



Space Observer

“2003 AFSPC Best Large Wing PA Office”

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 48 No. 16



21st Contracting Squadron 'best in AF'

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Courtesy photo

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Straight Talk Line 556-9154



Photo courtesy of Thule Air Base Public Affairs

Taking the Thule tour

Chaplain (Capt.) "Buddy" Walker practices using a dog whip after a quick lesson from Qaqutsiaq Neilsen, a Greenlandic hunter from Savissivik, Greenland, during the 2004 Thule Open House April 10 at Thule Air Base, Greenland. The event allowed Thule's multicultural community to interact with members of the local Greenland community as 20 dog sleds arrived from Savissivik and Moriussaq. About 150 people attended the event.

Team 21 wins top place in space

By Brig. Gen. Richard Webber
21st Space Wing commander

Since taking command in early March, I have had the pleasure of seeing the 21st Space Wing in action. Every day we prove that we truly are America's leader in space. The hard work and dedication by the men and women who contribute to our mission around the world has culminated in this great wing being named the Robert T. Herres Award winner for 2003. This award, which is given

to the best overall space wing with a space mission, is a true testament to the dedication and professionalism that the men and women of the 21st show day in and day out.

This award recognizes not only your commitment to achieving the mission, but also your efforts to promote morale and esprit de corps and your pursuit of excellence. I'm proud to lead this team of professionals to new successes in the future.

Reflecting on this outstanding

accomplishment, I am reminded of the key focus areas I introduced when I took command of the 21st SW, which are striving for excellence, providing world-class support and ensuring that we take care of each other. We have proven that excellence can be achieved and it is our mission now to continue working toward future accomplishments in support of space operations.

Being recognized as Air Force Space Command's best space wing is merely a stepping-stone for the quality

of support we must continue to provide the warfighter through our critical missions of missile warning and space control. With the devoted professionals we have on our outstanding team, I am confident that we will continue to lead the nation in the space arena.

Our focus now is to not rest on our recent successes, but to build on them for the future. Take pride in your accomplishments and enjoy the recognition that comes with being the best. You earned it!

Correction

The article featured on page 7 of the April 15 *Space Observer*, titled, "It doesn't take a hero", was not an account of the Jessica Lynch rescue. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Do you have an interesting or important job?

Everyone on Peterson Air Force Base has a unique mission. We would like to feature your office or shop in the "A Day in the Life" series, so people can learn more about how you contribute to Team Pete. To nominate your workplace, call the editor at 556-4351 or e-mail the *Space Observer* at space.observer@peterson.af.mil

Space Observer

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21st Space Wing Commander

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A Moment in Time



■ **April 24, 1975** – The first women participate in a missile competition. One serves on an electronics laboratory maintenance team, the other on a re-entry vehicle maintenance team.

■ **April 26, 1948** – The U.S. Air Force becomes the first service to plan for racial integration, anticipating President Truman's executive order to be issued in July.

■ **April 28, 1958** – After an in-flight explosion, 1st Lt. James Obenauf notices an unconscious crewmember. Instead of ejecting, Obenauf pilots the B-47 to a safe landing at Dyess AFB, Texas. He receives the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism.

SFS team ready to compete

By Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The Guardian Challenge Security Forces team is ready to lay down the law at Air Force Space Command's annual competition at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., May 2-7.

For months, security forces members from the 21st Security Forces Squadron, the 137th Space Warning Squadron Security Forces Flight, Greeley, Colo., and the 721st Security Forces Squadron, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo., have been preparing to represent the wing.

Second Lt. David Keithan, a member of the 721st SFS, has been training this year's competitors.

The lieutenant said teamwork is essential to win.

"They will do very well because they are a team," he said.

This year's team is unique because this is the first time guardsmen will compete with active duty personnel as a combined security forces team at Guardian Challenge.

The team has been sharpening their field tactics and marksmanship at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"They run a lot, do a lot of endurance exercises, a lot of shooting and complete various tactics scenarios," Lieutenant Keithan said.

"We have two weeks left and the team is on track, focused and motivated."

Scores from the security forces portion of the competition will be included in the overall wing score toward winning the Aldridge Trophy.



Photo courtesy of the 721st SFS

The Security Forces Guardian Challenge team practices every Friday at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Team members are: Staff Sgt. Duane Blackmon, 137th Space Warning Squadron, Greeley, Colo.; Staff Sgt. Jon Scott, 137th SWS, Staff Sgt. Matthew Tussey, 137th SWS; Airman 1st Class Thanongsack Phanda, 721st Security Forces Squadron, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo.; Airman 1st Class Steven Israel, 21st Security Forces Squadron.

ANG unit soars to AF-level recognition

By Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The 137th Security Forces Flight, based in Greeley, Colo., recently earned the Air Force 2003 Outstanding Security Forces Air National Guard Unit award.

The Air Force level award is the culmination of eight years of hard work honing skills, procedures and policies, said Col. Bill Hudson, the 137th Space Warning Squadron commander.

"This is a top notch unit," Colonel Hudson said. "They deserve to get this recognition for the hard work they've done."

The commander acknowledged how effectively these guardsmen mobilized and trained to protect criti-

cal assets during peace and wartime.

The unit was brought up in austere circumstances in 1996, and they've shown that they can lead, he said.

"One of the greatest parts of recognizing these men and women at the Air Force level is that it really demonstrates the Total Force mission," said Senior Master Sgt. Andy Archeuletta, the 137th SFF superintendent.

The members of the 137th not only dedicate their time to the mission, but are also active in the community.

Colonel Hudson describes the team as a well-rounded unit that is heavily involved in the community, promoting the Air Force, the Air National Guard and Air Force Space Command through their time and commitment – on and off duty.



Courtesy photo

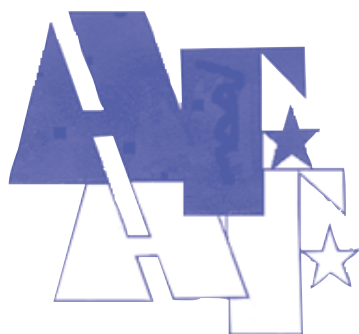
Chief Master Sgt. Gilbert McKay, 137th Security Forces Flight, Greeley, Colo., and Maj. Chris Bean, the 137th SFF flight commander, accept the Air Force 2003 Outstanding Security Forces Air National Guard Unit award in a ceremony at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Gen. Gregory S. Martin, the Air Force Materiel Command commander, Brig. Gen. James M. Shames, the Air Force director of security forces, and Chief Master Sgt. Levi Scott, the Air Force security forces manager, presented the award.

Air Force Assistance Fund

Team Pete goal - \$74,580.66

Contributed so far - \$88,150.04



0%

118%
GOAL



FSC VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

The Family Support Center hosts a luncheon today at 11 a.m. at the Enlisted Club for all volunteers who have given time to on-base agencies. For more information, call Jim Reynolds at 556-6141.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION TODAY

Today at 10 a.m. on the east lawn of the Clinic, The 21st Space Wing will receive the Tree City U.S.A. award from the state Forestry Department today at 10 a.m. on the east lawn of the Clinic. A tree planting with children from the child development centers is also planned as a tribute to Earth Day.

VITA AWARDS

The Peterson Legal Office will host its annual VITA awards celebration at 10 a.m. tomorrow in the atrium of the Mission Support Center, Building 350.

LAW DAY

The Peterson Legal Office will host its annual Law Day celebration April 30. The celebration will honor the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. the Board of Education. Events include a luncheon at the Officers' Club, golf tournament and a police dog demonstration. For more information, call Capt. Andrew Dunnaville at 556-4871.

BLACK HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Peterson Black Heritage Committee is sponsoring a \$500 scholarship for Colorado Springs high school seniors. To compete, students must submit an essay on a selected topic. The deadline for submissions is April 30. Call Kervin Mack at 554-3257 for information.

EXERCISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The city of Colorado Springs, Colo., is asking for 140 volunteers to test the hospital system May 12 for CONDOR CREST 04-03/GLOBAL MIRROR. For

more information, call Christy Martinez, Office of Emergency Management, at 385-7396 or Rose Marie Clouse at 385-7228.

The base needs seven volunteers for the field exercise on May 6-7, base MARE on May 10-11 and CONDOR CREST 04-03/GLOBAL MIRROR on May 12. Civil Service, military and others are encouraged to call the Wing Exercise Branch at 556-6489 to sign up.

COMMISSARY HOLDS CASE LOT SALE

The Commissary conducts a case lot sale on May 1-2.

NCOA HOLDS PME HIRE BRIEF

The Peterson NCO Academy conducts a Professional Military Education Hire Briefing in the NCO Academy Auditorium on May 5 at 11:05 a.m. Those interested in Enlisted PME duty are encouraged to attend. The briefing will last approximately 40 minutes and contains information on what it is like to be a PME instructor, the basic qualifications, and application procedures. The briefing applies to all levels of Enlisted PME duty. For more information, call Master Sgt. Lawrence Selman at 556-1994.

STREET STRIPING SCHEDULED

The annual street striping is scheduled for May 1-2, with a weather back-up date of May 8-9. The The 21st Civil Engineer Squadron will also start repainting all crosswalks, stop bars and arrows on base beginning May 1, with an estimated completion date of May 30.

AFSPC ANNOUNCES 2004 FAMILY DAYS

Air Force Space Command designated family days are: July 2, Sept. 3, Nov. 26, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30 to coincide with the federal holidays of Independence Day and Labor Day, and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, respectively.

GC COINS, PINS, PATCHES

Guardian Challenge coins, pins, and patches are now on sale. There are both 2003 and 2004 items for sale. The 2004 coins are \$5, the 2004 pins are \$3, and the 2004 patches are \$3.50. For those interested in the 2003 collectors items, the coins are \$1, pins are \$1, and the patches are 50 cents. For more information, contact Capt. Lance Willoghby at 556-4570.

FITNESS CENTER CONSTRUCTION

The Fitness and Sports Center will be building a second level over the dumbbell room for storage and to reinforce the floor of the Health and Wellness Center unit above the free weight room. Construction is scheduled to begin Monday and is estimated to be completed July 19. During that time, the dumbbell room will be moved to share half of the Spinning Room. The weights and dumbbells will be moved today and tomorrow.

CLINIC ROOF

The work on the 21st Medical Group roof has been postponed for two weeks. The new project completion date is May 28.

CHAPEL MUSICIANS NEEDED

The Peterson Chapel is searching for qualified applicants to bid on positions now open. The positions are Contemporary/Inspirational Service Praise Team Leader and Contemporary/Inspirational Service Pianist. Bids will be accepted through 4:30 p.m. tomorrow. For more information contact Ch. (Maj.) Bruce Glover at 556-4442.

AFROTC INSTRUCTOR DUTY

The Air Force ROTC program has instructor openings for technical and master sergeants. If you are interested or need more information call 1-800-522-0033 extension 2354.



Chapel Schedule



Protestant Worship Services:

Liturgical Service, 6:30 p.m. Sat.
Traditional Worship Service,
8 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School 9:35 a.m. Sun.
Contemporary/Inspirational Service,
11 a.m. Sun.

Catholic

Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m.
(except Monday)
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation Saturdays, 4 p.m.

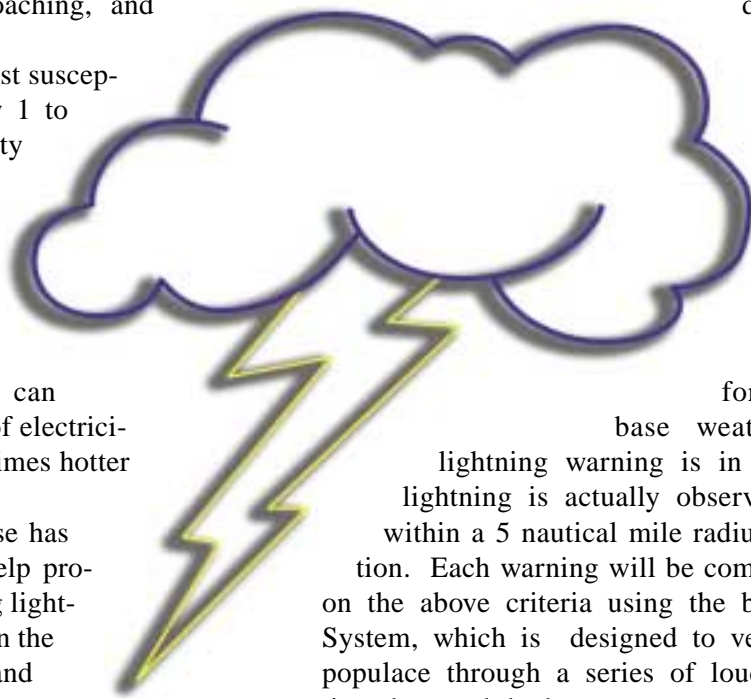
**For more information -
Call the chapel at 556-4442 for
available chapel programs.

Preparedness key for lightning safety

Summer is fast approaching, and with it comes lightning.

Colorado Springs is most susceptible to lightning from May 1 to September 1, with the majority of lightning occurring in July and August. During these months, the typical calm and motionless skyline can quickly turn hazardous. In just seconds, lightning can suddenly pierce with a bolt of electricity with a temperature three times hotter than the surface of the sun.

For this reason, the base has implemented measures to help protect people from approaching lightning. These measures come in the form of lightning watches and warnings. While it is wise to take protective measures in either case, knowing the



difference can save a life. A lightning watch is issued when lightning is possible within a 5 nautical mile radius of the base, as forecasted by the base weather station. A lightning warning is in effect whenever lightning is actually observed or occurring within a 5 nautical mile radius of the installation. Each warning will be communicated based on the above criteria using the base Giant Voice System, which is designed to verbally reach the populace through a series of loud speakers positioned around the base.

While participation in some outdoor activities

can make people more susceptible to lightning strikes, anywhere outdoors involves risk during a lightning storm. However, locations near water, such as pools and puddles, trees, and high, open ground are more at risk for strikes. For protection from lightning strikes, seek shelter in a completely enclosed building or hard-topped, all-metal vehicle. If outdoors or in an open area with no shelter available, avoid being the tallest object by crouching on the balls of your feet to lower your profile. Remain clear of water (pools, puddles, lakes, off of boats). Immediately discontinue activities involving metal objects such as golf clubs, fishing rods and tennis rackets. If lightning storms are forecast, have an alternate plan for activities.

Preparedness is the key to protecting yourself. If a watch is issued, identify the closest shelter and be prepared to take cover should a warning be issued. Remember these key tips on lightning safety and let good judgment be your guide!

(Courtesy of the 21st Space Wing Safety Office)

Peterson Legal Office celebrates Law Day

This year's National Law Day is April 30.

Law Day is a national event held on or around May 1 every year. It is designed to remind Americans of their heritage of liberty under law and alert them to the role they play as citizens in protecting and preserving our freedoms.

In 1961, Congress officially designated May 1 as Law Day to recognize and honor our country's rich heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the

rule of law, said Maj. Gen. Thomas Fiscus, judge advocate general.

"Law Day is important because it gives the local community a chance to see the many players involved in the legal system, as well as the varied services we provide on a daily basis," said Capt. Jenny Johnson, 21st Space Wing Judge Advocate.

Law Day 2004 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of*

Education. This historic case was the culmination of a long line of court cases brought by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense Fund. *Brown v. Board of Education* struck down laws segregating public schools across America, sounded the death knell for government-sanctioned segregation generally, made all Americans more aware of our Constitution's promise of equality, and helped launch the civil rights movement.

The Peterson Legal Office holds its annual Law Day celebration April 30. Events include a luncheon at the Officers' Club featuring the Hon. Gilbert Martinez, Chief District Judge for El Paso County; a golf tournament and a police dog demonstration.

For more information about these events, call Capt. Andrew Dunnaville at 556-4871. Registration is encouraged due to limited space. *(Courtesy of 21st Legal Office)*

Deadly West Nile virus expected to return

By Debbie Kubik
Academy Spirit staff

Academy officials aren't wasting time getting the word out about this year's West Nile Virus threat.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly 80,500 Coloradoans were infected in 2003.

"This is the tip of the iceberg," said Lt. Col. Steven Niehoff, 10th Medical Group director of public health here. "It's only the people who were sick enough to seek medical attention and their physician had to have the test done. The bottom line is that we know a lot more people were infected."

Colorado officially reported 2,945 positive cases in 2003; 114 cases were in El Paso county.

One of those cases was 1st Lt. Chip Hollinger, 21st Mission Support Group executive officer at Peterson AFB.

The lieutenant had just returned home from a three-month deployment to Baghdad. He "felt fine" while there, and his physical screening before returning was normal.

After working long hours during the day preparing for an operational readiness inspection, the lieutenant was doing yard work at night at his home.

Although not unusual, Lieutenant Hollinger noticed he was being bit my mos-

quitoes.

"I wasn't taking any precautions [to prevent the virus]," he said. "I woke up one Friday and felt kind of sick."

By 2 p.m. that day, Lieutenant Hollinger drove to the emergency room at the Academy, complaining of flu-like symptoms. The 34-year-old laid in the ER a few hours, his headache subsided and he went home.

Part of the medical attention given by the 10th Medical Group was the administration of a West Nile Virus test. The lieutenant would have to wait two weeks to know the results.

"I felt some relief from the headache, but I slept for 14 hours straight," said the lieutenant. After awakening, his symptoms were worse, and he returned to the ER.

At that time, doctor performed a spinal tap, hoping to rule out meningitis. For precaution, Lieutenant Hollinger was placed in isolation in case he had spinal meningitis, which not only is highly contagious but often mistaken for the WNV.

After staying four days, the lieutenant was released from the hospital and once again "felt fine." The results from the meningitis test were negative.

He returned to work and hoped to return to a normal routine. Lieutenant began to feel sick again. Feeling very lethargic, he decided to go to the clinic at Peterson.

— See West Nile virus, Page 10

1954: Journey to the high frontier begins

Editor's note: Fifty years ago, Air Force pioneers set their sights on the high frontier. This year, we honor the achievements that launched today's Air Force into the realm of space superiority. Each week, the Space Observer will feature a segment dedicated to these 50 Years in Space and Missiles.

General Bernard A. Schriever pioneered the development of the nation's intercontinental ballistic missile and served as the first commander of the Western Development Division (later the Ballistic Missile Division) in Inglewood, Calif., beginning in 1954. The following year he undertook responsibility for Weapon System 117L, the initial Air Force space program. Throughout the 1950s, answering the challenges posed by the Soviet Union, General Schriever fostered the growth of the nation's new ballistic missile and space programs.

Today, the Air Force's ballistic missiles and its communications



Gen. Schriever

and detection satellites provide the nation with an aerospace capability second to none and help guarantee peace. These systems are living testimony to his leadership of the ballistic missile and space programs and mark him as "the Father of the US Air Force's Space Program."

(Courtesy of Headquarters Air Force Space Command Website)





Team Pete answers the call

By Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

It started with an e-mail from Iraq. A deployed member from Air Force Space Command Headquarters typed a message to her home station, urging her fellow Team Pete members to donate needed supplies to wounded troops on the front lines.

Team Pete responded by donating nine large boxes of supplies for shipment to Iraq.

“What started as a unit project quickly blossomed into a base-wide effort to support our combat troops wounded in action,” said Col. Jack Anthony, the AFSPC director of personnel.

“We were really overwhelmed with kindness,” said Tracy Dockum, the AFSPC HQ family programs manager. “The first sergeants and people all over base really stepped up.”

In her e-mail from Baghdad Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters, Lt. Col. Catherine Lovelady, a division chief from the AFSPC DP described the situation at the largest surgical hospital in Iraq. She explained how the wounded often come into the hospital with only what they are wearing. Hygiene items like toothbrushes, razors and clean T-shirts are often in short supply.

“Yesterday, my boss (a Marine) had gone to visit some of the Marines brought here from the Fallujah fighting,” Colonel Lovelady said. “When he asked one of the wounded Marines if there was anything he could get for him, the Marine requested a razor so he could



Photo by Tracy Dockum

Within days, nine boxes of hygiene items were collected from Team Pete.

shave and be within standards again before he was discharged from the hospital.”

“The strong camaraderie among the services is evident,” Colonel Anthony said. “This was a simple way for us to honor these brave Marines.”

Anyone who has deployed, or who has loved ones who are deployed, can appreciate how much these

seemingly small gestures really mean, Ms. Dockum said.

“It really is humbling when you think about these young men and women who have been wounded, some of them terribly, and they are really excited about getting a razor or some chocolate candy,” Col. Lovelady said.

It's coming – are you ready?

Thirty-eight days and counting...

Leaders approve new civilian personnel plan

By K.L. Vantran

[American Forces Press Service](#)

WASHINGTON – Defense Department senior leaders approved the plans for the new national security personnel system, an official announced here April 14.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England, who heads the project, made the announcement. The system, authorized by the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, will introduce changes in the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires its civilian employees. Six teams of about 25 to 30 people, representing various agencies within the department, spent several weeks reviewing the system, said Secretary England at a meeting with reporters in the Pentagon. Representatives from the Office of Personnel Management and Office of Management and Budget also participated. The teams received briefings from Department of Homeland Security and General Accounting Office officials.

Earlier this month, Secretary England and David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, sent a letter to the department's civilian

employees on the progress of the system. "The task before us is to design a transformed system for the department's 700,000 civilian employees that supports our national security mission while treating workers fairly and protecting their rights," the letter stated. "We want to ensure that all stakeholders in the new system – including civilian employees (and) managers ... have an opportunity to provide their thoughts, ideas, views and concerns."

The consensus for the journey ahead, Secretary England said, includes a full partnership with the OPM.

"They're working with us, providing assistance and expertise, in developing regulations which are to be signed by the defense secretary and the director of OPM," he said.

"We look forward to this effort," said George Nesterzuk, OPM's senior adviser to the director for the Department of Defense. "It will take awhile, but we're going to do it right. The inclusion of employees and key stakeholders is vital to the success of this effort."

While the system is mission-first, it is also employee-centric, and Secretary England said he encourages input from employees. Mechanisms such

as Web pages and town meetings will not only provide information to the work force, but also will allow for feedback.

The plan also calls for "aggressive, but event-driven schedules," he said. The first milestone is to have a labor-relations draft regulation to the Federal Register by November.

"We have schedules, but they could be longer (or) they could be shorter, because it's event-driven, and it depends on how we (complete) each step," Secretary England said. "We won't go to the next step until we finish, because we are going to do it right. We won't rush it."

"We'll go through this in stages and phases," he said. "We'll get feedback, and we'll keep improving the program as we proceed."

Secretary England said the system is a great opportunity for employees, the Defense Department and America.

"It's a great opportunity to have a terrific program for our employees, and I'm convinced we will," he said. "The process will work, and the product will be one that everyone will want to embrace and be proud to embrace."

Foundation seeks inputs for Air Force memorial

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

[Air Force Print News](#)

WASHINGTON – Air Force Memorial Foundation officials are seeking ideas for inscriptions to be placed at the new memorial site. The official groundbreaking will take

place Sept. 15 at the memorial site, just southwest of the Pentagon.

The focal point of the Air Force memorial will be a 270-foot monument featuring three spires that point toward space, said retired Maj. Gen. Edward F. Grillo, Air Force Memorial Foundation president.

The site will also include an area called "Walls of Reflection."

The walls – seven translucent glass panels arranged around a square center area – are to bear inscriptions, the general said. A site and design committee, along with General Grillo, will complete the inscription process.

The committee wants ideas for inscriptions from Airmen and anybody else who has an interest in the service, General Grillo said.

Suggestions for inscriptions at the memorial can be e-mailed to the inscription committee at afmf@airforcememorial.org.



– West Nile virus, from Page 7

After the officer received several medications for his headache and flu-like symptoms, he went home and slept. He was granted sick leave for the rest of the week.

“I woke up on a Sunday and felt 100 percent better,” said the lieutenant. “I went for a run. I had an appetite. I felt fine.”

The symptoms that seemed to appear overnight disappeared.

Another local case involved Mr. Stephen Allen, a satellite communications technician contractor at Schriever AFB.

Like Lieutenant Hollinger, Mr. Allen had been working diligently outside his house. But, he had sprayed himself with insect repellent.

“We just bought a repossessed house,” Mr. Allen said. “I had been working outside moving bushes and noticed being bit on the arm by a mosquito.”

He and his wife, Miranda, were planning a trip to Washington, D.C., for unrelated medical treatments, and although Mr. Allen felt sick that night, he mowed the yard before they left.

After a couple of days, though, Mr. Allen began to feel sick again.

“The left side of my body and the left side of my head began to go numb,” he said. “I was having difficulty walking. I was supposed to care for my wife who was bedridden for several days.”

Instead of being the caregiver, Mr. Allen had to be hospitalized. The medical personnel weren’t sure what was wrong, but they administered at least 10 tests, including one for the West Nile Virus.

He was leaking cerebral fluid and his temperature rose to 104.8 degrees. He was iced down to lower his temperature, and stayed sick for several more days.

Although he wasn’t well enough to be discharged, the hospital where Mr. Allen was admitted was receiving a large number of incoming patients, and they needed rooms. He was released after 10 days.

Mr. Allen and Lieutenant Hollinger were con-

tacted by the El Paso County Health Department and told they tested positive for the virus. The Colorado Public Health and Environment Department developed a four-page questionnaire to look at the broad spectrum of the West Nile Virus it and included questions like the date of onset, duration of illness, exposure and complications. These questions are given to people who’ve tested positive for the virus.

Although Lieutenant Hollinger doesn’t have side effects from the virus, Mr. Allen has noticed some effects.

Mr. Allen was diagnosed with asthma before his life-changing mosquito bite, and his breathing has been adversely affected. He still plans to take the same precautions he did in the summer of 2003.

“I always wear skin protection because I don’t like to swat away the bugs,” he said. “I like to be outdoors, and I’m not planning to stay indoors because of this.”

Precautions will be necessary because experts predict a return of the threat.

“WNV is such a complex interaction of variables in the environment, and weather plays a big part,” said Mr. John Pape, epidemiologist in charge of West Nile Virus surveillance at the CPHEd.

“One thing we know is that we will see the virus this year. Everyone who saw it last year will see it again. Unfortunately, we can’t predict the degree it will appear,” Mr. Pape said.

The virus, first identified in 1937 in the West Nile region of Uganda, Africa, spread to the United States in 1999.

Infected mosquitoes transmit the virus to birds and mammals through their bite.

The primary carrier of this virus, *Culex tarsalis*, is known as a container breeder and requires very little water to breed.

Eighty percent of those who are infected with mosquito-borne viruses don’t become ill. For persons who do become ill, the time between the mosquito bite and the onset of symptoms ranges from three to 14 days.

“Unfortunately, there’s still no specific treatment for WNV infection. I realize I’m sounding like a broken record, but prevention is the key,” Colonel Niehoff said.

“We’ll need to protect ourselves once mosquitoes begin to re-emerge. This depends on temperatures, water availability and other factors. Last year cases began about mid-June, they peaked in August and disappeared by mid-October. I recommend people begin using repellents in May, or earlier if they have mosquito problems. Also, people traveling to other areas of the state or country may need to start earlier,” Colonel Niehoff said.

Mr. Pape agrees.

“But it’s a delicate, tight rope,” he said. “We need to be concerned enough to take precautions, but not so much that we’re afraid to go outside. You can take a variety of approaches and not let it interfere with normal activities. Pick out preventive things to do and do them.”

For more information, visit <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/zoonosis/wnv/WNVpamphlet.pdf>.

Protection recommendations

There are several ways for humans to protect themselves from the virus.

- Limit outdoor activity at dawn and dusk when most mosquitoes are feeding.

- Wear protective clothing such as lightweight-long pants and a long-sleeved shirt when going outside. Mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing.

- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin areas when outside. Repellents containing DEET are effective but should be applied sparingly.

Products containing 10 percent or less DEET are available for children more than two years of age. Consult a pediatrician for their advice prior to using any repellent on children.

- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes in them.

- Drain standing water.



Down Range

By Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen

21st Space Wing Public Affairs

I write this column with a heavy heart. This will be my final Down Range article. I will have PCS'd by the



Colorado offers a variety of fishing opportunities.

time this hits the press. To all of those who enjoyed reading the column, thanks for your support.

It's been a while since there has been a Down Range. Since then, the weather has gotten much warmer, the ice is melted off of the ponds, and the snow in the mountains is disappearing. So what's that mean to the outdoor enthusiast? It means the fish will be biting, the trails will be calling and it's time to get in shape for summer.

The evenings, while still a bit chilly at times, are great for taking a nice walk around the base. If the evenings don't work, try the weekend. I like to take my daughter over to the park and let her burn some energy, and then we walk up to the Shopette and maybe buy a Popsicle or little treat. Not only is it fun for her but keeping a good pace helps me get in shape.

If you're into a more extreme sport like hiking, rock climbing or things of that nature, there's a ton for you to do within a short drive. Now, taking a hike or going climbing takes a little advance planning and risk assessment, but it can be done. I can't say I recommend going for a hike until the snow is melted because it's still pretty



Courtesy photos

Outdoor recreation offers weekly white water rafting trips down the Arkansas River.

cold up in the hills, but to each their own. When I climbed Mt. Elbert in August, it was only 50 degrees and windy at the summit.

Whitewater rafting, for those crazy enough to do it, is a great way to get the adrenaline pumping and have fun. Outdoor Recreation takes weekly trips down the Arkansas River for anyone interested.

Maybe sitting on the bank of a lake in a lawn chair, relaxing, waiting for a fish to bite is more your speed. The base ponds are a great place to fish. The state stocks them with fish and they're open to the base populace. All you need is a valid state fishing license and a stamp from Outdoor Rec and you're in. I've seen some of the fish in

the pond and they're pretty good size.

For those who really aren't in to fishing, hiking, rock climbing, or whitewater, there are a number of other things to do. For instance, the intramural softball season will be kicking off soon. The powerhouse Director of Staff team that won the base championships will be back again this year to defend their title, so you can go out and watch a game.

Plant some flowers outside your house and spruce it up a little, tackle that messy garage you've been putting off cleaning, or take a walk downtown. It really doesn't matter what you do, it's just nice to get outside and do something. And Colorado is the place to do it.

A day in the life of 21st CONS



By Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The 21st Contracting Squadron was recently recognized as the Air Force's Outstanding Contracting Unit. The unit won this award two out of the last three years. Their accomplishments include an "Outstanding" rating, two professional performers, three best practices and a professional team award during the Inspector General evaluation.

They also provided support to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit, where they were the sole contract authority responsible for a \$12 million budget, managed the \$4 billion utilities privatization program for Air Force Space Command, won the Air Force Productivity Excellence Award and the President's Quality Award.

"There's virtually no mission in the 21st Space Wing that's not touched by a contractor in some way," said Lt. Col. Reggie Selby, the 21st CONS commander.

Contractors perform operations and maintenance on radars around the world in support of the 21st SW operational mission.

Contractors also provide grounds maintenance, manage supply, maintenance and transportation activities, operate the library, deliver mail to the dormitories, help keep the com-

puter systems running, build new facilities, perform refuse collection and do custodial work on the base.

"The military members within the 21st CONS make up a strong team of contingency contracting officers and have deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom," Colonel Selby said.

During their deployments, the civilian contracting professionals continued to provide first-class contracting support and service, he said.

Their dedication, commitment and strong mission focus earned them the distinction at the Air Force level. Suzanne Snyder was the recipient of the Secretary of the Air Force Professionalism in contracting award for 2003.

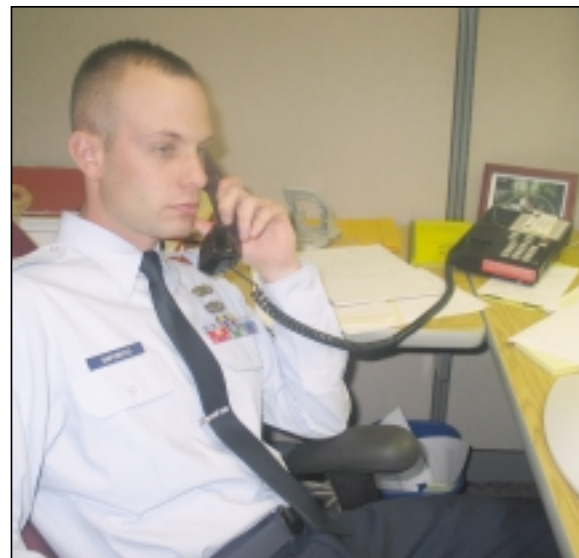
The 21st CONS manages more than \$2.5 billion in contracts and awards over \$350 million in contracts annually, Colonel Selby said.

"Our job is to find the best way to craft a business deal. It's important for us to work together with our customers, to plan ahead and perform in-depth market research in order to write a contract that clearly conveys what we want our contractors to accomplish," he said. "This process can take months, or in some cases up to two years, but when spending out taxpayer's money, it is our responsibility to do it right. We are also responsible for ensuring that after a contract is awarded, we receive the services we are paying for."

"The professionals within the 21st CONS are the best in the business, and are ready, willing and prepared to spend your money with competence and integrity" Colonel Selby said.



Tech. Sgt. Shemika Young, a 21st CONS contracting specialist, looks over her files. The squadron handles contracts for anti-terrorism landscaping being done throughout the base.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Sue Mrowiec

ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Anthony Saporito, a 21st CONS contracting specialist, manages contracts for the squadron.

LEFT: Staff Sgt. Michael DeSouto, a 21st CONS contracting specialist, conducts a labor interview with Chuck Botkin, a contractor who is doing electrical work in Hangar 140. The interview helps ensure everything is kept fair.

RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Squires, a 21st CONS contracting specialist, works in one of eight buildings in which the squadron operates.



Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around Peterson are to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on base. These entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter:

*** Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

BASE HOUSING BUST – April 8

A resident in Base housing called security forces to report a group of nearby teenagers who were using vulgar language and smoking underage. After assessing the situation, one of the smoke-sucking hooligans was taken into custody by security forces, and was later collected from the station by a sponsor.

SHOPPETTE STRIKE – April 8

Security forces responded to the Shoppette parking lot, where a military member reported damage to his 2003 red Ford Mustang. While inside the dry cleaners, the caller observed the driver of the vehicle parked next to his strike his car while opening the door to exit his vehicle. The Mustang mangler reportedly shook his head as he assessed the damage he caused and left the scene – leaving a dented door.

MEDICAL RESPONSE – April 9

The Fire Department and American Medical Response personnel responded to the 21st Security Forces Squadron, where a military member was experiencing chest pains. He was transported to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT – April 9

Security forces, the Fire Department and AMR responded to an accident at the intersection

of Stewart Avenue and Otis Street. A military member was struck by a car when he ran out from behind the tree line, surprising the oncoming motorist. The driver slammed on the brakes, but was unable to avoid hitting the pedestrian. The Colorado Springs Police Department responded to the scene and issued a summons for Failure to Provide Proof of Insurance, but determined the driver did not cause the accident.

STOLEN PROPERTY – April 9

A security forces member reported a stolen second chance vest. Apparently the vest was swiped from the Schriever Air Force Base posting van as it shuttled between the bases. Security Forces is investigating the incident.

RECKLESS REVELRIE – April 9

Security forces responded to Dormitory 590, after receiving reports that several residents were racing vehicles along Ent Avenue. Patrollers contacted the individuals in question, who appeared to have been drinking alcohol. Witnesses reported seeing the sloshed suspects commandeering the dorm manager's golf cart, in addition to driving erratically in the dorm parking lot and on the grass earlier that evening. The troublesome trio was transported to the U.S. Air Force Academy Hospital for sobriety testing. Each was issued citations ranging from Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated to Reckless Driving and Damage to Government Property.

CAR CAPER – April 12

Security forces responded to the Thrift Shop parking lot, where some crafty criminal reportedly made off with a car – piece by piece. The vehicle vandal removed the headlights, front grill, rims, stereo equipment, steering column, radio and heater knob of a 1997 blue Honda Accord. The car was locked at the time of the break in, though the alarm was not working.

SHOPLIFTING – April 12

Security forces responded to the Base Exchange, where a shoplifting suspect was being detained for swiping two compact discs worth \$25.90. CSPD responded and issued a summons for Shoplifting.

9-1-NEVER MIND – April 12

Security forces responded to an emergency call hang up originating from Base Housing. The phone folly apparently resulted from misdialing a long distance phone number.

EAGLE EYES – April 12

Security Forces received an Eagle Eye report from law enforcement at the West Gate. The caller reported seeing two silhouettes of individuals in the tree line off base running in a southern direction along the perimeter fence near the West Gate.

MISSING MONEY – April 14

Security forces responded to the 21st Space Communications Squadron, where an employee reported her wallet stolen. The caller left her purse on a desk in the office while she left to attend a staff meeting. When she returned, she noticed her wallet was missing from her purse. Inside the wallet was about \$40.

AIRCRAFT INCIDENT – April 14

Security forces responded to a small fuel leak emitting from the tail of a fighter on the flight line. The Fire Department arrived on scene and stopped the leak.

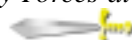
IT'S FOR YOU – April 14

Security Forces responded to a strange call received at the 21st Space Communications Squadron. Base operators fielded repeated calls from a caller who had made no direct threat, but seemed to have multiple personalities. The call was traced to a town in the Northwest, where local police acknowledged they had a file on the individual for making similar calls to other government agencies. The police stated they would make contact with the individual, and direct her to stop harassing people.

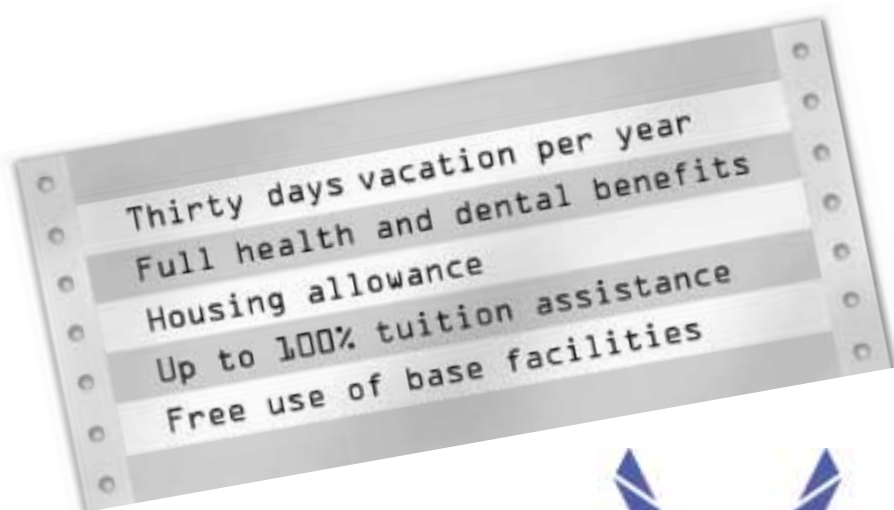
ALARMING TRENDS CONTINUE:

In addition to these entries, there continue to be too many false alarm activations on base. Among those noted this week were four activations due to human error.

*** If you have any information on a crime or any of these blotter entries, report it to Security Forces at 556-4000.*



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Airman's Manual Online

<https://commweb.hill.af.mil/AMT/>



The complete Airman's Manual is now available online! Browse sections for review or test your knowledge of today's Air Force with online quizzes.



at your SERVICE

This Week

Today

■ Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. at the Mission Support Center, Room 1016.

■ Career Marketing, 8 a.m.-noon at the MSC, Room 1016.

Friday

■ Social Hour, 5-7 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.

Saturday

■ Thunder Alley, 8:30 p.m. at the Bowling Center.

Tuesday

■ Sponsorship Training, 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the MSC, Room 1016.

■ Readiness Briefing, 11 a.m.-noon at the MSC, Room 1016. This briefing is for those deploying or going on remote tours. Spouses welcome.

Wednesday

■ Pre-separation Briefing, 8-9 a.m. at the MSC, Room 1016. This is a mandatory briefing for those retiring or separating from the military.

May 6

■ Play group, 10:30 a.m. - noon, at the Youth Center.

■ Job Orientation, 1-2 p.m. at the MSC, Room 1016.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

FOR SALE

Community yard sale fast approaching

By Margie Arnold
21st Services Squadron

Clean out the house, garage, basement and storage shed because stuff that hasn't been used in a year or two probably isn't needed anyway. Why not sell it and make a few bucks?

There will be a community yard sale on base from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. on May 22 in the parking lot of the Enlisted Club. The community yard sale is an opportunity to sell stuff for those living on or off base. Each parking-size space can be rented for \$20, and includes a table and two chairs.

For those needing two spaces, the additional one rents for an additional \$5. To reserve a space, call Vicki Reid at 556-1733.

The 21st Services Squadron also has some items for sale to authorized patrons by way of a sealed bid auction. Items can be viewed at Outdoor Recreation from April 19-May 21. Conditions



Photo by Margie Arnold
A sealed bid auction will be held featuring items like boats, trailers and a 1985 minivan.

governing the sale and bid forms will both be available at Outdoor Recreation beginning April 19.

The Enlisted Club will serve pancakes, juice and coffee at the garage sale from 8-10 a.m. Cost is \$1.50 for club members and \$3.50 for non-members.

In the afternoon, the Enlisted Club will have grilled hot dogs and chips for \$1.50, brats and chips for \$2.50 and soda for 75 cents.



Photo by Margie Arnold

Check mate

First Lt. Edward Harris of the 4th Space Operations Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., contemplates his next move during last week's Air Force Space Command Chess Tournament at the R.P. Lee Youth Center. The tournament resulted in a tie between contenders for second place. Only the winner of second place can advance, along with the first place winner, to the Air Force Chess Tournament on May 9-15 at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Capt. Darryl Terrell Jr. from Schriever AFB, Colo., captured the slot.

ARAGON DINING FACILITY MENU

Today

Lunch:

- Mr. Z's Baked Chicken
- Pepper Steak
- Pasta Primavera
- Mashed Potatoes
- Rice Steamed
- Mixed Vegetables
- Fried Okra
- Green beans

Dinner:

- Orange-Spiced Chops
- Liver with Onions
- Tempura Fried Fish
- Rissole Potatoes
- Rice Steamed
- Broccoli
- Peas & Carrots
- Wax Beans

Friday

Lunch:

- Simmered Corn Beef
- Pineapple Chicken
- Yankee Pot Roast
- Crispy Potato Wedges
- Simmered Potatoes
- Fried Cabbage
- Carrots
- Black Eye Peas

Dinner:

- Baked Fish
- Beef & Corn Pie
- Roast Turkey
- Franconia Potatoes
- Pea & Pepper Rice
- Corn on the Cob
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Mustard Greens

Monday

Lunch:

- Chili Mac
- Beef Cannelloni
- Southern Fried Chicken
- Cottage Fried Potatoes
- Mashed Potatoes
- Steamed Squash
- Glazed Carrots
- Peas

Dinner:

- Pot Roast
- Baked Stuff Fish
- Roast Pork Loin
- Oven Brown Potatoes
- Steamed Rice
- Succotash
- Green Beans with Mushroom

Saturday

Brunch:

- Baked Fish
- Hungarian Goulash
- Barbecue Chicken
- Parsley Buttered Potatoes
- Rice Steamed
- Vegetable Stir Fry
- Boston Baked Bean
- Cream Corn

Sunday

Brunch:

- Stir Fry Beef with Broccoli
- Turkey Nuggets
- Strip Loin Steak
- Mushrooms & Onions
- Baked Potatoes
- Rice Pilaf
- Corn on the Cob
- Green Beans

Tuesday

Lunch:

- Country Captain
- Chicken
- Meat Loaf
- Turkey a La King
- Steamed Rice
- Mashed Potatoes
- Harvard Beets
- Mustard Greens
- Okra and Tomato
- Gumbo

Dinner:

- Teriyaki Chicken
- Veal Parmesan
- Salmon Cakes
- Filipino Rice
- Parsley Buttered Potatoes
- Fried Cabbage
- Succotash
- Mixed Vegetable

Wednesday

Lunch:

- Beef Sukiyaki
- Szechwan Chicken
- Sweet & Sour Pork
- Steamed Rice
- Pork Fried Rice
- Fried Cabbage
- Glazed Carrots
- Vegetable Stir Fry

Dinner:

- Barbecue Ham Steak
- Turkey & Noodles
- Beef Ball
- Stroganoff
- Egg Noodles
- Mashed Potatoes
- Calico Corn
- Spinach
- Lima Beans



The American Red Cross charity golf tournament winners

Last Place Team

Team 3- Score: 100% effort
Senior Airman Travis Hoff
Airman 1st Class Lewis Wilder
Airman 1st Class Juan Gonzalez
Airman Anna Hawkins

Fourth Place Team

Team 12- Score: 53
Colonel Marvin Fisher
Dean Carlson
Captain Dan Swecker
Chief Master Sgt. Jim Repts

Third Place Team

Team 6 – Score: 52
Gary Wambold
Keith Palafox
Kenny Butenbaugh
Tech. Sgt. David Castro

Second Place Team

Team 8 – Score: 51
Tech. Sgt. Douglass Moffitt

Tech. Sgt. Martin Como
Tech. Sgt. Jon Satre

First Place Team

Team 17, - Score: 49
Roosevelt Hardnett
Dave Brooks
Master Sgt. Vince Scott
Tech. Sgt. R. Dwight

Longest Drive Holes

Hole 8
Sponsored by the Red Cross
Staff Sgt. Bennett Malonen
Hole 18
Sponsored by First Command Financial Planning
Dave Brooks

Closests to the Pin

Hole 7
Sponsored by First Command
Senior Airman Jarred Finkelstein
Hole 17
Sponsored by Red Cross:
Senior Airman Charles Kropog



Intramural Volleyball standings

Matches played throught April 16, 2004

Competitive league

	W	L
1. Team Colorado	5	1
2. 21 CES/CEOW	4	2
3. 21 SCS/SCMTR	4	2
4. HQ AFSPC/XO	4	2
5. HQ AFSPC/XP	1	5
6. 21 SW/DS	0	6

Recreation league

1. Team Colorado	5	1
2. 21 OG/OSS	6	2
3. DET 4 AFOTEC	6	2
4. AFSPC/CSS	4	3
5. AFSPC/IG	3	4
6. ARSTART	3	4
7. 21 CONS/LGCA	3	5
8. 21 SCS/SCBBC	2	4
9. 21 SVS	0	7



Sports Shorts

WALL CLIMBING

Climbing Wall Safety Classes are 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Fitness Center. For more information, call 556-1515.

TAE KWON DO

Tae kwon do classes are 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for children ages 7 to 12, and 7-8 p.m. for people ages 13 and older. Cost is \$40 per month for the first family member, and \$30 per month for additional family members.

BACK-TO-BASICS CIRCUIT COURSE

The Back-to-Basics Circuit Course is 11 a.m. Mondays, 5:10 p.m. Tuesdays, 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesdays, and 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. Fridays. The course features 15 exercises and self-paced cardiovascular training.

OPEN CLIMBING

Open climbing for certified climbers is 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

