

## AF ball promises food, fun and good music

**BY JENNIFER E. WEST**  
Nucleus Staff Writer

The 57th Air Force anniversary ball is celebrated with a formal gala with a USO-hangar dance theme, Sept. 18, 6-10:30 p.m., in Hangar 1002 on the west side of Kirtland AFB.

The World War II themed event, "Tribute to a Generation," includes special Air Force anniversary ball coins for all ticket holders and old-fashioned dance cards for the women. A continuous video program will be shown during the event that includes a static display of vintage aircraft and vehicles.

Seating is unassigned and no table reservations are offered.

The Ron Thielman High Society Orchestra performs a variety of music of the World War II era, including Glenn Miller selections but also includes pop, rock, country, Latino and Dixieland songs in their repertoire.

The ball also includes an Air Force birthday cake-cutting ceremony, "heavy" hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided by Mountain View Club. The Kirtland AFB Company Grade Officers Council hosts a silent auction with proceeds benefiting the Air Force

Aid Society and the local nonprofit Casa Esperanza, a lodging facility for families with members undergoing medical treatment away from home. Kirtland AFB Honor Guard will also perform at the celebration.

Attire for the ball that is open to everyone on the installation is mess dress or semi-formal for military members and formal wear or business suits for civilians.

Wearing World War II era military uniforms is also encouraged, but wearers must not exceed their real ranks.

Tickets range from \$15-\$30, which includes a coin, with prices categorized by rank or grade. All club members receive additional \$2 off the designated ticket price. Tickets without coins are \$2 less. Purchase tickets from any first sergeant or

contact 1st Lt. Garrett Nelson at 846-5062, 1st Lt. Christina Ming at 846-4597. Tickets are also available by clling 2nd Lt. Marietta Sanders, 846-5628, or from her at the Military Personnel Flight, Consolidated Support Building 2024.

A Youth Programs Parents Night Out is 6-11 p.m. for parents interested in supervision for their children at the youth center. Call 853-5437 for reservation information.



*Tribute To a Generation*

## Fire Prevention Week begins Oct. 3

Smoke alarms provide early warning when a fire occurs, yet they are useless if not operating correctly. Only a working smoke alarm can save your life!

Most home fire deaths and injuries can be prevented through early warning and quick response. Minimum safety requirements suggest that smoke alarms be installed outside every sleeping area and on every level of the home, near the kitchen and in the basement.

Testing the devices every month helps ensure they are in top condition and ready to work in a fire. Make sure the batteries work by replacing them every year, or when you hear

intermittent beeping. Smoke alarms won't last forever, so automatically replace those older than 10 years.

When you hear the sound of your smoke alarm, you should be prepared. Develop and practice a fire escape plan, establish at least two exits from each room and arrange to meet at a place away from the home.

Knowing what to do when the smoke alarm sounds will help you and your family to escape

safely if there is a fire. For further information call the Kirtland fire department at 853-6699 or 853-1312.

*(Courtesy of the Kirtland AFB Fire Department)*



## FEGLI open season ends Sept. 30

The Office of Personnel Management has announced the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance open season is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the program. This will be the first FEGLI Open Season since 1999.

The FEGLI open season runs through Sept. 30. Federal employees on eligible positions may enroll in the FEGLI program or increase current coverage without having a physical or answering any questions about their health.

Open season elections will be effective on the first day of the first full pay period beginning on or after Sept. 1, 2005, which will be Sept. 4, 2005 for most Air Force employees, providing they meet the pay and duty status requirements. An announcement of the new FEGLI open season is available on the BEST homepage at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm>.

As with all benefit elections, Air Force-serviced employees will make their FEGLI open season elections via the BEST Web-based Employee Benefits Information System or the BEST automated phone system. AFPC is working the system changes necessary to allow for the enrollment, which includes a special enrollment form OPM is developing.

Information packets are available in the Civilian Personnel Flight in the Consolidated Support Building, Building 20245.

If employees have questions, they may reach a Benefits and Entitlements Service Team counselor by calling 800-616-3775 (Press two for Civilian and then Press two for Benefits and Entitlements). Hearing impaired employees may reach a counselor by calling TDD 800-382-0893. Benefits counselors are available Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mountain time.

# FORUM

[kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil](mailto:kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil), 846-4240

## Warfighters helping firefighters

This letter is regarding two gentlemen that stopped to assist firefighters evacuating an apartment complex that was purposely set on fire.

I am a paramedic supervisor that was on my way to a fire station in the area to drop off some supplies. I saw heavy smoke and headed in that direction to investigate. About the same time the alarm came over that there was a fire in progress.

I drove to the area and found that two separate fires were burning in an apartment complex. I drove up to one of the fires and tried to give a size up to incoming crews. At the same time there were people everywhere trying to get belongings out, etc.

I noticed one man in particular that was trying to open the garage door of one of the burning buildings. I ran over to him and told him he had to leave the area immediately.

I was overwhelmed and extremely busy trying to manage the crowd and feed information to incoming crews when two men in military uniforms walked up and asked me if I needed any assistance. I was very relieved to see the uniforms and immediately knew I could trust and depend on them for help. I asked them to help me evacuate the buildings and keep people from trying to go back in to recover belongings. I then noticed the man I had earlier told to stay away from the burning building going back into his apartment.

Airman Jonathan Calhoun and Airman Eric Munana accompanied me into the apartment which by now was filling with smoke to evacuate the man. When we got into the apartment we found a three-year-old girl and the man's wife still in the apartment. We ordered them out as the man still tried to stay in the apartment looking for something, he grabbed a handgun, a bowie knife and a bulletproof vest, I was surprised and scared, the smoke and heat was intensifying as we exited the apartment.

One of the Airmen grabbed the child and the other helped me make sure the man and his wife got out safely. As soon as we got to the street the man laid his weapons down which I immediately picked up and secured.

I was very grateful these two men were there to help me. I don't know

what would have happened if they had not been there to back me up. By that time fire department crews were arriving and assisting with evacuation, etc., but these two men stayed, helping until the scene was under control.

I want to commend them for their heroic efforts at this fire scene. I know they probably think they were doing what any other person would do but the truth is there were many people on the scene but these two men were the only ones that offered a helping hand.

I am truly grateful for the men in uniform. Not only are they heroes overseas but they are heroes in my book right here stateside. May God bless them!

Captain J. Mark Chavez  
Albuquerque Fire Department

This is a very "good news" story. The two Airmen you spoke of are Airmen 1st Class Jonathan Calhoun and Erik Munana, both assigned to the 898th Munitions Squadron. They were on their way back from lunch when they saw the flames coming out of a garage near the apartments and no emergency response personnel in sight. Their first thought was to lend aid in any way they could. With your guidance, though, they were able to assist in evacuating the residents and keeping them free from harm.

When we talked with the two Airmen, they simply said, "We just knew that people were in trouble and we needed to help."

This is truly a selfless act that two Airmen, who've dedicated their lives to defending the freedoms of our country, feel was just in a day's work. We're proud of their display of "service before self" and are very glad they're members of TEAM KIRTLAND.

## Thanks to Kirtland Inn employee

I want to commend Robert Adame at the Kirtland Inn. My wife and I stayed in the distinguished visitors' quarters and we were impressed with the courtesy of your staff—especially since we arrived at nearly midnight.

Unfortunately, the next morning, in our haste to get on the road, we left something in our room and we were long gone before we discovered it missing. As we passed back through later in the week, we stopped to try and find the missing item.



**COL. HENRY L. ANDREWS, JR.**  
377th Air Base Wing commander

Robert Adame could not have been more gracious. He helped us look in all the places you might imagine and then some. He was extremely patient with us although he had his hands full with computer problems and trying to keep the registration staff informed of which rooms had been cleaned, etc.

As we were leaving we saw the sign in the Kirtland Inn lobby that he had been a winner of an AFMC award. We didn't know that until after we were leaving, but it came as no surprise. He is a gem. Please thank him for us. He is a winner!

Thank you for contacting the forum with your outstanding comments regarding one of our Lodging employees. As part of TEAM KIRTLAND, Lodging takes great pride in all they do to make each guest's stay a comfortable one.

With the Kirtland Inn serving over 30,000 customers every year, we appreciate any positive feedback we can give to our folks. Robert Adame is one of Lodging's best and is an exemplary representative of "Excellence in all we do."

## No place to park

I have noticed the BX gas station now has signs telling customers to pull forward when they are finished refueling. This is fine except there is no room to do this without blocking the only exit. There are only four or five parking spaces in front of the pumps and next to the store.

The clerk inside said we are to pull around to the south side of the building facing Gibson.

Instead of requiring customers to get in and out of their cars several times just to gas their cars, could the exchange "re-man" the outside cashier booth especially during the peri-

ods posted on the signs.

Also, please explain why Air Force gas stations sell alcohol. In states like New Mexico that have extremely high rates of drunk drivers, do you think this is a wise thing to do?

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to explain how we're working these issues.

The Shoppette has seen a big hike in sales over the past few months, while simultaneously suffering large employee turnover. We have since resolved our manning issues and opened the gas station island kiosk during the posted hours. In addition, we plan to increase the hours the Kiosk remains open. We also plan to expand the pumps from the current 10 pumping stations to 20 and, in the process, move the islands to improve traffic flow and increase the number of adjacent parking spaces.

As for alcohol sales at the Shoppette, we understand some may not personally approve of this practice. However, the primary mission of AAFES is to provide our military community with merchandise and services which are in demand by the majority of our customers, while generating earnings to support morale, welfare and recreation programs.

Within DOD, AAFES is responsible for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages on military installations and operates within the parameters of numerous DOD, Army and Air Force policies. These guidelines ensure high-quality customer service, alcohol deglamorization, and responsible alcohol purchase and consumption.

## Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

## Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691  
CE Help Desk, 846-8222  
Commissary, 846-9586  
Computer help, 846-5926  
Energy wasting, 846-4633  
Exchange Service, 266-9887  
Family Services, 846-0741  
Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639  
Law Enforcement, 846-7926  
Legal Services, 846-4217  
Medical Clinic, 846-3406  
Services Squadron, 846-1828

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum  
2000 Wyoming SE  
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117