

BEST OF THE BEST

Academy fire department named best in Air Force. **Page 3**

GRAD TICKETS

Tickets are available for the Class of 2011 graduation ceremony. **Page 6**

ALL AIR FORCE

Academy basketball players help Air Force win DOD tourney. **Page 12**

ACADEMY SPIRIT



FINAL-LY!
Cadets celebrate final day of classes. **Page 8**

Cadets win design challenge

By Leslie Finstein
Air Force Academy Public Affairs

A year of hard work paid off for a team of cadets May 6 when they won the Boeing CrewSystem 2035 challenge.

CrewSystem 2035 was a yearlong design competition sponsored by Boeing. Teams from the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, and the Air Force Academy were tasked to design the cockpit of a future seventh generation fighter aircraft. Each Academy team was provided a set of 13 requirements and \$75,000 to guide their efforts. Over the course of a year, students progressed through the conceptual and detailed design phases, culminating in the creation and testing of a full-scale mockup.

"Working on it was both a blessing and a curse," said Cadet 1st Class Caroline Kurtz, Cadet Squadron 32. "It was very interesting to explore all this technology that you've never even thought of or never even seen and then work to figure out how to create the best performance possible."

"The Boeing requirements were very open and let us figure out what we wanted to do in the process, said Cadet 1st Class Ryan Zielinski of Cadet

Squadron 04, another member of the team. "It was a challenge to define them for ourselves."

According to cadets, the majority of their time was spent in the design phase and the model itself was constructed over the last couple of months.

"This started for me when I was looking for a summer research project as a junior," Cadet Zielinski continued. "That summer we (the cadet team) traveled all over to see what the Air Force is working on in this field."

Cadets Zielinski and Kurtz agreed that the construction phase was the most fun and really pushed the team to get creative.

"We had to innovate: use coat hangers, rubber bands, hot glue, clay, monitors and spandex fabric to try to bring our point across because there was no other way to show what we were trying to show," Cadet Kurtz explained.

"It was cool to see how we could represent our ideas with the materials available to us," Cadet Zielinski said.

The Academy ran this competition as a capstone project through the Department of Systems Engineering and had a team of 15 seniors from six different majors, with Lt. Col. Carlene Perry, an assistant professor



RAY MCCOY

Dennis Muilenburg, president and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space and Security, checks out the cockpit of the future designed by the cadets in the background. The Academy's cockpit won the Boeing CrewSystem 2035 design challenge, beating out teams from the U.S. Naval Academy and the U.S. Military Academy.

in the Department of Behavioral Science and Leadership, as course director.

"We chose cadets through a careful selection process and thought about what the project would entail and what kind of academic majors would be useful to have on the team," Colonel Perry said. "Then we approached those departments, sold them on the project and asked them to submit their best cadets for the team. We chose our team from those groups."

After presenting their final design and demonstration to a panel of seven judges from Boeing May 3, it was announced that the Air Force Academy won the competition. The CEO and President of Boeing Defense, Space and Security, Dennis Muilenburg, along with other Boeing executives visited the Academy on May 6 to present a trophy to the team.

"The cadets did a lot of hard work over the past year, and today was the icing on the cake," Colonel Perry said.



BILL EVANS

Academy grad makes final trip home

Dean Williams, reflects on the arrival of the remains of his brother-in-law, Maj. David L. Brodeur, Class of 1999, at Peterson Air Force Base May 6. Major Brodeur, 34, died April 27 as a result of wounds suffered from gunfire at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, where he was serving with a NATO team training the Afghan Air Force. A funeral service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Cadet Chapel, immediately followed by an interment at the Academy Cemetery. Academy personnel are encouraged to participate in an Honor Cordon on the north side of the Terrazzo, and along the road inside the east entrance of the Academy Cemetery. Due to minimal parking in the cadet area, maximum participation is requested from people working in the cadet area for this portion of the Honor Cordon.

Civilians key part of military appreciation month

By Lt. Gen. Mike Gould
Air Force Academy Superintendent

May is Military Appreciation Month, but service members aren't the only ones who serve the military. Let me take a moment to honor the civilian employees around the world who stand side-by-side with their military brothers and sisters as we support and defend the constitution of the United States as one team, one family.

Often, we forget that military members are not the only ones who deploy to austere locations and enter combat zones in defense of our American ideals. Increasingly, more and more civilians deploy alongside active duty members, not to mention those who keep day-to-day operations on our bases running smoothly. Civil servants not only do their own jobs, but also handle the workload for our deployed military. I know a USAFA civilian who mitigated a deployment by assimilating her military coworker's duties into her daily routine. She did an admirable job, and near the end of the tour looked forward to resuming a normal ops tempo. Just one month before her co-worker was to return, she learned yet another co-worker was going to deploy, and she would have to do it all again.

Today, there are 48 deployed Air Force civil servants, including two from the Academy. The yellow ribbons we see on cars all over Colorado Springs pay tribute to our troops. But they show more than just pride in our military, they represent support for civil servants as well. Just as we honor our fallen Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen, we also pay equal tribute to those brave civilians who have gone before us and paid the ultimate price for freedom.

It is also important to recognize the sheer longevity of civilians in our workforce. They serve in their jobs for many years, offering tremendous expertise and continuity to an always-rotating military presence. I've built a career on looking first to government civilians when I step into a new position. I ask for their opinions before implementing major changes, and I seek their guidance to make the organization better. When the military ro-

“... we all owe them a debt of gratitude because their contributions equal our own.”

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould



tates out, the legacy we leave behind should be one that our civilians believe in and are proud to continue. Civilians drive organizational success.

At the Air Force Academy, accomplishing our mission to produce leaders of character would not be possible without the 2,132 civilians who work here. They teach; they mentor, and they support. USAFA civilians advise our senior leaders; in some cases, they ARE senior leaders. But even our entry-level civilians are equally important. Whether they guard our gates, protect our people, teach our cadets, coach our athletes, or support the USAFA mission in countless other ways, civilians are crucial in our effort to graduate a thousand motivated Second Lieutenants every year. These young officers leave the Academy ready to lead the best Air Force in the world. They do it well in large part because of the civilians who work at USAFA.

I encourage you all to remember the civilians with whom you've worked. As we celebrate Military Appreciation Month, and you enjoy discounts for meals, products and services that communities across the nation gladly offer us in appreciation for what we do for our country, remember to say thank you in return. And know that 49.8 percent of the Academy workforce is civilian, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude because their contributions equal our own.

Whether you're a GS-4 or an SES, an office assistant or the Chief Diversity Officer, thank you for everything you do.

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Lt. Col. Kevin Basik
Chief of Scholarship Division

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ACADEMY SPIRIT

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

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Academy Superintendent
Lt. Col. John Bryan —
Director of Public Affairs
Staff Sgt. Raymond Hoy —
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Gino Mattorano —
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Send submissions to: usafa.pai@usafa.af.mil. Deadline for free classified ads on a space-available basis is noon every Tuesday for that week's publication date. Paid classified publishing is accepted by the publisher at 719-444-7355. The number to call for display advertising is 636-0306.

Deadline for all stories is noon Friday, one week prior to the desired publication date. Refer questions to the Academy Spirit editor at 333-8823.

The Academy Spirit also accepts story submissions by fax at 333-4094 or by email: pa.newspaper@usafa.af.mil.

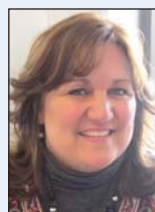
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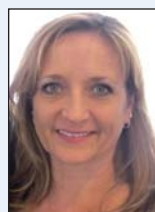
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What about the Academy excites you the most? (asked to parents of potential students)

“It's a wonderful opportunity and in four years he will be so much farther ahead than if he went to any other university.”
Melida Sundler



“Cadet life is so interesting, what's expected of them daily and the opportunities they're afforded.”
Mary Oxford



“The way the cadet classes interact with one another, the rankings, and the leadership structure.”
Martha Sanchez



“The small-college feel of the Academy. I really like it, and I think it's a good thing.”
Dianne Gordeuke



Academy fire department named best in Air Force

The 10th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services Flight was recently named the 2010 Air Force Fire Department of the Year.

The department competed against 175 other fire and emergency services flights and will be recognized by Air Force Civil Engineer Maj. Gen. Timothy Byers, at the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Service Conference later this year.

Each contender for the award submitted detailed information on customer service, departmental recognition, innovations and initiatives.

The Air Force Academy fire department's award package highlighted several of their responses in 2010, including life-saving actions at a parachuting accident, rapid mitigation of several major fires and responses to more than 300 incidents along Interstate 25.

In addition to their emergency duties, the department was also recognized for their outstanding efforts on the installation, in the local community and throughout the DoD. In particular, as the only DoD fire agency to be accredited for more than 10 years, the Academy fire department provides leadership and mentorship to both DoD and civilian fire departments. Their

efforts within the community included the donation of hundreds of hours to assist local charities while also providing a public fire education program described by outside evaluators as the "best seen to date."

"We are thrilled to be named the Best Fire Department in the Air Force for 2010," said Ernst Piercy, Academy fire chief. The teamwork and professionalism of our firefighters has given us the ability to make a positive impact on base, in the DoD and around the world. The department's hard work and extraordinary efforts were the clear catalyst that led to this prestigious honor."

The 10th Mission Support Group commander, Col. Timothy Ferguson added, "This award is a tremendous achievement. This recognition complements the hard work the USAFA Fire Department personnel puts in 24/7, 365 days a year."

The Academy Fire and Emergency Services Flight will now compete at the DoD level against the best fire departments from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Defense Logistics Agency and Coast Guard.

The DoD Fire Department of the Year will be announced in August at the Fire Rescue International conference in Atlanta.



ABOVE: Academy Fire Chief Ernst Piercy, far right, poses with firefighters from the airfield's Fire Station 3.



LEFT: Academy Firefighters respond to a fire in military family housing.

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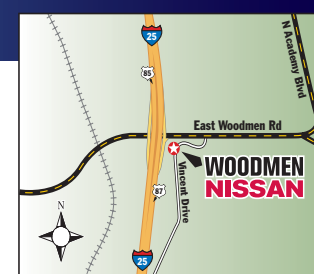


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F-15 pilot receives Jabara Award

Capt. Michal Polidor, center, a Pittsburgh native and 2004 Air Force Academy graduate, receives the Jabara Airmanship Award from Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, U.S. Air Force Academy superintendent, and William "T" Thompson, Association of Graduates president, at Mitchell Hall May 6. Established in 1967, the Col. James Jabara Airmanship Award is presented to an Academy graduate whose actions directly associated with an aerospace vehicle set him or her apart from contemporaries. Captain Polidor was the flight lead of an F-15E two-ship tasked Oct. 3, 2009, to support Coalition Observation Post Keating in the Nuristan province of Afghanistan. More than 80 Coalition soldiers were pinned down and taking fire from a well-orchestrated 360-degree attack of 250 Taliban insurgents in the Kamdesh Valley. During his 7.8-hour sortie, Captain Polidor coordinated and integrated 19 aircraft, orchestrating precision strikes on the enemy. He also arranged for additional tanker assets, ensuring continued air power over the battle area.

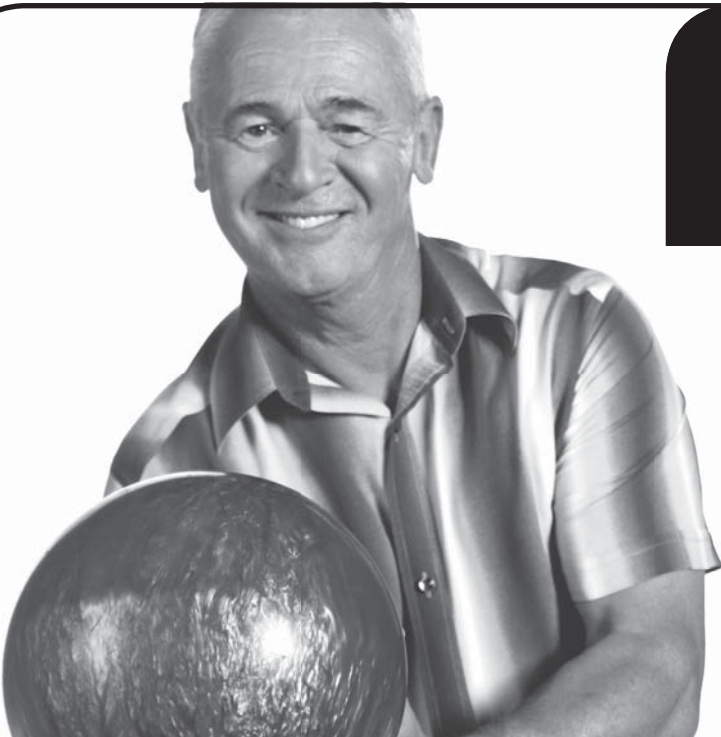


MEGAN DAVIS

Fall 2011 Cadet Wing leadership

The Academy's Class of 2012 has named the cadet wing leadership for the fall semester.

Wing Commander: Cadet 2nd Class Samantha Reep, Cadet Squadron 05
 Vice Wing Commander: C2C Zachary A. Crippen, CS-12
 Wing Director of Operations, C2C Dustin Hayhurst, CS-06
 Group One Commander: C2C Julian R. Gluck, CS-09
 Group One Deputy Group Commander: C2C Susan R. Vanden Dries, CS-06
 Group One DO, C2C Matthew E. Clinard: CS-08
 Group Two Commander: C2C Tyler L. Todd, CS-13
 Group Two Deputy Group Commander: C2C Stephen C. Groff, CS-12
 Group Two DO: C2C Peter S. Lind, CS-15
 Group Three Commander: C2C Michael A. Oakley, CS-30
 Group Three Deputy Group Commander: C2C Aarol T. Clinton, CS-29
 Group Three DO: C2C Paola M. Gavilanes, CS-24
 Group Four Commander: C2C James T. Colvin III, CS-40
 Group Four Deputy Group Commander: C2C Kenneth P. Hertzler, CS-40
 Group Four DO: C2C Patrick J. Williams, CS-35



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Academy Airmen earn CCAF degrees

Sixty-eight Airmen from across the Academy received their Community College of the Air Force degrees in a ceremony May 5 at the Falcon Club.

To earn a CCAF degree, graduates must complete a program of study in areas which include technical education, leadership/management, program electives, and general education courses.

The CCAF is the largest accredited community college in the United States and since issuing its first degree in 1977, the college has awarded more than 371,000 Associate of Applied Science degrees.

According to the 10th Force Support Squadron Education Office, the Academy is currently ranked No. 1 in the Air Force for the percentage of members who have earned their CCAF degrees.

"After many hard months of working full time, balancing family life, and attending school, these Airmen were awarded an Associate of Applied

Science degree from the Community College of the Air Force," said Christy Pfalmer, 10th FSS education specialist. "These graduates exemplify outstanding dedication to the fulfillment of the Air Force mission and have met the challenges of today's world events with professionalism and pride. By achieving their educational goals and enhancing professional and personal development, they contribute to the Air Force mission of maintaining a dynamic, high-quality force."

Earning a CCAF degree is a necessary part of enlisted career progression, but for many, the degree represents both a professional and personal milestone.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Delforge, USAFA Financial Management, was awarded his CCAF degree in financial management and believes that you can never get enough education.

"My job as a father is to set an example for my

three daughters," he said. "I want my children to see that going to school is not only a must, but something you want to do. I can remember thinking how I couldn't wait to finish high school so I didn't have to go to school anymore. It took me less than two years to figure out that I was wrong. Achieving my CCAF (degree) is a bonus as I continue to take classes for my bachelor's degree."

For Tech. Sgt. Andrea Blanchetti, a CCAF graduate assigned to the Commandant of Cadets staff, earning a CCAF degree gives her the opportunity to expand her knowledge base.

"The Air Force has given me so many opportunities, I feel very fortunate to be able earn a degree in a discipline outside my original career field," she said "One of the many tools I used was tuition assistance which helped me financially meet my educational goals."

Graduates:

Tech. Sgt. Bobby Adams, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Tech. Sgt. Gilda Alexander, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Master Sgt. Gregory Allen, 10th Medical Support Squadron, Health Care Management
Staff Sgt. Darius Anderson, 10th Medical Operations Squadron, Cardiopulmonary Laboratory Technology
Senior Airman Skyler Arnold, 10th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Bioenvironmental Engineering Technology
Staff Sgt. Shannon Austin, 10th Surgical Operations Squadron, Surgical Services Technology
Staff Sgt. Timothy Bailey, 10th Security Forces Squadron, Criminal Justice
Master Sgt. Rex Barnes, 10th Communications Squadron, Information Systems Technology
Staff Sgt. Casey Berry, 10th MDOS, Physical Therapist Assistant
Tech. Sgt. Corey Blackburn, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Tech. Sgt. Andrea Blanchetti, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Bowman, 10th MSGS, Munitions Systems Technology
Master Sgt. Charles Brown, Academy Preparatory School, Electronic Systems Technology

Staff Sgt. Robert Brewster, 10th CS, Information Systems Technology
Master Sgt. Charles Brown, Academy Preparatory School, Education and Training Management
Staff Sgt. Megan Byers, 10th MDSS, Pharmacy Technology
Staff Sgt. Kristin Chaney, 10th MDSS, Health Care Mgmt.
Master Sgt. Charles Clawson, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Master Sgt. Sean Cope, 10th SFS, Human Resource Management
Tech. Sgt. Michael Delforge, USAFA Financial Management, Financial Management
Tech. Sgt. Ernest Dinolfo, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Chief Master Sgt. Stefney Dunson, 10th Air Base Wing, Education and Training Management
Tech. Sgt. Porter Gee, Commandant of Cadets, Restaurant, Hotel and Fitness Management
Master Sgt. Justus Hanks, Commandant of Cadets, Aircrew Safety Systems Technology
Tech. Sgt. Marcus Haralson, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Staff Sgt. Chad Hepworth, Commandant of Cadets, Restaurant, Hotel and Fitness Management
Master Sgt. Matthew Hummel, 10th MSGS, Allied Health Sciences

Tech. Sgt. Michelle Hyde, USAFA Judge Advocate, Paralegal
Tech. Sgt. Bradley Isom, 10th MDOS, Physical Therapist Assistant
Master Sgt. Thomas Jenkins, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Staff Sgt. Crystal Kesey, 10th SFS, Criminal Justice
Tech. Sgt. Matthew Kesey, 10th SFS, Criminal Justice
Airman Logan Kibler, 10th SFS, Criminal Justice
Master Sgt. Kevin Krumm, 10th Dental Squadron, Dental Laboratory Technology
Staff Sgt. Michiyo Litynski, 10th MSGS, Dietetics and Nutrition
Senior Airman Nicole Longwell, 10th CES, Fire Science
Staff Sgt. Ashley Martinez, 10th AMDS, Health Care Management
Staff Sgt. Timothy McCallum, 10th MDSS, Medical Laboratory Technology
Master Sgt. Christopher McEwan, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Master Sgt. Greg Meinert, Headquarters U.S. Air Force Academy, Human Resource Management
Staff Sgt. Joseph Morgan, 10th AMDS, Allied Health Sci.
Master Sgt. Jeffrey Nagengast, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Master Sgt. Jason Otto, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management

Airman 1st Class Andrea Owens, 10th AMDS, Public Health Technology
Tech. Sgt. Annette Owens, 10th MDOS, Allied Health Sci.
Master Sgt. Teresa Paas, Commandant of Cadets Education and Training Management
Staff Sgt. Matthew Quinn, 10th SFS, Criminal Justice
Staff Sgt. Elia Ramirez, 10th AMDS, Bioenvironmental Engineering Technology
Staff Sgt. Hugo Reinor, 10th MDOS, Physical Therapist Assistant
Tech. Sgt. Ernesto Reyes, 10th MSGS, Surgical Services Technology
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Russom, Commandant of Cadets, Construction Technology, Education and Training Management
Master Sgt. Eric Sandoval, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Tech. Sgt. Mark Schwartz, Commandant of Cadets, Education and Training Management
Tech. Sgt. Edward Struckel, HQ USAFA, Education and Training Management
Tech. Sgt. Jon Thomas, 10th MSGS, Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Staff Sgt. Ashley Thompson, 10th MDOS, Physical Therapist Assistant
Staff Sgt. Terrance Tyler, 10th MDOS, Physical Therapist Assistant

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Share your Armed Forces story with us!
We will be sponsoring a table at the 2011 Armed Forces Appreciation Week Awards Luncheon and would like to invite local service members to join us - active duty and retired. Please share your story with us on our Facebook page. We will choose 5 local service members who submit their story to join Ed Baur - our Proprietor & GM and 4 other active duty servicemen at our table in honor of your service and sacrifice for our country.

Armed Forces Awards Luncheon
11:15 AM Friday, May 20, 2011
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BILL EVANS

Enlisted heritage dedication

Cadet 1st Class Jason D. Gabrick, Cadet Squadron 03, speaks during the Prior Enlisted Cadet Assembly Heritage Plaque Gallery dedication May 5. The gallery is located in Arnold Hall on the balcony above the ballroom and is composed of nine walnut boards with the Academy seal, PECA seal and six individually framed placards, each of which contain the names of every prior enlisted graduate from that respective class along with the class crest. The gallery was created to display the broad depth of influence the enlisted corps has had on the Air Force Academy and its graduates since its very inception.

Graduation tickets available

Tickets for the Air Force Academy Graduation Ceremony are now available from the Athletic Ticket Office for Academy personnel, which includes cadets, contractors, civilians and permanent party military.

The tickets are free and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of ten tickets per staff member. Tickets are for reserved seats in various sections of the stadium. The Athletic Ticket Office is located in the Falcon Athletic Center (building southwest of the Field House) and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets cannot be mailed or held for "will call."

The graduation ceremony is May 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Falcon Stadium, and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley will be the guest speaker.

Falcon Stadium gates will open at 8 a.m. May 25, and ticket holders are encouraged to arrive no later than 9 a.m. Stringent security measures will be in effect, and stadium security staff will check tickets, IDs, and hand-carried items and will require attendees to be scanned by airport-style metal detectors.

No boxes, alcohol, weapons, firecrackers, beverage containers of any sort, backpacks, large handbags, coolers, or similar items will be allowed in the stadium. Food and drink are prohibited with the exception of clear, unopened water bottles and medically necessary items with a doctor's order.

Cameras, video cameras and binoculars are permitted; however, please be prepared to remove camera lenses for security inspection at the stadium

gates. Diaper bags will be allowed when a child is present, but strollers are not permitted.

Refreshments will be available from vendors throughout the stadium, and seatbacks will be available for rent. Please note that there are no elevators in the stadium, and handicapped-accessible seating is very limited.

Uniform for the Graduation Ceremony is: Military: Service Dress with flight or service cap (platform guests will wear wheel hat). Ladies: Dress or Jacket with Skirt or Slacks; Gentlemen: Coat or Suit and Tie.

Once the ceremony begins, attendees will not be allowed to leave the stadium until after the Thunderbirds' performance at about 1 p.m.

No tailgating parties will be permitted in the stadium parking lots. RVs or vans may be parked in the stadium lots, but no open fires or charcoal/wood grills are permitted.

As the Air Force Academy graduation ceremony is conducted in an outdoor stadium, guests should be prepared for any kind of weather. Medical personnel will be available for individuals who may experience illness or other medical emergencies.

General public and staff ticket holders will not be allowed to attend the graduation ceremony if it is moved indoors due to dangerous weather or heightened security. Notification will go out by 8 a.m. the morning of graduation, via base message boards and local media, if the ceremony venue is changed.

For more information, please visit the Graduation web site at <http://www.usafa.edu/superintendent/graduation>.

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Deployment networking adds strength for families

By David Edwards
Academy Spirit Staff Writer

The Army claims in its ads that there's strong and then there's Army strong.

Master Sgt. Lisa Taylor thinks the Air Force Academy has a unique brand of strength, too. The model she instituted at the Academy to ease the stress of deployment has caught on with Airmen at her home base and is being widely emulated throughout the military.

Sergeant Taylor's program is called Deployment Networking — Strengthening the Mission. When she was hired as the readiness NCO at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, she jettisoned the welcome-back and sendoff events.

"This should be done at the unit level, where it is more personable," Sergeant Taylor said. "I then began the Deployment Networking event, and it has taken off. Granted, USAFA's numbers are not a lot, but the concept is what truly matters."

And that concept is starting to spread. At the end of May, Sergeant Taylor delivered a presentation at the Department of Defense/USDA Family Resiliency Conference in Chicago. An audience of more than 2,000 peo-

ple listened to her describe the novel approach the Academy is taking to deployment preparation.

The centerpiece of the concept is the biannual deployment networking event. It aims to accomplish three objectives: inform service members and families about deployment and the resources available to them; develop ties between on-base and off-base organizations; promote base cohesiveness and the wingman concept.

One such event in April, just prior to Sergeant Taylor's departure for Chicago, had an attendance of 72. People at the event wore different-colored name tags that represented the various countries where service members were deployed and also deployment status.

Activities and services were designed to involve servicemembers' entire family and meet them on their turf. Academy agencies ranging from finance to Youth Services to the Health and Wellness Center came together with off-base agencies that included the United Service Organizations SO, the YMCA and the American Red Cross.

"The deployment fact sheets are a huge hit with service members and families alike, especially the children," Sergeant Taylor said. "It not only educates them but it also gives them a sense of closeness to their parent while



MIKE KAPLAN

Staff Sgt. Sheila Harris, 10th Medical Support Squadron, talks to Paula Williams, the spouse of a deployed military member, during the Academy's Airman and Family Readiness Center-hosted Deployment Networking Summit April 21. The summit provided interaction between those who had recently returned from a deployment and those about to deploy.

deployed."

The bedrock principle underlying the Air Force Academy's program is that in the absence of a strong and easily accessible support network, the negative emotions brought on by deployment can become unbearable.

By using what Sergeant Taylor calls "purposeful networking," the Academy shows its personnel and their families what an extensive support network they have at their disposal. And the beauty of the concept is that it is broadly applicable, benefiting both large and small organizations.

Sergeant Taylor said her presentation attracted the attention of several Air

Force bases, Army posts and Naval stations. Representatives of these military installations expressed interest in supplementing their current deployment programs with the Deployment Networking model.

Colleges and universities are getting in on the act as well.

"Many universities are taking the different-colored-name-tag concept to customize networking for their current functions," Sergeant Taylor said. "This is a great icebreaker for any event."

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Class of 2011 jubilation

The excitement of a cadet's last noon meal formation, last academic class, last final exam, and preparing for graduation is hard to describe in words, so cadets turn to outward signs to express their jubilation.

During the past week, members of the Class of 2011 could be found partaking in a number of Air Force Academy traditions associated with the ending of a cadet career.

Firsties were spotted proudly sporting their gold class-colored hats to the final day of classes—head gear they have only worn on a few occasions since Basic Cadet Training almost four years ago. The entire class of 2011 also “took the hill” during the last noon meal formation held May 6 by falling out of their squadron formations and charging up Spirit Hill as a class. Finally, in rain, snow, or shine, first class cadets upheld the tradition of jumping into the fountains in the Academy's air gardens following their last academic duty, whether it was their final class or exam.

These lighthearted demonstrations represent the anticipation and exhilaration of the Class of 2011 as they approach a long-awaited day.



LEFT and BELOW: First class cadets celebrate the tradition of jumping into the fountains in the Academy's air gardens following their last academic duty May 6.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE KAPLAN



MEGAN DAVIS

Taking the hill: The entire Class of 2011 ran up Spirit Hill after falling out of their squadron formations and charging up the hill during the last noon meal formation May 6.

A fun ride is a safe ride

Proper planning for the road can decrease risks for motorcyclists

By Mark Schmidt
USAFA Safety

Spring is here and people are excited for the warmer temperatures. Motorcyclists are especially excited to hang up their winter coats and pull out their motorcycles for the thrill of “hitting the road.”

The month of May usually begins peak riding season and has been tabbed as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to remind all drivers and riders to be mindful of their safety.

As the temperature rises, motorcycle fatalities increase as well. Several factors can contribute to motorcycle mishaps. In all seven Air Force fatal or permanent total disability motorcycle mishaps this year, experience, training, failure to appreciate one’s own limitations, alcohol, or a combination of the aforementioned factors contributed to these mishaps and will increase your risk dramatically if not taken seriously.

Motorcycles are much smaller and more agile than cars and trucks, so for other drivers on the road they can be tougher to spot and keep track of. This is especially true at intersections and in slow or congested traffic. The first step in preparing you for a safe ride is to apply risk management. This should be done prior to hitting the road and continue during the ride. Proper planning allows you to take appropriate actions (i.e. inspect and service your motorcycle, map out your ride, wear adequate safety gear, counteract exposure to the elements, avoid fatigue) before you get on your motorcycle.



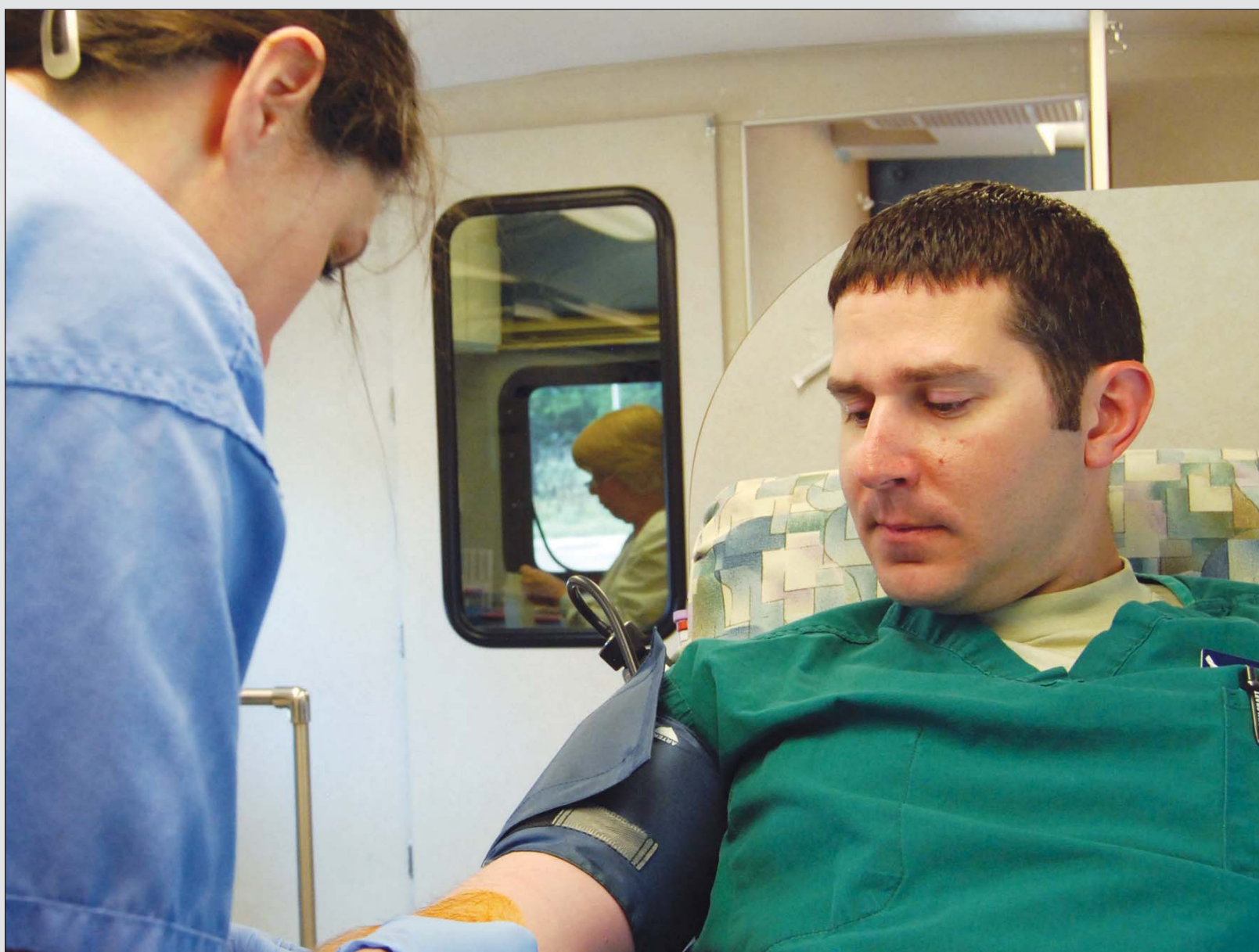
HELPFUL MOTORCYCLE TIPS

- Position yourself in a lane where you will be most visible to other drivers and never ride in the “No Zone” or blind spots.
- Maintain proper distance from other motorists.
- Get plenty of rest prior and stay hydrated.
- Avoid riding in bad weather.
- Wear protective gear, it can help save lives.
- Use hand and turn signals together to draw more attention to yourself when turning.
- Obey the general safety rules of the road.
- Always apply both the front and the rear brakes at the same time when slowing down. The front brake can supply as much as 70 percent of your stopping power.
- Ride in a staggered formation, never side by side, and never weaving in and out of traffic.
- Don’t Drink and Ride!

All riders have limits. Without knowing your limits, you place yourself at an increased risk of serious injury or death. Knowing your limits, the limits of your motorcycle, the limits of your riding environment, and the limits of those you ride with, is critical in minimizing your risk. Consider these limitations every time you ride and adapt appropriately to achieve an accident-free ride.

Another key in minimizing the risk is taking a motorcycle safety course. Your awareness and skills are lost over the winter months and if not refreshed or practiced may lead to a mishap. Continued motorcycle safety training provides an excellent source for renewing your awareness and basic riding skills in a controlled environment.

Riding a motorcycle is one of the most exhilarating feelings one can have; “hitting the road” is not. With proper safety gear, knowing your limitations, adapting to your environment, and continued training and preparation, your fun ride can be a safe ride.



Giving blood gives life

Laura Davis collects a blood donation from Staff Sgt. Eric Smith during a Penrose-St. Francis Hospital blood drive at the Air Force Academy Tuesday. Sergeant Smith is a dental clinic technician with the Academy’s 10th Medical Group. Penrose’s “Blood Vessel” bus will return to the Academy for a blood drive at the Base Exchange May 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DON BRANUM



LEFT: Families participate in the Falcon Family Fun Friday pool party at the southside fitness center May 6.

FAR LEFT: Derrick Whiting, a recreation Aid at the southside fitness center, leads out in a game of dodgeball at the fitness center May 6.

PHOTOS BY SARAH CHAMBERS

Bonding through family fun

The 10th Force Support Squadron hosted a Falcon Family Fun Friday event May 6 at the Community Center Gym.

The event kicked off the 10th FSS Bonding through Family Fun initiative, which is a monthly program designed to encourage families to be active together.

The southside fitness center hosted the May event, which offered families a chance to play dodgeball, kickball, water polo and enjoy a pool party. Sox the Fox was also on hand to give out tickets to this evening's Colorado Springs Sky Sox Air Force Appreciation Night.

"The goal of the Bonding Through Family Fun program is to bring families together while being active," said Dave Gray, fitness and sports director.

Each month, a different 10th FSS activ-

ity will host an event to allow families to take advantage of the many 10th FSS activities available.

The family fun program continues through September, and families can also participate by picking up activity cards at the bowling center, outdoor recreation, youth center, community center library, community center gym, and both cadet area barber shops.

Once a family has completed 10 activities, they can turn their card in to be entered in a monthly drawing and the top three most active families will be recognized at an Oktoberfest celebration.

The June family fun event will be held at the Academy Lanes on June 3, but families are encouraged to participate all month long.

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Academy Airmen carry all-AF b-ball teams to victory

By Don Branum
Academy Spirit staff

The all-Air Force men's and women's teams took different paths to victory in the Armed Forces Basketball Tournament at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., April 17.

The men's team, which had several former Air Force Falcons on its roster, destroyed its competition, sweeping its way to an unbeaten record and its sixth-straight gold medal. The women's team, in contrast, clawed its way back to the top after facing elimination in the second round of the playoffs.

Both teams had two things in common: Air Force Academy Airmen fighting for their service's victory, and gold medals at tournament's end.

TENACITY

The women's team won their first round-robin match against the all-Marine Corps team, 65-58, April 11. But a string of painful defeats followed: 53-47 to Navy and 66-62 to Army in the round-robin games, followed by a 44-36 loss to Army in the first round of the playoff.

"There was no expectation we would win," said Melissa Fletcher, a mental health NCO assigned to the Academy's Peak Performance Center.

Instead of giving up, Fletcher said, the team persevered.

"We all supported one another," she said. "There was no drama. That was the cool part about the team: there were no individualists. We all contributed."

Fletcher's own background illustrated the team's spirit: the single mother of four tried out for the all-Air Force women's team in 1998, 2005 and 2006, but she was turned down each time. She finally made the cut for the all-Air Force Europe women's team in 2007 while stationed at Aviano

Air Base, Italy. She prepared for this tournament by getting up at 5 a.m. to run 5 miles in the morning, then lifted weights in Fairchild Hall's fitness center annex in the early evening. And she played through to the first final game even while nursing the arch of her left foot, which was on the verge of collapse.

"If you're adamant about doing what you love to do, don't let anything stop you from doing it," she said. "How bad do you want it?"

The women's team decided they wanted the gold enough to come back from the bottom of the pile. They defeated Navy 55-51 in the second round and beat the Marine Corps 64-48 in the third round, to advance to the championship.

However, because they had been in the losers' bracket, the Air Force women would have to defeat Army twice to take home the gold. They did exactly that, defeating Army 67-51 in the first championship game and outlasting Army 71-65 in the tiebreaker.

"Of all the teams I've played on, the two best were the all-Air Force Europe team and this team," Fletcher said. "Our coach, (Darryl) Carpenter, was a very, very good coach. And Tiffany Guthrie was a phenomenal player. I bow down to her -- she was awesome." Fletcher also had kind words for her leaders and co-workers at the 10th Medical Group and the Commandant of Cadets staff, who released her from duty at the Academy to play in the tournament, and for Bradley Isom, who helped take care of her daughters while she was out-of-state.

DOMINANCE

Three Academy Airmen -- Tyron Wright, Thomas Bellairs and Grant Parker -- are among the five former Air Force Falcons men's basketball players who were named to the team



DON BRANUM

Melissa Fletcher displays her gold medal from the 2011 Armed Forces Basketball Championship, held April 10-17 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Both the Air Force men's and women's teams won gold medals at the championship.

by the Air Force Services Agency March 4.

Bellairs, now a Falcons assistant coach, picked up basketball in middle school as an "in-between" sport: something to keep him active after football season ended and before baseball started. The Colorado Springs native played basketball exclusively once he started high school, and Air Force recruited him on a basketball scholarship his senior year.

"I didn't know anything about the service academies before that," he said. "It was just a unique opportunity that presented itself."

Wright, an academic adviser with the Academy's Registrar Services office and a native of Columbia, S.C., coached the team this year after playing on the team in years past.

"We had a lot of good players," said Wright, a native of Columbia, S.C. "Going undefeated was a credit to them and to the goal they set. They went out and executed every day."

Wright, who coaches the Academy Preparatory School's Huskies basketball team, described leading the all-Air Force team to its sixth-consecutive gold medal as a pleasure.

"I actually played on the team that won the first (gold medal)," he said. "To be on the coaching end is a new rewarding experience. I just appreciate the opportunity that the Air Force gave me."

Wright will coach the all-Armed Forces team at the Council of International Military Sports tournament in Rio De Janeiro July 12-25.

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AOG Bed and Breakfast program

Inprocessing for the Class of 2015 is June 23. Many appointees will arrive at the Colorado Springs Airport the day before and will need a place to stay that night. The Association of Graduates Bed and Breakfast Program provides accommodations for these appointees.

Local Academy graduates as well as Academy faculty and staff are being asked to provide appointees with dinner, a bed for the night, breakfast the next morning, and transportation to Doolittle Hall for inprocessing.

If you would like to participate as a host family, log on to the AOG website at www.usafa.org, and click on the "Bed & Breakfast" button on the left side of the home page.

Santa Fe Trail closure

A portion of the Santa Fe Trail will be closed weekdays but remain open weekends until Oct. 30 while repairs are made to the Tri-Intersection Bridge on Southgate Boulevard.

Safety hazards caused by heavy construction traffic under the bridge on the trail are forcing the closure of a stretch of the trail about 2 miles from the south trail entrance to the Acad-

emy and about 4 miles from the north gate Santa Fe trailhead.

Call for bird watchers

Whether you are a casual birder or a dedicated naturalist, the Natural Resources program could use your help to monitor birds at the Academy.

If you are interested in helping, please visit the eBird website and call Natural Resources at 333-3308.

Repairs being made at clinic

The Academy's main clinic is undergoing a complete repair of the roof and façade. No impact on parking is expected, but occasional closure of an entrance or walkway may be required. This project is estimated to be completed by late September.

Vacation Bible School

The Community Center Chapel will host its annual Vacation Bible School for children ages 4 years through fifth grade, June 6-10, 5-7:30 p.m. at the chapel. This year's theme is Panda

Mania. There will be crafts, games, singing, Bible studies, snacks and lots of fun.

Register now by calling 333-3300. Volunteers are also needed in a lot of different areas. Call the number above if you'd like to help.

Fridays are sticker, decal days

The 10 SFS Pass and Registration Center will issue cadet area parking stickers and vehicle registration decals on Fridays only, from noon to 4:30 p.m. Plan accordingly and help spread the word.

Call Staff Sgt. Antonio Jones at 333-2120 with questions.

Prep School graduation events

The Academy Prep School's graduation ceremonies consist of a series of events. A baccalaureate ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday in the Protestant Chapel. There will be a graduation parade at 9 a.m. Monday at Black Memorial Field. And the graduation ceremony will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Arnold Hall theater.

Bluebards performance

The Air Force Academy's cadet theater club, the Bluebards, presents the Broadway version of Jekyll and Hyde, May 19, 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. in the Arnold Hall Theater.

The general public is invited to attend, and may access Arnold Hall through the Academy's North Gate (exit 156B off of I-25). General admission is \$10, and tickets for students and military are \$5. Tickets are available at the door.

Job Expo

The Colorado Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is hosting a job expo at Denver's Jefferson County Fair Grounds May 23-25.

Military and veteran job seekers, employers and volunteer job seekers can register at www.MVEE.org. The web site includes a seminar schedule. Those who receive a Certificate of Participation from the May 23 or 24 workshops will have first access to the job fair May 25 from 9 to 11 a.m. The job fair is open to all military and veteran job seekers from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Cadet Chapel

BUDDHIST

Sundays: 10 a.m.
Thursdays: 6:20 p.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP

Traditional: Sundays, 9 a.m.
Contemporary: Sundays, 11 a.m.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

Mass: Sundays, 10-11 a.m.;
Mondays, 5:45-6:15 a.m.;
Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7-7:30 p.m.
Confession and Adoration:
Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.
Holy Days of Obligation: 7 p.m.

JEWISH WORSHIP

Shabbath: 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.
Religious formation: Sunday, 10:15 a.m.
September-May

PROTESTANT WORSHIP

Wednesday Night Live: 6 p.m.
Dinner followed by Religious Education
September-May
Evangelical: Sunday, 10:15 a.m.
Gospel: Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

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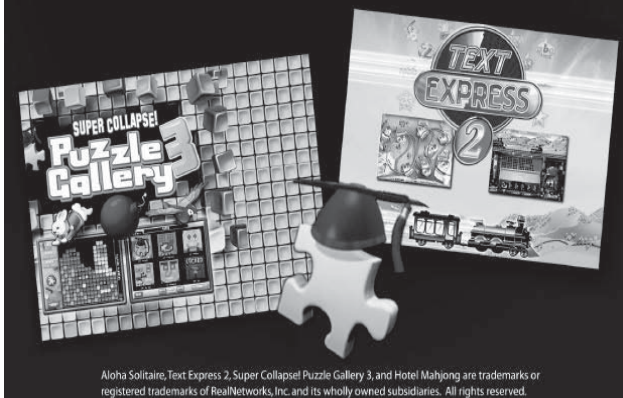
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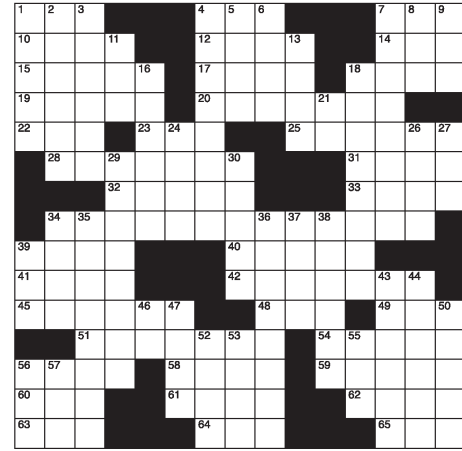
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CLUES ACROSS

- Annualized percentage rate
- Short term memory
- Outward flow of the tide
- Sob loudly
- Minerals
- Integrated data processing
- Mountain spinach
- Animal flesh
- Grapefruit & tangerine hybrid
- Language of No. India
- Below

CLUES DOWN

- Resistance unit
- One rejected from society
- E. Central African nation
- Mexican hat
- Arboreal plant
- Unkind
- XVIII
- Bundle (abbr.)
- Characters in one inch of tape (computers)
- Computer screen material
- Retain a printing correction
- Booed and
- Angry
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Blood-sucking African fly
- Fusses
- Close by
- Blood pumping organ
- W. Samoan monetary unit
- Salmonella aftermath
- Counterbalance to obtain net weight
- About pope
- 45th state
- Slips by
- Be suitable for
- Right angle building extension
- Chicken ___ king
- Azotaemias
- 55120 MN
- Cologne
- A thing or unit
- Ointment
- Actress Lupino
- 4,840 sq. yards
- Film spool
- For every
- NYSE for Honeywell
- Point midway between S and SE
- Vessel used for washing
- Birds of prey
- One bound in servitude
- 41st state
- Denotes substance is present in the blood
- Administer an oil
- What you scratch
- Relating to aircraft
- Swiss river
- Weight = to 1000 pounds
- Lyric poem



- Implements
- To the same extent
- Swat
- Musically vocalized
- Before
- Used for easing the foot into a shoe
- Supporting stalk
- Future destiny
- Relating to an oracle
- Salespersons
- Opaque gem
- 3rd largest Italian city

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Solution on page 10

05-13-11

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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481-6888
405 N. Tejon
rastapastacs.com

USAFA Grad Owned. Creative Caribbean Pasta, Fresh & Funky Salads, Ridiculously Good Desserts. Open seven days a week for affordable lunch and dinner. Voted Best New Restaurant by Gazette readers. Happy Hour Daily 4-6. Live Reggae Music the First Friday of every month.

STEAKHOUSE



SteakSmith
719-596-9300
3802 Maizeland Rd.

SteakSmith 596-9300 3802 Maizeland Rd. **15 MINUTES OR LESS FROM ANYWHERE IN THE SPRINGS CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH-** Every Sunday 10am, Last Seating 1 pm, \$17 Adults, \$10 Children. Reservations for Dinner and Brunch HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Available 24/7 at www.steaksmith.com. "Best of Springs Winner"-2007, 2008, 2009, 2010. \$20 off Dinner for Two in Dining Room (Two Entrees) with this ad. Expires May 31 2011. Reservations Mandatory One Coupon per table. YOUR DESTINATION RESTAURANT IN COLORADO SPRINGS

FINE DINING



The Margarita at Pine Creek
7350 Pine Creek Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
598-8667
www.margaritapinecreek.com

Hours: **Lunch:** Tuesday-Friday 11:30a.m.-2:00p.m. **Dinner:** Tuesday-Saturday 5:30p.m.-8:30p.m. **Brunch on Sunday:** 10:30a.m.-2:00p.m. Serving award winning, contemporary, seasonal cuisine-with a casual attitude for 37 years. Upstairs: fine dining (accompanied by our harpsichord on Saturday evenings). In the downstairs lounge: local music (from jazz to bluegrass) Wed-Fri. Enjoy appetizers to full course meals! Always affordable dining with a special occasion feel. Join us for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Relax and take in the Colorado scenery on the patios soon! Perfect for private parties, rehearsal dinners, weddings and other events

VIETNAMESE



Lemongrass Bistro
6840 North Academy Blvd.
P 592-1391
F 592-1395
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday
11am-8:30pm, Monday Closed

Thank you to Colorado Springs for voting us Best Vietnamese Restaurant since 2006! Serving authentic Vietnamese specialties and traditional Stir Fry dishes. Full bar, dine in or take out. Located only 3 miles from the Air Force Academy on Academy Blvd, (south of Woodman).

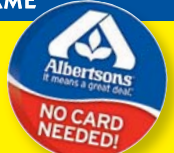
Albertsons®

It means a great deal.™



LOOK
for these signs
that point the way to savings

LOW PRICES ON THE ITEMS YOU BUY MOST **EVERY DAY...**



Sanderson Farms®

Tray Pack Chicken

- Boneless Skinless Breast
 - Boneless Skinless Tenders
 - Boneless Skinless Thighs
 - Whole Cut-up Fryers
 - Bone-In Roaster
 - Bone-in Drumsticks or Thighs
- Reg. Retail \$1.99-4.99 lb.

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Identical Item Only



Albertsons Weekly Coupon
Coupon Effective 5/11/11 - 5/17/11

Albertsons Macaroni & Cheese 7.25 oz.

39¢ ea.
With Coupon
Limit 3, Additional 2 for \$1

Limit 1 coupon per customer per transaction. No Cash Back. May not be used in combination with any other offer. Can not be doubled, tripled or quadrupled or exchanged for cash. Valid at participating locations.

Albertsons Weekly Coupon
Coupon Effective 5/11/11 - 5/17/11

Popsicle or Fudgsicle Novelties 8-12 ct. Select Varieties

99¢ ea.
With Coupon
Limit 4, Additional \$1.99

Limit 1 coupon per customer per transaction. No Cash Back. May not be used in combination with any other offer. Can not be doubled, tripled or quadrupled or exchanged for cash. Valid at participating locations.

Albertsons Weekly Coupon
Coupon Effective 5/11/11 - 5/17/11

Homelife Soft Choice Bath Tissue 12 Double Rolls or Awesome! Paper Towels 8 Rolls Select Varieties

3.99 ea.
With Coupon
Limit 4, Additional \$4.99

Limit 1 coupon per customer per transaction. No Cash Back. May not be used in combination with any other offer. Can not be doubled, tripled or quadrupled or exchanged for cash. Valid at participating locations.

Albertsons Weekly Coupon
Coupon Effective 5/11/11 - 5/17/11

Purex Ultra Liquid Detergent 60-72 oz. or Complete Crystals 28 oz. Select Varieties

2.99 ea.
With Coupon
Limit 2, Additional \$3.99

Limit 1 coupon per customer per transaction. No Cash Back. May not be used in combination with any other offer. Can not be doubled, tripled or quadrupled or exchanged for cash. Valid at participating locations.

Albertsons Weekly Coupon
Coupon Effective 5/11/11 - 5/17/11

Gatorade Sports Drink 8 pk., 20 oz. Select Varieties

3.99 ea.
With Coupon
Limit 2, Additional \$4.99

Limit 1 coupon per customer per transaction. No Cash Back. May not be used in combination with any other offer. Can not be doubled, tripled or quadrupled or exchanged for cash. Valid at participating locations.

Albertsons Weekly Coupon
Coupon Effective 5/11/11 - 5/17/11

Totino's Party Pizza 9.8-10.9 oz. Select Varieties

77¢ ea.
With Coupon
Limit 4, Additional \$1.19

Limit 1 coupon per customer per transaction. No Cash Back. May not be used in combination with any other offer. Can not be doubled, tripled or quadrupled or exchanged for cash. Valid at participating locations.

Military Discount COUPON Albertsons It means a great deal.
All Active, Reserve or Retired Military Personnel!

\$10 OFF COUPON GOOD 5/13/11-5/17/11
Your purchase of \$100 or more

LIMIT 1 COUPON PER CUSTOMER. This coupon cannot be used unless the purchase is \$100 or more after deducting all manufacturer coupons and store coupons, and without including money orders, lottery tickets, gift cards, alcohol, tobacco, prescriptions, stamps and other products prohibited at law. Cannot be doubled, tripled, quadrupled or exchanged for cash. Not valid toward previous purchase. Void if copied or transferred in the event of return, coupon savings may be deducted from refund. May not be used in combination with any other offer. One coupon per customer, per transaction.

*Some Restrictions Apply. Military ID Required.

Fritos or Cheetos
8-10.5 oz. Select Varieties

1.77

Arizona Tea 12 pk., 11.5 oz., 7-Up 12 pk., 12 oz. or 6 pk., 16.9 oz. Select Varieties Limit 4 ea.

4 for \$11

Monopoly: No Purchase necessary. See store for complete rules and odds. Play from February 9th thru May 24, 2011 or until all game tickets have been distributed. The MONOPOLY name and logo, the distinctive design of the gameboard, the four corner squares, the MR. MONOPOLY name and character, as well as each of the distinctive elements of the board and playing pieces are trademarks of Hasbro for its property trading game and game equipment. © 1935, 2011 Hasbro. All rights reserved.

Prices Effective 5/13-5/17/11

Visit www.albertsonsmarket.com

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