

Affordable home accents help bring the feeling of sea breezes and salt spray home. PULSE, 1E



Life is a beach

MEMORIAL DAY EDITION

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

56 pages — \$1.50 ■ Columbia, Missouri ■ www.columbiatribune.com

SUNDAY, May 24 and MONDAY, May 25, 2009

SALUTE TO VETERANS

SALUTE TO VETERANS SCHEDULE

Today
The Salute to Veterans Memorial Day Weekend Air Show continues 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free. Shuttle bus service at \$3 per round trip is available from the Hearnes Center. A detailed schedule is online at columbiatribune.com.

Tomorrow
9:55 a.m.: Parade on Broadway in downtown Columbia, followed by a ceremony at the Boone County Courthouse.



Photos by Parker Eshelman/Tribune

The AeroShell AT-6 Demonstration Team loops in formation during the Salute to Veterans Memorial Day Weekend Air Show yesterday at Columbia Regional Airport.

Veteran at air show relives WW II training

Flight of Texans felt from ground.

BY JANESE HEAVIN

jheavin@columbiatribune.com | 815-1705

Jim Wilson was seated on the ground as the World War II-era aircraft circled overhead, leaving a billowy trail of gray smoke in its wake.

But in his mind, Wilson was in the cockpit of that AT-6 Texan as it twisted and turned to impress the crowds at the annual Salute to Veterans Memorial Day Weekend Air Show yesterday at Columbia Regional Airport.

"I trained on one of those," Wilson, 84, said. "I know ever stick and rudder and throttle. I was going through the motions with him up there."

All the motions except one.

The AT-6 pilot, Steve Gustafson, pulled off an Immelmann turn — an aerobatic maneuver named after the World War I German pilot, Max Immelmann, which rolls the plane mid-loop.

"We did a lot of playing around, but I would have hesitated to do that maneuver," Wilson said. "We had a saying: 'There are old pilots, and there are bold pilots, but there are no old, bold pilots.'"

After he landed, Gustafson, 48, said the veteran would have been able to



Jen Tyas, center, photographs brother-in-law Jason Dalby, who was piloting a Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet during an air show event.

do it had the military trained him.

Unlike World War II fliers — who logged just a couple of hundred hours of flight time before heading off to war — Gustafson said he had flown more than 4,000 hours by the time he was 23.

Wilson, originally from Mississippi, was 17 when he enlisted in the Air Corps, a decision mostly influenced by the fact his two older brothers were in the military. One brother served with the Marines at Iwo Jima; the other was

killed on Attu Atoll in the Aleutian Islands.

Wilson went on to fly a P-51 Mustang and P-47 Thunderbolt during the war, but he didn't elaborate. "I was able to dodge the bullet," he said.

After leaving the service, Wilson attended the University of Missouri, where he earned an agriculture degree in 1948.

Wilson was a horticulturist in California until he returned to Columbia six years ago. He's been a regular at the

annual air show ever since. "I can't stay away," Wilson joked.

Thousands joined him for the first official day of air show, although spokeswoman Nancy Fields did not have an official count by the Tribune's deadline. Last year, Saturday attendance at the air show was about 5,000 and jumped to 32,000 on Sunday. It's tough to compare the crowd this year, though, because the area for the show has been expanded, Fields said.

A modern-day U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt aloft maneuvered at sharp angles before a World War II-era P-38 Lightning joined it in formation for the traditional heritage flight.

This was the first year Gustafson and the AeroShell Aerobatic Team was asked to bring their AT-6 Texans to the air show, Gustafson said. The program here differs from other aircraft events because it's focused on veterans, he said.

"It's an honor to be here," he said. "Being able to do this to honor veterans is special in my heart."

Hearing that Wilson, the World War II veteran, felt as if he were in the plane with Gustafson, the middle-aged pilot grinned.

"I know he was," Gustafson said. "That's who I did it for. I think about what these guys did — women — what they did when I fly up there."

Protesters oppose recruiting efforts

BY JANESE HEAVIN

jheavin@columbiatribune.com | 815-1705

Protesters who stand outside the gates to the Salute to Veterans air show every year aren't there to disrespect the troops, organizer Mark Haim said. Rather, they want to offer an alternative to messages they feel are being given just beyond the entrance.

"This event is used each year to recruit young people into the military," said Haim, who leads the group Peaceworks. "We observe Memorial Day as a way to honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the tragedy of war. That was the original use of the

event, not to glorify the weapons of war to attract young people."

Recruiters are allowed to set up tents at the Columbia Regional Airport during the Memorial Day Weekend Air Show, and many branches have done so. There, attendees can get brochures and videos about various careers in the service and speak with recruiters, if they wish.

Outside of recruiting stations, air show attendees can purchase toy military vehicles, dog tags and various service patches. There's even an Army-themed ride where attendees can strap into a helicopter-like crate and feel as

though they're on a rollercoaster.

But members of the military don't attend the air show to scout for new blood, said Missouri National Guard Master Sgt. Tom Black, who is in charge of recruiting in Columbia and areas north. In fact, he said, the show is not considered a significant recruiting event.

"It's not about us. It's about the veterans today," Black said. "We're here to support the veterans."

Granted, he acknowledged, "tons of literature" was available to those interested. And, "we'll talk to them if they're interested in talking about getting in,"

he said. "That's our job."

But recruiters are confined to an information booth. They don't go canvassing the show for young men and women, Black said.

Regardless of any ulterior motives at the air show, it was nice to see the Peaceworks protesters offer an alternative message, said Jonathan Thacker, a Columbia man said he attends the air show for fun.

"The planes are cool, but I can see a hidden national military agenda," he said, stressing he did not want to sound too much the conspiracy theorist. "It's just good to have a balance."

Bicyclist, pedestrian report two early morning robberies

Columbia police yesterday were looking for several people responsible for a pair of early morning robberies this weekend.

The first incident occurred at 1 a.m. Friday downtown, although it wasn't reported until 9 a.m. yesterday.

The victim, Nathaniel Stebbing, 25, of Columbia, told police he was robbed while riding his bike along Hitt Street between Cherry and Locust streets. Stebbing said three or four black men in their mid-20s

assaulted him and stole his cell phone and an undisclosed amount of cash.

Stebbing suffered facial injuries but did not seek medical attention.

At 1 a.m. yesterday, police responded to a robbery near the intersection of Count Fleet Drive and Derby Ridge Drive. The victim, Drake Stockton, 17, of Columbia, told officers he and another person were walking along Derby Ridge when a vehicle approached. The car stopped, and a man with a handgun

stepped out. Stockton said he tried to flee, but the gunman struck him in the head with the pistol. Other culprits began assaulting him, Stockton told police that someone took his cell phone and money.

The victim told officers the gunman was a black male about 16 or 17 years old.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to submit tips to CrimeStoppers at 875tips.com.

— Janese Heavin

WEATHER

Today



HIGH 80 LOW 62

Tomorrow



HIGH 73 LOW 63

More weather on Page 15A

INDEX

Annie's Mailbox	7A
Classified	1F
Contract Bridge	7A
Editorial	2D
Horoscope	7A
Lottery numbers	15A
Scoreboard	2B
Sports	1B
Travel	6E
Warren Dalton	2A
Weddings	4E

VOL. CVIII, NO. 252

DEATHS

Zola Hall, Delbert Porter, Aidan Price, Emma Schuerman

SUNDAY



6 31045 24007 8