

## Family & Entertainment

When I'm working extra hours

# Who will care for my child?

*New extended-duty child care program to debut at McChord the first of the year*

By PATTI JEFFREY  
62nd Services Squadron editor

Staff Sgt. Alicia Penny, a single parent, has just been told she may have extended duty for two weeks in January after her leave. The first thoughts that fly through her head are, "OK, that's great. How am I going to get weeknight or weekend care for my 5-year-old? He's already enrolled in the Child Development Center program and really likes it there. Even if I can get extra child care, how can I afford it?"

The Air Force has responded to Penny's and other families' needs with a new extended-duty child-care program being piloted at McChord in conjunction with the Child Development Center, School Age Program and Family Child Care homes. This test program is designed to help military families who temporarily need more child care due to working longer hours, evenings and weekends.

When she asked the CDC staff what she could do, they told her about the pilot program and to call the FCC office to get more information. When she called, she found out that the extended-duty child-care program begins Jan. 1. She was thrilled that she qualified. Penny also was satisfied with the answers to her questions, such as:

- *When can I use extended-duty care for my child?* Whenever you need child care beyond the standard 50 hours of care provided in on- or off-base child care programs when you are assigned mission-related duties on base. This includes extended-duty days, temporary shift changes, rapid mobilization or

short-term deployment if no other parent is available, and dual military or single-parent deployment until the child is picked up by an Air Force designee.

- *How much does it cost?* If you are using the CDC or School-Age Program, you will pay \$2 an hour or below. Parents using other child-care programs will pay \$2 an hour.

Penny thought this was great news, and asked her most pressing question: *How do I enroll?* She found out that all she needs to do is get verification in writing from her supervisor stating that she may need to work beyond 40 hours per week or that she may have temporary shift changes and that her assignment is mission-related. Then she can meet with the FCC coordinator, discuss which extended-duty care provider she can choose, and fill out the forms.

Penny also wanted to visit the FCC extended-duty care providers with her son to get acquainted. Then he would already be familiar with his new child care location when they came to pick him up from the CDC. The FCC coordinator encouraged her to do just that, and made the arrangements.

### Is there a catch?

There's no catch to the program, since the Air Force absorbs provider costs, but there are certain conditions:

- The initial program will be funded at McChord only during 2001. However, if the pilot program proves successful, it may be extended if additional funding can be provided.



- First priority will be given to active duty military living on base and DOD civilians. Others who can use the program are APF or NAF employees assigned to McChord and reservists on active duty or inactive duty personnel training.

- The program is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Two extended-duty child-care FCC providers will be available at McChord. Each provider will accept two children at one time at 20 additional hours each week. The parents will pay the CDC each week for the additional care.

*"As the pilot program progresses, we will welcome your comments on how it can be improved to better meet your needs."*

—Gary Tillotson, 62nd Services Family Member Support Flight chief

This type of child care is not intended to meet regular child care requirements, provide shift care for normal duty, or hourly care for nonduty-related reasons. However, there are several FCC homes that provide regular alternative-hour care (see related article below).

"As the pilot program progresses," said Gary Tillotson, 62nd Services Family Member Support Flight chief, "we will welcome your comments on how it can be improved to better meet your needs."

For more information about the program, contact Rhonda Tillery, Services Family Child Care coordinator, at 982-5762 or Gary Tillotson at 982-5501.

## Family Child Care program provides regular alternative-hour care



*If you want alternative-care hours on a permanent or regular basis, consider Family Child Care homes.*

By PATTI JEFFREY  
62nd Services Squadron

Military parents who are about to work swing or graveyard shifts may feel anxious because of the unavailability of day care or because they can-

not find a sitter to spend the night at their home.

To resolve this dilemma, the Family Child Care (FCC) program has recruited alternative-hour on-base FCC providers who have openings for children whose parents need to work at night. The FCC program office also is in the process of recruiting off-base providers within a five-mile radius of the base.

Since the new FCC program is being put into effect, parents can be assured that their children will be well cared for and providers have the resources and accredited training to meet children's needs.

"The new FCC program takes the guesswork out of what is expected from care providers, and what par-

ents can expect with the level of licensing a provider will hold," said Gary Tillotson, 62nd Services Family Member Support Flight chief. "The outgrowth will be improved communication between program management staff and care providers, and between care providers and parents."

Parents can also receive or be able to view a copy of the last inspection of the home they are using and provide feedback through periodic surveys conducted by the Family Child Care Management Team.

To obtain more information about the choices for alternative-hour care, contact the Services Family Child Care coordinator's office at 982-5762 or the Family Member Support Flight chief at 982-5501.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.62SERVICES.COM](http://WWW.62SERVICES.COM)

McChord AFB  
**SERVICES**



Plan on bringing your children to the Skills Development Center Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. to paint and decorate a ceramic Christmas tree, complete with Christmas balls. The cost is \$1 per child.

Register by Tuesday by calling Skills Development at 982-6726.

McChord AFB  
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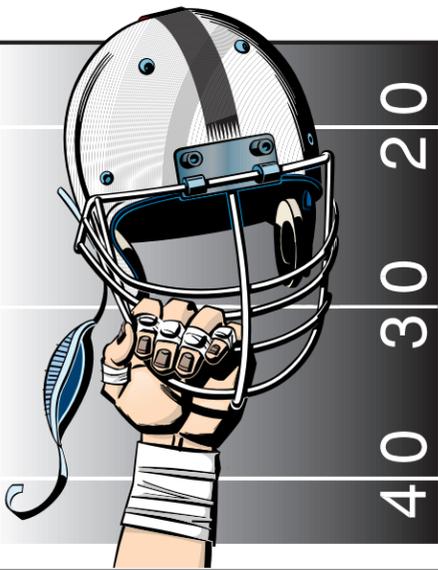
# KIDS! KRAFT HOLIDAY CERAMIC TREE

## Visit Santa at Sounders Lanes BOWLING CENTER



**Saturday, Dec. 16  
10-11:30 a.m.**

**Call 982-5954 for details!**



## McChord AFB SERVICES PRESENTS

# FOOTBALL PIX!

**We have four pairs of tickets to give away for every Seahawks home game during the 2000 season. You could win any pair of tickets by playing Football Pix!**

Here's how to play:

1. Pick up a stamp card at Adventures Unlimited, Auto Skills, the club, Skills Development, Sounders Lanes or Whispering Firs Golf Course.
2. Take the card to each Services location on the card and have it stamped.
3. When your card is full, drop it in the can at the last Services activity you attend.

No purchase is required. Enter to win as often as you like for each drawing. Stamps limited to one person per activity per day. Only authorized base patrons can participate. ID will be required if you win.

**6th-drawing lucky winners  
have been chosen!**

**The next drawing will be held  
today at noon for Raiders tickets.**



## Base Movie Theater

### Come see popular movies for free



The base theater will show *Big Momma's House*, rated PG-13 for innuendo, language and violence, at 7 p.m. Saturday.

See *Pokémon The Movie 2000*, rated G, at 4 p.m. Sunday. These titles may change without prior notice.

Admission is free. Refreshments are available for purchase. IDs will be checked; those who are under age will not be permitted inside.

## Adventures Unlimited

### Ski Mount Baker Sunday

Enjoy some great skiing at Mount Baker near the Canadian border Sunday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. This resort has excellent areas for skiers and snowboarders alike. The cost is \$20 for transportation. Discount lift tickets and rentals are available at Adventures Unlimited.

Call Adventures Unlimited at 982-2206.

### Come to Crystal Mountain Ski Resort

Crystal Mountain is one of Washington's favorite places to ski and snowboard. With its spectacular scenery and incredible variety of terrain, a visit to Crystal is always fun.

Come with Adventures Unlimited Dec. 16 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a cost of \$13 for transportation. Discount lift tickets and rentals are available at Adventures Unlimited.

Call Adventures Unlimited at 982-2206 to sign up today!

## The Club

### Sunday brunches a special treat

On Sundays, pamper yourself by sleeping in late, waking up slowly and coming to the club to savor a relaxing brunch.

Sunday brunch lasts from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and costs \$11.50 for adults, \$10.50 for seniors and free for children under age 10.

Call the club at 982-5581 for reservations.

### Children love Kid's Call

Bring on the youth for Kid's Call at the club Dec. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. For children ages 12 and under, the buffet is free. All others pay \$5 admission for prizes, fun and games. Children will especially enjoy the hamburger, hot dogs, french fries, coleslaw and pudding.

Kid's Call is for club members and family members only. Call the club at 982-5581 for details.

## Sounders Lanes

### Play the holiday adult/junior tournament



Calling all ages — from 3 to 93 — to play Sounders Lanes' Adult/Junior Holiday eight-pin no-tap mixed scotch doubles tournament this weekend! Squad times are 2 p.m. Play costs \$3 per team.

Call Sounders Lanes at 982-5954.

### Discount bowling cards in demand

Discount bowling cards are a popular way to save a lot of money on bowling! Buy your December cards and bowl 24 games for \$30 or, for greater

savings, 48 games for \$40.

If you're thinking about the holiday shopping season, remember that discount bowling cards make great gifts, too!

Call Sounders Lanes at 982-5954 for details.

### Save at Annual Pro Shop Sale

Sounders Lanes is having its 15th Annual Pro Shop Sale through Dec. 16! When you buy a ball, fitting and drilling are included in the purchase price, along with three free games of bowling. Sounders Lanes' youth league bowlers also will receive a certificate for a free plug and redrill.

Call Sounders Lanes at 982-5954.

### League bowlers, get in on the Holiday 3-6-9!

It's time for the Holiday 3-6-9 for league bowlers. Strike in the third, sixth and ninth frames of the same game through Dec. 21 and win a turkey. Your entry is then entered in the weekly drawing for a ham. The cost is \$2 extra during league play only.

Call Sounders Lanes at 982-5954 for details.

## Youth Center

### Take a teen Gameworks trip

Come to the Youth Center Dec. 16 to hop on board for a fun trip to Gameworks in Seattle. The day will last from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost for teens is \$5 for transportation and supervision, but bring along \$15 for two hours of play and lunch at Pike Place Market.

The deadline to register is Thursday. Call the Youth Center at 982-2203 today.

### Have a jolly time at preteen Christmas dance

Hey, how about wearing your gold, red, white, silver or green holiday colors for a festive Christmas preteen dance Dec. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$2 for members and \$4 for guests and is open to youth ages 9 through 12.

Call the Youth Center at 982-2203 for details.

