

Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

Vol. 65 No. 49

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Frost Assumes Command of HT-28 from Stackhouse



Lt. Col. Clay Stackhouse

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

Amidst the traditional pomp and circumstance of a military ceremony, Lt. Col. Clay Stackhouse turned over command of Helicopter Training Squadron



Cmdr. Mathew Frost

HT-28 to Cmdr. Mathew Frost Friday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium building.

Passing the command from a Marine to a Navy officer is uncommon in military commands, but is the standard for HT-28 and Frost will turn over command to Lt. Col. Mark Thompson following his tour as commanding officer of the squadron.

Col. Scott Walsh served as the guest speaker and presiding officer for the ceremony, and praised Stackhouse's tour as one of "great character." Stackhouse was the first executive officer for the squadron, helping to establish many of the guidelines and procedures with which the Hellions



Senior Chief Naval Air Crewman Brian Bennefeld presents the squadron's colors to Lt. Col Clay Stackhouse so that he may in turn present them to Cmdr. Mathew Frost signifying the passing of command. U.S. Navy photo by Jay Cope.

operated. Up until the change of command ceremony, he was also the longest serving member of the squadron.

"I congratulate you on instilling a tradition of char-

- (Cont. on Page 5)

Dilbert Dunker Inventor Visits NAS Whiting Field

By Ens. Joanna Clark, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

With an unsavory reputation for discomfort and the look of a middle-ages torture device, the Dilbert Dunker might not be the first choice for a happy look down memory lane. However, the device is credited with possibly saving thousands of aviators' lives and the inventor of the training contraption is justifiably proud of his progeny.

Wilfred Kaneb, who currently resides in Ontario, Canada, began designing and building the dunker in 1943. He was tasked with the duty of creating a mechanism to simulate engine failure at takeoff from a carrier, as many pilots who crashed in this scenar-

io during World War II did not survive. "The Army Colonel said somebody has got to teach them what it is like to be drowning," Kaneb recollected. "It took us between six months to a year to design and build it."

Kaneb visited Naval Air Station Whiting Field Thursday, Dec. 3 to see one of only four Dunkers created. On display at the base's atrium with other pieces of naval aviation history, this "Dilbert Dunker" was used for water survival training at both Naval Air Station Pensacola and NAS Whidbey Island.

The dunker is a piece of history to many of aviators at NAS Whiting Field, including Commanding Officer,

Capt. Pete Hall and Executive Officer Cmdr. Lynne Chapman. More than 8,000 aviators have trained on the Dilbert Dunker.

"We have a little bit of our history in here," Chapman said. "I mean, I rode in here."

Hall added, referring to the Dilbert Dunker, "If you think of all the people who have gone through this one, all the astronauts, the people who went to the moon... They all had to go through Pensacola, through this one,"

Four of these devices surfaced in the Fleet, all hand made and tested by Kaneb and a small team of engineers. Because there was no assembly

- (Cont. on Page 2)

Jenkins Named Top Sailor for Regional Med Clinics

By Rod Duren, Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs

Sailors from Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NAS-WF) Naval Branch Health Clinic (NBHC) and Naval Hospital Pensacola (NHP) swept the Navy medical facility's four top Regional Sailors of the Year (SoY) awards in a ceremony Nov. 18.

HM1 Pamela Jenkins of NBHC (NAS) Whiting Field was selected the region's Senior Sailor of the Year award. NH Pensacola's Sailors took the other three regional awards with HM2 Sally Griffin earning the Sailor of the Year award; HM3 James Aldridge was the Junior SoY; and HN Jevette Moore claimed the Bluejacket of the Year prize.

"It wasn't a surprise to us she won," said Whiting Field clinic's HMCM David Acuff. "She knows how to lead Sailors ... at exciting Whiting."

Jenkins, a Putnam, Conn., native, will compete as NH Pensacola's representative at Navy Medicine East's Senior Sailor of the Year award competition this month in Millington, Tenn.

"She's a leader," said Whiting clinic's officer in charge, Capt. Jeff Plummer. "When she turns around there are people following her."

Eighteen Sailors from the hospital command, which also includes branch clinics across five states, were among the nominees in the four categories.



HM1 Pamela Jenkins is congratulated for earning the Naval Hospital Pensacola Regional Senior Sailor of the Year award. Jenkins was selected from Sailors stationed at Naval Hospital Pensacola, Branch Health Clinics Meridian and Millington, and Naval Ambulatory Care Center New Orleans. U.S. Navy photo by Rod Duren.

Dilbert Dunker

- (Cont. from Page 1)



Naval Air Station Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Pete Hall and Wilfred Kaneb share a few comments over a few of the photos he brought with him of the early days of the dunker. Kaneb invented the Dilbert Dunker in 1943. U.S. Navy photo Ens. Robert Hooper.

line to build these machines, they had to be individually tested, and they didn't always work on the first try.

Testing these devices could not have been pleasant, as many would gather from the dunker's film debut in "Officer and a Gentleman." The flight candidate would be strapped into a mock cockpit, place his hands on the throttle and stick, and be lifted in a cart a few meters out of the water. The cart would then come crashing into the water, flip up-side-down, and the candidate would then (with "water in every sinus") have to orient himself and escape from the pilot seat.

"We tested a lot of airplanes [Dilbert Dunkers]," Kaneb said. "I liked it, though, because it was worth it."

Many will tell you that, although it was not a pleasant experience to traverse the path of this mechanism in action, if they were to go down in an aircraft they would be grateful they had the training.

Capt. Hall stated, reminiscing his water survival training, "I know it gave me the confidence to get out of the water."

News and Notes

Branch Health Clinic Upcoming Closings -The following clinic closures will be observed during the rest of this week and the holiday season for the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Branch Health Clinic - Thursday & Friday, Dec. 24 & 25 and Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 for Holiday/base closures

Golf Lessons - A.C. Read golf Club is offering free golf lessons to authorized military dependents between the ages of 8 and 13. Registration is being held at the youth center, Bldg. 3690. Lessons will be provided between Nov. 3 and Dec. 19 on the following schedule. Ages 10 & 11 - Tuesdays 3 to 4:30 p.m.; Ages 8 & 9 - Thursdays 3 to 4:30 p.m.; and Ages 12 & 13 - Saturdays 10 to 11:30 a.m.. Call 452-2417 for more information.

Christmas Productions - The Panhandle Community Theatre will present two Christmas plays Dec. 11-13 at the Woodbine Storefront Playhouse in Pace. "The Gift of the Magi" and "Angels and All That Stuff" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$12. Call 450-2566 for reservations.

Polar Bear Run - Naval Air Station Whiting Field Morale Welfare and Recreation is sponsoring a Polar Bear 5K Fun Run/Walk Saturday, Dec. 12. Runners/walkers should meet at the sports complex pavillion at 6:30 a.m. for instructions, with the run beginning at 7 a.m. The event is free and open to all authorized patrons. Pre-registration by Friday, Dec. 11 To register or for additional information call 665-6102.

Santa Claws Photo Shoot - The Pet Nation at 1890 Andorra St. Navarre will take holiday photos of furry friends with Santa Claus Dec. 12 from 1 to 3:45 p.m. The cost is \$5 per photo which will benefit the Hungry Hounds/Famished Felines holiday food drive. Call 936-8201 for additional information.

Christmas Boat Parade - Watch decorated vessels parade on

TRICARE Notes

SNEEZING? YOU MAY HAVE ALLERGIES

People can be allergic to many things - dust mites, mold, pets, foods, plants, insect bites and even latex. Fortunately, there are some precautions you can take to keep allergies in check.

ALLERGY TRIGGERS

- Close home and car windows and use the air conditioner
 - Stay indoors when pollen levels are highest - usually in the morning
 - Shower and change your clothes frequently after spending time outside
 - Dry your clothes in a dryer
 - Avoid tobacco smoke
 - Avoid mowing the lawn or wear a filter mask
- Allergy Treatments include Antihistamines and
-Decongestant

TRICARE covers most services required in the diagnosis and treatment of allergies. Contact Humana Military at 1-800-444-5445 to verify which allergy tests or treatments are approved.



Getting in the Spirit of the Season

The Naval Air Station Whiting Field/Training Air Wing FIVE float travels down Stewart Street toward downtown Milton during the town's annual Christmas parade. Members of the First Class Petty Officer's Association updated the decorations for a slightly different look this year. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Joanna Clark.

the water against a dark sky Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. The boats will travel from the Pensacola Beach Marina to the boardwalk. The flotilla will officially deliver Santa Claus to the island where he will listen to children's holiday wishes. For more details call 932-1500.

Zoo Lights on Display - Throughout the month of December, Pensacola Beach will display holiday lights from the Zoo of Northwest Florida. More than three dozen displays are included. Come between 5 and 9 p.m. for the free event. Call 932-1500 for more information.

Embry Riddle Registrations - The Pensacola Campus of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is holding registration for the January Term from December 1- January 17, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays in Bldg. 634, Suite 033, 250 Chambers Avenue, NAS Pensacola and on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bldg. 1417, Room 163 on NAS Whiting Field. Add and drop for a full refund will be held January 11-17, 2010. New Student Orientation will be held Saturday, January 9, 8 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 634, Suite 033. Everyone is encouraged to register early. All ERAU offices will be closed from Dec. 23 until Jan. 3.

Lacrosse in the South - The City of Gulf Breeze Sports Association is looking for lacrosse coaches for the upcoming Spring lacrosse season and any interested youth players (NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED). We should have enough participants to field 3 boys teams (U11, U15, High School JV) and 2 girls teams (U11, U15). Signups are currently underway and practices will begin the first week of January. Please see the following website for further information or contact LCDR Joe Costello (VT-3) at (850) 281-7158.

Rudolph's Holiday Stroll - Let Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer guide you through the Seville neighborhood on a brisk evening stroll 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18 through 20. Neighbors compete to decorate their houses for the season, and you'll meet many holiday characters. The one-hour walking tour begins at the courthouse and is a great way to see the neighborhood up close with a tour guide, songs and stories. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Cost: \$10.50 for adults; \$6.50 for kids.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 11, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Auditorium
Dec. 12, 1800 - NASWF Christmas Party - Sikes Hall
Dec. 17, 1100 - NASWF Command Potluck - Atrium

Dec. 18, 1100 - VT-2 Change of Command - Atrium
Dec. 18, 1300 - Winging Ceremony - Auditorium
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

Ten Steps to a Federal Job - Monday, December 14, 1000 - 1200

"Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort in searching and applying for a Federal Job?" You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listings for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Anger Management - Wednesday, December 16, 1300 - 1400

Is anger affecting your health, your relationships or your work performance? Learn to understand the causes and effects of unhealthy anger and how to express and release that anger in a healthy way! Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

Couple's Communication - Wednesday, December 16, 1800 - 2000

Are you newly married? Are you in a serious relationship? Have you been married a long time? If yes, then this workshop is for you. During this class, we will discuss the "Speaker/Listener Technique", a structured way to communicate effectively. This technique helps couples to talk about tough issues without resorting to fighting. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. Participants must register in advance for all EVENING classes by calling the FFSC before noon on the day the class is being held. If the date and times listed are not convenient for you, you may call to schedule a time that fits better with your schedule. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

VA Representative (Call for Appointment) - Friday, December 18, 0800 - 1200

BBB Cautions Residents About Census Scams

Over the next 18 months, 1.4 million U.S. Census workers will be surveying the population of the country to gather demographic information about everyone living here. Some consumers report they received a lengthy document labeled, "The American Community Survey." As the 2010 census process begins, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Serving Central Florida advises citizens to cooperate carefully in order to avoid becoming a victim of census-related scams.

Citizens are required by law to respond to the U.S. Census Bureau's requests for information. Census data will be used in allocation of more than \$300 billion in federal funds as well as in determining the number of Congressional representatives that each state is allowed.

"Most people are understandably cautious about giving out personal information to unsolicited phone callers or visitors, but the Census is an exception to the rule," said Judy Pepper, President/CEO of the Central Florida BBB. "Scammers know that the public is more willing to share personal data when participating in the Census, so they take advantage of this opportunity by posing as government workers to get access to personal financial information."



The BBB and local media have gotten calls from citizens who have been approached by census workers, but are uncertain about giving out personal information. The BBB has been in contact with local census officials, who have urged Central Florida residents to call the US Census Bureau at (800) 923-8282 if they have concerns.

The BBB offers the following advice to help distinguish between bona fide Census workers and con artists:

-U.S. Census workers will have identification, a handheld device and a confidentiality notice. Caution: never invite strangers into your home.

-U.S. Census workers will not ask for your Social Security number or any information about bank or credit card accounts.

-U.S. Census workers will not ask you for money or say that you owe money.

-U.S. Census workers will not harass or intimidate you.

U.S. Census workers will not contact you by email - only by phone, by mail or in person.

For more information regarding the 2010 Census, visit the U.S. Census Bureau online at www.census.gov.

Change of Command

- (Cont. from Page 1)

acter and judgment that will continue long beyond your tour,” Walsh said. “It is a tradition of excellence that will ensure the wings of gold will continue to be recognized around the world.”

During Stackhouse’s 31-month tenure as executive officer and then commanding officer, the Hellions flew nearly 50,000 flight hours, more than 27,000 training evolutions and winged 321 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and allied aviators. While he served as commanding officer of the squadron, the unit earned a grade of “Outstanding” on two separate training inspections.

Walsh presented him with the Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony for his accomplishments.

“As Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT’s second commanding officer, he led the squadron to achieve full operational capability status, attaining FY-09 pilot production goals. His selfless dedication to the local community was evident through the squadron’s 900 hours of community service,” read a portion of the award citation.

Stackhouse said there were a lot of good things about being a nearly 20-year aviator and he has experienced many of them. Since graduating from the Naval Academy in 1990, Stackhouse completed Basic and Advanced Flight Training; served with Marine helicopter squadrons HMT-204 and HMM-261; and flew 24 missions with President William Clinton and three with President George W. Bush as a pilot with HMX-1. He also flew casualty evacuation missions in Iraq as the executive officer of Marine Wing Support Group 37. Stackhouse has accumulated more than 3,400 total flight hours and has flown nine different type/model/series of aircraft to include the CH-46E, CH-53E, UH-1N, AH-1W, VH-60N, and VH-3D.

Taking the microphone, Stackhouse spoke briefly to express his appreciation for the people who helped to make his tour successful. During the life of the squadron to date, not one of the Hellion pilots transferred to other squadrons has failed to complete follow on training. He attributed that success to a combination of a simple philosophy and a talented team. The philosophy was for the pilots and students to be professionals, fly safely, and have fun.

“Guys, you have made my eyes water. I never imagined the response you have achieved. I am uniquely proud of you and it has been a distinct honor to have been your commanding officer.” Shortly after his remarks, Stackhouse was presented the squadron flag by the unit’s senior enlisted, Senior Chief Aircrewman Brian Bennefeld. He then presented the colors to Frost, symbolically handing him command of the unit.

Frost takes command of the squadron after serving as the executive officer. This is his third term of duty at NAS Whiting Field have earned his wings at the base in 1993 and also serving as an instructor with Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT where he earned the 2000 Instructor of the Year Award for Training Air Wing FIVE. He has also completed tours with Helicopter Combat Support Squadrons THREE and ELEVEN in California; served as the Assistant Air Officer onboard USS NASSAU (LHA 4), and been part of U.S. Central Command Headquarters in MacDill AFB in Tampa, Fla. Frost has flown more than 4,000 hours in various aircraft throughout his 18-year career.

Frost praised Stackhouse’s leadership and mentorship before thanking the squadron instructors and students for their efforts.

“It has been one heck of a ride. There was never a dull moment while he was running the helm,” Frost said. “To the Hellions, I want you to know we are a great squadron, and we will work to be even better in the future.”



2009 Christmas Party
Saturday December 12th
1800-2400 at Sikes Hall

Please join us
for a festive
evening of
**FUN, FOOD
DANCING
& PRIZES**

Sampling of Menu
Lumpia Rumaki Sliced Meat Trays
Chicken Tenders Bacon Wrapped Sea Scallops
And many other items ...

Tickets available through
division representatives and
Lori Howell in Admin, bldg 1401.

Ticket Prices:
E7/GS7 & above \$25.00 * E5/6/GS6 & below \$17.00 * E4 & below \$12.00



Morale, Welfare & Recreation



NAS Whiting Field

Holiday Hours 2009

FITNESS CENTER

Nov 26 0600-1400
 Nov 27-29 1030-1800
 Dec 21-23 1030-1800
 Dec 24 1200-1800
 Dec 25 CLOSED
 Dec 26-31 1030-1800
 Jan 1 CLOSED
 Jan 2-3 1030-1800

LIBERTY CENTER

Nov 26 CLOSED
 Nov 27-29 1200-2000
 Dec 21 1100-1900
 Dec 22 0900-1900
 Dec 23 1100-1900
 Dec 24 0900-1700
 Dec 25 CLOSED
 Dec 26-31 1200-2000
 Jan 1 CLOSED
 Jan 2-3 1200-2000

WINGS CLUB

Nov 26-29 CLOSED
 Dec 21-23 0600-1500*
 Dec 24-27 CLOSED
 Dec 28-30 0600-1500*
 Dec 31 CLOSED
 Jan 1-3 CLOSED
 * (breakfast sandwiches available until 1000; lunch menu service 1000-1500)

COFFEE SHOP

Nov 26-29 CLOSED
 Dec 21-Jan 3 CLOSED

INFORMATION TICKETS & TOURS

Nov 26-27 CLOSED
 Dec 21-23 0900-1700
 Dec 24-27 CLOSED
 Dec 28-30 0900-1700

WHITING PARK RECREATION AREA

Nov 26 CLOSED
 Nov 27 0630-1700
 Dec 21-22 0630-1700
 Dec 23-25 CLOSED
 Dec 26-29 0630-1700
 Dec 30 CLOSED
 Dec 31 0630-1700
 Jan 1 CLOSED
 Jan 2-3 0630-1700

GOLF COURSE

Nov 26 CLOSED
 Nov 27 0630-1700
 (Snack bar 0630-1400)
 Dec 21 0630-1700
 (Snack bar closed)
 Dec 22-23 0630-1700
 (Snack bar 0630-1400)
 Dec 25 CLOSED
 Dec 26 0630-1700
 (Snack bar closed)
 Dec 27-Jan 3 0630-1700
 (Snack bar 0630-1400)

BOWLING CENTER

Nov 26-27 CLOSED
 Dec 21 CLOSED
 Dec 22-23 1500-2300
 (Snack bar 1500-2130)
 Dec 24-28 CLOSED
 Dec 29-30 1500-2300
 (Snack bar 1500-2130)
 Dec 31 CLOSED
 Jan 1 CLOSED
 Jan 2 1500-2300
 (Snack bar 1500-2130)
 Jan 3 CLOSED

Happy Holidays!!

Congratulations TRAWING-5 Wingers and Scholars



Back Row: Cmdr. Mark Murray, USN, CO HT-18; Lt. Col. Clay Stackhouse, USMC, CO HT-28; Lt.j.g. Brian Berumen, USN; Lt.j.g. Jameson Saviano, USCG; 1st Lt. Jonathan Chunn, USMC; Lt.j.g. Roger Dmochowski, USN; Ens. Jason Stalter, USN; Cmdr. Sean Butcher, USN, CO HSC-84

Front Row: Cmdr. Hans Sholley, USN, XO HT-8; Lt. Joseph Semke, USCG; Lt.j.g. Marco Acosta, USN; 1st Lt. Adamo Manfra, USMC; Lt.j.g. Daniel Lavinder, USCG; Lt.j.g. Erin Hittle, USN; Capt. James Vandiver, USN, Deputy Commodore TW-5



Left Photo - The photo in the Nov 25 Whiting Tower incorrectly had the Nov. 20 award presentations labeled as Nov. 6. Here is the Nov. 6 awardees receiving their academic awards. From left to right are: Lt. j.g. Adam W. Broos, USN; Ens. Robert U. Tuohy IV, USN; 1st Lt. Wooten, USMC; Ens. Brian L. Miller, USN; and 2nd Lt. Michael D. Litynski, USMC.

Right Photo: The Dec. 4 Academic Achievement recipients are: 1st Lt. Michael D. Stremer, USMC; 2nd Lt. Christopher M. Beckett, USAF; Ens. Matthew E. Peden, USN; 2nd Lt. Matthew R. Tiemann, USMC; 2nd Lt. Eric A. Scheibe, USMC; Lt. j.g. Davide E. Tamborini, Italian Navy; Lt. j.g. Andrea Mazzi, Italian Navy; Ens. Ryan A. Ross, USN; and Ens. Christopher A. Breuer, USN.

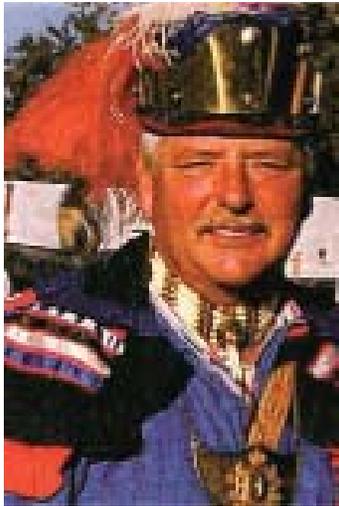
NASWF Hosts American Indian Heritage Event

By Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

For more than 90 years, the United States has been observing Native American and Alaskan Native contributions to our society through proclamations, special days and heritage month celebrations, and Naval Air Station Whiting Field continued that proud tradition with their own heritage month event Nov. 23 at the Wings Club ballroom.

The luncheon featured Chief Thomas "Blue Eyes" Nichols, a past president of the Creek Confederation of Florida and current resident of Santa Rosa County. He also started the first American Indian run business in Santa Rosa County. Nichols reminded the audience of the hardships Indians faced during our country's history.

"In the past, Indians could not marry, own lands, and had no civil rights," he said. "My great grandfather and my grandfather only talked about it behind closed doors."



Chief Thomas "Blue Eyes" Nichols

He attributed a loss of the Creek Indian culture to a desire for safety, but also to a desire to "fit in." Bringing back some of that culture is an effort that he continues to pursue today.

"When a language dies, a people dies. It's the mission of our tribe to bring heritage back so that it isn't lost."

Ensuring a respect for the American Indian and Alaskan native culture is a key message for the Navy to its service members. That is only fitting given the extraordinary service provided by service members of that ancestry.

More than 15,000 active duty, reserve and civilian members of the Navy's Total force declare themselves American Indian or Alaskan Native. Additionally, more than 12,000 served during World War I and 44,000 during World War II. Seventeen earned the Medal of Honor.

A graphic advertisement for a New Year's Eve event. The background is dark blue with white snowflake patterns. On the left is a bottle of Moët & Chandon champagne, and on the right is a flute glass filled with champagne. The text is centered in a white, frost-like border.

**Kick off New Years Eve
in style at the Wings Club
Thursday, the thirty-first of December**

**Doors open at 7 p.m.
DJ and dancing all night!**

**Reservations are required.
Tickets prices are:**

**\$60 per couple or \$35 per single
includes Hors D'Oueves, dancing and a bottle of champagne**

**R.S.V.P. Wings at 623-7311
The pelican Drop will air live on a large screen.**

*No room packages available, please call the Gateway Inns and Suites
at 623-7605 or 7606 to make reservations.*

Cocktail attire