[Anchor:]

     AIR FORCE ACADEMY CADETS GET THEIR DIPLOMAS TOMORROW... AND COLORADO SPRINGS IS REAPING THE BENEFITS.

     ROUGHLY 35-THOUSAND PEOPLE USUALLY COME TO COLORADO SPRINGS FOR THE GRADUATION... AND ECONOMISTS SAY NEARLY 40-MILLION DOLLARS GO INTO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY.

     KRDO NEWSCHANNEL 13'S OLIVIA WILMSEN SHOWS US HOW BUSINESSES AND TAXPAYERS ARE FEELING THE TRICKLE DOWN.

[TAKE PKG

OUTCUE: STD

DURATION:1:19]

{\*\*\*PKG<((nats: fajitas on grill))

     THE GRILL IS HOT AT AMANDA'S FONDA ON NORTH ACADEMY.

     AND SO IS BUSINESS.

{Rod Barreda### Amanda's Fonda}

"We have to turn people away and just tell them hey you guys, first come, first serve, call us up because we can't guarantee you a spot."

     MINUTES AWAY FROM THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY... THE LOCALLY-OWNED MEXICAN RESTAURANT IS WELCOMING THE GRADUATION CROWDS.

"It's exciting. The servers get excited. We get excited."

     AND HOTELS ARE PACKED FOR THE WEEK.

     EMBASSY SUITES OFF WOODMEN SAYS IT'S 90 PERCENT FULL - THANKS TO CADETS AND THEIR FAMILES.

((nats: cars))

     DOWNTOWN.. BUSINESSES ARE HOPING FOR..

((nats: grill))

     EMPTY STOMACHS.

{Suzette Megyeri### Skirted Heifer Owner}

"It's definitely a trickle effect because they have to eat and they're all looking to eat out. Plus, they want to eat at some places that their kids have been frequenting."

     20-12 GRADUATION NUMBERS SHOW DURING GRADUATION WEEK - VISITORS AND THEIR GRADUATES SPENT MORE THAN 26 MILLION DOLLARS...

     THEN YOU THROW IN PARENTS WEEKEND.. A WHOPPING 38 MILLION DOLLARS.

"Wow. I didn't even know it was that much money. I'll take about a percent of that, definitely."

{Rod Barreda}

"It's mind blowing."

     AND ABOUT TWO MILLION DOLLARS GOES TO SALES TAX REVENUE.

{Andrew Merritt### Regional Business Alliance}

"Here that goes to things like our roads and filling the potholes that everybody's worried about."

     A FEELING THAT'S EASY TO WELCOME VISITORS WITH OPEN ARMS.

     IN COLORADO SPRINGS, OLIVIA WILMSEN, KRDO NEWSCHANNEL 13.>

**VIDEO STORY:** <http://bit.ly/1pALJYW>