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Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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OBSERVATION POST



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This Issue

A3—Comic Night

A9—Identity theft

B2—MCCES marathon

Hot Topics

INFORMATION SEMINAR ON WEAPONS SAFETY AND REGISTRATION

The Provost Marshal's Office will offer information on military and civilian firearm registration regulations and weapon safety at the Marine Corps Exchange Today, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will also be giving out free cable locks. For more information, call the Physical Security/Crime Prevention office at 830-6904.

LANDSCAPING

There will be landscaping construction at the bottom of the hill between the west side of Adobe road and the jogging trail, from the main gate to Del Valle. This work will take place from March till the end of May. Traffic will not be impeded during this period.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The way of the cross will be celebrated at the Catholic Chapel tonight at 5:30 p.m. It will be followed by a community fish fry and meatless meal. The way of the cross is a series of 14 scriptural meditations on the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ throughout Lent. Tonight and April 7. All personnel are invited.

WHEN YOU DRIVE ON BASE, YOU WILL BE SAFE!

Drive safe or your vehicle will get towed and the violation might be reported to your DMV. On March 15, the Provost Marshal's Office began towing all vehicles of those who are driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, driving on with a base or state suspension, driving with no insurance or reckless driving (usually 20 or more MPH over the speed limit). The base has contracted with four local tow companies who will be charging the vehicle owner a cost of \$150 for the tow and an additional \$30 per day for storage. There is a \$75 charge for after-hours release. In addition, if you are apprehended on base for a DUI, a notification will be made to the California Department of Motor Vehicles and your state's DMV.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

• 3/7 returns

• Master Sgt. Fix

• NMCRS Golf

THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

31 March 1801

Lt. Col. Commandant

William W. Burrows

with President Thomas

Jefferson selected the

location of 8th and I

Barracks.



Victoria Raines takes on LINKS mentor Christine Jones during the inflatable pugil stick challenge at LINKS CAX.

CPL BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Motivate and educate: LINKS CAX empowers spouses

CPL BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Running, jumping, shouting, climbing and learning while under pressure from instructors may sound like a normal day for Marines, but instead this special mission was completed by their significant others March 22 at Victory Field.

For the 41 spouses of Combat Center Marines, the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program second Combined Arms Exercise, or LINKS CAX, tested their wits and gave them the tools to succeed while married to a Marine.

The LINKS mentors turned Victory Field into a classroom; complete with command post tents, an inflatable obstacle course and pugil stick ring to help teach and guide participants through the day's events.

The group was taught various subjects by their mentors throughout the day such as the meanings of Marine Corps history, traditions and service etiquette through upbeat and often interactive classes.

"LINKS is a brilliant program and here we have taken it and tried to make it a little more exciting," said Lynne Crowe, a LINKS mentor and event co-coordinator. "It's not a Jane Wayne day. It's a LINKS CAX. The last time went very

well, but this time was just different in that it was just another step up."

The previous LINKS CAX was held in November and hailed as a great success for being the first event of its kind for the LINKS program Corpwide.

Assistance for the event was highly visible as units from around the Combat Center donated resources to make the day more immersive for the spouses. The MCAGCC Band was also on hand to play the Marine's Hymn and the national anthem while 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment's color guard presented their battle colors and the national ensign.

"We had an enormous amount of support from units here," said Crowe. "It is almost unbelievable. There were Marines here from 1/7 [1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment], 2/7 and even 3/7 [3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment], who are currently deployed. We had the band, 2/7's color guard and even their sergeant major came out for the uniform class. I don't see how any other base could do this as well as we do because of all of the support we have."

The LINKS mentors made their introductions to the spouses in true Marine Corps fashion, arriving

in a small convoy of Humvees to the field's bleachers outfitted in helmets and flak jackets.

One of the first classes of the day was a uniform pageant where 12 Marines, dressed in various Marine Corps uniforms, marched front and center for spouses to learn differences in attire from "cam-mies" to "dress blues." Spouses also took part in an interactive exhibition of Marine Corps rank structure where they had to rearrange Marines and volunteers into the correct order.

"This was completely over the top, and I loved it," said Kathy Stone, wife of Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, Combat Center commanding general, who took part in the CAX. "What made it so great was the interaction and the reality of everything we did today. Having things that we can do and participate in rather than just hearing it made it much better."

"I have been through a traditional LINKS training program, but this just took it all to the next level," continued Stone. "The immersion of what you do and putting on gear and practicing teamwork just makes a real difference. It makes the learning more real. You're having fun learning, and I don't think there is a better combination."

See LINKS CAX, A7

1st Tank's Charlie Company rolls out to Iraq

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT



Lance Cpl. Andrew R. Brown, a tank crewman from Irvine, Calif., with Charlie Company, 1st Tank Battalion, shows a "peace" symbol with his fingers from a bus Monday afternoon as he departs to Iraq with Charlie Company.

Charlie Company, 1st Tank Battalion, left the Combat Center Monday afternoon to begin their seven-month deployment to Iraq.

Family members and friends gathered behind the battalion's command post Monday morning to say goodbye and leave them with hugs and kisses.

Faces were filled with tears for most families because it wasn't easy for them to say goodbye as their Marine or Sailor departed to help fight the Global War on Terrorism.

"This is the hardest deployment for me," said Lt. Col. Aaron T. Slaughter, 1st Tank Battalion commanding officer, as he addressed the members of the company and their families.

"It's a very sad time to see these men go for me because I will not be here when they get back," said Slaughter. "I remember we had a moment like this before, and that was in Iraq. This time around the feeling isn't the same. But the hard part is over. You all have made sacrifices and trained hard, and all of that is done now. Everything is just going to roll now. Even though the training is done, the intensity, vigilance and stress is not. This company is the best trained tank unit for the mission out there. You know each other and how things work out there so I know we will accomplish our mission."

The company will be providing tank support for Regimental Combat Team 7, utilizing maneuver, armor protected firepower and

shock action in Al Anbar province, said 1st Sgt. Scott E. Cooper, Charlie Company first sergeant.

"We will be acting as a Quick React Force for RCT-7," said Staff Sgt. Ryan J. Cappadony, platoon sergeant with 1st Platoon. "It's my first deployment with this company to Iraq, and I feel really confident with the Marines I'm going with. We've been training for a long time, spending many days out in the field. The Marines and Sailors are ready for this, and they worked real hard for this day. We all are very confident and certain we will accomplish what needs to be done out there."

Cappadony was joined by his wife and children for their final moments together as he embarked on the seven-month deployment. It's tough for his family but they are very understanding, said Cappadony, a Live Oak, Fla., native.

Accompanied by more than 20 members of his family was Lance Cpl. Estevan Ferrer, a motor transportation operator from Fresno, Calif.

"We all came out here to say goodbye to Stevie; his mother, father, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, grandpa and grandma," said Janie Tafolla, Ferrer's aunt. "It's his first deployment, and we are very sad to see him go. But, we are very proud and we will write to him every day and we will pray for him that he is safe out there."

"He talks to us about some of the things he does, and I know he will be safe," said Jose

See IST TANKS, A7



American Red Cross

MARINE CORPS COMBAT SUPPORT CENTER
29 PALMS, CALIFORNIA
A PROCLAMATION MARCH 2006

On every battlefield, a flag of mercy flies. It's white field bears a Red Cross—the universal symbol of human compassion. Under that flag, there are no enemies, no racial or religious animosities. There are only brothers. The flag of the Red Cross flies in thousands of American cities and communities. Fifty million Americans are Red Cross members. Their support is an affirmation of the fundamental humanity of the American people. In the tragedy and loneliness of war, the Red Cross is a familiar friend and companion to our men and women in uniform. It is with them in Iraq, in 30 other nations where Americans serve, and in our bases at home. Not only war, but trials of storm and earthquakes, flood and fire, summon the Red Cross to service. Wherever disaster strikes, the Red Cross is there with food, shelter and relief from suffering—as it was last year in the ravaged areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and throughout the Midwest. And every day of the year, the Red Cross serves all America with its programs to provide blood, and to teach first aid, water safety, providing emergency communications to our military service members and citizenship to tomorrow's citizens. This year the demands on the Red Cross—and its financial needs—will be exceptionally heavy. It must continue to serve our fighting men, to keep ready to assist the victims of disaster, and to maintain its life-saving work in our communities. To meet these needs, this March, the American Red Cross will conduct a special SOS (Support Our Servicemen) Campaign. Its success concerns all of us—for the mission of the American Red Cross is the mission of all America. NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brig Gen Douglas M. Stone, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Support Center, do hereby designate March 2006 as Red Cross Month. I strongly urge all Americans to head the special SOS (Support Our Servicemen) campaign by volunteering their time and to contribute what they can IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and six.

Douglas M. Stone

Brigadier General Douglas M. Stone
Commanding General, MAGTFCT, MCAGCC

Sempertoons

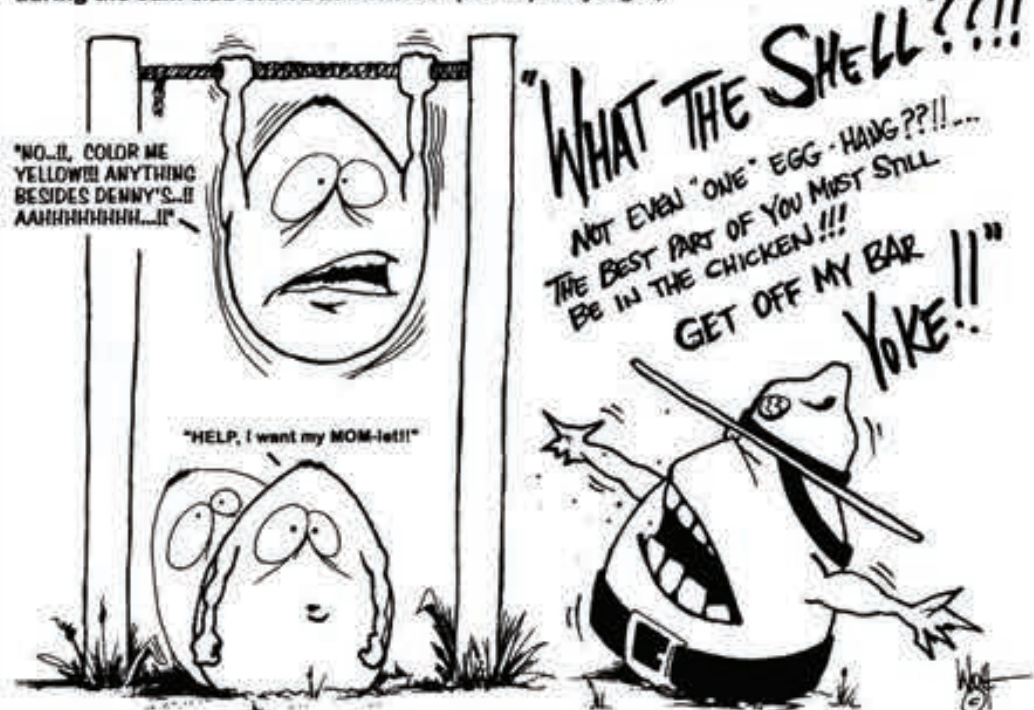
By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

PART 2 of a 4 PART SERIES

SemperToons Presents: How Easter Eggs get hard for Easter.

Training begins with the "Easter Fitness Test" (EFT), this is the first time "Hard Boil" gets to see what his Yokes are made of.

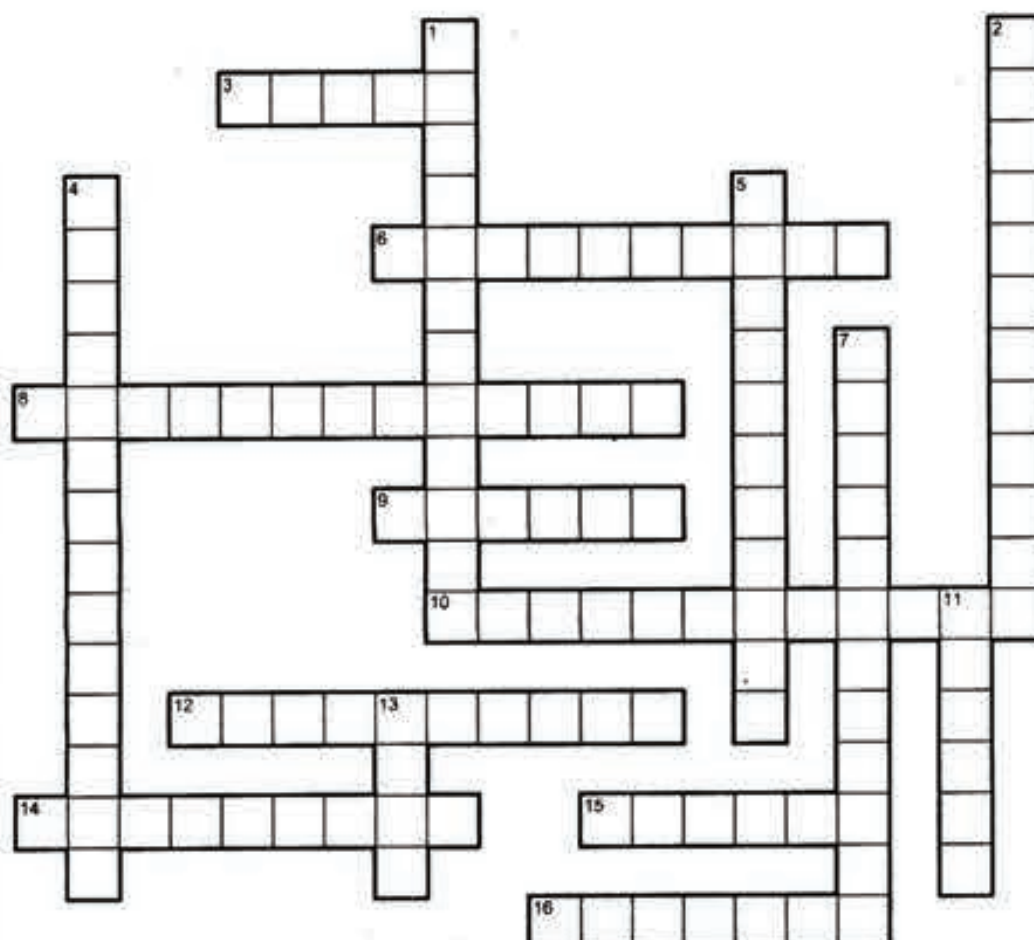
The EGG-HANG pull-ups are quite hard. The minimum is to do one. Yokes that can't do one EGG-HANG are dropped from training and shipped off to DENNY'S where they become part of the breakfast menu. The worst fear and greatest motivator for a Yoke is, to know if they don't give 100%, they can end up being scrambled into an omelet and served during the Sam club crowd at DENNY'S. (Not a pretty sight)



SEMPERTOONS.COM

TO BE CONTINUED

POPULAR MUSIC ARTISTS



ACROSS

- 3 He is a retired rapper/singer and is one of the founders of Roc-A-Fella Records.
- 6 "The Man in Black."
- 8 Norma Jeane Mortensen.
- 9 The artist formerly known as _____.
- 10 The King of Rock.
- 12 He was the lead singer of Nirvana.
- 14 He was a Jamaican singer, guitarist, songwriter, Rastafarian and activist.
- 15 Has been shot nine times.
- 16 A Material Girl.

DOWN

- 1 He was the lead singer of the heavy metal band Black Sabbath.
- 2 "She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy."
- 4 The King of Pop.
- 5 The star of "Glitter."
- 7 "Ol Blue Eyes."
- 11 Also known as Marshall Mathers.
- 13 Sonny and _____.

[Solutions on A8]

C.O.P. Corner



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Is your permanent duty station MCAGCC?

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The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through Crime Prevention: literature, briefs, education, crime assessments, safety tips, the Stranger Danger program, McGruff the Crime Dog, the Officer Friendly program, the Property Marking program, and the Child Identification and Fingerprinting program. For more information call Crime Prevention, 830-6094/5457.

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Centerspeak

"What movie are you embarrassed to like?"

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or Department of Defense.



LANCE CPL. JUSTIN SEBRING
2/7, WEAPONS COMPANY

"I'm not ashamed to watch any movie. We'll watch anything. We watch chick-flicks together all the time."



MASTER SGT. CHRIS COLLETT
2/7, WEAPONS COMPANY

"Moulin Rouge. It had a killer soundtrack."



LANCE CPL. JONATHAN RUSH
1ST TANKS, DELTA COMPANY

"Fahrenheit 9/11. Michael Moore doesn't know anything. I think the corporal he interviewed was just some guy he pulled off the street and put in uniform. No Marine would talk that way."



LANCE CPL. CORY BERGFALK
3/7, Kilo COMPANY

"Frankenfish. It was supposed to be scary, and it was ridiculously funny."

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What's on your mind?

Centerspeak welcomes questions or submissions from service members, Department of Defense civilians and family members.

Address submissions to:

Commanding General
Public Affairs Office
(Attn. Press Chief)
MCAGCC
Box 788200
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8200

Or E-mail to:

evan.eagan@usmc.mil

500+ attend MCCS Comedy Connection

STORY & PHOTOS BY CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 500 Combat Center Marines, Sailors and family members packed the base theater March 2 for a night of laughs and entertainment.

Comedians Drake Witham, Jeff Hodge and Jimmy Della Valle took the stage during the Comedy Connection event, sponsored by Manne Cors Community Services. The show spanned two hours and was limited to patrons 8 years and older.

"I had a really good time," said Pfc. Robert Perez, who attended the show with fellow Marines of 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "I think we all did. I liked the last comic especially. He was funny, and I liked that."

"It's great to have shows like this for the Marines because it's good to be able to go and have a laugh," said Perez.

All of the Los Angeles-based comics,

who met for the first time backstage, said that their first visit to Twentynine Palms was a memorable one and they hope to return.

"These comedians were absolutely wonderful," said Kelly Coe, MCCS special events coordinator. "They were very well-received by the crowd and they loved being here. I really enjoyed watching them."

Coe said although the crowd has grown with every comedy show MCCS puts on, this was one of the biggest she had ever seen.

"These guys were all great, but we don't want to have the same comedians back every time, unfortunately," said Coe, who has already begun planning the next show for September. "We try to vary the different styles of comedy so that we are able to reach everybody."

Coe said she hopes the next show is even bigger, but judging by the big laughs received during the show and smiles as people exited the theater, it may be hard to top.



Marines, Sailors and family members laugh during the Comedy Connection show at the base theater.



Jeff Hodge

Age: 27

Hometown: St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

How many years have you been performing? 15 years

What got you into doing comedy? "My friend and classmates thought I was funny. At college, a classmate got me thinking about performing since architecture didn't seem to be working out. The journey has been amazing. If you had told me as a kid, I would have believed that I'd be living in Los Angeles as a comedian."

What was your initial

impression of the Combat Center? "It was big! It's

amazing to think about the war and to see Marines back here doing their daily routines. Life goes on. I hear about a lot of the Marines from Twentynine Palms out in Iraq and Afghanistan but there are still a whole lot left."

Where have you toured overseas? "In November 2005, I traveled to eight countries in 23 days in the Middle East. That was quite an experience."

What do you like best about doing military shows? "How appreciative they are. Athletes and celebrities are worshipped by people, but really the people in the military do amazing things and that should be reversed. I was genuinely shocked at how appreciative service members are. Their sacrifices allow us to do what we're doing."

How was the show for you? "I really liked it. I was actually surprised at how vast the theater was. It's up in the same class as some big university theaters. We had about 500 people in the theater and everyone came here to laugh. I'd come out here again in a heartbeat."



Drake Witham

Age: 34

Hometown: Arlington, Va.

How long have you performed? Four years.

What got you into doing comedy? "People always told me I was funny. I worked at a newspaper in Dallas and I did comedy at an office party. I didn't have an act so I did impersonations of my editors. It killed with everyone except for the editors. There isn't a comedy college or firm, and it took while to get going."

What was your initial

impression of the Combat Center? "It was like being back in Iraq with mountains."

Where have you toured overseas? "I toured in Iraq and Kuwait for 10 days in 2004, and I'm going back this fall. I went to a lot of different forward operating bases in Iraq and the crowds were good. But it was weird being in a war zone and doing comedy. It really hits you when they tell you they lost someone that day and they need a laugh."

What do you like best about doing military shows? "It's always a good crowd and there are jokes they will all get. You can make fun of them as a group or the other services and they enjoy that. If you open up with jokes for them they notice the effort, and it's a great time."

How was the show for you? "It was a great show. You're not sure sometimes when you're the first guy up and don't always know what's going to go, but it worked out really well."

I hope I can come back. It was a great crowd and I had a great time."



Jimmy Della Valle

Age: 34

Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.

How many years have you been performing? Started in 1991, took a few years off, started again in 1997

What got you into doing comedy? "Watching Eddie Murphy got me into it when I saw him perform. I'd always been a funny guy in school. I was actually 'kicked out' of Catholic school in 5th grade."

What was your initial

impression of the Combat Center? "It's a little isolated, but a great base. You even have a street named for me!"

Have you ever toured overseas? Not yet. I haven't been overseas, I've been working on my film career. I'd like to go soon and something is in the works."

What do you like best about doing military shows? How thankful they are when we do this when we should be thanking them. They are genuinely excited for a show. At a base like this, especially Marines, they know it's coming and the show was well promoted. I'd definitely like to come back."

How was the show for you? It was great. I had a great time here. Everyone seemed to love the whole thing, and I got to close it out on a high note. The way comedy works sometimes is the first guy has to get out and set a tone, second guy kicks it up a notch and that third guy brings it to the highest level. We all complimented each other and it made for a great night."

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LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Pvt. Clesson L. Buckmaster, a 22-year-old rifleman with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Royse City, Texas, native, leads the way for his company, bearing the company guidon, and hauling his rifle and equipment.



LANE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Staff Sgt. Peter D. Casali, a platoon sergeant with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, treads through the Combat Center's desert terrain Monday morning as the battalion "humps" five miles.

War Dogs roam Combat Center, share stories of valor

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The War Dogs of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, returned from their seven month deployment to Iraq in January. Since then, they've spent time back home and received roughly 190 Marines, fresh out of School of Infantry, to their battalion.

The War Dogs set out on an exercise Monday morning — a five-mile conditioning hike, dubbed a "hump," hauling their loaded packs and individual weapons.

Throughout the five miles

of the winding rocky and soft sand trails of the Combat Center's desert terrain, members of the battalion reflected on their last deployment, yet each step marked the beginning of another pre-deployment evolution.

Led by Lt. Col. Joseph A. L'Etoile, 2/7's commanding officer, the battalion operated in the city of Fallujah while deployed.

"When we first arrived to Iraq, our battle space was roughly 50 square kilometers," said L'Etoile, a Georgetown, Calif., native. "In the span of seven months, we drew that battle space about

15 times its original size. There were two Iraqi army units operating in the city too, and they manned their own regions of the city. Together we detained a whole lot of bad guys, killed quite a few and made the city a better place. We all worked very, very hard everyday — about 18 to 20 hours a day — for seven months. There was never a break."

Through their hard work came tragic days for the War Dogs. Thirteen Marines of the battalion were killed during the deployment, and many were wounded. But in the midst of all chaos were the

stories of individual experiences.

"I remember a few close calls while patrolling in the city streets," said Lance Cpl. Usiel Montano, a 20-year-old mortarman from Tucson, Ariz., with Mobil Assault Platoon 1, Weapons Company, as he treaded with the formation as a road guard, reflecting on the deployment. "During a mounted patrol, we turned a corner where the street was full of pedestrians. One civilian came up to the back of our high back [seven-ton] and threw a grenade into it. It fell into the corner of the bed behind some water contain-

ers. We thought it was a rock, but when we noticed it was a grenade it blew up. It stunned us but luckily no one got hurt because the fragments were smothered by the water."

"Even though the city improved, there were still a lot of bad people living there," continued Montano. "Another time a man drove his vehicle, carrying a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, into our truck. Usually when our convoys patrol the city, the civilian cars move out of our way. This man accelerated toward us, laughing and waving at us, as he drove into our truck. He

struck the driver side of the truck and exploded with his vehicle. Luckily no one was seriously hurt."

Members of the battalion also reflected on their fellow Marines or Sailors who stood out among the many who exemplified valiance and leadership.

"Cpl. [Jesse T.] Markel is a Marine who is a big asset to our mission and showed it during the deployment," said staff Sgt. Matthew A. Jaxwell, Weapons Platoon sergeant with Echo Company, and Rochester, N.Y., native. "He runs the biggest section in our platoon, and I've never had a problem with accountability. He showed tactical and technical proficiency. He knows his job, he knows his Marines and he knows who to employ. He gives 100 percent in looking out for each guy and accomplishing the mission. It is hard to fill that man's shoes."

"The people who stuck out the most in my mind were our corpsmen," said Lance Cpl. Jeremy S. Stahl, 19-year-old mortarman with Mobile Assault Platoon, Weapons Company, and Milwaukee, Wisc., native. "I've never once saw a corpsman rush his rush when there were wounded Marines. Throughout the whole deployment, the corpsmen were behind every step of the way, patching our wounds. We owe a lot to them. They also gave Iraqi civilian and soldiers the same care as us. They saved many lives out there."

After hauling roughly 50 pounds of gear and kicking up dust for five miles, the battalion reached the end of the hump. As the War Dogs continue to move forward, foreseeing another deployment, their stories of the deployment will not go unheard.

"I have a fear of forgetting any of the Marines who fought with the battalion," said L'Etoile. "Frankly, all of the Marines and Sailors who were with us are heroes. Our mission was accomplished, and we can do it again. We will continue to train hard as we normally do. Next time we deploy, we are going to be smarter, faster and meaner. We will go do an even better job."

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2/7 hikes Combat Center, welcomes new Marines

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The sun peered slowly over the hills of the Combat Center Monday as the Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment geared up for their first conditioning hike since their return from Iraq.

The all-hands formation of more than 800 Marines and Sailors of 2/7's five companies staged their packs and filled the area near the obstacle course before they set out on their five-mile trek to the rocky hills over Mainside.

"This is just a short hump with only our packs and rifles, so it should be fairly easy and I expect everyone to do well," said Lance Cpl. Jeffery L. Stevens of Headquarters Company.

The hike, or "hump," as commonly referred to by Marines, was the first for the battalion since the War Dogs returned home Jan. 31. The unrelenting brisk pace allowed them to complete the training exercise in just over two hours.

Traversing the hills, rocks and sand while shouldering 50-pound packs, many 2/7 leathernicks understood the hump, albeit short, was merely a stepping stone for upcoming, more difficult training.

"This was short and sweet but I'm not really looking forward to the longer ones," said Lance Cpl. Andrew Fest, a 21-year-old armorer and San Antonio, Texas, native. "My feet were killing me all morning, I won't lie about that."

The War Dogs trotted through the hills in two columns, creating a formation that stretched more than one mile and was clearly visible from Mainside despite the overcast conditions.

"Humps like this keep us in shape and help prepare us for Iraq again," said Stevens, a Lincoln, Neb., native. "When I was a new guy, I remember my first hump made me feel like

part of the unit."

The battalion recently welcomed nearly 200 new Marines to its family fresh from the School of Infantry. Some veteran War Dogs saw the hump as a good way to help harden and train the new additions.

"This is kind of an indoctrination for the Marines who just joined us, and it helps them to become part of the unit," said Fest. "For the new guys, it helps them build that unit cohesion, but to some of us older guys, it's still just another hump."

Only a handful of Marines and Sailors fell back or out of the hump, which was probably because of the shorter distance and not having to carry heavy crew-served weapons, said Fest.

With the obstacle course in their sights as they came down from the hills, 2/7 ended their endeavor with a battalion formation around their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Joseph L'Etoile, who addressed his Marines on what he thought of the day and future expectations.

"This is our first hump being back, and it's a chance for everyone to get a feel for their gear, whether your socks are on right, whatever," said L'Etoile. "This is just a tune-up. We have planned out all of our hikes until we go to [the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center at] Bridgeport this summer and we'll culminate here with a 25-mile hike. But we're going to do this smart — 5, 7, 12 miles — right on down the line and we'll slowly introduce the crew-served weapons. Nobody is trying to get anybody hurt out here, but we need to be hard again."

L'Etoile then dismissed his Marines to carry out the plan of the day.

"This was a very good building block to go on and if nothing else, good for conditioning," said Fest. "With so many new Marines with us, this first hump was a good test to be able to see where you and everyone else are at."



Pfc. Cody Holloman, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, holds the company guidon as a weapons count is conducted prior to their five-mile hike.



Marines of Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, count their rifles before departing on a five-mile hike.



Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, hike up to the hills over Mainside in a formation that spanned more than one mile.

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Combat Center recognizes National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In recognition of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Combat Center is promoting education and prevention of the problem throughout April, said 2nd Lt. Jennifer Root, base assistant sexual assault response coordinator.

In 2005, there were 2,374 alleged sexual assault cases reported which involved a service member as a victim or perpetrator, according to the Department of Defense Release Sexual Assault Report released March 16.

Also in 2005, the Marine Corps mandated a new system appointing uniformed victim advocates to each unit, and installation victim advocates, for the purposes of encouraging sexual assault victims to seek help, which may have led to the 40 percent increase in reports from 2004, said Root.

Although the system was initially set up to aid sexual assault victims while deployed to a combat zone, installation victim advocates were recruited to aid victims aboard all Marine Corps bases, explained Root.

The system classifies reports of sexual assault into two categories: restricted and unrestricted.

Restricted reports are when the victim tells about the incident only to the UVA or IVA, who are not required report to military or civilian authorities. The UVAs and IVAs are able to give confidential help to victims, whether or not the victim

chooses to prosecute the perpetrator. They can also help arrange assistance for victims such as receiving medical exams, counseling, sexual transmitted diseases diagnosis, childcare and transportation to medical or legal appointments. They will also assist victims deal with prosecuting perpetrators by helping them become mentally and emotionally prepared, educated on sexual assault, and providing transportation and childcare during legal appointments, said an IVA representative.

An unrestricted report is when the victim informs anyone in their unit command, who is required to report to the authorities. This can result in attention and public awareness to the incident, which usually keeps victims from seeking help in the first place.

"Most military members don't want to seek help after being sexually assaulted because they don't want to draw attention to themselves," said Root. "They don't want to put their unit on alert, or take the time off to get the work done to prosecute."

"But prosecuting can help prevent future sexual assaults by the same person, or scare other possible perpetrators from thinking they can get away with sexual assault."

The new system is designed to make the process of seeking help as painless as possible. The UVAs and IVAs are trained to provide services to aid victims without judgment and in the most discreet manner possible.

"Our first priority is taking care of the victim's concerns," said an IVA, who chose not to be identified for safety reasons. "We do encourage victims to prosecute, but it is up to them."

Some victims do not report a case because they don't know what sexual assault is, said the representative.

The DoD defines sexual assault as "a crime defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent," according to the Sexual Assault Prevention Response Office's Web site <http://www.usmc-mccs.mil/saprm>.

"In most sexual assault cases, alcohol is involved," said Perry Ford, the Combat Center's prevention and education specialist. "Once alcohol comes into the picture, consent is out the door."

Some victims believe because they were too drunk to remember consenting to the sexual act, then it isn't a sexual assault, when it actually means it is a valid sexual assault case, explained Ford.

Another belief that keeps victims from reporting a sexual assault is the victim feels too much time has passed since the incident, but there is no time limit to report and seek help, he said.

For more information on reporting or seeking help to deal with a sexual assault, contact the installation victim advocates at 830-4314.

The Texas Hold'em Tournament held at Hashmarks on 25 March awarded prizes for its top winners. Marine Corps Exchange gift cards were awarded from MCCS.

1. (\$300) SSgt Jorge Oliva, MCCES
2. (\$150) Civ Gary Boltjes, Base Safety
3. (\$100) GySgt Hector Robles, MCCES
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6. (\$60) GySgt Leonard Weber, MCCES
7. (\$50) GySgt Richard Stokes, MCCES
8. (\$40) Sgt Joshua Clinard, MCCES

3rd LAR escorts pilgrims across western Al Anbar during religious pilgrimage

CAPT. MIKE ALVAREZ
RCT-7

CAMP AL ASAD, Iraq — Marines operating in western Iraq provided a security escort Sunday for several buses of travelers making a religious pilgrimage across the Middle East to the holy city of Najaf, Iraq.

The pilgrims traveled from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to the point-of-entry crossing at Trebil, Iraq, along the Iraqi-Jordanian border in southwestern Al Anbar Province.

Marines from 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, based out of Twentynine Palms, Calif., were asked by the Trebil facility's director to "please do this favor for him by escorting these pilgrims to Nukhayb and they can get to Najaf from there."

Furthermore, the pilgrims were concerned about their safety while traveling through western Al Anbar Province.

Najaf, a holy city of about 500,000 people, is located in An Najaf Province, about 370 miles east of Trebil.

"In the interest of maintaining good relations, we said we would help," said Maj. Matt Good, the battalion's operations officer. "We sent an element to pick them up at [Port of Entry] Trebil and escorted them to Nukhayb — an eight hour drive."

After arrangements were made, the Marines escorted the pilgrims without incident. The escort allowed the pilgrims to avoid traveling through more dangerous parts of western Al Anbar Province, and encountering any potential run-ins with insurgents.

"Any time we can extend the olive branch, we do," said Good. "The only better course of action would be to have Iraqi Security Forces do the escort, but that will happen soon enough."

The Marines will continue to work closely with the Iraqi military and border patrols here to provide security and stability throughout the area.

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Navy Chaplain Lt. Catherine Pace deals justice to spouses at the LINKS CAX.

LINKS CAX, A1

The LINKS program also welcomed its first male spouse to participate in the CAX, Shaun Williams, a Newark, N.J. native whose wife serves with Headquarters Battalion.

"I think that more male spouses should come out and try this," said Williams, who was tasked to secretly role-play as a belligerent colleague in order to help instill a sense of teamwork in his fellow spouses. "It's a great experience to be able to see and understand what your wife has gone through or does and maybe you'll give them less grief when they come home late at night."

Their lessons were varied and covered numerous topics including financial management, base and community resources, how to send a care package, managing life during separations with kids and how to handle the next deployment.

"Over 90 percent of our participants today have their spouses currently deployed," said Christina Curtin, a LINKS mentor and coordinator. "We want to motivate and educate them to be more independent and be able to use the resources that are out there for them."

Also participating in the event was Ginny Greatsinger, a LINKS program specialist visiting from Headquarters Marine Corps. Her goal was to observe first hand and give feedback to local organizers as well as to higher committees on what she saw.

"The LINKS program, which is scripted through Headquarters Marine Corps, has never been presented in this way to spouses," she said. "I'm here to see how Twenty-nine Palms is doing this because it's very outside-of-the-box and not done anywhere else."

"I'm very impressed with the level of support and interaction that is provided for these spouses," Greatsinger continued. "It's paramount to have that with an event like this, and it's been great for me to be a part of."

After their classroom lessons, spouses were swiftly ushered out to a looming 50-foot long obstacle course they would have to traverse to move on to the next exercise. Although some were apprehensive at first, many walked away saying it was their favorite event of the day.

The final challenge for that event saw one spouse from each competing team battle one of their LINKS mentors in the pugil stick ring. Williams was selected to represent his team, but the six-foot-five competitor was pitted against a Marine of similar proportions. Williams took the win cleanly and returned victorious to his smiling and cheering team.

"The pugil sticks fight was probably my favorite event,

even though I was ready to fall on my face before we started," said Williams.

Once the "O-course" had been conquered, the group turned in for more classes before a gourmet lunch was served — MREs, or Meals Ready to Eat — just like their husbands and wives would enjoy in the field.

After the spouses finished eating, they went on to learn about the pitfalls and perils permanent change of station orders can bring with them, while periodically running across the field with their team to complete scavenger hunt-like missions.

Moments later, the group helped each other don flak jackets and helmets for a guided tour around Mainside from the back of seven-ton trucks. After the day's brief about base programs and services, the tour helped pinpoint the locations in which to

access them.

Ending their day back at Victory Field, the spouses were greeted by LINKS coordinators as well as Brig. Gen. Stone and Sgt. Maj. William Johnson, Combat Center sergeant major.

"What we wanted to do for you with this course today is not only explain the Marine Corps, but to let you know about all the support that is out there to help you," said Stone. "We can't do our jobs without you, and you can't do it without support, and this is a great place to start for that."

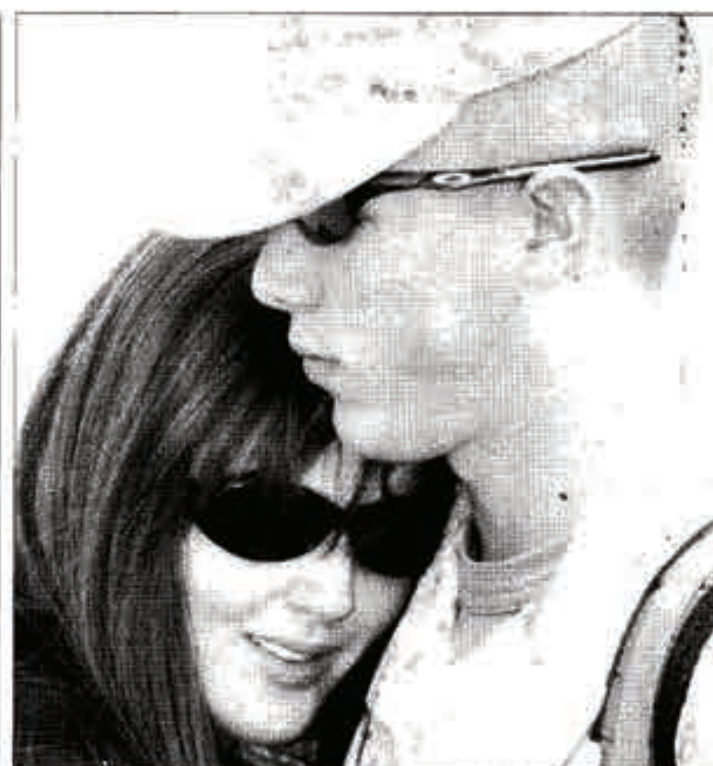
Mentors closed the day with a traditional cake-cutting ceremony, joining the longest married and newest spouse as they sliced cake with a sword.

"I cried out there a few times today watching these ladies get out and do this," said Crowe about the mentors who rehearsed their classes

meticulously for days before the CAX. "Both the mentors and spouses worked so hard and I was so proud of them."

The next LINKS CAX, which is tentatively scheduled for the fall, will be tough to make better, said Crowe. She also plans to invite more Navy and male spouses to take on the challenge.

"Our ultimate goal is to reach as many spouses out there as we can and to educate them and let them gain that self confidence so they can thrive," Crowe said. "We want to teach them how to thrive, not just survive."



Jennifer Solana embraces her husband, Lance Cpl. Nick Solana, a tank crewman with Charlie Company, 1st Tank Battalion, from Slidell, La., Monday afternoon during the final moments before he departs to Iraq.

1ST TANKS, A1

Luis Ferrer, Ferrer's father. "He's going with a good group of men, and we all wish them the best of luck. I am very proud of my son and of all the men who are going with him. We will miss him, but I know he will be back."

All who joined the company members showed a great amount of patriotism by voicing the pride of their loved one and expressing their tough understanding. Traveling from Toledo, Ohio, were the parents of Cpl. Tyler J. Beck, a combat engineer. Monday was the beginning of Beck's first deployment, and he sensed his parent's admiration.

"I've been writing Marine friends who are deployed to Iraq weekly letters for the past two years," said Beck's mother, Laura. "Now it is time to keep in contact with my own son when he's out there. We did get to spend a lot of time with him before today, but now we're sad to see him go."

"We wouldn't miss this deployment or any deployment our son would go on," said Beck's father, Tim. "We are very proud of all the service members who are stepping up to deploy these days. We are extremely proud of Tyler. I know the Marines are the best trained, but it's hard to see a loved one leave for a combat deployment. I admire all the families here today who came to show love and say goodbye. As parents we will always support the Marines and Sailors here and we hope these men and women stay the course."

The two bus convoy departed from the parking lot behind the battalion's command post, as families waved goodbye in tears.

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Could you be next?

Identity theft is a cross-country phenomenon and is the fastest-growing crime in America. Millions of dollars are lost each year when confidential financial information is compromised through identity theft. It occurs when someone takes personal information about you, without your knowledge, to commit theft or fraud.

"Recently, someone turned in a wallet that had a bank password and access number plus Ebay and Paypal account password. Cpl. Sean Kazmierczak, physical security specialist, Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office. Pretty much his whole life could've been taken away. Luckily the person who turned it in was honest."

Theft may also include running up charges on your credit card account, or opening a new credit card account in your name, failing to pay card bills, and having the non-payment reported on your credit report.

Between January and December 2005, Consumer Sentinel, the complaint database developed and maintained by the Federal Trade Commission, received over 685,000 consumer fraud and identity theft reports.

Southern California's Inland Empire had the third highest number of identity theft cases among major metropolitan areas in the nation last year, according to the FTC. The previous year, this region ranked second behind Phoenix.

Credit card theft was the most common form of reported identity theft followed by phone or utilities fraud, bank fraud and employment fraud. Other significant categories reported by victims were government documents fraud and loan fraud. Electronic fund transfer related identity theft was the most frequently reported type of identity theft bank fraud during the calendar year.

Kazmierczak said Web crimes are on the rise since most originate outside the country. "It's hard to catch a lot of those people due to international laws. Foreign agencies rarely cooperate with our local agencies on these matters."

The Fair Credit Reporting Act provides military personnel on deployment with the ability to place an "active duty alert" in their credit reports. The alert requires creditors to verify the military member's identity before granting credit in the person's name. The ability to place the alert applies to members of the military who are away from their usual duty stations. When a business seeking to grant

credit sees the alert, it may try to contact the military member directly for verification.

If the person is deployed, that may not be possible. The law allows military personnel to provide for personal representatives to place or remove alerts. Alerts are good for one year, unless it is requested to be removed earlier. If deployment continues beyond a year, an additional alert may be requested. To place or remove active duty alerts, military personnel should contact one of the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies:

- Equifax (800) 525-6285 or <http://www.equifax.com>
- Experian (888) 397-3742 or <http://www.experian.com>
- TransUnion (800) 680-7289 or <http://www.transunion.com>

Because of the nature of the crime, victims often don't realize their identity has been stolen until they're denied credit, sent a bill for purchases they didn't make or are contacted by a collection agency. Every consumer is a potential target. While people can't entirely control whether they will become a victim, the FTC recommends steps to take to minimize the risk:

PHONE



Don't provide personal information unless you know the caller.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD/LICENSE



Contact the agency that issued the license, Social Security card or other identification document. Follow its procedures to cancel the document and to get a replacement. Ask the agency to flag your file so that no one else can get a license or any other identification document from them in your name. Give your Social Security number only when absolutely necessary, and ask to use other types of identifiers. If your state uses your Social Security number as your driver's license number, ask to substitute another number.

INTERNET



With the advent of the computer, a person can be financially ruined in minutes. Don't give out personal information on online bulletin boards or in nonsecure e-mails or chat rooms. Watch out for phishing (electronic messages from false financial institutions to update your records) and pharming (fake Web sites that look real but redirect your personal information into the wrong hands). Assume it's fake. Your bank wouldn't contact you this way. Shop online at only sites you know and trust or where you see encryption technology. Look for a padlock icon or "https" in the site address.

PINS/PASSWORDS



Place passwords on your credit card, bank, and phone accounts. Avoid using easily available information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your Social Security number or your phone number, or a series of consecutive numbers. When opening new accounts, you may find that many businesses still have a line on their applications for your mother's maiden name. Ask if you can use a password instead.

MAIL



Deposit your outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at your local post office, rather than in an unsecured mailbox. Promptly remove mail from your mailbox. If you're planning to be away from home and can't pick up your mail, call the U.S. Postal Service at 1-800-275-8777 to request a vacation hold. The Postal Service will hold your mail at your local post office until you can pick it up or are home to receive it.

WALLET/PURSE



Carry only the ID and credit card you use often. Be sure to get your credit card back when you use it. Don't carry bank account numbers, personal identification numbers, passport, birth certificate or your Social Security card. Keep them in a safe place at home. Don't put your Social Security or driver's license numbers on your checks.

ATM



Make sure you are not being watched when you make withdrawals. Remove your card and all receipts from the machine.

TRASH



Shred or tear up documents that contain personal information: credit card offers and blank checks companies send out, cancelled checks, bank statements and receipts with your full credit card number.

The FTC also urges you

to get a copy of your credit report annually from each of the three main credit reporting agencies (Equifax, (800) 685-1111; Experian, (888) 397-3742; and Trans Union, (800) 916-8800). A new federal law allows free credit reports once a year from each of the three nationwide consumer credit reporting agencies. For information, go to <http://www.annualcreditreport.com>. Make sure the information in your credit report is correct and includes only authorized events.

For more information on identity theft, contact the Federal Trade Commission at (877) IDTHEFT (438-4338) or <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>.

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Chess tourney draws unexpected crowd

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and Sailors competed in the first Chess Tournament conducted by the Single Marine Program at The Zone March 20-23.

The event drew Marines and Sailors from across the Combat Center to put their chess skills to the test against other players.

"The Marines and the Sailors on this base surprised me very much," said Heather Fiske, SMP coordinator. "We expected maybe five to 10 guys. We had 20 guys start off in this tournament. Overall, it was definitely a success."

Of those who competed in this event, many of them have been waiting for an event like this for some time.

"I think it's a good thing," said Victor Isarraraz, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. "I've been waiting on this base for a couple of years to hear about a chess tournament. I'm really into it. I enjoy the game quite a bit. I did it when I was in high school. I'm just glad they're doing it here now."

"I've had quite a bit of experience," continued Isarraraz, who took third in the tournament. "I would say I'm pretty decent. I've won 11 games, lost two, tied one — so that's pretty good for a tournament."

Romualdo Humarang, Naval Personnel Center and winner of the tournament, said he, too, was excited about the chess tournament.

"A lot of people have been waiting for this," he said. "It's a very young event that needs a lot of development. But this is the first one, and it went so smooth."

Fiske has wanted to put on a chess tournament for a long time. With the conception of the All-Marine Chess Team, getting the event started became easier.

"What jumpstarted this was that Headquarters had come

up with... an initiative," said Fiske. "They are the ones who provided all the bases with a chess-in-a-box. They provided the timers, the chess sets, 16 t-shirts to give to the first guys who signed up for the tournament, and the trophies."

"They are trying to do a push... to get others more interested in chess so they have a better pool of Marines to pull from for the All-Marine team," she continued.

Fiske said she plans to have another chess tournament because of the turnout and the enjoyment of those who participated.

"They came out of the woodwork. They definitely enjoyed it," she said.



Chess players from across the base competed in a chess tournament at The Zone March 20-23.

Semper Fit seeks resumes for All-Marine Chess Team

Do you have what it takes to go head-to-head with the best minds in America's armed forces?

Semper Fit is seeking resumes for the All-Marine Chess Team to represent the Corps at the Inter-Service Chess Championship June 11-17 at NAS Jacksonville, Fla., and at the NATO Chess Championship August 19-26 at Wellington College, England.

Marines interested in being considered for selection to the All-Marine team must submit their resumes no later than April 21. Resumes must include the player's United States Chess Federation membership card identification number, state of registration, USCF rating, date of rating, and record of significant chess activity during the past two years (provide date, place, event and standing). All resume packages must contain command endorsement stating that the Marine will be made available to attend all events if selected, and resume should be sent through the local Marine Corps Community Semper Fit Athletic Director for coordination. Marines stationed at locations without a local MCCS may submit their resumes directly to the Commandant of the Marine Corps along with their command endorsement. The All Marine Team will consist of six players selected from submitted resumes. The U.S. National Team will consist of six players and a team captain formed from the top finishers from each service and the top remaining finishers overall.

Resume forms are available on the MCCS website at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/chess>, or forms can be picked up from your local MCCS Semper Fit Athletic Director. Completed resumes should be sent to: Commandant of the Marine Corps (MRS), ATTN: Donna Seabrease, 3280 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134, or via fax to (703)784-9822 or DSN: 278-9822.

For more information contact your local MCCS Semper Fit Athletic Director or Donna Seabrease, HQMC, Semper Fit at 703-784-9542, DSN 278-9542, or email donna.seabrease@usmc.mil.

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SPORT SHORTS

INTRAMURAL
SOFTBALL

The Commanding General's Intramural Softball season is about to begin and teams are looking for players. Pre-season begins April 17 and the regular season will start April 25. Games are Tuesday and Thursday nights and open to all base personnel. Call Randy Husted 830-4092 to get in contact with a coach.

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EASTER

EGG-STRAVAGANZA

The Palms Baptist Church, located at 5285 Adobe Rd., is holding an Easter Egg-Stravaganza April 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be pony rides, egg and cookie decorating, a petting zoo, a balloon artist and an Easter egg hunt. Food will be sold at concession stands. Call 367-3713 for more information.

SPOUSE BINGO
BLITZ NIGHT

The Key Volunteers of MWSS-374 and MCCS will host Spouse Bingo Blitz Night at the Community Center (bldg. 1004) tonight from 6 to 8 p.m. Come have a night of fun, FREE food and prizes! For more event information, call 830-3380.

AMERICAN CANCER
SOCIETY "RELAY
FOR LIFE"

There will be an American Cancer Society Relay For Life from 9 a.m. on April 29 to 9 a.m. on April 30 at Yucca Valley High School. You do not have to be there the entire 24 hours, members can sign-up for time slots. Relay For Life is a community gathering where everyone can participate in the fight against cancer. Teams camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event, because cancer never sleeps. Relays are an overnight event, up to 24 hours in length. Relay For Life brings together millions of people to raise money to help prevent cancer, save lives, and diminish suffering from the disease. The relay brings people together from all walks of life with the common goal of eliminating cancer. For more information, contact HM2 Sjaarda at 830-2140 or 367-2324.

Did You Know?

The greatest diameter for a bubblegum bubble blown is 58.4 cm (23 in).



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

The 2006 Cheer/Dance Team ends their final performance of the season with a lasting impression on the crowd.

Combat Center's Cheer/Dance Team performs at Staples Center

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

LOS ANGELES — The Combat Center's Cheer/Dance Team performed in the pre-game show at the Los Angeles Clippers versus the Washington Wizards game at the Staples Center Saturday.

The team of more than 30 girls between the ages of 7 and 12 participate in their final performance of the season.

This event was the culmination of what began more than three months ago when the Cheer/Dance Team began practicing twice per week with their coaches, Sheila Keim and Nicole Brown, as well as performing at men's and youth basketball games once per week.

Since the start of the team, parents and children knew about the performance at the Staples Center and have been looking forward to it ever since, said Keim.

"It feels good to finally be here," said Alyssa Parker, an 8-year-old stu-

dent from Condor Elementary School, after walking into the Staples Center. "I'm not nervous. I'm excited!"

While some of the girls huddled around the coaches asking questions, Alyssa and a few of the other girls practiced the routine.

"We really like it when the crowd cheers with us," said Bailey Hartmann, 10-year-old student at Oasis Elementary School.

However, not all of the girls shared the same enthusiasm as Alyssa and Bailey.

"Some of the girls are really nervous," said Keim. "All of a sudden, their 'tummy's hurt' and they keep asking how many people are going to be there. We keep telling them it's not going to be that bad. It'll be over before they know it."

Then the girls were rushed backstage and pom-poms were handed out. The coaches quickly checked every girl's hair, while reassuring them it

was going to be quick and fun.

"We reassured the girls they know the dance," explained Brown. "And it was going to be fun."

Suddenly, the Cheer/Dance Team was introduced to the entire stadium and the girls ran out with smiles, running and shaking their pom-poms.

The girls performed a two-minute cheer and dance routine to the song "Shake Your Tailfeather" by the Cheeta Girls in front of more than 1,500 people, said Keim.

"Afterwards, the girls said 'that was it!'" she explained. "The girls all thought the season and the big performance went by really fast."

The girls and their families watched the rest of the game. The game ended with a Clippers victory over the Wizards, 116-101.

"It went really well," said Keim, on the bus ride home. "It was great to see the final product of the three months we've been working with the girls."

Both coaches said they were happy with the outcome.

"We're really proud of these girls," added Brown. "They've come a long way since the first practice. They knew the song and were able to let their personalities come out in the performance."

The girls enjoyed the season and look forward to next year.

"It was over really fast," said Kayla Juris, 9-year-old, Oasis Elementary. "I'm going to be on the team next year."

"I got to meet a lot of new friends and I love to dance and cheer. I had so much fun," she said.

Plans for next season will start being discussed by the Marine Corps Community Services' staff in September, until then there are no dates available for 2007, said Joe Roselli, youth sports director.

For more information on youth sports contact the Community Center, 830-3910.

Joint-service, all-star baseball team hosts tough MCAGCC tryouts

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The United States Military All-Star Baseball Team held tryouts Saturday at Twentynine Palms High School for more than 30 prospective applicants from all service branches.

The San Diego based, semi-professional level team visited the High Desert to allow service members from throughout Southern California the opportunity to try out for the highly competitive team openings.

Those selected go on to join the team for a year in a temporary additional duty status to compete against various teams around the country and abroad including Louisiana State University, University of Florida, Florida State University, Auburn University, Alabama State University and Mississippi State University.

The team, which began in 1990, is one of the fastest growing, largest, and most successful joint military baseball programs since the Vietnam War era. Organizers put forth an effort through 11 teams worldwide to assemble the very best talent in the military, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Terry R. Allvorda, team head coach and founder.

"Everyone was invited to this tryout," said Allvorda. "All services, active duty or reservists — it's completely open tryouts, and we've been hosting them all over the world. What we're trying to do is go to as many locations as possible, especially where we know we have former players from the team. But every year the level of competition goes up and it's harder and harder for them to make it."

"We have a few Marines here who played for us before and a couple of All-Marine Team guys, so we were looking at them closely today," continued Allvorda.

The 37 service members trying out were from all branches of the military, including six Combat Center Marines.

One such Marine was Pfc. Drew Chism, who tried out as a pitcher. An avid baseball player and fan since childhood, he said he had always dreamed of becoming a professional player.

"I've played baseball my whole life, and this looked like a very competitive team, so I thought it would give me a chance to pursue a career I've always dreamed about," said Chism, an information technology clerk with the Center Personnel office.

"They are a semi-pro team and from my perspective, a step above collegiate baseball," said the 20-year-old Versailles, Ky., native. "It was the shortest tryout I've ever been to. They are very competitive and they know what they want and are very serious about the sport."

One Combat Center Marine with 1st Tank Battalion was already selected as a pitcher at a previous tryout at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, but Chism said he remained focused.



CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Leo Fiallos, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, swings during the United States Military All-Star Baseball Team tryouts.

"These coaches are tough and know what they're talking about," said Cpl. Tyler Maxon of Tanks. "I got picked down in Coronado a few weeks ago, but it was hard. I played on the All-Marine Team two years ago but went to Iraq last summer, so I didn't get to play. I came back and heard about this team, and it's been great to see all the services working together."

As the tryouts went on, the crowds of potentials dwindled steadily away. Chism took the pitcher's mound to show the coaches what he had to offer.

He remained there for nearly 25 pitches, more than any other hopeful; throwing out curves, sliders, fastballs and changeups under the close scrutiny of Allvorda and his staff.

"I know I went out there and gave it my best," said Chism as he left the mound to allow others their shot. "I was very pleased with my performance, so I'll just have to wait to hear from them now."

As more pitchers burned up home plate, other Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines were busy manning bases and in the outfield to show Allvorda what they were made of.

"I think the reputation of the team is a lot better now and everyone understands that it's a lot better baseball," said Allvorda. "We used to have 1,000 or 1,500 guys come out for tryouts, from amateur up. We've eliminated a lot of that now — they know we're serious. We're looking for college-level experience or above."

"The Marine team at Camp Pendleton is also looking for players, so if they don't make it with us, maybe they can head that way," he said. "We're all

about helping someone get on another team if they're ready."

When the final pitcher had finished, Allvorda gathered them up to give the news: none of them had made the cut.

The players who came out to pitch today just weren't at the skill level the team was looking for, he said.

"The only one here who came close today was this guy," Allvorda said to the group as he motioned toward Chism. "He was the only one who was consistent all the way."

Although let down not to be selected, Chism said his experience was one he will build upon and keep his spirits up.

"It hurt a little bit when they said I didn't make it, but I knew going out there that it would be tough," said Chism. "The coach said that I had a good arm, and that made me feel better. I'm only 20 years old and still have three more years to try out."

"If nothing else, it was good competition and really good experience from what they've told me, and it's worth it even to just go try out and put your name out there," Chism continued.

Although no players were selected for the team for any position that day, it is not an uncommon trend with a small group, said Allvorda.

"If they see us play on TV on ESPN, they'll know why we are so hard on them," Allvorda continued.

The team's next and final tryouts will be held April 2 in Great Lakes, Ill., and the season will begin May 1.

MCCES holds 'Fun Run' marathon

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Residents of the Coachella Valley and surrounding areas came to the Combat Center to compete in the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School 10 Kilometer, Half and Full Marathon Fun Run at the Combat Center Saturday.

MCCES used the Fun Run to raise funds for their Marine Corps Ball fund.

"This was an ideal fundraiser because it was fun, motivating and encouraged people to PT more," said Laura M. Perrone, MCCES safety officer, who oversaw the event. "The actual money raised this go-around was inconsequential compared to the benefits of getting people out there running and trying something different."

Each of the races started in front of MCCES' Charlie Company's school house. After circling the compound, runners headed out on Del Valle Drive toward Camp Wilson. The 10K runners turned around only a couple miles down Del Valle while the rest of the pack continued on toward Camp Wilson.

Once the runners returned to the MCCES school house, the half-marathon runners crossed the finish line, but the full marathon runners turned around to run the whole course one more time.

Ryan Ellis, MCCES student, said he enjoys these races because of, "The rush at the end, the crowds, the look on people's faces when you finish. When people say, 'He's a freak.' I like that." Ellis won the full marathon with a time of 3 hours, 10 minutes, 41 seconds.

According to Mark Masters, MCCES instructor, there were a lot of skeptics who said the event would draw only a few of the most dedicated runners. But the turnout surprised some people.

"The event was definitely a success," said Perrone. "There was a much bigger turnout than we anticipated. The reason we were a little apprehensive about the turnout was the Los Angeles marathon was the week before and we only had a month to advertise. In the end, 65 people showed up to run and nobody

was injured."

Donald D. Tolbert, MCCES executive officer and coordinator of the Fun Run, also ran in the full marathon. He, too, was pleased with the turnout for the race, but regarded unit deployments as another obstacle that decreased the number of potential runners.

"We've got a good crowd here," said Tolbert. "The problem is, everybody is deployed, and it's hard to get people out of the rack on a Saturday morning for a 'fun run.'"

Not all of the runners who competed in the race came for the competition.

"We ran for the fun of it; to say we did it," said Bobby Younce and Emma Whitmore, MCAGCC Band members who ran the half-marathon together.

"I haven't been training so it was really hard," said Whitmore. "You can see for so long in front of you. You pick an object to run to and think, 'Oh, it's not too far away,' and it takes forever to get there."

They plan to come to the next MCCES marathon together; this time to run the full marathon.

In the race standings, Tolbert took second in the full marathon with 3:59:30 and Joseph T. Long finished third with 4:00:01.

Only one female Marine ran the full marathon, Adelita Valle, finishing in 5:08:24.

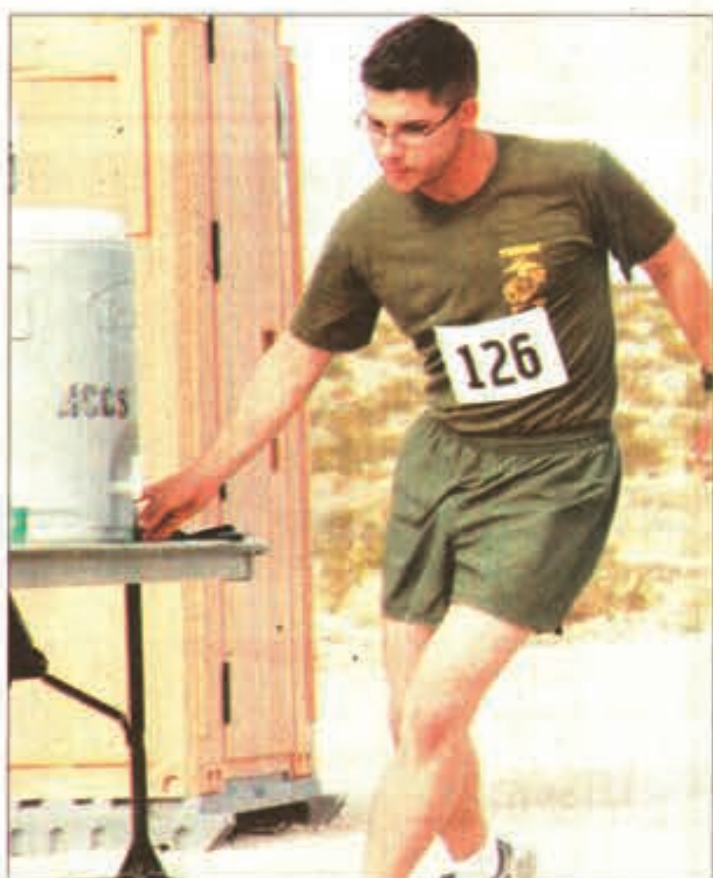
In the half marathon, Matthew J. Harrell finished first with 1:29:35, Edgar Escobar took second with 1:36:27, and David Oneil took third with 1:37:48.

Once again, one female Marine, Emma Whitmore, finished the half marathon in 2:25:02.

Michael S. Keane won the 10K in 44:12, Joshua E. Smith took second with 45:29, and John Paulin finished third with 46:23.

Females found more competition in the 10K than the other races, as there was more participation. Sylvania Yip won first with 51:43, R. Turner took second with 56:49, and Denise Ash finished third with 58:14.

With the possibility of a second MCCES marathon in Sep-



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
Adam Garcia places his drink on the table at the water station in the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School 10 Kilometer, Half and Full Marathon Fun Run Saturday.

tember, participation may grow as interest develops and word spreads.

"Clearly, those participating had a good time and will tell others about the event," said Perrone. "Just like the Navy's Ridge Run, this Fun Run's participation should grow each time we do it, and I hope word gets down to some of the surrounding bases. Who knows? Maybe the Marines and Sailors stationed in San Diego and Pendleton may decide to travel three hours to run in the desert."

MCCES stays undefeated, Tanks remains close behind



LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
Hospital's Paul Netzel attempts to block a spike from 1st Tank Battalion's Samuel Venegas in a match March 22 in the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League.

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In the fifth week of the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League, teams attempted to catch up to the only undefeated team, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, in a series of matches Mar. 22 at the Combat Center's West Gym.

Headquarters Battalion faced off against the Provost Marshal's Office in the first match of the evening.

Headquarters won the first game, 25-20, but didn't follow through in the second

game and PMO won, 26-24.

In the tiebreaking third game, HQBN's Clayton Dooley contributed four kills to the team's 15-8 win, sending PMO home with a 1-4 record. Headquarters remains one of the top teams in the league with a 3-1 record.

Undefeated die-hard volleyball players, MCCES, served the first ball in the second match against Hospital. While Hospital's defense kept the team afloat, MCCES' ground-slapping spikes and strong communication put points on the scoreboard. The first game was short and sweet for MCCES, who won 25-9. The second game was almost an instant replay as

MCCES won again, 25-12.

Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School has kept a tight hold on the number one spot, while Hospital has stayed in the rear, not winning a single game throughout the season.

However, Hospital received a chance to come back in the last match of the night against 1st Tank Battalion, but Hospital could not shake their losing streak. Tanks won the first game, 25-21.

In the second game of the match, Tanks didn't seem as smooth as they gave away six points for hitting the ball out of bounds, four points for serving the ball directly into

the net and three points for making bad block attempts close to the net.

Although Hospital sailed the ball into the net five times, stumbled over each other and the ball to give away 10 points, they still came out on top. Hospital won their first game of the season, 25-20.

"We were talking to each other and it was working," said Hospital's Levi Gonzales. "As long as we got the first hit in and got it to each other, we were able to set it up for score."

Many Tanks players felt they had the wrong state of mind.

See MCCES, B8

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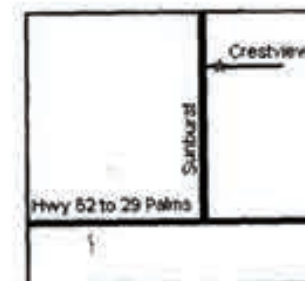
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Brand new 283 bdrm homes, wsh/dr/frig included, grt location, a/c \$775+. (714)749-2728

LG 1 bdrm, 1 ba, 5 ac, views, quiet loc. w/d hkups. Near base, avail now! \$500 365-2333

LG 2 bdrm, 1 ba, family rm, w/d hkups, new paint; tile, great views, fncd back yard, avail now. \$850 365-2333

MILITARY welcome! 3/1, newly upgraded, lg fncd yd, near schools, \$1100+dep. 367-3353

NEWLY constructed 3 bdrm, 2 ba, 1370 sq. ft. refrig, covered patio, city gas line, 2 car gar, fenced, \$900. Contact Megan/Cheri: (760) 367-9521

NEWLY constructed 3 bdrm, 2 ba, 1680 sq. ft. AC/swamp cooler, fncd, auto irrigation landscape, refrig, frplc, panoramic views, 1/3 acre lot, oversized gar, covered patios. \$1,175 Contact Megan/Cheri: (760) 367-9521

RENT to own 3 bdrm, 1 ba on 2.5 ac, near base, trash paid \$750 + dep. 365-0506

TOTAL move in \$1200 3+2+fence, 1 gar, new paint & carpet, kids pets ok (760)361-3366

VIEW house over 2100 sq ft 4 bdrm, den, 2 ba, frplc, 1/2 acre, fncd, pets ok. 74745 Alta Loma Dr. \$1,250/mo. (800) 358-3366 agt Judy

FLAMINGO HEIGHTS

3 bdrm, 2 ba, new paint, new tile, W/D hkups, beautiful loc. on 5 ac., 365-2333. \$1000

JOSHUA TREE

** 2 bdrm, 1 ba, fncd yard, \$835 365-9738

3 bdrm, 1 ba, beautiful area, 2 car gar, util rm, new tile & paint, stove \$950/mo. 365-2333

3 bdrm, 1.5 ba, w/d din. rm, gar., super clean, \$975/mo. + dep. pets ok, 361-5334

3 brm, 1 ba near elem school, natl. gas, \$850/mo. + dep. 369-1221

61739 Petunia Dr. JT Completely rehab, 3 bdrm, 2 ba, 2 car gar, white pocket frnce, S-8 or military ok (951) 237-5258 \$1,125

AVAIL soon- cozy 1 bdrm+ sm office, home. W/t pd. hkups, new appl. \$700, 285-2599

Avail. now! 2 bdrm, 1 ba, att. gar., w/d hkup, central air, \$850 + dep (909) 823-2419 JT

How would you like to rent a new 3 bdrm, 2 ba, home w/open floor plan in quiet area. \$1,100/mo. (760) 831-5785

N. JT, 3 bdrm, 2 ba., \$850/mo., 2 bdrm, 1 ba, \$800/mo. Studio \$400/mo., all util. pd, refurbished all new, (323) 229-1924

NEWLY renovated 2 bdrm, 1 bath house on 5 acres in Moonlight Mesa. (760) 366-765

NICE corner lot south side, 2 bdrm, 1 ba, 2 car gar., fenced yard, natural gas/heat, swamp cooler, \$800/mo + dep 366-3470

MORONGO VALLEY

\$1,100, 3 bdrm, 2 ba., immaculate house, gar., nice fncd yd, no pets 363-7791

3 bdrm, 2 ba, spacious, 2.3 ac., horses & pets ok, \$1,300 + \$1,000 dep 363-1151 or (805) 801-5511

3 bdrm, 2 ba, Sky Harbor, refurb., \$1,500/mo. + sec., 409-7838

3 bdrm, 2 ba, 57966 Joshua Lane, YV. Newer Sky Harbor home, owner took pride & joy in this home. \$1,300/mo. Glen Prop. Mgmt. 369-1018

3 bdrm, 2 ba, frplc, new carpet, paint, blinds, tile & applc. 3 car gar., fncd bk yd, Joshua Dr. \$1,200/mo. 668-5153

3 bdrm, 2 ba, home, deck, on 5 view ac., up near mountains, 5 min. to town. \$895/mo. 363-6343

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3 bdrm, 2 ba, brand new home in MV, great for out of town commuters. \$950/mo. 9188 Bella Vista MV Glen Prop. Mgmt. 369-1018

MORONGO Valley, 2 bdrm, 1 ba, new carpet, no gar., \$675/mo. + \$1,350 dep., (818) 363-6053

YUCCA MESA

YUCCA Mesa, lg 2 bdrm 1 ba, totally refurbished, acerage, paved Rd \$975, 760-668-6857

YUCCA VALLEY

2 bdrm, 1 ba fncd yard, \$750. 365-9738

2 bd., 2 ba., corner lot, fncd yd., pet ok. Central location. Ref's \$975. Mo. Call Dan 366-2811

2 bdrm, 1 ba, .5 ac., 2 car gar., \$850/mo. 7807 Valley Vista, (949) 697-6334

2 bdrm, 1 ba, close to town, w/d, refridge incl., very clean, 7100 Cholla, YV, \$800/mo., call agt, 221-2526

2 bdrm, 1 ba, stove, refrig., Indry rm w/storage, fncd yd, completely refurbished, no pets. \$700 + dep 228-3019 or 660-9283

2 bdrm, 1 ba., new carpet & paint, fncd yd, lg bonus rm, 2 car gar., roof patio, \$900/mo. (323) 377-7913

2 bdrm, 2 ba, gar./barn, nice view, \$750/mo. 365-5726

3 bdrm, 2 ba, 57966 Joshua Lane, YV. Newer Sky Harbor home, owner took pride & joy in this home. \$1,300/mo. Glen Prop. Mgmt. 369-1018

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3 bdrm, 2 ba., stove, dishwasher, fncd yd, 2 car gar., natl. gas, frplc + nice neighbors, \$975, avail 4/8, 369-2906 or (562) 493-5567

BRAND new home for rent, newly built, never lived in, 1st time move in special, a must see, huge house, call Laura at 799-8959

CLOSE to town, nice country home on 2.5 fncd ac., 3 bdrm, 2 ba., w/ det 2 car gar., also lg RV gar., no smoking/ pets, \$975/mo. (760) 366-1132

GREAT 3 bdrm, 2 ba, home in YV. Newly remodeled european style kitchen. 58149 Alta Mesa, \$1,025 Glen Prop. Mgmt. 369-1018

LG, 3 bdrm, 2.5 ba., family rm, living rm, 2 frplc's, din. rm + 2 bonus rm's, gar., \$1,200/mo., 369-2713

WESTERN Hills Estates, 3 bdrm, 2 ba., + office, frplc, w/d hkups, heating & a/c, 2 car gar., \$1,275/mo. + sec. dep. avail. May 1. (949) 646-3595

2 bdrm, 1 ba, stove, refrig., Indry rm w/storage, fncd yd, completely refurbished, no pets. \$700 + dep 228-3019 or 660-9283

2 bdrm, 1 ba., new carpet & paint, fncd yd, lg bonus rm, 2 car gar., roof patio, \$900/mo. (323) 377-7913

2 bdrm, 2 ba, gar./barn, nice view, \$750/mo. 365-5726

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3 bdrm, 2 ba, frplc, new carpet, paint, blinds, tile & applc. 3 car gar., fncd bk yd, Joshua Dr. \$1,200/mo. 668-5

300 HELP WANTED

CLEANING service now hiring - Morongo Basin Area. Must be exp'd hard worker, self starter reliable a must, no felony arrests. FT & PT work avail. (760) 774-6171

COMMERCIAL & construction clean-up. Must be motivated! \$8/hr. start. Call 861-5598

CUSTOMER Service Rep. needed, cash handling & computer skills preferred. Cash-N-Advance 3713 Adobe Rd. 29 Palms.

DENTAL Assistant full-time for busy Oral Surgery Office. Call (760) 365-0658

DRIVER wanted some light labor necessary, 25 or older w/valid drivers lic., call 365-6840

EXPERIENCED Grading Supervisor Foreman Experienced only apply Top Pay and Benefits Call (760) 902-9166

FULL time receptionist needed for busy Psychologist office in 29 Palms. Fax resume to 367-7167 or email to info@checkupnecup.com

FULLTIME truck driver/ laborer Hard working self motivated person to become a permanent team player in a well established, growing, septic tank, pumping & installation business. Must have a Class A or B license to apply. Back hoe & construction exp. a plus. Apply in person with DMV report at Action Pumping, 7361 Warnego Trl YV, Ca. (760) 365-0861

GENERAL labor, 1/1 in YV, work w/ architectural molds & casts for mantles, exp. w/ construction or car body work, will train, able to lift 50 lbs, call 333-2707

GOODPASTER Construction a remodeling and new construction firm est. in the Morongo basin since 1984. We are currently looking for well qualified employees with knowledge in all fields. Must be reliable, hardworking, have your own vehicle & tools. Pay is negotiable based on exp. Must be willing to submit to drug testing. Please call 228-1985 to set up interview.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT. Bulldozers, Backhoes, Loaders, Dump Trucks, Scrapers, Excavators. National Certification. Financial Assistance. Job Placement Assistance. (800) 383-7364 Associated Training Services www.atsn-schools.com

HELP wanted, looking for stable person w/ teachable attitude & aptitude for numbers to do bookkeeping & secretarial duties, 3 days a week, for small Christian ministry. Computer knowledge & some bookkeeping exp. preferred, \$1,000 - \$1,250 monthly DOE, send resume to VI PO Box 2020, Yucca Valley, Ca 92286

HELP Wanted; Earn up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. INFO (985) 646-1700 DEPT CA-504

Hi Desert cleaning needs 1 employee, (drug free) reliable transportation a must, call Tim 408-1592

HIDESERT FAMILY ELDERCARE Now hiring caregiver/cook first aid and finger prints preferred. Call (760) 366-3845 Lic#366409076

HORSE & carriage driver needed for Palm Springs Carriages. Training avail. Call 329-1039 or 774-7637.

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LADY 62-70, supplement your Social Security. Help elderly gent. take care of his 83 yr old A.D. wife. Live in plus salary. Beautiful home & view. All new furniture & new T.V. email edward.young33@verizon.net or 365-3322

LEGAL Secretary wanted in progressive 29 Palms office. Min. 2 yrs legal exp. Full or part time. 361-1223

MEDICAL Assistant needed for a busy pediatric office, must have Peds. exp., phlebotomy preferred, xint pay/benefits offered. call (760) 369-9220 or resume to 57445 29 Palms Hwy Ste 302, YV

MEDICAL ASST. with ability to work front & back office. Exp. a must for busy YV physicians office. Mail resume to: P.O. Box 510, Joshua Tree, Ca. 92252

MEDICAL/PEDIATRIC office in Palm Springs needs MA, bilingual desired. Fax resume to (760) 228-3369 and mail to Box 984, Yucca Valley, 92286

NEED someone who can prepare & serve meals for family. 365-5579

NOW hiring painters. Journeymen need only to apply. 5 yrs min. experience. Must be willing to travel (So. Cal.) Prevailing wage scales. Contact Carl 367-5410

PAPPY & Harriets needs dishwasher. Must be responsible, hardworking, strong & 18 or older only. Apply in person. 365-5956

PLASTER trainee wanted. Must have transportation & phone. Call & leave message 228-9890

POSITIONS open, experienced please. Supermarket - Meat Department Manager, Night Closing Manager, Produce Manager, Stock Clerk. Salaries commensurate with experience. Health and vacation benefits. Please call (760) 367-7216

PROBATION Corrections/Officers, part/full time. (909) 387-6173 www.sbcounty.gov/probation

RECEPTIONIST needed for a new property mgmt. office opening May 1, must be friendly and have front office exp. Fax resume to (760) 365-1382

RECEPTIONIST/ scheduler full time for Oral Surgery Office. Some medical/dental background desired. Call 365-0658

ROOFING positions: Laborer & shingle/tile installer; benefits (760) 228-2672

THE MBTA is seeking a part-time office clerk. Applicants should be highly motivated, responsible individuals with recent office experience. For more information call 760-366-2986. Or Fax Resume to 760-366-2445. EOE. Deadline for applications April 14, 5:00pm.

TRUCK driver wanted, class A needed, OTR, home every week, team driver 401-2423

HERT TRUCKING CLASS "A" DRIVERS • Company Drivers • Avg \$3.38 p/m • Loaded/Empty • Local & Part Time • Off Weekends • Weight Bonus • Medical & 401K • Profit Sharing • Paid Vacation • Steady Year Round Work

QUALIFICATIONS • 1 Year Experience • Class "A" w/ Doubles • We're large enough to have quality equipment, yet small enough to know you!

Call (760) 248-7077 Monday - Friday

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WANTED general auto mechanic. Must have tools, call (760) 365-5651

WANTED Nurse Practitioner for wellness clinic in Joshua Tree, specializing in colds & flu, -sprains, strains, aches & pains. Call Linda 366-7489

WANTED: Gymnastics class instructors. Starting pay \$8/hour. call 365-8112

MEDICAL FRONT OFFICE FULL TIME FAX 365-7538

305 KIDS CLASSIFIEDS

Free Ads! If you are between the ages of 12-17 and are looking for work after school, bring your ID to the Hi-Desert Star or Desert Trail office and we will give you a free ad in this classification.

310 WORK WANTED

CAREGIVER for elderly, 25 yrs. exp. I come highly recommended w/ ref's. (760) 366-3532

CAREGIVER for Seniors. Flexible days & hrs. Cleaning, cooking, errands, appointments. Mary Ellen - 365-5145

HANDYMAN needs more work! Plumbing, auto, electrical & swamp. Ref's. 366-4697 or 368-7233 Jim

IHSS care giver, needs work, companion, Dr. appts, shopping, cleaning. Evelyn 366-3102

Stay at home mom, YV would like to care for children in home. Great ref's & prices 365-6304

Services 400-499

Services Offered Policy

This newspaper does not accept responsibility for services offered, by any advertiser, using this newspaper. Please carefully evaluate any services advertised, and do not use that service unless you have checked the references, and know and understand all terms of agreement and conditions between you and the advertiser.

California State law requires that contractors, builders, and landscapers who perform work for \$500 or more, including materials and labor, must be licensed. License numbers should be so indicated in all advertising.

Family child care providers are required by state law to be licensed, and facility license numbers must be indicated in all advertising.

Unlicensed contractors should also be indicated in their advertising.

Please refer questions to Contractors State License Board, 1250 East Cooley Drive, Suite 200, Colton, CA 92324

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

400 ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUGS & BEYOND 369-9999 Rugs, Baby & Children needs, Gifts for everyone! 56131 29 Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley

300 HELP WANTED

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400 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enjoy Wine? Visit beautiful California Wine Country... from the comfort of your home or office. Learn about wines, where they are made, and the people behind the wines. You can get recipes to go with them or plan your trip to this fantastic region.

Come see what's new at www.winecountrythisweek.com

420 HEALTH & FITNESS

Relax • Renew • Refresh Professional Massage & Facials for women Swedish • Aroma • Therapeutic Delana Brooks CMT (760) 464-9896 15 yrs in the valley

425 INSTRUCTIONAL

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT Bulldozers, Backhoes, Loaders, Dump Trucks, Scrapers, Excavators -National Certification -Financial Assistance -Job Placement Assistance (800) 383-7364 Associated Training Services www.atsn-schools.com

435 SERVICES

CARPET CLEANING by JAMES Reasonable/Reliable Military/Senior discount, FREE QUOTES! (760)361-8570

A/C & HEATING Eagle Construction, Inc., Heating & Air Conditioning. Residential, Sales, Installation & Service (760) 333-9590 or 366-1914

AUTO BOB'S Mobile Auto Repair, reasonable prices, excellent service! 364-1098 or 401-1402 Lic./Reg. #A0233282

BOB Cat Service: rock placement, decorative rock supplier. Silver Star Enterprise, John Harmon, Owner-Operator (760) 780-8029 unlic.

BOBCAT for hire Can access small, hard to reach areas. Protect your home from the next rains... \$60/hr 3 hr min - includes owner/operator (760) 361-1404

Bubba's Powder Coating 369-3917 Restoring cars, motorcycles, bicycles, rod iron fences.

CARPET CLEANING In Yucca Valley, punctual and reliable. Call for free quote 861-2033 Sr. discount

CLEANING by George. residential carpet care & commercial cleaning. Military & senior disc. Lic., bonded & insured. (760) 365-4223.

CONCRETE, Masonry & Patio Covers. Call Jeff McGowan Concrete & Masonry @ 228-1694 Lic#772649

CONCRETE, driveways, patios, house slabs. Also carpentry & roof add's. No job too small. Call Bill 365-6724, Lic#409280

CONCRETE, landscape Borders, Erosion Control, Garden Borders. Call The Curb Maker (760) 365-2221 unlic.

CONSTRUCTION Chimney sweep, fireplaces, masonry, waterfalls. Duda's Construction 228-0842 Lic. # 702827

CONSTRUCTION, Serving the Morongo Basin Since 1984. Goodpaster Construction (760) 228-1985 Lic#503172

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Relax • Renew • Refresh Professional Massage & Facials for women Swedish • Aroma • Therapeutic Delana Brooks CMT (760) 464-9896 15 yrs in the valley

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435 SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION Build-Rite: Room additions & bathroom specialist. Design to complete installation. Call 365-7775, Lic#78313

CONSTRUCTION T. T. Wolf Construction block - brick - wood patios, decks, retaining walls & fences. www.ttwolfconstruction.com (760) 680-3325

CONSTRUCTION, Custom wood, furniture, finish carpentry & cabinetry. Michael Holt Construction (760) 228-5884, Lic#542705

CONSTRUCTION, New construction, additions, remodels & repairs. John Saffie Construction Co. 363-7134 Lic. #296895

CONSTRUCTION, Room additions, kitchen, baths, roofing & painting. Call Keizer Construction G.C. (760) 220-8986 Lic#791652

CONSTRUCTION, Additions, remodels, tile work, roofing, framing, concrete & backhoe work. Call Paradise Construction 272-4025 cell, 365-5160 off. Lic #813976 See Business Directory ad

CONSTRUCTION, Home Improvement. No job too small! Specializing in Drywall. Call Hamm Construction (760) 365-0949 Lic#684360

CONSTRUCTION, Roofing, concrete, additions, remodels, & drywall. Call Paradise Construction 272-4025 cell, 365-5160 office. Lic #813976 See Business Directory ad

CONSTRUCTION: Design & build, remodeling, kitchen, bath, windows, doors, skylights. Paul Wilcox. Lic# 756232 835-7940

CONSTRUCTION: specialize in custom concrete & foundations. Breeze const. 365-5814 or 401-6192

CONTRACTOR remodels, concrete, drywall, pool decks, etc. Jesse James Construction. (760) 363-7690 Lic # 823344

COUNTER TOPS Corian, Hi-Macs, solid surface counter tops. Kitchen remodeling. Buildrite 365-7775, Lic#78313

CUSTOM cabinet complete kitchen & bath room remodeling, room additions, Call Jim @ 369-3369. Lic # 258220

DEBRIS Removal, Clean-Up & Haul Away, \$20. & up. (760) 910-2196

DRYWALL, Drywall, tape, texture, acoustic, patch work, custom textures. Sunrise Drywall Lic. #445068 365-3525

DRYWALL, A Wizard of Walls. Drywall, ceilings, acoustic, textures, stucco repair, painting & roofing. (760) 364-1907. Unlic.

ELECTRIC, KDB Custom Lighting & Electric. "When only the best will do!" (760) 369-7447 Lic#572842

ELECTRIC, Comm. & Resid. Service upgrades, solar installation, ceiling fans, spa hook-ups, landscape lighting. Hi-Tek Electric 363-6743. Lic#C10-550908

ELECTRICAL work, big, or small jobs, over 25 yrs exp., 364-4491 unlic.



Twentynine Palms Rotary Club

Carnival in the Park

March 30-April 2, 2006
Luckie Park, 29 Palms

Come out for the Rides, Games, Food & Fun

\$15 advanced ticket booklets on sale until March 29 at
Hare's End in Downtown 29 Palms
Bowladium on Gorgonio across from the Post Office
Parks & Rec Office on Joe Davis Dr. behind Luckie Park

TPHS Interact Club will also be having a 24 Hour Walk-a-thon across the street from the Carnival (at the Junior High Football Field) from 5 pm Friday March 31 until 5 pm Saturday April 1 to benefit Sky's the Limit Observatory project. Pledges and walkers welcome!

Community Bloodmobile 10:30 am—2:30 pm Saturday too!



"Putting on the Ritz"
Talent Show Auditions
Saturday, April 1, 2006
3:00 p.m. - 5: p.m.

At the Joshua Tree Community Center

Open to young men & women ages: 6 through High School
Prizes will be presented to Talent Show winners

Talent Show Registration Fee \$10.00
Registration Deadline March 31 @ 5:00 p.m.
Register at the Joshua Tree Community Center
6171 Sunburst Ave., Joshua Tree
For additional information call: (760) 366-8415

"Putting on the Ritz" Talent Show & Miss Joshua Tree Awards Evening
Saturday, April 29, 2006
6:30 p.m.

For information
(760) 366-8415

Admission: Adults \$3.00 Children (under 10) \$1
Held at the Joshua Tree Community Center
6171 Sunburst Ave., Joshua Tree

435 SERVICES

PLUMBING 24 hr. all plumbing needs, roofer service, swamp coolers, free estimates, senior discount, 369-9241 or 617-2941

POOL Repair Free estimates, salt systems, acid washes, remodels, and more! 333-1588 or 360-7781

PRINTING Copies, color copies, calendars, business printing. Self service copies or professionally printed for you by your friends at Valley Independent Printing & Copy Center 365-6967

PROFESSIONAL window & mirror cleaning, residential & commercial, 365-2776 or 662-9544

ROOFING Repairs & Maintenance is our specialty! Roof certification A & N Roof Co. 365-9885 or 662-6241

ROOFING REPAIRS Tile shingles, tar & gravel, 20 yrs exp. Call Tom "I can't do it no one can" (760) 780-2540. (unlic)

RUBBISH removal + all terrain tractor. Single bulky items @ \$20 & up. Dump loads @ \$132.50 & up. (760) 364-9092

SCREENING Onsite mobile screening service, serving the entire Morongo Basin! Windows, doors, patios. ScreenMobile 369-4050

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FREE Service Free Estimates! Call Dee Bee Tree Service (760) 228-1922 Lic#53741

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435 SERVICES

TRENCHING & Backhoe Service Foundations, septic systems, irrigation, retaining walls, post holes. Call AJM Custom Trenching & Backhoe Service. 365-3012 or (760) 553-4229 (unlic)

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MINI vacations, hotel only, Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale, & Cancun, Exp. 12/06, \$250/obo 365-0923, pkg deal

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29 PALMS

71716 Sunnyslope 29P Sat/Sun, 4/1&2, 8am-7 Huge sale, tools, portable swamp air, dresser, rototiller & tons of stuff!

COMBINED family sale Sat/Sun, 4/1&2, 8a-7 Lots of furn., dishes, tools and everything else! Come see! 5677 Mariposa

PARKING Lot Sale, Sat April 1, 8am-7 29 Palms High School 6051 Datura 29Palms. Fund raiser for High School Athletics. Lots of great stuff!

RUMMAGE/Bake sale fund raiser for Relay For Life Cancer Research, at Little Church of the Desert, Sat 4/1, 8am-noon. Monetary donations for all merchandise.

GENERAL POLICY

Please check your ad the first day it runs to see that all the information is correct. This will ensure your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. Call us the very first day your ad appears to make any changes or corrections. This way, we can credit you for the first day if any error occurred. The Publisher wants to do everything possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your products or services to your best advantage. The newspaper does reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or illustration.

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500 APPLIANCES

KENMORE Refrigerator, 31"x67" top freezer, white, \$75, (760) 992-6507

520 BARGAIN COUNTER

Citrus Firewood, 1 Ton truck w/die racks, full load \$200. 361-9134

525 COMPUTERS

COMPUTER/ windows ME, 17" flat screen CRT monitor, keyboard, mouse, external speakers, PSC printer, all cables etc. \$275, 365-2982

530 FURNITURE

Brand new sofa and loveseat with matching chair and footrest. Scotch guarded, earth tone colors, still in plastic wrapper. All for \$375, can deliver (760) 364-3621

GRANDPA'S COURTYARD (760) 365-8999

533 GARAGE SALE

YARD & Doll sale Fri/Sat, Mar 31 & Apr 1 8am-4pm, 74324 Cottonwood Dr X St Utah Trl. Freezer, frig, ht tub & much more!

29 PALMS

71716 Sunnyslope 29P Sat/Sun, 4/1&2, 8am-7 Huge sale, tools, portable swamp air, dresser, rototiller & tons of stuff!

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533 GARAGE SALE

YARD sale 29Palms, Sat April 1, 7:30-11:30, 72755 Larrea Ave. Hshd items, books, videos, misc items, many at bargain prices.

YARD sale, a really good one! Sat/Sun, April 1/2, 8am-4pm. Noel's Knoll & El Paseo, 1 block North of Hwy 62.

JOSHUA TREE

YARD sale 8am Sat, 4/1. Furn, tools, & misc. 60710 Natoma Tr.

MORONGO VALLEY

APRIL 1st, 8-3pm, Knick Knacks, kitchen items & furn. Almost everything must go! 49559 Rosella (X Hwy 62) by Circle K.

YUCCA VALLEY

Estate/yard sale, washer/dryers, L/R, bookcases, knick-knack, etc., Sat., 56425 Sunland Dr., N. side Hwy, between Palm & Cholla

FRI. & Sat, 8a-2p, 3/3 & 4, old stuff from 1950's-1970's, hutch, beds, chairs, tables, jewelry, clothes, dishes, old books, magazines, nick nacks, some tools, computers & electronics, & baseball cards, never opened! 8783 San Vicente

FRI-SAT, 8-1pm, Henderson dining set; 2 ext., 8 chairs + buffet, dolls, bedding, china, tux, shoes, house full of furn., washer, dryer, fridge, 7690 Joshua Ln.

GARAGE sale 3/31 & 4/1 Fri & Sat., 2 family-moving sale, 8am-3pm, no early birds, 58456 Pimlico xst Avalon

FOUND 2 female dogs, 1 Shepard mix, 1 Black Lab/Dane mix, between Lupine & Cemetery 29 Palms. Call 367-7173 or 219-8242.

FOUND cat, mature kitten, black, no collar white underneath, 1 mi. from park, So. JT, 366-9607

FOUND lg female German Shep mix, tan color, South of Adobe Rd 3/19/06 (719)432-7770

FOUND Pitt Bull/Lab mix, rose nose, approx. 18 mo., in the area of Y.V. golf course. Call 369-9693

LOST 03/23 male Chihuahua, brown & white, wearing collar w/2 tags 1 bears name Peso & other has lic # with phone number, in the area of 8000 block of Palomar. REWARD! Call 369-1803

LOST 13 yr. old female Shih Tzu, black & gray, wearing blue sweater and red & diamond collar. Takes heart medication. Lost in the area of Palm Ave. & Stardust Tr. Call 365-7725

LOST 3-27, black doxie & lab mix, neutered male, 2 collars w/tags, lost at Stater Bros 29 Palms, 367-0511

LOST black Pomeranian on 3/22 near Warren Vista & Yucca Tr. No Collar, May be w/a Great Dane, Call 369-3811 w/any info.

YARD Sale, 3/31 & 4/1, Electronics, Easter baskets, ATVs, & other misc. stuff, 3685 Surrey, off of Avalon

533 GARAGE SALE

YARD & furniture sale, Sat. 4-1, 7a-1p, twin beds, dinette table & chairs, small unused frig., fiberglass tub & shower enclosure, 3 Low E windows (unused) Spa pump-motor, filter & heater-\$100, WW2 knives/machetes/rambo-collectors-Ammo & cans-cases-barrels, much misc. 7599 Alaba Ave. YV, 228-2195

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APPENDIX Quarter mare, 16 yrs, great lesson horse or beginner, does it all, \$3,000/obo. 20 yr old mare, great trail horse, \$800/obo. 364-4943

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THOROUGHbred Gelding, sound & gentle, 7 yrs., 17 hands, beautiful chestnut, \$1500.(362) 362-0044 or (760) 218-6020

Yucca Valley Equestrian Center •Rental •Boarding •Lessons •Training 365-4433

550 Misc. 4 SALE

12X12X31 ft steel building, dismantled, pd \$5,500 will sell for \$2,500. You pick up, 365-3587

1976 Proview 5th wheel \$1000, table & chairs \$300, kids bikes 25/ea, piano \$400, Call 362-4310, (760)992-3405

333 Mhz Sony Desktop computer, monitor, printer, \$150 OBO, porter cable roofing gun used once, \$200, 369-4420

DBL carport 18X21, 8' high, beige trim rawhide, 8mo old, pd \$964 sale \$500 365-0509

DRY seasoned split firewood. Old fashion cords (951) 845-5315

ENT ctr \$50, comp print- er \$15, Mongoose bike \$50, RC monster truck \$100 (760)910-2009

FOR Sale Components used for a slow-flick CNG station, to include Angi skid with 25 HP compressor, gas dryer, and electronic control panel. Components are sold "as is". For more information call Michael Tree at the Morongo Basin Transit Authority (760) 366-2986.

FORD 351 Cleveland stock block heads in tank exhaust manni best offer, Johnny 66 898 66

INVACARE Pronto Surestep M51 elec. wheelchair, some cosmetic wear & tear, runs fine. \$900. obo 362-9212

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LOST black Pomeranian on 3/22 near Warren Vista & Yucca Tr. No Collar, May be w/a Great Dane, Call 369-3811 w/any info.

545 LOST & FOUND

LOST Black Lab w/red collar, 100lbs, 1 yr old, name Jack, @ Quail Spgs Ave & Old Dale Rd Indian Cove area, on afternoon of Mar 21. Reward!! Please call (760)464-7024/362-5374

LOST carryall, brown primer painted, slides into hitch, lost from Mitch Ln, probably on Yucca Mesa Rd. (909) 648-5095 \$10 reward!

LOST Female Australian Shepherd on 3/25 near Sage & Aberdeen on Yucca Mesa. Has choker on, she is black & white, med. size dog. Call 364-3151 or (760) 660-0640.

LOST Gray Cockatiel on 3/27 near Cibola & Pueblo in Yucca Valley. Has band on right leg. Please call 365-4311

LOST Great Dane on 3/22 near Warren Vista & Yucca Tr. No collar, may be w/a black Pomeranian Call 369-3811 w/any info.

LOST shepherd mix, heartily built, brown & beige, wearing green and brown collar w/tag has owner and pets name & #. In the area of Paradise & Artesia. Call 363-7504

LOST: Female, Doxie/ Rat Terrier mix, approx 4 yrs old, brownish gray w/black marks, 1 eye is half brown half blue. Has collar w/ owners cell#. Last seen 3/22 near Winters Rd. in Joshua Tree. Call 362-5490.

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1976 Proview 5th wheel \$1000, table & chairs \$300, kids bikes 25/ea, piano \$400, Call 362-4310, (760)992-3405

333 Mhz Sony Desktop computer, monitor, printer, \$150 OBO, porter cable roofing gun used once, \$200, 369-4420

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FOUND Pitt Bull/Lab mix, rose nose, approx. 18 mo., in the area of Y.V. golf course. Call 369-9693

550 Misc. 4 SALE

JET III Scooter elec. wheelchair, only used 2 wks, built-in charger, \$1,500/obo. 365-2440

MINI moto for sale, like new, 49cc, \$175 OBO, 369-7094

MOVING out of state must sell by April 18th. Entertainment center, maple table w/2 leaves & 6 chrs, 11.7 cu. ft upright freezer, solid wood dresser w/mirror & matching ngt stand, Lazy Boy sleeper sofa, washer. Call 363-6881

OUTDOOR patio heater, "endless summer" w/propane, 93" tall, used once, nice, \$240 992-6507

SHIPPING container for sale, \$1,500, also estate sale continued on Paradise View following signs, up Yucca Mesa Rd. 365-9545

SPA DELUXE 2006 Model, Necklets, Therapy Seat, Never Used, Many Jets, Warr., Can Deliver. Worth \$5,750, Sell \$1,750. (760) 943-7550

SWIM Spa 8x12, kept indoors \$8,000. 2 seat hot-tub with 11 jets, \$500. 369-1132 or (602) 501-4697

TAN Sectional couch, Lazyboy-\$250, table & 4 leather chairs-\$75, 36" TV & entertainment set-\$245 & many knick knacks, 365-9039

WEDDING dress, by Oleg Casini, size 12, princess style, never worn, new w/tags, \$350. Call 365-6656

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12X12X31 ft steel building, dismantled, pd \$5,500 will sell for \$2,500. You pick up, 365-3587

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V6 3.3 LTR, A/C, LOADED #P4182



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02 BUICK REGAL LS
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99 CADILLAC DeVILLE
LOADED LOADED LOADED #P4217



\$11,888.00

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V6 A/C, PS, PW, PDL, TILT, CC #P4212



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99 HONDA CIVIC EX COUPE 20
A/C, PS, TILT, MOON ROOF, PREMIUM WHEELS #P3458



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VOLLEYBALL, B2

"We got antsy and anxious," explained Jonathan Griffith of Tanks. "We lost focus and got frustrated."

The third and final game kicked off with a kill from Hospital. Three failed dig attempts, two balls hit out of bounds and a couple of miscommunication errors kept Hospital from taking the lead in the game as Tanks pulled ahead.

Tanks had regained focus and stuffed three spikes back to Hospital for three points and with the help of Hospital's errors, Tanks left the court with a 15-8 victory.

Tank stays near the top of the league with a 3-1 record. Hospital remains last with a 0-5 record.

Hospital has started strategizing for next season, with only one more game before the last matches April 5.

"We have to work on talking to each other," said Hospital's Gonzales. "We don't anticipate the ball as much as we should."

Tanks still has a few kinks to work out as well.

"We got a pretty solid line-up," said Griffith. "We need to work on producing stronger serves and bumps."

Commanding General's

Intramural Volleyball League

2006 Team Standings Mar. 23

UNIT TEAM	WIN	LOSS
MCCES	5	0
HOBN	3	1
Tanks	3	1
PMO	1	4
Naval Hospital	0	5

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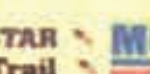
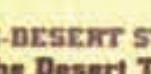
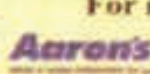
April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. April 4th at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Location: Del Valle Field.

Advance tickets are \$7 at ticket outlets. Cash only. Show Day tickets are \$10 at Circus Chimera Box Office.

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\$14,995

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P1147 #658036
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\$20,995

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P1125 #A70585
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