







Weather

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
Cold, mostly cloudy High 35°F Low 24°	Partly cloudy High 46°F Low 34°	Scattered rain showers High 52°F Low 49°
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		
Chance of rain High 58°F Low 53°	Chance of rain High 72°F Low 55°	Chance of thundershowers High 71°F Low 56°

News Briefs

Enlisted Promotions Ceremony

The next Columbus Air Force Base Enlisted Promotions ceremony is at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Columbus Club.

Gen. Rand to visit 81st FS

Gen. Robin Rand, Commander, Air Education and Training Command, will visit the 81st Fighter Squadron, the 14th Flying Training Wing's newest geographically separated squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, March 2-3 to observe the training mission and its aircraft, the A-29 Super Tucano.

Daylight-Saving Time

Remember to spring forward an hour March 8 in observance of Daylight-Saving Time.

Inside



Feature 8

Snow blankets Columbus AFB is highlighted in this week's feature.



U.S. Air Force Photo/Airman Daniel Lile

Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, Second Air Force Commander, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., speaks to attendees of the Columbus AFB Black History Month Luncheon at the Columbus Club Feb. 20. During his speech, Brown spoke about historical and inspirational Black Americans who made significant changes in the Air Force. This year marks the 100th February of celebrating African Americans' contributions and achievements in American History.

Brown returns 'home,' inspires continued equality

Airman Daniel Lile

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Mark Brown, Second Air Force Commander, spoke at the Black History Month luncheon here Feb. 20 at the Columbus Club.

Brown began his speech by speaking on how much he en-

joyed being back at Columbus Air Force Base.

"It is an honor to be back here with the BLAZE team, and it was an honor to be here for two years," Brown said. "What you all do here is no small thing. We consider our time as part of the BLAZE team as those special memories."

See **BROWN**, Page 2

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II				PHASE III				IFF				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (15-15)	3.57 days	-0.06 days	Apr. 1	48th (15-06)	-1.04 days	-2.18 days	Mar. 13	49th (15-EBC)	0.52 days	1.10 days	Mar. 4	T-6	2,141	1,936	11,232
41st (15-14)	1.35 days	2.18 days	Mar. 9	50th (15-06)	-1.41 days	-0.22 days	Mar. 13					T-1	782	610	3,915
The graduation speaker is Retired Maj. Gen. Jack Catton, former 14th Flying Training Wing Commander												T-38	617	576	3,175
												IFF	273	255	1,479



14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 13 TEAM BLAZE members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the Airmen and their families while they are away.

BROWN

(Continued from page 1)

Brown continued to speak on how the Air Force embraces Airmen's cultural differences and celebrates their diversity.

"When people come into our Air Force, we do not ask them to leave their heritage behind," the general said. "We do just as we are doing today. We celebrate their diversity, and we celebrate their heritage."

Brown explained that we are judged in the Air Force by our integrity and merit, not where we came from.

"We have folks from everywhere; from all races, genders, religions and life experiences," he said. "The good thing is that we judge them by their abilities, leadership and desire to succeed. In other words we judge them based on the content of their character."

The general spoke on American history as a whole, and how remembering black history is part of American history and our forefather's dreams for equality.

"A country that began on nothing more than a dream, a dream built on this incredible thought that perhaps all men are created equal," Brown said. "One dream that began with the premise that some rabble-rousers go off on a journey and decide to form themselves a country, and when

"When people come into our Air Force, we do not ask them to leave their heritage behind," the general said.

they get there they decide that they will take everyone."

Brown continued to elaborate about the impact our forefathers had, and how this is a time to reflect on their accomplishments.

"Think about the American dream, a dream that our forefathers had," he said. "This month we get to reflect on some of those men and women on whose shoulders we stand."

Brown concluded his speech by talking about the impact AETC as a whole has on the Air Force mission.

"There is something very special about what we do in Air Education and Training Command," Brown said. "You see it every few weeks when you pin those wings on people's chests, you see it in their parent's eyes. You can change lives and you do every day."

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat/Sun	Long Range Events
2 Gen. Rand visits 81 FS	3	4	5	6	7/8 8th - Daylight-Saving Time begins	Mar. 23-30: UEI Mar. 23-May 1: AFAF Campaign Mar. 26-27: Maj. Gen. Keltz and Chief Boyer visit Mar. 26: ALS Graduation Mar. 28-29: Keesler AFB Airshow Mar. 31: Enlisted Promotions Apr. 3: SUPT Class 15-07 Graduation Apr. 5: Easter Sunday Apr. 6-18: 75th Annual Spring Pilgrimage Apr. 7: 14th OSS Change of Command Apr. 23: Heart Apart Awards Ceremony Apr. 30: Enlisted Promotion Ceremony May 1: SUPT Class 15-08 Graduation May 21: SUPT Class 15-09 Graduation
9 Columbus and Lowndes County Schools Spring Break	10	11 Summer Employment USA-Jobs Workshop, 9 a.m. or 2 p.m. @ A&FRC	12 Wine Pairing, 6 p.m. @ Golf Course	13 SUPT Class 15-06 Graduation, 10 a.m. @ Kaye	14/15	

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

The deadline for submitting ads is moon Monday before the desired publication date. Ads turned in after the deadline will run the following week. Ads can be mailed to or dropped off at the public affairs office in the 14th Flying Training Wing Headquarters building, e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil or faxed to 434-7009. Calling Ext. 7068 by noon Monday can extend the run date of ads already submitted. Silver Wings reserves the right to limit ads based on content, space and frequency of requests. Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through The Commercial Dispatch, 328-2424.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: Fifty-six piece lot of Pfaltzgraff Village stoneware in excellent condition, plus eight amber water glasses and 10 matching amber juice glasses. This set contains a complete eight-place setting plus extras, \$295. For more information call 327-1205.

For Sale: Large oak finish shadow box cabinet, 15 inches long by 17 inches wide by 1.75 inches deep, with a sliding glass window. Black felt background to create a stunning display for pins, medals, buttons, etc. Also has hooks for hanging vertically or horizontally. New in box. \$29.95 Call 327-1205.

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

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Commercial: 501-987-6258
Email: roger.shank@dla.mil

Tax center open to assist CAFB

2nd Lt. Dominick Ricci and 2nd Lt. Alex Hoffman
Columbus AFB Tax Center

Tax season is here once again, and with it comes the confusion and stress of our country's tax code, as well as the excitement of seeing money put back into our wallets.

What many do not know is that military personnel are extended special treatment on both federal and state levels that could make a small refund drastically larger.

It is important for all service members to be aware of these distinctive situations and how they can be taken advantage of for themselves and their families. For example, did you know certain expenses incurred during a Permanent Change of Station are allowed to be deducted from a service member's tax return? Did you know your spouse's income may be exempt from taxation by the state you are stationed in? These questions can be answered as you file your return at the Columbus AFB Tax Center.

The Columbus AFB Tax Center has been assisting service members in filing their taxes for several years now. As a free of

charge service, they will help tax payers navigate the obstacle course that is the United States tax code, including military specific areas that are not commonly known.

All volunteers have completed Internal Revenue Service training courses for both civilian and military tax preparation services. In the past two years alone, the Columbus AFB Tax Center filed returns for over 340 service members, which put over \$650,000 back in their pockets and also saved the filers an additional \$80,000 in tax preparation fees. This type of service is being phased out across the military, so take advantage of it while it is still available.

The Columbus AFB Tax Center is open to all active-duty and retired service members E-5 and below or whose taxable income was less than \$58,000 in 2014. If you do not meet these limits, the Tax Center can refer you to alternative online services that may be beneficial. Walk-ins are accepted on Mondays from 1-4 p.m. (with the last client taken at 3 p.m.), or you may schedule an appointment for you and your family by calling the center at 434-7613. For any tax questions, feel free to call the office or stop by at building 926, room 105.

Upcoming EVENTS

CPR classes are offered at Baptist Golden Triangle, 6 p.m., in the Patient Tower. March classes will be held on March 2, 16 and 30. Pre-registration is required. Call the Education Department at (662) 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Baptist Cancer Center offers free prostate PSA screenings for men over 40 the last Friday of each month. March PSA screenings will be held in Starkville from 9 a.m.-noon. Make an appointment by calling at 244-4673 or 800-544-8767, ext. 4673.

Dr. Richard Heard, gastroenterologist, will discuss the latest in **advanced treatment for colorectal cancer** at Baptist Golden Triangle's free community education luncheon Thursday, March 12, noon-1p, rooms 4 & 5 PT, near the Gift Shop. Lunch provided. Seating is limited; call 662-244-1132 to register by March 5.

Baptist Golden Triangle offers **childbirth classes** each month. Classes are held on each Tuesday night at 6 p.m. To pre-register call the Education Department at 244-2498 or 800-544-8762, ext. 2498.

Diabetes Self Management Education Class meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Baptist Golden Triangle Outpatient Pavilion Conference Center. Physician referral is required. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

BMH-GT Diabetes Support Groups - day classes are the 3rd Wed. each month, 10-11 am, and evening classes are the 2nd Thurs. each month, 6-7 pm, rooms 4 & 5 PT. For information call 662-244-1596 or 800-544-8767, ext. 1596.

Baptist Memorial Hospice is seeking volunteers to assist in various ways in the office and with their families. Please call 662-243-1173 for more information.

For more information contact the numbers listed above
or email info.goldentriangle@bmhcc.org.

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Use it or lose it: Changes to Air Force leave policy arrive this year

Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez
Headquarters Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The warning on January's Leave and Earning Statement is clear — "Important: Manage your leave. On 1 Oct 15, you will lose all accrued leave over 60 days unless special leave accrual applies."

Air Force active duty, active guard and reserve members with more than 60 days of leave have less than eight months to use or lose those days as a result of changes in leave policy.

Since October 2008, high operations tempo in the Air Force drove the implementation of a temporary leave carry-over extension provision that allowed Air Force members to carryover 75 days of leave to the next fiscal year without incurring a loss, but as of Sept. 30, or the end of fiscal year 2015, the provision expires, bringing the leave cap down to 60.

"I don't see any indication of it being extended at this time," said Derek Salis, Pacific Air Forces chief of enlisted promotions and customer support. "Consequently, if [Airmen] don't prepare by planning on using leave between now and Sept. 30, they will lose it."

Airmen may be eligible for Special Leave Accrual entitlements if they faced situations caused by a catastrophe, national emergency or crisis, or operations in defense of national security that prevented them from reducing their leave balance before the end of FY15.

"SLA is not automatic, it must be requested," Salis said. "Additional information can be found in AFI 36-3003 [Military Leave Program], or members can talk to their servicing [Military Personnel Section] customer service."

Another option for Airmen is to sell leave back to the service. For each day of leave sold back, they'll be paid a day's worth of basic pay. With this option, Airmen are only allowed to sell back 60 days.

Salis said enlisted members may sell back leave upon reenlistment or entering the first extension of an enlistment.

"There are also provisions ... that allow a one-time SLA sell back, to be sold at any time, which is authorized for enlisted members who would lose leave accumulated in excess of 120 days," Salis said. "Officers may only sell leave prior to a retirement or separation."

Master Sgt. Marija Showalter, PACAF command military pay manager, noted the importance of knowing the accurate balance of leave come Sept. 30.

As the military payment system has not yet been programmed to show the updated use/lose changes, the use/lose block on Leave and Earnings Statements may not reflect the accurate number of days a member is projected to lose. Currently, members wanting to know their actual use/lose leave balance need to look at their current leave balance and do the calculations necessary to arrive at the correct use/lose balance, she said.

"Leave Web may not provide you with the most up to date information," Showalter said.

While calculating the number of leave days before the end of the fiscal year, Airmen should also ensure they factor in the amount of leave they will earn up until the end of September, which accumulates at 2.5 days per month.

For information about the military leave program visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil> or consult with your local finance office or MPS.



U.S. Air Force graphic by Tech. Sgt. James Stewart/Released
As of Oct. 1, 2015, the accrued leave balance for Airmen will go from 75 to 60 days of use or lose leave.

Who is Temple?

Airman John Day
14th Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is the third article in a continuation of a 2014 series on the memorializations on Columbus Air Force Base.)

Air Force pride at Columbus Air Force Base is shown by honoring those who have come before us.

We do this honoring by naming our streets and structures after influential Airmen with ties to Columbus AFB.

During a 2008 Black History Month luncheon, Col. Dave Gerber, the then 14th Flying Training Wing Commander, renamed A Street to Alva Temple Road in recognition of Lt. Col. Alva Temple, a Tuskegee Airman.

Temple was born Sept. 5, 1917, in Carrollton, Alabama. As a child, he worked picking cotton during the depression. Years later, he studied agricultural education at Alabama A&M University.

After college, he applied for pilot training, but was rejected because the military did not have separate facilities for black pilots. The Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee Army Air Field accepted him later on for the experimental training where he graduated from Class 43-G and commissioned as a second lieutenant, becoming one of the nearly 1,000 Tuskegee Airmen.

During his career, Temple flew more than 100 combat missions over Italy, Southern Europe, Southern France and the Balkan Nations, equaling more than 5,000 flight hours. He was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group and flew the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk.

The Tuskegee Airmen were proud of the fact they were the first black aviators. They demonstrated this pride by painting the tails of their aircraft red, earning them the nickname Red Tails. As a whole, they never allowed a single bomber escorted by them to be shot down.



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Alva Temple is one of the first of the nearly 1,000 Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airman project was an experimental program allowing blacks to join the military and pilot aircraft for the first time in American history.

Although the Tuskegee program ended, Temple stayed in the Air Force, until retiring from his 20-year career in 1962 as a lieutenant colonel. Upon his retirement Temple became the owner and operator of Temple's BP Stations and Radiator Sales in Columbus, Mississippi.

He remained an avid community member, speaking regularly at churches and events until his death in 2004.

This month, Columbus AFB celebrates many years of black history and honors not only Lt. Col. Temple, but all other Tuskegee Airmen who gave their lives for their county and the great strides they made toward racial equality.



**Buckle up!
It's the law.**

Dental Assistants Recognition Week

Lt. Col. Marie-Antonette Brancato
14th Medical Operations Squadron
Dental Flight Commander

It's that time of year to flash your smile and say "thanks" to the dental assistants everywhere, especially here at the Columbus Dental Clinic.

The American Dental Assistants Association has designated March 1-7, 2015, as Dental Assistants Recognition Week.

At the Columbus Dental Clinic, all the providers and I take it one step further. Not only do we praise those who work chairside with the dentists, those who clean your teeth or greet you at the front desk, but also those behind the scenes who work hard in our dental lab. We appreciate their dedication and hard work day-in and day-out all year long.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Dental Assisting: Embracing the Changes of the Profession." It's a time for dental assistants

everywhere to receive recognition for their diverse contributions to the dental profession and the dental health care of the public. Columbus Air Force Base's dental assistants help make your visit to the base dentist productive, safe and comfortable, which is vital to the dental health and mission success of Team BLAZE.



14th OG gets commander's trophy



Lt. Col. Robert Mozeleski, 14th Operations Group Deputy Commander, accepts the Columbus Air Force Base Commander's Trophy on behalf of the 14th OG from Tyler Marsh, Columbus AFB Sports Director, Feb. 24. The trophy is an annual award given to the group who collectively both participates and excels in the intramural sports program.

U.S. Air Force photo/Sharon Ybarra

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2015 visionary leadership award winners announced

Janis El Shabazz

Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Air Force officials recently named the winners of the 2015 Brigadier General Wilma Vaught Visionary Leadership Award.

Named in honor of Vaught, the award recognizes service members and civilians who have exhibited innovation, commitment and a selfless spirit of service to others while inspiring others and significantly improving the integration of and opportunities for women in the Air Force.

The award winners include the following:

- **Maj. Miriam Krieger, Air Education and Training Command** — Krieger coordinated the first Women's Marshall Scholars Forum which created a network focused on women's issues. Marshall scholarships finance post-graduate studies in the U.K. for young Americans that university academic advisers believe have the potential to excel as scholars and leaders. As a member of the chief of staff of the Air Force's Captains Prestigious PhD program, she rallied a diverse team of volunteer subject matter experts to solve an issue of top concern: low retention and promotion

rates for Air Force women.

- **Senior Master Sgt. Latoya Edwards-Morgan, Air Force Global Strike Command** — Edwards-Morgan organized the women's history lunch and led an 18-member planning committee to a successful event. Edwards-Morgan spearheaded a 'Did You Know' women's event that celebrated 12 influential women, raising awareness and education. She was also the program manager for a Susan G. Komen program team that volunteered 400 hours and raised more than \$30,000 for cancer research.

- **Kimberly Grabelski, Air Force Space Command** — Grabelski was the first female senior analyst in the only U.S. space operations center, managing 624 intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) products - the bedrock to global space operations. Grabelski established an ISR women's council which fostered conversation on military issues, creating the foundation for future ISR projects. She provided positive female leadership and led two Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program discussions that inspired two members to volunteer as victim advocates.

For more information on Air Force recognition programs go to myPers.



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Resurrecting the ‘Ghost Rider’

Master Sgt. Greg Steele
93rd Bomb Squadron

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — After almost seven years of slumber, a sleeping giant awakened in the Arizona desert. It prepared to take flight Friday the 13th from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, on a historic journey to resume the mission for which it was created; provide strategic long-range bomber support anywhere in the world, at any time.

Emerging from the crowd that gathered to watch the historic event was Mr. Jerry Fugere, an 80 year old veteran, native of Tucson and an aspiring 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group tour guide of the notorious Boneyard. Fugere’s connection with this B-52 Stratofortress called “Ghost Rider” began in 1962 at Homestead AFB, Fla., when he accepted the jet as a young crew chief. It arrived straight from the Boeing assembly line with just 17 flying hours on it. He became its first crew chief.

“Every time I came on base, I would see her sitting out in the field and she would bring back a swell of fond memories,” said Fugere. “Then one day, I looked out there and she was gone.” AMARG has been maintaining the aircraft in 1000-type storage, which is the most preserved level of aircraft storage. In late 2014, little did he know that the B-52 had been towed to a spot on the flight line to start the regeneration process that would bring his old friend back to life.

“It was chosen after thorough inspections and extensive engineering analysis,” said Capt. Chuck McLeod, the B-52 System Project Office team lead. Although well preserved, the blazing hot Arizona sun took its toll on the dormant aircraft bleaching sections of its exposed aluminum skin almost white, and causing the tires and major fuel lines to dry rot.

According to Tech. Sgt. Stephen Sorge, a fuels specialist from the 307th Maintenance Squadron, the most challenging part of this project was replacing all the fuel bladders and lines but we had a safe and successful run of all eight engines the end of January.

“Our first engine start was a sight to see,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Cocran, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. “Out of the exhaust came a black cloud of smoke, then a huge flame as it roared to life.”

The first taxi of Ghost Rider down the runway occurred on the day prior to its scheduled flight to Barksdale AFB, La., and was a critical test of the steering capability of the landing gear. They needed to ensure that after years sitting idle in the desert, the aircraft could be safely controlled down the runway.

Friday the 13th arrived with all of the eyes fixed on the runway. All that could be heard was the sound of Ghost Rider’s eight engines powering up. Fugere, wearing a bright orange marshaling vest, was given the honor of directing her from her parking spot to the taxiway.

“Everyone in our group agreed Mr. Fugere should be giv-



A U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress is towed from a maintenance area at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, Feb. 11, 2015, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. The aircraft, tail number 61-1007 and known as the “Ghost Rider”, is being regenerated for active service after sitting in storage since 2008 when it was decommissioned and sent the Boneyard.

en the honor once again to marshal his jet into history,” said 307th Maintenance Project Lead, Senior Master Sgt. Gavin Smith. She rumbled down the runway and took to the sky as if the years of a stagnant life in the Arizona desert had never happened. Surprisingly, instead of an air of celebration, the mood was somber as Ghost Rider climbed into the sky and disappeared out of sight. Smith pulled out his phone, and made the call everyone had been waiting to hear, “Aircraft 61-007 is airborne.” Because this had never been done before, the Air Force Global Strike Command projected it would take 90 days to regenerate the B-52. This total force team did it in a little over 70.

“This was a joint maintenance endeavor between Air Force Global Strike Command, the B-52 System Program Office, AMARG and Air Force Reserve Command,” said Chief Master Sgt. Steve Vogle, AFGSC B-52 Weapons System team chief. “This is another fine example of the Air Force’s Total Force Enterprise working together and achieving another first in bomber history.” The experienced flight crew was carefully picked to ensure they were well prepared to handle any adversity on the flight back to Barksdale.

Upon landing the crew was greeted by a group of excited Airmen to welcome Ghost Rider home to the Barksdale Flightline.

“I’ve been flying the B-52s since the 80s and it surprised me that after almost seven years...she cranked up just fine and we had no issues with the flight control systems. It took a little under three hours for the flight and we were fortunate to have had good weather the entire trip as the inertial and navigational equipment had not been installed.” said



A U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortress is towed from a maintenance area at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, Feb. 11, 2015, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. The aircraft, tail number 61-1007 and known as the “Ghost Rider”, is being regenerated for active service after sitting in storage since 2008 when it was decommissioned and sent the Boneyard.

the pilot Col. Keith Schultz, 307th Operations Group commander, who with more than 6,500 hours, is the most experienced B-52 pilot still flying in the Air Force.

“This aircraft has made it through Jerry Fugere’s career, through the twilight of my career and it could very well perform through these young maintainer’s careers who once again brought her back to life.”

Columbus AFB, Mississippi

RECYCLING LIST 2015

Columbus Air Force Base OFFICIAL recycling list: **PAPER.** All kinds, all colors, books, magazines, cardboard, cereal boxes. **PLASTIC.** #1 and #2 that includes just about every bottle you drink out of. **METAL.** Cans, parts, shelving... **GLASS.** Bottles only – any color. **Note:** housing does not take glass, but it can be dropped at the recycle bins in the BX parking lot. **ANYONE** can use the recycle bins in the BX area. PLEASE empty bottles of all contents. Please empty boxes and fold them flat.

What is trash?

- food on paper, oily paper, napkins, tissues and diapers.
- Anything that is icky or rotting
- Foam, dirt, rocks, plants or anything mixed with them
- Plate glass, glass objects, safety glass (bottles are recycle)

The rest can be recycled. See list above.

Weird stuff:

- **Oil:** Petroleum based can be taken to the auto hobby shop or any auto parts store. Food oil can be taken to the BX, bowling alley or club oil drum (ask first).
- **Electronics:** Recycle center will take ANY electronics or devices that have a plug. (metal and plastic recovery)
- **Batteries:** Look for the recycle boxes around base for ni-cad/lithium and other rechargeable batteries. call 434-7406 for others.
- **Wood:** call 434-7406. Remove hinges, screws, glass, plastic and foam.
- **Big stuff:** The thrift store also takes usable furniture, clean folded clothing, and toys.
- Moving boxes and packing material. Please fold empty boxes.
- Anything else call and ask, 434-7406.

CONTACT: Mike Blythe
14 CES/CEIE 434-7353/7974
email: michael.blythe@us.af.mil

Commander’s Action Line

434-1414

The Commander’s Action Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB a better place. Although the Commander’s Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command.

The Commander’s Action Line phone number is 434-1414. Callers should leave their name and phone number to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential. Message may be answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the PA office in the Wing Headquarters building, BLDG. 724, suite 210. Questions and answers may be edited for brevity and style.

Unit Effectiveness Inspection

Major Graded Area 1

Manage Resources. Commanders are entrusted with resources to accomplish a stated mission. Those resources include: manpower, funds, equipment, facilities and environment, guidance, and Airmen’s time. Commanders must consider risk in their stewardship of scarce resources to ensure effective and efficient mission accomplishment. As part of managing their resources, higher echelon commanders must ensure adequate resources are provided to subordinate commanders. Likewise, subordinate commanders must inform higher echelon commanders of resource shortfalls.

Unit Effectiveness Inspection

Major Graded Area 2

Lead People. Effectively leading people is the art of command. Commanders must maintain effective communication processes and ensure unit members are well disciplined, trained and developed. At all times, commanders must lead by personal example and pay judicious attention to the welfare and morale of their subordinates. Commanders will enforce the Air Force cultural standards on conduct, performance, and discipline outlined in AFI 1-1, Air Force Standards. Further, commanders will establish and maintain a healthy command climate which fosters good order and discipline, teamwork, cohesion and trust. A healthy climate ensures members are treated with dignity, respect, and inclusion, and does not tolerate harassment, assault, or unlawful discrimination of any kind.

Vote through action

Maj. Brenton Pickrell
14th Security Forces Squadron Commander

We all joined the Air Force for different reasons, and regardless of those reasons we shared high hopes upon joining.

Upholding the values of our service and maintaining that hope typically proves challenging and often takes considerable strength and courage. Anyone is capable of overcoming this adversity, but much like a muscle, you must strengthen your ability to uphold these principles.

I often liken this idea to voting.

In terms of politics it is your choice to vote, but in this analogy you will cast a vote. Your actions or inaction is a vote for what kind of organization you want our Air Force to be. If you witness someone failing to adhere to these values and ignore that infringement upon our culture, you are casting a vote on what kind of organization this is. You also compromise the hopes you entered with.

However, like a muscle, you can tone and strengthen your ability to correct things over time, and it becomes easier each time you do it. It takes significant personal strength and courage to approach someone who outranks you and tell them they are not setting an appropriate example; but the first time you do this takes more strength and courage than it ever will again.

We should reflect upon this from both points of view. If we tell sexist or racially motivated jokes, we just cast a vote. If a person junior to us in rank corrects us, and we disregard or worse yet, admonish them when we know in reality they were correct, we just cast a vote. If we step over garbage on the way into a build-

In terms of politics it is your choice to vote, but in this analogy you will cast a vote. Your actions or inaction is a vote for what kind of organization you want our Air Force to be. If you witness someone failing to adhere to these values and ignore that infringement upon our culture, you are casting a vote on what kind of organization this is. You also compromise the hopes you entered with.

ing, we just cast a vote. If we refuse to correct someone because it is difficult or uncomfortable, we just cast a vote. However, in each case the opposite is also true.

What kind of organization do you want to be a part of? Are you willing to put forth the effort, and employ the strength and courage necessary to cast the vote that makes this an Air Force of which you are proud? Would your loved ones be proud of the Air Force you are helping to create? I urge everyone to reflect upon the votes you cast and ensure you cast the vote you intend!

MyMC2 app

Welcome to the My Military Communities information page. MyMC2 is the mobile application that centralizes all of your installation's community events, organizations and services right in your pocket.



How do I get MyMC2 for my phone?

You can access this app by navigating to the native app store or market on your device and search for "MyMC2", or you can scan this QR code and it will take you directly to the download page in your phone.



iPhone
QR code

Android
QR code

If you have any questions or need support please visit www.facebook.com/mymc2support

Mere minutes between life and death

Senior Airman Rebecca Blossom
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — As storms brewed throughout northern California Feb. 7, the community of Hiouchi in Del Norte County went dark. Whole trees and large branches were thrown by the wind into power lines and transformers, and more than 5,600 people in Del Norte lost power.

One of those people was Joe Akin, a retired California state peace officer and Army veteran. As emergency personnel worked to return power to the citizens of Del Norte, Akin began to notice a more personal issue.

"I believed I was suffering from some sort of respiratory, heart, or other ailment," he said.

Akin sent a text message requesting assistance to a relative of Staff Sgt. Wade Owen, the 627th Security Forces Squadron deputy Raven program manager, who was with family near Hiouchi on vacation.

According to Owen, Akin's text wasn't clear due to his incapacitated condition, and it created confusion about where he was and what was wrong with him.

"He sent a text to my mother-in-law with random characters that didn't make sense, but the numbers 9-1-1 were in it, so I knew something was wrong," Owen said.

Owen took it upon himself to drive ten miles and check Akin's residence.

"His front door has glass panes in it. I looked inside, but the power was out," Owen said. "At first, it looked like there was just a flannel shirt on the ground, and I almost left. Then I kind of looked at it a little closer, and I could see a head. He was lying face down."

As his wife called emergency services, Owen kicked in the door.

"I thought he was dead at first," Owen said. "I went over to check his vitals and then I saw him take a breath."

That was when his wife brought the smell of exhaust to his attention.

"I didn't even smell the gas at first," Owen said.

Akin's backup generator, which he was using during the power outage wasn't ventilated properly and the home was filled with exhaust fumes and carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and extremely toxic gas.

"That's when I noticed it was bad," he



Staff Sgt. Wade Owen stands in the Raven training room, Feb. 18, 2015, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Owen saved the life of Joe Akin, a retired Army veteran, by kicking down the door to Akin's residence after he had succumbed to a nearly lethal dose of carbon monoxide. Owen is the 627th Security Forces Squadron deputy Raven program manager.

"He sent a text to my mother-in-law with random characters that didn't make sense, but the numbers 9-1-1 were in it, so I knew something was wrong," Owen said.

said. "I could actually see the cloud of exhaust in the house."

Owen dragged the 6-foot-1-inch, 300 pound Akin out of the house.

"Once outside, he continually assessed and monitored my condition, simultaneously attempting to elicit a response from me until emergency services arrived and transported me to a higher level of care,"

Akin said. "It was later determined that I had been exposed to a potentially lethal dose of carbon monoxide."

Owen also suffered some minor exposure effects of the gas.

"Joe is a big guy, and after I moved him a little I noticed it was getting hard for me to breathe," Owen said. "By that time it was pretty bad, I was even getting a little

light-headed from breathing heavily while carrying him."

Luckily, the effects were short term for Owen.

Akin, however, having spent a considerable amount of time exposed to the gas, required a constant flow of oxygen and an overnight stay in the intensive care unit of a local hospital.

"It was the opinion of medical professionals that mere minutes stood between me and certain death," Akin said.

Akin has fully recovered from the incident, and has nothing but praise for the man who saved his life.

"The fact that I am here today can only be attributed to the swift actions and bravery of Staff Sgt. Wade Owen," he said.

NEW Force Support Squadron Website

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Twitter at @columbusafbliving, MyAirForceLife App on any smart phone or visit our website at columbusafbliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact 434-2337.

Nerf Games Lock-In

The Youth Center is offering a lock-in for ages 9 – 13, from 8 p.m. Feb. 27 until 7 a.m. Feb. 28. Heavy snacks and Nerf gear will be provided. Bring sleep gear. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Baseball, T-Ball, and Girls Softball Registration

Register at the Youth Center from March 2 - 27 for ages 3 – 18. The cost is \$35 for ages three to four; \$40 ages five through 18. Save \$5 per player if registered by March 6. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Half Price Rentals

Outdoor Recreation is offering half price rental on jumpers and other select items during the month of February. This sale excludes tickets and tours. Rental must be used during month of February. For more information, contact 434-2505.

Air Force Club Scholarship

Club Membership has its rewards. Submit your essay online March 2 – May 1 for a chance to win a \$1,000 or \$500 scholarship. Open to Air Force Club members and their eligible dependents. For more information, rules and instructions, visit: MyAirForceLife.com/Clubs.

Glo Ball Tournament

The Golf Course is offering a 9-hole, three-person scramble March 7. Tee off at dusk. The cost is \$30 per person; free for a single airman team of two or more. Cost includes green fees, cart, glo ball, and prize fund. Must register and pay no later than Feb. 28. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Spring Break Camp for Youth

Sign up now for the Spring Break Camp at the Youth Center from March 9 - 13. Registration is open until all slots filled. Fees based on total family income. For more information, call 434-2504.

Community Service Project

The Youth Center is offering a trip to Trinity Place Retirement Community from 1 – 3 p.m. March 12. Enjoy music and games with the residents. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Family 3-Point Shootout

The Youth Center is offering a Family 3-point Shootout and Hotspot Competition at 5:30 p.m. March 12. An adult must compete with each child ages 6 to 18. Register no later than March 10. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Wine Pairing

Whispering Pines Golf Course is offering a Wine Pairing at 6 p.m. March 12. The cost is only \$22.50 per person; includes a sampling of at least four wines with heavy hors d'oeuvres with each pairing. For more information, contact 434-7932.

St. Patrick's Day Lunch Buffet

The Columbus Club is offering a St. Patrick's Day lunch buffet from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. March 17. The cost is \$8.95 per person; \$7.95 for club members. The menu includes corned beef and cabbage, Parmesan and parsley fried potatoes, Sheppard's pie, corn and drink. For more information, contact 434-2489.



Kick Butts Day Health Fair

Learn the dangers of tobacco use and other substances harmful to the body. Join the Youth Center at 4 p.m. March 18. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Colon Cancer Awareness Fitness Run

Columbus Air Force Base supports Colon Cancer Awareness Month. Dress in blue to show your support March 20 at 7 a.m. Decorate your bikes for the 10K bike ride or wear blue for the 5K run/walk. Commander's trophy points will be awarded. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Golf Course Open House

The Golf Course is offering an Open House Sunday from 1 – 5 p.m. March 22. Enjoy free green fees, \$5 per person golf cart rental (must share) and hot dog, chips, or a drink for only 50 cents each. Sign up for the Annual Green Fees Program no later than April 1 and receive a 10 percent discount on annual green fees. For more information, contact 434-7932.

Boys and Girls Club Week

The Youth Center is celebrating Boys and Girls Club Week March 29 – April 4. Special programs and activities will be offered daily. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Community Service Project

The Youth Center is collecting donations for the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen of Columbus, Mississippi. Drop off any type of dried beans or rice to the Youth Center by March 31. For more information, contact 434-2504.

Car Maintenance on Base

Don't forget you can get your general automotive maintenance and repairs at the Auto Hobby Shop right here on base and even while you work. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, Auto Hobby offers a wide array of tools and equipment. For more information drop by or call 434-7842.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Free classes are scheduled every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6 p.m. The benefits include huge gains in confidence, functional strength, flexibility, discipline, and overall physical conditioning. Mandatory equipment: BJJ Kimono (Gi); for ages 13 and up. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Horseback Riding Lessons

Check us out, learn a new sport, start riding again, or enhance your riding skills. Lessons are available at the Columbus Air Force Base stables for ages five and up in the ways of English and western riding. For more information, contact (610) 248-4824.

Wood Shop Self Help

Do you need to complete a wood project? The base wood shop is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for only \$4 per hour. For more information, contact 434-7836.

“Beach Body” Body Blast Fitness

“If it's Burning, It's Growing.” The class is Monday – Friday at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Brandy at 434-2772.

Hot Hula Fitness Class

Polynesian dance workout is an easy to follow, low impact exercise that strengthens arms, abs, and legs. Classes offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. at the Fitness Center. For more information, contact 434-2772.

Events at the Club

Schedule your next event (big or small) at the Columbus Club. Event planning, preparation, tours, and payments are made by appointment only Tuesday- Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call the club caterer at 434-2489 to schedule your event.

RV Storage Lot

Don't clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call 434-2505.

Earn Free Lunch at the Columbus Club

Pick up your BLAZE lunch punch card today at the Columbus Club. Purchase just 10 lunches at the Columbus Club and receive the 11th free. For more information, contact 434-2489.

Green Plate Special

The Pro Shop at Whispering Pines Golf Course offers a special for lunch Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 434-7932 or check us out on Facebook at Columbus AFB Living or Twitter @CAFBLiving!

Instructional Classes at Youth Center

Youth Programs is offering piano lessons, guitar lessons, tumbling classes, dance classes, and martial arts instruction. Times and ages vary for all classes. Call 434-2504 or stop by the Youth Center for more information.

Fitness on Request

CAFB Fitness and Sports offers a truly comprehensive group fitness platform that is available all day and completely customizable to meet your needs with over 30 different classes on the Fitness on Request system. For more information, call 434-2772.

Space A Lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at 434-2548.

Air Force Readiness Programs

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)

Military Saves Home Buying Workshop

This workshop, Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., is open for all Columbus AFB personnel. It gives critical information to make better informed decisions on the purchase of your home. Please call 434-2790 in advance to register.

Transition Assistance Program GPS Workshop

This workshop, held March 2-6, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., is mandatory for all personnel separating. Pre-separation counseling is required before attending. Seminars will be on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, MS Dept. of Employment Security, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP, Dept. of Labor TAP portion. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register call A&FRC, 434-2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

This brief, March 3, 8 a.m. - noon, is mandatory for newly arrived active-duty and civilian personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. The orientation is held at the Columbus Club, for more information call 434-2839.

Military Life Cycle

The Military Life Cycle workshop, March 3, 1-2 p.m., allows the VA contractors to explain to service members, whether first term, separating, retiring or a veteran, what services the VA offers and what they are able to provide throughout the member's military career and how to apply for benefits. To register and more information please call 434-2790.

Career Technical Track

This transition event, March 9-10, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., explores technical careers for post military personnel using VA Educational benefits. It is conducted by CALIBRE, a private company contracted by DVA. Prior registration is required, company requires 10 days notification and must have minimum of 8 participants to make, to register and more information call 434-2790.

Summer Employment USAJobs Workshop

This workshop, March 11, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. and 2 - 3:30 p.m., will give young people information required to job search, navigate and apply through USAJobs for summer employment. The prerequisites are establishment of USAJobs account and profile prior to attending workshop. For additional information or to register call 434-2790.

TAP Education Track

This transition event, March 11-12, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., prepares individuals for the college application process. It addresses topics as identifying educational goals, funding, and researching and comparing institutions. Upon completing the educational track, members will be prepared to submit an application to institution, schedule session with a counselor and connect with a student vet org on campus. Members will be able to meet with educational counselors for individualized preparation. Call 434-2790 to register.

Spouse Deployment Briefing

This readiness event, March 12, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., gives information on deployment to spouses of military members who may or may not already be tasked to deploy. Call 434-2790 to register.



U.S. Air Force photo/Sonic Johnson

While bad weather curtailed most missions on Columbus AFB, base families enjoyed many outdoor snow activities once the weather cleared Thursday afternoon. In a rare sight a snowman stands watch at Freedom Park at days end.

Survivor-Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan. As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision, and be wary of anyone telling you they can offer you a better deal. Always get the true facts about the SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Jamey Coleman at (662) 434-2720.

Pre-separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or retirement. The counseling is held daily at 8:30 a.m. It takes approximately 60 minutes. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Pre, Post Deployment Tour Brief

These briefings are mandatory briefings for active-duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. The briefings are held daily at the A&FRC. Pre-deployment is at 9:30 a.m., and post-deployment is at 1:30 p.m. Please contact A&FRC, 434-2839/434-2790 for more information.

Military and Family Life Consultant Program

The MFLC counselors provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen, (both single and married) their spouses and other family members to cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration, and life challenges, such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All consultants are licensed mental health providers. Counselors can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC call 662-364-0504.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Airman & Family Readiness Center. We have volunteer opportunities located throughout the base for a one-time event, special events, or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Golf Course, Medical Clinic, the Chapel, Airman Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities office and many others. For more information please call A&FRC at 434-2790.

Air Force Recovery Coordination Program

The Recovery Coordination Program streamlines and improves the way care and support are delivered to wounded, ill, and injured Airmen and their families. The RCP provides the support of a Recovery Care Coordinator who guides the Airman and family along their road to recovery. Those eligible include wounded, ill and injured Airmen who: (1) have a serious illness or injury (2) are unlikely to return to duty within a specified amount of time (3) may be medically separated from the military. Additional details are available by contacting the Columbus AFB RCC at DSN: 493-3399, Office: 334-953-3399 or tim.griggs.1.ctr@us.af.mil.

Chapel Schedule

Whether you are new to Columbus Air Force Base or have been around for a while, our parish communities welcome you to join us as we worship, fellowship, and encourage one another. For more information, please call 434-2500.

Catholic Community

Sunday:
3:15 p.m. – Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (Chapel Annex)
3:45 p.m. – Religious Education, grades K-9 (Chapel Annex)
4 p.m. – Choir Practice (Chapel Sanctuary)
4 p.m. – Confession (or by appointment)
5 p.m. – Mass w/Children's Church
Tuesday:
11:30 a.m. – Daily Mass
Friday:
Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m., followed by meatless soup

Protestant Community

Sunday:
9 a.m. – Adult Sunday School (Chapel Library)
10:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service
Tuesday:
5 p.m. – Student Pilot Bible Study (Chapel Library)
Wednesday:
4 p.m. - Music Rehearsal



Courtesy photo/Staff Sgt. Cody Howk
Snow swirls down near the Columbus Air Force Base Weather Shop Feb. 25 on Columbus AFB. Snow accumulation of more than 5 inches shut Columbus Air Force Base down for 2 days.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile
Columbus AFB T-38 Talons sit protected from the snow ironically by sun shelters Feb. 25.

SNOW BLANKETS COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile
The Columbus Air Force Base welcome sign on Highway 45 sits covered in snow Feb. 25. The base was closed Feb. 25-26 as more than 5 inches of snow were recorded on the base.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Daniel Lile
T-38 Talon-64-172 sits under a blanket of snow Feb. 25 on the Columbus AFB flightline.



U.S. Air Force photo/ Airman Daniel Lile
One of the 100 Columbus AFB T-6 Texans weathered the 2 day sleet and snow storm Feb. 25.