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SPACE OBSERVER

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE

Parents' worst nightmare

By Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow | 21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The phone call to their Grand Junction, Colorado home came Feb. 18, 2012. The person on the other end of the line asked Kliffa Hall if her husband, Dennis, was there. When he answered, the caller asked if a colonel had spoken to him. Dennis said no. The caller said she must have gotten the wrong number.

With that, all he heard was dial tone.

"At that moment, Kliffa knew," Dennis said. "I did not want to accept what she knew to be the truth."

In the wee hours of the morning, Dennis answered the door to a military officer, NCO and chaplain. Dennis invited them inside.

He heard the most difficult words the father of a military son can hear.

"On behalf of the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, I regret to inform you of the untimely death of your son, Captain Ryan Hall. He died on Feb. 18, 2012, as a result of an airplane crash in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa ..." said the stoic officer.

Kliffa and Dennis sat devastated. "He spoke without any emotion in his voice; it felt so unreal," Kliffa said.

A Citadel graduate and 8-year Air Force veteran, Ryan died when his special operations aircraft went down returning from an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

America's Gold Star motto is to provide honor, hope and healing to those grieving the loss of their loved one. It isn't just a gold star.

The program sustains our fallen heroes who served in the American military and cares for their survivors through programs and services at no cost to the family members.

Dennis and Kliffa received their Peterson Air Force Gold Star identification cards Nov. 14, 2018.

After applying and being approved, Kliffa joined the American Gold Star Mothers,

Inc. several months after the death of her son. Membership in the organization is open to any woman who has lost a son or daughter in active service in the U.S. military. This is different than America's Gold Star program, yet it still gives the same support needed to grieve.

Both Kliffa and Dennis need and cherish the support both programs provides.

"The program is supporting and giving to others," Kliffa said. "We are involved in supporting our community and we

can support others as a group or on our own. Mothers are able to form friendships with other mothers who have lost children in the military. We form bonds with each other that last a lifetime. I know if I need to talk to someone and feel down, I can always call another Gold Star mother for help."

Dennis's experience with the America's Gold Star program is effective but different from his wife's involvement.

"Sometimes I listen. Sometimes I talk. It all depends on the day," Dennis said.

As he finished the sentence, he started pulling out photos of his son and fingered through them, at first without saying a word. Once he finished, he started to explain from the beginning each photo in great detail about Ryan's passion for life and his country.

He suddenly stopped and his eyes travelled to the window. His wife's eyes followed.



(U.S. photos by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow/Released)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Kliffa Hall wears a customized Gold Star at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, on Nov. 14, 2018, in honor of her son Capt. Ryan Hill who was killed when his aircraft crashed during a mission in Djibouti in 2012. America's Gold Star families honors fallen heroes who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and cares for their survivors through programs and services at no cost to the survivors.

See **Parents' worst nightmare** page 7



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Dennis and Kliffa Hall hold a photo of their late son, Capt. Ryan Hall, at Peterson Air Force Base Colorado, on Nov. 14, 2018. Capt. Hall died on Feb. 18, 2012 when his single-engine U-28 aircraft went down returning from an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.

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Diversity for Creativity: Deliberately Cultivating Innovation

By Lt. Col. James E. Roberts | 6TH SPACE WARNING SQUADRON

CAPE COD AIR FORCE STATION, Mass. — As a squadron commander in today's evolving space enterprise, I am frequently challenged to "push the envelope," "go fast," "think big," and "drive innovation." But how do you balance speed and lofty thoughts while pointing toward innovation? One key: building diverse teams.

Developing creative solutions to emerging problems is exciting business! Cultivating an environment where creative solutions are fostered and groupthink is mitigated takes deliberate work. Those familiar with organizational decision-making processes are likely aware of the groupthink theory. This theory speaks to the potential for poor or limited decisions resulting from conformist members of an often homogenous group. The same pitfall that can hamper the boardroom is just as likely to stall a brainstorming session.

Following a survey Forbes conducted in 2011, they concluded that a diverse and inclusive workforce drives innovation, creativity, and leads to new ideas and out-of-the-box thinking. This is also true in our line of work as Total Force members of the U.S. Air Force. If we aim to effectively devise new ways to counter and defeat a thinking adversary, then we must be deliberate about building teams with diversity

“As we pursue innovation, we must be diligent about seeking creative input from above, below and laterally. I believe there is value in seeking opinions counter to the status quo as we reach for new ways to execute both old and new missions.

of thought and experience.

As we pursue innovation, we must be diligent about seeking creative input from above, below and laterally. I believe there is value in seeking opinions counter to the status quo as we reach for new ways to execute both old and new missions. Those ideas force us to reevaluate the reason we are marching

down our current path. Consider briefly the 2016 movie "Hidden Figures."

At the risk of spoiling the movie, the innovative ideas that propelled our space efforts forward came from bringing in talent from outside the established team. Their contribution to the success of the NASA mission forms the bedrock of where we stand today. While it is not realistic to always achieve consensus, it is possible to give voice to differing ideas while growing an innovative culture. In fact, it is imperative we do so at all levels if we plan to achieve excellence in all we do.

A former commander of mine once commented that everyone joins the Air Force for a reason — often because they have something they can contribute in the service of our great nation. As leaders, it is incumbent upon us to engage those committed to our charge and nurture their contributions. To do less ensures the organization learns less, and we are worse off for it.

To my fellow Total Force Airmen, what contributions are you holding back? Bring forward your ideas — a good idea knows no borders. Now is the time to prepare for the new challenges before us.

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Recycle this newspaper!



Flight leadership course undergoes changes

By Erinn Callahan | 21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Both senior enlisted Airmen and senior officers now have the opportunity to develop their flight leadership skills as part of the 21st Space Wing’s effort to revitalize squadron-level learning.

In August 2016, Gen. David L. Goldfein, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, announced his initiative to revitalize squadrons, calling them “the beating heart of the United States Air Force, our most essential team.”

“Leadership essentially starts when you are a young officer or enlisted, and it starts at the squadron level,” said Capt. Alli Thomas, 21st Operations Support Squadron flight commander, current operations. “That’s where there’s a gap in courses.”

The 21st SW held its first leadership course for flight commanders in May 2018, followed by another in September, Thomas said. Now the wing is using the Flight Commander’s Edge program — developed in November 2018 by Air University’s eSchool of Graduate Professional Military Education — to include lessons that apply to all senior enlisted members and senior officers within the wing.

The classes will be held quarterly in three-day sessions, with a curriculum designed to provide a venue for flight commanders and flight chiefs to learn about and discuss leadership topics.

This includes conflict resolution, followership, ethical leadership, and senior leader discussions – that may help them in their new roles, Thomas said.

Such a course would have come in handy for Thomas when she was selected to fill a flight commander position as a new first lieutenant, she said.

“At the time, I was not aware of any flight-level leadership courses I could take,” Thomas said. “If I could go back, I definitely would have wanted to attend a course like this. I think it’s good to learn from people in different career fields and be able to have those discussions with your peers.”

Col. Todd Moore, 21st SW commander, kicked off the three-day course Feb. 6, 2019, outlining his views on leadership for the roughly 20 students seated in the First Term Airmen’s Center.

“I can communicate all day long in all the goofy, different ways that I need to, but... that doesn’t solve the communication problem,” Moore said. “Sharing information and communicating with your Airmen is really important, but I’d ask you to double down on listening. I need you to be in tune with what’s going on.”

Above all, flight chiefs and flight commanders should



(U.S. Air Force photo by Erinn Callahan)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Col. Todd Moore, 21st Space Wing commander, gives the opening remarks Feb. 6, 2019, during the Flight Leadership Course in the First Term Airmen Center on Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. The Flight Leadership Course was designed to provide a venue for flight commanders and flight chiefs to learn about and discuss leadership topics, such as conflict resolution, followership, ethical leadership, and senior leader discussions.

not let fear of failure hinder their leadership, Moore said.

“Part of you being in this role is so you grow and you can take on greater responsibility,” Moore said. “I want you to lead well. I want you to be intense. I want you to be professionally intimate with the circumstances of your Airmen. I want you to make mistakes, and I want you to learn from them.”

Moore also taught two courses, “Leading Change” and

“Senior Leader Perspective,” along with Chief Master Sgt. Jacob Simmons, 21st SW command chief.

“This is one of his big priorities. It’s been a big push for him,” Thomas said. “I think it’s phenomenal that he’s getting so involved with it.”

The next course is tentatively scheduled for May. Classes have a limit of 25 students, who will be nominated by squadron commanders.

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BASE BRIEFS

PRESIDENT’S DAY HOLIDAY GATE HOURS

Due to the upcoming holiday/Family Day, gate hours will be affected. The North Gate will be closed Feb. 15 — 18. The East Gate will be open normal hours (Friday 5 a.m. — 6 p.m., Saturday, 6 a.m. — 6 p.m., Sunday, 8:30 a.m. — 6 p.m.). On Monday, Feb. 18, the East Gate will be open from 8:30 a.m. — 6 p.m. The west gate will be open 24/7.

PETERSON AFB ANNUAL STORYTELLERS EVENT

Every Airmen has a story, what’s yours? We are currently looking for individuals who would like to share their unique stories of struggle, resiliency and the strength it took to overcome these personal challenges at the Peterson AFB Annual Storytellers Event. Anyone with base access is welcome to audition. If you would like more information on how to be a part of this event contact the POC listed. The submission deadline is Feb. 20, 2019. POC: Staff Sgt. Folarin Akinwale folarin.akinwale.mil@mail.mil and Staff Sgt. Robin Winston robin.l.winston4.mil@mail.mil

FURNITURE SWAP SHAREPOINT

The 21st Space Wing now has a SharePoint page dedicated to the reutilization of government resources. If your organization has excess furniture or equipment, or you are in need of resources, check out this SharePoint. The premise is similar to Facebook Marketplace and other online yard sale sites, only without any exchange of money. Instead of taking items directly to DRMO or a dumpster for disposal, give other agencies an opportunity to reutilize your excess. If your agency is fiscally responsible, check out this site before you order something. The link to the SharePoint is: <https://eis2.afspc.af.mil/sites/21sw/ft/SitePages/Home.asp>

TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISCONTINUED

The Peterson legal office will not be sponsoring a Tax Assistance Program this year. The primary reason for this decision is competing mission requirements (i.e. legal assistance, etc.) and the program’s detraction from mission readiness. Second, the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff’s Aug. 18, 2016, “Reducing Additional Duties” memorandum limits the legal office’s ability to obtain and train volunteers in each squadron. The minimal

number of volunteers over recent years put a significant strain on the legal office. In consideration of the aforementioned factors, the decision was made to discontinue the tax Assistance Program at Peterson AFB. Numerous tax preparation resources are available. Below are some convenient resources available to Airmen and their families:

- Free digital filing for retirees and active duty available through H&R Block. For more information please visit: <http://www.unitedway.org/myfreetaxes/resources/hr-block>
- Free IRS Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free help to those making \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance preparing their own tax returns. In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help to those 60 years of age and older. Trained VITA volunteers are able to address military specific tax issues. To locate a VITA or TCE center near you, please visit: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteer>

THE ART OF PARENTING

Family Life’s “Art of Parenting” course will take place on Wednesday nights from 5:45 — 6:15 p.m. until mid-March. The video-based study gives parents a simple vision and creative ways to lay a solid foundation for their parenting. The course features guidance from more than 20 experts using humor, encouragement, activities, anecdotes and practical advice. For more information, contact the Chapel at 719-556-4442.

WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Weekend to Remember is a marriage getaway designed to equip couples with the tools and resources to make their marriages thrive. Weekend to Remember will be hosted Feb. 15-17 at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Call 1-800-FL-TODAY to register, and use “ColoradoMilitary” as the group name to receive the military discount.

DEPLOYED/FAMILY DINNER

The 21st Space Wing Staff Agency and the African American Heritage Committee will host the monthly deployed/family dinner Feb. 21 from 5 — 7 p.m. at The Chapel. This month’s theme is Mardi Gras. Note: For information on this product, or for additions to the base briefs, please email 21sw.pa@us.af.mil



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For information in the event of a Peterson Air Force Base emergency, contact the Straight Talk line at (719) 556-9154.



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UPCOMING COURSE SCHEDULE

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April 8-12, 2019	Certified Block Chain Professional (C/BP)
April 15-19, 2019	Security +
May 6-10, 2019	Certified Chief Information Security Officer (C/CISO)
May 20-24, 2019	Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)

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SOUTHEAST
EXPRESS

Retired AF female forerunner laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery

By Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor | SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Marcelite Jordan Harris was laid to rest Feb. 7, 2019, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, with full military funeral honors.

During Harris's life and Air Force career, she accomplished multiple crowning achievements. After receiving her commission through Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 1965, she ventured into her first assignment as the assistant director for administration for the 60th Airlift Wing at Travis AFB, California. She then completed a tour in West Germany in 1971 before enrolling in the Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course at Chanute AFB, Illinois. After graduating, she was named aircraft maintenance officer — the first woman to ever hold the title.

"Being a leader, being a mentor is not about how much you can fill your own cup, it's about how much you pour into others and with Major General Harris, our cups run over," said Lt. Gen. Stayce Harris, Inspector General of the Air Force. "She poured so much of herself, personally and professional, into all of us and influenced so many — those she knew and those who knew her from afar."

Through hard work and dedication, Harris continued to pave the way for females and women of color in the military. While she served at assignments in Thailand, California, Washington, D.C., Colorado, Kansas, Japan, Mississippi and Oklahoma, she continued to rise through the ranks. During those assignments, she was appointed as a White House aide during the presidential administrations of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter in 1975, and she was the second female in history to serve as a commanding officer for an Air Force cadet squadron in 1978. In 1988, she became the first female wing commander.

Harris continued to break barriers — on May 1, 1991, she was promoted to brigadier general — making her the first African-American female general in the U.S. Air Force. A mere four years later, on May 25, 1995, she was promoted to major general, and was the first woman to hold this rank in the service.

"Harris was the personification of enduring power...she had the ability to withstand challenges and changes that came with being the first...the first woman, the first forerunner, the pioneer for females in male dominated career fields," said Lt. Col. Ruth Segres, chaplain. "In the midst of opposition and obstacles she exhibited a power, a mental steadfast strength and a fierce fortitude to keep her composure — a credit to her character."

After 32 years of service, Harris retired in 1997 as the highest ranking female in the U.S. Air Force and highest ranking African-American female in the Department of Defense. She continued her legacy of service by aiding as the treasurer of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP and a director on the board of Peachtree Hope Charter School. In 2010, she was given the chance to once again serve with her Air Force family when President Barack Obama appointed her to work as a member of the Board of Visitors for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"My sister was a fighter," said Elizabeth Johnson, Harris's younger sister during the memorial service. "She was forever striving to serve others, and even in retirement she never missed an opportunity to contribute."

Harris passed away Sept. 7, 2018, at Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, on a Caribbean vacation with her companion, retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. David Branch. Though her death was sudden and unexpected, she was surrounded by loved ones.

Parents' worst nightmare

FROM PAGE 1

"There he is ... Ryan ... saying 'hi,'" just as a U-28 aircraft comes in for a landing; the same aircraft that crashed and killed his son.

Holding a black and white picture of his son standing next to a jet training aircraft, dad looked down at his hand where he wears his son's Citadel [Military School of South Carolina] class ring in line with his own wedding band.

"I wear this ring to have a piece of him close," dad said with watery eyes. "Ever since he was a middle-schooler, he wanted to join the military like me, but he wanted a separate identity from the 'old man.'"

Mom and dad will be moving back to Colorado Springs soon and their involvement with the Gold Star program will be even greater.

"Not only will I be able to give to the

community, but the community will also give back to me," mom said. "Knowing that Ryan gave his life makes me want to give of myself even more and more."

Many in today's world might ask why a young man with Ryan's talent and ambition would embark on a life of service.

"The answer is simple," Dennis said. "Ryan gave his life out of love. He loved his Lord, he loved his family and he loved his country. America has lost one of its best and brightest, a true American."

For more information on America's Gold Star families program or the National Gold Star Mothers Inc., visit them on the web at www.americasgoldstarfamilies.org or www.goldstarmoms.com; or contact the Peterson AFB Community Readiness Consultant, Rhonda Sargent, at 719-556-6141.

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TRANSITION SPOTLIGHT



Mt. Carmel is proud to celebrate Veteran and client Thomas Buettner! Thomas marked his career transition from the Army in January and now starts his dream job in emergency services at a regional hospital.

"I knew military service was a temporary part of my life and I've been actively preparing to transition for years," said Thomas. "I completed college, earned relevant certifications, developed a network, and wrote civilian resumes early on — and all of that came into play."

In early January, Thomas interviewed for a variety of opportunities and

signed up for Prep Connect 360, an advanced jobseeker course for veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses conducted in partnership with Mt. Carmel and The Pikes Peak Workforce Center.

"That was an amazing course, and it made me wish I had visited Mt. Carmel six-months earlier. A good resume may get you an interview; but to land a job you need to nail the interview. The training related to behavioral interview questions was invaluable. The course gave me confidence to effectively prepare for, and crush, any future interview," said Thomas. "And the Workforce Center was incredible — I actually visited them again to discuss additional opportunities and assistance they offer; they provide a great service to veterans."

As Thomas begins his next chapter, he is reflective about his career transition, "I'm ready and excited for this new opportunity in our community; I'm also thankful for the support and advice from members of my personal and professional network who have helped me to reach this point."

EVENTS CALENDAR

Feb 16: PTS/Trauma relief-focus Tai-Chi, 10-11 am
Feb 18: Vocational Rehab & Employment Counselor (Dept of VA), 8 am-3 pm
Feb 18: Spiritual Coverage, meet with a chaplain, 10 am-2 pm
Feb 18: Parenting from the Tree of Life Parenting Class, 6-9 pm
Feb 19: Spiritual Connection Group - non-denominational discussion of spirituality, noon-4 pm
Feb 19: Veteran-X PTS-focused group, 4:30-6:30 pm
Feb 19: Yoga, PTS/trauma relief-focus, 5-6 pm
Feb 20: LoanDepot — Learn about your VA Home Loan Benefits, 9 am-1 pm
Feb 20: Warriors First, support group for justice-involved veterans, 4-5 pm

Feb 20: Art Therapy promoting stress relief and self-healing, 5-7 pm
Feb 20 & Feb 21: AARP Free Tax Preparation for ALL, 11 am-3:30 pm, by appointment: 772-7000
Feb 21: PTSD Support Group, 10-11 am
Feb 21: Brown Bag & Bible Study, 1-2:30 pm
Feb 21: El Paso County Dept of Human Services, 8 am-Noon
Feb 21-Apr 18: Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University, Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, pre-pay \$25/pre-register: 719-772-7000
Feb 22: Life Coach, by appointment only, 719-772-7000, 9 am-2 pm
Feb 22: Break the Silence Against Domestic Violence Grand Opening — join and meet our new partner, 5-9:30 pm

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Milstar program reaches 25 year milestone

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Coleman-Foster | 50TH SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Milstar formerly known as the Military Strategic and Tactical Relay, launched February 7, 1994, has reached 25 years’ of service.

Milstar is responsible for providing the President, Secretary of Defense and the U.S. armed forces with reliable satellite communications, ensuring minimal interception or detection.

Designed to overcome enemy jamming and nuclear effects, Milstar is a robust and reliable communication system.

Throughout the twenty-five years it has been in place, the Milstar program has seen a lot of changes.

John Rogers, military satellite communications programs site manager, said it is remarkable Milstar is still serving the warfighter.

“From a 4th Space Operations Squadron perspective, we are amazed at the longevity of this satellite,” Rogers said. “Milstar had a design life of ten years, the satellite has lasted two and a half times its design life - a truly impressive accomplishment.”

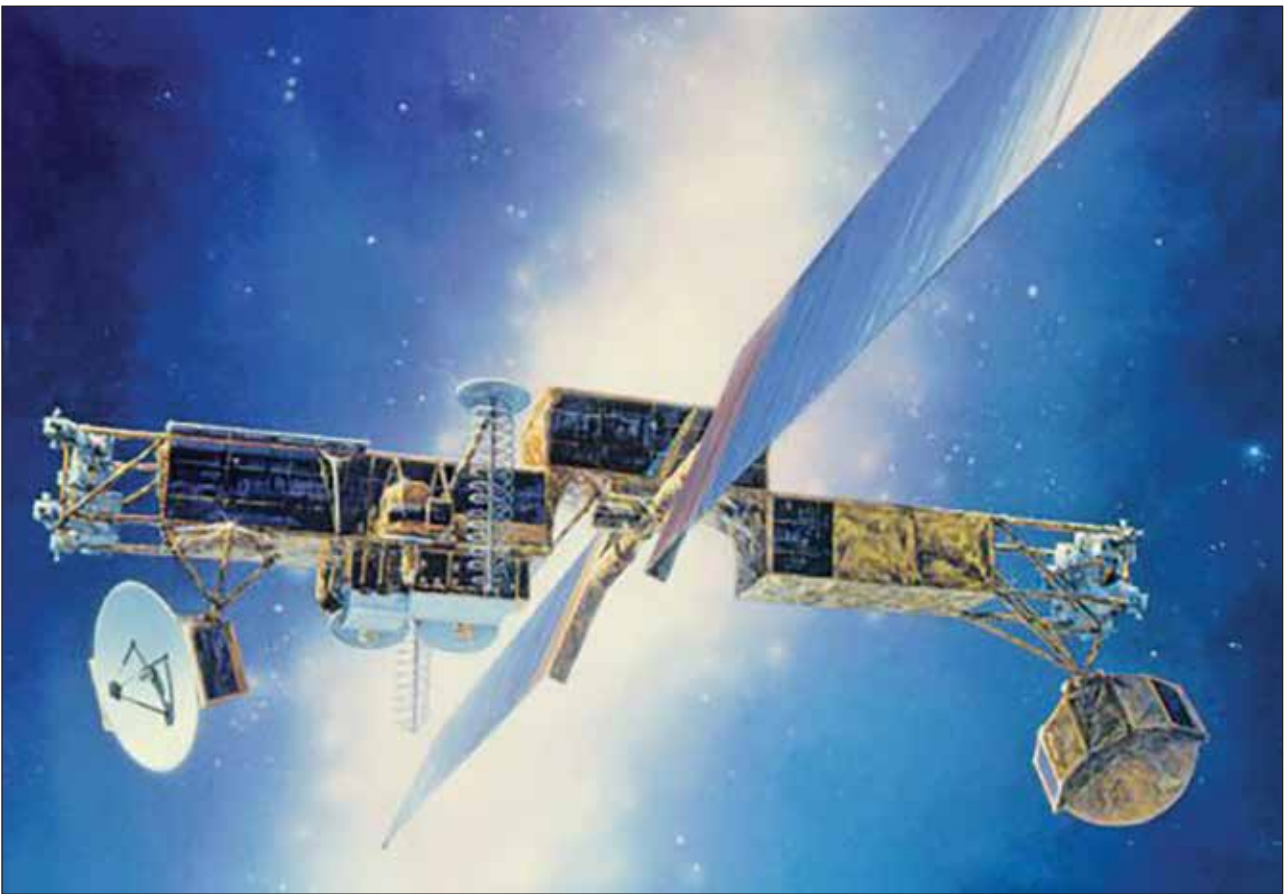
He went on to add that 4th SOPS is not only proud of the designers and builders of the satellite, but also of the men and women in 4th SOPS who have operated and sustained the satellite.

“This milestone speaks to the ingenuity and resiliency of AFSPC and the AF as a whole,” said 2nd Lt. Joseph Craig, 4th SOPS wideband global satellite communications engineering officer. “The ability to extend the life of any program by over a decade shows how well-managed resources can be in AFSPC and the wider AF.”

According to Rogers, the program has seen some changes in its many years.

“After the Cold War ended, the military restructured the Milstar program in 1992, removing some of the capabilities which were no longer needed and adding new capabilities that would be needed in the post-Cold War environment,” he said. “Milstar Flights three, four, five and six are all Block II Milstar satellites which incorporate these changes. The follow-on program to Milstar, the Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellite program, leveraged Milstar capabilities, lessons learned and incorporated newer technology to provide the warfighters even more capabilities.”

Today, the Milstar and AEHF programs work together as a single entity. Through the years, 4th SOPS has streamlined



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Milstar operations, adding automation and enhanced ground system capabilities.

In spite of this, the program has persevered thanks to the durability of the system and the diligence of the personnel who man it.

Second Lt. Andrew Sweeten, 4th SOPS orbital analyst, said Milsatcom capabilities continue to grow and strengthen. Most of the Milstar satellites have a lot of life left in them, but the AEHF is the new program to supplement Milstar.

“All Milstar vehicles have long since launched, but the successor to the program, AEHF, still has a few upcoming launches,” he said. “The fourth satellite of this new family recently launched Oct. 16, 2018. The fifth vehicle is tentatively scheduled to launch June 27, 2019, with the sixth launching within the following year.”

Milstar successfully helps executes today's operations around the world with 4th SOPS working communication satellites, Milstar is key to directly supporting the warfighter.



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DISH features recipes from local chefs on how to impress a date by cooking at home for Valentine's Day or any day!

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(U.S. Air Force photo by Joshua Armstrong)
Cadet 2nd Class Eric Hembling uses a Ludwig Tube to measure the pressure, temperature and flow field of various basic geometric and hypersonic research vehicles at Mach 6 in the U.S. Air Force Academy's Department of Aeronautics, Jan. 31, 2019.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ashley Maldonado)
U.S. Air Force Senior Airman James Terry, 20th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) military working dog (MWD) handler, and Tank, 20th SFS MWD, relax after practicing basic obedience commands at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, Feb. 4, 2019. The K-9 Unit's mission is to protect personnel and property as well as support the United States secret service and local agencies.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matthew Plew)
An F-15E Strike Eagle painted in the heritage colors of its P-47 Thunderbolt predecessor takes off from RAF Lakenheath, England, Feb. 6. The 48th Fighter Wing officially unveiled the aircraft publicly during a ceremony Jan. 31.



(Courtesy photo by Candice Lassey)
Refugees from Tutapona, an organization that provides trauma rehabilitation, participate in a community discussion in Adjumani, Uganda. Capt. Benjamin Quintanilla, a 28th Bomb Wing chaplain, visited Adjumani to work alongside Tutapona in January 2019.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James Richardson)
A KC-135 Stratotanker from the 506th Expeditionary Aerial Refueling Squadron is de-iced before a refueling mission at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, Feb. 5, 2019. The Stratotankers refueled a B-52 Stratofortress bomber from the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron which is currently deployed from Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, in support of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's Continuous Bomber Presence operations. This recent mission is consistent with international law and United States' long-standing commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Air Force week in photos



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Joshua Maund)
Airmen from the 15th Airlift Squadron board a C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., Jan. 10, 2019. JB Charleston is home to the largest fleet of C-17s in the world.

24th AF leaders visit cyber operations at Peterson

Photos by Robb Lingley | 21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Chief Master Sgt. David Klink, 24th Air Force command chief, coins a 21st Communications Squadron Airman during a visit to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Feb. 8, 2019. The 21st CS completes cyber orders from 24th AF, ensuring unit compliance with the latest patch releases and software updates.

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PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Maj. Gen. Robert Skinner, 24th Air Force commander (center), and Chief Master Sgt. David Kirk 24th Air Force command master chief (center left), stand with 21st Communications Squadron Network Control Center members at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Feb. 8, 2019. The NNC maintains the Peterson AFB network to ensure it runs properly.



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — David Hluska, 21st Communications Squadron director, greets Maj. Gen. Robert Skinner, 24th Air Force commander, at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Feb. 8, 2019. The numbered Air Force is responsible for providing Air Force component and combatant commanders with trained and ready cyber forces, which plan, direct and execute global cyberspace operations.



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Maj. Gen. Robert Skinner, 24th Air Force commander, talks with 21st Communications Squadron cyber warfare officers at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Feb. 8, 2019. Skinner and Chief Master Sgt. David Klink, 24th AF command chief, visited the squadron to meet and recognize Airmen for their mission accomplishments.



(U.S. Air Force photos by Robb Lingley)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Chief Master Sgt. David Klink, 24th Air Force command chief, talks with 21st Communications Squadron cyber warfare operators at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, Feb. 8, 2019. Klink and Maj. Gen. Robert Skinner, 24th Air Force commander, visited the squadron to meet and recognize Airmen for their mission accomplishments.



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A Gold



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Dennis and Kliffa Hall hold a photo of their late son, Capt. Ryan Hall, at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, on Nov. 14, 2018. Capt. Hall died on February 18, 2012 when his single-engine U-28 aircraft went down returning from an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Dennis and Kliffa Hall wear matching Killed-In-Action bracelets with their son's name engraved on them at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, on Nov. 14, 2018. Their son, Capt. Ryan Hill, was killed when his aircraft went down after a mission in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.



(U.S. photos by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow/Released)
PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Dennis Hall, father of Capt. Ryan Hall, flips through old photographs of his son during his military career at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, on Nov. 14, 2018. Capt. Hall died on February 18, 2012 when his single-engine U-28 aircraft went down returning from an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Dennis Hall sits as he gets his photo taken for his Gold Star family ID on Nov. 14, 2018 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. America's Gold Star families honor fallen heroes who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and cares for their survivors through programs and services at no cost to the survivors.



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Kliffa Hall sits as she gets her photo taken for her Gold Star family ID on Nov. 14, 2018 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. America's Gold Star families honor fallen heroes who served in the U.S. Armed Forces and cares for their survivors through programs and services at no cost to the survivors.

Gold Star life



on it, at Peterson Air
outi in 2002.



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Dennis Hall wears his son's Air Force graduation ring with his own wedding ring to always have his son close to him. On Nov. 14, 2018 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, he talks about his son, Capt. Ryan Hall who died on February 18, 2012 when his single-engine U-28 aircraft went down returning from an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Dennis and Kliffa Hall showcase Capt. Ryan Hill's items from his college days from the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the Citadel, Military School of South Carolina on Nov. 14, 2018 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. Dennis and Kliffa became Gold Star Family members on Feb. 18, 2012 when their son died during a mission in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.

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Services improve interoperability through common data standards

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — All three military service secretaries signed a memorandum requiring common standards of information-sharing across domains in future weapons systems.

“This is vital to our success,” said Secretary of the Army Mark Esper. “After reviewing the capabilities of common standards, we have collectively determined that continued implementation, and further development of modular open systems approaches are necessary to keep our competitive advantage.”

Older weapon systems were not developed with common interface standards, making interoperability more challenging.

For the past several years, each of the services has developed, demonstrated and validated common data standards through a cooperative partnership with industry and academia. These validated, shared standards enable a Modular Open Systems Approach, (MOSA), which are best practices to make systems as open and standardized as possible to make it easier for machines to talk to other machines.

The Air Force is already pursuing it with platforms such as its next-generation bomber, the B-21 Raider, while the Army is using these principles to modernize its ability to communicate among its maneuver units. Likewise, the Navy has seen great benefits to its submarine

force by employing such approaches.

When these practices are followed, defense contractors can build systems that are interoperable across services and industry. Proven benefits of MOSA include reductions of up to 80 percent in schedule and up to 70 percent in costs.

“The ability for our systems and forces to exchange information and communicate effectively gives our warfighters the best capabilities to deliver the fight tonight,” said Secretary of the Navy, Richard V. Spencer. “This reform will make us a highly integrated and more lethal fighting force.”

The joint memorandum directs each service acquisition executive to publish specific implementation guidance for acquisition programs and continue to identify gaps and develop new standards when needed. The memorandum also directs that requirements and programming functions will ensure a modular open systems approach is reflected in our requirements and programs to ensure future weapon systems can communicate and share across domains.

“Victory in future conflict will in part be determined by our ability to rapidly share information across domains and platforms,” said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. “Sharing information from machine to machine requires common standards.”

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Erik Wallace heads up the Springs branch of the University of Colorado Medical School. Learn about how he approaches leadership — from his first role as president of his medical school class to leading an entire campus of future doctors. Find out about the new campus and what the future looks like for him and the campus.



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Following 35 years in business, Pam Keller, CEO of Keller Homes, said there are some lessons learned that have gotten the company this far: Ask questions, build a team that puts integrity above all else, and remember that creating community is more than merely constructing a home.



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YEAR OF THE DEFENDER

‘Trial by Flag’ for new F-35A pilots



(U.S. Air Force photo by R. Nial Bradshaw)
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — F-35A Lightning II pilots huddle on the flight line after a mission during exercise Red Flag 19-1, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. This is the 388th Fighter Wing’s second Red Flag with the F-35A, America’s most advanced multi-role fighter, which brings game-changing stealth, lethality and interoperability to the modern battlefield. Red Flag is the Air Force’s premier combat exercise and includes units from across the Air Force and allied nations.

388TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFNS) — The desert screams by below. The clouds scream by above. Both stretch on into the horizon. It’s deceptively calm in the cockpit. There’s a constant, seemingly discordant stream of chatter coming through his helmet. The digital screens in front of him, along with images projected onto his visor, provide enough information to save lives and take a few as well. In the sky ahead are more than 60 advanced enemy aircraft, flown by some of the best fighter pilots in the world. They are hunting—looking to kill him and his wingmen. He just graduated pilot training. Welcome to Red Flag.

“I haven’t been flying that long. There are things that stand out in my career. My first solo flight, my first F-35 flight and my first Red Flag mission. I don’t think I’ll ever forget those things,” said 1st Lt. Landon Moores, a 388th Fighter Wing, 4th Fighter Squadron, F-35A Lightning II pilot.

Moores is one of a handful of young F-35A pilots who recently graduated their initial training and are currently deployed to Nellis Air Force Base as part of exercise Red-Flag 19-1. Now they are being battle-tested.

“Going from F-35 training a little over a month ago to a large force exercise with dozens of aircraft in the sky is pretty crazy,” Moores said. “For the initial part of the first mission, I was just kind of sitting there listening. I was nervous. I was excited. Then the training kicked in.”

Red Flag is the Air Force’s premier combat training exercise where units from across the Department of Defense join with allied nations in a “blue force” to combat a “red force” in a variety of challenging scenarios over three weeks.

“For us, the biggest difference between this Red Flag and our first with the F-35A two years ago is that we have a lot of pilots on their first assignment,” said Lt. Col. Yosef Morris, 4th FS commander. “Putting them alongside more experienced wingmen is what Red Flag was designed for.”

Combat training has changed dramatically over the years, Morris said.

“When I was a young pilot in the F-16, I had a couple of responsibilities in the cockpit. One, don’t lose sight of my flight lead. Two, keep track of a bunch of green blips on a small screen in front of me, and correlate the blips to what someone is telling me on the radio,” Morris said. “Now, we’re flying miles apart and interpreting and sharing information the jets gather, building a threat and target picture. We’re asking way more of young wingmen, but we’re able to do that because of their training and the capabilities of the jet.”

Capt. James Rosenau flew the A-10 in four previous Red Flags, but he’s brand new to flying the F-35. He graduated from the transition course in December 2018.

“I loved the A-10 and its mission. It’s like a flying tank. Like Chewbacca with chainsaw arms. A very raw flying experience,” Rosenau said. “Obviously the F-35 is completely different. It’s more like a precision tool. After seeing the F-35 go up against the near-peer threats replicated here at Nellis (AFB), I’m a big believer.”

The two aircraft are similar in one way. They do very specific things other aircraft aren’t asked to do.

“In the A-10, I liked being the guy who was called upon to directly support troops on the ground. To bring that fight

to the enemy,” Rosenau said. “Now I like being the guy who can support legacy fighters when they may be struggling to get into a target area because of the threat level. We have more freedom to operate. We have this big radar that can sniff out threats. We can gather all of that and pass it along or potentially take out those threats ourselves.”

The threat level is high at Red Flag. From the skill and size of the aggressor forces in the air to the complexity and diversity of the surface to air threats, there is a real sense of the ‘fog and friction’ of war. The adversary force also uses space and cyber warfare to take out or limit technology that modern warfighters rely on. Cutting through the clutter is a strength of the F-35A.

“One of the jet’s greatest assets is to see things that others can’t, take all the information it’s gathering from the sensors and present them to the pilot,” Moores said. “One of our biggest jobs is learning how to process and prioritize that. For the more experienced pilots it seems like it is second nature. ... If we don’t, it’s not like we’re getting killed (in the F-35), but we could be doing more killing.”

The pilots say seeing the F-35A’s capabilities being put to use as part of a larger force has been invaluable.

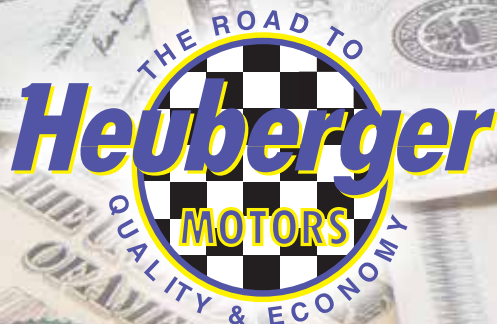
“When we mission plan with other units, it’s not always about kicking down the door,” Rosenau said. “It may be about looking at what the enemy is presenting and ‘thinking skinny.’ With the F-35, we can think through a mission and choose how we want to attack it to make everyone more survivable.”



NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — Pilots from the 388th Fighter Wing’s 4th Fighter Squadron prepare for launch at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Jan. 31, 2019. Pilots and maintainers from the 388th Fighter Wing’s 4th Fighter Squadron and 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit are participating in Red Flag 19-1 at Nellis AFB. This is the wing’s second Red Flag with the F-35A, America’s most advanced multi-role fighter, which brings game-changing stealth, lethality and interoperability to the modern battlefield. Red Flag is the Air Force’s premier combat exercise and includes units from across the Air Force and allied nations.

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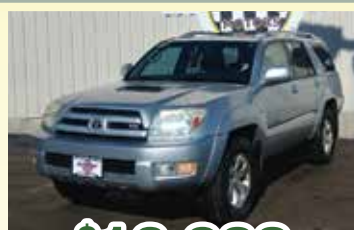
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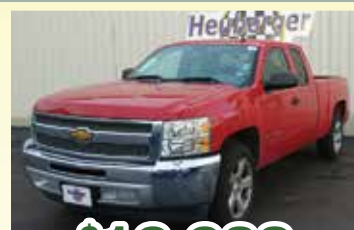
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ART EXHIBITS

Academy Art and Frame Company, 7560 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academyframe@gmail.com, academyframesco.com. *Anything Goes!* Annual Peak Digital Imaging Society Exhibit, an open-themed show of works by this digital art and photography club in the Pikes Peak region. The group offers an opportunity for professional and amateur digital artists to get feedback on current works and to stay in the loop with the digital world. Through Feb. 28. Third Friday reception, Feb. 15, 4-8 p.m. Light refreshments provided.

Blo Back Gallery, 131 Spring St., Pueblo, 970/749-1211, Blobackgallery@gmail.com, blobackgallery.com. *Three Six Five*: Photography by Kevin Malella, featuring one photograph for every day of the year. Part of the proceeds will go to the Southern Colorado Spay and Neuter Clinic. Through Feb. 25. Closing reception, Feb. 22.

Boulder Street Gallery Artists, 206 N. Tejon St., 636-9358, boulderstgallery@gmail.com, boulderstreetgallery.com. February Featured Artists, featuring watercolorist Marsha Markwalder and landscape/cityscape artist Don Van Horn, with guest artist, June Heimsoth. Through Feb. 28.

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., 269-7055, thebridgegallery@gmail.com, thebridgeartgallery.com. Jean Gumper and Jeanne Steiner, showcasing two local artists whose works are represented in national and international art collections. Steiner, a weaver, creates two- and three-dimensional art. Gumper creates reduction woodcut prints. Through Feb. 23.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, fac@coloradocollege.edu, csfineartscenter.org. *Amos Kennedy and The Press*, the work of this Detroit-based letterpress printer, as well as zines and other prints made by his students at The Press at Colorado College. Through April 7. Rob Watt, showcasing his unique embroidery. Through March 31. *Scenes from Life: Drawings by Bernard Arnest*, a series of 51 large drawings that encapsulated this artist’s reactions to a world that he decided was essentially tragic. Through June 2.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, marketing@commonwheel.com, commonwheel.com. *Water in the High Desert*, a juried show of water-related art ranging from photography, sculpture, paintings, jewelry and fiber, and representing different styles of work and different types of water. Through Feb. 25.

COPPeR (Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region), 121 S. Tejon St., #111, 634-2204, info@culturaloffice.org, peakradar.com. *LIMINALITY*: Works by Claire Swinford, 2015-2018, a solo show of artwork by this local artist. These works are united by their exploration of the concept of “liminality,” defined as a transitional period when an idea or identity is in flux. Through March 29.

Coquette’s Bistro and Bakery, 616 S. Tejon St., 520-1899, liaison@cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com, coquettesbistro.com. *Art of Gary Snyder*, a Colorado based artist who works in oils and acrylics, depicting animals, landscapes and cityscapes in a charming and haunting impressionist style. Through April 2.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, liaison@cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Home*, a display of photographs by Frances Huntington depicting life after Hurricane Michael in Apalachicola, Florida. Through March 5. *Word Art: Art Inspired by Text*, a juried show comprised of artists of all mediums, coming from within Cottonwood and from across the region, presenting best depictions of visual art inspired and based around depictions of words and text. Through Feb. 26.

Downtown Studio Gallery at Pikes Peak Community College, 100 W. Pikes Peak Ave., 502-4040, ppcc.edu. *Fauna & Mosaics*, featuring the work of Pueblo artist Radeaux, who takes the beautiful natural world and mimics its patterns in his paintings; and David Caricato and his Trompe L’oeil sculptures. Through March 10.

El Pueblo History Museum, 301 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/583-0453, zach.werkowitch@state.co.us, historycolorado.org. *Without Borders: Art Sin Fronteras*, a display of work of artists from southern Colorado, northern New Mexico and beyond in a variety of mediums which explore the concept of borderlands and what homelands are today. Through March 1.

G44 Gallery, 1785 S. Eighth St., Suite A, 720/951-0573, galleryg44.com. Carol Dickerson, displaying her recent artwork: images that are beautiful or compelling without reference to real objects, using layers of opaque and transparent acrylic paints with other mediums. Through Feb. 16.

Gallery 113, 125 1/2 N. Tejon St., 634-5299, karenstandridge2001@yahoo.com, gallery113cos.com. February Featured Artists, showcasing the artwork of Gayle Gross as well as new member artists Irv Middlemist, Denise Nelson and Justin Spurlin. Through Feb. 28.

The Gallery Below, 718B N. Weber St., 347/961-4789, jonb@thegallerybelow.com, facebook.com/thegallerybelow. *Black Art Matters*, a collaboration with Colorado Black Voices Matter Open Mic for Black History month. Celebrate black excellence, not only on the mic, but through the space and art itself. Through Feb. 28.

GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3232, gallery@uccs.edu, uccspresents.org. *Gadzook!* An exhibit honoring the centuries-old practice of letterpress printing, which has been invigorated by regional, national and international artists. Exhibition includes a collaboration with The Press at Colorado College, artist talks and workshops. Through March 2.

The Holly Leaf, 2522 W. Colorado Ave., 439-9800, karenriverahats@gmail.com, facebook.com/KarenRiveraHats. *Rocky Mountain Romance*, a frothy and glittery collection of adorable tiny hats and Steampunk goggles. Through Feb. 28.

Kreuser Gallery, 125 E. Boulder St., 464-5880, kreusergallery@gmail.com, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Gratitude*, an exhibit celebrating Kreuser Gallery’s new location, featuring the work of more than 100 local artists. Through Feb. 22. Soft opening, Jan. 31, 6-8 p.m., music by Joseph Liberti and Jason Crowe.

The Machine Shop, 4 S. Wahsatch Ave., #120, 359-6966, work@jointhemachine.com, jointhemachine.com. *Recall*: An Art Installation By Su Kaiden Cho, delving into issues of ethnic liminality by means of quality of ambiguity or disorientation of identity. Through Feb. 22.

Manitou Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, manitouartcenter.org. *1st Amendment Gallery*, including works that promote free speech through artistic expression. Ongoing.

Pikes Perk Coffee & Tea House, 5965 N. Academy Blvd., 522-1432. *Hedy & Reveille*, an exhibit of the artwork Hedy DuCharme and Reveille Kennedy. Through Feb. 28.

Plaza of the Rockies, 121 S. Tejon St., 520-1899, liaison@cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com, norwoodinteractive.com/plaza. *The Art of Al B Johnson*, displaying the work of this latter-day expressionist. Working with heavy texture and bold composition, his work historically has been object-oriented. Through April 2.

Pueblo West Library, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd., Pueblo, 562-5660, moremoart@gmail.com, pueblolibrary.org. *Sit. Stay. Read.*, an exhibit with a variety of scenes: western, vintage, beach, street, animals, still life and landscapes. Through Feb. 26. *Just Animals*, an art show of animal-themed works, presented in Vectra Gallery. Through March 31.

Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, mail@sdc-arts.org, sdc-arts.org. *The Color of Light*, a National Pastel Exhibition, featuring original pastel paintings from Pikes Peak Pastel Society members and pastel artists nationally. Through May 5.

Steel City Art Works, 216 S. Union Ave., Pueblo, 542-6838, steelcityartworks@gmail.com, steelcityartworks.com. *Steel My Heart*, featuring welders and sculptors Tom Ossner and Aaron Williams. All artists will provide a variety of small but unique Valentine’s Day gifts as well. Through Feb. 28.

Tap Traders, 3104 N. Nevada Ave., #100, 434-2954, taptraders@gmail.com, facebook.com/taptraders. *Textiles As Art*, featuring artists Rhonda Denney, Laura Reilly, Tracy Cook Wein and Sharon Stephenson. Through March 30.

The Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo@gmail.com, themodbo.com. *Birthday Suit*, a whimsical, vibrant, retro-kitsch show of artist Kelly Gilleran’s latest work. “You’ve never seen sexier cake than the cake in this show, believe us.” Through Feb. 22.

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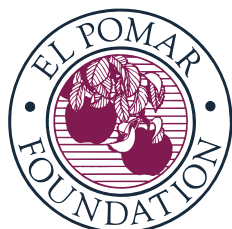
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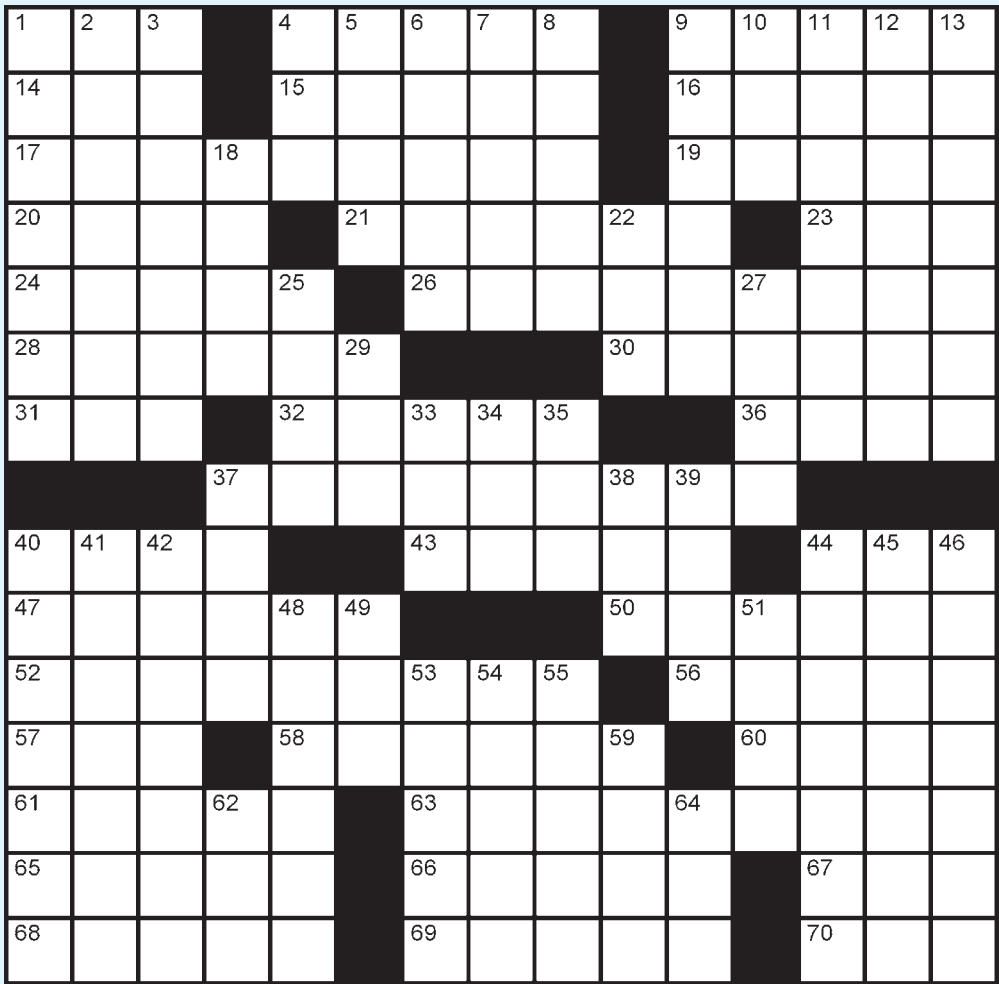


The person pictured is not an actual service member

SOUND ADVICE

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

by Kevin Christian



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

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ACROSS

- 24-hr. cash source
- Baghdad resident
- Zero-calorie drink
- Mauna ____
- "The Stranger" author Albert
- Rub out
- Place for a thermos
- Elevates
- Eight: Prefix
- Viking serf
- To and ____
- Puppy
- Zest source
- "Party in the back" hairstyle
- Small beard
- Short albums, briefly
- ____ apso
- Fermentation vessels
- Unsolicited manuscripts
- Ruler division
- Journalist Couric
- Uber alternative
- Eastern philosophy
- Chant
- Viewpoint sampling
- Domesticated
- All you can ____
- Consents
- Grumpy Cat, e.g.
- Startle
- Fair play's opposite
- Egyptian peninsula
- Lettuce concern
- Mono- relative
- Irish poet W. B.
- Synthetic silk
- Earl Grey, for one

DOWN

- "I'll do that for you"
- Cosmetic adjustment
- Fireplace decor spots
- "____ bin ein Berliner"
- Spellbound
- Menotti boy (anagram of "Mahal")
- Part of a ream
- Major religion in Baghdad
- "I don't think so"
- TV journalist Melber
- Wedding dress material
- Springsteen's ____ Band
- Does a cobbling job
- Beckon
- Fireplace input
- College grant name
- Lay down tar
- Wed. neighbor
- Query
- Rock's ____ Na Na
- Appropriate
- Actor LaBeouf
- Number across from IX
- Time of penance
- "No problem!"
- Actress Portman
- Microsoft virtual assistant
- Say "I'm gay," say
- Sea ____ (jellyfish relative)
- Amelia of kiddie lit
- Turbaned mystics
- Fuel efficiency fig.
- Pack (down)
- Neatness
- German camera brand
- "Bad, Bad ____ Brown"
- Normandy town
- Pied Piper follower
- Yang's counterpart

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Land

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Condo

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