

# Sunburst

Vol. 47 No. 40

Serving the Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. community

Friday, Oct. 15, 2004



## Briefly

### Pumpkin patch

The 49th Materiel Maintenance Group Top IV has a pumpkin patch open 3 to 9 p.m., Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays until Oct. 31 across the street from the Youth and Teen Center.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Darren Williams at 572-5460 or Tech. Sgt. Doni Zeller at 572-5056.

### Vote early

Registered New Mexico voters can now cast their votes from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Otero County Courthouse on the corner of 10th Street and New York Avenue.

For more information, contact a unit voting representative or the base voting officer, Capt. Paul Durkes at 572-7217.

### Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest is 3 to 11:30 p.m., Saturday at hangar 286. The shuttle that runs between Alamogordo and Holloman will stop every 30 minutes from 3 to 11:30 p.m.

Shuttle stops are on the back of tickets.

### Dorm of the Quarter

Congratulations to the Dorm of the Quarter winners:

**First place:** dorm 331, 49th Communications Squadron

**Second place:** dorm 330, 49th Medical Group

**Room of the Quarter:** Senior Airman Michael Allanson Jr., 49th Maintenance Squadron



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Thornton

The 49th Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski tours the new home of the Shoemaker family with Jeffrey, 10, and Diane. The Shoemakers, who recently relocated to Holloman from Iceland, moved into a new home in Desert Estates. Holloman opened 101 new housing units Wednesday during a ribbon cutting ceremony at 209 Agave Court.

## New base housing opens

by Ms. Laura Hunt  
*Sunburst staff writer*

Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski, 49th Fighter Wing commander, opened Holloman's 101 new housing units Wednesday during a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The \$19 million housing project consists of a 48-acre section south of Arnold Avenue and between First

Street and Patterson Road.

The new 1,530 to 1,980 square foot homes will include: a two-car garage, tile and carpeted floors, ceiling fans in every room, walk-in closets in master bedrooms, kitchen islands, breakfast bars, fenced yards and vaulted ceilings.

"The cookie cutter standard for government housing is a way of the past," said John Morgan, design

chief. "The new way is a modernized upscale neighborhood designed to fit the 21st century."

The houses have nine different floor plans and six designs of southwest, Mediterranean and mission-style homes. A jogging track encircling the neighborhood and a basketball court in a central location adds recreation outlets for families.



Weather forecast provided by the 49th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

**Citizens on patrol**

**Ms. Crystal Cunningham, 49th Security Forces Squadron civilian gate guard, performs anti-terrorism inspections at the West gate Wednesday. Ms. Cunningham is one of six members to begin the new program which teams up civilians with security forces.**

**It's your future, vote for it!**

**by Gen. Richard B. Myers**  
*Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

In this election year, you, our men and women in uniform, are stationed around the globe serving our nation and defending democracy. We have both the responsibility and the privilege to participate in our democracy by exercising our fundamental right to vote.

I encourage every one of you, as well as your family members of voting age, to join in the democratic process and cast your ballot. You will have the opportunity to vote, either in person or through absentee ballots, in primary, special run-off and general elections, no matter where you are stationed or what operation you are participating in.

Recent elections have demonstrated

the importance of every absentee ballot. Your vote does count!

The 2004 elections will determine our choice for president and vice president, 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, and 13 governors, as well as thousands of local officials. I urge each of you to participate, starting with the primaries already underway and continuing through the general election on Nov. 2.

Most of you will be using the absentee voting process, which has never been easier than it is today. For those of us in the Armed Forces and our family members, starting the process is as easy as filling out and mailing the Federal Post Card Application.

As members of the Armed Forces, we each have a responsibility to take part in determining our nation's leadership.

**Holloman Hotline 572-7500**



The Hotline is your direct link to the 49th Fighter Wing commander. If you've tried to solve the problem yourself and haven't been able

to get results, call 572-7500 or e-mail [cc.hotline@holloman.af.mil](mailto:cc.hotline@holloman.af.mil). Before submitting a Hotline, please give the appropriate agencies a chance to work out the problem.

If you want to pass on praise for a job well done, contact the supervisor or commander directly who can provide the appropriate recognition to the individual or group. The unit commanders and agency chiefs want to help. Let them try first.

**DUI Update**

Days since last DUI **50**  
 DUIs this year **0**  
 This week last year **0**

**Last six DUIs**

- 49 AMXS Aug. 25
- GAF Aug. 7
- 49 SFS July 25
- 746 TS July 18
- 49 AMXS July 2
- 49 SVS June 23

\* Dependent

**572-RIDE works!**

Calls made are lives saved

**33** Saves this year  
**20** Saves this week



**Editorial Staff**

- Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski ...49th Fighter Wing commander
- Maj. John Bryan ..... Public Affairs director
- 1st Lt. Vincent King ..... Public Affairs deputy director
- 2nd Lt. Melissa J. Stevens .. Internal information chief
- Senior Airman Martha Whipple ..... Staff writer
- Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier ..... Staff writer
- Ms. Laura Hunt ..... Staff writer

The SUNBURST is published by Alamogordo Daily News, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the SUNBURST are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force or Alamogordo Daily News, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliations or

any other nonmerit fact of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Holloman Public Affairs Office. All photos used are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. For editorial information call (505) 572-3515. Stories should be submitted directly to the Public Affairs Office via e-mail to [49fw.pa.sunburst@holloman.af.mil](mailto:49fw.pa.sunburst@holloman.af.mil) or mailed to 49 FW/PA, 490 First Street, Suite 2800, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., 88330-8287. All material is edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity, and conformity to regulations. The delivery of the SUNBURST to Holloman on-base family housing sections is provided by Alamogordo Daily News. *The deadline for submitting articles to the SUNBURST is 4 p.m. Thursday the week before publication.* For advertising information, call (505) 437-7120.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Gish

**Airman 1st Class Michael Green, Holloman Dorm Council president, presents the first “Landoch Award” to Lt. Col. Andrew Landoch, 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, during a surprise ceremony at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, Oct. 8.**

## Dorm council spreads spirit

by Airman 1st Class  
Stephen Collier

*49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Four Holloman Dorm Council members traveled to Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, Oct. 8 to present an award to a dorm council advocate and to help establish a council there.

The council members presented the first “Landoch Award” to Lt. Col. Andrew Landoch, 366th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander at Mt. Home during a surprise ceremony.

“We presented this award to show the council’s appreciation for his dedication to the Holloman Dorm Council while he was the 49th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander here,” said Airman 1st Class Michael Green, HDC president. “As a commander, he worked to improve the quality of life and build Airmen morale in the dorms.”

Colonel Landoch donated his money and time to improve dorm life for his troops. He helped build entertainment centers for dayrooms, provided F-117A Nighthawk wood cutouts for name plates and served as an ad-

vocate to help dorm residents.

Colonel Landoch said he was taken back by the award not only because it was named after him, but because he felt the work he did for the Airmen wasn’t enough.

“As a commander, you feel the need to look after the troops who do most of the grunt work on the flight line,” he said. “I don’t feel I deserve this award. I just wanted my Airmen to know their commander respected the sacrifices they made every day.”

Colonel Landoch is now working at Mt. Home and building the base’s dorm council spirit. Holloman’s dorm council pitched in to help set Mt. Home in the right direction.

“When Airmen are actively involved in their dorms, wing leadership recognizes their initiatives and rewards them,” Airman Green said. “With Airmen conducting Self-Help projects in the dorms, they take ownership and responsibility for where they live. The end result is an increase in overall quality of life.”

At Holloman, wing leadership rewards Airmen with money to help improve the dorms. First place winners of the quarterly

dorm inspection receive \$2,500 and second place receives \$1,500. Last quarter, the 49th Materiel Maintenance Group took first prize and improved the dayroom by adding a surround system, DVDs and other electronics. The group also purchased patio furniture and a barbecue grill.

“Our goal is to inspire other bases to build stronger dorm councils,” Airman Green said. “Holloman’s dorm council includes more than 800 Airmen who strive to pave the way for the next generation of dorm residents.”

The “Landoch Award” will be presented every quarter to a Team Holloman member who shows outstanding support to the dorm Airmen.

The council presented Lt. Col. Carleton Hirschel, 49th Services Squadron commander with the second “Landoch Award” during the council’s meeting Wednesday.

Dorm residents can submit “Landoch Award” candidates via e-mail to any dorm council officer.

The next dorm council meeting is at 1 p.m., Nov. 9 at the community center.



Photo by Senior Airman Martha Whipple

**Airman Sheryl Stephan, Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight apprentice, performs a gas mask fit test on Senior Airman Wesley Morgan, 49th Materiel Maintenance Squadron. The flight tested more than 400 masks in two weeks to prepare for the Operational Readiness Inspection, which starts Oct. 31. Gas mask fit tests are required every 40 months and include five exercises of normal and deep breathing.**

## Teamwork: Team Holloman units prepare base for ORI

by Senior Airman  
Martha Whipple  
*49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Team Holloman continues to gear up for the upcoming Air Combat Command Operational Readiness Inspection starting Oct. 31.

The 49th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight kicked into overdrive working all hours during the last two weeks to get Team Holloman ready.

The 10-person flight performed gas mask fit tests for more than 400 people.

“This is the single largest number of fit tests I’ve seen accomplished in a two-week period in the five years bio has

been conducting gas-mask fitting” said Master Sgt. Scott Dorton, flight NCO in charge. “Our troops are extremely dedicated to getting the wing ready for the ORI and have done an incredible job ... way above and beyond what I thought was possible.”

New Air Force guidance authorizes masks to be ‘fit to size’ replacing the old ‘fit to mask’ policy and also implements a 40 month ‘re-fit’ requirement. Only primary and alternate mobility personnel are required to be fit tested.

Fit tests take approximately 6 minutes and involve a series of five exercises from normal and deep breathing to various head movements. The fit test

machine conducts an analysis that compares particle counts inside and outside the mask.

Routine fit tests are by appointment only and appointments can be made by calling 572-7938. Personnel are reminded not to eat, drink, smoke, chew gum or chew tobacco at least one hour prior to coming for the test as particulates will affect the test results.

“ORI preparation and performance is our number one priority and fit testing is a significant mobility folder inspection item,” Sergeant Dorton said. “The effort, during the past two weeks, has made significant strides in getting wing personnel 100 percent deployment qualified.”



Miss Courtney Lankford, second from left, won New Mexico Woman magazine's 2004 Young Women of Promise Award. The award recognized 10 New Mexican women for their contributions to their communities.

## Service before self

### Family member wins award for volunteer and community service

by Ms. Laura Hunt  
Sunburst staff writer

A Team Holloman member was one of 10 people to win New Mexico Woman magazine's 2004 Young Women of Promise Award.

Miss Courtney Lankford, 13, received the award for her volunteer work and involvement in the community. In the past year, Miss Lankford has completed more than 200 hours of community service with the Youth Empowerment Association, Family Services, the Girl Scouts and Keep Alamogordo Beautiful.

Miss Lankford's participation in tennis, soccer, basketball and billiards also helped her win the award, she said.

Fifty-four young women from across the state were nomi-

nated for the award.

"Although only 10 of us were singled-out as Young Women of Promise and the others were given honorable mention, we are all winners," Miss Lankford said. "In fact, everyone who volunteers is a winner."

Miss Lankford was nominated by her parents, Tech Sgt. Mark Lankford and Mrs. Doris Lankford.

"We nominated her for the award because of her outstanding involvement in the community," Mrs. Lankford said. "We've taught our children that community service is important because each of us has the responsibility to make the world a better place."

Miss Lankford said that her most influential role model has been her family.

"My mom, dad and two sisters all volunteer," she said. "They encouraged me from the age of five to give back to my community."

Miss Lankford was the youngest recipient of the award.

According to Miss Lankford, no volunteer job is too small.

"Whether someone gives two hours a week or 30 hours a week, they can help make the world a better place," she said. "My advice to everyone is to get involved and make a difference."



Miss Courtney Lankford

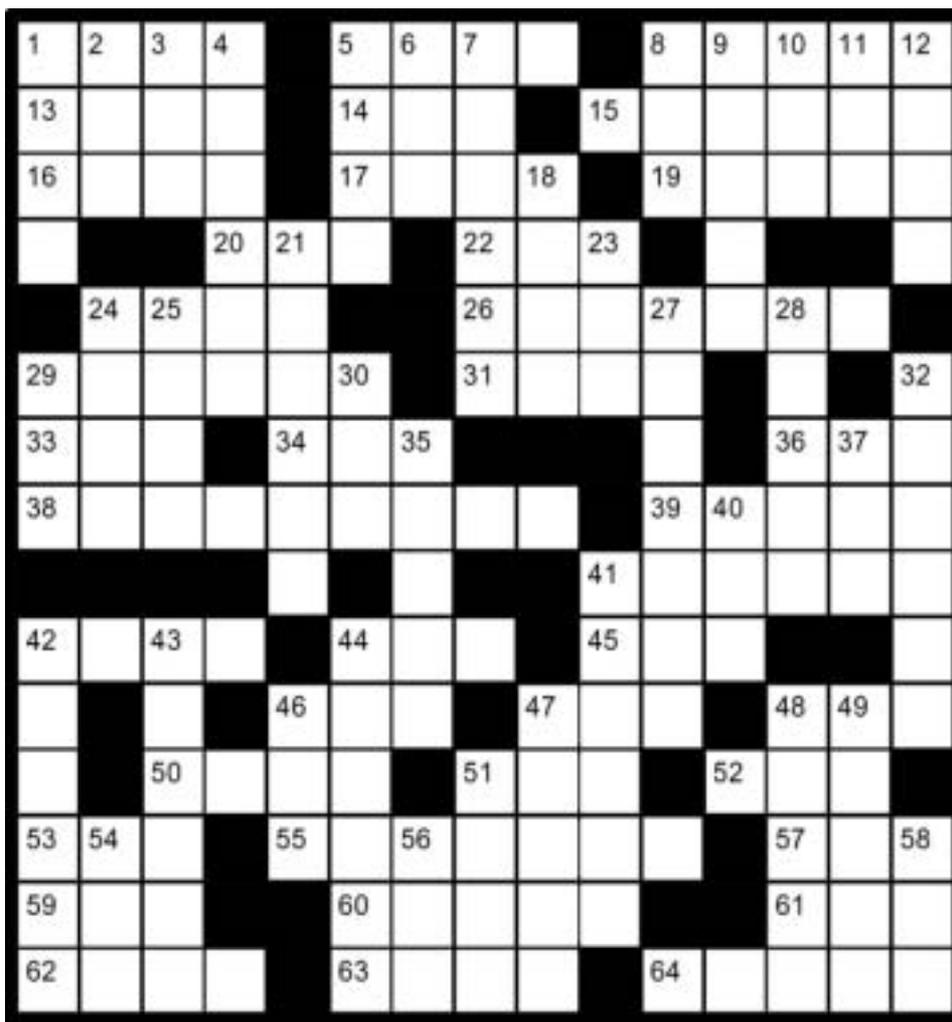
# Faster than a speeding bullet

ACROSS

- 1. Test pilot Marion \_\_\_;
- 5. Test pilot Albert \_\_\_;
- 8. Researcher John P. \_\_\_;
- 13. What was under princess' mattress? (2 words)
- 14. Behold
- 15. Antenna
- 16. Cardinal great Musial
- 17. Amphibian
- 19. *Where in the World* person
- 20. Alias, in brief
- 22. Space
- 24. Mint
- 26. Test pilot Frank K. \_\_\_;
- 29. Scattered throughout
- 31. Nevada town
- 33. Pie \_\_\_ mode (2 words)
- 34. Talk
- 36. Expert
- 38. Test pilot Iven C. \_\_\_; first to fly above 100,000 ft.
- 39. Test pilot Robert M. \_\_\_; first to exceed Mach 4 & 5
- 41. River tributary
- 42. \_\_\_ Ready to Eat
- 44. Actress Ryan
- 45. German city
- 46. Org. run by SECDEF
- 47. Everything
- 48. Foreign hat?
- 50. Lapse
- 51. Craft
- 52. Vase
- 53. Mil. acronym for how to deal with enemy
- 55. Test pilot Wilbert D. \_\_\_; only "space ace" with satellite kill
- 57. Hubris
- 59. Actress Margaret of *Grumpy Old Men*
- 60. Test pilot N.K. \_\_\_;

- completed *Have Blue* test program
  - 61. *Lord of the Rings* character
  - 62. Abominable snowman?
  - 63. Detected
  - 64. Military academy recruit
- DOWN
- 1. Throw
  - 2. Test pilot Mel \_\_\_; first to exceed Mach 3
  - 3. Actor Stephen of *The Crying Game*
  - 4. Hawaiian patios
  - 5. Greek letter
  - 6. Nigerian town
  - 7. Test pilot Charles E. \_\_\_; first to break sound barrier
  - 8. Stitch
  - 9. Hunt down
  - 10. Enrage
  - 11. Bachelor's place
  - 12. Trick
  - 18. Kevin Kline movie
  - 21. Test pilot William J. \_\_\_; piloted X-15 to Mach 6
  - 23. Write, as in a novel
  - 24. Columbian city
  - 25. Air Force base home to

- 51st FW
- 27. Alien town?
- 28. Having agreeable taste
- 29. Golfer Se Ri \_\_\_
- 30. Actress West
- 32. Test pilot Eldon \_\_\_; 1971 speed record in SR-71
- 35. Leak
- 37. Roadway, in short
- 40. Fringe
- 41. Test pilot Fitzhugh L. \_\_\_; 1962 heaviest payload/altitude record
- 42. Test pilot Arthur \_\_\_; first to see curvature of Earth
- 43. \_\_\_ Without Leave; UCMJ violation
- 44. Mechanized bicycles
- 46. Dunk
- 47. Torching
- 48. Let go
- 49. Test pilot Joe H. \_\_\_; X-15 pilot and STS-2 spacecraft commander
- 51. Rear end (British)
- 54. Mil. operation begun 9/11
- 56. Vote in favor
- 58. Commonly





The 49th Security Forces Squadron handled the following incidents from Oct. 5 to Monday.

### Tickets

Security forces issued 7 tickets: one for failure to stop, three for no registration, one for noise inside the vehicle, one for inattentive backing and one for speeding 11 to 15 mph over the speed limit.

### Property loss, damage or theft

• Oct. 5: There was a minor accident between two government-owned vehicles near building 894. A driver hit a vehicle while backing up.

• Oct. 5: An NCO reported his privately owned vehicle was damaged in the parking lot of building 35.

• Oct. 5: An Airman reported his POV was damaged in the parking lot of building 333.

• Oct. 6: A civilian reported tools were stolen from building 17.

• Oct. 6: An Airman reported his POV vehicle was damaged in the parking lot of building 333.

• Oct. 6: There was a minor accident at the West Gate. A POV hit a wall while it was backing.

• Oct. 9: A family member reported her POV was damaged in the parking lot of building 787.

### Patrol response

• Oct. 5: An Airman reported another Airman ver-

bally threatened him.

• Oct. 9: An Airman was arrested for public intoxication near building 337.

### Civil arrest

• Oct. 8: An NCO was arrested by the Alamogordo Department of Public Safety for battery against a household member.

### Scam alert

A scam e-mail has been circulating that looks like it comes from CitiBank. According to the e-mail, due to a large number of identity thefts, CitiBank customers must confirm their banking details by clicking on a link.

If you get an e-mail that warns you that an account of yours will be shut down, don't reply or click on the link in the e-mail.

Contact the company cited in the e-mail using a telephone number or Web site address you know to be genuine. Avoid e-mailing personal and financial information.

Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to determine whether there are any unauthorized charges.

**If you 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."**

# Dinner is served

## But some restrictions apply

by Ms. Laura Hunt  
Sunburst staff writer

Enlisted members who get full basic allowance for subsistence don't get free meals at the Shifting Sands and Westerner Dining Facilities, but some people are trying to cheat the system.

At least five people every month are scanning their identification cards even though they are getting BAS, said Staff Sgt. Michelle LaBarron, 49th Services Squadron Food Service accountant.

Because of a glitch in the system, when an Airman scans his card at the dining facility, the computer sometimes tells the cashier it is invalid.

The Airman is required to fill out and sign an Air Force Form 1469, which allows the facility to find him if his meal wasn't supposed to be free.

Some Airmen realized they could get a free meal by scanning their cards and scribbling their names illegibly, making up false social security numbers or giving the wrong squadron name on the form, hoping they won't be tracked down, Sergeant LaBarron said.

"Fortunately, there is a backup in the system to catch these individuals," she said. "When an individual scans their card, the cash register automatically brings up the person's social security number as well as sends it to an 'invalid subsistence in kind' file."

Sergeant LaBarron reviews the list of invalid social security numbers and looks for inconsistencies and errors. If she

finds anyone defrauding the government by giving false information on the AF Form 1469, she reports them to their first sergeant.

The first sergeants are more aware of the situation and are giving sterner punishments for the one time offenders, Sergeant LaBarron said.

Ten Airmen have been caught cheating the system this year, Sergeant LaBarron said.

"One of these Airmen was issued an Article 15," Sergeant LaBarron said. "The other, who was already in trouble, was kicked out of the Air Force.

The average cost of a meal is only \$4. Is it really worth it?"

Another Airman ate at the dining facility 118 times before he was caught. He owed the facility more than \$300 for the meals.

"You will get caught and you will have to repay the dining facility," Sergeant LaBarron said. "I've known people who had to go on a payment plan because they owed so much money."

The dining facility is open to active duty grades E-1 to E-9s and retirees. If they receive full BAS they must pay cash, Sergeant LaBarron said.

Officers can only eat at the dining facility if they are a representative of the Commanders Evaluation Team appointed by their squadron commander, Sergeant LaBarron said. Officers and enlisted personnel here on temporary duty can eat at the dining facility if their orders direct them to.

For more information, call Sergeant LaBarron at 572-5125.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

**Airman Heather Welch gives her identification card to the cashier at the Shifting Sands Dining Facility.**

# Thrift Savings Plan open season begins

by Master Sgt. Randy L. Mitchell

*Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs*

Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the “open season” Oct. 15 to Dec. 31.

“TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan, which everyone should consider,” said Senior Master Sgt. Felipe Ortiz, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Contact Center here. “It’s a great supplement to military and civilian retirement plans.

“It’s also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks,” he said. “People can choose safer government securities as well.”

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions. It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas, of AFPC’s civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute, while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

“Eligible employees can take out loans and make in-service withdrawals from their TSP accounts,” Ms. Thomas said. “And you can keep your account, even if you leave military or federal civilian service.”

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck “so you never have to think about it,” Sergeant Ortiz said. “That makes it easy to ‘pay yourself first’ while only investing what you deem appropriate.”

The five TSP funds are: the Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Common

Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund.

“As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better,” Ms. Thomas said.

Contribution elections or changes made between Oct. 15 and Dec. 11 will take effect Dec. 12, for both military and civilian employees. Changes made on or after Dec. 12 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

Some of the specifics of the program include:

#### **Military**

— Military members can contribute up to 10 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment does not exceed \$14,000 for 2005. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

— Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$41,000 in annual contributions.

— Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine, (877) 968-3778 for employees in the 50 States, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and Canada; (504) 255-8777 for employees elsewhere, or on the TSP Web site at [www.tsp.gov/](http://www.tsp.gov/).

— For general questions, call the AFPC contact center at (800) 616-3775. Specific TSP information is available for Airmen at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/)

[TSP/thrift\\_savings\\_plan.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm).

#### **Civilian**

— Contribution limits for this open season are based on which retirement system an employee has.

— Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to 10 percent of basic pay, but they do not receive any agency contributions.

— Specific information is available for civilian employees from the Thrift Savings Plan Web site and the BEST homepage at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm).

— All Air Force-serviced civilian employees will make their TSP contribution elections or changes electronically through the Web-based Employee Benefits Information System at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST\\_GRB/EBIS.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm) or through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 616-3775. Hearing impaired employees may contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial (210) 565-2276 within San Antonio. Overseas employees will dial the direct-access number for the country they are calling from and then enter (800) 997-2378. Counselors are available weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CDT.

-- Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest their money among the five funds) are made via the “Account Access” section of the TSP Web site, or by calling the ThriftLine.

More detailed information can be found in the booklet “Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan” on the home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications.

For more information, call the finance office at 572-5107.

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

## Flickinger music

"Sons of the Pioneers" will be performed 7:30 p.m., Oct. 22 at the Flickinger Center.

For more information, call 437-2202.

## Christmas parade

The Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade is 6 p.m., Dec. 4.

Entries for the parade will be accepted until Nov. 18. Entries received after Nov. 18 will incur late fees. For more information, call CJ Cooper at 434-8313, Alana Stillwell at 434-0285 or the chamber of commerce at 437-6120.

## Mustang Club

The Mustang Club has a "Show and Shine" at 6:30 p.m., every Friday at the Sonic across

from the White Sands Mall.

For more information, call Mr. Damian Orchard 491-7952.

## Fort Craig

The 150th anniversary of Fort Craig will be celebrated with several events Nov. 5 to 7 in Socorro, N.M. The events will include historical presentations, war re-enactments, Southwest and Native American cuisine and night lantern tours. For more information call (505) 835-0412 or visit [www.nm.blm.gov](http://www.nm.blm.gov).

## Lake Lucero Tour

A ranger-guided trip to White Sands National Monument's Lake Lucero, the source of the white sands, is Oct. 30. Reservations are required and can be obtained by

calling monument headquarters at (505) 679-2599 or 479-6124, extension 236. A special use fee is charged for the tour: \$3 per person ages 17 and older, \$1.50 for children and to holders of the Golden Age Pass. Golden Eagle Passports and White Sands Annual Pass do not apply for this special tour.

The trips will begin at 9 a.m. at the Small Missile Range Gate intersection with U.S. Highway 70, 25 miles west of White Sands National Monument headquarters, between mileposts 174 and 175. The tour will return to the Small Missile Range Gate around noon.

Participants will drive their own vehicles 17 miles over paved roads across the White Sands Missile Range to the Lake Lucero trailhead, then hike

3/4 of a mile to the lake.

All vehicles should have a spare tire and sufficient gasoline for the 34-mile round trip. Each person should have sufficient drinking water, a snack if desired, sunglasses, sunscreen, stout walking shoes, and suitable dress for the weather. Cameras may not be used while passing through the missile range, but are encouraged for use while at the monument lake area. Photo identification is required for all adults.

## Apple Festival

The High Rolls-Mountain Park Lions Club's 2004 High Rolls Apple Festival is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at the High Rolls Community Center. It will feature over 50 arts and crafts vendors, local

apples and apple products, food, kids' stuff and entertainment. Admission, parking and ambience are free.

For more information visit [www.highrollsfestivals.com](http://www.highrollsfestivals.com) or call (505) 682-1151.

## Autumn market

There is an Autumn Market 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 23 at John's Episcopal Church, 1114 Indiana Ave. There will be food, arts and crafts.

## Space induction

The New Mexico Museum of Space History has an Induction Day Oct. 23. The reception is at 6 p.m. and the induction is at 8 p.m. Admission is \$35 per person.

For more information, call 437-2840.

**HOSC**

The October Function for the Holloman Officers' Spouses' Club, "Make a Run for the Border – Knock-Off Bingo," is 6 p.m., Wednesday at the O-Club. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Bingo with prizes will follow. Only paid HOSC members or those that join on Wednesday are eligible to win prizes. R.S.V.P. to 479-2222 or Jules at 921-0101 by noon, Monday. HOSC is also holding a special activity this month. A 9 Hole Scramble Golf Gaggle will be held at Holloman Apache Mesa Golf Course on Oct. 22. To register call 572-3574 and for more information call 682-2398 or 437-0790. More information about the HOSC can be found at [www.hollomanosc.com](http://www.hollomanosc.com).

**PTA book fair**

Holloman Middle School Parent Teacher Association has a Mega Book Fair Nov. 29 to Dec. 7 at the Alamogordo public library. Purchases will help Holloman Middle School earn free books.

**HOSC Thrift Shop**

The Thrift Shop will be open 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday. Consignments will not be accepted on this day.

**ID information**

Line badges are issued from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the visitor's center.

Kiddie identification cards are issued 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at the visitor's center.

**Operation Goblin Patrol**

Volunteers are needed for crossing guard and neighborhood watch duties from 6 to 8 p.m., Oct. 31 to help provide a safe environment for children who trick-or-treat on Holloman AFB.



Photo by Ms. Laura Hunt

**'P' is for perseverance**

**Senior Master Sgt. David Watkins mentors Ms. Jo Black's 7th grade class on perseverance as part of the PRIDE program at the Holloman Middle School Tuesday. Sergeant Watkins is a volunteer for Falcon PRIDE, a community-mentoring group that assists students with social and civic development. For more information about the PRIDE program, e-mail Ms. Silvia Papp at [silviapapp2003@yahoo.com](mailto:silviapapp2003@yahoo.com).**

Volunteers should bring their own flashlight with wand.

For more information, call Senior Airman Genarie Medina at 572-5754.

**"Macbeth"**

"Macbeth" will be performed by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival 6 p.m., Wednesday and 11 a.m., Thursday at the base theater.

Tickets are free and can be picked up at the community center. Volunteers are needed to be ushers, ticket takers and to help set up.

For more information, call 572-5597.

**Graduation**

Graduation for students receiving de-

grees from Community College of the Air Force, Central Texas College, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Park University, Troy State University, and University of Phoenix is 3 p.m., Oct. 28, 2004, in Bong Theater. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, call the education center at 572-3971.

**Library collections**

Holloman Primary School will have a year-long fundraiser to raise money for books for the library. They are collecting Box Tops for Education, Price's Milk Caps, Campbell Soup Labels for Education and Tyson's Project A+ end flaps. The school receives 10

cents for every Box Top for Education label, five cents for Price's Milk Caps, and 24 cents for every Tyson's Project A+ end flap. Drop items off at the Holloman Primary School library.

**Science Fair**

There is a Science Fair from 5 to 7 p.m., Nov. 18 at the Holloman Middle School.

Volunteers are needed to display and explain a type of science utilized in their field. Posters, photographs, diagrams, models, actual machinery or any other type of demonstration may be used.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Theodore Holzhausen at 572-0229.

**Tech Expo**

The Technology Expo is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday in the Sierra Lounge of the Officer's Club. All personnel and contractors are invited to attend at no fee.

Many leading manufacturers, developers and system integrators will be demonstrating the latest computer hardware, software and services.

For more information, or if you would like to request a specific company or technology, e-mail Ms. Kathryn Stephenson at [Stephenson@ncsi.com](mailto:Stephenson@ncsi.com) or call (301) 596-8899 extension 245.

**The heat is on**

The heater conversion schedule is as follows:

Monday, 2228A-2249B and 2416A-2441; Tuesday, 2250A-2269A and 2442-2486B; Wednesday, 2269B-2299B and 2487-2489B; Thursday, 2300A-2308A and 2501A-2540; Oct. 22, 2308B-2354A and 2541A-2589; Oct. 25, 2354B-2393B and 2585A-2599.

Rescheduled appointments will be done Oct. 26, 27, 28 and 29.

For more information, call the Housing Service Call Desk at 572-7901.

**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 is 9:30 a.m. and Catholic Religious Education is 10:30 a.m., Sunday at Holloman Intermediate School.

**B** On the **BIG SCREEN**



**Anacondas (PG-13)**

6 and 9 p.m., today

**Hero (PG-13)**

6 and 9 p.m., Saturday

**The Cookout (PG-13)**

6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday

Tickets are 99 cents.







# Services serves up thousands of feasts

by Staff Sgt. Bryan Bouchard

379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs

The days of the chow hall are gone. They have been replaced by a new trend, which sets the Air Force apart from other branches of the military; friendly customer service and out-of-this world food, even while deployed.

But for the people at a forward-deployed services squadron, making the food taste good is never a challenge; it is making it taste good more than 600,000 times a month that keeps them busy.

“We are the second largest food services operation in the world,” said Master Sgt. Bryan Nelson, food services flight chief. He said the largest food services operation is at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for basic military training.

But not too far behind is this location, boasting four dining facilities, a grab-and-go food facility and all the support and

storage to make it happen; however, no operation can happen without good planning.

It all starts with the Air Force Services Agency’s 14-day rotating cycle for menu planning, said Master Sgt. Sean Wade, the facilities’ rations manager.

The cycle dictates to facility managers what they can and cannot serve to the troops.

While food items may be added, like ethnic meals and some specialty items, nothing may be deleted from the menus without higher headquarters approval, said Tech. Sgt. Stephen Runyan, food services accountant.

Once the menu has been established, it is up to Sergeants Wade and Runyan to make sure the facilities’ staff get what they need to feed the troops.

“Just about everyone, coalition-wide, comes through this base at some point in their rotations,” Sergeant Runyan said.

This can sometimes add more to the food services flight’s plate. During rotations, the number of meals required can

peak, and being able to react to these changes is what sets the Airmen apart from civilian food-service operations.

“Within an air [and space] expeditionary force cycle, critical adjustments have to be made,” Sergeant Runyan explained.

Once he has ordered the food from what the services field refers to as a “prime vendor,” the food is delivered, and it is up to Sergeant Wade to make sure there is ample storage for dry, frozen and chilled goods.

Master Sgt. Lilelani Au, a dining facility manager, said that once they look at the amount of food delivered, it is divided among the facilities based on the amount of customers going through each one.

About three days before a food product is served, it is taken from storage and moved to each dining facility for preparation and inspection, Sergeant Au said.

By the time a dish has finally reached a customer, it has been measured for quantity, quality

and public-health standards, Sergeant Nelson said.

“If something is not meeting our high standards, it’s out the door,” he said.

But the food is not cooked in mass quantities. In fact, the food is cooked as it is needed.

By progressively cooking meals, the food services professionals can ensure they are serving the freshest food possible, said Master Sgt. Eusebio Gonzales, another dining facility manager.

Filling the stomachs of troops does not end the process for the food services experts.

Before the planning, ordering, storing and serving food each month, each facility manager must first annotate production logs and analyze what has been a hit or a miss at their facility.

“If an item doesn’t go over well, we’ll pull it,” Sergeant Au said.

But beyond the stress of the clerical and logistical side of running a dining facility, the bottom line for all of the facil-

ity managers is pleasing their customers.

“We try to please everyone,” Sergeant Au said. “We always have customers who want new things.”

The food services Airmen said they try to meet those requests when possible.

“We pay close attention to our customer feedback,” Sergeant Au said. “They are asking for reasonable items. Folks here have been to other places in the (area) and have seen things that may be a good idea here, but some things just aren’t authorized to serve.”

The food services Airmen agreed that no matter how high the quality of food, none of it would be half as palatable without their quality troops working in the facilities.

“Our people take a lot of pride in what they do; there’s a lot of attention to detail here,” Sergeant Nelson said. “Every person who works here believes they work in the best food services flight in the world ... and each of us agrees.” (AFP)

## K-9s receive top care while in deployed location

by Senior Airman Nicole Spence

386th Air Expeditionary  
Wing Public Affairs

In a 110-degree, sandy environment at a forward-deployed location, how does the mission go on when a military working dog is down? As with any combat zone, there are only so many things Airmen can do without the K-9s in place.

Keeping the dogs in good health is a top priority, and that responsibility reaches further than many expect, officials said.

Veterinarians, contingency aeromedical staging facility members, flying crews and dentists are some people who help keep these mission-essential animals in top shape.

Veterinarians play an impor-

tant role in preventative health measures by providing full exams about once every two weeks; however, the military working dogs receive daily health checks from their handlers, said Staff Sgt. Lloyd Evens, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron kennel master.

A lot of the responsibility falls on the dog’s handler to notice any potential problems.

That was the case with Tech. Sgt. John Vanderdrink, 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron handler for his dog, Basco.

Sergeant Vanderdrink noticed his companion had a fractured tooth; something military working dogs are particularly susceptible to because of the nature of their job.

Dogs can damage their teeth

by biting hard objects which results in the tooth’s nerve being exposed, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) David Nunez, 386th Expeditionary Medical Group dentist.

“Veterinary medicine has a sub-specialty of veterinary dentistry; however, those specialists are not as widespread as human dentists. Therefore, occasionally, a human dentist is asked to perform these procedures instead,” Dr. Nunez said.

That is what happened for Basco when Dr. Nunez completed a root canal for him. Luckily, Basco was only out for a day after the root canal and was performing at 100 percent the next day, Sergeant Evens said.

Because of Sergeant Vanderdrink’s careful eye and the quick thinking of the med-

ics, Basco did not have to be medically evacuated to Germany for treatment.

“Usually we can take care of them (locally), but if there is a severe problem that we don’t have the tools for, that’s when we have to med-evac them. We’ve med-evaced two dogs in the past eight months,” said Army Sgt. Mitzie Porter, 993rd Medical Detachment veterinarian technician.

“I really love every aspect of working with the dogs, and when it comes to their health, they are viewed as important as any Soldier or Airman,” Sergeant Porter said.

“The dog’s health is extremely important; without them, we would lose a huge force multiplier and that extra notch of security,” Sergeant Evens said. (AFP)



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Eha carries Mathys during a recent exercise in Southwest Asia. They are assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

# Uniform board incorporates feedback, alters design

by Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski  
Air Force Print News

Based on feedback from the six-month wear test, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper decided to expand the current test program to include a pixelated tiger-striped pattern in a new color scheme on the proposed utility uniform.

The expansion does not involve a full test; instead, there will be a limited production to test pattern and color, said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean, the uniform board superintendent.

"The color scheme is only one of many improvements we are testing," Sergeant Dean said.

A small, select group of testers will wear the newest pattern. The solid ti-

ger-striped pattern with its dominant blue overtones is gone. The latest pixelated test pattern has a more subdued color scheme and is not nearly as distinctive as the one unveiled at the start in August 2003; yet it provides the distinctiveness Airmen have requested, officials said.

"We have sufficient input from Airmen throughout the Air Force to ensure that our uniform decisions are on target with regard to wear, ease of maintenance and fit," Sergeant Dean said. "We kept hearing throughout the test that Airmen loved the wash-and-wear feature and the fit. The design of the uniform will essentially stay the same, with minor modifications based [on] the wear-testers' recommendations."

General Jumper will announce the fi-

---

**“We have sufficient input from Airmen throughout the Air Force to ensure that our uniform decisions are on target with regard to wear, ease of maintenance and fit.”**

**Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean**  
*uniform board superintendent*

---

nal decisions regarding the new utility uniform once the test data are analyzed and presented. Determination is expected within the next two months, officials said.

The new design represents a uniform

that could be universally worn in all environments, Sergeant Dean said. The unique fit and design will remain the same, as Air Force officials said they want a distinctive uniform for Airmen that fits better and is easier and less expensive to maintain.

"There really wasn't much that Airmen didn't like about the design of the uniform," she said, basing her comment on the large volume of feedback the board received via e-mail, surveys, focus groups and online questionnaires. "We really did capture what they needed and what they wanted."

"The chief of staff listened to the Airmen," Sergeant Dean said. "We asked what they wanted in a uniform, what they needed in a uniform and, as a result, this is exactly what we're getting."



# Health care professionals still needed in the Air Force

The Air Force exceeded its enlisted recruiting goal by sending 34,362 people to basic military training in fiscal 2004, but the service was unsuccessful in finding enough physicians, dentists and nurses to meet its health professions goal.

The Air Force had an enlisted recruiting goal of 34,080.

During fiscal 2004 that ended Sept. 30, the service recruited 767 health professionals achieving 83 percent of its goal of 923.

"I salute the efforts of our recruiters who are working hard to find America's best and brightest for our all-volunteer force," said Brig. Gen. Robertus C. N. Remkes, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. "We remain committed to re-

cruiting a diverse, high-quality volunteer force that is representative of the country it serves.

In accomplishing this, we must also stay focused on recruiting people in the right skills, at the right time and in the right numbers."

Besides doing well enlisting Airmen, the service also exceeded its goal commissioning officers into critical career fields including engineers, scientists and weather officers.

With the start of the new fiscal year, General Remkes emphasized that America's Air Force needs hundreds of doctors, nurses and pharmacists as well as people qualified for special operations, such as pararescuemen and combat

controllers.

Beginning with basic training and depending on their specialty, enlisted Airmen earn 12 to 72 accredited hours through their Air Force training, putting them on track to earn an associate's degree in one of more than 60 fields of study from the Community College of the Air Force.

CCAF is the largest community college in the world and is the only community college in the Department of Defense.

"Although the Air Force offers numerous benefits, basic military training surveys continue to indicate the opportunity for further education as the top reason people join the Air Force," General Remkes said. (AFPN)

# 'Gray area' retirees entitled to TRDP

Eligibility for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program extends to all retirees of the Reserve and Guard and their family members, including "gray area" retired Reservists who are entitled to retired pay but will not begin receiving it until age 60.

Although eligibility for this group has been in effect since the TRDP first began in 1998, many retired Reserve and Guard members, and even more "gray area" retirees, still do not realize they are eligible.

Premiums for the TRDP are regionally based on the primary enrollee's residence ZIP code. Title 10 of the United States Code, Section 1076c mandates that monthly premiums for the TRDP be deducted automatically from retired pay through

one of six discretionary allotments. However, "gray area" retired Reservists who are younger than age 60 and who enroll in the program are naturally exempt from the mandatory government deduction, so alternative payment arrangements such as direct billing or EFT will be made.

Retired Reservists and Guard members, including "gray area" retirees, who would like more information about the TRDP can visit the web site at [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org) or call the contract administrator, Delta Dental of California, at (888) 838-8737 for a complete TRDP enrollment packet.

*(Editor's note: this information is from a TRICARE news release)*

# Showing PRIDE

by Ms. Laura Hunt  
Sunburst staff writer

About 30 volunteers are part of the Falcon and Eagle PRIDE programs.

Eagle PRIDE, for third through fifth graders, and Falcon PRIDE, for sixth through eighth graders, are mentoring programs designed to assist Holloman's students with civic and social development, said Ms. Silvia Papp, program coordinator.

Mentors teach the core values of perseverance, respect, integrity, determination and excellence, she said.

"PRIDE creates a focus and vision for the students and school staff as well as for the community members who are involved," Ms. Papp said. "It builds a bridge between school and community, which is vital for the development of our students."

The program also gives volunteers an opportunity to develop leadership skills, she said.

Staff Sgt. Hilario Torres, PRIDE volunteer, mentored eighth graders last year and is volunteering again this year.

"I liked the interaction with the kids," Sergeant Torres said.

"It was amazing to see how smart and attentive they really are."

One session Sergeant Torres taught was on respect.

"I told them that not only did they have to respect their elders, parents, teachers and people in authority, but respect what they do on a daily basis," he said. "The example I used was not taking responsibility for their actions when throwing away trash or seeing trash around school."

Sergeant Torres gave the students homework for that month. He asked them to pick up one piece of trash a day for the entire month.

"Most of the students followed it, and I think they learned a valuable lesson," Sergeant Torres said. "Some also mentioned to me that they couldn't believe how much trash was around and inside the school. My lesson made them aware and responsible for their actions and respectful of what they have."

Mentoring sessions last 30 minutes once a month and mentors are provided a lesson plan.

For more information, e-mail [silviapapp2003@yahoo.com](mailto:silviapapp2003@yahoo.com).









# AF volleyball falls in three to New Mexico

The Air Force Academy women's volleyball team dropped a 3-0 match to visiting University of New Mexico Oct. 8. With both teams looking for their first conference win of the season, it was the Lobos who pulled out the 30-25, 31-29 and 30-23 victory.

With the loss, Air Force moves to 4-11 on the season and 0-5 in the Mountain West Conference.

Air Force opened the scoring in the first match on an UNM error, but its lead was short-lived as four long scoring runs gave New Mexico the advantage. Kristin Hamlett put down the first Air Force kill of the game, while Rebecca Gallegos had two strong serving series. The Falcons tied things at 10 with another UNM error, but the Lobos quickly took control of the game and went on for the 30-25 win.

A Hamlett kill gave Air Force the first point of the second match, but again New Mexico pulled out with the lead. This time, the Falcons stayed close, and a Gallegos kill matched the score at 22-all. The two teams traded points, tying things up 23 and again at 24, until Air Force took its first lead of the game since the opening point. The Lobos tied it at 27, and the Falcons returned to match the score at 28. Holding a 29-28 lead,

Air Force was unable to stop New Mexico as they claimed the three final points for the 31-29 victory.

The Lobos took the first point in the third match and never looked back, as more UNM serving series put the Falcons down early. A New Mexico error tied the score at 15, but the Lobos crept back out. Gallegos posted her second service ace of the match to bump up her season total to a team-leading 19 aces. Despite several kills by Gallegos, Hamlett and Molly White, the Falcons fell to the Lobos 30-23.

Air Force hit well in the game, posting a team hitting percentage of .238 — a mark just off New Mexico's .245 total. White's match-leading 15 kills contributed to a team-leading .444 hitting percentage (15 kills on 27 assists, with three errors). Hamlett was just below the .400 plateau (.393) with 13 kills on 28 attacks, with one pair of errors. Carly Siefken killed three of six attacks, while committing a single error (.333) and added 37 assists to her totals. Hamlett also collected a team-best 10 digs for her third double-double of the season.

The Falcons play the University of Nevada-Las Vegas today and San Diego State Saturday. (AFP)



## Wing Commander's Cup

The German air force team placed first in the Wing Commander's Cup golf tournament Oct. 2. Six teams participated in the event.

## Roller hockey

The Alamogordo Roller Hockey Association registration is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday at the roller hockey arena next to the Boys' and Girls' Club in Alamogordo. Age groups include 10 and under, 14 and under, 17 and under, and adults.

For more information, call Steve Arnold, league director, at 434-3960.

## Flag football

The intramural flag football playoffs have started. The season was cut short to prepare for the Operational Readiness Exercise and Inspection. The soccer season will be postponed until after the ORI.

For more information, call the Fitness and Sports Center at 572-3229.

## HMS

Holloman Middle School Falcons play the last football game at 11 a.m., Saturday at HMS.







