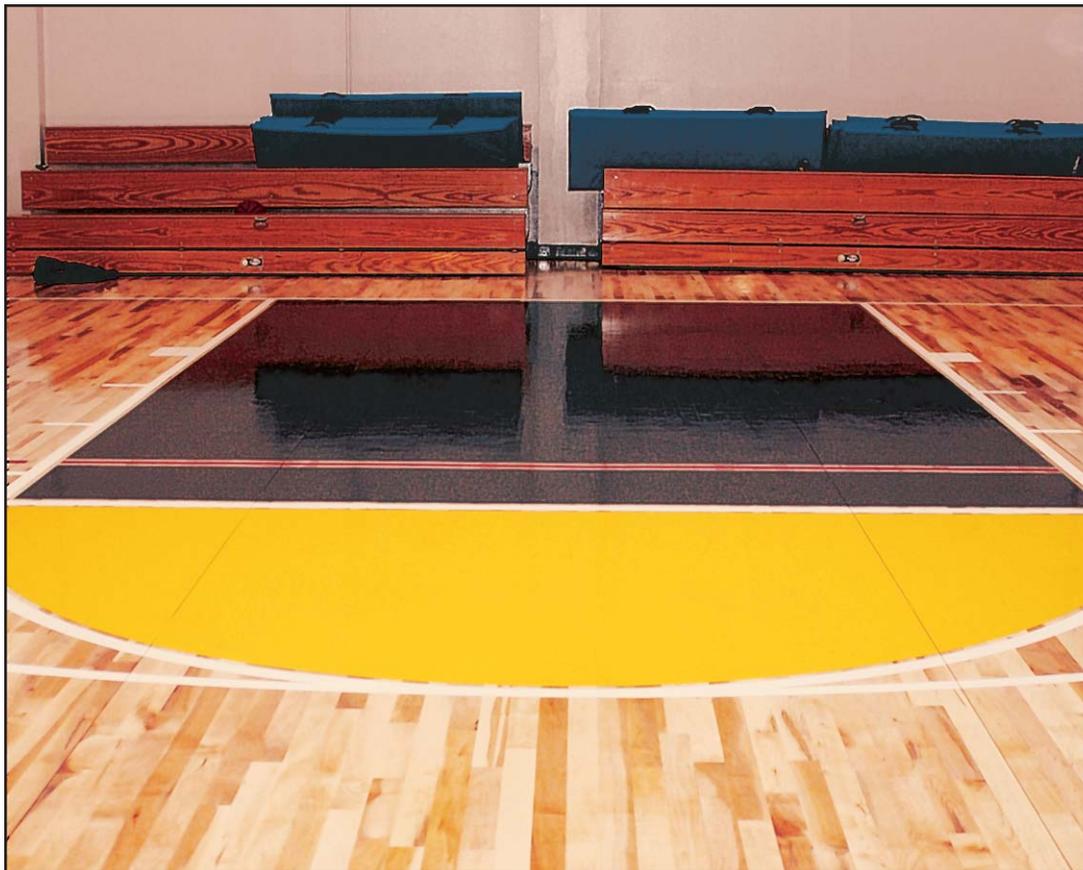


Photo by Kemberly Groue

The Dragon Fitness Center gym reopened March 13 following Hurricane Katrina repairs. The storm caused damage to the roof, ceiling and interior walls and caused the gym floor to buckle in several places. The \$160,000 repair project began Jan. 23. The entire gym floor was replaced and the interior walls and floor were painted. The roof and ceiling were also repaired and insulation was replaced. Although some exterior repairs are still needed, the facility is open for business. Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-working Fridays. The facility is closed compressed work schedule Fridays, weekends and holidays.

PODS contract up April 7

By Staff Sgt. Michael Eaton

Keesler News staff

Changes in base facilities hours are:

PODS

Portable on demand storage units must be returned to the contractor by April 7.

PODS located behind the tennis court or in the Sablich Center parking lot need to be cleared by April 6.

If a PODS unit is still required, the individual can continue using it at his own expense.

Monthly cost is \$129, and the unit must be moved to their property, which costs \$75 to \$150 depending on where the unit is moved.

If items aren't removed prior to the deadline, the remaining items are treated as abandoned property and dis-

posed of accordingly.

For more information, call Ray Turner, 377-7201.

Legal office

General customer service is available 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays. Attorney hours are 8:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday, and 1-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, Room 238, Levitow Training Support Facility.

For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call 377-3630. The fax number is 377-5949.

Library

McBride Library's new hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and noon to 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday. The library is closed holidays.

Safe haven entitlements continue through March

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

The safe haven per diem entitlement for dependents of Keesler's uniformed members displaced by Hurricane Katrina runs through March 31.

Reimbursement rates are 100 percent for dependents 12 and older and 50 percent for those under 12.

Lodging reimbursement is limited to the actual cost not to exceed the authorized amount; receipts are required.

Receipts aren't required for the meals and incidentals expense that's reimbursed as a flat amount.

All entitlements to include in-place per diem and safe haven allowances for civilian personnel and their dependents terminated Feb. 23.

Basic allowance for housing also ended Feb. 23 for members receiving single rate BAH living in government quarters.

Final approval is still pending for nonconcurrent travel entitlements.

Air Force Aid Society

Assistance requests are taken at the family support center, Room 117, old Cody Hall.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jeffrey Cartier, 377-2593.

Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, visit <http://www.feea.org/emergency/shtml>.

Civilian employees may donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane.

Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be given to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Civilian absences

May 31 is the last day for civilians to use up to 30 days of excused absence to attend to personal issues caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Employees don't get extra time added to the original 30 days approved, but can continue to take the leave to handle storm-related issues. Time is tracked on time cards in hourly increments.

For more information, call 377-3142.

Coins, patches

Operation Dragon Comeback coins and patches are still available.

Back from Iraq, Katrina takes a whack

By Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon

Keesler Public Affairs

Six months after Hurricane Katrina destroyed his house and everything in it, the 81st Medical Group's executive officer recalls his mixed emotions when he received assistance after the storm.

The \$500 Capt. Mike Zink received from Keesler's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund helped him buy clothing after he rushed home from a deployment to Balad Air Base, Iraq, only to find out he'd lost everything.

"At first I didn't even want the money, because I felt that someone needed it more than me," said Captain Zink. "But after talking to some people and realizing I didn't even own any civilian clothing down to my socks, I did take the money.

"I was happy that so many people cared enough to provide the assistance, but at the same time I felt sad and ashamed that I couldn't provide for myself," he continued. "You work so hard to get yourself and your life in order so you can be comfortable, and to have it all taken away is a lot to swallow. It felt so good to put on some clothes and to actually own something again."

The relief fund, funded by donations, was established shortly after the storm to help compensate Keesler personnel for home damage and personal property loss.

"I was deployed to Balad Air Base in June," said Capt. Zink. "I was allowed to return a few weeks early after I found out I lost everything. I arrived in the second week of September, after 'hitching' rides all the way home. I rode a med-evac C-141 from Balad to Germany, took a two-hour bus ride to pick up a commercial flight to Charleston,

The \$7 coins and \$5 patches benefit the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

Contact unit representatives or e-mail Tech. Sgts. Eric Alvarez, eric.alvarez@keesler.af.mil, or Anthony Bellocq, anthony.bellocq@keesler.af.mil.

Grants for area schools

The Gulf Coast Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association is offering area schools two \$2,500 grants to enhance their science and math programs.



"Mother Nature can take everything away, but I am still an officer, still an Airman."

— Captain Zink

S.C., then a C-17 to Jackson, Miss., and then a Pave Hawk to Keesler."

Captain Zink said his first sight of Katrina's devastation was dizzying.

"When I first got into my neighborhood, I started to feel lightheaded and nauseous," the captain said. "I finally got to my residence, and it looked like they just poured my foundation.

"My roof was across the street and my cars were crushed underneath. Debris was everywhere," he recalled. "My belongings were spread out over a three-block radius and mixed in with everyone else's stuff.

Schools in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock counties are eligible to apply for the grants. The application deadline is April 6.

For more information, call Capt. Grace Beck, chapter vice president, 377-2669.

SGLI

The Defense Department extended the deadline for reducing or declining increased Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage for service members

"All I was able to salvage was enough to fill a small shoebox," he added.

The captain said the money he received from the fund allowed him to purchase some immediate necessities.

"I bought some clothes and items I needed to live on — like toothbrushes and other toiletry items," he explained. "You forget how much you take for granted the things you already have and how much it costs to buy the simple things."

Captain Zink expressed gratitude for friends, family, coworkers and Keesler leaders for helping him recover from the storm.

"I had so many people that were there for me on those nights when you are home alone and everything starts to hit you at once," he said. "It was nice to know that I had more than a few people to reach out to and call. I've always tried to be that person for everyone else, but it is a lot different being on the other side.

"I now have some very dear friends, am closer to my family and I'm thankful for everyone who helped me during this experience."

Captain Zink said his experience has helped him become more optimistic in spite of adversity.

"I like to think that we don't get presented challenges we can't overcome," he pointed out. "I take this whole experience as a challenge that was presented to me and to Keesler, because we were able to handle it."

"I don't see a big change for my future — I still have a job to do," the captain remarked. "Mother Nature can take everything away, but I am still an officer, still an Airman."

affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Sept. 1, eligible members were automatically insured for the maximum coverage of \$400,000.

These changes don't affect coverage under Family SGLI.

To keep the \$400,000 coverage with the same beneficiary designations, don't take any action.

To decline or reduce coverage, complete a new SGLI 8286 at <http://www.insurance.va.gov>, indicating the amount of coverage desired.

First aid station open fewer hours April weekends

81st Medical Group

The status of services through the 81st Medical Group:

The first aid station closes at 5 p.m., two hours earlier than usual, Fridays and Saturdays until sometime in April as an electrical contractor completes repairs and upgrades to the medical center's electrical system. The work requires 12-hour power outages from 6 p.m. Fridays to 6 a.m. Saturdays and 6 p.m. Saturdays to 6 a.m. Sundays until the electrical work is complete. The goal is to streamline electrical work outages while minimizing the impact on patient care, 81st MDG officials said.

Otherwise, the hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The last appointment for check-in is 5 p.m. The first aid station staff is able to treat only new, acute health care problems. They don't have the capability to treat urgent and emergency problems. Patients with urgent and emergency problems — difficulty breathing, chest pain, abdominal pain, etc. — can go to the nearest off-base urgent care facility or emergency room. Ambulance coverage for Keesler is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the base 911 line. Patients are taken directly to off-base medical facilities by the contracted ambulance service. Active-duty sick call at the first aid station is scheduled through the central appointment line, 1-800-700-8603.

The appointment line is open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. Active-duty personnel may begin calling at 5 a.m. Monday-Friday.

Clinic hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays. The family practice, internal medicine and pediatric clinics see patients 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays.

To access care on the first floor of Keesler Medical Center, enter through the "A Tower" at the top of the steps leading from Fisher Street. Signs directing patients to the respective clinics are posted along the route from the entrance to the clinic areas. The security staff is also available to provide directions.

Genetics is located in the medical center. The office provides case-by-case genetic counseling and cystic fibrosis testing for Tricare Prime beneficiaries only who are referred through their primary care managers.

Nutritional medicine is in the health and wellness center. The flight provides nutritional consultations through consults from clinic PCMs.

Chiropractic clinic, in the medical center's surgery clinic, sees active-duty military only. Active-duty members need to see their primary care provider for a referral and then can call 377-6608 to schedule an appointment. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays.

Blood donor center is open. To arrange to donate blood, call 377-9324.

Mental health flight is in 1D in the medical center. Services include life skills (377-6216), family advocacy and exceptional family member program

(377-7006) and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment (377-8960). Signs to the applicable check-in areas are posted at the entrance. Patients may use the entrance at the west end of the building. Call 377-7006 or 6216 to confirm appointments or the information desk, 377-6550. The off-base civilian prescription pharmacy currently occupies Room 1D-103, the first office on the right where life skills customers previously were checked in.

Tricare office is in Room 1A-200. For patient registration or eligibility, call 377-6149 or 6276. For Tricare enrollments or MEB, call 377-9962. For the referral management office, Room 1A-201, call 377-6177. For health benefits advisors, visit Room 1F-306 or call 377-6580. Tricare Prime beneficiaries, call 1-800-700-8603 for appointments, leaving phone consults for their primary care managers or requesting authorizations for any non-emergency services. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. working Fridays.

Family practice staff, in the former medical specialties clinic, sees acute uncomplicated illnesses, handles personal health assessments and provides medication refills. Urgicare and walk-in services aren't available. A case management and social worker are available.

Coumadin clinic in Room 1F-158 in the family practice clinic area is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. compressed work schedule Fridays. Coumadin is an anticoagulation medication requiring close monitoring of certain blood levels. The staff monitors and manages the dosage for patients. Patients are seen by referral only, requiring a physician at Keesler to submit a consult for the patient to be enrolled. For more information, call 377-6104.

Clinical laboratory is in its medical center location. The lab's phlebotomy station is open in the main lab and routine blood testing is provided for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

Radiology is back in its previous location. Provided are routine radiographs, computerized tomography and ultrasounds for Tricare Prime patients seen at the medical center.

Immunization clinic in the former urology clinic provides all inoculations to active duty, retirees and dependents. Flu shots and limited allergy services are available.

Temporary pharmacy is in the medical photo/oral surgery area. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For remaining refills from on-base prescriptions, call 377-6360. Pick up refills at least four duty days later at the temporary pharmacy distribution area in Building 5 of the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Veterans Boulevard, just off Pass Road. To renew prescriptions, see your primary care manager or another Tricare network provider.

Internal medicine on the first floor sees active-duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Services are acute medical care, limited evaluation and treatment of chronic medical illnesses, medical consultation and referral for select subspecialty services.

Optometry clinic is on the first floor within the

internal medicine clinic area. The staff sees active duty patients only. All exams are by appointment only through the Tricare appointment line, 1-800-700-8603. The clinic can order spectacles and gas mask inserts for active duty and eligible retirees provided they have a current prescription (within two years).

Pediatric clinic in the former oncology/hematology clinic area provides scheduled acute medical care for children, well baby/child visits, routine appointments, Q Code exams, and exceptional family member program and special needs family paperwork. For appointments, use the Tricare appointment line. A child psychologist and social worker are available. Appointments are by PCM referral.

Women's health in the former general surgery clinic, next to the new flight medicine clinic, provides routine women's health care to active duty, dependents and Tricare Prime enrollees. Other patients are seen on a space-available basis. Services are general gynecological problems, annual Pap smear exams, birth control and follow-up of abnormal Paps (dysplasia). No obstetrical services are available. The clinic can initiate profiles for pregnant active-duty patients. Eligible patients with questions, call 377-6920. For appointments, call 1-800-700-8603.

Flight medicine in the surgical specialties clinic furnishes walk-in acute care, duties-not-involved-in-flying paperwork, profiles and physical health assessments.

General surgery is in the former orthopedic clinic. Surgery is available by primary care manager consult only. No orthopedic services are available.

Medical records are in the Wylie Auditorium. Original records are maintained by the medical center. For copies, complete a request form at the outpatient record's customer service desk. Allow five to seven days for copies.

Endocrine services are available by appointment only in the internal medicine clinic. Call the Tricare appointment line.

New dermatology patients are seen by referral only. Established patients may be seen by calling 377-1673 or the appointment line.

Triangle clinic, Levitow Training Support Facility, sees only non-prior service students.

Services at the dental clinic include routine care, cleanings and routine outpatient oral surgery for active-duty members only. Dental emergencies for all patients are seen through dental sick call. Call 377-4510 for appointments.

Physical and occupational therapy see patients at the health and wellness center. Services include assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders such as upper and lower extremity dysfunction and neck and back pain. Treatment is limited to gym and home exercise programs, heat, ice, ultrasound and electrical stimulation modalities. Once patients receive referrals from their primary care managers, the referral management center calls them to schedule the appointment.

For the director of customer relations, call 377-9498.

Air Force Assistance Fund — have you given your fair share?



Airman Basic Zebulon York, left, and Airman 1st Class Robert Rohlfing, 334th TRS, assemble surgical packs for the shelter's clinic.



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Airman Basic Erin Bayne, a student in the 334th Training Squadron, files adoption paperwork at the Harrison County Humane Society's new shelter on Highway 49 in Gulfport on March 15. A team of Keesler volunteers assisted the shelter staff in relocating animals, supplies and furnishings to its new site, which replaces its former facility near Biloxi-Gulfport International Airport.

Airmen help humane society get settled in new location

Civil engineers ready to switch facilities from heat to cool

81st Civil Engineer Squadron

The time to transfer Keesler facilities from heating to cooling is near.

Affected facilities have been identified by the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron. Civil engineers are prepared to switch over as soon as consistent warm weather warrants.

The impact to occupants depends on the type of heating, ventilating and air conditioning system installed in individual facilities.

Many newer buildings have four-pipe systems that can provide both heating and cooling year-round. These systems, found in the Triangle and 2500 block dorms, enable automatic switching.

Older facilities, including most dormitories and billeting, have two-pipe systems that must be manually switched. These systems require several days for the water in the pipes to either cool or heat.

The average time to convert the base from heating to cooling is approximately eight days, and from cooling to heating three days. The long wait protects the system from failure due to the influx of heated water into the chillers. Such a failure would result in

damage to compressors, tube ruptures and loss of refrigerant gases.

The decision to terminate heating and implement cooling in these older facilities includes a degree of guesswork. As a result, the change to cooling is directed as early as possible to minimize inconvenience to facility occupants.

The systems won't be switched back to heating until winter, so if there are any periods of unseasonably cold weather, some facilities may get cool.

Civil engineers are working closely with lodging management, the consolidated dorm management office and other affected users to determine the best days to change over to cooling and minimize discomfort to residents.

Affected facilities are the military family housing office, Muse Manor, 81st Training Wing headquarters, Keesler NCO Academy, Airman Leadership School, Locker House, Larcher Chapel, 81st Transportation Squadron, Avery Manor, Triangle Chapel, and 20, 48, 49 and 50 block dorms.

Military child-care services gets multi-faceted boost

American Forces Press Service
and Keesler News staff

The availability of child-care services for military families will receive a boost from a multifaceted approach by the Defense Department, a senior official said recently.

"We project the (child-care) needs as greater than what we're offering at this point," said Jan Witte, director of DOD's office of children and youth.

At Keesler, the boost includes a new wing that's been constructed at the child development center to provide six new classrooms, according to Ann Smith, family member programs flight chief.

"Currently 244 children are enrolled at the CDC, with 77 more on a waiting list," Ms. Smith said.

"The new wing will be able to provide care for 72 additional children" she added.

"In addition, the family child-care program is slowly coming back after Hurricane Katrina, and is up to seven licensed or affiliated providers," she explained. "This includes a provider for mildly-ill children and an extended duty care provider."

The ongoing realignment of U.S. forces from longstanding overseas bases to stateside installations and high operational tempos are placing demands on the military child-care system, Ms. Witte said. Consequently, DOD wants to "jump-start" its military child-care programs to provide more spaces for the children of active-duty and Reserve-component service members.

"Currently, we're using a multi-pronged approach" to increase military child-care capacity, Ms. Witte said, noting DOD will continue to build on-post facilities.

"And we're also contracting with civilian centers off the installations" to address lengthy waiting lists at some military bases, she said.

Before Katrina, Keesler was chosen to test the contracting program.

The National Association

Efforts are ongoing to address an estimated shortage of about 27,000 military child-care spaces remaining after the 4,000 new spaces are factored in.

The focus is to increase child-care services at installations experiencing high deployment rates or affected by long child-care waiting lists, and at bases gaining troops through overseas redeployments.

of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies contracts with local child care agencies to recruit, train, support and monitor civilian family child care providers who potentially provide spaces for military children.

"The start-up of the local program was disrupted by Katrina, but we're back in the process of recruiting potential civilian providers," Ms. Smith said.

DOD now spends about \$434 million on military child care each year, Ms. Witte said. More than \$60 million in supplemental funding has been used in the past three years to extend the hours of child-care services, including weekend and evening care, and to run summer camps for military children with one or both parents deployed overseas. She said another \$90 million in funding is earmarked to build new child-care centers.

At Keesler, more than \$2 million is spent annually for all child and youth care programs.

The armed services also have added many programs in the past few years, such as video conferencing facilities and computer labs that

assist military children in communicating with deployed parents, Ms. Witte said.

"Keesler's child development and youth centers don't have their own VTC facility, but the family support center supports the service. The youth center has a computer lab for children with Internet access, so they can communicate with their deployed parents there," Ms. Smith said.

Efforts are ongoing to address an estimated shortage of about 27,000 military child-care spaces remaining after the 4,000 new spaces are factored in.

The focus is to increase child-care services at installations experiencing high deployment rates or affected by long child-care waiting lists, and at bases gaining troops through overseas redeployments, Ms. Witte said.

"Child care across the nation is at a premium," Ms. Witte said. "Finding those spaces at the right places is a challenge" for both military and civilian families.

Gerry Gilmore, American Forces Press Service, and Senior Airman Sarah Stegman, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

Iraq provides new insights for Keesler's enlisted leader

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

After nearly 27 years in the Air Force, Keesler's command chief master sergeant is in Iraq for her first deployment.

Chief Master Sgt. Aliquippa Allen, the 81st Training Wing's enlisted leader for the past 19 months, is serving as chief enlisted manager for the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Air Base.

She left Keesler Jan. 11 and should return in mid-May.

"I was so blessed that day," Chief Allen said of her departure. "I've been able to see quite a few of our troops off, but I'll never forget the day all the chiefs, shirts, senior noncommissioned officers and one of our chaplains showed up to see me off."

The chief explained that she's never been deployed before because her previous jobs were not coded as deployable.

"The 447th AEG operates the primary tactical and strategic aerial port in Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," Chief Allen remarked. "The group supports regional passenger and cargo movements in the Baghdad region for 27 coalition partners and over 150,000 military members of Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

"Additionally, we provide support to the first post-Saddam Hussein-era Iraqi air force base, called The New Al Muthana, which is commanded by the 403rd Wing's vice commander, Col. Richard Haddad," she added. "One of my most memorable moments thus far was being present for the activation of that base."

Sather AB, surrounded by 35,000 Army troops in five large camps, shares a runway with Baghdad International



"The most challenging part ... is being so close in proximity to the insurgents — it's not easy to forget we're still at war. Much like Hurricane Katrina, you can't fully comprehend what's happened unless you were there."

— Chief Allen

Airport. About six troops live in each Alaskan shelter and use portable toilets and expeditionary "Cadillac" showers. The chief said the small recreational facilities are well utilized by about 700 troops.

When Chief Allen arrived in January, she reported, "It was chilly but tolerable.

Then the rain came and brought its own challenges. Rainy season is January through March — we were able to point out all drainage problems, of which there are many. Now it's time for dust storms."

Visiting with Iraqi citizens who visit the base for medical care, getting an aerial view of Baghdad and visiting other military bases are among Chief Allen's most rewarding deployment experiences.

"Living with the troops and experiencing many of the same challenges has been enlightening, too," the chief pointed out.

"The most challenging part of this deployment is being so close in proximity to the insurgents — it's not easy to forget we're still at war," Chief Allen said. "It's given me first-hand experience as to our role in this war on terrorism. Much like Hurricane Katrina, you can't fully comprehend what's happened unless you were there."

The chief said Keesler personnel and the superintendent of the 366th Training Squadron at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport have done an exceptional job of staying in touch with her.

"I've received several e-mails and packages, including clothing for distribution to local Iraqi families that are in need," she commented. "Also, several folks have called my son to ensure he's OK."

Chief Allen didn't deploy with the rest of Keesler's Air Expeditionary Force 9/10 team, but she said that according to Chief Master Sgt. Leon Hall, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, they're doing well.

"I look forward to rejoining you all soon," the chief said. "Please keep us in your prayers for our safe return."

'Catechumen' spells victory for Keesler kid at Alabama state bee

By Staff Sgt. Michael Eaton
Keesler News staff

Ben Szatanek is on a mission to spell every word in his path.

"Catechumen" is no exception.

The 12-year-old son of Maj. Jeff Szatanek, operations flight commander for the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, recently won the Alabama state spelling bee. He represents the state in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washinton, D.C., in May.

To become the Alabama champ, Ben had to overcome some extraordinary obstacles.

Ben started the school year at Mercy Cross in Biloxi, but just seven weeks after moving to Biloxi from Alabama, the Szataneks had to return because of Hurricane Katrina.

After 17 rounds of intense competition, Major Szatanek said the word "catechumen," one receiving rudimentary instruction in the doctrines of Christianity, was the final word Ben needed to win.

Major Szatanek said his son was very emotional as he began spelling the word. Ben started to cry when he realized he knew the word.

"I was surprised I was able to win," said Ben.

As the oldest of three sons, Ben has put in a lot of hard work and dedication to get to this level of spelling expertise.

He said he enjoys learning new words and increasing his vocabulary.



Mr. Szatanek

"We are very excited for him," said Ben's mom, Amy. "He has worked very hard to achieve this."

Ben shares his success with his mom.

"Before the state competition, my mom quizzed me every night," he said.

Ben's school helped out in his preparation for the state spelling bee by pitting Ben against the teachers.

"It was kind of fun to see how well my teachers spell," said Ben.

Ben has been in a total of six spelling bees, representing two schools, two counties and two states.

Prior to winning the Alabama competition, he won the Montgomery County spelling bee for the second straight year. He tied for third in the state in 2004.

KEESLER NOTES

Promotion ceremony

The 81st Training Wing non-commissioned officer promotion ceremony is 3 p.m. March 31 at Welch Auditorium.

Child Pride Day

“Coast on the Comeback for Kids” is the theme of this year’s Child Pride Day, April 8 at marina park.

The event kicks off at 9 a.m. with an Easter parade in the park, followed at 9:30 with an Easter egg hunt for children through age 12.

Child Pride Day activities are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and include free displays, demonstrations, food, rides, games, food tasting, visits with costumed characters, giveaways and prizes.

There’s an 11 a.m. performance by Imagination Movers. The four musicians in trademark blue coveralls use rap, alternative and upbeat folk songs to educate children about essentials such as cleaning their room, brushing their teeth and eating healthy snacks.

Activities are open to everyone eligible to use Keesler facilities.

In case of rain, Child Pride Day takes place at the youth center. April 15 is the rain date for the Easter parade and egg hunt.

Sponsors are Keesler Federal Credit Union, USAA, First Command Financial Services, Domino’s Pizza, Cellular South, Home Depot and the family support center.

Tax office

The tax office in Room 234, old Cody Hall, provides free tax information and preparation to base personnel, 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. workdays.

For more information, call 377-4454.

Preschool openings

The part-day preschool program has openings for 3-5 year olds in the 12:30-3:30 p.m. afternoon session

Classes are Mondays through working Fridays at the youth center, and suspended on federal holidays and Christmas holidays for area schools.

Enrollment is at the child development center. The fee is based on family income.

Learning experiences are balanced between active and quiet, indoors and outdoors, child-initiated and teacher-directed, individual and group oriented, and spontaneous and planned.

For more information, call 377-2211.

Zero overpricing

Submit zero overpricing items on Air Force Form 1046 to 81SUPS/LGSPQ, Attn: Terry Brandenburg, 377-4252, or e-mail to terry.brandenburg@keesler.af.mil.

Playgroup

The family advocacy staff sponsors a playgroup, 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesdays at the youth center.

The program provides support for anyone with military

privileges and is directed mainly at preschoolers.

For more information, call 377-8612.

Preschool playgroup

A preschool pals playgroup is offered 9:30-10:30 a.m. Thursdays in Room 100-B of the former Chapel One.

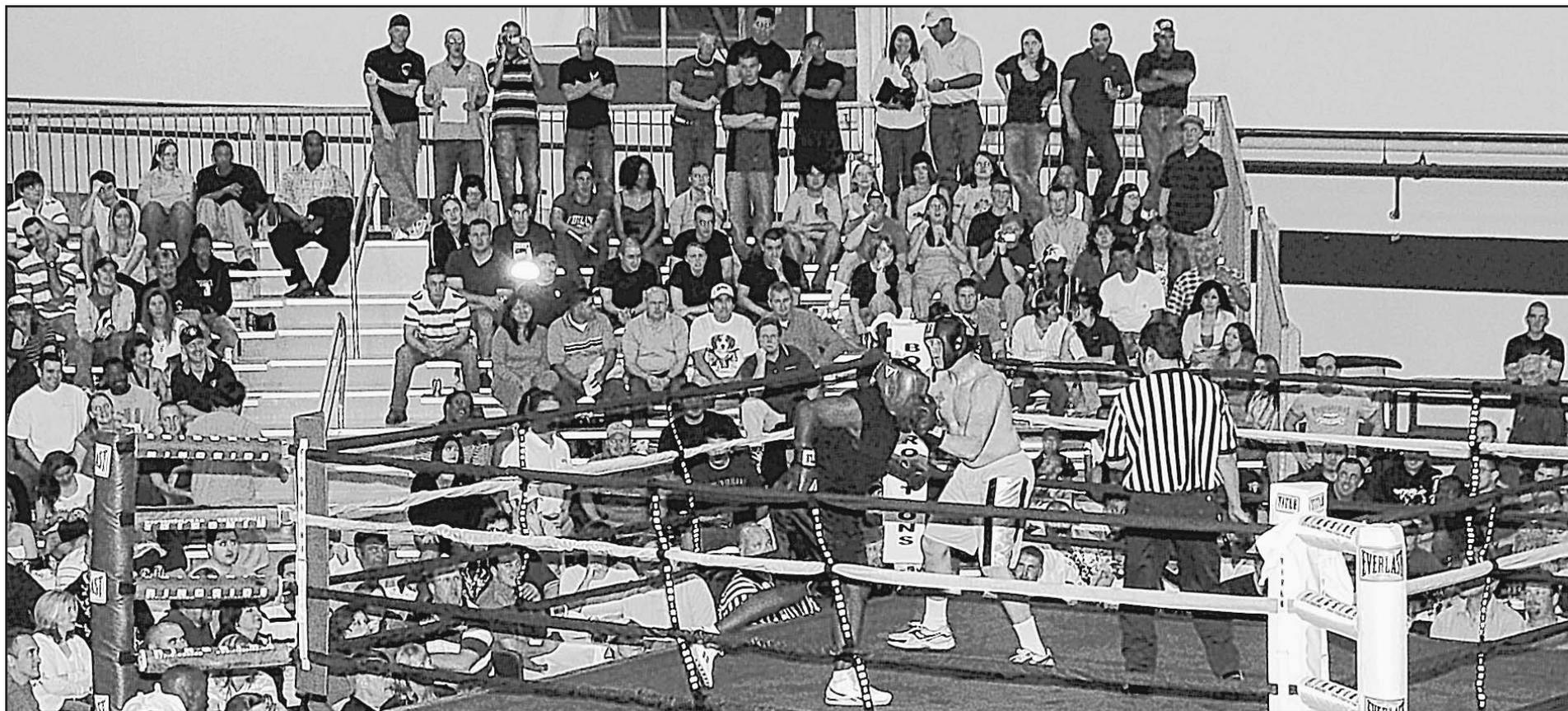
The group is a joint venture of the chapel and the family support center. The hour offers toys, games, music and a chance for parents to visit.

For more information, call Chap. (Capt.) John Vander Kaay, 377-2520, or the family support center, 377-2179.

Blood drives

To schedule mobile blood drives, call Jill Peterson, 377-9324.

SPORTS AND RECREATION



Photos by Kemberly Groue

Jason Lane, left, Gulfport and Bryan Branham, 338th Training Squadron, battle in the first round of a heavyweight fight during the second Operation Slugfest Friday at Hangar 4. Branham went on to win the fight and the

heavyweight division. Keith Hughes served as the referee for that match. Fighters competed in three different weight classes. The event was sponsored by Bomber Promotions.

Operation Slugfest comes back to Keesler

Round 2 showcases military personnel, including female boxers



Marcela Travi, left, 81st Dental Squadron, takes on Nickie Bailey, 81st Transportation Squadron, in one of the female matches. Bailey won.



Michael Dignan, left, 336th Training Squadron, slugs it out with Jonathan Brown, Biloxi, during a heavyweight bout. Brown was victorious.

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

For the second time in four months, the base hosted Operation Slugfest Friday at Hangar 4.

As part of both events, military members, including boxers from Keesler, competed. At Friday's fights, females boxed against each other.

The following were the winners in their respective weight class:

Lightweight — Bobby Hill, Biloxi.

Middleweight — Alan Belcher, Biloxi.

Heavyweight — Bryan Branham, 338th Training Squadron.

Female — Christal Hanrahan, 81st Medical Support Squadron.

21st annual Special Olympics scheduled for May 5-7

Keesler Public Affairs

Keesler welcomes 500 athletes and 88 national games delegates for the Mississippi Special Olympics Summer Games, May 5-7.

This marks the 21st year the base has hosted the statewide event in some capacity, according to Maj. Terri Raines, project officer for the event.

Airman sponsors accompany each athlete during the weekend, and more than 1,000 other Keesler and coast volunteers support activities at various locations around the base and in neighboring communities, according to state summer games committee officials.

A variety of events take place, from track and field,

bocce and volleyball to golf, sailing, swimming and roller-skating. Following each event, the athletes receive awards for their achievements.

Keesler organizations have until April 6 to sign up to operate concession booths. Concessions operate May 6, the day the special athletes actually compete.

A meeting of concessionaires is April 10 at a time and place to be determined.

For more information or to sign up for a concession booth, call Heidi Gygi, 377-4152, or William Irvine, 377-4543.

Master Sgt. Roger Drinnon, Keesler Public Affairs and Staff Sgt. Lee Smith, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Special Olympians compete in the 50-meter run during the 2005 Special Olympic games here.

Runnin' green

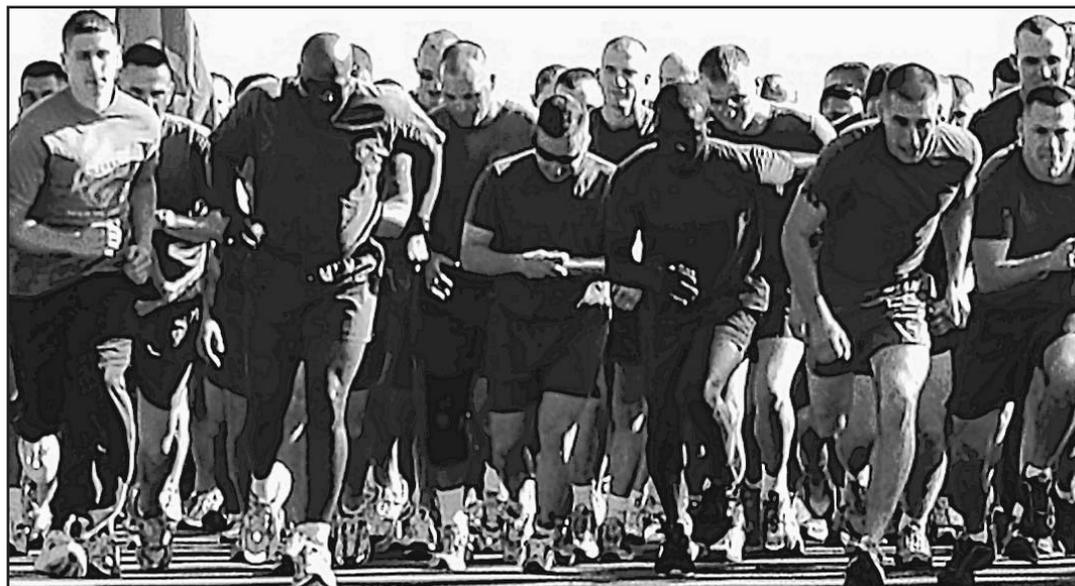


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Runners begin the 5-kilometer Wearin' o' th' Green run Friday at the marina. Participants were encouraged to wear green during the run. The men's winner was Max Lemons, 335th Training Squadron, with a time of 16 minutes, 40 seconds. The first female to finish was Margaret Trujillo, Marine Corps Detachment, at 23 minutes, 35 seconds.

Falcons' men's basketball team eliminated from NCAA tournament in first round

Air Force Print News

The Air Force Academy's men's basketball team fell short of advancing in its fourth appearance at the NCAA tournament March 16.

The Falcons lost to Illi-

nois at Cox Arena in San Diego, 78-69.

Air Force, winners of the Mountain West Conference regular season title, finished the season with a record of 24-7.

This was the Falcons' second appearance in the tournament in the last three years.

They've never advanced past the first round of the tournament and are 0-4 all-time.

SCORES AND MORE

Bowling

Youth special — ages 17 and younger bowl for \$1 per game.

Number of lanes available for open bowling — evenings: 10 Monday, 12 Tuesday and Wednesday, eight Thursday and 14 Friday. Twenty-four lanes are open 1:30-10 p.m. Saturdays and 1-7 p.m. Sundays.

Reserve a lane for your child's birthday — for more information, call 377-2817.

Play and save cards — bowl 21 games for \$29.95.

Fitness centers

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Fridays; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Dragon Fitness Center — basketball court is now ready for use. Cardio equipment has LCD TV/DVD players. Users must supply their own headphones.

Triangle Fitness Center — closed until further notice.

Golf

Bay Breeze Golf Course — all 18 holes open 7 a.m. to dusk daily. Free for walkers only. Retrieve your own balls due to loss of ball picker. Driving range opens at 7 a.m. daily for free use.

Two-for-one golf lessons — schedule a half-hour lesson for \$25 and receive a second half hour lesson free. For an appointment, call 377-3832 or 348-7589.

Outdoor recreation

March fishing tournament — weigh in the largest croaker during the month and win a \$100 savings bond.

Bicycle rental — new 3500 Trek, 7-speed, \$3 a day or \$15 a week.

Katrina Kantina — a lounge for adults age 21 and over is in the main marina building. Opens at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. For more information, call 377-3160.

For sale — hunting and fishing licenses, snacks and a variety of beverages.

Softball

Coaches meeting — 2 p.m. April 5, Vandenberg Community Center.

Free pre-season tournament — April 17-27 for the first 20 teams to enter.

Regular season — begins April 8.

Youth center

Free Junior Olympic tennis skills competition — 2 p.m. Saturday for ages 8-13. Sign up through today.

Baseball/T-ball — accepting registrations for ages 5-12.

Operation Night Hoops — for ages 13-18. For more information, call 377-4116.

Classes — gymnastics, taekwondo and dance. For more information, call 377-4116.

Open recreation — Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., ages 6 and older.

DIGEST

GRADUATIONS

Keesler NCO Academy Class 05-1

81st Civil Engineer Squadron — Senior Airmen William Early, Derrick James, Jason Jenkins and Nicholas Kinneberg; Staff Sgts. Herschel Drane, Jose Garcia, Jesus Gutierrez and Darren Mack.

81st Communications Squadron — Senior Airman Brian Grainger; Staff Sgt. Jeremy Harper.

81st Dental Squadron — Senior Airman Stephen Pasion.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Senior Airman Nashaunda Causey; Staff Sgt. Jillian Hamilton.

81st Medical Support Squadron — Staff Sgts. Natasha Burch, Dana McAllen and Josefa Tagashira.

81st Security Forces Squadron — Staff Sgts. Damion Clark, Robert Decker, David Mathieu (leadership award, flight sergeant) and Tommy Nelson.

81st Supply Squadron — Staff Sgt. Ronald Blake.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Senior Airmen Victoria Fisher (academic achievement and distinguished graduate) and Irene Rosario; Staff Sgt. Audrey Smith.

81st Training Wing — Senior Airman Vielka Johnson; Staff Sgt. Charles Poole Jr.

81st Transportation Squadron — Senior Airman Benjamin Gantt; Staff Sgts. Darin Ginder (class commander) and Daniel Mayfield (flight commander)

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — Staff Sgts. Darryl Chretien, Ivan Loomis (distinguished graduate, flight sergeant) and Wesley Walker.

332nd Training Squadron — Senior Airman Sandra Labiche.

334th TRS — Senior Airman Stephen Ebel

335th TRS — Senior Airman Dustin Hindel.

336th TRS — Senior Airman Jared Narlock (distinguished graduate).

338th TRS — Senior Airmen Nickole Arbuckle, James Ebbs, Richard Oliver (John Levitow Award), Jack Smith and Charles White.

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Megan Boren, Luther Cooper, Kyle Duley, Seth Fouts, David Jones, Jonathan Krouse, Christopher Madsen, Richard Martin, Marques Moore, Jonathon Perry, Jason Rains, Michael Simmons, Rodrigo Soza, Jeffrey Wilmoth, Demond Woods and Hyon Yi; Airman Jeffrey Atwater; Airmen 1st Class Sabrina Alkire, Clyde Beaudion, Kevin Caldwell, Michael Hartley, Brian Housholder, Jonathan

Langdon, David Leverington, DeVere Micheau, Race Miller, Terry Negrana, James Randolph, Tyler Smith, Brian Westgate and Dominik Winn; Senior Airmen Malcolm Boston and Jonathon Bowles; Staff Sgts. Michael Middleton, Robert Rattler, Michael Rausch, Seraphim Resendes and Anthony Soto; Lt. Ghayth Azar.

Metrology training flight — Airman Basic Christopher Morris; Airmen 1st Class Derrick Dugay and Toby Ketchman.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Thomas Carrel, Bradley Ford, Janice Goldstein, Cory Kimmel, Michael McKenna, Oscar Nunez, Aaron Sitton, Kayla Smith, Joshua Stinar, Jaclyn Syrone and Clay Welsh; Airmen Amanda Boettcher, Stephen Clay, Noel Foley, Jennifer Hullak, Dirk Shelton and Timothy Sports; Airmen 1st Class Aaron Adock, Brian Chisham, Justin McElvaney, Stephan Mir, Marc Passarino, Earl Pruett, Jesse Quinata, Brian Sicher, Garrick Steber, Ryan Towns, John Weisensee, Daynesha Worsham and Isaac Yi; Senior Airmen Charles Butler, Christopher Dyer, Tina Hawkins, Marsha Holmes, Michael Hutchins, Candace Kingdom and Steven Sorensen; Staff Sgts. James Duncan, Bryce Hamilton, Chris Martinez, Cephus McMillian, Vanessa Smith, Eric Wagner and Justin Wutzke.

335th TRS

Comptroller training flight — Airmen Basic Fawn Lawrence, Winnie Otieno, Joshua Rotondo and Thomas Starling; Airmen Jenna Pennington, Lourditha Quintina and Ebony Scott; Airmen 1st Class Andreea Amadi, Jessica Camacho, Jared Felix, William Lockhart and Kurt Saine; Senior Airmen Charlie Belton, Sonia Jones and Brian Pereira; Staff Sgts. Misty Brumitt, Lisa Krejci, Stephen Libertini, Marshalle Lorenzo, Charles Moore, Lance Terrell and Holly Tompkins; Tech. Sgts. Caroline Cousineau, James Moneyhun and Mark Morgenstern; Rachell Wood.

Personnel apprentice course — Airman Basic Erica Hale; Airman Kristina Childers; Airmen 1st Class Jennifer Booth and Randal Flatt; Senior Airmen Rachel Montesano and Leroy Wright; Staff Sgt. Katherine Long; Master Sgts. Valerie Levins and Raul Orosco.

Weather training flight — Airman Basic Richard Psculkowski; Airman John Porter; Marine Pfc. Justin Grantham and Matthew Noack; Airman 1st Class Matthew Johnson; Navy Seaman Charles Portwood.

336th TRS

Communications-computer systems training flight — Airmen Basic Matthew Jensen and Christopher Miller; Airman Thomas Schaefer; Airmen 1st Class Adam Allen, Debonnae Cheeks, Clark Davis, Stephen Hillman, Daniel Ogburn and Daniel Routier; Senior Airmen Kenyouth Benloss, Benjamin Lawson, Jake Monroe, Amber Stanley and Yolanda Yu; Staff Sgts. Patricia Appleton, Michael Bence, Elijah Blackwell, Keith Browning, Jeremy Flint, Galen Heimbach, Christopher Parker, Thomas Sheffer and Brian Smith; Tech. Sgt. Derick Spruel; Master Sgt. Mark Petot.

Communications and information flight — Airmen Basic Heather Day, Travis Foster, Justin James, Ross Tosakowski, Minerva Phan, Jamie Wilkinson and Tannis Wilson; Airmen Regine Ellis, Eric Morris and Brandon Nelson; Airmen 1st Class Jessica Lord and Rolanda Wesley; Staff Sgts. Christopher Carlisle, Ruben Cantu, Mary Fontanella, Anna Kelly, Lovelyn Ramil, Lisa Rodriguez, Melanie Sampson, Patrick Shannon, Shane Woodard and Sherlyn Wilson; Master Sgt. Robert Dove.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Class 06-C — Wednesday-May 1.

Class 06-D — May 10-June 15.

Class 06-E — July 12-Aug. 12.

Class 06-F — Aug. 24-Sept. 29.

Arts and crafts center

National Craft Month — drawings, special demos, promotions and giveaways in each shop throughout the month.

Advanced intarsia woodworking — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$20.

Advanced matting — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday. \$25.

Mold pouring — 10 a.m. Saturday. \$25, two-for-one special; ages 13 and older.

Please see **Digest**, Page 25

SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

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

Minutes after hour	Bus stop
:00	:30
:01	:31
:02	:32
:05	:35
:08	:38
:10	:40
:11	:41
:13	:43
:14	:44
:16	:46
:17	:47
:19	:49
:21	:51
:22	:52
:23	:53
:24	:54
:25	:55
:27	:57

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	McClelland Hall
:36	Allee/Wolfe Halls
:37	Stennis Hall/Weather

Prior-service students lodged off-base

Call 377-2432 for transportation needs. Traffic in the local area impacts base taxi times.

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.

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. down 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 WalMart
:54	Arrive Edgewater Mall
:00	Depart Edgewater Mall
:09	Pass Road WalMart
: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.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel10 a.m.

Daily Mass

Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.

Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.

Larcher Chapel praise and worship service11:30 a.m.

Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; 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, 3 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl. Family home evenings, 7 p.m. Mondays, Fishbowl Student Center.

Digest,

from Page 24

Wood shop demonstrations — 2:30 and 3:20 p.m. Saturday.
Beginning woodworking — 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday. \$15. Receive safety certification and operator's card.

Mini crafts center

Editor's note: Located at Vandenberg Community Center.
New hours — 5-9 p.m. Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Fridays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays after working Fridays.

Ceramic painting — every Thursday. Complete kit \$10.
Pottery wheel class — 4-8 p.m. Thursdays. \$10 for one hour; pick convenient time. Maximum four students.

Air Force photography contest — photos accepted now for the student base-level competition in April.

McBride Library

Electronic reference orientations — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.
Orientations and tours — for more information, call 377-2181.
Umbrella month — stop by and see our umbrella display.

TRANSITIONS

Workshops, briefings

Veterans benefits briefing — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6, May 11, June 15, July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 14, Room 122, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592 or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

Transition assistance program workshop — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 3-5, May 8-10, June 12-14, July 10-12, Aug. 14-16, Sept. 11-13, Oct. 16-18, Nov. 13-15 and Dec. 11-13, Room 122, old Cody Hall. To pre-register, call Ron Bublik, 377-8592, or e-mail ronald.bublik@keesler.af.mil.

CLUBS AND CENTERS

Vandenberg Community Center

Eight-ball pool tournament — 6-9:30 p.m. Mondays
Nine-ball pool tournament — 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays.
Game night — 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Board games, ping pong tournament and more.

Karaoke — 6 p.m. Thursdays.
Late night dance and DJ — 6 p.m. to midnight Thursdays before nonworking Fridays, Fridays and Saturdays. \$3.

Half Time Café — open for breakfast 6-9 a.m. workdays. Open for lunch and dinner. Buffet specials 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Wednesdays, Italian, \$5.95; working Fridays, catfish, \$6.50.

Youth center

Annual membership — \$25 for ages 6 and older. Receive discounted prices for programs, classes and sports.

Classes — Mondays, gymnastics; Mondays and Wednesdays, taekwon do; Tuesday, dance. For more information, call 377-4116.

Self-directed activities — 3-7 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, ages 9-18.

Movies and snacks — 5 p.m. Mondays, ages 9 and older.
Smart girls — 5 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 9-16; girls-only topics.
Training responsible adolescents in leadership/Keystone Club — 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays, ages 13-17.

Game room tournaments — 6 p.m. Wednesdays.
Torch Club — 5 p.m. Thursdays, ages 9-12.

FitFactor fitness club — 5 p.m. Fridays, ages 9-18.
Friday dances — 6:30-10 p.m., ages 9-15.

Super Saturdays — 2-5 p.m., ages 6-12; 6-10 p.m., ages 13-18. Games, sports and crafts.

Free Junior Olympic tennis skills competition — 2 p.m. Saturday, ages 8-13. Sign up by today.

Baseball/T-ball registration — throughout March, ages 5-12.
Operation Night Hoops registration — throughout March; late night basketball league, ages 13-18.

Youth of the year — quarterly nominations for January-March accepted now. For more information, call 377-4116.

Instructors needed — for programs including those for ages 3-5 and special classes. For more information, call 377-4116.

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. sec-

ond 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 — 11 a.m. third Tuesday of the month, Keesler NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call Master Sgt. Scott Sippel, 377-2337.

At Eze Toastmasters Club — noon Tuesdays, Building 1101 conference room. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Don Seaton, 377-5958, or Fred Blache, 377-1048, or visit <http://www.toastmasters.org>.

Keesler Christian Home Educators Association — 7-9 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, September-May, Larcher Chapel. Open to all military home educators. For more information, call Michelle Durkin, 872-9393, or e-mail chelle1rn@yahoo.com.

Keesler Officers Spouses Club — for more information, call Jeanette Jackson, 872-0626.

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

Rising VI Association — 3 p.m. third Wednesday of the month, Keesler NCO Academy auditorium. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Shanda Yarborough, 377-3653, or Tech. Sgt. Kevin Benjamin, 377-7924.

MISCELLANEOUS

Movies

Editor's note: Movies are shown 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 recorded message about current features, call 377-6627.

Friday — 7 p.m., When a Stranger Calls (PG-13).

Saturday — 2 p.m., Annapolis (PG-13); 7 p.m., Final Destination 3 (R).

Sunday — 2 p.m., Something New (PG-13).

Air Force Assistance Fund contacts

Project officers — Maj. Greg Kendrick, 377-1766, and Capt. Stacey Van Orden, 377-6850.

2nd Air Force — 1st Lt. Horace Lynch, 377-1342, and Master Sgt. Ronald Warr, 377-1433.

81st Aerospace Medicine Squadron — Staff Sgt. Kevin Williams, 377-7909.

81st Communication Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Bonham, 377-0066, and Senior Airman Taveres Simpson, 377-0066.

81st Contracting Squadron — Tech. Sgts. Todd Erp, 377-1839, and Kevin Albertson, 377-1836.

81st Dental Squadron — Senior Airman Danielle Hindel, 377-0956.

81st Medical Group — 1st Lt. Jennifer Lepper, 377-6545, and Master Sgt. Steven McCrum, 377-8359.

81st Medical Operations Squadron — Staff Sgt. Elyot Selman, 377-6216.

81st Medical Support Squadron — Master Sgt. Tammy Down, 377-6640.

81st Mission Support Group — 2nd Lt. Mark Williams, 377-4480, and Master Sgt. Aaron McKenzie, 377-1091.

81st Security Force Squadron — 2nd Lt. Schneider Rislin, 377-3040, and Senior Airman Cecilia Cardenas, 377-3721.

81st Supply and Transportation Squadrons — Master Sgt. Chad Jacob, 377-7800, and Tech. Sgt. Desmond Johnson, 377-5886.

81st Surgical Operations Squadron — Maj. William Gress, 377-6305.

81st Training Group — Master Sgt. Brent Misita, 377-0931, and Tech. Sgt. Larry Bright, 377-2325.

81st Training Support Squadron — Tech. Sgt. Eric Alvarez, 377-0872, and Staff Sgt. Craig Hawthorne, 377-2243.

81st Training Wing staff agencies — Staff Sgt. Lee Smith, 377-7340, and Staff Sgt. Joseph Rella, 377-4330.

85th Engineering Installation Squadron — 2nd Lt. Jennifer Danner, 377-2100, and Tech. Sgt. Aaron Bernard, 377-1045

332nd Training Squadron — Staff Sgts. Kenneth Grasley, 377-5049, and Len Kedrow, 377-0737.

333rd TRS — Tech. Sgts. Sidney Hataway, 377-1928, and Jason Motte, 377-0019.

334th TRS — Tech. Sgt. Tisha Bradley, 377-0886, and Staff Sgt. Phyllis Amos, 377-0476.

335th TRS — Staff Sgts. Deanna Green, 377-0217, and Breanna Sage, 377-5142.

336th TRS — Tech. Sgts. Robert Cowan, 377-5269, and Larry Bright, 377-2325.

338th TRS — Staff Sgt. Lance Davis, 377-5432, and Master Sgt. Eric Crawford, 377-1780.

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, wax beans, fruit salad, potato salad, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and cream of broccoli soup.

Dinner — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Friday

Lunch — seafood newburg, bean and corn pie, roast turkey, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, corn on the cob, stewed tomatoes, mustard greens, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork and burritos.

Dinner — corned beef, cornbread, pineapple chicken, Yankee pot roast, potato wedges, simmered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, blackeyed peas, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, baked potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked fish, Hungarian goulash, barbecue chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, creamed corn, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — oven fried fish, spareribs, grilled mustard chicken breast, macaroni and cheese, egg noodles, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, loin strip steak, mushroom and onion sauce, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, cornbread, pork loin, potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, succotash, green beans, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Dinner — chili macaroni, cornbread, beef canelloni, fried chicken, cottage fries, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed squash, glazed carrots, peas, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes, garlic toast, filipino rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic toast, harvard beets, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

Lunch — Chinese five-spice chicken, beef and broccoli stir fry, Cantonese spareribs, vegetable egg rolls, shrimp fried rice, stir fry vegetables, chow mein noodles, fried cabbage, chicken gravy, lemon sesame green beans, Mexican coleslaw, pasta fagioli soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and cheese pizza.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, barbecue ribs, jalapeno cornbread, stuffed pork chops, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, tempura vegetables, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.