

**SHOWING OFF**

Cadets participate in Rocky Mountain Air Show. **Page 7**

**CULTURAL IMMERSION**

International Programs office provides unique opportunities. **Page 8**

**SEASON KICK OFF**

Falcon football season begins on Saturday. **Page 12**

# ACADEMY SPIRIT



## Academy hosts luncheon honoring women's suffrage

By **Don Branum**  
Academy Spirit staff writer

A Colorado state representative, the state's League of Women Voters president and the co-founder of a political polling firm came to the Air Force Academy on Monday to discuss the importance of women's suffrage and the need for informed voters as election season approaches.

The panel, composed of Colorado Rep. Crisanta Duran (D-Denver), Catherine Perrone and RBI Strategies and Research's Rick Ridder, spoke about the power of women's votes, how to sort through biased sources of information and how to embrace political discussions without drifting into partisan political territory.

Duran, the youngest member of the Colorado State House, was elected into office in 2010 and spoke about how candidates relate to their constituents and community.

"So many times, particularly at the local level ... by getting involved with issues that affect the local community, there can be an amazing difference that you can make," she said. "Sometimes I think people don't realize how important it is just to show up when issues affecting the community are being discussed and having your voice heard in one way or another. One of the most important things people can do in this country is make sure that they cast their ballots, because there's no greater power than to have a representative voice on the future of our country."

Perrone became involved with the League after retiring from the corporate world in 2001. The League, she said, found itself without a mission after voters ratified the 19th Amendment, extending suffrage to women, on Aug. 18, 1920.

"Once it was ratified, we discovered our role was to educate 20 million women how to cast a vote," Perrone said. "From the very get-go, we started as a non-partisan organization, and what that basically means is, we don't endorse or oppose

**See Equality Page 5**



DON BRANUM

Master Sgt. Kelly Links introduces panelists at a Women's Equality Day luncheon at the Air Force Academy Aug. 27. Links is a dental technician with the Academy's 10th Dental Squadron.



TECH. SGT. RAYMOND HOY

## A mission to serve

### Cadets help with fire mitigation, debris removal in Mountain Shadows

Cadet 2nd Class Warren McGriff, of Cadet Squadron 05, cuts through a tree during fire mitigation and cleanup efforts in the Mountain Shadows neighborhood Sunday. Mountain Shadows was one of the hardest hit areas during the recent Waldo Canyon Fire that destroyed 346 homes. **See Page 6 for more details.**



## ACADEMY SPIRIT

To responsibly inform and educate the Academy community and the public about the Air Force Academy

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Lt. Col. John Bryan —  
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The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by email: [pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil](mailto:pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil).

# Stay safe over the holiday weekend

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued the following message to all Air Force personnel:

As our Nation pays tribute to American workers during Labor Day weekend, we thank all Airmen for your dedicated service and hard work each and every day of the year. While many of you enjoy a well-earned break to celebrate the last holiday of the summer season, we urge you to plan your activities with care and to make smart decisions that will keep you, your family, and your friends safe.

Safety is a concern for all of us. Sadly, more than 40 Airmen have died in off-duty mishaps this year, including 27 Airmen killed in motor vehicle ac-

“ Because one lost life is too many, we urge all Airmen to look out for one another and remember that safety requires deliberate forethought.”

cidents. Many of these tragic losses may have been preventable, the result of reckless behavior such as excessive speed, irresponsible alcohol use, failure to use proper safety gear, or inattention. Equally alarming, our Air Force family has lost 70 Airmen to suicide this year.

Our goal is to eliminate all preventable mishaps, and you can help by setting a standard of zero tolerance for reckless behavior and through awareness of subtle behavioral

changes that could indicate heightened levels of stress in yourself or others. Because one lost life is too many, we urge all Airmen to look out for one another and remember that safety requires deliberate forethought.

Your family, your friends, and your fellow Airmen depend on you. Please take some time to consider safety as you enjoy Labor Day weekend, and as always, thank you for all you do for our Air Force and for our Nation.

## Labor Day Weekend: Not a time to let down your guard

By Airman-to-Airman Safety Advisory Council  
Air Force Safety Center

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) — Labor Day weekend is known for fun, relaxing and spending time with family and friends. It's also the last holiday weekend of the summer. If you're like us, you want to make the most of it. But remember that your family and friends want you to be smart about everything you do. Smart planning and safety awareness are ways to prevent impatience and complacency from turning your Labor Day weekend into a disaster.

As you enjoy the remaining days of warm weather and the holiday activities, please be a good wingman, use good judgment and remember, "Safety — It's Personal." The decisions you make affect more than just you; they can also

affect your family, friends and your co-workers. If you think about it, they can even affect your entire Air Force family!

We are members of the Airman-to-Airman Safety Advisory Council because we've had personal safety experiences and want you to learn from our lessons.

A2A wishes you a happy, fun and safe Labor Day weekend!

*Editor's Note: This is a message from the Airman-to-Airman Safety Advisory Council members. A2A was developed to advise the Air Force Chief of Safety on ways to reach the 17-26-year-old age group. They were nominated by the major commands and take every opportunity to tell their stories as a tool in mishap prevention. Some of the venues the Council members use to convey their messages are videos, other public service announcements and commander's calls.*

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## Equality

From Page 1

candidates or political parties.” Instead, she said, the League seeks to inspire both women and men to engage with local government and to educate themselves.

“The power of the vote is awesome,” Perrone said, whispering to add emphasis to the last word. “It takes your energies and puts them in a place where other people listen. It’s an encouragement of a power to participate at every level of government ... from your local water board ... or your city council, all the way up to the president of the United States. Where else in your life can you reach so many levels so simply?”

Ridder introduced himself with humor, telling the members of the audience that they were “a little sick.”

“Let me explain to you why you’re sick,” he said. “Normal Americans ... do not come on a Monday at noon to a room — with very little sunlight,

I might add — to talk about politics. Normal Americans think about politics about 12 to 15 minutes over the course of a two-year period. That means that already we’ve had you for two-thirds of that allotment, and you’re here for another 45 minutes, so you’re going to skew everything.”

Striking a more serious tone, Ridder told the audience they held a remarkable power, because 52 percent of all voters in the November presidential election will be women. That number might increase to 53 percent for the state of Colorado, he added.

“So when we talk about the women’s vote, it’s because you’re the majority, and you have the power to a greater extent than your male counterpart across the table,” he said. “It’s important to take and grasp that power and take it to the next level.”

Duran said the nature of politics is changing, particularly in how candidates connect with the voters in their communities. How candidates reach out to people is just as important

as the message itself — a lesson she learned during the 2008 presidential campaign. Focusing on key groups of people who wouldn’t normally vote and talking with them on issues that are important to them is key, she added.

“Now I use Facebook, I use Twitter; I know a lot of other elected officials use those means to communicate as well,” she said. “I think one of the most important ways to get out to voters is to have one-on-one conversations with them about what they care about, what they see for the future of the country.”

“That personal touch is really making a big difference. When I ran, I knocked on so many doors; I called so many people; I had so many one-on-one conversations, because at the end of the day, that was really the most effective way to communicate why I was running for office and why I was asking for their support and their vote,” Duran added.

Perrone acknowledged that filtering

bias from information sources is no small task.

“It’s gotten harder over the last few years, that’s for sure,” she said, to laughter from the audience. The League issues a pamphlet each year aimed toward sharing information about candidates running for office and about each of the state’s ballot initiatives. The League contacts organizations registered with the Colorado secretary of state and asks them to provide position statements for and against each of the initiatives.

“We gather that information here at (the) League, and then we publish it,” she said. “We don’t edit it, but we do fact check it.” While the pamphlets require several hundred man-hours of volunteer work, the League provides them at little to no cost. Audio and interactive versions of the pamphlets are available on the League’s website at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

Motivating young Americans to vote can be a challenge as well. Deb-

See Equality Page 4



## Campaign activity at military installations usually not allowed

Guidance that addresses requests by campaign organizations to use military installations is issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. This guidance requires that all inquiries from campaign organizations be forwarded to a public affairs officer for review.

Requests for access to a military installation by candidates for elected office are generally denied. However, requests by

candidates and elected officials to participate in official activities not related to a political campaign may be allowed after review by legal and public affairs personnel.

For further information, check the 2012 Public Affairs Guidance for Political Campaigns and Elections, available at <http://1.usa.gov/K7YoeR>, or contact the Legal Office at 333-3940.



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## Equality

From Page 3

bie Southee, an employee with the 10th Force Support Squadron's Cadet Support Flight, asked for "leverage" to help convince her nieces and nephews living in upstate New York to exercise their rights.

"I cannot get them interested whatsoever," said Southee, a naturalized U.S. citizen. "Their parents have not voted; their grandparents have not voted. ... Give me three top reasons why a 21-year-old needs to vote."

Duran said funding for education is a topic of contention between the candidates representing the two major parties that might get the nieces' and nephews' attention. Another, she

added, is whether the country will continue to provide opportunities for the next generation.

"I would encourage them to look at the platforms for all the candidates on those issues," she said.

The final question for the panel centered on how service members can discuss their views on issues and candidates without straying into partisan political territory. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Aug. 22 that partisan political statements by service members can erode public trust.

Air Force Instruction 51-902, "Political Activities by Members of the U.S. Air Force," limits how service

members may participate in the political arena. The Hatch Act, which is detailed at <http://www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm>, outlines what activities are allowed or prohibited for civilian employees.

"One of the great things about the military is that there's a history and tradition of being engaged but not partisan," Ridder said. "It's difficult, but I think that what's important is being able to discuss in terms of your value system, in terms of what makes you feel connected with an issue or a candidate, and also looking at all the sides."

Ridder referred to a recent study that showed placing a party affiliation

in front of a candidate's name could change an election's outcome.

"You don't have to use the labels, 'Democratic position' or 'Republican position,'" he said. "Those labels really don't mean much. What means much is what you believe and how you wish to communicate that and express it. ... The biggest change in politics in the last 20 years is that we've gone from 'All politics is local' to 'All politics is personal,' so think in terms of how something impacts you."

Guests at the event also included Rep. Janak Joshi (R-Colorado Springs) and Lynn Gangone, dean of the Women's College at the University of Denver.

## On parade

Cadets march to lunch during the weekly noon meal formation and parade Monday. All cadet squadrons form up twice weekly and march to Mitchell Hall for lunch.



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# Program eases Airmen's transition to civilian life

## Redesign makes for a successful transitional experience

by Joel Fortner  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — A redesigned program will help ease every Airman's transition to civilian life and better apply their military experience, Air Force officials said.

The program is the first major overhaul of the transition assistance program for military members in nearly 20 years.

The effort began in response to a call from President Barack Obama in August 2011 to ensure all service members are "career ready" when they leave the military.

Slated to begin servicewide in November, the current three-day, optional program will be expanded to five days and has been redesigned into a comprehensive, mandatory program that includes pre-separation counseling, a military-to-civilian skills review, a Veterans Affairs benefits briefing, financial planning support, job search skills building, and individual transition plan preparation.

A pilot program was held July 9-13

at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, which, according to officials, allowed Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs to test the initiative.

According to Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, the redesigned program bolsters and standardizes the transition services that service members receive prior to retiring or separating from the military to make them employment ready.

"Our goal is to provide Airmen with a comprehensive transition assistance program that prepares them for life after the military, whether that's pursuing education, working in the public or civilian sector, or starting a business," Donley said.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy said the program is as good for the civilian sector as it is for Airmen.

"Employers are looking for educated, trained, experienced people like those who are separating from the Air Force," he said. "This program will help smooth our Airmen's transitions to civilian life."

Under the old program, separating



A variety of informational material is made available to Airmen attending a Transition Assistance Program class in the Airmen and Family Readiness Center on Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., March 26. Airmen preparing to separate from the Air Force are given various guides and information to assist them during their transition to civilian life.

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KATE THORNTON

Guardsmen and Reservists were often left to their own devices. Roy said another benefit of this new program is the inclusion of the Total Force.

"We want to take care of all our Airmen, and this program does that," he said. "No component of our Total Force deserves more help transitioning than another."

By October 2013, three two-day optional sessions on pursuing a technical certification, starting a business, or pursuing a higher educational de-

gree will also be offered to Airmen.

"Our Airmen have extraordinary technical expertise and world-class leadership skills that are in high demand," Donley said. "This program will help them apply their experience to additional training, formal education, and develop successful civilian careers."

For more information, contact your local Airman and Family Readiness Center or email [af.a1saa@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:af.a1saa@pentagon.af.mil).

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# Academy helps community heal from Waldo Canyon fire

Nearly 345 cadets, faculty and staff members helped Mountain Shadows residents cut, gather, haul and stack organic slash, branches, dead-fall and some burned trees and limbs during the community's semi-annual "Chipper Event" for fire mitigation Sunday.

Academy volunteers worked with Academy School District 20 volunteers to provide fire mitigation in the hardest hit community during the Waldo Canyon Fire. The event was sponsored by the Colorado Springs Fire Department and the Mountain Shadows Community Association.

The Colorado Springs Fire Department followed Monday by chipping the material and using it for erosion control and landscape recovery efforts within and around the Mountain Shadows burn areas.



Cadet volunteers spread out a tarp on the ground to place debris collected during fire mitigation efforts Sunday.

ELIZABETH ANDREWS



TECH. SGT. RAYMOND HOY



ELIZABETH ANDREWS

Volunteers cut down burned trees and cleared debris left over from the Waldo Canyon fire Sunday. The cadets performed cleanup for more than 100 homeowners and three city open spaces.

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# Rocky Mountain high



## Cadets soar above crowd at Rocky Mountain Airshow

Cadet 3rd Class Linnea Larson, of Cadet Squadron 17, and her sister, Cadet 3rd Class Kirsten Larson of CS-07, left, talk about cadet research projects during the Rocky Mountain Air Show in Denver Saturday. Both Larson sisters are part of the Academy's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Outreach Club.

A visitor gets the chance to "get behind the stick" of an Air Force Academy TG-15A glider at the Rocky Mountain Air Show near Denver, Saturday. Cadets from the Academy's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Outreach Club, Wings of Blue and glider teams participated in the three-day airshow which featured a variety of modern and vintage military aircraft.



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# International Immersion: Programs offer authentic cultural opportunities

By Amber Baillie  
Academy Spirit staff writer

Cadet 1st Class Sarah Nickisch always had the goal to live in Africa by the time she was 22. A foreign areas major who one day hopes to work for U.S. Africa Command, she conquered her goal last fall when she studied at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco for five months. While there she learned the local language, bonded with her Moroccan classmates, worked at a refugee camp, ran a half marathon and played on a Muslim volleyball team, all through the Academy's Office of International Programs Semester Study Abroad program.

"It was extremely life-changing, and I'm not just saying that to be cliché," Nickisch said.

Nickisch, who is minoring in Arabic and French here, applied for the program through her language courses. The program's purpose is to allow

junior and senior cadets the opportunity to attend a foreign civilian university, be immersed in a language and pick up perspectives of a different culture.

"(International Programs) is selective with the cadets they choose for their programs because they want whoever they send abroad to engage with the culture," Nickisch said. "In the interview, they evaluate how you might react being overseas and if you will feel comfortable enough to interact with society."

Nickisch visited Morocco two times prior to her semester abroad. She said her experience through the program was different because it was longer and she was there for language and cultural immersion rather than humanitarian efforts.

"I was on my own, able to make lifelong friends and really got to know the community," Nickisch said. "I loved being there for a semester because my relationships were more

sustainable and I eventually want to live in Africa long-term."

Nickisch said because AUI is an upper-class, English speaking university, it was difficult to practice Modern Standard Arabic regularly, but she learned the local dialect, Darijia, as well as French.

"I figured that even if I didn't improve much on my MSA, I could look for other opportunities and other things to invest in," Nickisch said.

Nickisch said she became friends with a Moroccan native, Achmed, who was fluent in English, French, Darijia and MSA.

"He spoke MSA very well, which is not very common in Morocco," Nickisch said. "Sixty percent of the population is illiterate in MSA and therefore are unable to read the Qu'ran. We were able to converse in MSA pretty frequently, and that was very valuable to me."

Nickisch said during her semester in Morocco, she acquired enough

confidence to escort her entire family across the country for 10 days.

"I took them to all of the hot spots in Morocco, as well as on a camel ride and to the largest mosque in Africa," Nickisch said. "I'm the only one in my family who speaks Arabic so when I needed to converse with our taxi drivers to get around, my language survival skills kicked in because I was their guide."

After living in Morocco for a semester, any misconceptions you have about Middle East culture will vanish, Nickisch said.

"Moroccans are loving people and after getting to know them, every one of them would gladly welcome you into their home tomorrow because that is just how hospitable they are," Nickisch said. "I had an eye-opening experience and positive memory with a culture we struggle to understand."

Nickisch said she never felt unsafe during her semester abroad and made

See Immersion Page 10



COURTESY PHOTO

Cadet 1st Class Sarah Nickisch escorts her family on a camel ride in Morocco.

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# Welcome, parents!



ELIZABETH ANDREWS

The Air Force Academy's Cadet Wing formally accepted the Class of 2016 during the Acceptance Day Parade here Aug. 8. During the ceremony, basic cadets received copies of "Contrails" from their legacy class and swore the Academy's Honor Oath. During Acceptance, the new freshmen march toward the Cadet Wing in an inverse wedge formation to signify their entrance into the Cadet Wing.

## Greetings from the superintendent



- Lt. Gen. Mike Gould

### Dear Cadet Parents,

Welcome to the United States Air Force Academy family!

The Class of 2016 entered the Academy in June 2012 and began their four-year journey toward becoming officers in our Air Force. They spent the summer in Basic Cadet Training, an intense program designed to enhance their mentality and physical abilities as they adjust to military service. On Aug. 8, the class entered the Cadet Wing at the Acceptance Day parade. The academic year began on Aug. 9.

Our cadets face academic, military and athletic challenges throughout the year. Your parental interest, encouragement and involvement is crucial to helping your cadet succeed. My wife, Paula, and I look forward to partnering with you and your cadet on this exciting journey.

We are glad you could join us for Parents' Weekend 2012. Events begin Friday and continue through Monday. Friday is packed with activities, including a Cadet Wing parade and an opportunity to attend classes with your cadet, so be sure to arrive early enough to participate. On Saturday, we invite you to join us in cheering for our Air Force Falcons football team as they play their first game of the season against Idaho State. Following the game, your cadet may join you for the remainder of the long weekend. Please enjoy this time with your cadet and make the most of this opportunity to learn more about the programs and facilities of the United States Air Force Academy.

We are confident you will find Parents' Weekend a valuable and interesting experience, as well as a great way to learn about your cadet's new life at the Academy. We look forward to visiting with you!

*Sincerely,*  
Lt. Gen. Mike Gould

# Parents' Weekend Schedule

## Thursday

**Parents Club Presidents Meeting:** Doolittle Hall, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Cadet Chapel:** Open to visitors daily except Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Friday

**Upper-class Breakfast:** Mitchell Hall, 7:30-10 a.m. Cadets must purchase tickets for their guests in advance.

**Academic Department Open Houses:** Fairchild Hall, 7:30 a.m.-4:55 p.m. Attend Classes with Cadets. Cadet family members and guests may attend cadet classes, accompanied by their cadet.

- 7:30-8:15 1st Period
- 8:25-9:10 2nd Period
- 10-11 Cadet Wing Parade
- 11:30-12:30 Noon Meal
- 12:30-1:15 3rd Period
- 1:25-2:10 4th Period
- 2:20-3:05 5th Period
- 3:15-4 6th Period
- 4:10-4:55 7th Period

**Parents' Weekend Information Fair:** Arnold Hall Ballroom, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Basic Cadet Training videos and portrait photos will be available for sale, and Academy and community organizations will share information.

**Basic Cadet Training Video:** Arnold Hall Theater, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Vector Program Orientation:** Arnold Hall Banquet Room, 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. Familiarizes parents to the Vital Effective Character Through Observation and Reflection seminar, which all cadets attend during their freshman year.

**Cadet Wing Parade:** Stillman Parade Field, 10-11 a.m. Arrive early to see the Wings of Blue Air Force Parachute Demonstration Team and various aircraft demonstrations.

**Cadet Performance Showcase:** Arnold Hall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Featured

are the cadet show choir, cadet orchestra and other performing groups.

**Fourth-Class Lunch:** Mitchell Hall, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This meal is mandatory for all fourth-class cadets. Tickets are required for guests.

**Lunch Available for Upper-class cadets and their guests:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., locations include: Squadron picnics, Arnold Hall or the Falcon Club, Cadet Field House, Visitor Center, Falcon Club, Arnold Hall

**Airfield Open House:** Academy Airfield, noon-5 p.m. Check out aircraft displays and speak with staff about airmanship programs. Guests must have a cadet escort.

**Athletics Open House:** 1-3 p.m. Come visit the Cadet Field House, Hall of Excellence at the Falcon Athletic Center and the Cadet Gymnasium. Meet the Athletics staff and learn about the many athletics programs.

**Air Warfare Lab Tour:** 1:25-3:05 p.m., Fairchild Hall, Room 2H28. Cadets and their guests are invited to visit the flight simulators in the AWL. Tickets are not required. The flight simulators offer many cadets a "first look" at flying and aviation in the Air Force.

**Academic Advising and First-Year Programs Informational Session:** Arnold Hall Banquet Room, 2-2:45 p.m. and 2:45-3:30 p.m. Learn about academic advising and other first-year programs that support our Class of 2016 cadets as they transition to the Academy's rigorous academic environment.

**Prep School Football vs. USAFA:** 2-4 p.m. Junior Varsity Husky Field

**Dinner Buffet:** Mitchell Hall, 5-7:30 p.m. Open to cadets and their guests.

**Observatory Open House:** Academy Observatory (east of Fairchild Hall), 7-10 p.m. The Physics and Astronomy Club invites you to come view the night sky through our 24-inch telescope. You can tour the facility, see images taken on our own telescope, use the telescope to explore your universe firsthand (weather

permitting) and hear some of the incredible history and lore behind the constellations that can be seen from our vantage point, 7,258 feet above sea level.

## Saturday

**Breakfast Buffet:** Mitchell Hall, 7-9 a.m. Open to cadets and their guests.

**Air Force vs. Idaho State:** Falcon Stadium, noon-4 p.m. Cadets are required to attend the game and must sit with the Cadet Wing. They may depart Falcon Stadium after the third verse of the Air Force Song at the end of the game.

Guests can purchase tickets to the game by calling 719-472-1895 or 800-666-8723.

**Weekend Pass:** Cadets may spend the weekend with their adult guests starting after the third verse of the Air Force song at the Air Force-Idaho State game. They must sign in by 7:10 p.m. Monday (10:45 p.m. for seniors).

## Sunday

**Worship Services:** Cadet Chapel and Community Center Chapel, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For a schedule of services, see the schedule of worship on Page 13 or call 719-333-2636.

**Brunch Buffet:** Mitchell Hall, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Open to cadets and their guests.

**Sunday Brunch:** Falcon Club, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Call 719-333-4253 to make reservations.  
**Jacks Valley Orientation:** Jacks Valley, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Guests must have a cadet escort. Parking available at the Cadet Field House.

## Monday

**Brunch Buffet:** Mitchell Hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Open to cadets and their guests.

**Academic Call-to-Quarters:** 7:10 p.m. for lower-class cadets, 10:45 p.m. for first-class cadets.



ELIZABETH ANDREWS

The Class of 2016 received a warm welcome by the Cadet Wing cadre on inprocessing day here June 28.

# Parents' Weekend Information

## Emergency Contact Info

For medical, fire or police emergencies, please call 911 immediately. Other first-responder contact numbers:

Air Force Academy First Responders	
Law Enforcement	719-333-2000
Fire Department	719-333-2051
Colorado Springs Police	
(Downtown)	719-444-7595
(Northwest)	719-444-7240
Medical Providers	
St. Francis Medical	719-571-1000
Memorial Hospital	719-365-5000

## Safety and Security

All non-DOD ID card holders should plan to enter the base through the North Gate for all Parents' Weekend activities. You may be asked to show proof of insurance, a valid vehicle registration and a photo ID. If you are driving a rental car, please keep the rental agreement and current proof of insurance in the vehicle at all times.

Guests may ride the shuttles or walk into the Cadet Area but must be escorted by a cadet or military member to enter the Terrazzo or any of the academic buildings or dormitories. We recommend you put your parking pass in your dash whenever you are parked at the Academy.

All vehicles entering the base are subject to inspection. Guests should not bring large bags, coolers, Thermoses, backpacks or other items that will require additional scrutiny or searches.

Follow all posted speed limits when driving on the base. Radar detectors are not permitted on base. In addition, all vehicle occupants must wear seatbelts at all times when driving in Colorado.

Drivers may not use hand-held cellular phones while the vehicle is in motion. If you need to make or take a call, use a hands-free device or pull to the side of the road.

Finally, wildlife such as deer, elk and wild turkeys can be a hazard while driving on the Academy. Please be alert for them and drive carefully. Remember, they have the right-of-way!

If force protection conditions change, some scheduled events may change or require additional security precautions for the safety of all our guests. Any event changes will be advertised in local media and on the message boards at both entry gates.

## High-Altitude Concerns

The Air Force Academy Cadet Area is approximately 7,300 feet above sea level. At this altitude, it is possible to contract high-altitude sickness. The common symptoms of this disorder include headache, malaise, nausea, vomiting and shortness of breath. Most cases of acute mountain sickness are mild but the altitude may exacerbate other existing medical conditions. High altitude sickness usually resolves within a few days once an individual has had a chance to adapt to the increased elevation.

The best way to avoid illness is to allow yourself to acclimatize: try not to overexert yourself in the first days after your arrival and make sure to drink sufficient fluids to avoid dehydration. Don't go sightseeing at higher elevations until

after you have been in Colorado Springs for a few days. Alcohol consumption may worsen these symptoms, so make sure to drink in moderation.

## Weather

Due to the Academy's location on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains and its high elevation, weather here can change quickly, from sunny and warm to foggy and cold, with less than a day's notice. Thunderstorms can crest the Front Range with little warning, bringing with them the risk of hail, flash floods and lightning.

The Academy's public address system will activate when a thunderstorm or lightning threatens the area. Visitors hearing the message "lightning within five nautical miles" should immediately seek shelter indoors until the all-clear is sounded.

## Handicapped Assistance

Disabled or handicapped guests should bring or rent any walkers, wheelchairs, breathing support or other special-needs or medical equipment they require. They should also bring their state-issued "disabled/handicapped" placard or other documentation in order to park in designated disabled or handicapped lots.

During Parents' Weekend, specially equipped shuttle vans will transport disabled guests from the disabled or handicapped parking lot to locations within the Cadet Area. If you have serious medical conditions such as anemia, heart disease or pulmonary disease, you should consult your doctor about the need for portable oxygen or preventive medication and the advisability of traveling to the Academy.

**Note:** The Academy cannot provide wheelchairs, oxygen tanks or other medical equipment supplies. Please contact a medical supply distributor or your doctor or insurance carrier for your medical needs.

Cadets will be permitted to have their personal cellular phones throughout Parents' Weekend, so feel free to contact them directly.

## Contacting Cadets

Arrange a convenient meeting location with your cadet ahead of time (such as in front of the Cadet Field House, Arnold Hall or the Core Values Ramp). If you should miss your cadet at the scheduled time, prearrange to meet prior to his next class at the base of the Core Values Ramp near the Fairchild Hall bus stop.

If you should lose each other altogether, you may receive assistance from staff positioned at the base of the ramp near the east end of Vandenberg Hall. The "Lost Parents Booth" will have cadet class schedules and can escort you to your cadet's next class.

If you arrive after 5 p.m. on Friday, plan to meet your cadet at the Cadet Field House at a prearranged time. Cadets should have their cell phones on Friday morning, so you may communicate via phone if you lose each other

## Dress Code

Please ensure children and young adults wear appropriate clothing for a visit to a national military academy. Plan to dress sensibly and comfortably for outdoor activities such as the Cadet Wing Parades.

Because a visit to the Academy may require extensive walking, wear good walking shoes. We suggest that guests bring sun block, hats and raingear for scheduled outside events. For Chapel services and official ceremonies, please dress appropriately.

Cadets march back from Jacks Valley after completing Basic Cadet Training July 28.



ELIZABETH ANDREWS



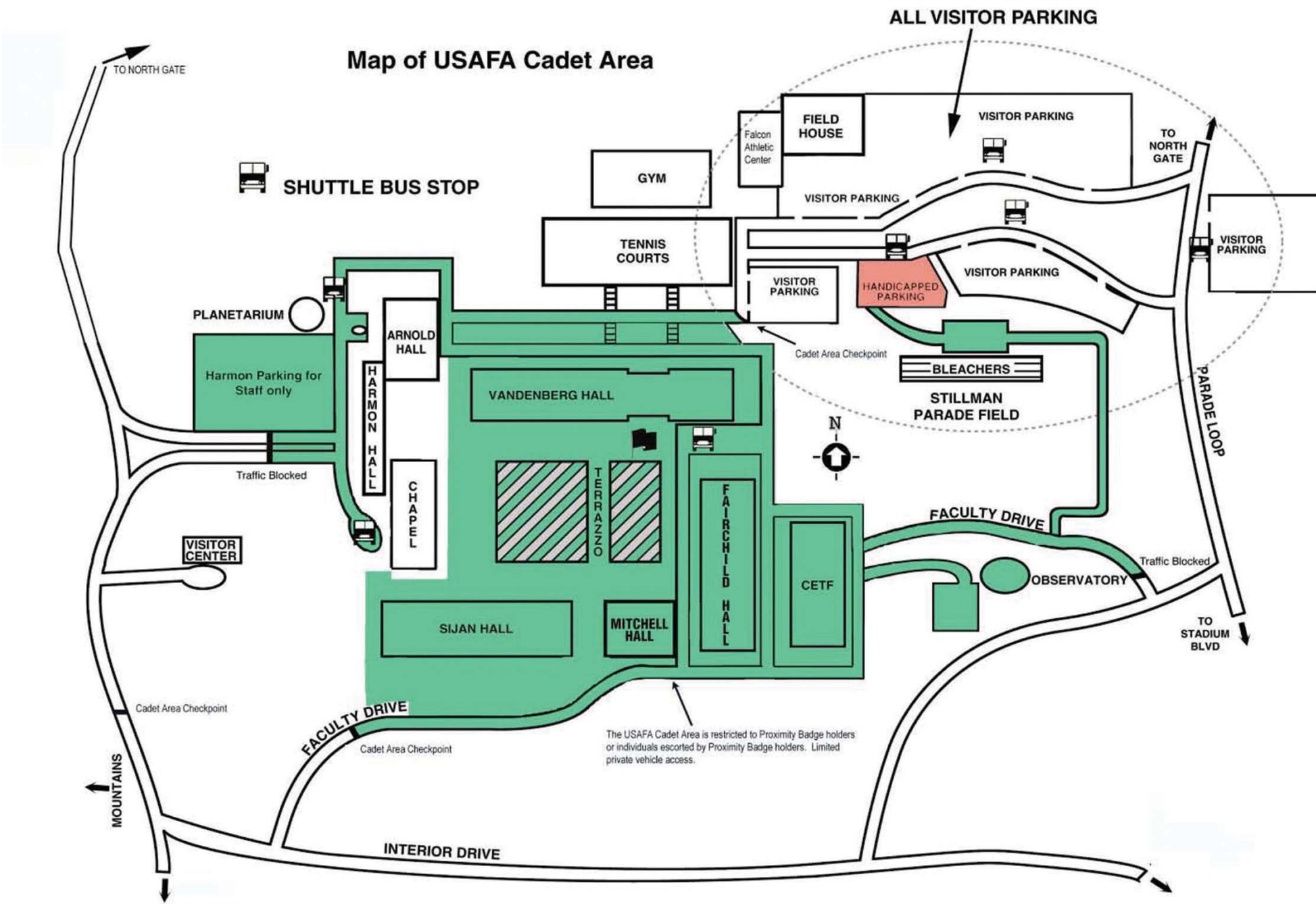
ELIZABETH ANDREWS

Cadets receive fresh haircuts during Class of 2016 inprocessing June 28.



Basic cadets take on the assault course during the second phase of Basic Cadet Training in Jacks Valley. "Second Beast" focuses on physical conditioning as well as surviving and operating in a field environment.

RAYMOND MCCOY



On the final day of Basic Cadet Training in Jacks Valley, cadets squared off for the title of Big Bad Basic.



ELIZABETH ANDREWS

## By the Numbers: Class of 2016

12,274	Applications received	674	Mean SAT math score
1,217	Offers of admission	643	Mean SAT verbal score
1,035	Total cadets admitted	3.86	Average high school GPA
130	Cadets who are the first members of their families to attend college	66	Percentage of cadets who were National Honor Society members
68	Cadets who are the sons or daughters of service academy graduates	87	Percentage of cadets who earned one or more athletic letters
20	International cadets		

Days until Graduation: 1,371\*

\* If graduation is held after Memorial Day



Basic cadets celebrate completion of the assault course during Basic Cadet Training in Jacks Valley.

RAYMOND MCCOY

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2010 Hyundai Elantra GLS  
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stk # sc1329



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stk # sc1268



2011 VW Jetta  
**\$16,981**  
Compare around at \$18,000  
stk # sc1318



2011 Suzuki Kisashi SE  
**\$16,981**  
Compare around at \$19,000  
stk # sc1272



2011 Ford Fusion SE  
**\$16,981**  
Compare around at \$20,000  
stk # sc1193



2011 Mitsubishi Endeavor AWD  
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\*Photos for illustration. All vehicles strictly sold on first come first serve basis and are subject to prior sale.

# Immersion

## From Page 8

friends from all sides of the political, religious and social spectrum.

“Morocco is very unique in the fact that it has a lot of French influence, so it’s trying to be this modern European country and show the world it’s progressed in a certain way that is more European,” Nickisch said. “At the same time, the first line of its constitution says that it’s a Muslim country which comes with a certain set of parameters in how their constitution is laid out, how their government is run and how their society dictates what is legal and what’s illegal. It’s a huge mix of cultures and you can see that in the country’s language, architecture and fashion.”

Cadet 1st Class Sara Schnabel, a behavioral sciences major minoring in Chinese, participated in DFIP’s Cultural Immersion program where she spent a week in China to experience cultural diversity.

“I really like learning languages,” Schnabel said. “I applied to the program because I figured, if I’m going to learn Chinese, I should actually try and use it. You can’t be totally immersed in a language like Chinese when you’re in the United States because Asian culture is very different and there aren’t enough people in the U.S. who speak it.”

While there, Schnabel stayed in an international dorm at Nanjing University. Schnabel said the first difference she noticed in China was the lack of personal space.

“Here you keep your distance and if you run into someone you say, ‘Sorry’ or ‘Excuse me,’” Schnabel said. “In China, there is no such thing as personal space because their sense of it is totally different.”

Schnabel said her Chinese improved simply by reading street signs while on the bus.

“It doesn’t seem like a big deal but it really helps you say, ‘Hey, I recognize what that does,’” Schnabel said.

Schnabel said her biggest challenge in China was trying to initiate a reasonable conversation.

“Trying to push your language even further so you can interact with people more naturally such as by sharing a joke was a challenge,” Schnabel said. “It really made me want to become more fluent.”

Cadet 2nd Class Waruna Ambanpola, a noncommissioned officer in charge of DFIP programs, participated in a foreign academy visit during spring break. He and a faculty member escorted cadets to his home country of Sri Lanka to develop an understanding of foreign forces and their military academy structure.

“I’m an international cadet and will study at the Academy for four years, then return to Sri Lanka to serve in their military,” Ambanpola said. “One of my biggest goals while there was to be an ambassador to my country and make sure people know about Sri Lanka.”

The group visited Sri Lanka’s army, air force and navy training academies

and interacted with military leaders, engineers, officers and pilots.

Ambanpola was a civilian prior to entering the Academy. He said it was helpful to learn about military opportunities in Sri Lanka for when he returns there.

“I learned what to do and what not to do at their academies and what I’ll need to pursue when there,” Ambanpola said. “I also met classmates who I had gone to basic with but had never talked to.”

Ambanpola is currently the only cadet at the Academy from Sri Lanka. He said he wants the United States and Sri Lanka to have a good relationship and looks forward to International Week, Oct. 15-19, when cadets from Sri Lanka visit the Academy.

“I want to make sure communication is open between the United States and Sri Lanka,” Ambanpola said. “The U.S.’s technology and academic system is amazing and I hope Sri Lanka can integrate some of the stuff we have here into their military.”

The Office of International Programs also offers the Semester Acad-



COURTESY PHOTO

Cadet 1st Class Sara Schnabel in Nanjing City. Schnabel spent a week in China through the Cultural Immersion program.

emy Exchange program and Cadet Summer Language Immersions.

“DFIP wants to give cadets hands-on experience when it comes to language and culture,” Ambanpola said. “That is why they offer these programs. Cadets are forced to talk in another language and I have seen so many people change the way they think about cultures and how they approach other languages through them.”

Cadets and faculty interested in these programs during the spring, summer and fall of 2013 may apply between Sept. 1 and Oct. 1. The application may be found along with a listing of all requirements, guidelines and other useful information at the DFIP SharePoint site.

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Total
- Parts per million
- A Dalton (Physics)
- Acid causing gout
- Grad
- Yes (Arabic)
- Pallas' seat
- Tonight's host
- Isinglass
- Frogs, toads, tree toads
- Solemnly renounce
- Billiards stick

**CLUES DOWN**

- The genus Rhus
- The 7th planet
- 17th century courtance
- Hill site of Rome's 1st settlement
- One of the common people
- Saccharum bengalense
- Liquorice-flavored liqueur
- A waterproof raincoat
- Actress Thurman
- An inferior dog
- A disdainful grimace
- Actress Bacall
- Moderate to inferior in quality
- Twin City university
- Cause to be beloved
- Illuminated by stars
- Scratch
- Skullcap
- Iron Chancellor Von Bismarck
- Two things coming together
- One who imitates another
- Mistake
- A shade of a color
- Evening parties
- The first canonical hour
- Examines animals
- Fed
- One who left a dangerous place
- Fragrant iris rootstock
- Nothing more than specified
- Indigo
- \_\_\_ off: dismisses (Br. slang)
- Own (Scottish)
- Deep, slimy soil
- W. African language
- Office of Urban Development
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Grassland, meadow

var.)

- Centrally placed
- Showed submission or fear
- One of the Greats
- "Honeymooners" neighbor Ed
- Money-dispensing machine
- Actress Zadora
- Outpouring of gossip
- Smother
- Sodium
- Fraudulent scheme
- Short literary composition
- Freshwater mussels
- Ireland
- British Air Aces
- A Siemens
- Cologne

**SUDOKU**

4				1				
1	2					3		
		3	2	5				7
7				6		4		3
			4		3		5	
				8			9	
	8		5					6
	9	2			8			

Level: Advanced

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**SUDOKU**

4				1				
1	2					3		
		3	2	5				7
7				6		4		3
			4		3		5	
				8			9	
	8		5					6
	9	2			8			

Level: Advanced

Solution on page 11

08-31-12

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# Falcon football returns



MIKE KAPLAN

## QUICK LOOK

- Air Force vs. Idaho State
- Saturday • Sept. 1 • 12 p.m. MT
- Falcon Stadium
- Video streamed by Falcon Vision on goairforcefalcons.com
- Radio • KVOR AM 740 in Colorado Springs - The Fan 104.3 in Denver

The Falcon's preseason is officially over, and the team will take the field against Idaho State Saturday.

**GAME FACTS:** Air Force opens the 2012 season at home against Idaho State. This is the second meeting between the two schools and first since 1956. Air Force was picked sixth in the Mountain West during the conference's annual media event in July. The Falcons are opening against an FCS team for the sixth straight year. Air Force is 8-1 all-time against teams from the Big Sky. The Falcons have won 14 straight home openers against unranked teams dating back to 1994.

### COACHES

• Air Force: Troy Calhoun (Air Force, 1989) is in his sixth season. He has led the Falcons to a 41-24 career record. Calhoun is 24-15 in MWC games, 17-9 in non-conference games, 23-8 in Falcon Stadium, 14-

12 in road games (11-7 in MW road games) and 2-3 in bowl games.

• Idaho State: Mike Kramer (Idaho, 1977) is in his second season. He has led the program to a 2-9 mark. Kramer has a 79-84 career mark in his 13th season.

**THE SERIES:** Air Force and Idaho State are playing for the second time. The schools first played on Nov. 17, 1956, in Pueblo Stadium in Pueblo, Colo., in Air Force's first season as a varsity program. Idaho State won the game, 13-7.

**MORE STATS:** Air Force is 35-19-2 overall in season openers, including a 30-8 mark in season openers at home.

• The Falcons have won seven of the last eight season openers at home with the only loss coming vs. No. 13



Air Force Senior Connor Dietz will be the Falcons' starting quarterback Saturday.

California in 2004.

• Air Force head coach Troy Calhoun is 5-0 in season openers, all five coming at home.

**HOME SWEET HOME:** Air

Force is 23-8 at home under head coach Troy Calhoun since 2007. Air Force combined for 10 wins at home in 2009 and 2010 which is the third most in two seasons in school history.

### A LOOK AT IDAHO STATE:

Idaho State finished last season with a 2-9 overall mark, including a 1-7 record in the Big Sky Conference. The team averaged 18.5 points per game last year. Idaho State won the 1981 Division I-AA national championship.

The program has had eight individuals play or coach in the NFL, including current Minnesota Vikings all-pro Jared Allen ... Allen lettered from 2000-03 at Idaho State and was an All-American in 2002 and 2003.

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# Blue beats Silver, 5-1, in intrasquad matchup

The Air Force men's tennis team kicked off its 2012-13 season Aug. 24 with the third annual Blue vs. Silver match. All 10 players played in the match, with two doubles matches and five singles matches. One singles match was played as one set to help complete the doubles points.

"Today we were able to put our team under match situations for the first time since last spring," said head coach Dan Oosterhous. "It was a great opportunity to see where our guys are physically and mentally coming back from summer break. Some of the outcomes were surprising but that's why we do this and it helps us determine where we need to focus our energy in the next four weeks before our first tournament in Denver."

The two teams split the two doubles matches. The Blue team's senior Lance

Wilhelm and sophomore Grant Taylor opened the match with an 8-5 win over junior Alex Grubbs and freshman Jack McCullers, while juniors Andy Jackson and Ali Rizvi of the Silver team defeated senior Steven Young and freshman Andrew Parks by the same score. Senior Stephen Katrein defeated junior Alex Lineberry, 6-2, in the extra singles match to give the Blue team a 1-0 lead.

The Blue team then took four of the five singles matches, Wilhelm and Young each won in straight sets, while Taylor downed Lineberry, 4-6, 7-5, 1-0(2), and Katrein beat Jackson, 1-6, 7-5, 1-0(5). Rizvi captured the Silver team's lone victory with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Parks.

The Falcons begin the fall tournament season Sept. 21 at the Denver Invitational.



RAYMOND MCCOY

Sophomore Grant Taylor won both his doubles match and his singles match in the Blue vs. Silver scrimmage Aug. 24. The team will begin the season by competing in the Denver Invitational Sept. 21.

## BLUE 5, SILVER 1

### Doubles

(B) Lance Wilhelm / Grant Taylor def. (S) Alex Grubbs / Jack McCullers, 8-5  
(S) Andy Jackson / Ali Rizvi def. (B) Steven Young / Andrew Parks 8-5  
(B) Stephen Katrein def. (S) Alex Lineberry, 6-2

### Singles

(B) Wilhelm def (S) McCullers 6-3, 6-4  
(B) Young def (S) Grubbs 6-3, 7-6  
(B) Taylor def (S) Lineberry 4-6, 7-5, 1-0  
(B) Katrein def (S) Jackson 1-6, 7-5, 1-0  
(S) Rizvi def (B) Parks 6-3, 6-2

# Peak Dining

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www.margaritapatpinecreek.com

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**Wooglin's Deli & Cafe**  
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## Blood Drive

The Academy will host its annual Armed Services Blood Program blood drive Sept. 10-12 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day in Arnold Hall.

The blood will be donated to ill or injured service members, veterans and their families worldwide.

Donors must weight at least 110 pounds, be 17 years of age, have a state or federal form of photo identification and be healthy to participate.

To find out more information or schedule an appointment, please visit [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil).

## Parents' Weekend Brunch

The Academy will host a Sunday Brunch Extravaganza for parents and cadets from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Falcon Club.

Cadets eat free with a parent. Brunch will feature breakfast and lunch items, desserts and a chocolate fountain.

To make a reservation call 333-4253.

## Whitewater rafting

The Outdoor Recreation Center offers rafting trips to Browns Canyon, the Royal Gorge and Big Horn Sheep Canyon through August.

The trips depart from the Outdoor Recreation Center at 7 a.m. and return at 5 p.m.

Trips include transportation, a wet suit, personal flotation device, helmet, splash jacket and lunch.

Trips range from \$55-\$85 per person. For more information visit

the Academy Support website at <http://usafasupport.com/the-great-outdoors/outdoor-adventure>.

## Recycling Center Moves

The temporary location of the Academy Recycling Center will be located West of the Community Center and on the south side of the Armed Forces Bank.

A temporary location was created due to construction of the BX and Commissary parking lots that began on Aug. 20.

## Pharmacy hours

The Academy Community Center Pharmacy will no longer be open on Saturdays.

The pharmacy will continue with its regular hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Child support services

The El Paso County Child Support Services will now be at the Academy the last Thursday of every month from 1-3 p.m. at the Airman and Family Readiness Center.

They will help establish, modify and assist child support orders, establish paternity, assist with visitation issues, provide a connection to other community resources and assist family members of active duty members stationed at another base.

There is a one-time \$20 fee. To make an appointment call 719-457-6331.

## Bowling Leagues

The Academy Lanes Bowling Center's bowling leagues are in session.

Available leagues include a parent and youth league Tuesdays at 7 p.m. for \$14 per team, three-person youth leagues Thursdays at 10 a.m. for \$7 per person and four-person adult mixed leagues Thursdays at 7 p.m. for \$10 per person.

Children may receive free bowling lessons during youth league play on Thursdays.

For more information, call Academy Lanes at 333-4709.

## Horsemanship classes

The Academy Equestrian Center offers horsemanship classes, which include a one-hour trail-riding lesson plus instruction in grooming, saddling and etiquette, for \$30 per lesson.

For information, contact the Equestrian Center at 333-4607.

## Sergeants Association Meeting

The Air Force Sergeants Association Falcon Chapter 1180 meets every third Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. in the Casual Lounge at the Falcon Club.

## Pottery studio available

The Arts and Crafts center offers a pottery studio available for use when a class is not in session.

The studio includes nine pottery wheels, glazes and five kilns. Clay is available for purchase.

For more information call 333-4579.

## 10th MDG Closure

The 10th Medical Group will close at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 10 for a commander's call.

Access to the on-call Primary Care Provider is available through the Patient Access Service at 524- Care (2273) Normal Operations will resume at 7:30 a.m. on Sept. 11.

## Got an IDEA?

The Innovative Development through Employee Awareness, or IDEA Program is designed reward individuals whose suggestions improve the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of Air Force, Department of Defense, and government operations.

Anyone can submit an idea, but only Air Force military members, civilian employees, cadets, Preparatory School candidates, and contract personnel who are paid from appropriated funds are eligible for cash awards.

Monetary awards can be as high as \$10,000 for each idea that results in validated tangible savings, and \$200 for ideas resulting in intangible benefits.

To submit an idea, go to [https://ipds.randolph.af.mil/ipds/web/page\\_edi](https://ipds.randolph.af.mil/ipds/web/page_edi) (CAC login required) or contact the IDEA office at 333-4332.

## VA Stand Down Day

The local Veterans Administration office is requesting active-duty assistance for its VA Stand Down Day Oct. 18.

Volunteers are primarily needed to escort veterans around the stations on the day of the stand down. Volunteers are also needed to assist in prep work a few days leading up to the event, for set-up/tear-down, and also food and beverage serving on the day of the event.

To volunteer or for more information contact 1st Lt. James Franciere at 567-2162.

## Softball Tournament

The Academy will host a softball tournament Sept. 21-22. Please register by Sept. 14 and contact David Castilla at 333-4078 for more information.

## Flea Market

A flea market will be held Sept. 22 at 8 a.m. at the Community Center.

Vendors will set up at 7 a.m. and the event will take place on the west side parking lot.

For more information call 333-4522.

## Golf Tournament

The Academy Fire Department Golf Tournament will take place Sept. 27 at 12 p.m. at the Eisenhower Golf Course.

The cost ranges from \$55-98 per person and will include golf carts, range balls and a driving range.

Sign up no later than Sept. 25. Contact Mike Mater at 719-333-2051 for more information.

## Hispanic Heritage Month

A luncheon and Cadet Panel Forum will take place Sept. 27 from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Arnold Hall Ballroom for Hispanic Heritage month.

The event is titled, "Diversity United, Building America's Future Today" and will include guest speaker Brig. Gen. Abel Barrientes and entertainment by Mariachi Aguila.

The cost is \$10 per person and must be paid by Sept. 24. Please call Dr. Sonia Esquivel at 333-8356 for more information.



## Cadet Chapel

**BUDDHIST**  
Sundays, 10 a.m.

**PROTESTANT WORSHIP**  
Combined Worship Service:  
Sundays, 9 a.m.

**CATHOLIC WORSHIP**  
Mass: Sundays, 10 a.m.

**JEWISH WORSHIP**  
Normal schedule  
Fridays, 7 p.m.

## Community Center Chapel

**CATHOLIC WORSHIP**  
Mass: Saturdays, 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.; Tuesdays-Fridays, 11:30 a.m.  
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:30 p.m.  
Formation Classes: For students in grades K-8. Sundays, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

**PROTESTANT WORSHIP**  
Evangelical: Sunday, 10:15 a.m.  
Gospel: Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

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