

DESERT WINGS

Public Affairs, Volume 64, Number 41

Breaking barriers since 1947

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Oct. 13, 2017

Going solar: 368 Edwards homes to get solar panels

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

This month, solar panel installation begins for 368 houses on Edwards. The 412th Civil Engineer Group's Energy Management Team is supporting Corvias with their process of bringing renewable energy (solar power) to the Edwards AFB community. The effort will stabilize energy costs, which will increase funds available for future improvements in housing, according to Josh Crawford, Corvias business director. Corvias manages all of Edwards AFB's family homes on the installation.

"Corvias is working to support DOD goals to install renewable resources and increase power grid resiliency," Crawford said. "The housing program benefits by providing energy rate stabilization. While residents should not see a reduction or increase in their power bill, the community is benefitting with increased energy security and a reduction in carbon emissions."

He added Corvias will be buying less electrical power from the grid and will be paying the capital and generation costs associated with the solar panel installation.

"Over the long term, solar panels will reduce total energy costs and will increase the amount of funds available to the Corvias and Air Force partnership for reinvestment into the homes and amenities on base," said Crawford.

The 412th CEG Energy Management Team assisted Corvias through their planning and design process such as the allocation and approval of their power generation plans and has served as the liaison with the local electric power utility to reach an interconnectivity agreement that will support more than 3 megawatts of electrical power – about 80% of power



A member of an inspection team looks at the newly installed solar panels on this vacant house in the Tamarisk Plains neighborhood Oct. 11. This house is the first of 368 homes to be fitted with solar panels on Edwards Air Force Base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit)

used by housing annually, according to 412th CEG officials.

The reduction on the strain to the base's electrical distribution network is said to enable Edwards to increase its electrical capacity for growth in other areas.

"From the base's standpoint, Corvias has been a strategic partner in the development of our energy resilience strategy and we can incorporate their solar generation into our portfolio," said Gerald Boetsch, 412th CEG portfolio optimization chief. "This allows us to focus distributed generation assets on mission-related efforts where their economics can be realized, while ensuring housing residents have power available

See Solar, page 3



Allies in the sky

A Royal Australian Air Force KC-30A Multi Role Tanker Transport refuels an Edwards B-52 Stratofortress in the skies over California this past September.

The test sortie was conducted by members of the RAAF Air Warfare Centre Aircraft Research and Development Unit, 86 Wing and the 418th and 419th Flight Test Squadrons.

Tests with the B-52 are one part of the RAAF Air Warfare Centre's Flight Test Program. The ongoing testing with the KC-30A is part of a Coalition Tanker Aerial Refueling Certification effort. The first flight in the series of tests was Dec. 3, 2015, when the KC-30 refueled an Edwards F-16 Fighting Falcon.

The Australian KC-30 is a multi-role tanker transport based on the Airbus A330 commercial aircraft, which has been militarized, modified as a tanker, and has 270 passenger seats. According to the RAAF, the Australian military operates five KC-30A MRTTs with two more joining the fleet in 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Don Allen)

Never too young: Branch students learn about fire prevention

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

The Edwards Air Force Base Fire Department kicked off Fire Prevention Week 2017 activities with a visit to Branch Elementary Oct. 10.

Fire engines, trucks, fire fighters, and of course, Sparky the Fire Dog, were on hand to help young students learn about fire safety around the home and fighting fires. The fire department brought along their inflatable mock house where the children were able to walk through and learn about common fire hazards around the home and also how to develop an escape plan in case of an emergency. The youngsters were also treated to fire-fighting helmets, stickers and pamphlets.

While the younger students were outside, fourth- and fifth-graders got the chance to meet members of the Edwards Fire Department and even don a real fire-fighting uniform.

Later on in the evening, the fire department hosted an open house at Fire Station #2 for the base community to drop by.

National Fire Prevention Week this year is Oct. 9-13.



Branch Elementary students got the opportunity to walk through the portable house that the Edwards Air Force Base Fire Department brought by to teach the children about common fire hazards around the home Oct. 10. (U.S. Air Force photos by Kenji Thuloweit)



Sparky the Fire Dog greets students at Branch Elementary Oct. 10 to kick off Fire Prevention Week activities conducted by the Edwards Air Force Base Fire Department.



While the younger students were outside, fourth- and fifth-graders at Branch Elementary got the chance to meet members of the Edwards Air Force Base Fire Department and even don a real fire-fighting uniform Oct. 10.

OPM: 2018 FEHB Open Season runs Nov. 13 to Dec. 11

From Office of Personnel Management

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management announced today that the overall average increase in total premiums for the 2018 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program will rise by an average of four percent.

The Federal Benefits Open Season, which runs from November 13 to December 11, 2017, gives Federal employees and retirees the opportunity to evaluate their benefits, provider networks, and the 2018 rates for Federal benefits, which include FEHB, Federal dental and vision, called FEDVIP, as well as elections for Flexible Spending Account (FSAFEDS) for health care and/or dependent care. Individuals have the chance to make changes to their coverage within the Open Season dates.

"Open Season is important because these health benefits can help Federal employees care for themselves and their families," said OPM Acting Director Kathy McGettigan. "I urge Federal employees and retirees to carefully review their healthcare needs and to choose wisely among the plans and enrollment options available to them during this enrollment period."

Additional information about this year's Open Season:

- The share of FEHB premiums paid by the government and enrollees is determined based on a government contribution formula set forth in the law. As a result of this formula the average enrollee share increase will be 6.1 percent and the average increase in the government share will be 3.2 percent.
- For FEDVIP, which is fully funded by enrollee premiums, average vision plan premiums will decrease by 0.48 percent and average dental plan premiums will increase by 1.26 percent for 2018.
- In 2018, the FEHB Program will offer 262 health plan choices government-wide.

OPM encouraged all insurance carriers to thoroughly evaluate their health plan options to find ways to improve affordability, reduce costs, and improve the quality of care and the health of the enrolled population. Negotiations were geared to keep premium increases as low as possible while minimizing changes in out-of-pocket costs, such as for deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance.

The OPM website provides a detailed breakdown on the [FEHB Program premium rates](#) and the [FEDVIP](#) rates.

412th Force Support Squadron upcoming events

Airman and Family Readiness 277-0723

2017 Air Force Entertainer of the Year — Enter to win the talent competition between now and Oct. 27. Competition is open to Airmen and their families. Win up to \$5,000. Visit myairforcelife.com/entertainer for rules and applications.

Club Muroc 275-CLUB

Membership Appreciation Breakfast is Oct. 16, 7-9 a.m. Free breakfast for club members.

Club Hold'Em is Thursday, Oct. 19. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with games beginning at 6 p.m. Pre-register for a discount. Complimentary food.

Football Frenzy — Watch up to six games at once on Sundays. Doors open at 9:45 a.m. Food and drink specials available from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Monday from 5-8 p.m. Plus, club members will have the chance to win weekly prizes.

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center 275-BOWL

October Grill Special — Bratwurst with your choice of sauerkraut, bell peppers and grilled onions. Served with jumbo soft pretzel, nacho cheese sauce and 16 ounce drink for a special price.

Family Package Fridays is from 2-6 p.m. Price includes two hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, large one-topping pizza and a pitcher of soda.

Glow in the Dark Bowling is Friday and Saturday, 6 p.m.-midnight. Shoe rental included with price. Bowl as many games as you want. Don't miss out on all the fun at an affordable price and a fun atmosphere for the whole family.

Monday Night Red Pin Bowling goes from 3-7 p.m. Get a strike on the head red pin and receive a free game.

Unlimited Bowling on Tuesdays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Low price for unlimited games.

Wacky Sundays are 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Discounts for each person with unlimited games.

Birthday Bowl - Bowl up to three games free between 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on your birthday. Open to all ages. Bring your ID.

Birthday party packages are available. Several price packages are available to include shoes and food.

Aero Club 275-AERO

Flight Instructors Needed!

Realize Your Dreams. Start Flying! — Join the thousands of men and women who made their dream a reality. Open to active duty military, DOD and NAF civilians, family members, Civil Air Patrol members, retired military, Guard and Reserve, and others by installation approval. Earn three months free Aero Club membership with your introductory flight. For more information visit myairforcelife.com/aeroclubs or contact your local Aero Club to sign up for your introductory flight.

Arts and Crafts Center/Auto Hobby 275-ARTS/AUTO

Arts & Crafts Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

October Auto Hobby Special — Get four tires mounted for the price of two! Does not include balancing.

Spooktacular Mini Cake Decorating is Oct. 23, from 5-7 p.m. Sign up by Oct. 18. Sign up with a friend and receive 25% off. Open to ages 12 and older (must be accompanied by an adult if under 16). Practice holding icing bags and using a few different tips, then jump into being creative with mini cakes.

Towing service available through Auto Hobby Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Towing is available on-base and off-base. Call Auto Hobby for more information or prices.

Auto Hobby hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday & Friday, 12 p.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

Interested In Taking Classes? We are currently offering: stained glass, paper-crafting, mosaics and cookie/cake decorating. Instructors are also needed.

Class Instructors Wanted — Classes looking for instructors include stained glass, paper crafts, photography, kids classes and cake/cookie decorating. Call 275-ARTS now.

Rosburg Fitness Center 275-GYM1

Are you a certified personal trainer? The Rosburg Fitness Center is currently looking for certified personal trainers with at least 100 hours of individual fitness program experience to include fitness assessments, cardiovascular and strength conditioning programs. Certification must be current and include First Aid certification and either BLS/AED or CPR/AED certification. Please contact the gym if interested.

Equipment Orientation Classes — Not sure how to use equipment or what it does for you? Stop by the front desk and sign up for this one-hour class. We are here to help you get the most out of your fitness routine. Classes are offered Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call for times.

Education and Training 277-2713

Leadership Training Opportunities — Did you know that your Edwards Education and Training Center offers a variety of civilian leadership training programs to help civilian leaders in their day-to-day leadership paths? Examples of the courses that can be offered are: Leadership Gold, 360 Degree Leader and Leadership the Challenge. Please contact your Edwards Education and Training Center if any one of these courses are of interest to you.

National Test Center hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. only. To schedule an exam, or for additional information, please contact the AMU test examiner at 524-4431, or contact Education and Training. As always, the office is open for all your educational needs. As always, drop by the Ed Center for any questions, we are located on Methusa Rd. The Education Center is here for you.

**For more information
about 412th FSS offerings, visit
www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress**

Library 275-BOOK

New Mango Languages Online — This new option to learn more than 70 languages is being offered by Air Force Libraries and is available through the AF Portal. To create an account, select "Database and Online Resources" from the "Library & Resources" tab, then select "Educational Resources" where Mango Languages will be listed among other resources. For more information call or stop by the library.

Storytime — Toddlers and preschool children are invited every Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m. to enjoy a wonderful story and create very unique craft projects. Volunteer readers are welcome!



Adopt me!

Malibu is a stunning husky that's full of fun and excitement. She adores kids and seems to do great with other friendly dogs. Malibu is potty trained and does know some basic commands. True to her breed she is a little stubborn but very much a friendly lovebug that's ready to greet everyone. Call APET at 258-9525 today!

Outdoor Recreation 275-CAMP

R4R Team Cohesion Challenge is Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Register by Oct. 25. Compete in a Goruck physical challenge led by an experienced member of special operations who will teach you how to overcome adversity as a team. Sign up as a team or individual at Outdoor Recreation.

Fall Pool Hours — The Oasis Pool is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The Sonic and Muroc Pools are both closed until next summer. Thank you for a great summer pool season!

Overnight Camping at Branch Park — Low fee for a campsite suitable up to four people. Come and get a wilderness experience right here on base. This is a primitive campground with no portable water, telephones, electricity and no RVs.

Numerous openings in RV Storage — Come over and park your equipment for our low prices and have access to them anytime you need.

Oasis Community Center 275-CNTR

Las Vegas Shuttle runs Friday-Sunday. Sign up the Thursday before. The shuttle is available Nov. 9-12 and Dec. 8-10. Friday departure is at 12 p.m. from the Oasis Community Center.

Sunday departure is at 12 p.m. from Nellis Air Force Base's Air Force Inn. Call for shuttle price. This is an excellent opportunity to experience Las Vegas without the hassle of driving there.

Zumba is Monday, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 5 - 6 p.m. On Tuesdays, class is 4:30-5:30 p.m. For Wednesdays it is 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Discount for advanced purchase of 10 classes.

Family Child Care 275-4322

Family Child Care is seeking dedicated people who love working with children!

If you live on-base and want to care for children in your home or you are a military dependent and live off-base, you may be eligible to be a licensed or affiliated provider! Make a positive difference in the lives of children! Most materials and training are provided free of charge!

Extended Duty Care is offered to assist parents who need additional child care beyond their normal arrangements due to mission-related requirements. Children must already be enrolled in the Child Development Center, the School Age Program or the Family Child Care Program to qualify. To enroll in this FREE Extended Duty Program or for more information, please contact the Family Child Care office.

The Benefits of Being a Family Child Care Provider — If you are interested in becoming an FCC licensed provider, contact the FCC Office at 275-4322. We need providers to offer alternate hours to accommodate evening, swing and weekend duty hours. We are looking for providers to offer care for children with special needs including asthma, allergies, and other physical impairments. We are also looking for providers to offer extended duty care.

Muroc Lake Golf Course 275-PUTT

Spring into Fall Tournament is Oct. 21. Sign

up by Oct. 17. Enjoy golf, camaraderie, lunch and prizes. Must have a Southern California Golf Association handicap.

Customer Satisfaction Survey — Muroc Lake Golf Course strives to deliver the best possible golfing experience to its customers on every round. We are always eager to hear what our customers have to say and we'd like to invite you to complete our customer survey. Our survey is short and to the point and we encourage you to be open and candid with your feedback. Thank you for your help and we look forward to seeing you soon. Please visit the Muroc Lake golf Course to fill out a paper survey or head to the following link to complete the survey online: <https://gsp.ngf.org/cgi/start.asp?SC=Edwards-MurocLake>.

Single Airman Golf Special — Single Airmen can enjoy 18 holes, cart, burger, fries and drink for a small price. Rental sets are provided for no charge if needed. Limited to the first 100 participants. Single Airmen are Air Force active duty or Air Reserve Component personnel permanently assigned to an Air Force installation or Air Force-led joint base without a spouse and a guest. Must be 18 years or older with a valid driver's license. Feel free to call or ask about yearly rates and twilight specials.

Teen Center 275-8336

Edwards School of Music — Sign up today. Open to ages 5-18. Lessons available for piano, guitar, bass guitar, drums, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and voice. Other instruments available upon request. Lessons available at all levels, beginner to advanced. For prices and class schedule, stop by the Teen Center or Youth Center. The Edwards School of Music is located

in building 7211, right next to the Teen Center.

Keystone Club meets every Wednesday at 2:15 p.m. at the Teen Center. The Keystone Club is a leadership club that performs community service projects around the base. The club also helps teens to maintain focus in high school and helps potential graduates prepare for college.

Youth and Teen Centers Memberships — For about a dollar a day, you could have peace of mind knowing that your son or daughter is in a safe environment - an environment that fosters development and offers constant supervision, tutoring and fun. The Youth and Teen Centers offer social opportunities and structured programming from affiliated agencies such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the 4-H Club.

For prices and class schedule, stop by the Teen Center or Youth Center. The Edwards School of Music is located in building 7211, right next to the Teen Center.

Youth Sports 277-8961

Youth Basketball sign ups are Nov. 6-Dec. 1. The season begins Jan. 13, 2018. Youth programs is also looking for highly motivated coaches to coach basketball this year. Please contact Emil Graves at 277-8961 for more information.

Information, Tickets and Travel 275-TRIP

ITT Pricelist & Other Events: To see the current ITT price list for events, parks, hotels and discount information, visit www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress/travel/itt.

Armed Forces Vacation Club — Let us find your dream vacation rental. Forget cramped quarters, get access to space-available resort rentals worldwide for one low weekly price.

412th Security Forces Squadron issues speeding citations

The 412th Security Forces Squadron issued **10** speeding citations and processed one driving suspension from Sept. 18 through Sept. 22.

Citations issued

1 to 10 mph.....0
11 to 15 mph.....7
16 to 20 mph.....2
21 to 24 mph.....1
25+ mph.....0

Driving privilege suspensions (current)

15 days.....0
30 days.....0
45 days.....0
90 days.....4
180 days (six months).....1
365 days (one year).....28
730 days (two years).....0
1,095 days (three years).....0

Per AFI 31-218 and EAFBI 31-218, a DD Form 1408 Armed Forces traffic tickets (no-fine) are issued to military members. Military members receiving 1408s are subject to Uniform Code of Military Justice action. A U.S. District Court Violation Notice (USDCVN) (a fine) is issued to all civilians, dependents and retirees. If issued a USDCVN, violators may be required to be present at Magistrate Court in Bakersfield, California, receive traffic violation points against their state-issued driver's license and potentially receive suspension of on-base driving privileges.

Scouts have new home base thanks to civil engineers

By Kenji Thuloweit
412th Test Wing Public Affairs

What used to be a furniture store is now a place for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to call home. Members of the 412th Civil Engineer Group completed a month-long renovation of a space in Bldg. 7211 within the Desert Mall area. Different sections of 412th CEG got together and replaced the heating and cooling system, the concrete slab, bathroom and sink fixtures, interior lighting, ceiling tiles and rewired electrical outlets. The area was also completely repainted, rekeyed and an enclosed fire suppression system was installed. The 412th Civil Engineer Squadron used existing material and stock to renovate the facility.

Edwards is home to Boy Scout Troop 247, Girl Scout Troop 1032 and Cub Scout Pack 741.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit)



Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts can call this newly renovated place home after members from the 412th Civil Engineer Group renovated a space in Bldg. 7211 within the Desert Mall area. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit)

Murray Westley, 412th CES director, said this volunteer effort was a way for Air Force personnel to invest in the nation's future leaders.

"The men and women of the 412th CES were proud to support this project," Westley said. "Members embraced the project because they knew the importance of giving back to the community."

Those who went above their normal duties to make a new base for the scouts are Kenneth Vaughan, Ricardo Ocampo-Garcia, Michael Mundy, Mark Edwards, and Bobby Colbaugh, Daniel Sterling and Todd Anderson.

Maj. Kelly selected for Air Force Marathon Team

Maj. Bryan Kelly, a test pilot with the 419th Flight Test Squadron, has been selected as one of 13 Airmen to compete on the Air Force Marathon Team.

Kelly took first place overall in the [2017 Air Force Marathon](#) held in September with a finishing time of 2:40:34. His average pace throughout that course was 6:08, just over six minutes a mile, or just under 10 mph. The Air Force Marathon was held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The [Air Force Marathon Team](#) will compete in the Armed Forces Marathon Championship in Washington D.C. Oct. 19-23. (U.S. Air Force photo by Christopher Higgins)



From Solar, page 1

during a major grid outage."

The solar panel installation is part of Edwards AFB's continual effort to reduce energy and natural resource consumption such as water. The base has constructed three solar fields in recent years and has been recognized for its overall conservation efforts.

"The energy management team is consistently driving energy savings initiatives and bringing resiliency to our base to meet the vision of delivering energy resiliency to the world's greatest Air Force of the 21st Century," said Ricardo Castillo, 412th CEG electrical engineer.

The installation of the solar panels is expected to be completed by next spring.



Members of the 412th Civil Engineer Group, Corvias and a solar panel contracted company stand in front of the first base home with installed solar panels Oct. 11. The vacant house is the first of 368 base homes to be equipped with solar panels. Installation of the solar panels is expected to be completed in the spring of 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kenji Thuloweit)

This Week in Edwards History

Seventy years ago, on Oct. 14, 1947, Capt. Chuck Yeager became the first human to fly faster than the speed of sound while flying the Bell X-1 at Mach 1.07 at an altitude of 45,000 feet over Rogers Dry Lake. The X-1 he flew that day was later put on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.



Created Treasures' Fall Fest & Trunk or Treat

Saturday, 28 October 2017 10am-4pm

Prize for Best Trunk!

Shopping
Games
Goody Bags
Prizes
Refreshments



Created Treasures
1100 Kincheloe Ave, Edwards
(in the Subway/Domino's Complex)



(U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Dilia Ayala)

The 412th Aerospace Medicine Squadron is sponsoring a 5K run/walk and health fair in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event will take place Oct. 26 at the Rosburg Fitness Center.

The health fair will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 5K run/walk will start at 11 a.m.

The free community event is open to the base populace. For any questions, call 277-9427.

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