

Local artist expresses war experience through poem, page 11

Border Eagle

Vol. 52, No. 37

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

Sept. 17, 2004

Newslines

POW/MIA Day events

Laughlin is holding a POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at 5 p.m. today at the Wing flagpole. Retired Col. Fred Kiley, author of Honor Bound, will be the guest speaker.

Two Air Power calls are scheduled at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Anderson Hall auditorium. Colonel Kiley will speak at both calls and local artist Guadalupe Vargas will join him at the 3 p.m. call. All Laughlin members are invited.

Med group closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday for a commander's call. All clinics and the nurse triage line will be closed along with radiology, the laboratory and the pharmacy.

The Tricare Service Center will be open.

For more information, call 298-6309.

Corrections

Maj. Ron Price and Airman 1st Class Wendell Richards were listed under the wrong squadrons in last week's Border Eagle. Major Price is a member of the 96th Flying Training Squadron and Airman Richards is a member of the 84th FTS.

Deployment stats

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Deployed: | 61 |
| Returning in 30 days: | 12 |
| Deploying in 30 days: | 7 |

Mission status

(As of Wednesday)

Days behind or ahead:

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| T-37, -10.78 | T-1, 2.50 |
| T-38, 0.55 | T-6, -8.94 |

Mission capable rate:

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| T-37, 83.1% | T-1, 87.6% |
| T-38A, 73.2% | T-6, 80.5% |
| | T-38C, 61.5% |



Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi



A helping hand ...

(Left) Airman 1st Class Dustin McCabe, 47th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, paints a rail at Lamar Elementary School in Del Rio. Airman McCabe was one of 75 Laughlin volunteers who dedicated time on Saturday as part of the "Partners in Education" program, which helps local schools by doing maintenance work. (Above) Laughlin volunteers work on replanting a flower bed on the school grounds.

Laughlin kicks off Combined Federal Campaign

Compiled from staff reports

The 47th Flying Training Wing 6-week Combined Federal Campaign is scheduled to begin here with a kick-off breakfast 7:30 a.m. Monday at Club Amistad.

During the kick-off breakfast, Col. Teresa Daniell, 47th Mission Support Group commander, will be hosting base leaders and unit CFC key workers.

"This will be an opportunity for the wing leadership and unit CFC representatives to hear about the importance and goals of the campaign," said 1st Lt. Lauren Chavez, Val

Verde county CFC project officer.

She said Laughlin and Val Verde County raised more than \$104,000 last year.

The campaign began Sept. 1 in the continental United States and runs through Dec. 15. Overseas, the campaign runs Oct. 1 through Dec. 15.

Last year, federal workers throughout the United States donated nearly \$250 million during the campaign.

Lieutenant Chavez said Laughlin's goal this year is to have 100 percent contact throughout the base.

"CFC program solicits all federal employees, both military and civilians, to donate to any private organization of their choice," she said. "The money donated comes back to improve the community."

She said the Red Cross, Family Support Center, Child Development Center and the Youth Center are four organizations that benefit from CFC.

The CFC is an avenue through which all federal employees can voluntarily express their concern for others by donating to local, state, national or international charities. The

See 'CFC', page 4

Total Force impact evident at Laughlin



Commander's Corner

By Lt. Col. James Smetzer
96th Flying Training Squadron
commander

We, who proudly wear the patch of the "Boxing Bunny," are members of the 96th Flying Training Squadron. We provide instructor pilots for all of the training aircraft based here. Each of our Instructor Pilots is assigned to an active duty Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training flight.

Our members come from all over the United States including Ohio, Indiana, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Kentucky and California. We have two categories of reservists, the Active Guard Reserve who is a full time active duty member, and the Traditional Reservist who, on average, are on duty 6 to 10 days per month with a few nearly full time. Many of our TRs have additional civilian employment such as LSI

simulator instructor or airline pilot.

The 96th FTS has 24 rated AGRs, three non-rated support AGRs, 56 rated TRs, and two non-rated support TRs. How did the Reserve become an integral part of the active duty mission?

The United States Air Force Reserve was part of the National Defense Act of June 1916. On April 14, 1948, the United States Air Force Reserve was finally established.

A landmark milestone came in August 1970 when Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced the Total Force Concept whereby the Reserves became the initial source of augmentation of the active forces during crises, rather than the draft.

This was reinforced by Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger's proclamation of the Total Force Policy, which integrated active, guard, and reserve forces into a homogeneous whole. Because of this, we are expected to meet the same readiness standards as active duty units.

Since the Gulf War, the

Reserve has been a part of the mobilization effort in support of Total Force and will continue to do so.

In addition to the SUPT mission the Air Force Reserve forces now fly a variety of aircraft including the F-16, F-15, B-52, A-10, KC-135, KC-10, C-5, C-9, C-141, C-17, WC/HC/MC/C-130, E-3 AWACS, and HH-60. Over 93 percent of our aircrews and 86 percent of our support troops are prior service.

The Reserve Component role has evolved into an organization that provides seamless integration, supporting our active forces. Since 1916, we have played an integral part in every conflict from World War I to our present War on Terror.

We invite you to stop by and visit us in the 96th FTS and get to know your Total Force counterpart.

The following chart encapsulates our rich history. We've traced it back to early 1942 with distinguished service in World War II in North Africa and Southern Europe amassing 196 aerial victories.

POW/MIA Day honors fallen servicemembers

By Maj. Tony Clavenna
43rd Maintenance Operations
Squadron commander

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C.— Several times throughout the year, we gather to honor those who fight for freedom. We honor our fallen Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Marines in May and our veterans in November. We honor their sacrifices and sometimes even thank our veterans personally. Perhaps we even

reflect on the impact of their sacrifices on their families and pass along our thanks to them as well. But how often do we consider and remember those missing in action and our prisoners of war?

Today there are some 88,000 American servicemembers still identified as missing in action from all conflicts.

This includes 126 from the Cold War, 1,854 from Vietnam, 8,186 from Korea and one

from the Gulf War. Of these missing, more than 1,600 are fellow Air Force members.

It is hard to imagine what they experienced and what some may still be experiencing. It is even more difficult to imagine what it must be like for their loved ones.

How do they sustain hope for a reunion? If they convince themselves that their

See 'POW/MIA', page 3

Border Eagle

Editorial Staff

Col. Tod Wolters
Commander

Capt. Paula Kurtz

Public affairs chief

2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston

Internal information chief

Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill

PA NCO in charge

Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Editor

Airman 1st Class

Olufemi Owolabi

Staff writer

The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News-Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the Border Eagle are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the 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, the Department of the Air Force or the Del Rio News-Herald 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 affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| AAFES | 298-3176 |
| Chapel | 298-5111 |
| Civil Engineer | 298-5252 |
| Civilian Personnel | 298-5299 |
| Clinic | 298-6311 |
| Commissary | 298-5815 |
| Contracting | 298-5439 |
| Dormitory manager | 298-5213 |
| EEO | 298-5879 |
| Finance | 298-5204 |
| FWA hotline | 298-4170 |
| Housing | 298-5904 |
| Information line | 298-5201 |
| Inspector General | 298-5638 |
| Legal | 298-5172 |
| MEO | 298-5400 |
| Military Personnel | 298-5073 |
| Public Affairs | 298-5988 |
| Security Forces | 298-5900 |
| Services | 298-5810 |

"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."

— 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

Roche, Jumper send Air Force birthday message

By Dr. James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

By Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Happy birthday to the Airmen of the world's greatest air and space force!

Our 57 years of history may be short, but they are packed with astounding accomplishments.

We've broken the sound barrier, expanded military operations to the reaches of space, ushered stealth technology and precision-strike capability into modern warfare, delivered humanitarian aid to austere locations, jointly won the Cold War and provided decisive air and space power for wars in Korea, Vietnam, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Your dedication to excellence, your integrity and your

faithful service is recognized and appreciated by all Americans.

Since our inception in 1947, America's Air Force has flown lead in defending peace and freedom around the world.

That legacy was made possible by millions of profes-

sional Airmen dedicated to accomplishing critical missions with total success.

Today, you are the torchbearers of our legacy.

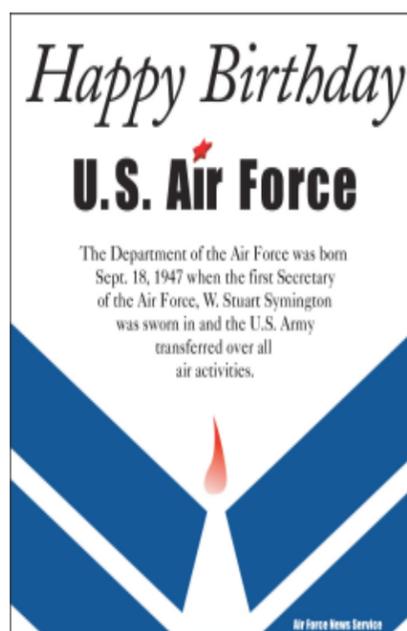
You are performing remarkably across the globe delivering aid to people in need and defending and protecting our great nation from emerging threats and new enemies.

Your competence, dedication to the mission and pride of service is renowned.

We know you also have wonderful families who support your long hours and deployments away from home. We are grateful for their support.

You represent the strength and patriotism of our great nation.

America is proud of our Air Force because of you. Thanks for your service and again, happy birthday!

**POW/MIA**, from page 2

servicemember died, how do they find closure when there are no remains and there is still some hope?

The uncertainty must weigh heavy on the minds and hearts of loved ones. These families and our MIAs need our prayers, support and hope.

Another group in need of our support is our POWs. I find it incredible to think of the stress, loneliness and torture American POWs have experienced, some of whom spent several years in captivity.

What tremendous strength of character and purpose it must take to survive such an environment. Our POWs' selflessness, faith in country

and perseverance are all examples we should learn from and strive to emulate. We should thank them and their families for their sacrifice and service. So what can you and I do for our POWs and missing? First, join in honoring them on National POW/MIA Recognition Day Sept. 14. Reflect upon their plight and include them and their families in your prayers. Encourage others to continue to honor these great Americans at military ceremonies. Embrace their example of steadfastness of purpose and never rest until all are found and identified.

Our commander-in-chief stated during a Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, "We must remem-

ber a special group of veterans, Americans still missing and unaccounted for from Vietnam, Korea, the Cold War and World War II. We honor them today.

They deserve and will have our best efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting and, alive or dead, to return them home to America." That is part of our mission as military members. As we have often heard in military ceremonies, "A slice of lemon on the bread plate reminds us of their bitter fate." Each year on this special day, we have the opportunity to reflect on that bitter fate and honor our POWs and MIAs. It is the least we can do for them, considering all they have done for us.



Photo by Master Sgt. Natalia DaSilva

Remembering 9/11 ...

Master Sgt. Christina Hamel receives the American flag during a Sept. 11 retreat ceremony for members of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at a forward-deployed location. The base honor guard completed the ceremony, which preceded a Sept. 11 memorial service at the base's theater. Sergeant Hamel is deployed from the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Air Refueling Wing at McConnell Air Force Base.

'Stop-movement' order expands to Eglin, Keesler

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Air Force officials have issued a “stop-movement” order for people permanently moving to or transiting Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., or Keesler AFB, Miss., based on the probability that Hurricane Ivan will affect the area.

Those bases now join Florida's Tyndall AFB and Hurlburt Field that received the orders to their respective locations Monday.

This order also effects any duty location serviced by either base's respective military personnel flight.

Such an order precludes people from moving into a hazardous area – in this case, a natural disaster – which would potentially put them in harm's way, Air Force Personnel Center officials here said.

It also frees up resources, such as facilities, in case they are needed in

the aftermath of the disaster.

A stop-movement order also means people permanently leaving either installation will have their departures delayed.

Those heading permanently or temporarily to either location who have not yet departed their current duty station should remain at that station until further guidance is given, officials said.

People who have already departed should immediately contact their previous military personnel flight for instructions, officials said.

Those who have already departed from an overseas location should contact the nearest installation's military personnel flight for instructions.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

CFC, from page 1

CFC raises money for over 2,000 charities and causes including: medical research, children's charities, environmental organizations, and disaster relief agencies. Members can direct their support to charities that focus on issues they care about.

Col. Tod Wolters, 47th FTW commander, expressed his enthusiasm for the program saying, “CFC is a critically important fund-raising campaign for improving the quality of life in the Air Force and the community. I would like all federal employees to consider the benefits that these contributions can provide to the hungry, the homeless, the sick and children and families in need.”

To give a visual status of how the campaign is progressing, there will be two displays at the Main Gate. Coming onto base, a classic thermometer, will track the monetary goal. Leaving

base, there will be a tote board that represents the major organizations on base, and the percentage of employees contacted.

The campaign was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country, according to officials at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base. This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receives their money by filling out a pledge card. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

(Editor's note): Organizations are reminded that no other fund-raising efforts are permitted to take place on base while CFC is in session.

For more information on CFC contact your CFC unit representative.

Combined Federal Campaign unit representatives

| Squadron/Unit | Name | Phone |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| 47th Maintenance Directorate | Ted Jenkins | 298-5253 |
| 47th MX | Andrew McCullough | 298-5942 |
| 47th Mission Support Group | Mark Patton | 298-5640 |
| 47th Civil Engineer Squadron | Tech. Sgt. Richard Golen | 298-5633 |
| 47th CES | Staff Sgt. Sean Flansbaum | 298-5437 |
| 47th Communications Squadron | 1st Lt. Jen Adsit | 298-4328 |
| 47th Contracting Squadron | 2nd Lt. Eric Alonso-Bernal | 298-5753 |
| 47th CONS | Airman 1st Class Sean Crowe | 298-5768 |
| 47th Flying Training Wing staff | Senior Airman Athena Joslin | 298-5167 |
| 47th FTW staff | Airman 1st Class Sara Wacenske | 298-5167 |
| 47th Logistics Readiness Divison | Master Sgt. Jeffrey Brown | 298-5877 |
| 47th Mission Support Squadron | Tech. Sgt. LaValle Jenkins | 298-4382 |
| 47th Security Forces Squadron | Master Sgt. Joseph Williams | 298-5267 |
| 47th Services Divison | Senior Airman Johambakas Badshah | 298-5251 |
| 47th Medical Group | Tech. Sgt. Rico Lingley | 298-5304 |
| 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron | Capt. Jenny Bomba | 298-6429 |
| 47th Medical Operations Squadron | Airman 1st Class Alisa Picena | 298-6362 |
| 47th Medical Support Squadron | Airman 1st Class Amanda Spinner | 298-6488 |
| 47th Operations Group | Capt. Rudy Chavez | 298-5142 |
| 47th OG | Capt. Gabe Repucci | 298-4783 |
| 84th Flying Training Squadron | 1st Lt. Ryan Menath | 298-4783 |
| 85th FTS | 2nd Lt. Chad Norheim | 298-4206 |
| 86th FTS | 1st Lt. Colleen Crabtree | 298-4212 |
| 87th FTS | 1st Lt. Mark Fogel | 298-5223 |
| 47th Operation Support Squadron | 2nd Lt. Katie Hale | 298-5734 |
| 47th OSS | Staff Sgt. Brandin Coy | 298-5870 |

Precautions help stop spread of respiratory infections

By Maj. Patricia Cifelli
47th Medical Group

During the cough, cold and “flu” season, there are some simple tips that will keep respiratory infections from spreading.

People can help stop the spread of these germs by practicing “respiratory etiquette” – good health manners – such as covering the nose and mouth when sneezing, coughing or blowing their nose, putting used tissues in the trash, and washing their hands well and often whenever they or someone they are close to is sick. These simple actions can prevent the spread of the viruses and bacteria that are passed from person-to-person in the tiny droplets of moisture that come out of the nose or mouth of an infected person when they cough, sneeze, or talk. Examples of diseases that can

spread this way include influenza, bacterial meningitis, whooping cough, SARS, measles, and chicken pox. Common symptoms of these illnesses are fever and cough or fever and rash.

In clinic waiting rooms, respiratory etiquette means that patients and visitors with fever and cough or rash may be asked to wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, to wear a mask or to use tissues when coughing or sneezing, and to sit a safe distance (three feet or more) away from other patients.

There are also some other simple precautions that healthy people can take to prevent catching germs from others:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.

■ Don’t share food, utensils, beverage containers, lipstick, cigarettes or anything else that might be contaminated with respiratory germs.

■ Avoid close contact with people who are sick if possible.

If you have respiratory symptoms review your “Taking Care of Yourself” book and follow the recommendations.

According to AFI 41-210 paragraph 3.6.4. Unit commanders and supervisors have the authority to grant up to 24 hours sick status at their discretion if a members illness/injury does not require military treatment facility intervention. If the illness/injury persists beyond 24 hours, then the commander or supervisor must refer the member to the MTF for treatment and subsequent quarters authorization. The number for sick call is 298-3578.

If you know of or suspect fraud, waste or abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

Interested in the Air Force?

Call Del Rio’s Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Celebrating a culture ...

Col. Steven Kwast, 47th Operations Group commander, receives a breakfast plate from Gloria Esquivel, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, during the Hispanic Heritage Breakfast at the Fiesta Center Thursday. The breakfast kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month which runs from Wednesday until Oct. 15.

Tune to base
Cable Channel 34
for information about Laughlin activities.

Hundreds sign up during Armed Forces Voters' Week

By Maj. Brad Wensel
*47th Flying Training Wing
voting assistance officer*

Armed Forces Voters Week was celebrated at Laughlin Sept. 3 through Saturday.

The goal of this event was to attain 100 percent contact and in-hand delivery of the Federal Post Card Application to all personnel.

The week was a tremendous success, with 376 people registering to vote either locally or by absentee through their home states.

People who didn't register to vote last week and want to vote this November should contact their voting counselor for assistance. A complete list of voting counselors can be found on the 47 Flying Training Wing Web site by clicking on the Voting Assistance Program link. Don't wait. The deadline for submitting the FPCA is rapidly approaching and varies by state. Local election offices must have time to process absentee ballot requests, send the ballots, and receive it back prior to election day. For people deploying prior to the General Election, see your voting counselor for assistance prior to leaving.



Photo by Master Sgt. Tom Hankus

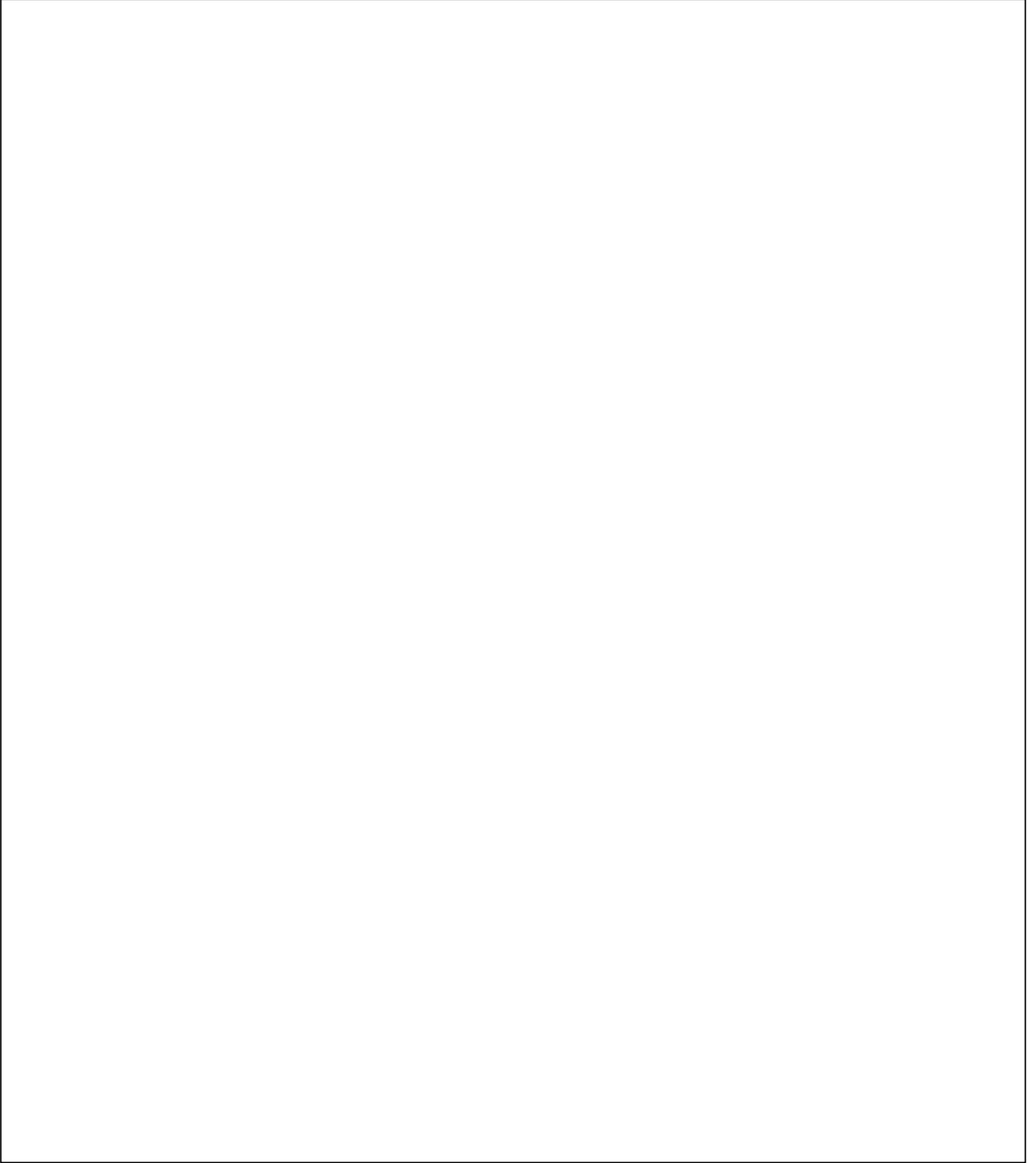
(Left) Maj. Brad Wensel takes a moment to discuss some of the procedures for local voting registration and for absetee voting with Senior Airman Jacob Rivera while Val Verde County Clerk Loly Garcia and Val Verde County Voting Assistance Officer Diane Sanchez look on. Ms. Garcia and Ms. Sanchez were on hand at the base exchange Sept. 6 through 10 to assist Laughlin members in registering to vote.

For those registered to vote in Val Verde County, there are several important dates to keep in mind. Oct. 4 is the last date to register to vote in Val Verde County. This must be accomplished in person at either the Department of Public Safety, 2012 Veteran's Boulevard, or at the Voter Registrar's Office behind the Courthouse at 309 Mills Street. Oct. 18 through 29 is the early voting period. People who are going to be out of town or just too busy to vote on Nov. 2, can vote in person

at the County Courthouse on these dates from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., including the weekend of Oct. 24.

People who can't make the early voting period or vote on election day can vote by absentee ballot, but they must submit an FPCA to the county clerk by Oct. 6.

Finally, the General Election will be held on Nov. 2. and the closest polls to Laughlin will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Ruben Chavira Elementary School on Highway 277 South.



Check us out online...

Click on the Laughlin home page link for an electronic version of the Border Eagle or log on to: <http://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/ftworg/pabasepaper/index.html>



The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil> or call Tech. Sgt. Thomas Mayo at 298-4355.

Laughlin Air Force base rich in history

Base has been training pilots for 60 years

Story and photos from Border Eagle archives

(Editor's note: With the Air Force celebrating its 57th birthday Saturday, the Border Eagle staff thought it would be a good time to reflect on Laughlin's history within the Air Force.)

On Sept. 26, 1942, the War Department activated an advanced flying training base seven miles east of Del Rio, Texas. Within a short time the station became a B-26 Marauder flying school. The field was designated Laughlin Army Air Field March 3, 1943. Three weeks later, on March 28, the field was dedicated in honor of Lt. Jack Thomas Laughlin, the first member of the Del Rio community to lose his life during World War II.

Lieutenant Laughlin died when ground fire downed his B-17 Jan. 29, 1942, over Java.

After the war in Europe, there was no longer a need for B-26 training, so

the Army Air Forces Training Command closed the field in the fall of 1945.

The U.S. Air Force placed Laughlin Air Force Base in active status in May 1952 and assigned it to Air Training Command. Strategic Air Command also played a prominent role in Laughlin's history. The Air Force transferred the base to the jurisdiction of SAC April 1, 1957. At that time, the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing moved to Laughlin. The 4080th provided a high-altitude reconnaissance capability and gathered meteorological data from high altitudes for operational forecasting using the Lockheed U-2A and the RB-57D Canberra. A U-2 pilot from Laughlin brought back the first conclusive evidence of the Soviet missile buildup in Cuba in October 1962.

In 1961 Headquarters U. S. Air Force notified Laughlin officials that their mission would expand to include an ATC undergraduate pilot training program. Command of Laughlin passed from SAC to ATC April 1, 1962, with the 4080th Strategic Wing remaining as a tenant unit until 1963.

Since that time, Laughlin has been in the continuous business of training



Three B-26s fly in formation on a training flight. The B-126 was the first training aircraft used at Laughlin in the 1940s.

pilots for the Air Force. ATC transferred 41 Cessna T-37 Tweets to Laughlin beginning in late 1961. The first UPT class arrived Nov. 20, 1961. Many other changes took place at Laughlin as the years went by. In February 1964, a permanent runway supervisory unit, the first of its kind in the Air Force, was installed at Laughlin. Also in 1964, ATC assigned the Northrop T-38 Talon to UPT and phased out the T-33. The 3646th Pilot Training Wing was deactivated and the 47th Flying Training Wing was activated Sept. 1, 1972. In 1979 a flight simulator complex at Laughlin opened to enhance student training. In 1986, the simulators converted to computer-generated imagery, providing cost savings and training realism. On April 2, 1990, the operations complex reorganized to prepare the way for special-

ized undergraduate pilot training, projected for implementation at Laughlin in fiscal year 1994. A new era began at Laughlin in 1993 as the 47th Flying Training Wing SUPT brought on board the T-1A Jayhawk, the first new aircraft to be used at one of the command's flying training wings in more than 25 years. In 2002, the T-6A Texan arrived and is in the process of replacing the T-37 as the primary trainer.

Laughlin's mission has remained the same since 1962, training top-quality military pilots. Beginning with the first class of undergraduate pilot training in December 1962, silver wings have now been pinned on more than 12,500 pilots. Throughout its many changes of jurisdiction and missions, Laughlin has contributed significantly to the nation's aeronautical progress.



Lt. Jack Laughlin



Laughlin pilots soar high above the clouds in T-6s, Laughlin's new primary trainer.



T-37s line Laughlin's flight line. The T-37 has been Laughlin's primary trainer since 1961. The last T-37 will depart Laughlin in the fall.



(Above) A photo taken in the 1970s of Specialist Four Guadalupe Vargas loading his weapon before his mission as a door gunner on a Charlie-model Huey gunship. (Right) Assigned to the air base near Tuy Hoa, Specialist Vargas flew over Phu Hiep, Laos, on a "scrambled mission" before his helicopter was shot down over the Phu-Cat Mountains in South Vietnam. He was assigned to the 238th Aerial Weapons Company which served in Vietnam as part of the 1st Aviation Brigade.

(Above) A photo taken of Specialist Four Guadalupe Vargas' gunship helicopter after being shot down April 2, 1971. Specialist Vargas and his crew members were trying to save the lives of other American soldiers under attack before they were shot down.

Courtesy photo

Artist's poetry reflects Vietnam experience

Story by Airman 1st Class
Olufemi Owolabi
Staff writer

"I wished it never happened, but it did. April 2, 1971 was a day in our lives when time never mattered nor did it have any meaning to us. I saw life failing and death coming; all I could think of was my parents and family. We were fighting to save some of our soldiers who were pinned down under enemy fire, and our helicopter gunship was shot down by the Vietnamese over the Phu-Cat Mountains."

Guadalupe Vargas, a veteran who served with the Army's 238th Aerial Weapons Company in Vietnam, described what he experienced while serving as a crew member on a helicopter gunship covering "dust-off" helicopters, which made emergency evacuations of wounded personnel in Vietnam.

Mr. Vargas was drafted into the

Army Dec. 2, 1969 at Fort Lewis, Wash. as a wheel mechanic. "Then, joining the military was a way of life because ones' father or brother had already been drafted into the military," he said.

He was deployed to Vietnam September 1970 when his career took a different turn.

During the heat of war and gunfire about six miles south of the demilitarized zone, American soldiers became short of gunrunners, so, Mr. Vargas volunteered. "We were trained on how to use the M-16 for only 20 minutes and a few hours later, we were on our first mission. Our mission was called a 'scrambled mission' which had to respond quickly to emergencies."

While their helicopter was escorting a dust-off ship back to an evacuation hospital, they spotted a number of American soldiers pinned down by enemy fire. Their ship and a sister ship

made a low descent and they laid down suppressive fire at the enemy.

Soon, the sister ship's guns were jammed and Mr. Vargas' ship was left alone in the intense gunfire of the enemy.

"In a twinkle of an eye, our ship was hit with 50-caliber rounds which went through the transmission linkages.

This took our power off and at the same time our pilot became unconscious. We crashed at the bottom of the mountain close to the enemies," Mr. Vargas explained.

Not too long after the crash, their sister ship arrived again at the scene. In a few hours that seemed like eternity, they were rescued from the gunfire of the enemy.

"I felt it was like a movie but it was real. For a few months I was unable to walk," he added. "It was a tough situation."

Then, he said he felt lucky when

he thought of those who were captured and those missing or killed during the war. "They were at war to take care of others and defend America's freedom. As long as we have a commitment to our country and other servicemembers, our POWs and MIAs are worth giving credit to by remembering them."

Mr. Vargas, who returned to the States and received his honorable discharge in September 1971, and other members were recognized for their actions and devotion to duty.

Mr. Vargas earned many awards during his tour in Vietnam. He received a Purple Heart, Air Medal with "V" device for valor and the Army Commendation Medal for his heroism.

Now, Mr. Vargas lives in Del Rio, and the hobby he started at the age of 12, poetry, is on display at Laughlin's POW/MIA Remembrance Day events at Anderson Hall and in the wing headquarters building.



Laughlin Salutes

SUPT Class 04-14 awards

Daedalian award:
Capt. Michael Steele

**Academic award, airlift/
tanker track:**
Capt. Jon Zackary

**Academic award, fighter/
bomber track:**
2nd Lt. Alex Wolfard

**Flying training award,
fighter/bomber track:**

Capt. Bradley Brandt

**Flying training award, air-
lift/tanker track:**
Capt. Jon Zackary

**Airlift/tanker Distin-
guished Graduates:**
Capt. Jon Zackary

**Fighter/bomber Distin-
guished Graduate:**
Capt. Bradley Brandt

**Outstanding Officer of
Class 04-09:**
Capt. Jon Zackary

**AETC Commander's
Trophy, airlift/tanker
track:**
Capt. Jon Zackary

**AETC Commander's
Trophy, fighter/bomber
track:**
Capt. Bradley Brandt

**Outstanding 2nd Lieuten-
ant Award:**
1st Lt. Kristopher Wolfram

Citizenship award:
2nd Lt. Ryan Schmid

If you know of or suspect
fraud, waste and abuse, call
the FWA hotline at
298-4170.



Please recycle this newspaper

The *XLer*

Airman 1st Class Amanda Spinner
47th Medical Support Squadron

Hometown: Harmony, Pa.
Family: Husband, Arliss and two dogs.
Time at Laughlin: Ten months
Time in service: One year, two months
Hobbies: Going to the movies and taking college courses to get my Community College of the Air Force and nursing degrees
Bad habit: Organizing my desk
Favorite movies: *50 First Dates* and *The Bourne Identity*
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My grandma, because she passed away when I was young and I think she would have been a great person to get to know better.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Dowell

Buckle your
seatbelt

86th defense holds CES, captures title

By Senior Airman
Timothy J. Stein
Editor

The 86th Flying Training Squadron shocked the Laughlin softball community by defeating the previously undefeated 47th Civil Engineer Squadron twice to take the wing intramural softball championship Sept. 9.

The 86th made it to the championship by winning the losers bracket. CES needed only to beat the 86th one time to take the title.

The first batter of the night, Les McCracken, CES center fielder, nailed an inside-the-park homerun to start the inning. CES got three more runs off of hits by Brian Tonnacour, Dan Ruhl, Jason Burd, Nathan Olsen and Ian Coye. The 86th scored two runs in the bottom of the inning off a Dane Christensen triple which scored Kiel Gilliland and Ricardo Cornejo.

The second inning was even wilder. CES scored six runs on five singles, one double and a triple. The 86th added five runs to their total off



Photo by Senior Airman Timothy J. Stein

Dane Christensen, 86th Flying Training Squadron first baseman, hits a triple in the first inning of the first game of the base intramural softball championship here Sept. 9. The 86th won the game 14-12.

of four singles and a double.

CES got its last two runs of the first game in the third inning. The 86th was able to hold CES to just five more hits in four innings. The 86th man-

aged to get two runs themselves in the third bringing them to within three at 12-9.

The 86th brought the game to within one in the fifth inning off a

Gilliland homerun which also scored Grant Gaylord. They tied the game in the sixth when Justin Macky scored off a Stefan Nagy single.

After holding CES scoreless in the seventh, the 86th captured a 14-12 win off a two-run homerun from Robert Arnet.

The 86th won the coin flip for game two and elected to bat second once again.

CES started off the inning strong, scoring three runs off a Burd homerun. The 86th answered right back however, scoring four of their own when Gilliland hit a two-run double and Cornejo slammed a two-run homerun.

The 86th's defense took over the game in the second inning. They held CES scoreless for five straight innings while the offense added four more runs to their total, two in the second, one in the sixth and one in the seventh. CES managed to get two in the seventh, but it was a case of too-little, too-late. The 86th won the game, 8-4, thus winning the championship title.

Med group predicts 12, takes early lead

First Lt. Matt Wolthoff, 47th Medical Group football guru, stiff armed the competition in Week 1, predicting 12 of 16 National Football League games correctly.

The competition isn't far behind however. Staff Sgt. Sean Flansbaum, 47th Mission Support Group, is right behind him with 11 correct and Airman 1st Class Sara Wacenske, 47th

Wing Staff Agencies, has 10. James Sutton, 47th Maintenance Directorate, and Capt. Wes Stark, 47th Operations Group, are both close with 9.

Week 2 looks challenging with several games splitting predictions from the players. Will Lieutenant Wolthoff be able to keep the Med Group in the lead? Watch the games

Sunday and find out.

Catch all of the NFL games at Club Amistad's Sunday Football Frenzy. Equipped with 7 televisions, plus one huge projection screen TV, Football Frenzy is open to all ranks. Doors will open at 11 a.m.

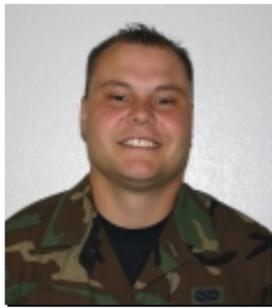
Club members are eligible to win weekly prizes and enter the drawing for the end-of-season grand prizes

which include a plasma screen TV, an X-Box system, NFL playoff tickets, and tickets to the Super Bowl and Pro Bowl.

For more football action, come out for the Club's Monday Night Football party, where you can play Football Bingo for a chance to win weekly prizes, and take advantage of food and beverage specials.



1st Lt. Matt Wolthoff, 47th Medical Group



Staff Sgt. Sean Flansbaum, 47th Mission Support Group



James Sutton, 47th Maintenance Directorate



Capt. Wes Stark, 47th Operations Group



Airman 1st Class Sara Wacenske, Wing Staff Agencies

Games:

St.L. at Atl.
Pitt. at Bal.
Hou. at Det.
Chi. at G.B.
Den. at Jax.
Car. at K.C.
S.F. at N.O.
Wash. at N.Y.G.
Ind. at Tenn.
Sea. at T.B.
N.E. at Ari.
Cle. at Dal.
Buf. at Oak.
N.Y.J. at S.D.
Mia. at Cin.
Minn. at Phi.

St. Louis
Baltimore
Houston
Green Bay
Denver
Kansas City
New Orleans
Washington
Tennessee
Seattle
New England
Dallas
Buffalo
New York
Cincinnati
Philadelphia

Atlanta
Baltimore
Detroit
Green Bay
Denver
Kansas City
New Orleans
Washington
Tennessee
Tampa Bay
New England
Dallas
Oakland
New York
Cincinnati
Philadelphia

St. Louis
Pittsburgh
Houston
Green Bay
Denver
Kansas City
San Francisco
Washington
Indianapolis
Tampa Bay
New England
Dallas
Oakland
New York
Cincinnati
Minnesota

Atlanta
Baltimore
Detroit
Green Bay
Denver
Kansas City
New Orleans
Washington
Indianapolis
Seattle
New England
Dallas
Buffalo
New York
Cincinnati
Philadelphia

Atlanta
Pittsburgh
Houston
Green Bay
Denver
Carolina
San Francisco
Washington
Indianapolis
Seattle
New England
Cleveland
Oakland
New York
Cincinnati
Minnesota

Standings:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
| Last week | 12-16 | 11-16 | 9-16 | 9-16 | 10-16 |
| Overall | 12-16 | 11-16 | 9-16 | 9-16 | 10-16 |

Sportslines

Andale Del Rio

Andale Del Rio, an annual health and fitness community event, will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at Buena Vista Park on Fox Drive in Del Rio.

Activities include a health and fitness fair, children's car seat inspections, basketball shoot, canine

demonstrations and walking and running events.

Sit-up competition

The fitness center is holding a sit-up competition at 1 p.m. Thursday.

Participants competes as a two-person team in either the men's, women's or coed division.

For more information, call 298-5251.

XL Fitness Center hours

Monday - Thursday:
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday:
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday:
7 a.m. to 8. p.m.

Holidays:
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.