



Vance At A Glance

April 26, 2024

“Only in the darkness can you see the stars.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

Purple-Up parade, April 30 – The end of the Month of the Military Child event is a Purple-Up parade through the Vance Housing area, led by a Vance firetruck and drumline, starting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 30, in the Exchange parking lot. Cars can be decorated with purple balloons and streamers. Candy and soft items can be thrown from vehicles. Following the drumline will be senior Vance leadership and the mayor of Enid on a firetruck. Mark your calendar.

CGOC meeting, May 2 -- The monthly meeting of the Vance Company Grade Officers' Council is scheduled at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, May 2, at the Crosswinds Club. Updates and events will be discussed. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Michael Echeverria, michael.a.echeverria3.mil@health.mil.

Pajama Party 5K, May 3 – The Fitness Center is hosting a Pajama Party 5K Walk/Run at 7 a.m., Friday, May 3, beginning at the Fitness Center. T-shirts will go to the first 50 participants. Donuts will be available after the 5K. For more information, call 580-213-7948.

Test pilot briefing, April 30 – Two briefings on the U.S. Air Force Test Center and the Test Pilot School are scheduled Tuesday, April 30. The first session will be at 8 a.m. in the Base Auditorium. The second session will be at 1 p.m. in the 8th FTS auditorium. For more information, contact Capt. Scott McClelland, 580-213-5210 or scott.mcclelland.1@us.af.mil. The briefings are open to anyone interested, but will primarily target students and instructor pilots.

Torch Athena 2024 -- Torch Athena 2024, a women's initiative program within AETC, is scheduled Aug. 27 & 28, in San Antonio, Texas. Torch Athena has the primary goal of fostering camaraderie among participants and addressing critical issues as a united team. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Zoey Chittick, 580-213-6633 or zoey.chittick@us.af.mil.

Design the AF Ball patch – The Air Force will celebrate its 77th birthday this fall, and the Vance Air Force Ball team is looking for a good design for a patch. The Ball theme will be “Casino Royale,” and designed are requested by COB, Friday, May 3. For more information, and to submit your design, contact lizeth.ricogallegos.mil@health.mil.

Chief Smith's farewell party, May 16 – A farewell party for Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Smith, the 71st Flying Training Wing command chief, is scheduled at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, May 16, at the Crosswinds Club. The party will combine with May's Throttle Back Thursday. Food will be provided and beverages will be available. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Lisa Conley, 580-213-6516.

Police Week, May 13-17 – Team Vance will celebrate National Police Week with a variety of events, to include a Defender Challenge, a shooting competition and a golf tournament at Meadowlake. For more information, contact Senior Airman Ashaley Mejia, 580-213-7065 or ashaley.mejia@us.af.mil.

VCC closing early end of month – The Visitor Control Center is scheduled to close at noon the last Friday of the month, beginning May 31. Regular VCC hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact the VCC at 580-213-7410.

3rd FTS change of command, May 17 – The 3rd Flying Training Squadron has scheduled a change-of-command ceremony at 3 p.m., Friday, May 17, in Hangar 199. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Ryan Aycock, ryan.aycock.5@us.af.mil.

Paul Williamson retiring – A Come-and-Go retirement reception for Paul Williamson, with the Military & Family Readiness Center, is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, April 29, at the M&FRC, Building 314. For more information, call 580-213-7517.

Veteran services rep on base, May 9 – The American Legion Veterans Affairs services representative, David Turner, will be available by appointment Thursday, May 9, in the Retiree Activities Office, Building 200. Call 580-231-1899 or 580-213-7859 to set up an appointment. Leave a message.

Car Show scheduled during Spring Rockfest, May 17 – The annual Vance Car Show is scheduled at 5 p.m., Friday, May 17, just before the Spring Rockfest featuring Hoobastank, Switchfoot, and Everclear. Car Show participants will compete for three prizes: Best in Show, People's Choice and Commander's Choice. Spots are limited. To register or for more information, contact Ragan Bagenstos at 71fss.fso.events@us.af.mil.

Aim Hire webinar, May 1 – Aim Hire is a promotional series that shares insight into government positions to also help recruit new talent to Air Force civilian teams. The next webinar is scheduled at 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, at <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/iBkNSvfgHXkxAHZ/?mibextid=WC7FNe>. For more information, contact Andy Ridenhower, 580-213-5591 or andrew.ridenhower.1@us.af.mil.

Help us help you -- The annual Vance Helping Agencies' survey for 2024 is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KS7KNYX>. The survey results guide Vance agencies in providing help targeted to Team Vance members. For more information, call 580-213-5593 or 580-213-7709.

Recycling and Arbor Day – Today is Arbor Day at Vance. When thinking about recycling, remember you are saving a little bit of a tree when you recycle paper. Trees produce oxygen, shade, filter water sources and sing simple songs in the wind. Any time you recycle paper, another tree has more time to grow. Recycling benefits your community, the economy, and the environment – especially the trees.

Tax tip – If you are moving and haven't yet received your 2023 refund, consider sending a change of address Form 8822 to the IRS. That way you'll receive any communications the IRS might have regarding your refund amount. For more information, contact Greg Butterfield, 580-213-7859.

Today's chuckle – Before it was carved, Mount Rushmore's natural beauty was unpresided!