

Sunburst

Vol. 47 No. 19

Serving the Holloman Air Force Base community

Friday, May 14, 2004



Briefly

Safety day

The 49th Fighter Wing Safety Day is May 21. Safety representatives will brief each group about summer safety plans and raise awareness for the Air Force's 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign.

RAB

The Environmental Restoration Advisory Board meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., Thursday at the Alamogordo Civic Center.

The RAB is a forum to allow the community to express interests and concerns regarding the restoration of old spill sites on base.

History buff

Master Sgt. Greg Henneman, base historian, will teach Holloman's first Professional Development course at 1 p.m., Thursday at the wing conference room in building 29. This history course is open to all military and civilian personnel.

For more information, or to sign up, call the history office at 572-7903.

Giant voice

The 49th Fighter Wing Command Post will test the base giant voice Siren every Wednesday at noon starting Wednesday.

Saturday in the Park

Saturday in the Park is 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday at Washington Park.

For more information, call 439-4142 extension 12 or 17.

New commander takes the wing

by Senior Airman Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Photo by Airman Larry Reid

Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski (right) salutes Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt, 12th Air Force commander, as he takes the helm of the 49th Fighter Wing during the change of command ceremony Thursday.

The 49th Fighter Wing saluted a new commander during a change of command ceremony Thursday.

Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski assumed command from Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt, who leaves to command the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt, 12th Air Force commander and presiding official of the ceremony, said General Hunt was part of the family at Holloman and will be missed. Holloman changes leadership from one accomplished, seasoned commander to another.

"Taking command of the 49th Fighter Wing was one of the greatest days of my life," General Hunt said. "Being commander of this wing is something I've always dreamed of, and I got to do it. For family, friends, my wife, the wing and community leaders, thank you from the bottom of my heart. It's been a great ride. If I had to pick my replacement it would be General Cichowski. The 49th Fighter Wing could not have a better team

see **WING** on Page 6

Airfield Bob: a legend lives forever

by Senior Airman Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 49th Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt led the building dedication ceremony for

Holloman's legendary "Airfield Bob," Mr. Robert V. Shaeffer Jr., May 7 at the 49th Operations Group base operations building here.

"The Army has always memorialized its heroes by naming build-

ings in their honor," General Hunt said. "The Air Force hasn't done it as often, but I can't think of a better way to start that tradition

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High: 82
Low: 48
TODAY



High: 86
Low: 54
SATURDAY



High: 88
Low: 59
SUNDAY



High: 90
Low: 60
MONDAY

Relay for Life makes a difference for Holloman

by Ms. Beth Markle
Relay for Life co-coordinator

Despite the bitter cold and the impending Phase I exercise, Team Holloman once again stepped up to the challenge of walking all night to raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society in Relay for Life Otero County 2004 April 30.

Words can never adequately describe Relay For Life. You just have to experience it. It's a combination of sights, sounds, and activities and an outpouring of emotions — fun, hope, community, victory, celebration and triumph for so many cancer survivors, and tender memories of those we have lost to cancer.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of your American Cancer Society. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walk-

ing or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

Relay for Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day, cancer will be eliminated.

Sign up today to become a part of the Relay phenomenon. Some participants think it's life-altering ... emotionally impactful and camaraderie at its best. Whatever Relay means to you, every person involved helps bring us one step closer to eliminating cancer.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It unites millions of people in thousands of communities nationwide each year to raise money to help prevent cancer, save lives, and diminish suffering from the disease. Every dollar you raise makes a real difference to people whose lives are touched by cancer.

Relay started with one man's vision, and now it

is the largest nonprofit fundraising event in the world. That's the power of purple – the power of people like you. Because every life counts.

The following squadrons were represented during the 2004 Relay for Life Otero County: 49th Comptroller Squadron, 49th Logistic Readiness Squadron, 8th Fighter Squadron, 9th Fighter Squadron, 49th Maintenance Squadron, 49th Contracting Squadron, 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 49th Medical Group, Holloman's community center, *Sunburst* staff, Flight Medicine, the We're Against Cancer Together team and the Air Force Sergeants Association. A list of team members can be found at the Web address below.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the fight against cancer. We hope to see you next year.

(Editor's note: Information for this article was taken from www.acsevents.org/relay/nm/otero county)

Honored

The Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team performed at Holloman's Honor Guard's annual banquet May 1. The following were recognized at the banquet: Senior Airman Rhonnell Singleton, Most Improved Award; Staff Sgt. Travis Jalaladdin, Leadership Award; Senior Airman Arturo Castro, Esprit de Corp Award; Senior Airman Arron Schultz, Trainee of the Year; Senior Airman Ronald Person, Member of the Year; Staff Sgt. Jason Estrada, Trainer of the Year.



Photo by Airman Larry Reid

DUI Update

Days since last DUI	7
DUIs this year	19
This week last year	12

Last six DUIs

- 49 AMXS May 7
- 49 CS April 11
- 49 CES March 27
- 49 OSS* March 22
- 49 MMS Feb. 21
- 8 AMU Feb. 16

572-RIDE works!

Calls made are lives saved

443 Saves this year
21 Saves this week



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Photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Port

The Shaeffer family unveils the dedication plaque for “Airfield Bob” Mr. Robert V. Shaeffer at the base operations building May 7. (Left to right) Brenda, Joshua (not seen) Beth, Barbara and Bill.

BOB *Continued from Page One*

at Holloman than naming our base operations facility after Bob Shaeffer. ‘Airfield Bob’s house’ is a perfect way to remember a great American.”

Airfield Bob lost his battle with cancer June 30, 2003, but his legend and name will live forever across the Air Force, at Holloman and at the base operations building.

Retired Maj. Gen. John Miller, 49th Fighter Wing commander from 1993-1995, sent a letter to Ms. Barbara Shaeffer, Mr. Shaeffer’s wife, and said he couldn’t think of a more fitting way to honor Airfield Bob and all he gave to the Air Force than to dedicate the base operations building in his honor.

“I’ve never met a man who was more dedicated to better-

“We all know Bob is watching from the big tower in the sky in his usual bashful way”

Retired Maj. Gen. John Miller
49th Fighter Wing commander
1993-1995

ing our Air Force than Bob Shaeffer,” General Miller wrote. “I fondly remember my last visit with Bob.

“He insisted that we get in his car, so he could show me all of the things that had happened since my wife and I left. This included his offices and the new base operations building.”

Airfield Bob’s touch shows

everywhere at Holloman, General Miller wrote. The repaved runways that nobody but Bob believed would ever get funding; the German air force hangar and ramp complex, new barriers, new control tower, the F-117A hangars and ramps, and the base operations building.

“Without Bob’s constant worrying, oversight and occasional nagging, none of it would have turned out the way it did,” he wrote. “Bob’s fingerprints truly are everywhere around the Holloman airfield.”

It’s a showplace for the Air Force, thanks to his untiring efforts over the years, he said.

“We all know Bob is watching from the big tower in the sky in his usual bashful way,” General Miller said.

General's final flights



Photos by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

Mrs. Rebecca Treadway hoses down Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt, 49th Fighter Wing commander after his final F-117A Nighthawk flight May 7.



The 49th Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt prepares to step out of an F-117A Nighthawk after his final flight May 7.



Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt shakes Lt. Col. Kevin Zeeck's hand after making his final F-4 Phantom flight Wednesday. Maj. Pat Karg (center) also celebrated.



Brig. Gen. Jim Hunt taxis his F-4 after his final flight. He flew with 12th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Randall Schmidt.



The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from May 3 to Monday.

Tickets

Security Forces issued 20 tickets: six for no insurance, one for no registration, one for battery against a household member, one for assault against a household member, two for improper display of license plate, one for failure to stop, one for expired insurance, one for invalid registration, one for failure to signal, one for loud music emitting from vehicle, two for speeding one to 10 mph over the speed limit, one for speeding 11 to 15 mph over the speed limit and one for speeding 16 to 20 mph over the speed limit.

Property loss, damage or theft

- May 3 – There was a minor accident at the base library when one POV backed into another.

- May 3 – A retiree's family member reported her POV was damaged while parked at building 787.

- May 4 – There was a minor accident between two GOVs on Kelly Road when one of the vehicles failed to maintain sufficient clearance while turning.

- May 7 – A civilian reported that his vehicle was scratched while it was being searched.

Patrol response

- May 6 – An Airman's family member reported having an argument with her husband.

- May 7 – An Airman was apprehended for underage drinking.

- May 7 – An Airman's family member reported that her husband was throwing household items at her.

- May 7 – An Airman reported a verbal altercation coming from base housing.

- May 8 – An Airman was pulled over for failure to signal and lane deviation. While stopped, the passenger, another Airman, exited the vehicle, vomited and was being uncooperative. The passenger refused a breathalyzer and was advised of her rights and given articles for insubordinate conduct toward a non-commissioned officer, failure to obey an order or regulation, resistance, flight, breach of arrest and escape, obstructing justice, disorderly conduct, drunkenness and indecent language.

If you know of or have any information concerning any of these incidents, contact security forces at 572-7171 or your first sergeant. For the Crime Stop Help Line, please contact security forces at 572-1100 or dial "911".

WING *Continued from Page One*

to take over.”

The Cichowski family members are no strangers to Holloman. The general served as the 49th Operations Group commander from 1995 to 1997 and returns to serve as the wing commander.

“It’s great to be back,” the general said. “I look forward to building upon the rich legacy for the Fighting Forty-

Niners. I know not what the future foretells, but I look forward to charting our place in it, together.”

General Cichowski said his vision can be wrapped up in one word ... forward. The U.S. Air Force Academy graduate said his goals are to put people first, but mission always. He puts more stock in deeds than words, and he believes that

striving for excellence is an attitude; the wing must always exemplify that attitude at Holloman.

“I look forward to building on the history of the wing as a premier unit in our Air Force, and make it an even better organization for the future. I look forward to creating a better tomorrow here ... together.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Port

Packed up

Airman Brian Fitzgerald, 49th Communications Squadron, packs his sleeping bag in his mobility bag before deploying Monday night. Almost 40 members of the 49th Communications Squadron deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq to support communication sustainment in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 49th CS was the first wave of deployments that will hit Holloman this summer.

Oasis Enlisted Club closes for overhaul

The enlisted club's \$1 million makeover begins May 28 and opens its doors for Airmen and their families in September. Be ready for the change at Holloman.

by Senior Airman
Martha Whipple

49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Oasis Enlisted Club closes its doors for renovation starting May 28.

The club will be transformed into J.R. Rockers Sports Café. Construction will include the demolition of the old Wright Brothers and Pizzeria dining areas and the old sports bar. J.R. Rockers is a signature brand café that has been successful across the Air Force.

"Nothing in the area compares to it," said Mr. Ed Fitzhenry, 49th Services Squadron Business Operations flight chief. "The sports bar environment has something for everyone, including family dining with a casual short order menu, and it also attracts the single crowd."

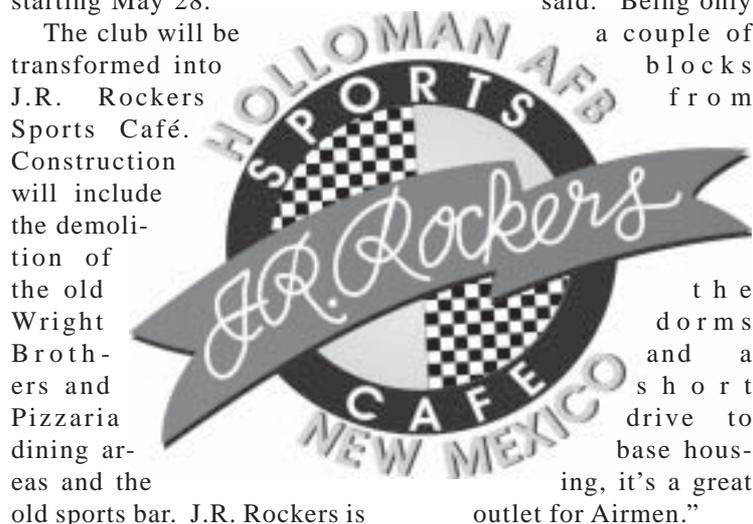
The \$1 million project is scheduled to be completed in September and will greatly improve the quality of life for all Team Holloman members, Mr. Fitzhenry said.

"The club continually finds ways to increase the quality of life," he said. "The dollar per stripe program helped recruit a record-number of members, and the club continues to cater to the Airmen and their families."

Mr. Fitzhenry said Holloman is comparable to Minot Air Force Base, N.D. in geographi-

cal separation. J.R. Rockers is a proven success for the families at Minot, and Holloman will follow.

"It's a safe way for Airmen to have a good time," he said. "Being only a couple of blocks from



the dorms and a short drive to base housing, it's a great outlet for Airmen."

According to the club manager, Ms. Tina Small, the club attendance generally decreases in the summer months, so now is a great time to renovate and create a better club.

While the enlisted club is closed, members will be supplied coupons designated for other Services facilities at Holloman. Coupons for Officers' Club, the Golf Course Snack Bar, Oasis Pizza and more will be distributed with monthly club calendars.

The Officers' Club lunch line and the American Grille, as in the past, are open to all ranks and honor Members First discounts.

The bowling center will offer free snacks in its lounge for enlisted club members on Friday evenings during the renovation.

"We will continue to take care of our loyal membership with the highest in quality service," Mr. Fitzhenry said.

Senior NCO loses a leg but doesn't miss a step

by Ms. Laura Pellegrino
Sunburst staff writer

He wishes he could walk through the canyon and support the maintainers who work on their F-117A Nighthawks, like he did before his operation.

Now, with his right leg amputated below the knee and using a prosthetic, his stump is still not strong enough to allow him much time there.

"I'm not completely healed yet," said Senior Master Sgt. Robert Bates, 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron assistant superintendent. "So throughout the day I have to take everything apart to give my stump a breather."

Sergeant Bates first started feeling pain in his right leg in October 2003. He assumed it was a reoccurrence of a condition he was diagnosed with in March 2003, sciatica, in which muscle spasms squeeze the leg's nerves and cause pain.

However, after a week of performing therapeutic exercises, the pain became excruciating. He was sent to Mountain View Hospital in Las Cruces and his doctor determined that blood clots had formed, and poor blood flow was actually causing his right foot to die.

The doctor tried to save his leg by using donor veins from his left leg and by performing an operation to force blood through, Sergeant Bates said. After three days, they still hadn't restored the blood flow.

Amputation was the only option, but he wasn't afraid of losing his leg.

"It was an easy decision for me because it was so painful," Sergeant Bates said. "It was like, 'Just take the foot'"

However, he was afraid of how the operation would change his home life.

"I had given my son his first driving lesson a few days before I went in the hospital, and I wor-

ried I wouldn't be able to be there to help him and my family through times like that," Sergeant Bates said. "I already had my dreams and plans set for the future."

Thanks to his prosthetic leg and physical therapy, Sergeant Bates has been able to do many of the things he's always loved.

"One of my hobbies is just driving around and traveling" he said. "I was concerned that I wouldn't be able to drive a stick shift. It was scary at first, but I got it down."

He's accomplished many things since his surgery – learning to walk with his prosthetic leg, driving and doing yard work – but the road to recovery wasn't easy.

His leg became infected a few weeks after the operation. His second operation, to remove the infected material, was in November.

"First the doctor had to open the wound, go inside and clean everything out," Sergeant Bates said. "They couldn't close it right away, so for four days I had an opened wound. It was very painful. Once he noticed everything was healing, he shortened the bone two inches and closed the wound."

After that, Sergeant Bates started to heal fast. He was released from the hospital the next day and his wife, who is a certified nursing assistant, cared for him.

"Michele was always there for me. She helped me stand when I slipped after my first day walking around with my crutches, and made sure I took my medication," Sergeant Bates said. "It took me a while to get used to my crutches because I couldn't use my hands to carry things. She's the one who would get me up and help me exercise and stretch."

Though Sergeant Bates originally worried he wouldn't return to work, three weeks af-

ter his second surgery he was back in his office. He worked an hour a day, and gradually increased the length of his shifts.

"Rob is well known and respected not only in his squadron, but throughout the entire maintenance group," said Lt. Col. Mark Rumph, 49th Maintenance Group deputy commander. "Everyone was concerned and wanted to help in any way they could. Once he made it through the operations, the focus was on doing what we had to do to allow him to return to duty. The next thing we knew, Rob was back at work and has been going full throttle ever since."

Although he's returned to work and is doing very well, there are some challenges he still faces. He hasn't been able to travel with the air show team and has only recently been able to work a full day, but he's always improving.

Doctors have told him he should be fully recovered in four or five months, and is considering retirement in November.

According to Sergeant Bates, "a good personality, being very open-minded and a strong religious conviction," have helped him through his recovery. Most of all, his friends and family have supported him.

He said he didn't have time to feel sad.

Colonel Rumph said it was more than that.

"It would have been easy for him to feel sorry for himself, but he wouldn't allow that to happen and his attitude actually kept up the morale of his friends and family," the colonel said. "In the end, it wasn't so much what we did to help him, but rather what he did to help us all. His determination, strength, family values and attitude are a shining example for us all to follow."



Photo by Airman 1st Stephen Collier

I am the law

Tech. Sgt. Jose Bautista, 49th Fighter Wing Legal Office paralegal, discusses his Air Force mission to Mrs. Tina Lucas's 8th grade U.S. History class Monday during Law Day at Holloman Middle School. Mrs. Lucas and her students will be performing mock trials involving military law.

Leaders send Armed Forces Day note

The following is an Armed Forces Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

Since 1949, America has paid tribute to its men and women in uniform by celebrating Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday in May. Grateful Americans in every state will hold parades and fly Old Glory to honor those who have worn the uniform either as a Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine.

It is indeed an important time to be a member of our nation's Armed Forces and especially to be an Airman. America needs your service today as much, if not more, than any other time in our country's history. America's security is a global issue as we continue the fight in the war on terrorism. Our country needs your steadfast devotion to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

Today, we serve a grateful nation. From shore to shore, Americans are proud of your professional competence, combat capabilities and unwavering courage to defend our country.

They have seen firsthand your efforts in the mountains of Afghanistan and the skies over Iraq and your steadfastness in protecting our homeland.

They have reveled with us in your triumphs and cried with us when we lose brothers and sisters in battle.

You represent the pride and patriotism of the United States. You are the standard for sacrifice, devotion and bravery. We are proud to serve with you. On this Armed Forces Day, let's remember those who came before us and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. May God bless all of you and our great nation. (AFP)

What's going on in the Tularosa Basin and beyond...

Volunteer nurses

The Lions Clubs of New Mexico District 40 South Summer Camp for Diabetic Youth needs volunteers. The group needs registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to volunteer during the camp, which will take place from July 26 to 30 at Washington Ranch in Carlsbad, N.M.

For more information, call Mr. Andy Smith at (505) 446-8224.

Volunteers needed

White Sands National Monument needs volunteers to work at the Heart of the Sands Nature Center and Interpretive Boardwalk. Volunteers will be trained and should be willing to work a minimum of four hours per week. A training session is scheduled for May 25, 26 and 27.

For more information, call John Mangimeli at (505) 479-6124 or (505) 679-2599, extension 230.

Shooting match

The Otero Practical Shooting Association has a National Rifle Association High Power Rifle Match at 9 a.m., Saturday at the Sydney Paul Gordon Shooting Range in La Luz. Sign up is at 8:30 a.m. The match is open to the public. Match participants may use any military caliber centerfire rifle. Fifty rounds will be required for the match.

For more information, call Mr. Butch Rials at 437-3663.

EAA

The local chapter (White Sands Chapter 251, Alamogordo) of the Experimental Aircraft Association has a Young Eagles Rally on 8 a.m. to noon, May 22 at the Alamogordo-White Sands Regional Airport terminal building. EAA established Young Eagles in 1993 with the goal of flying, in general aviation aircraft, one million children age 8 to 17 by the 100th anniversary of the Wright

brother's first powered flight (Dec. 17, 1903). EAA has met this goal, but the program continues. The event is free. Experienced pilots will be flying well maintained personally owned aircraft.

Call Maj. Timothy Mack at 491-5002 to reserve a time for your child.

Annual camping pass

Annual camping passes are now available at all New Mexico State Parks.

The new pass will be offered to everyone and will be valid in reservation campsites. Regular camping fees will remain unchanged, although some park fees will see modest increases as the State Parks Division makes its first fee adjustments in six years.

For day-trippers, there is also a \$30 annual day-use pass good for unlimited admission to 31 state parks. Day-use and camping passes are valid through Dec. 31, 2004. The passes will be valid Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 beginning in 2005.

Information about the entire fees proposal is available at www.nmparks.com or by calling (888) NMPARKS.

Softball tournaments

Class D & E Men's Softball Tournament: Saturday and Sunday. Cost is \$125 and entry deadline is May 3.

Men's Class D State Qualifier: June 4 to 6 at White Sands Missile Range. Cost is \$125 and entry deadline is May 21.

Women's Open Softball Tournament: July 10 and 11 at White Sands Missile Range. Cost is \$125 and the entry deadline is June 30.

Second annual World Armed Forces Regional Qualifier: July 23 to 25 at White Sands Missile Range. Cost is \$175 and entry deadline is July 9.

For more information, call Bill Velez at (505) 678-3374 or e-mail velezw@wsmr.army.mil.

Development course

The next Airman's Professional Development Course is May 25 and 26. The target audience is junior enlisted members who are one year past First Term Airman's Course and prior to Airman Leadership School.

For more information, call a first sergeant and visit the professional development Web site at <https://hollomanweb/fw/pd/>.

Retirement ceremony

Master Sgt. Kenny Wessels' retirement ceremony is 11 a.m., May 21 at Madin Park in the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron compound. The uniform will be uniform of the day.

Static display

This month's static display of an F-117, F-4, T-38 and German Tornado is 1 to 3 p.m., Thursday at hangar 500.

For more information, call public affairs at 572-5406.

Free issue chairs

Outdoor Recreation has tables, chairs, grills, coolers, ice chest and picnic kits. They have approximately 100 free issue chairs that can be made available for official function. They also offer cushioned chairs at squadron/official function rates.

For more information, call 572-5369

Red Cross

The Holloman Red Cross Summer Youth Program is June 7 to July 30. Youth ages 13 to 19 can participate in the program. There are several locations to volunteer including the education office, fitness center, youth center, community center and some medical clinics. Anyone interested in volunteering this summer can call Ms. Linda Vigil at the Holloman Red Cross

office at 572-7066 or the Alamogordo Red Cross office at 437-4421.

America's Kids Run

Children ages 4 to 13 can participate in the Armed Forces America's Kids Run at 8 a.m., Saturday at the Whispering Sands Community Center. Register on-line at www.americaskidsrun.org. The first 100 kids to register will be given free T-shirts. All Air Combat Command bases will participate in this event at the same time and day. Computers are available at the community center for registration.

For more information, call the Whispering Sands Community Center at 572-7476.

Fun run/walk

The third annual Holloman High Speed Test Track Mach 10K Fun Run/5K Walk is 7 a.m., May 22 at the test track. The 10-kilometer run begins at 8 a.m. and the 5-kilometer walk begins at 8:10 a.m.

Early registration is \$15 and late and race day registration is \$20. The event is open to all Holloman or military identification card holders.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Michael Knight at 679-2933 or 1st Lt. Kendall Okeson at 679-2204.

Pizza and cookie kit sale

Keystoners is sponsoring a fundraiser for their 2004 Southwest Regional TEENSupreme Conference in July in Austin, Texas. Little Caesar Pizza Kits and Cookie Dough Tubs contain all the ingredients to bake delicious pizza, bread, and cookies at home in minutes. Items range in price from \$12.75 to \$18.

The deadline for orders is May 21. Orders will be delivered June 1 and 2.

For more information, call Matrice Adger at 572-3753.

ALS graduation

Airman Leadership School Class 04-E has their graduation banquet June 7 in the ballroom of the officer's club. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. Graduates invite commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, family, and friends to attend. The ALS students are handling all invitations, so please see a student for an invite. Menu items are charbroiled NY strip steak for \$14 for club members and \$16 for non club members, or pasta primavera for \$9 for club members and \$11 for non club members.

Please R.S.V.P. with a student no



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Jet wash

Airman 1st Class Jamie Kershaw, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, rinses off the landing gear of the T-38 Talon in Heritage Park Monday. Men and women of the 49th Maintenance Group helped to clean each aircraft in preparation for the 49th Fighter Wing change of command ceremony Thursday.

later than May 28.

The graduation retreat for Airman Leadership School Class 04-E is 11:30 a.m., June 4 at the Mayo PME center.

MDG closure

The 49th Medical Group will close at 3 p.m., May 21 due to Safety Day functions.

Road closures

As part of the ongoing construction of new housing units, a section of Martin Avenue is closed until May 29. The section of Martin Avenue affected is from the intersection of Fairchild Drive to Patrick Avenue. This closure allows the contractors to install the sewage lines and the waterlines that will provide that area of housing with service. There is a detour in place that affects residents of the following streets: Martin Avenue, Eglin Place, Patrick Avenue, Lockheed Avenue, Hughes Av-

enue, Andrews Drive, Langley Court, Kirtland Place, Griffis Court, Nellis Place, Keesler Court, Lea Loop, Boeing Avenue, Luna Loop, Hidalgo Loop, Otero Loop, Sierra Loop, Sierra Place and Torrence Place.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Stacy Nimmo at 572-5832.

Chapel Services

Weekday Masses – 11:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Sunday – Catholic Mass, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- Sacrament of Penance, 4 p.m.
- General Protestant Worship Service, 11 a.m.

- Protestant Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., and Catholic Religious Education, 10:45 a.m. at Holloman Intermediate School.

B

On the
BIG SCREEN

Jersey Girl (PG-13)

6 and 9 p.m., today

The Ladykillers (R)

6 and 9 p.m., Saturday

The Prince and Me (PG)

6 p.m., Sunday

Tickets are 99 cents.

MDG celebrates National Nurse's Week

by Senior Airman
Martha Whipple
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

National nurse's week celebrates millions of nurses around the world for more than 30 years, and the 49th Medical Group celebrated this memorial from May 6 to Wednesday. This year's theme for Nurse's Week is "Nurses: Your Voice, Your

Health, Your Life."

With more than 40 percent of the group's personnel part of the nursing staff, the 49th MDG has a lot to celebrate.

This week celebrates all nurses and recognizes their dedication, said Lt. Col. Soledad Lindo-Moon, 49th MDG chief nurse. Air Force nurses are dedicated to the armed forces and healthcare for troops.

"Air Force nurses are special," she said. "They are here to defend our country and keep troops ready to support every front."

After Sept. 11, 2001, nurses were called on to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and to support the Global War on Terror.

The nation has called on 725 nurses, 1,600 medical technicians and six nurses who served as

commanders to deploy. They treated 171,000 casualties, supported 3,200 air evacuation missions and served more than 40,000 patients. All of this was accomplished without a combat-related death, according to the 49th MDG Commander Col. June Gavron, an 18-year veteran nurse.

The nurses worked through these operations despite a nation-wide shortage of nurses.

One of the biggest challenges nurses face is recruiting, Colonel Lindo-Moon said. The Air Force offers incentives including bonuses and tuition reimbursements to recruit nurses.

Nurses and nursing staff are critical to the Air Force mission, said Senior Airman Kaesean Fiol, public health medical technician. Without them, we wouldn't be able to accomplish the wing's mission.

Capt. Maria Espinoza, a family practice nurse, said she appreciates the recognition given to nurses during nurse's week.

Sometimes a nurse's work goes unnoticed, said Ms. Dawn Robbins, Quality Services man-

ager, but this week raises awareness for the work nurses do. She said there are a lot of elements to the nursing staff which includes medical technicians who are qualified to perform some nurses' duties.

A nurse's duties are not always glorified, but Colonel Lindo-Moon leaves words of advice for all nurses.

"Be compassionate about what you do," said the chief nurse who misses the hands-on part of nursing. "Nursing is a profession of caring and compassion; to be a nurse you must love what you do and must maintain high professional standards. A sense of dedication is paramount because there is so much you're exposed to. You play a vital role in caring for our Airmen and their dependents. The patients have to feel the energy from you so they can be receptive to your nursing interventions. Then you can provide the best care. Thank you to the 49th Medical Group nursing staff who continually provides top-notch care for Team Holloman."



Photos by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Maj. Jeanine Stettler, 49th Medical Operations Squadron pediatric nurse practitioner, listens to Kendra Schrieffer's, 4, heart during a checkup.



Senior Airman Amanda Comino, 49th Medical Operations Squadron technician, measures a dosage for a patient.

Police officers remembered

ACROSS

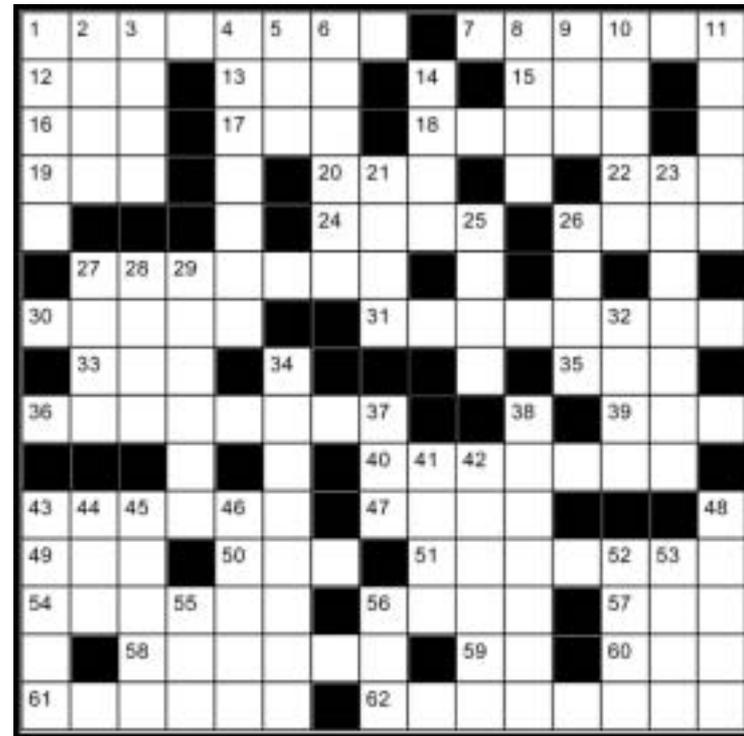
- 1. USAF Sq. providing law enforcement (pt. 1)
- 7. 1 ACROSS (pt. 2)
- 12. *Quid pro* ____
- 13. Baseball stat
- 15. Architect of the glass pyramid at the Louvre
- 16. '70s spoon-bender Geller
- 17. Obese
- 18. Apse
- 19. Internet provider
- 20. Meaning three
- 22. Baseball great Ripken
- 24. Words stated at entrance to military service
- 26. Frilly fabric
- 27. Surrendering of a territory
- 30. Observe
- 31. Description of 43 ACROSS (pt 1—two words)
- 33. Org. concerned with flight traffic
- 35. Sib
- 36. Belize city
- 39. Clear; as in money

- 40. Abandoned
- 43. Subject of this week's observance
- 47. Unblemished
- 49. Airport abbrev.
- 50. One who betrays
- 51. Mascot for 1, 43 ACROSS
- 54. Attack
- 56. Safety org.
- 57. Ump
- 58. Catch
- 59. Abbrev. for state home to 122nd FW
- 60. Behold
- 61. Made a living
- 62. Someone who had a farm?

DOWN

- 1. Type of car driven by 43 ACROSS
- 2. European cash
- 3. Spring
- 4. Update
- 5. A Gershwin
- 6. Body art
- 8. Decides

- 9. Actor Stephen
- 10. Approximately
- 11. Black
- 14. Decoy
- 21. Bluster
- 23. Suspect
- 25. Successor
- 26. Tosses
- 27. Bistro
- 28. And others (two words)
- 29. Large shrimp
- 32. Ending of 31 ACROSS
- 34. Pleaded for reconsideration
- 37. Sleep
- 38. Spice
- 41. Tramps
- 42. Flower
- 43. What 43 ACROSS attempt to maintain
- 44. USAF commissioning source
- 45. Type of weapon on the ABL
- 46. What 43 ACROSS investigate



- 48. As in a direction; away
- 52. Major or Minor
- 53. Investigate; ____ out

- 55. Actress Penelope ____ Miller
- 56. Unit of resistance

VA reaches out to newest combat veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding its efforts to reach veterans of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure they are aware of benefits they have earned.

Mr. Anthony Principi, VA secretary, is sending a letter to more than 150,000 veterans of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who have recently separated from the military to thank them for their service. In the letter, he also reminds them of their eligibility for VA health-care and other benefits.

“I want these men and women to know that we are grateful for their service to our country,” Mr. Principi said. “Those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world have risked their lives to make America more secure. One of the ways the nation shows its gratitude is by ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve.”

Mr. Principi’s letter includes brochures and links to the department’s Web pages that contain more details about VA benefits, including an opportunity

to apply for benefits online.

As the veterans continue to leave active duty, VA officials said they expect to mail about 10,000 letters each month. The first letters were sent May 10.

Department officials also regularly mail information packets to all servicemembers separating from the military to remind them of eligibility for basic benefits, such as VA-guaranteed home loans and education benefits. In addition, there are provisions in these programs for reservists and National Guard members.

The additional outreach to those recently deployed to combat areas alerts them to special eligibility that increases their access to health care for two years after separation from the military for illnesses and injuries that may be the result of military service.

For those medical problems, VA waives copayments for inpatient and outpatient care. The VA focuses special attention on those with service-

related disabilities, officials said. The department’s goal is a seamless transition from military to VA services, with claims for financial benefits receiving expedited processing.

For seriously wounded people, the VA has counselors working at the bedsides of patients in military hospitals with the largest numbers of casualties to begin benefit applications before they leave the military. The department’s social service people work at these military facilities to plan health-care coordination as servicemembers move from military to VA care. This helps ensure a smooth transition to a VA hospital or clinic near the veteran’s intended residence for continuing medical care, officials said.

“VA has learned many lessons since the Gulf War in 1991 and other conflicts, which will ensure that this newest generation of war veterans receives the health care and assistance they deserve when they return to civilian life,” Mr. Principi said. (*AFP*)



Photos by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

Stick it to us

Above: Mr. Frank Rivers prepares Senior Airman Kaesean Fiol, public health medical technician, who donated blood during the United Blood Services “Pint for Pint” program May 7. The next blood drive starts at 10 a.m., July 9 at the community center.

Below: Ms. Corina Cano, UBS lab technician takes blood from Airman Parris Doolittle, Flight Medicine medical technician, May 7.





Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Right center fielder Cliff Linde, 49th Maintenance Squadron Ammo A team, pulls back to smack a softball during his team's 27-15 win over the 49th Medical Group Monday.

Blown away

49th MXS Ammo A team

bombs Medical Group 27-15

**by Airman 1st Class
Stephen Collier**
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

What does a dust storm and the 49th Maintenance Squadron Ammo A team have in common? Both came on strong during intramural softball Monday at Vandenburg Field against the 49th Medical Group, giving way to an Ammo A victory 27-15.

Ammo A dominated from the start with big hits by left fielder James Ross that slapped three runs on the board. MDG

slipped into the bottom of the first with runs by second baseman Fredo Nevarez after a line drive hit to left field by pitcher Joe Noya putting them down by seven. The MDG ball club rallied in the bottom of the second with four more runs, edging them behind the Ammo A team 10-7.

The action heated up in the fourth inning with a homer by Ammo A center fielder Brian Sadler, bringing in teammate Ross for two more runs. MDG inched past the competition 13-12 as third baseman Rich

Sutton knocked the ball out of the park.

Two innings remained and Ammo A's Sadler stepped up to bat to give his team a grand slam and four more runs to the board.

That energy trickled into his team as Ammo A rocketed the runs up the board from 17 to 25 with center field hits by infielder Marvin Bettag.

Three more runs wouldn't bring the MDG team close enough to compete as the Ammo A team ended the game 27-15.



Photo by Bo Joyner

In the bullpen

First Lt. Jason Szuminski, relief pitcher for the San Diego Padres, warms up in the bullpen during a game here against the Braves. Lieutenant Szuminski is the only Air Force reservist in Major League Baseball.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Port

She's got style

Airman 1st Class Lourie Dimery, 49th Fighter Wing Command Post, displays this year's fashion trends during "A Spring of Style" Fashion Show May 8. Proceeds from the show, totaling more than \$400, were donated to Holloman's Youth and Teen Center and the Boys and Girls Club of Otero County.

