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THE WARRIOR

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The Sedalia Democrat Layout and Design

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The deadline for article submissions to the Warrior is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submissions do not guarantee publication.

For more information, call the Warrior office at 660-687-5727, email 509bw.public.affairs@us.af.mil, fax 660-687-7948, or write to us at Whiteman Warrior, 509thth Bomb Wing, 509thth Spirit Blvd. Suite 116, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305.

To advertise in The Warrior, call the Sedalia Democrat at 1-800-892-7856.

On the cover

Freshly-laid turf sits on the new track and field on May 14, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The track and field has been undergoing renovations since August 2018. The renovations will be ongoing until further notice. They are part of an overall revamp of base facilities aimed at improving quality of life for members of Team Whiteman. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley) A roll of new turf sits halfway on the track on May 14, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Several patches of turf had to be laid again due to previous damage sustained during the renovation process. The 509th Contracting Squadron asks Team Whiteman not to use the track and field until renovations are complete to prevent damage which may hinder the process further. The renovations will be ongoing until further notice. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

TAY

Renovations continue at Whiteman AFB track

Below: Signs and barriers sit on the perimeter of the track and field undergoing renovations on May 14, 2019 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The 509th Contracting Squadron asks Team Whiteman not to use the track and field until renovations are complete to prevent damage which may hinder the process further. The renovations will be ongoing until further notice. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

"All Whiteman Air Force Base personnel and family members are advised that the base track and athletic field are still under construction and their use is strictly prohibited until further notice," said Maj. Leigh A. Baumbaugh, the 509th Contracting Squadron commander. "Please note, portions of the track that have been repaired due to the athletic field upgrades. These repaired areas need time to cure and absolutely cannot be utilized during this time. Unfortunately patrons have already stepped on or ridden bicycles through the repaired portions of the track, causing further damage and potentially causing costly additional repairs. This significantly delays the re-opening of the track for all. Thank you for your understanding and compliance with this temporary closure, which will create better recreational and fitness facilities for our community."



News





THE WHITEMAN WEEKLY WIRE

NEWS | UPDATES

The Whiteman Weekly Wire is published weekly in the Warrior and on www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.

Items to be published should be submitted no later than noon on Wednesdays to: whiteman.warrior@us.af.mil with the subject "Weekly Wire Request." Your submission must be five lines or less, including contact information. Attachments cannot be included.

The status of the installation during inclement weather or other circumstances is updated on Facebook, www.whiteman.af.mil, and the Straight Talk line, which is 660-687-6397.

Closures / Downtime

The Fitness Center Track and Field is closed for renovations. PT tests will be conducted at Knob Noster High School. All tests are run through the Fitness Assessment Cell (FAC); the FAC will transport testers to the high school to complete the walk/run portion of the test. The Knob Noster track is not available for squadron PT, but if you'd like to run and get a feel for the track, it is only available after school hours.

ADVISORIES

• Due to ongoing construction projects, Arnold Avenue on base between 8th and 9th streets will be closed until September 2020. There will be a detour around this one-block area.

General information

- Service members are advised to be aware of what they consume as some states legalize recreational marijuana and THC. THC and CBD oils are illegal under federal law and Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Products containing them, such as THC beer, can cause a positive urinalysis result in a drug test.
- **TRICAREOnline** (TOL) offers online access for appointment management, prescription refills, health data, the nurse advice line, secure messages with your PCM and more. Go to www. TRICAREOnline.com.
- Army & Air Force Exchange Service (BX) shoppers can now buy items at ShopMyExchange.com and pick them up at their local BX for free. Visit https://www.shopmyexchange.com/#.
- The base gym has a parking spot reserved during all regular hours and days. The new space is near the front entrance and is reserved for any wing annual award winner or member of Honor Guard.
- The Exceptional Family Member Program and Special Needs Support Group meets at 10-11 a.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at Whiteman AFB Youth Center. The group provides free information, speakers, children's activities and other events. Call 660-687-7132 for more information.
- Keys, wallets, bicycles, jewelry and other items

have been turned in as found property to Security Forces. Visit Building 711, Room 305, or call 660-687-5342.

- The Qualified Recycling Program is open for drop-off 24/7 with reduced customer service staff. Cardboard, paper, newspaper, printer cartridges, lead acid batteries, scrap metal and aluminum cans are accepted. Materials left outside the Whiteman recycling center are base property; taking them is theft. Contact the recycling center with questions at 660-687-6253.
- Are you interested in joining a vanpool or starting your own? The Department of the Transportation (DoT) manages the vanpool program for the DoD at no out-of-pocket costs for you. This program is open to active duty, guard, reserve and civilians. Contact Maj. Keith Bratton at keith.bratton@us.af. mil.
- Have you checked out the Whiteman Air Force Base smartphone app? The app is frequently updated with new content and resources, including events, a base directory, medical information, and information for inbound and outbound personnel. A link to the download the app is available on the Whiteman website.
- For the latest news, photos, and videos please refer to the official Whiteman Facebook page at www. facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.



WEATHER

FRIDAY Sunny and Breezy Hi 84 – Lo 65 SATURDAY

T-storms Likely Hi 77 – Lo 59

SUNDAY Chance T-storms Hi 70 – Lo 49

MONDAY Mostly Sunny Hi 70 – Lo 60

Volunteer Opportunities

- Flags will be placed in Sunset Cemetery in Warrensburg for Memorial Day at 10 a.m. on May 24. Volunteers will enter in the west entrance of Main Street and groups will be given a list of names, a map with grave locations and flags. Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Powell Gardens is looking for volunteers ages 16 and older for numerous positions. Volunteers are given free admission year round, along with discounts and other benefits. Call 816-697-2600 ext. 304 or email bhallak@powellgardens.org.
- To volunteer for Team Whiteman's Airman Against Drunk Driving (AADD) program, contact Senior Airman Tyler Anderson at tyler.anderson.14@us.af.mil.
- Whiteman AFB Fitness Center Pool is now hiring lifeguards. Applicants must be 16 years or older and have a current lifeguard certification. Apply at www.nafjobs.org or call 660-687-6476/5215/7876 with questions.

31 Upcoming Events

- The 28 Days to a Better Belly class is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursdays from May 30- June 27 at the Professional Development Center in Room 222. Evening classes are 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- The Professional Development Center will be hosting the Dads Basic Course from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on May 30 at the Professional Development Center in Room 223. Topics include diapering, bathing babies, packing a diaper bag and communication with your spouse as new parent. RSVP to Cory Watson at 687-7332 or at cory.d.watson.civ@mail.mil.
- The Spirit Chapel team is scheduled to host a Single Parent's Retreat from May 24-25. Free lodging, parking and provisions will be made for children. For more information, call the Spirit Chapel at 660-687-3652.
- A pre-diabetes class is 2:30-4:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the 509th Medical Group Education and Training room in the basement. Call 660-687-1199 to enroll.
- EFMP/special needs or deployment/remote status military family are invited to Coffee & Chat 10-11 a.m. every third Wednesday of the month at Coffee SKNOBS in Knob Noster. Complimentary coffee with refreshments are offered. Children are welcome with adult supervision. For more information, call 660-687-7132.
- The Airman & Family Readiness Center offers financial classes every month. Individual appointments are available. Call 660-687-7132 or 660-619-2735 for more information.
- Every Sunday at 2 p.m. 4 p.m. at the Stealth Lounge will host a social for anyone who speaks English as a second language. This social allows anyone who attends to practice their English and meet new people.

Strong roots, brave new paths

Airman Maria Benavente, assigned to the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, poses for a portrait on May 10, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. Benavente grew up in Guam and was the first in her family to join the military. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kayla White)

Two Whiteman AFB Airmen stay connected to their heritage, bond with AF family

Staff Sgt. Kayla White 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

People come together from all walks of life to become the most important asset of the United States Air Force: Airmen. That diversity in background, experience, demographics, perspectives, thought and organization play a key role in AF mission success in an increasingly competitive and dynamic global environment.

Throughout May, Team Whiteman celebrates



and your maintenance. **Does not include filing fee which varies by connty (\$102.00 Approx.) or the fee for service by publication if seeded or the class required for divorces with minor children. 54756 Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Two Airmen from across the 509th Bomb Wing shared how they have managed to stay connected to

their cultural roots while immersing themselves into Air Force life, thousands of miles away from all they have ever known.

"I had never been off of Guam before," said Airman Maria Benavente, assigned to the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "I wanted to explore and have my education paid for."

Benavente joined the AF in August of 2018 as the first in her family to join the military. Her brother has since joined the Guam Army National Guard as

an infantryman and her older sister moved to Alaska with her husband.

"This is the first time we have all been spread out like this," said Benavente. "It can be so lonely and heartbreaking to hear about what they are going through compating and to not be able to be there for

through sometimes and to not be able to be there for them." She said she and her family do their best to stay in

touch with regular phone conversations. "It makes the times we do talk, that quality time, even more special," she said. "It feels like it has brought us closer together."

20-year-old Airman 1st Class Elaiza Jane Andora, assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron, said she moved to the Washington state with her family

from the Philippines when she was 16.

"I joined the Air Force in June of 2017," she said.

Her father supported her decision to join, while her mother was more cautious and protective.

Andora said she was nervous, at first, trying to assimilate to life in the Air Force. Tagalog, the main national language of the Philippines, was her first language.

"I did not feel confident

with myself, trying to get to know other people," she said. "I didn't know if they would understand me or be welcoming."

Andora described how her basic training and technical school experiences helped her to break out of her comfort zone and become more confident.

Both Andora and Benavente said the Air Force has become their second family.

"I've met a lot of good people who care about and look out for one another, and want each other to *Continued on Page 5.*

"I've met a lot of good people who care about and look out for one another, and want each other to succeed...It's really beautiful to see how people help one another." —Airman Maria Benavente

Continued from Page 4.

succeed," said Benavente. "It's really beautiful to see how people help one another."

While they have proudly forged their own paths as Airmen, across the globe from where their journeys began, the desire to hold onto home is strong.

"A lot of people lose their language, their culture," said Andora. "It's so important to me to stay connected to it all. I want to be able to share that with my children someday."

She said participating in activities like the Asian Pacific American Heritage Association capstone event on May 31, 2019, at the National Guard Armory on base, which will feature Asian cuisine, a fashion show, as well as a martial arts demonstration, helps her feel connected.

Benavente said she is proud of where she comes from and she wants to share her culture with her fellow Airmen.

"I think that is one of the best things about the Air Force," she said. "Everyone has something unique to bring to the table, something they can teach other people."

Welcome To



Airman 1st Class Elaiza Jane Andora, assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron, poses for a portrait on May 10, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. Andora grew up in the Philippines and moved to the United States with her family in 2015, joining the Air Force in 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kayla White)

"A lot of people lose their language, their culture ... It's so important to me to stay connected to it all. I want to be able to share that with my children someday." –Airman 1st Class **Elaiza Jane Andora**

KNOB NOST JUST OUTSIDE WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE

www.cityofknobnoster.net

Professional Women's Organization-1st Mon. of each month -Basement of City Hall

Lion's Club-2nd & 4th Mon. 7 p.m. - Jubilation Center Knob Noster Area Business Council-4th Thurs. of each month. 660-563-1633 for more info.

Masons-2nd & 4th Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - Knob Noster Masonic Lodge AF & AM

Garden Club–1st Thurs. of each month 6:30 p.m. - Trails Reg onal Library - Knob Noster Branch

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Whiteman Area Piecemakers Quilt Guild–3rd Thurs. each month 7 p.m. - Methodist Church

AMVETS-Membership Dinner 1st Tues. each month 6 p.m. - AMVETS Building

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ISIS Continues To Pose Significant Threat,



U.S. Army mortarmen fire mortars in support of 9th Iraqi Army Division near Tarab, Iraq, during the offensive to liberate West Mosul from ISIS, March 14, 2017. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Thomas Carwell)



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May 30, 2019

Terri Moon Cronk Defense gov

WASHINGTON --

ISIS still poses a significant threat to Iraq and Syria and to the wider world, the deputy commander for stability for Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command Operation Inherent Resolve said today.

Providing a coalition operations update from Baghdad to reporters at the Pentagon via teleconference, British Army Maj. Gen. Chris Ghika said ISIS has "morphed into an underground network that we must root out and destroy."

The enduring defeat of ISIS is OIR's objective, the general said. Strong governance and effective stabilization are the long-term keys to security and prosperity, and the international community must do all it can to help, he added.

March 23 was the most recent significant ISIS defeat when the terrorists lost control of any physical territory in Baghuz, Syria, he noted.

"We must reflect on this great achievement by our part-ner forces and the coalition," Ghika emphasized. "For five years, [ISIS'] reign of terror instilled unbounded fear into innocent Iraqis and Syrians. Today, it has been reduced to an underground organization, forced out of population centers and into hiding in caves and the mountains. Its aspirations for a global caliphate have been destroyed."

NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY

Yet, the general warned against complacency, stating that this is not the end of ISIS or operations against ISIS. "Although it is now on the back foot," he said, "[ISIS] foresaw the fall of its physical caliphate and has been reorganizing itself into a network of cells, intent on striking key leaders, village elders and military personnel to undermine the security and stability in Iraq and Syria."

ISIS fighters are still ambushing security patrols, detonating improvised explosive devices and kidnapping people, the general noted. And despite its loss of territorial control in Iraq and Syria, ISIS' ideology still inspires people around the world, he warned.

The ISIS-claimed Sri Lanka bombings on Easter prove the organization's ongoing acts of terrorism, while the online appearance of ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi for the first time in more than five years conceded defeat in Baghuz, but roused ISIS supporters to fight, he noted.

"The Iraqi army, supported by the coalition and by Iraqi F-16 fighter jets and C-130 transport aircraft, are disrupting the network of [ISIS] cells across Iraq's Ninevah, Salah ad Din, Anbar, Diyalah and Kirkuk provinces," the general said. "Recent operations in Wadi Ashai and the Hamrin Mountains have cleared successfully hundreds of miles of territory in which [ISIS] groups were hiding. [ISIS] commanders and fighters have been killed or captured, and weapons, ammunition and IED-making equipment have been seized."

POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS

In northeastern Syria, political discussions are ongoing to ensure regional stability. Militarily, the United States will continue working with its partners to create conditions where ISIS cannot thrive again, Ghika said. Coalition partners are progressing steadily back up the Euphrates River valley to clear remnants of ISIS, following the take back of Baghuz, he added.

On a humanitarian level, the general said, tens of thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees are in northeastern Syria. Local and international humanitarian organisations are managing the situation, he said, "but we must be mindful that there is a large concentration of radicalized individuals in these camps who will want to return to their homes in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. We need to assist with deradicalization and education to prevent a new generation of [ISIS] emerging when these people go home.³

Any instability will allow ISIS to thrive, he said. "The terrorist organization will exploit divisions in society and fragile governance. ... We cannot allow this to happen," Ghika said. "[ISIS'] widespread killings, the brutal executions, the destruction of towns, cities and ancient monuments must remain a thing of the past."

Veterinary Clinic keeps animals on Whiteman AFB moving



2nd Lt. Michael Hardy 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The mission at Whiteman Air Force Base requires us all to be ready and fit to accomplish our mission around the world. That mission includes the fourlegged furry members of the Team.

The Veterinary Clinic is one of the many assets available to all who serve on base.

"We service all active members, Reserves, National Guard, Retirees, and it's not necessary to live on base to use this clinic," Said Dr. Joanna Kuecker, a veterinarian at the Whiteman AFB Veterinary Clinic.

When asked about the biggest problem that the clinic faces, Dr. Kuecker explained that the people simply don't know much about it.

The clinic offers many services including vaccines, preventatives, allergy treatments and ultrasounds. The clinic can also answer house calls if needed.

Dr. Kuecker said the vet clinic carries two medicines that can play a key role in keeping pets safe during spring and summer seasons.

Bravecto is a tick prevention medication that lasts for three months and Cytopoint is an allergy relief medicine.

Staff Sgt. Juana Ponce, a vet tech at the clinic, describes the clinic as family friendly and supportive of PCSing overseas.

Ponce explained that she is home in evenings and on weekends that allow her to be with family and friends.

The clinic provides health certificates, which are an important part of taking animals to a new base and traveling overseas with them. The certificates prove pets are free of infectious diseases and are up to date on immunizations.

Additionally, the clinic also has a PCS brief for pet owners to answer any question they have.

Ponce explained that one of the clinics additional duties is to check the animal's safety at other offices on base, such as the Youth Center that have animals and

WAFB Clinic

The Whiteman Air Force Base clinic offers two important briefs for all airmen here at Whiteman:

New comer's brief: This brief is a short introduction of our clinic and the services available to the service members. I also provide them with off base emergency clinic information, boarding facilities and groomers since we do not provide those services here.

Plan My Move Brief: This brief is for out processing service members. I discuss basic information/ requirements for pets traveling overseas or within the US. We handle all paper work and guide the service member step by step to get the pets to their next duty station.

Both briefs are coordinated with the Airmen & Family Readiness Center. Contact them at 660-687-7132

check the living conditions and health of the animals to ensure they are safe for kids to interact with.

The clinic also takes care of the dogs used by Security Forces to ensure they are fighting fit.

"Providing medical care to the working dogs and making them ready to deploy is a good part of the job," said Staff Sgt. Juana Ponce, a vet tech at the clinic, about working at the clinic.

She said she feels like she is making a difference for all.

Did You Know?

•Open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Clinic closes at 3 p.m. on Fridays.

•Clinic is located at 900 Perimeter Road, Bldg. 1732 on Whiteman AFB. Phone number is 660-687-2667.

•The clinic has a new email! Contact them at usaf.whiteman.509-mdg.mbx. vet-clinic@mail.mil

•Clinic doesn't offer surgeries or dental work.



Dr. Joanna Kuecker, a veterinarian assigned to the Veterinary Clinic on Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, examines Goliath on April 29, 2019. Goliath moved with his family from Florida and came to the clinic to get a routine checkup, which included checking his eyes, teeth and heart. He also received bloodwork and a vaccination to update his health certificate, ensuring he is safe to travel with his family at any time. (U.S. Air Force photos by 2nd Lt. Michael Hardy)

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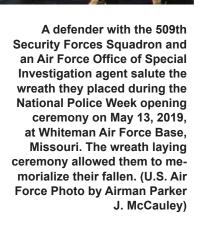
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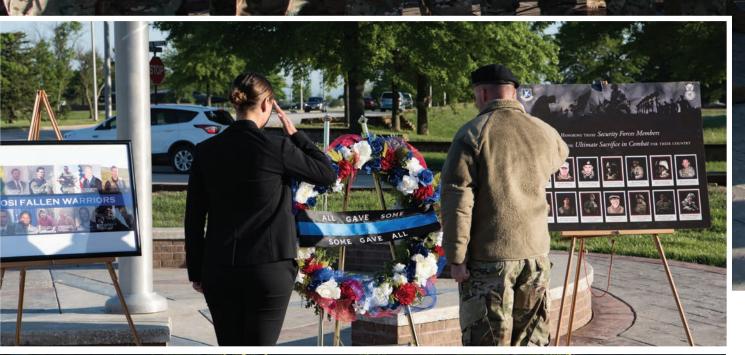
The Warrior 8 Friday, May 17, 2019

News

509th SFS Defenders honor fallen Airmen during Police Week opening ceremony, ruck march

Airman Parker J. McCauley 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs







Participants from the Police Week opening ruck march pose for a group photo after finishing the march on May 13, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The wooden signs carried on the rucksacks were marked with the names of Security Forces Airmen who were killed in the line of duty. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



Parker J. McCauley)



Rucksacks sit on the ground next to a Humvee from the 509th Security Forces Squadron on May 13, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The 509th SFS started off National Police Week with a ceremony at the base flag pole and a 5K ruck march. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



Capt. Daniel Merkh, the director of operations with the 509th Security Forces Squadron, carries his son Ben during a ruck march alongside other defenders with the 509th SFS on May 13, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Merkh said Ben's energy was infectious and he added a special element to the event. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Airman ing the Police Week opening ceremony on May 13, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. National Police Week recognize s military and civilian law enforcement for their contributions and sacrifices. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

efenders with the 509th Security Forces Squadron participate in a ruck march for the beginning of Police Week on May 13, 2019, at Whiteman Air Force Base. Missouri. The march vas a 5K course on base carried out at each partici pant's own pace with some running throughout. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

Leadership to emulate; lessons from Maj. Gen. Henderson

Lt. Col. Rob Southerland

131st Force Support Squadron commander As a husband, father, officer and supervisor, I am very aware that there are always people watching. What do they see? Am I approachable? Am I encouraging an atmosphere that allows others to excel and flourish? Do I tear down or promote barriers? How I act, speak, treat others and conduct myself are always influencing others, but is that influence strengthening or hindering the mission and the people? When I am gone, will people want to uphold my legacy? Will my family, team and Air Force be better because of my influence?

I challenge you to reflect on these thoughts as you read this article and ask yourself, "Am I a leader that others want to emulate?"

I met retired Maj. Gen. Ron Henderson in August 2011. It had been two years since he was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. He was in remission when I met him and living a pretty normal life – until late that fall when the cancer aggressively returned. This is where I got to see courageous leadership up close, personal and on a stage for many others to also see. The man I knew up until that point was someone I saw at church and had only heard about from others. I approached him about a possible meeting to ask questions and get some insight to what he believed was important, because I wanted to know what made this man great in the eyes of others. His response was, "0900, Saturday, my house. I look forward to visiting with you."

I was outside his house at 8:55 a.m., but did not go to the door until 9 on the dot. He opened the door with tubes in his nose, no hair, wearing his robe, and greeted me with the heartiest handshake he could muster. As sick as he was, he did not let his circumstance deflect his attention from me. It was at that moment that I realized that true, courageous leadership was being demonstrated right before my very eyes. Here was a man staring death in the face, bearing a burden that no one but he could understand, sharing his precious time with me.

He was demonstrating to me tremendous humility and value as he poured himself into me, which is what any great leader must do to allow their influence to continue when they are gone. When we were done, I left having experienced a moment that will live with me for the rest of my life.

In his remaining months of life, Gen. Henderson was my benchmark for loyalty to people and to cause. If anyone had an excuse to skip work, find a substitute teacher or have someone take his usher duties, it was him. For him, it was just the opposite: he collapsed twice while teaching

Sunday school. When men tried to help him out of the classroom, he said, "Not until I'm finished." This was not arrogance or stubbornness. On the contrary. It was loyalty and commitment to his mission and to those who depended on him. He fought the good fight and he finished the race that was set before him on May 3, 2012.

To effectively lead people, you must value people: Not what a person has to offer, not their successes or failures, but the person. Some of the most successful teams in history were led by leaders that demonstrated love for each member of the team no matter their circumstances, their background or even what they had to offer. This does not mean coddling, but rather, is demonstrating love through discipline, fairness and time spent.

You may say, "That's just not who I am." My retort would be: it may not be who are, but is it who you are supposed to be? If you want to see your unit or organization excel, love

them, discipline them, reward their successes and own their failures.

Our Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein said, "Leadership is about people; management is about things." People want to be led and they need to be led. Do not mistake your position for leadership. Let who you are define your leadership and not what you are. Maj. Gen. Ron Henderson modeled this principle with great humility, and was the greatest example of leadership for me to emulate.

Are you that leader?



Maj. Gen. Ron Henderson

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From 509th Bomb Wing staff reports

The 2019 Wings Over Whiteman Air and Space Show and Open House is June 15 and 16 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Admittance and parking are free.

This year's show features: Air Combat Command's F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team, the A-10C Thunderbolt II demo team and the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, along with Whiteman AFB's B-2 Stealth bomber and T-38 Talon jet.

Guests will get an up-close look at strategic Air Force assets that our Airmen use to carry out missions across the globe as well as the technical expertise of the U.S. military.

Wings Over Whiteman also features dozens of aircraft static displays, exhibition aircraft, vintage and modern war birds, and much more.

Please visit www.whiteman. af.mil/WOW/ or www.facebook. com/WingsOverWhiteman for more information. Contact the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs office at (660) 687-5727 or 509.BW.PA@us.af.mil with questions.

Be sure to check out our video on 2019's Wings Over Whiteman. It'll give you a sneak peak of this year's event and get your excited to attend! www.facebook.com/ WingsOverWhiteman





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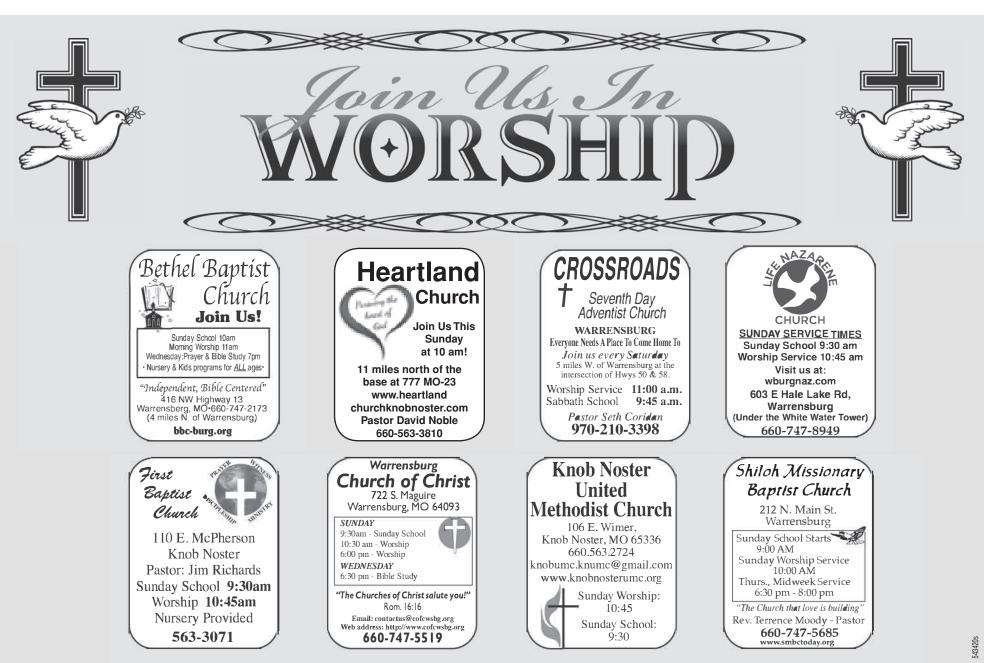


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Activities & Events



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Arriving or departing from Whiteman? The Air Force Aid Society pays for 20 hours of care per child for all ranks to help with your transition. Child care is authorized in AF licensed or affiliated FCC homes. The Airman & Family Readiness Center issues certificates which are good for child care within 60 days of PCSing.

PCS Child Care for Army, Navy and Marines

This program is for Army, Navy and Marine families (all ranks) assigned to active duty Air Force installations who are arriving or departing from the AF installation. Twenty hours of care per child is authorized in AF licensed or affiliated FCC homes. All reservations must be made through the FCC Office. Call for more details.



Unlock Rewards

Whiteman Air Force Base **Upcoming Events**

Tuesday, May 21st Lunchtime Bingo Blitz @ Mission's End 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Feeling lucky? Stop in to the Mission's End for Lunchtime Bingo Blitz! Consisting of 6 rounds in thirty minutes, this event has up to \$450 worth of gift cards to be won! \$10 presale | \$12 at the door

For more information call (660) 687-5754.

Saturday, May 25th **Memorial Day 4 Person Scramble** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join us at Royal Oaks Golf Course for the Memorial Day 4 Person Scramble! This event is open to the public but space is limited to the first 25 teams to sign up!

\$60 per person | \$40 for members Price includes entry fee, cart, green fees & lunch. For more information call (660) 687-5572.

Friday, May 31st Whiteman's Got Talent 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Head over to Mission's End for a night of family fun! Here you will enjoy watching Whiteman's finest dazzle and entertain while they compete for the top prizes! This is a FREE event. For more information call (660) 687-5754.

Tuesday, June 4th **Youth Base Tour** 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Don't let your youth miss this chance to see Whiteman AFB like never before! Our tour stops at all of the static display planes and missiles and ends with FREE slushies at the Shoppette! This event is for youth ages 9-12 years. Free for members | \$3 nonmembers To sign up please call (660) 687-5586.

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Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-

RANDOLPH, Texas — In what's believed to be a first, Air Force Recruiting Service's top recruiter received an incentive flight with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as a congratulations for all of his hard work.

Master Sgt. Gervacio Maldonado, a former Health Professions recruiter and now flight chief with the 318th Recruiting Squadron, was surprised and ecstatic when he learned winning the 2018 Maj. Gen. A.J. Stewart Top AFRS Recruiter award would take him even higher.

"I was blown away," Maldonado said after hearing about the opportunity to fly. "The news stopped me in my tracks."

The flight, with Thunderbird pilot #8, Maj. Jason Markzon, was a first for Maldonado in any fighter aircraft.

"I'd always wanted to fly in a fighter aircraft, however I never thought it would come to fruition," Maldonado said. "I was so pumped to fly with the Thunderbirds."

According to his supervisor, Maldonado is more than deserving of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"His selection for this flight is an honor for all recruiters and Airmen," said Senior Master Sgt. Aaron Akridge, 318th RCS Production superintendent. "I'm honored to see the Thunderbirds bestow this opportunity to a hardworking Airman such as Gervacio Maldonado."

The top recruiter said he appreciates the opportunity of being the face of the Air Force at many local events where the Air Force doesn't normally have a presence.

"Anyone selected for recruiting duty during the Developmental Special Duty process should embrace the opportunity," Maldonado said. "Whether it is representing the Air Force at your local fairs or on larger stages, like the NBA All-Star game or the Super Bowl, you will have plenty of chances to enjoy these unique experiences."

He recalls attending his first NFL game—an opportunity he had because of his recruiting duties. "I was on the 50-yard line! It was awesome."

His production superintendent also shared many interesting things he has learned about the top performer since they began working together.

"He's an entrepreneur and a thrill seeker," Akridge said. "He's built a successful lodging business as well as conducted freediving all around the world, most recently in the Fiji Islands. But the most important aspect I've learned about him is his genuine passion to help others. He is a true wingman; always there to listen or help when and if needed."

According to Akridge, when Maldonado was a firefighter, he directly responded to over 360 fire, rescue and medical calls, and he still volunteers as a firefighter in his off-duty time. Also, being a recruiter is a natural fit for Maldonado's entrepreneurial spirit after spending the first part of his career as a weapons specialist.



The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron Thunderbirds flew Master Sgt. Gervacio Maldonado, Top Recruiter in the Air Force for 2018, at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, May 11, 2019. Since 1953, the Thunderbirds team has served as America's premier air demonstration squadron, entrusted with the vital mission to recruit, retain and inspire past, present and future Airmen. (U.S. Air Force Photos by Staff Sgt. Cory W. Bush)

"Being a recruiter is very businesslike," Maldonado said. "It lets you operate your very own Air Force franchise. You will have quite a bit of autonomy to conduct the business as you see fit—you will not find that in many career fields within the Air Force."

Maldonado continually reminds himself it's all about the opportunities. Most recruiters focus solely on the goal and not the experience, he said.

"As a recruiter you are the face of the Air Force, the gatekeeper," he continued. "You are a beacon of opportunity and will be sitting in the most opportune position to mentor and directly change lives. Just like any job there are challenges, but again, it is what you make of it. Stay positive and know that all your efforts are undoubtedly contributing to the betterment of people and the future of the Air Force." Those efforts are what got Maldonado his flight with the Thunderbirds, something he described as breathtaking.

"I still can't believe people get paid to do this job," he said. "They told me as I was preparing for the flight to be ready for the ride of a lifetime—and that's pretty accurate!"

He praised the demonstration team members for their very high standard of professionalism and attention to detail.

"As a recruiter, my focus is on customer service and they provided that in very detail—from beginning to end," he said.

Both Akridge and Maldonado agree they hope the tradition of flying the top recruiter with the Thunderbirds continues every year since the aerial demonstration team is an extension of professional Air Force recruiters.

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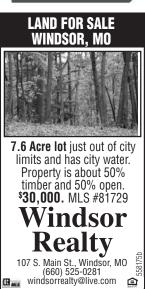
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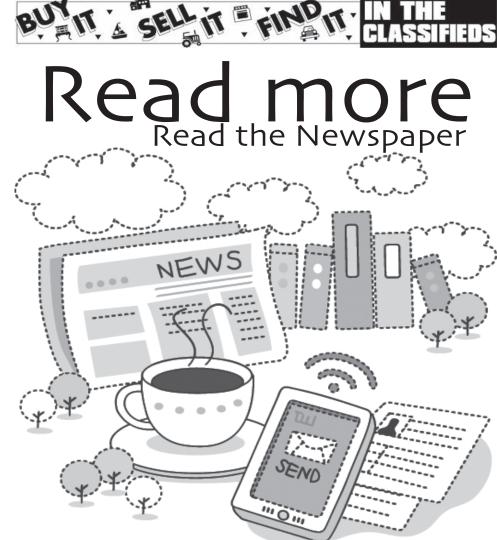


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