



Newslines

Medical Group news

The 20th Medical Group will offer limited services after 2 p.m. today, due to group training. Primary Care will assist with acute medical concerns only. The Base Exchange and clinic pharmacies, laboratory and radiology departments will also close.

Effective May 3, BX pharmacy hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Civilian CC Call

A 20th Fighter Wing Commander's Civilian Call is set for Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Base Theater.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeants' Association is set to meet Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at Club Shaw.

Christian luncheon

A Christian Fellowship Luncheon is set for Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Center. Cost is \$3. RSVP by noon Tuesday. For more information, call 895-1408 or 895-1106.

Maintenance banquet

The 2004 Maintenance Professional of the Year Banquet is set for 6 p.m. April 23 at the Sumter Exhibition Center. Guest speaker for the event will be Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Murray. Tickets are \$13. For more information, call 895-9194.

More Newslines on Page 4

Weekend Weather

Saturday



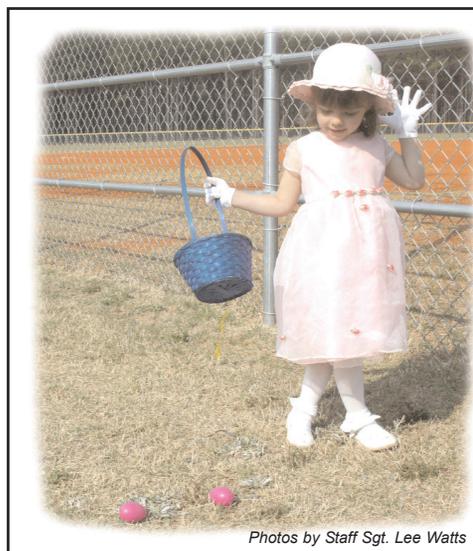
Sunny
High: 78
Low: 51

Sunday



Sunny
High: 81
Low: 55

Courtesy of the 20th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight



Photos by Staff Sgt. Lee Watts

Eggs-iting discovery

Shaw's littlest members hunted for eggs Saturday at the Youth Center Sports Complex on base. Children at the event also had their faces painted and visited the Easter Bunny. For more egg hunt pictures, see Page 17.



New civilian system in works

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- A letter signed by Defense Department leaders asks DoD civilian employees to be patient as teams work to make the new National Security Personnel System a reality.

The April 1 letter, signed by David S.C. Chu, undersecretary for personnel and readiness, and Navy Secretary Gordon England, stresses that DoD sees the new personnel system as a combined effort.

The system, passed as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, allows DoD officials to transform the civilian personnel system to make it more agile and responsive.

Defense Secretary Mr. Donald Rumsfeld said the new system would make it easier for the department to make new hires and keep highly-skilled employees. It also would allow DoD to move workers to shortage spe-

cialties as national security concerns change.

Taking time will allow the department to consult with employees, managers and unions, a DoD spokeswoman said.

Department officials are consulting with people at the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of Management and Budget and the Government Accounting Office as the new system takes shape. They are also taking lessons from the Department of Homeland Security, which built its own personnel system after it was formed last year.

Five teams within DoD are looking at process, personnel, programs, requirements and communications, officials said. A sixth team will draw recommendations from these five together in one package. That proposal is scheduled to be presented to Secretary Rumsfeld and other senior leaders this month.

Once approved, senior leaders will

work with Congress to implement the system.

Mr. Chu and Secretary England said the system still is being formed, and few details about how it would work are available because there is no system yet. Concepts and proposals will change over time and department leaders will do their best to keep employees informed, they said.

According to NSPS's Web site at www.dp.hq.af.mil/dpp/dppn/nsps, the new system will create a framework of rules, regulations, and processes — rooted in the principles of flexibility and fairness — that govern the way civilians are hired, compensated, promoted and disciplined in DoD. Officials said this legislation was necessary to replace outdated and rigid civil service rules that hindered the Department's ability to carry out its national security mission and recognize the critical role a dedicated DoD civilian workforce plays in that mission. *(Airman 1st Class Susan Penning contributed to this story.)*



Page 3:

Holocaust victims are honored during "Days of Remembrance."

Page 13:

A seminar at Shaw will share principles for enhancing your marriage.



Newslines II

Awards luncheon

The Quarterly Awards Luncheon is set for April 28 at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Center. See your unit Top Three representative for tickets. Duty-uniform is required.

Education news

The Education Center has opening for Veterans Affairs work-studies positions. If you are a veteran and attending college, call 895-4716.

A commissioning seminar is set for April 28 from 9-11 a.m. at the Martha W. Wright Auditorium in the Education Center. Speakers will discuss the ROTC program, Officer Training School, the Airman Education and Commissioning Program and commissioning available through the medical corp. Seating is limited. To register, call 895-1835/1838.

Promotion ceremony

The monthly 20th Fighter Wing Promotion Ceremony is set for April 30 at 3 p.m. at Club Shaw.

Spring cleaning can prevent fires

By Mr. Shawn Sullivan and Mr. Stanley Bridges
20th Civil Engineer Squadron
fire inspectors

Spring cleaning can help Shaw members aid in home and office fire prevention.

A thorough spring cleaning can do much more than simply improve the appearance of a home. If it is done correctly, it can greatly increase the safety of both home and family in the event of a fire.

Residential and base facilities can reap the preventative benefits listed below.

One of the most important ways cleaning around the house can improve safety is by spending time reducing clutter inside and around the home and by continuously maintaining a clutter-free environment.

Clutter will not necessarily start a fire, but it can become added fuel once a blaze is lit.

Members should clean out storage areas such as garages,

attics, closets, sheds and basements on a regular basis to avoid accumulation. Do not allow items to pile up! Clutter such as old newspapers, magazines etc. can become fuel for a fire and will make it more difficult to extinguish and could prevent a family from escaping safely.

Another important step in the spring cleaning process is to reduce hazardous chemicals in the home.

Maintain only the amounts needed and be sure to use, store and dispose of them in a safe manner. Never mix chemicals, even when disposing of them.

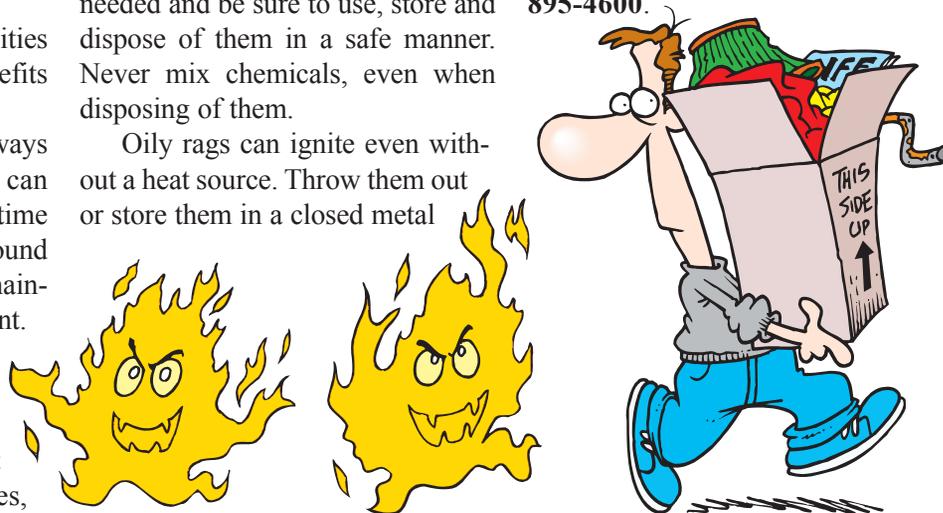
Oily rags can ignite even without a heat source. Throw them out or store them in a closed metal

container. Never use gasoline to clean clothes, auto parts or floors.

Barbecue season is approaching. Make sure the grill is clean before using it. Check for leaks, cracks and other wear and tear in the lines.

Never store propane cylinders inside a home or garage.

Spring cleaning can help improve fire safety. For more information, call Shaw's Fire and Emergencies Services Flight at 895-4600.



20th Security Forces Squadron Blotter

(Editor's note: The blotter includes incidents from the 20th Security Forces Squadron reports. The following information is intended to increase awareness of resource protection and safety concerns.)

- An Airman was charged with Driving Under the Influence and another with Driving While Impaired.
- An Airman was charged with Insubordinate Conduct Toward a NCO.
- An Airman was charged with Failure to Obey a Lawful Order.
- An Airman was charged with Assault.
- An Airman was charged with Underage Possession of Alcohol.
- An Airman was charged with Physical Altercation and Underage Drinking.

- An Airman reported Damage to Government Property in base housing.
- Theft of Government Property was reported by the 79th Fighter Squadron and Community Center.
- An Airman and her husband were involved in a verbal altercation.
- An Airman reported receiving prank phone calls.
- Security Forces responded to four incidents regarding accidents and damages to POVs.
- There were 30 traffic tickets issued during the week.

In case of emergency, call 911. Direct routine questions and non-emergency concerns to the 20th SFS at 895-3670. If you have information about any crime, listed here or otherwise, call the 20th Security Forces Investigations section at 895-3600.

Traffic Tips

Most reports of stolen property result from leaving property unsecured. Always lock your car, even if just for a few minutes. Close windows and make sure the trunk is locked. Store valuable items in your trunk, if possible. Avoid leaving your vehicle in an unattended parking lot for long periods of time. Keep your car's vehicle identification number in a safe place at home. If your vehicle is broken into or stolen, inform the 20th Security Forces Squadron Desk immediately. Stolen vehicles may be used to commit other crimes.

Question Corner ?

Question: What is the minimum total score you must get on the fitness evaluation to be listed at the "Excellent" level?

Last week's question: The circle of stars represented in the American flag during the revolution symbolize the equality of the colonies.

Last week's winner: Senior Airman Mark Bryson, 28th Operational Weather Squadron

The first person to e-mail *The Shaw Spirit* at spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil with the correct answer will get their name in next week's paper.



DUI/DWI Statistics

Last incident: 6 days **Punishment:** At Shaw during 2003, there was more than \$3,800 of pay forfeited because of DUIs/DWIs.

Last unit: 20th AMXS

2004 total: 17

2003 total: 28

(As of Wednesday)

AIRMEN 24/7

AADD
Past week's saves: 16

Shaw's Airmen Against Drunk Driving offer free, confidential rides back to base for members who are intoxicated. For a ride, call 983-9722.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Donald Woods

Load Crew of the Quarter

The 20th Fighter Wing Weapons Standardization flight sponsored the Load Crew of the Quarter competition April 5. The winner was Crew 77-3. The winning crew members are (left to right) Senior Airman Marcus Wimberly, Airman Jeremy Smith and Staff Sgt. Randall Lamie. For the competition, the crews took a 20-question weapons knowledge test and performed their load. Also, inspections were completed on their tool boxes as well as their dress and appearance.

Randle retirement

Master Sgt. Angela Randle, 20th Services Squadron, is retiring after 20 years of service. She and her family have been at Shaw six months.

The Jersey City, N.J., native has one daughter. After retirement, She plans to start a career as a high school teacher.

The retirement ceremony is scheduled for today at 2 p.m. at the Conference Center.

Car seat safety check

The Tuomey Foundation and Sumter County Safe Kids is set to host a car seat safety check

Saturday in the Shaw Base Exchange parking lot from 9 a.m. to noon. Stop by and make

sure your car seats and boosters are installed properly and your children are in the correct seats for their ages and weights. For more information, call 778-8822.



Team Shaw members stay in the blue

The following is a list of Shaw members who re-enlisted during the month of March:

Chief master sergeants

Thomas Bennett, 9th Air Force; Jeffrey Rogers, 20th Maintenance Group

Senior master sergeants

Clarence Bellant, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Eric Benford, 20th Fighter Wing; Daniel Hennings, 20th AMXS; Michael Mims, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Michael Preston, 20th MXG

Master sergeants

Thomas Barriet, 77th Fighter Squadron; James Brooks, 20th FW; Kenneth Carr, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron; John Cox Jr., 20th CMS; Todd Curtis, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; David Dunton, 20th MXG; Ernest Fasoldt Jr., 20th Services Squadron; Dennis Gosselin, 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron; Jacqueline Greene, 77th FS; Gerald Hall, 20th CMS; Thomas Herold, 337th Recruiting Squadron; Mary Hoffer, 20th FW; George Jones, 337th RCS; Michael Joshua, 20th Maintenance Operations Squadron; Martin Keenan Jr., 20th CMS; John Marvin Jr., 20th MOS; Thomas McGarry, 20th CMS; Daniel Mickelson, 20th AMXS; Raymond Nalty, 20th EMS; Raymond Owens, 20th Security Forces Squadron; Leonard Palmer, 609th Air Support Squadron; Frank Rutan Jr., 20th EMS; Ernest Ryan, 9th AF; Michael Siegel, 20th EMS; Michael Stout, 20th Mission Support Squadron;

Scott Zigila, 372nd Training Squadron

Technical sergeants

Richard Becher, 20th EMS; Joseph Blackmon Jr., 337th RCS; Michael Braga, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron; Nona Chambers, 20th Medical Support Squadron; Duane Colbus, 609th Air Intelligence Squadron; Michael Corbin, 20th EMS; Mark Everist, 20th AMXS; Cynthia Gainer, 20th AMXS; Daniel Gilligan, 20th LRS; Jeannette Grimm, 20th EMS; Gena Harris, 20th FW; Timothy Hayes, 20th MXG; Daniel Ingrassia, 609th AIS; Richard Kelso Jr., 20th Communications Squadron; Taber Knight, 20th EMS; Charles Lockwood III, 20th AMXS; Jonathan Magee, 20th EMS; Tyrone Martin, 20th EMS; Edward Mcneil, 20th MSS; William Parker, 20th LRS; Jennifer Pring, 20th LRS; Vicente Ramon, 20th LRS; Richard Rednour, 20th SFS; Bradley Reider, 20th EMS; Tracy Rex, 20th MDSS; Victor Rounds, 20th CES; Paul Anthony Smith, 337th RCS; Stephen Schwartz, 337th RCS; Robert Speed, 20th FW; Larry Steinle, 20th CES; Susan Summers, 20th CES; Donald Swensen, 20th EMS; Toney Thorpe, 20th CMS; Linda Vereen, 9th AF; Stephanie Wolpink, 20th CS; David Wright, 20th EMS

Staff sergeants

Corey Becker, 20th SFS; Eric Behring, 31st Intelligence Squadron; Bridgette Blanda, 31st IS; Tonesha Booker, 20th SFS; Heather Browning, 31st IS; Jeremy Caplinger, 20th EMS; Steven Caselli, 20th LRS; Donald Cook Jr., 20th CES; Melody

Cooper, 20th EMS; Angela Copeland, 20th ADOS; David Curtis Sr., 20th CES; Jacob Freeman Jr., 20th CES; Jaclynn Gaddis, 20th CS; John Hopson, 31st IS; Jeff Jones, 20th Operations Support Squadron; Kim Kendrick, 20th MDSS; Debra Lightner, 31st IS; Kathleen Macari, 9th Information Warfare Flight; Clay Mathews Jr., 20th OSS; Kevin McElveen, 20th EMS; Buddy Morgan, 20th CMS; Gregory Pabila, 20th CS; Travis Parks, 609th Air Communications Squadron; Joseph Pepperkorn, 20th AMXS; Todd Roberts, 20th AMXS; Felix Rodriguez, 609th ACOMS; Marie Rossey, 20th MXG; Kris Schneider, 609th ACOMS; Charles Starling Jr., 20th AMXS; Angela Sutton, 20th MSS; Victor Thomas, 20th AMXS

Senior airmen

Craig Bennett, 20th CS; Wesley Britt II, 20th CMS; Lucas Brooks, 20th AMXS; Ceresa Brunskill, 20th SFS; Shond Felton, 20th LRS; Gladys Fontenot, 20th MXG; Brian Garber, 20th CS; Diaz Gonzalez, 20th CES; Jeffrey Gunter, 31st IS; Tisha Heard, 20th LRS; Kristopher Helton, 20th SFS; Taelisha Lacy, 20th MOS; Kenneth Lowder Jr., 20th AMXS; Lasaun McNair, 20th CS; Todd Morris, 20th EMS; Burgos Muniz, 20th AMXS; Robert Roediger, 20th AMXS; Lee Walden, 20th AMXS; Belinda Ward, 20th FW; Michael Wieland, 20th AMXS; Christopher Williams, 20th CMS; John Winn, 20th EMS; Eun Yoon, 20th MOS

Airman 1st class

James Pastore, 20th CMS

AF predicts sunny skies for 28th OWS

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

The first, second and third time's a charm for the Air Force award-winning 28th Operational Weather Squadron personnel.

They were recently the recipients of the Fawbush-Miller Award for 2003.

The 28th OWS was selected from eight weather squadrons as the "Best Weather Squadron in the Air Force" for the third year in a row.

Members of the 28th OWS proved they deserved the Fawbush-Miller Award by accomplishing many feats. In the United States at 10 bases, they verified tornadoes with high winds without missing warnings.

For Southeast Asia, they forecast the worst dust storm in a decade. The required notice is two hours; Shaw's weather squadron gave a five-day notification.

"Mission plans were affected, and that probably saved millions of dollars," said Chief Master Sgt. Salinda Larabee, 28th OWS chief enlisted manager.

Their accurate forecast influenced the decision for the successful recovery of a prisoner of war.

Among forecasting capabilities, Shaw's weather squadron develops new technology.

The 28th OWS members built and updated an analysis tool during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The observations tracker takes in weather variables like wind speeds and temperature. Chief Larabee said it is important because troops are always moving. There was no previous tool like this one because there was not much military movement in the area.

The chief said she believes personal drive is the reason for their accomplishments.

"It's the self-motivation level from within," said Chief Larabee.

She said they bring up troops in the right way with a good training environment.

The 28th OWS has a Squadron Military Excellence Award and a unit fitness program to inspire positive energy among the ranks.

"It is a big team effort," said Lt. Col. John Coulter, 28th OWS commander.

He said civilians, Guardsmen, Marines and Navy personnel work with them.

The 28th OWS provides weather service to South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia.

The colonel also said the squadron is tough competition against other weather units because its mission stretches beyond the South into Southwest Asia.

It also provides services and products in support of Air Force and non-Air Force units in the U.S. Central Command.

"A lot of people don't know we support the Army with weather information," said Chief Larabee.

She said by working with the Army, weather troops sometimes have the opportunity to work with rangers in support of special operations.

Being a three-time award winner, the climate is set for the 28th OWS members' continued success.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Airman Jayson Ott (left), Staff Sgt. Jeff Roach (center) and Airman 1st Class Cody Pryer (right), 28th Operational Weather Squadron weather forecasters, monitor the weather conditions in southern Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

High-school seniors may stay at Shaw

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- Some Air Force families with a child entering his or her senior year of high school may get to stay longer at their current duty stations, thanks to a new policy announced in March.

"In today's environment of deployments and high operations tempo, it's important that we alleviate stress on families wherever we can," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray.

The High School Seniors Assignment Deferment Program allows senior master sergeants and below, and officers up through the rank of lieutenant colonel, to apply for a one-year assign-

ment deferment. Back-to-back deferments may be possible, and dual-military couples may also apply.

Even with the changes, officials said the mission comes first and will be the overriding factor in granting deferments.

"Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis," said Col. Kathleen Grabowski, chief of assignment programs and procedures at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "The goal is to approve as many requests as mission needs allow without being unfair, but the reality is that some requests will not be possible due to Air Force needs," she said.

To be eligible, the senior in high school must be a dependent of and living with the Airman requesting the deferment, and he or she must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System, she said.

Officers will need to apply before being put on assignment while enlisted people will not apply until after being matched to an assignment, said Master Sgt. Letty Inabinet, superintendent of assignment procedures. Applications are available from military personnel flights and commander support staffs.

Officials estimate that annually 20 to 25% of officers and senior noncommis-

sioned officers have children entering their senior year of high school and perhaps one third of those could be eligible for assignment in a given year, officials said.

"It's a benefit to families if teenagers can attend the senior prom and graduate with their established friends," Mr. Blanchard said.

The Air Force Contact Center offers information about this and other personnel programs by calling toll free **(800) 616-3775** or online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

Ethics regulations guide Airmen in political activity

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- With less than nine months until the next federal election, Airmen may want to get involved in campaigning and politicking. But as employees of the federal government, service members must ensure their participation in political activities does not violate government ethics regulations, said Ms. Melinda Loftin, the Air Force associate general counsel for fiscal and administrative law.

"Military members are encouraged to carry out their

obligation of citizenship by voting," Ms. Loftin said. "But while on active duty, they are prohibited from engaging in certain political activities."

Service members cannot participate in the management of partisan politics or be part of a political campaign or convention, Ms. Loftin said. They cannot be a candidate for political office, conduct political opinion surveys, march or ride in partisan parades or participate in organized efforts to transport voters to the polls.

These restrictions serve an important purpose. They are meant to assure the public that service members, do not have undue influence on the

American electoral process, officials said.

"This is crucial when involving the armed forces because of the need for public confidence in civilian control of the military. Airmen may join political clubs, attend meetings and rallies as a spectator when not in uniform and make contributions to political organizations. They may also display bumper stickers (but not large signs) on their personal vehicles and sign petitions to put candidates on the ballot," Ms. Loftin said.

"Military members may vote, while in uniform.

For more information about involvement in political activities, call Shaw's Legal Office at **895-1560**.

Shaw seminar lends tools to couples

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

A Military Marriage Seminar is coming to Shaw for you and your significant other!

A two-day Military Marriage Seminar is scheduled for April 30 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and May 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Center.

"This seminar is specifically designed for military couples," said Chaplain (Capt.) Cregg Chandler, 20th Fighter Wing protestant chaplain.

The focus is on military couples. However, the conference is also open to retirees and civilians.

The workshop is for couples planning to marry and those seeking to improve their marriage. The class offers principles to help prepare, build and strengthen the relationship.

It exposes couples to:

- ◆ five threats to oneness
- ◆ resolving conflict
- ◆ intimacy
- ◆ commitment within the relationship

For couples planning to marry, Chaplain Chandler said the seminar is not meant to replace marital counseling, but serves as an additional way to prepare for a successful marriage.

"For couples who are happily married, they can

gain new insight to keep the marriage going well," said Chaplain Chandler.

1st Lt. Lewis Pate, 609th Air Communications Squadron, said he is happy with his marriage and plans to attend to gain tools to further enrich it.

"I realize my marriage can get better," he said.

"I know there are things I can learn to help with better communication techniques."

Lt. Pate, married nearly seven years, said he has attended an event similar to this, but it did not concentrate on military marriages.

Lt. Pate said he and his wife decided mutually to attend the course, and he is looking forward to it.

According to the chaplain, couples who are not so happy in their marriage can receive life-altering benefits from the session.

Lt. Pate said military couples are at risk for high stress due to family separations and reunions.

At times, military members go on unaccompanied tours, temporary duties and deployments without their spouse which may cause financial problems, emotional problems and loneliness.

"It could lead to infidelity," said the chaplain.

Whether a couple is planning, enjoying or wanting years of marital bliss, the Military Marriage Seminar may help to equip the relationship with the right ideas.

"Family is the foundation of our society and our country," said Lt. Pate.

Those interested should register by Tuesday. The cost is \$15 for an individual or \$25 for a couple. Lunch and refreshments are included. Free childcare will be provided for children ranging 6 weeks-12 years old. For more information, call **895-1104**.

