

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

# SPACE OBSERVER

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE



## Shoot House relocation effort

(U.S. Air Force photo by Cameron Hunt)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Isaac Lopez, 21st Security Forces Squadron unit trainer supervisor at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, instructs 1st Lt. Jake Morgan, 759th Military Police Battalion, police officer at Fort Carson, Colorado, on the VirTra simulated live-firing training course, March 07, 2019. The simulator can generate anything from urban hostage situations to desert search and reconnaissance scenarios to sharpen their skills.

**By Cameron Hunt** | 21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The shoot house is a 21st Security Forces Squadron training center for Peterson Air Force Base law enforcement personnel. This facility is used by 21st SFS Airmen and civilian law enforcement personnel to train and hone their skills as law enforcement professionals.

The shoot house was created reutilizing the old Peterson AFB Military Exchange building after it was shut down. The demolition of the current shoot house was planned to make room for a new lodging complex in 2020.

The shoot house demolition will impact the training capabilities of the 21st SFS. Airmen from the 21st SFS, 50th Security Forces Squadron, Schriever Air Force Base, Fort Carson Military Police and Colorado Springs Police Department are just some of the agencies that have benefitted from the facility for over the past five and a half years, said Isaac Lopez, 21st SFS unit trainer.

Air Force Instruction 36-2646 dictates that all SFS Airmen train to keep their law enforcement skills sharp and current, from active shooter scenarios to basic target qualifications.

See **Shoot House** page 3

## United States Space Command Commander Nominated

**By Defense.gov** | AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The President has nominated to the Senate Gen John W. "Jay" Raymond as the Commander, United States Space Command (USSPACECOM).

If confirmed, Raymond will lead the soon-to-be established USSPACECOM, which will focus on conducting all joint space warfighting operations, and ensuring the combat readiness of global forces.

Establishing USSPACECOM is a critical step that underscores the importance of the space domain and its strategic contributions to U.S. na-

tional security. The USSPACECOM establishment will accelerate our space capabilities to address the rapidly evolving threats to U.S. space systems, and the importance of deterring potential adversaries from putting critical U.S. space systems at risk.

If confirmed, and upon establishment of USSPACECOM, Raymond will remain dual-hatted as Commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, CO.

Further information on the establishment of USSPACECOM will be provided when an establishment date has been determined.



(U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Official portrait of Air Force Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond, for his position as commander, Air Force Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, taken Oct. 14, 2016.

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# 21ST SPACE WING

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

# Air Force Assistance Fund Program

By Senior Master Sgt. Kelli Jackson | 21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The 2019 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicked off during a breakfast at The Club at Peterson Air Force Base, Mar. 22, 2019. More than 100 leaders and unit representatives gathered to bring awareness to the AFAF mission.

The AFAF was established as an annual effort to raise funds among Air Force personnel for charitable affiliates that provide support to active duty personnel, retirees, reservists, guardsmen, dependents and surviving spouses in need.

The campaign will run from March 25 - May 3. In 2018, Peterson's Air Force Aid Society dispersed \$117,888 in emergency loans and grants, \$18,440 in community programs and \$22,500 in education grants and loans. The installation's 2019 goal is to meet or exceed \$72,315.

Unit representatives will be required to contact 100 percent of military personnel at Peterson AFB and Thule Air Base. This will bring awareness to the AFAF program and ensure everyone is afforded the opportunity to donate.

Contributions will support the Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation, Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation, and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

For Air Force Assistance Fund information, visit <http://www.afassistancefund.org>. There you will find information about all of the affiliate charities, videos, assistance stories and frequently asked questions.

### See below for a listing of unit contacts:

- **Installation Project Officers**  
Senior Master Sgt. Kelli Jackson , 2d Lt. Brooke Parker, Master Sgt. Tyler Harding
- **Wing Staff Agency**  
2nd Lt. Jason Pluger, Staff Sgt. Emily Kenney, Senior Airman Kennedy Smalls, Senior Airman Devon Johnson, Tech. Sgt. James Moss
- **HQ AFSPC/Building 1**  
Mr. Michael Walsh  
Master Sgt. Trevor Smart
- **21st Mission Support Group UPOs**  
Master Sgt. Tamara Towns, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Adkinson  
21st Communication Squadron – Master Sgt. Tyler Harding  
21st Contracting Squadron – Staff Sgt. Alexander Lytie, Staff Sgt. Jozlyn Brewton  
21st Contracting/Detachment 1 – Maj. Jamie Porchia, Master Sgt. Matthew Durbin  
21st Security Forces Squadron – Tech. Sgt. Dea Metrice McCrannery, Staff Sgt. Christopher Whelehan, Airman 1st Class Catlyn Slater, Senior Airman Tiwana Carpenter, Senior Airman Kerigan Jenkins  
21st Logistics Readiness Squadron – Master Sgt. Tamara Towns  
21st Force Support Squadron – Senior Airman Alandria Wilcox, Senior Airman Ashley Hale, Senior Airman Nichole Chatar, Senior Airman David Scott  
21st Civil Engineering Squadron – Master Sgt. Yaacov Mosly , Tech. Sgt. Joseph

Culp, Tech. Sgt. Seth Mosley, Staff Sgt. Adam Mabie, Staff Sgt. Ryan Prince

- **721st Mission Support Group**  
721st Civil Engineering Squadron – Staff Sgt. Taner Masters  
721st Security Forces Squadron – Senior Airman Scott Smith  
721st Communication Squadron – Staff Sgt. Ryan Even, Tech. Sgt. Paul Yhonquea
- **21st Operations Group UPOs**  
2d Lt Roberto Molina, 2nd Lt Peyton Milligan  
16th Space Control Squadron – Staff Sgt. Conner-Pike, Airman 1st Class Demers  
12th Space Warning Squadron – Tech. Sgt. Devin Lucas, Tech. Sgt. Patrick Painter  
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13th Space Warning Squadron – Staff Sgt. Jared Williams, Staff Sgt. Scott Travers  
21st Operations Support Squadron – Master Sgt. Jeanie Rodriguez, Staff Sgt. Phonkamon Gehres, Staff Sgt. Scottlon Somerville  
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- **21st Medical Group UPOs**  
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21st Dental Squadron – Airman 1st Class Ashlee Griffin, Airman Shayla Hickson  
21st Medical Support Squadron – Ms. Kira Waller, Airman 1st Class Christopher Fonseca
- **21st Aerospace Medicine Squadron**  
Tech. Sgt. Jared Thomas, Tech. Sgt. Jamarl Hampton, Tech. Sgt. Dwain Tolbert  
21st Medical Operations Squadron – • Senior Airman Jesus Parra
- **821st Air Base Group**  
Staff Sgt. Frank Joseph, Staff Sgt. Christopher Lanier
- **National Security Space Institute**  
Mr. George Carrington, Tech. Sgt. Samantha Agulair
- **US Air Force Academy Band UPOs**  
Airman 1st Class Colby Parker, Airman 1st Class Julia Keough-Mishler  
Airman 1st Class Adam Ohlson
- **Space and Missile Systems Center**  
Tech. Sgt. Asia McClain, Tech. Sgt. David Price  
4th Manpower Requirements Squadron  
Tech. Sgt. Nikolaus Gauger, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Mizzell
- **AFOTEC Detachment 4**  
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- **544th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group**  
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**No phone calls please.**



# In-service recruiter provides counsel to transitioning Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Emily Kenney | 21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Transitioning from the active-duty Air Force to the Air Force Reserve can be a life-changing decision. However, Airmen do not have to navigate through the process on their own. In-service recruiters provide insight for Airmen to help navigate the changes in benefits, pay, skills, training and retirement options.

Master Sgt. Jeni LaPlant, the 21st Force Support Squadron's in-service recruiter, is available to provide Airmen advice and counsel to help them make an educated career decision.

"My primary function is to assist anyone who is looking to transition from active duty to serving in the Reserve," said LaPlant. "Currently we provide assistance for two different programs, Palace Chase and Palace Front."

The Palace Chase program allows Airmen to transition from the active-duty component to a reserve component to finish their service commitment.

"Enlisted members halfway through their obligation and commissioned officers who have completed two-thirds of their obligations are eligible to apply," she said. "The program is a force management tool for active duty, and acceptance is based on career field manning and approval from the Airman's functional career field manager."

If Airmen have completed their contract commitment, but want to continue serving in the Air Force Reserve, they can apply for the Palace Front program.

"The Palace Front program is designed for members reaching the end of their commitment," she said. "For those Airmen, this facilitates the transition over to the reserve component without a break in service with some



(Courtesy photo)  
PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Master Sgt. Jeni LaPlant, the 21st Force Support Squadron's in-service recruiter, is available to provide advice and counsel to Airmen interested in transitioning from the active duty Air Force to the Air Force Reserves. Airmen interested in, or who need assistance with Palace Chase or Palace Front applications can contact the in-service recruiting office at 719-556-0151 or via email at [jeni.laplant@us.af.mil](mailto:jeni.laplant@us.af.mil).

great benefits for part-time service."

Airmen can begin the process by completing an on-line checklist available on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight website.

"I assist Airmen submitting their applications via the vMPF, checking it line by line," she said. "The members are already stressed with all the requirements of transitioning out of the military, so let the experts help you on this end. I can place you anywhere in the country, not just in the local area."

For Airmen who are unsure whether they want to make the transition, LaPlant is available for mentoring sessions to discuss options.

"There are many cases where we counsel members considering the programs and recommend they do not apply," she said. "There have been cases where after we have counseled members they decided not to submit their packages because it was in their best interest to stay on active duty. I truly want what is best for the member."

Laplant also helps Airmen with position and unit allocation within a respective reserve unit upon approval.

"If the Reserve is the right fit, they retrieve a few documents, get medically cleared and we find them a job," she said. "Always have a plan and a backup plan. The Air Force Reserve has so many opportunities that can change as our lives change. It is the best decision I have ever made."

Airmen interested in or who need assistance with Palace Chase or Palace Front applications can contact the in-service recruiting office at 719-556-0151 or via email at [jeni.laplant@us.af.mil](mailto:jeni.laplant@us.af.mil).

## Shoot House

FROM PAGE 1

However, the AFI does not state that a designated training facility is necessary to conduct the training in. Relocating the shoot house or finding a new means to conduct the required training is a top priority for the 21st SFS at Peterson.

"The shoot house is a great experience for new Airmen coming from technical school, giving them the opportunity to engage in a fully emerged munitions firing simulation," said Staff Sgt. William Barron, 21st SFS unit trainer. "This

is the most extensive shoot house I've ever seen, offering multiple access and egress points with numerous training stations to maintain our mission readiness."

The shoot house has 22 distinct training areas and has accommodated up to 140 people at six different active stations at one time. These stations are operated with live fire training simulations without incurring a single safety mishap.

"Before we had the shoot house we were able to occasionally get some training done using abandoned buildings or houses on base that were being remodeled or torn down," Lopez said. "The units were okay superficially, we could use them to kick down a few doors and maybe get some tactical training done, but those were rare opportunities

and we could only do with small groups."

The shoot house is complete with a \$280,000 VirTra simulator that has over 176 programed simulations that personnel can manipulate to create unique situational challenges for Airmen, specific to their mission requirements. The simulations can vary from target range practice to close quarter urban active shooter scenarios.

The shoot house is the only indoor training center from Monument to Fountain, Colorado. It services the entire Front Range, running multiple training stations and accommodating over a hundred personnel simultaneously. The 21st SFS is currently reviewing alternate sites to conduct their training.

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# BASE BRIEFS

## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

April 18 the Peterson Air Force Base Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and one in six will present at 1 p.m. at the Base Auditorium on “Normalizing the Conversation for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse or Assault.” The SAPR staff selected this particular presentation as an effort to meet the Secretary of Defense-directed initiative to address sexual assault prevention and response for military men.

## WALK-A-LAP

Walk a lap during the month of April and show your support for sexual assault survivors at the Peterson Air Force Base track. This year’s goal is 6,769 laps to represent the number of sexual assault reports made in fiscal year 2017. T-Shirts and other promotional items are available while supplies last. Registration forms will be available at the base gym.

## DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office is holding a free, double elimination dodgeball tournament April 5 at 9 a.m. at the Peterson Air Force Base Fitness Center. To register your six to 10-man team contact Sidney. journey@us.af.mil or 21sw.cvk.wf@us.af.mil

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP SUPPER

The chapel will be having Stations of the Cross and Lenten soup suppers every Friday at 6 p.m. from March 8 — April 12. Attendees are encouraged to bring a meatless soup and/or bread to share.

## SKIN CANCER AWARENESS SCREENING

The U.S. Air Force Academy Dermatology Clinic is offering full body skin cancer screening exams with a self-referral. No need to see your primary care manager.

Dates: April 1 — 18  
Where: USAFA Dermatology Clinic (3rd floor of the Medical Group)  
Who’s Eligible: Active Duty members from USAFA, Peterson Air Force

Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station and Schriever Air Force Base  
POCs: Tech. Sgt. Daniel Pontillo  
Contact: DSN: 719-333-5292 /Comm 719-333-5292

## HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS

In recognition of their service and sacrifice, Vietnam War veterans can receive a special memorial lapel pin from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service March 29 at 11 a.m. as part of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Veterans should contact their local Main Exchange for details on the location of the pinning ceremony.

Peterson Main Store 719-596-7272/7270  
Carson Main Store 719-576-4000/4141  
U.S. Air Force Academy Main Store 719-472-0861

## PETERSON AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Peterson Air and Space Museum resumed normal hours as of March 19. Hours are Tuesday — Friday 9 a.m. — 4 p.m. Starting in April, the Museum will be open the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. — 4 p.m. For more information, check [www.petemuseum.org](http://www.petemuseum.org), or call the museum office at 719-556-4915.

## SOCIETY OF MILITARY WIDOWS

The Society of Military Widows is open to all military widows of any branch of military service, regardless of the spouse’s rank. The Pikes Peak Chapter 15 of the Society of Military Widows meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at The Club on Peterson Air Force Base. Call 719-331-6689 or 719-260-8172 for more information.

## SUPERVISOR SAFETY TRAINING

Supervisor Safety Training is a required one-time training for all supervisors. The 21st Space Wing Safety Office has 11 classes available per year on the third Wednesday of every month except December. The classes are located at building 845 in room 219. For those who haven’t taken the course, contact Staff Sgt. Michael Whitley at 719-556-6345.



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235 South Nevada Avenue,  
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**PUBLISHER AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

**AMY GILLETINE**  
Amy.Gillentine@csbj.com  
**EDITOR**

**BRYAN GROSSMAN**  
Bryan.Grossman@csbj.com

**ADVERTISING**

*Interim Advertising Director*  
**LOU MELLINI**  
Lou.Mellini@csbj.com

*Account Executives*  
**TAMMY FOGALL**  
Tammy.Fogall@csbj.com

**MONTY HATCH**  
Monty.Hatch@csbj.com

**JEFF MOORE**  
Jeff.Moore@csbj.com

**KRISTIN DECOCK**  
Kristin.DeCock@csbj.com

**ART DEPARTMENT**

*Art Director*  
**MELISSA EDWARDS**

*Graphic Designers*  
**ROWDY TOMPKINS**  
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PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE



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**Staff Writer**  
**ERINN CALLAHAN**

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Articles, announcements, news briefs or feedback for the Space Observer should be submitted to the 21st SW/PA via [space.observer@us.af.mil](mailto:space.observer@us.af.mil). For further information, call 21st SW/PA at (719) 556-5185 or DSN 834-5185 or e-mail [space.observer@us.af.mil](mailto:space.observer@us.af.mil). Deadline for article submission is noon the Friday one week before publication. All articles, copy and announcements submitted will be edited to conform to AFI Series 35 and the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual.

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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# Commanding from the top of the world: Thule’s first female group commander

By Staff Sgt. Emily Kenney | 21ST SPACE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland — Col. Mafwa Kuvibidila, 821st Air Base Group commander, is no stranger to changes. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts, but spent much of her childhood moving – from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Republic of the Congo, ultimately landing in Louisiana, where she calls home.

After graduating high school, she joined Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Texas at Austin, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in French.

“I went to college on an academic scholarship and joined ROTC because it was something I knew and enjoyed from high school, but the military wasn’t something I necessarily saw as a permanent career,” she said. “The University of Texas at Austin hosts all four services, so I figured if the Air Force didn’t quite work out I could try another service.”

Throughout her 22-year career, Kuvibidila has been assigned to various commands in both space and missile operations, stateside and in various locations in the Middle East, to include Egypt and Kuwait.

Kuvibidila took command of Thule Air Base in June 2018, making her the first female group commander in 821st history.

As the senior U.S. government representative in Greenland, some of her daily tasks include working with coalition partners to support their efforts within the Arctic. This requires coordination with their governments, military representatives and U.S. counterparts.

She also works directly with national and international scientific organizations as they use Thule AB for scientific research advancements, she said.

Though her realm of responsibilities is broad and can be demanding, she said she leans on past experiences and her local leadership team to ensure mission success.

“Sometimes balancing all of the mission requirements, people’s needs and taking care of yourself gets very tough,” she said. “I also have to be in tune with U.S. foreign policy, three combatant commands, the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark as well as what our coalition part-

ners are doing. That can be a lot to keep up with, but I’m fortunate that my past experience helps me in navigating through the various organizations and I have a strong leadership team to work not only issues, but opportunities.”

One of the biggest lessons Kuvibidila said she has learned is how to take time to reflect and apply lessons learned in her personal and professional life.

When reflecting on women who have inspired her over the years, one woman stands out among the rest: her mother.

“My mom is brilliant and very adventurous; her perseverance is the biggest lesson she taught me,” Kuvibidila said. “As a kid from a small village in the Congo, she had to fight for her education and challenge the typical expectations of young girls at the time. She eventually made it to the U.S. on an academic scholarship in her twenties with little English and managed to finish her master’s and doctorate degrees as a single parent. She also took care of family members back home while balancing demands in the U.S. Things were not always easy, but she made them easy for me.”

Kuvibidila has also drawn inspiration from her fellow service members and friends, she said.

“I’ve also been influenced by several of my female peers who help keep me in check,” she said. “I’m incredibly fortunate to know several fellow female commanders, and I have tremendous friends who are my sisters from another mother.”

Kuvibidila’s advice to young women in the Air Force is simple: be adaptable, supportive and think outside the box.

“Adaptability and perseverance are critical to success,” she said. “Don’t hesitate to push boundaries, propose new ideas and think outside the box. Communication is essential, so ask for clarification. Call people, even if you don’t know them and don’t be afraid to ask for help or lean on others. Patience is crucial in some of the battles you choose, but if it matters, invest the time. Most importantly, be supportive and mentor each other, especially on the peer-to-peer level.”



(Courtesy photo)

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland — Col. Mafwa Kuvibidila, 821st Air Base Group commander, has been assigned to various commands in both space and missile operations, stateside and in various locations in the Middle East, to include Egypt and Kuwait. Kuvibidila took command of Thule Air Base in June 2018, making her the first female group commander in 821st history.

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# Air Commando pursues dream of flying on AFSOC airframes

By Senior Airman Andrea Posey | 1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) — As a child, she sat in front of the TV watching the “Top Gun” movie over and over again and listening to Tom Cruise proclaim, “I feel the need – the need for speed!” Watching the aircraft soar across the screen made it clear to her that she wanted to fly when she grew up.

The actor’s words weren’t the only reason Capt. Holly Mapel was inspired to join the military. She already had a sense of familiarity with the armed forces due to her family’s deep connection to the military.

“I knew I wanted to join the Air Force for as long as I can remember,” said Mapel, a combat systems officer and operational flight test director with the 18th Flight Test Squadron at Hurlburt Field. “Being an Air Force brat, I have been surrounded by the military my entire life, it is all I’ve ever really known. I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my dad, and multiple other family members, (to) serve in the military and fly.”

Mapel joined six months after graduating high school in 2001 and began her career as an enlisted aircrew flight equipment technician at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

“I spent seven years maintaining flight equipment that was used by Air Force Special Operations Command aircrew,” she said. “It was there where my desire to do something more with my career started.”

This aspiration led Mapel to enroll in school to earn her degree and commission.

Although attending school and working a full time job can be difficult to do at the same time, Mapel felt she had enough support and time to accomplish these goals.

“I had some very supportive supervisors, both enlisted and officers, that encouraged going to school,” she said. “Being in Air Education and Training Command allowed me to have a pretty stable and consistent schedule that facilitated going to school.”

After receiving her degree and changing duty stations, Mapel arrived at Hurlburt Field, where she applied for Officer Training School.

“OTS wasn’t anything that I had expected or planned for,” she said. “There were many nights the first couple of weeks that I was second guessing my decision to commission, but you lean on those that are going through it with you and think about why you wanted to do it in the first place and persevere.”

After commissioning, Mapel became a combat systems officer, or CSO, with a specialization as an electronic warfare officer on the MC-130H Combat Talon II. A CSO is responsible for planning and executing low-level navigation and terrain clearance so personnel and equipment can be delivered to hostile areas. Additionally, CSOs operate and manage the aircraft’s defensive systems and airborne communication systems.

“I spent two years at the 15th Special Operations Squadron where I learned a lot but also (decided) I still wanted more,” Mapel said.

This need to expand her knowledge led Mapel to request a change of air frames, and it was the MC-130J Commando II that she had in her sights.

“I chose (the MC-130J) platform mainly because it was an easy transition of what I was already doing on the Talon IIs, but also because I love the mission of special operations forces mobility,” she said.

The Commando II is flown in covert refueling missions for helicopters and tiltrotor aircraft and conducts infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of Special Forces by airdrop or air-land. Its secondary mission includes the airdrop of leaflets for informational counter terrorism methods.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Andrea Posey)  
HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) — Capt. Holly Mapel is a combat systems officer and operational flight test director with the 18th Flight Test Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Florida. Mapel is an MC-130J Commando II aircrew member and regularly flies on other aircraft in order to test equipment and weapon systems used to accomplish Air Force Special Operations Command and U. S. Special Operations Command missions.

After completing her mission qualification training, Mapel was assigned to the 9th Special Operations Squadron at Cannon AFB, New Mexico.

“I can honestly say that my time spent at the 9th Special Operations Squadron has been the best part of my career thus far,” she said. “As one of AFSOC’s specialized air mobility platforms, the MC-130J executes missions directed by higher authorities to ensure the theater commander’s strategic vision and objectives are accomplished.”

In 2018, Mapel certified as an operational flight test director and came to the 18th FLTS to further contribute to the mission.

See **Dream of flying** page 11

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# Air Force week in photos



(U.S. Air Force photo by Joshua Armstrong)

U.S. Air Force Academy's Cadet for a Day program, in partnership with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, hosts 9-year-old Je'Moni Ford and his family, March 15, 2019. Since 2000, the Cadet for a Day initiative has been helping make dreams a reality by providing young people facing severe medical challenges with the opportunity to experience life as an Academy cadet.




(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Gracie I. Lee)

A 99th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron U-2 Dragon Lady pilot drives a high-performance chase car on the runway to catch a U-2 performing a low-flight touch-and-go at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, March 15, 2019. While driving the chase cars, U-2 pilots aid the pilot flying the U-2 by radioing altitude and runway alignment during takeoff and landings.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aubree Milks)

First Lt. Andrew Forsythe, Honor Guard officer in charge, presents a flag to a family member of the deceased during a funeral March 2, 2019, in Camarillo, Calif. According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, a military burial flag is provided to a deceased veteran in order to honor the memory of their service to the country.



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# Air Force, education and industry partners work together to gather space radiation data



(Photo courtesy of SpaceX)

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket climbs away from Vandenberg Air Force Base on Jan. 11 carrying a final set of 10 Iridium NEXT communications satellites to orbit. Also aboard the Falcon 9 launch vehicle, the U.S. Air Force completes a set of space radiation sensors: the Responsive Environmental Assessment Commercially Hosted constellation, known as REACH.

SMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Iridium Communications launched its last cluster of communication satellites to finish the new Iridium NEXT constellation, Jan 11. Also aboard the Falcon 9 launch vehicle, the U.S. Air Force completed a set of space radiation sensors: the Responsive Environmental Assessment Commercially Hosted constellation, known as REACH.

Consisting of 32 hosted sensors on the Iridium NEXT constellation, REACH is a partnership between the U.S. Air Force, The Aerospace Corporation, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), Iridium Communications and Harris Corporation.

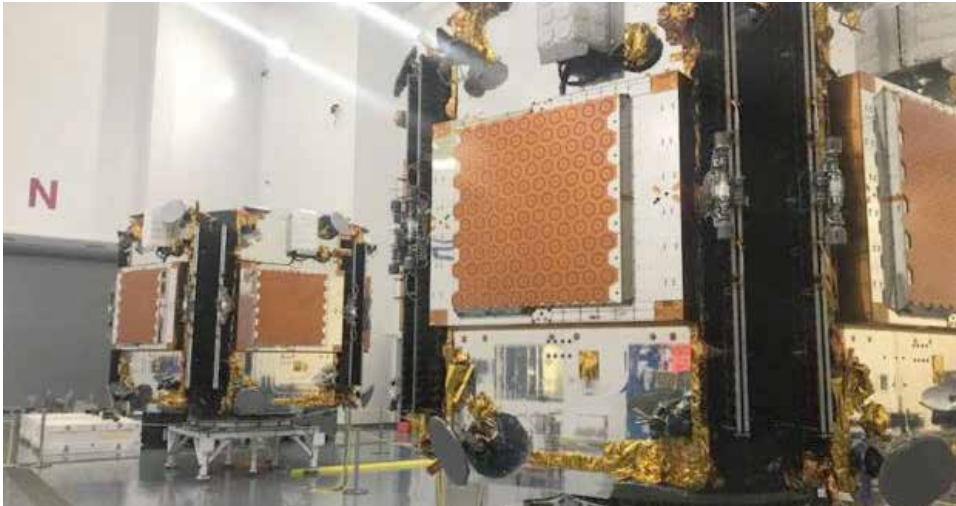
The program, managed by SMC's Advanced Systems and Development Directorate, provides an unprecedented capability to monitor Earth's radiation environment in low Earth orbit. REACH represents an innovative, low-cost and rapid fielding of space radiation sensing technology to provide resilient detection and characterization of space weather hazards. REACH data will be applied to looking at current and forecasted space weather phenomena, as well as determining the role of charged particles in upper atmosphere chemistry, and the dynamics of the Van Allen radiation belts. Applications of the data include monitoring the radiation environment for aircraft at high latitudes as well as for crewed missions in Earth orbit.

The Aerospace Corporation designed and developed REACH's sensors. The technology was then transitioned to Millennium Engineering & Integration (MEI) & Libration Systems Management for manufacturing. The sensors are hosted on the AppStar™ hosted payload platform built by Harris Corporation. The REACH ground processing center at APL produces the data products that provide information about the location and intensity of severe space radiation in near real time. Data from the REACH constellation will be made available to the public starting this year.

"The REACH program incorporates SMC 2.0 values of epic speed, innovation and partnerships, said Col Tim Sejba, SMC's Advanced Systems and Development director. "It is a great example of how the U.S. Air Force is teaming up and collaborating with commercial partners to accomplish unprecedented feats in space."

REACH was developed and fielded in less than three years at a fraction of the cost of a standalone capability to achieve resilient, global space weather coverage.

Air Force Space Command's Space and Missile Systems Center manages a portfolio that includes the Global Positioning System, satellite communications, meteorological satellites, space launch and range systems, satellite control networks, space based infrared systems and space situational awareness capabilities.



(Photo courtesy of Iridium)

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Iridium NEXT satellites being prepared for launch in a clean room at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Consisting of 32 hosted sensors on the Iridium NEXT constellation, REACH is a partnership between the U.S. Air Force, The Aerospace Corporation, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), Iridium Communications and Harris Corporation.

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## TRANSITION SPOTLIGHT: Military Spouse Lisa Keenan



We're proud to celebrate Lisa Keenan! The military spouse recently began her dream job with UCCS as a research assistant in the College of Business, Economic Forum. Lisa credits Mt. Carmel and our partners with much of her job search success. Grateful to return to Colorado Springs following a military assignment to Europe, Lisa arrived with a long-term mindset, "We love this community and are so excited to be a part of it; this is home and my goal was to find a career that allows me to give back to our community in a way that draws on my skills." Lisa began assessing resources available to include Mt. Carmel's MilSpouse Career Program, life coaching services, and the partnered Prep Connect 360 Advanced Job Seeker and Transition Course. "These are high-level programs that provided critical skills," said Lisa. "They emphasized personal strengths and interests, and knowing how and when to rebrand yourself in a career search vs. adapting to the first job you're offered." Through a rapidly expanding professional network, Lisa was encouraged to apply for her current position with UCCS. "Economics touches everything in our community, and as a public policy professional, this opportunity is so exciting to me," said Lisa. "I would definitely advise any military spouse to visit Mt. Carmel, to attend PC360, and really, to take advantage of all resources available. This is a tight job market and your professional network and jobseeker skills need to be effective."

## EVENTS CALENDAR

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Apr 2:</b> Spiritual Connection Group, non-denominational discussion of spirituality, Noon-1 pm | <b>Apr 4:</b> PTSD Support Group, 10-11am   |
| <b>Apr 2:</b> Veteran-X PTS-focused group, 4:30-6:30pm   | <b>Apr 4:</b> Free tax-preparation/electronic filing for all, 11am-4:30pm   |
| <b>Apr 2:</b> Yoga, PT/trauma relief-focus, 5-6pm  | <b>Apr 5:</b> Free Website & Social Media assistance for vet/milspouse entrepreneurs, appointments: (719) 772-7000                                |
| <b>Apr 3:</b> Free tax-preparation/electronic filing for all, 10am-4pm                             | <b>Apr 13:</b> Half-day Equine Therapy Retreat for Veterans & Military, Free, Pre-Register: (719) 309-4761  |
| <b>Apr 3:</b> Medicare Mentors Q/A with experts, appointments, 1-5 pm, (719) 772-7000              | <b>Apr 27:</b> Half-day Equine Therapy Retreat for Teens of Military & Veterans, 13-17 yrs old, Free, Pre-Register: Abbey Westphal (719) 309-4761 |
| <b>Apr 3:</b> Warriors First, support group for justice-involved veterans, 4-5pm                   | <b>Apr 29-May 10:</b> Free Hazardous Waste Worker Training, Pre-register: Richard Gagne (719) 772-7000  |
| <b>Apr 3:</b> Art Therapy promoting stress relief and self-healing, 5-7pm                          |   |
| <b>Apr 3:</b> VA Home loan Q/As with Home Depot, 9am-1pm, appointments: (719) 772-7000             |   |

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MARCH 29 — MAY 10

## 2019 Test Pilot School applications due May 29

By Kat Bailey | AIR FORCE'S PERSONNEL CENTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) — Application packages for the 2019 Air Force Test Pilot School, or TPS, selection board are due by May 29.

The board, which is set to convene at the Air Force's Personnel Center July 29 - Aug. 2, will consider Total Force officers and current Air Force civilian applicants to attend training as early as July 2020. Officers may apply to become a test pilot, test combat systems officer or test remotely piloted aircraft. Both officers and civilians interested in flight test engineer positions are encouraged to apply. Applicants from all aircraft types and backgrounds must have strong academic and technical experience.

In the interest of supporting multi-domain operations, the Air Force has expanded the list of eligible Air Force specialty codes for the experimental flight test engineer course to include officers from the 17D, cyberspace operations officer, and 13S, space operations officer career fields. Officers with a 17D or 13S core AFSC are highly encouraged to apply for TPS.

"Test pilot school ensures Air Force mission dominance by training officers and civilians to lead and conduct full-spectrum testing and evaluation of aerospace weapons systems," said Maj. James McDonald, AFPC assignments officer.

According to McDonald, civilian applications for flight test engineers are handled

much like the military application process for test pilot positions with minute differences detailed in Air Force Instruction 99-107 and the TPS Personnel Services Delivery Messages. Civilians compete directly for flight engineer spots and the selection board racks and stacks them in the same pool as military applicants. Any Department of the Air Force civilian selected for TPS will be required to sign a mobility agreement as well as a 5-year continued service agreement.

The Air Force TPS trains pilots, CSOs and flight engineers to develop, test and evaluate the newest aircraft and weapons systems and program graduates earn a master of science in flight test engineering through Air University. In addition, the school conducts exchange programs with the U.S. Naval, United Kingdom and French test pilot schools to train fixed and rotary wing pilots and flight test engineers.

McDonald said applicants should use the new forms attached to this year's TPS Personnel Services Delivery Memorandum on myPers or available on the TPS website, rather than the forms posted on the Air Force e-Publishing website. Also new this year is a template for a resume of flying experience.

Find additional information about rank requirements, eligibility criteria, process and other specifics on myPers. Select "Any" from the dropdown menu and search "Test Pilot."

For more information about Air Force personnel programs, visit the AFPC public website.

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**LINDA WEISE**  
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Linda Weise is the CEO and founder of the Colorado Springs Conservatory, which she established in 1994 to bring world-class performing arts education to the region. Weise is a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory in piano and vocal performance. Weise and the CSC have been recognized throughout the state and across the country with numerous awards.



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# GPS III Space Vehicle 02 “Magellan” arrives in Florida; Prepares for July launch



(US Air Force Photo: Lt. Daniel Eichman)  
CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. — GPS III Space Vehicle 02 “Magellan” arrives in Florida in preparation for its July launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Named in honor of Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to circumnavigate the Earth, was transported in a custom container from the Lockheed Martin factory facility in Waterton, Colorado to the Space Coast Regional Airport in Titusville, Florida, by a C-17 Globemaster III originating from Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base, West Virginia.

SMC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. — The U.S. Air Force’s Space and Missile Systems Center’s Global Positioning Systems Directorate achieved another major program milestone March 19, successfully delivering the second GPS III Space Vehicle to Astrotech Space Operations in Titusville, Florida to begin satellite launch processing.

“The shipment of this second GPS III satellite is once again an excellent representation of the collaborative effort and increasing efficiencies of SMC’s push towards rapid acquisitions and operations of space technologies,” said Lt Gen John F. Thompson, SMC commander and Air Force program executive officer for Space. “We are adding this second GPS III satellite just seven months from the launch of the inaugural Block III space vehicle, continuing our objective of modernizing GPS.”

The satellite, dubbed “Magellan” in honor of Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to circumnavigate the Earth, was transported in a custom container from the Lockheed Martin factory facility in Waterton, Colorado to the Space Coast Regional Airport in Titusville, Florida, by a C-17 Globemaster III originating from Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base, West Virginia, 167th Air Lift Wing. The transportation crew consisted of both contractor and government personnel who oversaw the entire operation to ensure that the conditions of the transport environment would not damage any of the satellite’s sensitive components.

The delivery of SV02 starts the clock for final testing and checkout of the spacecraft prior to launch. Like SV01, this

satellite will be processed at the Astrotech Space Operations Florida facility. A government and contractor team will ensure the full functionality of the satellite by performing various tests. Processing this time around will gain efficiencies from lessons learned on SV01. As the spacecraft nears launch, the team will prepare for propellant loading and will encapsulate the satellite into its protective fairing supplied by the launch provider. At the completion of these activities, the satellite will be integrated with the United Launch Alliance’s (ULA) Delta IV launch vehicle. It is significant to note that GPS III SV02 will be the final payload to catch a ride on the Delta IV (4, 2) configuration of ULA’s Launch Vehicle.

“As we prepare to launch this second GPS III satellite, we acknowledge a major transition of the GPS III program into a production program,” said Col. Steve Whitney, director of the GPS Directorate. “Having successfully launched our ‘Satellite of Firsts,’ Vespucci, last December; we now look forward to a more regular pace of launches with this one and several more just on the horizon, as we continue to uphold the Gold Standard in space based position, navigation, and timing.”

GPS III SV02 is currently slated to launch in July this year. Once on-orbit it will join the operational constellation of 31 GPS satellites. GPS delivers the world’s gold standard in positioning, navigation, and timing services supporting vital U.S. and allied operations worldwide, underpinning critical financial, transportation, and agricultural infrastructure that billions of users have come to depend on daily.

## Dream of flying

FROM PAGE 6

Mapel now leads a team of officers, enlisted Airmen and civilians through the planning, execution and reporting phases of a test. The team tests new or updated equipment on AFSOC aircraft and weapons systems, advising senior-level decision makers on a system’s performance and deficiencies.

“Test directors ensure whatever gadget or software being tested is what the warfighter wants and needs,” she said. “It could be something that helps them execute their job more efficiently or save their lives. By testing and fielding new technology, we are keeping AFSOC relevant on an ever-changing battlefield.”

Mapel enjoys her current duties because it still allows her to fulfill her childhood dream.

“I love to fly and with both jobs, that’s what I get to do,” she said. “Whether I am performing crew duties as a CSO on an MC-130J or executing a test on another AFSOC platform, I get to do what I love.”

Lt. Col. Rafael Bosch, 18th FLTS commander, believes Mapel embodies the three tenets of the Air Commando mission – ready today, relevant tomorrow, resilient always.

“Capt. Mapel is at the leading edge of the AFSOC and SOF mission,” Bosch said. “Her MC-130H background is absolutely invaluable as we move forward (with) the MC-130J (because) it is at the forefront of what AFSOC will be and is currently. She has been key to ensuring the squadron, as a whole, receives the correct training so we can all take care of each other when the time comes.”

Bosch added that Mapel is also one of only a handful of CSOs (in the Air Force) that has training on the new MC Terrain-Following radar system, a \$480 million acquisition program.

“This new radar will make the MC-130J a viable replacement for the MC-130H,” Bosch said. “Her role in the testing of this system will directly impact the future of AFSOC for generations to come.”

Mapel is able to see the direct impact she has on the bigger Air Force picture and that makes the job more enjoyable for her.

“AFSOC is vital to our nation’s security,” she said. “(We) provide specialized airpower and ground forces that are utilized by sister service’s special operations forces to conduct missions in contested environments. We work together as a team to accomplish our nation’s objectives.”

Mapel has a sense of pride being part of the AFSOC team because she is entrusted with carrying out some of the nation’s most important global endeavors.

“Every day I’m reminded of what it took to become a part of this family, which while small in comparison to other commands, is an incredible pool of specialized talent,” she said. “It is truly a commitment rather than an assignment and I’m proud to be committed to this team that is committed to me and my own family.”

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## The Tables Have Turned UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD



### ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

By Will Nediger  
Edited by David Steinberg

#### ACROSS

- 1 Woodcutter Ali
- 5 Sec
- 9 Time off, slangily
- 14 Perched on
- 15 Leader of Qatar
- 16 Earthy hue, in Canada
- 17 Dope seizer
- 18 "I did it!"
- 19 "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend"  
channel
- 20 Mechanics, informally
- 23 Move like a crab
- 24 Firm VIP
- 25 Pic from a parlor
- 28 \_\_\_ Rapids, Iowa
- 32 Allow
- 34 "Come to think of it ..."
- 37 Win back
- 39 Like couples and kittens
- 40 1961 hit with a mailbox  
on its album cover
- 43 Sylvester's speech  
feature

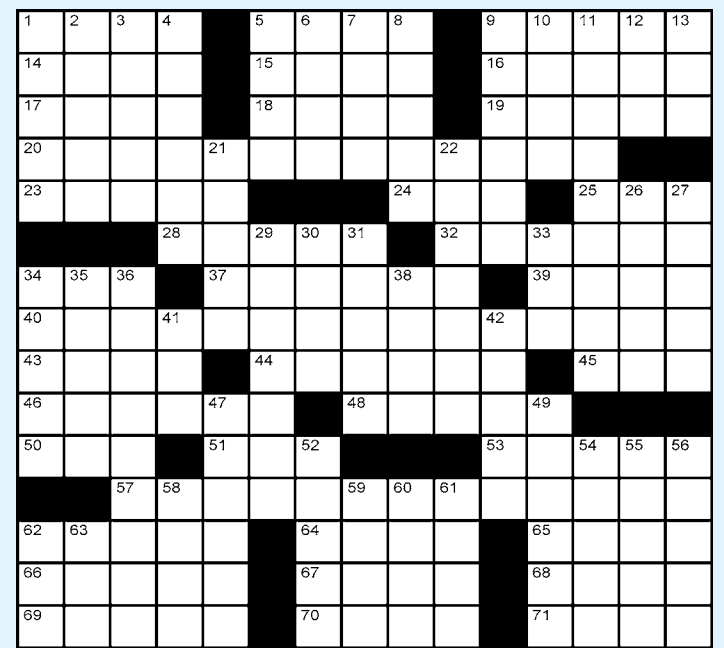
#### DOWN

- 44 Get together
- 45 Get too personal
- 46 Just some
- 48 Sacred song
- 50 Breath mint container
- 51 Word replaced in  
"herstory"
- 53 Get in touch with
- 57 University of Florida  
student's 2007 plea
- 62 Shorthand user,  
for short
- 64 Micro or macro subject
- 65 One to two, e.g.
- 66 Jigsaw puzzle part
- 67 Bohemian
- 68 Deadlocked
- 69 Tapering hairstyles
- 70 Landform found  
backward in 20-, 40- and  
57-Across
- 71 Swimmers that can  
be 13 feet

#### DOWN

- 1 They're layered at  
a salon
- 2 "Centipede" game  
company
- 3 Stifling a yawn, maybe
- 4 Tough H.S. math course
- 5 Ballet jump
- 6 Muslim sermon leader
- 7 Generic dog name
- 8 Swiss coin
- 9 Hold an election for
- 10 Feeling sore
- 11 High-five alternative
- 12 Rainbow shape
- 13 Tree that sounds  
like "you"
- 21 They keep an eye on the  
ball
- 22 Sign on a teen's door
- 26 End of a bridal path
- 27 Wee
- 29 Judge proper
- 30 Apex

- 31 "Our Town"  
composer Ned
- 33 "Macbeth" division
- 34 Water balloon sound
- 35 "I was out of town," e.g.
- 36 "Absolutely!"
- 38 No more than
- 41 Well-suited
- 42 \_\_\_ whale (ambergris  
source)
- 47 Internet slang for "What a  
disaster!"
- 49 Gigggle sound
- 52 Prepare broccoli, say
- 54 Outranking
- 55 Nasty
- 56 Devil features
- 58 Back in the day
- 59 Land measure
- 60 No teetotalers
- 61 Singer from County  
Donegal
- 62 Cover letters?
- 63 Aunt, in Spanish



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### 15805 Teak Place – Woodlake - \$590,900



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### 7475 Peyton Highway – Peyton - \$795,000



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**124 Neeper Valley Road**  
Crystal Park • \$48,000  
Land

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Land

**14705 Irwin Drive**  
Park Ridge • \$55,000  
Land

**1655 Aldrin Place**  
Park Ridge • \$65,000  
Land/Under Contract

**1715 Aldrin Place**  
Park Ridge • \$65,000  
Land

**1740 Aldrin Place**  
Park Ridge • \$65,000  
Land

**6055 Big Horn Road**  
Crystal Park • \$70,000  
Land

**0000 Waterfall Loop**  
Crystal Park • \$75,000  
Land

**545 Sunrise Peak Drive**  
Crystal Park • \$85,000  
Land

**14825 Reiner Court**  
Falcon • \$89,000  
Land/Under Contract

**Steep Road**  
Crystal Park • \$105,000  
Land

**111 N 14th Street**  
Old Colorado City • \$150,000

**1675 Monterey Road #210**  
Spring Creek • \$185,000  
Condo

**1535 Monterey Road #230**  
Spring Creek • \$185,000  
Condo/Under Contract

**350 Longhorn Cattle Drive**  
Ellicott • \$199,900  
Commercial

**710 Hathaway Drive**  
Powers • \$225,000  
Commercial Land

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Stetson Hills • \$248,900  
Town Home/Under Contract

**7566 Indian Village Heights**  
Sandcreek Preserve • \$299,900  
Under Contract

**7304 Evening Moon Court**  
Sandcreek Preserve • \$299,900  
Under Contract

**14420 Club Villa Drive #D**  
Gleneagle • \$321,000  
Town Home/Under Contract

**10216 Antler Creek Drive**  
Meridian Ranch • \$425,000

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**1545 Blueberry Hills Road**  
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**65 Woodmen Court**  
Woodmen Mesa • \$675,000  
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**8470 Aspenglow Lane**  
Cascade • \$799,900

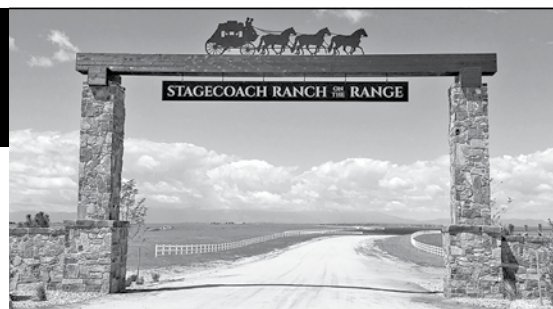
**2515 Constellation**  
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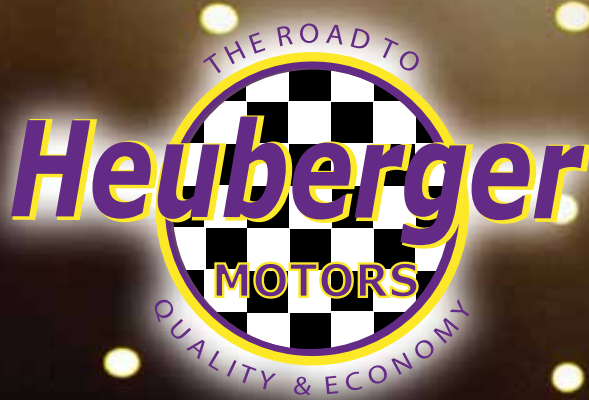
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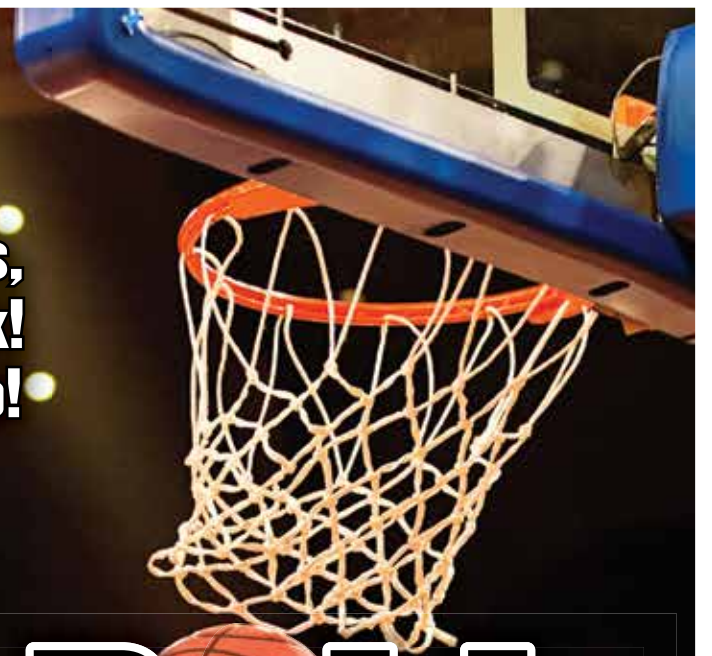


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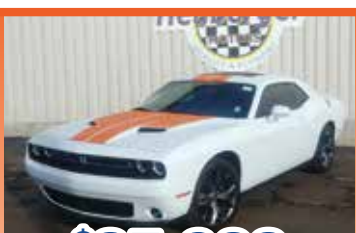
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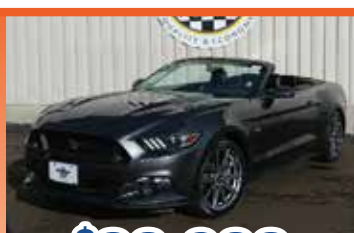
**\$25,988**

**2018 DODGE CHALLENGER** - Rally stripes, tint, moonroof, leather, 20" alloys, heated seats, heated steering wheel, Harman Kardon stereo. Stock# 11098



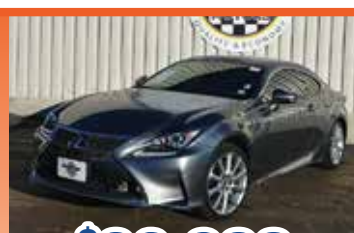
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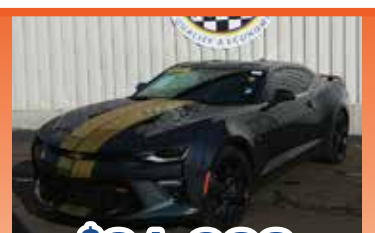
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