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PHOTOS BY PFC. ALLIE JESSE

Sgt. Maj. Abel T. Leal, outgoing battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, performs the passing of the non-commissioned officer sword to Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin, oncoming battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, during a relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, Dec. 3.

Passing of sword; HQBN holds relief, appointment

STORY BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Sgt. Maj. Abel T. Leal relinquished his post as Headquarters Battalion sergeant major to Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin at Felix Field, Dec. 3.

Leal served as the battalion's sergeant major since 2013 and received orders to serve as 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, sergeant major out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"My time with the battalion was good and we've grown a lot since I first took over," Leal said. "I feel the way ahead is good and Crespin is going to do an outstanding job with the battalion."

During the ceremony, the sergeants major performed the passing of the ceremonious non-commissioned officer sword. Leal spoke on the important representation that exists within the emblematic passing of the sword between sergeants major.

"The ceremony symbolizes the passing of the torch between sergeant majors," Leal said. "As the new battalion sergeant major, he can continue to build upon what we've built in these last few years."

Crespin previously served as the sergeant major for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 beginning March 2015. According to Crespin, his focus for the battalion will be aimed primarily at improving non-commissioned officers.

"It's always about the NCOs," Crespin said. "They are truly the backbone of the Marine Corps. I'd like to see more NCOs stepping up to lead the fight."

Headquarters Battalion consists of more than 60 different sections with a large variety of missions. The battalion is responsible for not only supporting but training units that come through the Combat Center.

"The biggest challenge

See **HQBN pg.** A6

Sgt. Maj. Abel T. Leal, former battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, receives a plaque from 1st Sgt. Frank O. Robinson, Company A First Sergeant, Headquarters Battalion, during a relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, Dec. 3. Leal served as the battalion's sergeant major since October of 2013 and was relieved by Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin.

Volunteers offer 'Treats for Troops'

Preston Herrera, 4, son of Master Sgt. Manuel Herrera Jr., faculty advisor, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, and Raija Ginder, 3, daughter of Zachary Ginder, college counselor, Base Programs Office, color Christmas artwork for service members at the Frontline Restaurant, during Treats for Troops, Tuesday. Volunteers made approximately 50 hand-colored pieces of artwork during the event.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Approximately 40 volunteers provided Combat Center service members with holiday treats, Tuesday.

They baked 2,200 cookies for the event and more than 2,000 were decorated within the first hour and a half of the event.

Volunteers from MCCS plan to give out 1,900 cookies to service members during the Santa Extravaganza at the Combat Center's Marine Corps Exchange, scheduled Friday.

Heidi Bosseler and Eadon Bosseler, 7, son of Cpl. Clay Bosseler, tank crewman, 1st Tank Battalion, color Christmas artwork for service members at the Frontline Restaurant, during Treats for Troops, Tuesday. Holiday artwork made during the event will be put on display during the Santa Extravaganza at the Combat Center Exchange, Friday.

See **Treats pg.** A6

Getting feet wet during opening of Steel Knight 2016

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. JUSTIN BOLING

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. —The 1st Marine Division launched Steel Knight by securing the Camp Pendleton beachhead in the early morning of Dec. 4, 2015, aboard Camp Pendleton, California.

Following infiltration and follow-on surveillance conducted by 1st Reconnaissance Battalion Marines, Marines with 1st Bn., 1st Marine Regiment, surged from the amphibious assault vehicles operated by 3rd Assault Amphibian Bn. after their cold trek over the waves of the Pacific Ocean to conduct a notional raid on a small town complete with enemy role players.

See **SK16 pg.** A6

1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment infantrymen tactically move from building to building in a simulated combat zone during Exercise Steel Knight 2016 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 4. 1st Marine Division has conducted Steel Knight for the past three years, making this the fourth iteration of the exercise. Steel Knight will test I Marine Expeditionary Force's amphibious capabilities through realistic, scenario-driven training.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Sgt. Owen Kimbrel.

Cpl. Taylor Giffard, ground signals operator, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, acts as an opposition force during a mission readiness exercise for 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Nov. 24.

HQBN from pg. A1

Lt. Col. Dennis A. Sanchez, battalion commander, Headquarters Battalion, salutes during a relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, Dec. 3. Sgt. Maj. Abel T. Leal passed on his post as sergeant major of Headquarters Battalion to Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin.

for us was communication between the different sections and more than 11,000 Marines," Leal said. "Each of the sections has their own mission to accomplish but we all have to find time to also complete annual training, such as rifle qualification and the different [professional military education.]"

Crespin also recognized the challenges that come along with managing so many different sections.

"The biggest challenge with any unit is always communication," Crespin said. "As long as we are professional and respect each other's missions then we will be successful."

Treats from pg. A1

Carolina Herrera, 9, and David Herrera, 6, children of Staff Sgt. Jose Herrera, telecommunications systems chief, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, decorate cookies for service members, during Treats for Troops at the Frontline Restaurant, Tuesday. A portion of the cookies made will be given to MCCES Marines staying aboard the Combat Center during the holidays.

SK16 from pg. A1

"This was my first Steel Knight," said Cpl. Dustin Weiss, an amphibious assault vehicle crew chief. "This is a great opportunity to get excellent training going from ship to shore and back again."

These large floating armored personnel carriers bring Marines from naval vessels to shore to assault targets, provide humanitarian aid or a variety of other missions. Marines have been using these vehicles since 1972. For this iteration of Steel Knight, the USS Somerset provided the amphibious platform from which the Marines could maneuver and assault.

"This exercise helps you realize how truly important it is to get these Marines to the shore," Weiss said. "You see the variety of skills we bring to the fight by getting these guys where they need to be."

This year's Steel Knight is the fourth iteration of the division's combined arms, live fire exercise to be executed across multiple locations. The two-week-long exercise offers a variety of training for thousands of Marines and sailors. The exercise also has a significant battlespace, spanning across both Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California.

"This was my first splash on a AAV, it was a really neat experience to ride in the AAV," said Sgt. Calvin Davis, a squad leader with a 1st Law Enforcement Bn., I Marine Expeditionary Force, team embedded with 1st Bn., 1st Marines. "This is not my first Steel Knight but it is my first time being integrated with the [infantrymen]."

Davis is a military policeman, whose purpose while working with the battalion is to use his occupational skills to assist with gathering intelligence through the collection of evidence found on the enemy role players. This demonstrates the support the entire Marine Air-Ground Task Force brings to the ground combat element.

As infantrymen and other augments moved through the small town of open-air buildings they engaged enemy role players, identified an improvised explosive device and practiced skills, which may be used anytime the nation calls upon the Blue Diamond's combat prowess.

"We get to build a lot of skill out here," Davis said. "We go from splashing on the ocean straight into raiding a town.

"As Marines, we always adapt and overcome, and we actually have chances like this to put our plans to the test and be able to learn to operate on the fly when planning may fall short before we get out in the real world."

For continued Steel Knight coverage see next week's edition of the OP.

An amphibious assault vehicle proceeds to assault the objective after conducting an amphibious landing during Exercise Steel Knight aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 4. The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps continue to combine efforts to revitalize, refine and strengthen fundamental amphibious capabilities, and reinforce the Navy and Marine Corps team. Steel Knight will test the Marine Air Ground-Task Force's expeditionary capabilities through realistic, scenario-driven training.

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This Week in Combat Center History

Reprinted from the Observation Post
December 9, 1977
Story by Sgt. David Jeffers

Grunt training for all Marines

Every Marine is a rifleman. Training for the profession begins in boot camp. For those assigned as infantrymen, that training continues as long as they remain on active duty.

But for the "supporting" Marines, an annual two weeks at the rifle range and essential subjects testing are the bulk of continuing that training. Many Marines feel that's not enough.

One such Marine is First Sergeant William Wire of Communication Support Company. The 1stSgt. decided that his Marines were not going to be without the experience necessary to maintain their combat readiness. So, he designed a three-day exercise to take place in the MCAGCTC training area over a weekend.

1stSgt. Wire wasn't sure what kind of reception his idea would get from his company and he was prepared to assign the billets for the provisional rifle platoon. But he decided to ask if anyone wanted to volunteer for exercise.

After he outlined the training, which included a seven-man aggressor force of officers and staff NCOs, and a rifle platoon of privates through sergeants, he found himself with an unexpected problem—more volunteers than bullets. For instance, he had fifteen corporals wanting to take part, but needed only nine. He assigned the billets by rank seniority and the case was closed.

During the exercise, the rifle platoon set-up a main camp and made sweeps and reconnaissance patrols during the day and night, setting-up ambushes for the aggressor force.

The best feature of the exercise was that the NCOs were completely responsible for everything. They gave classes, assigned the tasks, supervised the chow and, in short, took care of every detail.

When it was over, the rifle platoon had accomplished their mission, to hold their command post from the aggressor force and to train. Those involved felt they had learned more in three days about what Marines must know than at anytime since recruit training.

There's no doubt that this is the kind of training and initiative that make the strongest possible Marine Corps: a Corps of knowledgeable and experienced Marines.

This view was confirmed by Corporal Greg Uribe, training NCO at Comm Supt Co, in his remarks about what it was like to spend three days playing grunt.

"It's not what you're expecting," said Cpl Uribe. Specifically, what he was referring to was the "enemy," in this case the seven-man team of officers and staff NCOs that generally harassed the provisional rifle platoon.

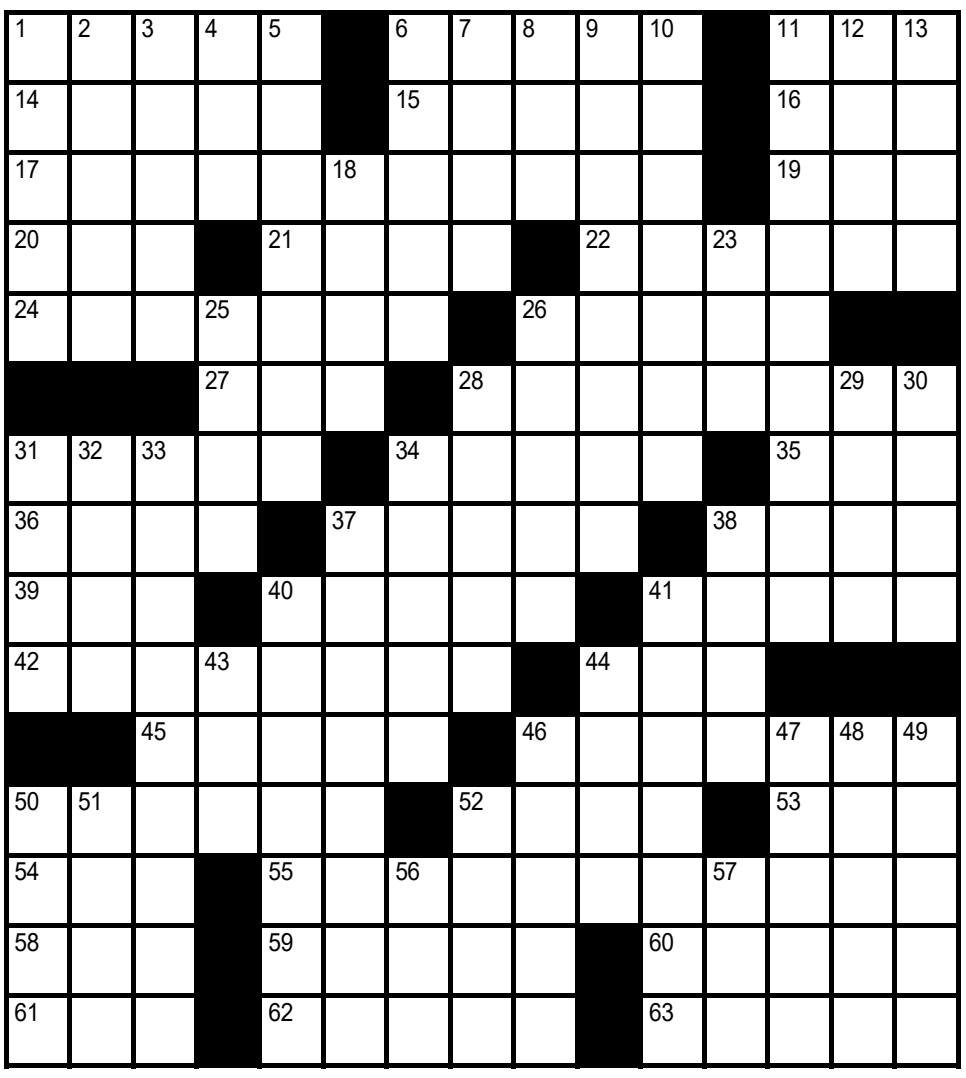
Despite the harassment from experienced Marines, the platoon kept their command post intact and found out a lot about being infantrymen in the process. "You meet the enemy only when he is ready," said Cpl Uribe, describing the guerilla tactics of the aggressors.

The American Indians of the southwest have long claimed that it's your routines that kill you. That's exactly what the volunteer rifle platoon discovered. The enemy doesn't attack on schedule, they make the most of yours. "They fire on you when you are most tired or confused, eating chow or sleeping," said Uribe, "you have to be on your toes all the time—always alert."

Overall the platoon enjoyed their stay in the desert except for the temperatures. It was cold. The rats weren't much fun either.

What do they think it would be to be a grunt in the war zone? Cpl Uribe pondered that question and said succinctly, "It'd be a hassle." He then added, "But somebody's got to do it, and that's why we are Marines."

CROSSWORD



Across

1 Treasury
6 Small woods
11 Swindle
14 Gulf ship
15 Looks out for, maybe
16 Be in the red
17 Damsel's rescuer
19 Unfamiliar
20 Young fellow
21 Dirty coat
22 Writer Hemingway
24 Ten-gallon hat
26 "That tastes awful!"
27 Slippery sort
28 Convertible sofas
31 French mothers
34 Dwarf
35 Auto club letters
36 Unbending
37 Dilutes
38 1700 in letters
39 Maximum
40 Peter, Paul or Mary
41 Court events
42 Mouth-watering
44 "The Thin Man" co-star Myrna
45 Barbecue fuel
46 Not terminal
50 Igloo dweller
52 Stable color
53 In the open
54 Holtz of ESPN
55 "The Good Apprentice" novelist
58 Shelley work
59 Moxie
60 Navel variety
61 One of the Bobbsey twins
62 Proficient
63 More like Solomon

Down

1 Monastery garb
2 Drum kit component
3 Drop
4 Hardened
5 Locks
6 Religious law
7 Passing mention?
8 Dowel
9 Washington erupter of 1980
10 Band that backs Springsteen
11 Classic "S.N.L." characters
12 Has a mortgage
13 Former Speaker Gingrich
18 ___ & The Gang (R. &B. group)
23 Kindergarten break
25 One nearing adulthood
26 Not mincing words
28 Police operation
29 Contest of speed
30 Anatomical pouches
31 Jazz vibraphonist Jackson
32 New York canal
33 "Love's Been Good to Me" composer
34 Lower leg parts
37 Like a well-fitting suit
38 Poet Angelou
40 Marathoner's need
41 Tight-aginst-the-scalp braid
43 Hawaiian dish
44 Hilo feast
46 Member of Santa's team
47 Sends packing
48 Desi's daughter
49 The wild blue yonder
50 North Carolina school
51 Fountain order
52 Common request
56 Outrage
57 SADD focus

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Last week's answers

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8	1	6	3	9	5	2	4	7
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- Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.

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- Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
- Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
- NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Danell DUMAS

The Caribbean Island of Dominica, Chief Petty Officer, Lead and chief petty officer, Human Resources/ Manpower Office

Chief Petty Officer Danell Dumas was born on the Caribbean Island of Dominica and moved to the Virgin Islands. She became a naturalized citizen and has been in the Navy for 16 years.

>I moved from Dominica when I was 19. Our education was a little different, so by that age I had already completed 2 years of college. I was a business student, which meant I took economics and accounting but I also took a lot of sociology. I love learning about how people interact with each other.

>Adapting to life in the U.S. was difficult. At the time I had a green card and wasn't a naturalized citizen.

>I was a student at the University of the Virgin Islands and worked full time. I was given the choice to either move with my family or set out on my own.

>After some consideration, I decided to go out on my own. I figured the easiest way to do that was to join the military. Back then you ordered a video to get the information you wanted. After that I started getting calls from the recruiter. Two weeks later, I had taken the [Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery] and enlisted in the Navy.

>After my first two years of college, I taught for about a year. I wanted to continue giving back to people. I decided to be a Navy Corpsman becasue I wanted to be part of a job field where I could help people.

>So far, I've had an interesting career in the Navy. Although I wanted to be a corpsman, I didn't start out as one. I joined as a deck seaman back when you could join the Navy without a specialty. The idea was that you would work toward the job you wanted.

>After a year on a ship, I was given the opportunity to go to school and become a corpsman. Toward the end of school, I was told that I was going to be a Fleet Marine Force Corpsman. I didn't know that the Navy even attached to the Marine Corps, but after my course I was stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

>Being stationed there was awesome. I had gone from living on a little island to a different island on the other side of the world.

>I have been stationed on the USS Supply; Okinawa, Japan; London; Jacksonville, Fla.; San Diego, Calif.; and now here at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms.

>I have been stationed here for one and a half years. This is a small hospital which allows all the people here to get to know each other closely. Because we know each other so well I feel that we are able to help the people here better.

>This hospital is also unique in that we serve everyone from newborns, to Marines, to retirees.

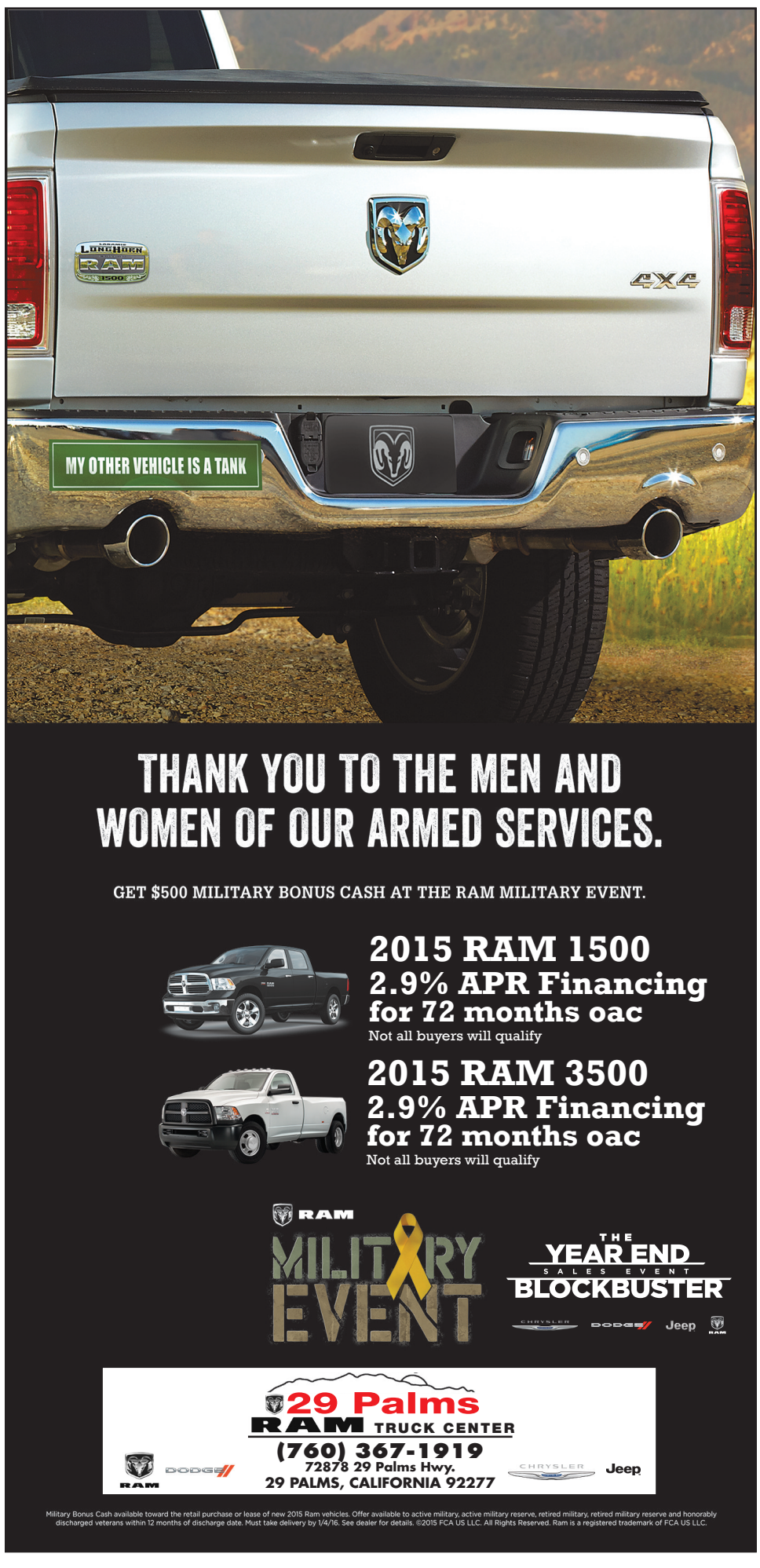
>Throughout the time I have spent in the Navy, I have been part of units that are primarily corpsmen and sailors as well as units that are mostly Marines.

>As corpsmen, we help the privates all the way up to the unit's Commanding Officer. If you treat all of them with the same respect they will show you that same respect.

>My career in the Navy has been great so far. I have been able to help people throughout my service and plan to continue helping Marines and their families.

>When Marines start calling you 'Doc' it means that they trust you and know you will help them.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Thomas Mudd



Marine JROTC cadets

Lance Cpl. Cole Coburn, military working dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office, prepares a K-9 demonstration for Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets during a tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 4.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Young men and women file off a bus in Marine Corps Combat Utility uniforms and quickly get into formation. Each individual takes in the brisk morning air, standing expressionless with postures akin to those of statues. When given the command they begin to sound off.

Junior cadets with the Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps out of Henderson, Nev., learned many aspects of being a Marine aboard the Combat Center Dec. 3-4.

"The purpose of this organization is to immerse these young men and women into the lifestyle of the Marine Corps," said retired 1st Sgt. Jay Foote, MCJROTC Instructor, Basic Academy. "They live the Marine Corps life over at the academy and this was an opportunity for them to be able to see the different job skills, and intermix with the Marines that they always hear so much about."

This is the first time cadets of the Basic Academy have been invited to visit the Combat Center to get a feel for what life on an installation is like.

"I'm in love with the base," said Aaron Bates, cadet, MCJROTC. "I wish I could stay here all the time. I think it's important for us to come and see different facets of the Marine Corps so we can grow not only as cadets but people as well."

During the two-day tour the cadets visited Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the Battle Simulation Center, the Provost Marshal's Office's K-9 division and the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer. They were also able to tour the Military Operations on Urban Terrain at Range 215, dine at Dunham Hall, spend a night in the field, and feast on Meals Ready to Eat. The trip was concluded with a visit to the Marine Corps Exchange.

"This trip was extremely important because some of these kids will never witness the Marine Corps before actually joining," Foote said. "This gives them an opportunity to see what [military occupational specialty] they might want to do and hear from subject matter experts about all the different things the Marine Corps has to offer."

At each stop the cadets were given an opportunity to learn more about each particular MOS and receive insight into what performing the job entails.

"I think this was a great experience especially for people who are not sure what they want to do in the future," said Kailee Moore, cadet, MCJROTC. "If they think they want to be in the military I think this gives them a confidence boost."

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s visit Combat Center

Matthew Iverson, cadet, Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, operates a simulated High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle in the Battle Simulation Center during a tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 4.

Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets shop at the Marine Corps Post Exchange during a tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 4.

Zoe Stockton, cadet, Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, tries on an advanced bomb suit at Explosive Ordnance Disposal during a tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 3.

Axel Morales, cadet, Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, shoulders an decommissioned AT-4 missile at Explosive Ordnance Disposal during the Basic Academy of International Studies' tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 3.

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1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

DEC. 17, 2015
Star Wars: The Force Awakens (PG13)
3D 7:00 10:00 1:00 AM
2D 8:00 11:00

In the Heart of the Sea (PG13)
1:30 6:00 9:00

The Good Dinosaur (PG)
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 (PG13)
1:30

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Combat Center families celebrate the holidays

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Combat Center children laughed and played with new toys and a variety of carnival games at the Marine Corps Community Services' second annual Combat Center Holiday Celebration at the Sunset Cinema, Saturday.

The event featured a special performance by Twentynine Palms High School Band, a toy give-away, and the opportunity to take a photo with Santa.

"It's a great opportunity for Combat Center families to come out and enjoy the holiday season," said Selena Laserna, special events manager, MCCS. "The mission of MCCS is to provide quality of life events for our Marines and sailors. The goal is to provide the Marines, sailors and their families the opportunity to have a good time during this festive season."

Jserra Catholic High School and Operation Homefront donated more than 500 toys to Combat Center children. Toys varied from stuffed animals to board games and there was something for children of all ages.

"We have a large variety of toys for different age groups," said Brent Norquist, deputy director, MCCS. "I've seen some children with really big smiles out here."

The event was hosted to provide families who might not be capable of going home for the holidays an opportunity to celebrate here with the Combat Center community.

"All of our family events, this one in particular, are really important because we are a remote and isolated base," Norquist said. "When we are able to hold performances and give toys away it gives families who may not be able to go home for the holidays the opportunity to engage with the Combat Center family and enjoy some fun with their family here for the holidays."

According to Norquist, this event is one that MCCS intends to host annually.

"The families enjoy it and we get a lot of positive feedback," Norquist said. "It's one of the events where we are able to help the families who are unable to return to their homes."

Caroline Johnson, 5 months, daughter of Navy Lt. Klint A. Johnson, battalion chaplain, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, snuggles with a plush doll at the Marine Corps Community Services' second annual Combat Center Holiday Celebration at the Sunset Cinema, Saturday.

Payton Bitterman, daughter of Navy Capt. Jeffrey W. Bitterman, executive officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, plays carnival games at the Marine Corps Community Services' second annual Combat Center Holiday Celebration in the vicinity of the Sunset Cinema, Saturday.

Combat Center families pause to take photos with 'Elsa' from Disney's "Frozen" at the Marine Corps Community Services' second annual Combat Center Holiday Celebration at the Sunset Cinema, Saturday.

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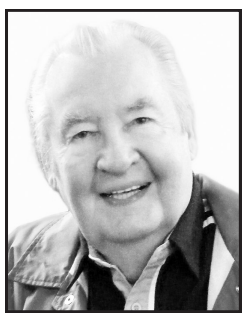
TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



I am delighted to report that for the second year in a row Tom Huls and the Yucca Valley Big O Tires team has received the Platinum Performance Award. Wow!

Actually, this is not a surprise to me.

Tom Huls and his entire team are as good as it gets. John, Paul, Sandy, Tom Mose, Dave R., Dave B., Tommy and Jeff comprise a great staff.

Big O Tires has been serving the Morongo Basin's automotive needs for 23 years. Owner Tom Huls, who bought the tire shop eight years ago, points out that Big O does much more than tires. Big O also does brakes, maintenance, fluid exchange, belts, hoses and is a true one-stop shop for your automotive needs.

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Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a glorious 2016

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Civilians awarded for faithful service

PHOTOS BY PFC. ALLIE JESSE

Brett Baker, tank mechanic, Exercise Support Division, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.

Samuel Crabtree III, tank mechanic, Exercise Support Division, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.

Brian Lee, boiler plant operator, Public Works Department, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.

David Knopp, motor vehicle operator, Public Works Department, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.

Joseph Leonard, contract surveillance representative, Public Works Department, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.

Carl Mericle, boiler plant supervisor, Public Works Department, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.

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Combat Center PMO, Fire Dept. participate in school Winter Fest

PHOTOS BY KELLY O'SULLIVAN

Personnel from the Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office and Fire Department were a highlight of Joshua Tree Elementary School's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. The police and fire crews interacted with students and their families during the evening event, sharing safety information, discussing their jobs and showing off the tools of their respective trades.

Daren the DARE lion, played by Lance Cpl. Steve Hernandez, high-fives Brandon Scott, 9, during Joshua Tree Elementary School's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. Daren and DARE Officer Meghan Estrada of the Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office interacted with families, passed out information, stickers and candy to students during the evening event.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Gerland, physical security chief, Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office, shows Joshua Tree Elementary School fourth-grader James Gonzalez, 9, his badge during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. Gerland told students and their families about his job and showed them around PMO's mobile command post during the evening event.

Joshua Tree Elementary School students and family members crowd into the cab of the Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office mobile command post vehicle under the watchful eye of Staff Sgt. Joshua Gerland, physical security chief, during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. The kids tried their hand at using the public address system and pretended to drive to the scene of an emergency.

Firefighter John Hart helps Joshua Tree Elementary School fifth-grader Rodney Frazier, 10, out of the Combat Center Fire Department's engine during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. Fire personnel talked with students and their families about their jobs and showed off their gear during the evening event.

Capt. Mike O'Donnell, Combat Center Fire Department, instructs Joshua Tree Elementary School third-grader Adryon Gonzalez, 9, in the art of putting on firefighting gear during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. O'Donnell and his crew spoke with students and their families about their jobs and showed them the tools of the firefighting trade during the evening event.

Joshua Tree Elementary School second-grader Brady Inman, 7, gets a lift from Firefighter John Hart, Combat Center Fire Department as his 4-year-old cousin, Russell Bloom of Maryland, waits his turn after the pair inspected the cab of CCFD's engine during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4.

Liberty Call

Combat Center Events

Marine Corps Community Services invites you to the Santa Extravaganza at the main Exchange Dec. 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. Get your picture taken with Santa, enjoy holiday treats, a caricature artist, balloon artist and face painters. For more information call (760) 830-6163.

Marine Corps Community Services is taking registration for the 2016 Winter Dodgeball League starting Feb. 10. The league is open to active duty military, family members and NAF/DOD employees. To register, download the sign-up sheet at mccs29palms.com. For more information, call (760) 830-6857.

Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center is hosting the 2nd Annual Challenge Tournament Dec. 17 at 6pm. The top six players of eight different bowling challenges will win a cash prize. Entry fee is $10. For more information call (760) 830-1574.

Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center invites you to the New Year's Bowling Bash 2016, Dec. 31. Youth and teen hours are from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pre signups are recommended. Adults only times are from 8:30pm to 12 a.m. For more information, call 760.830.6422.

Registration and Coaches meeting for the Winter Basketball League will end Jan. 5. The season starts on Jan 12. There can be 12 participants per roster and a minimum of seven. The event is open to all active duty personnel, Marine Corps Community Services employees and DOD civilians. Registration is free for active duty personnel and all other personnel will have a $20 fee.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, December 11
5:30 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie (3-D), G
8:00 p.m. – The 33, PG-13
11:00 p.m. – Spectre, PG-13

Saturday, December 12
12:00 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie, G
2:30 p.m. – The Last Witch Hunter, PG-13
5:00 p.m. – Steve Jobs, R
7:30 p.m. – Our Brand Is Crisis, R
10:00 p.m. – Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension, R

Sunday, December 13
12:30 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie (3-D), G
3:30 p.m. – The 33, PG-13
6:00 p.m. – Spectre, PG-13

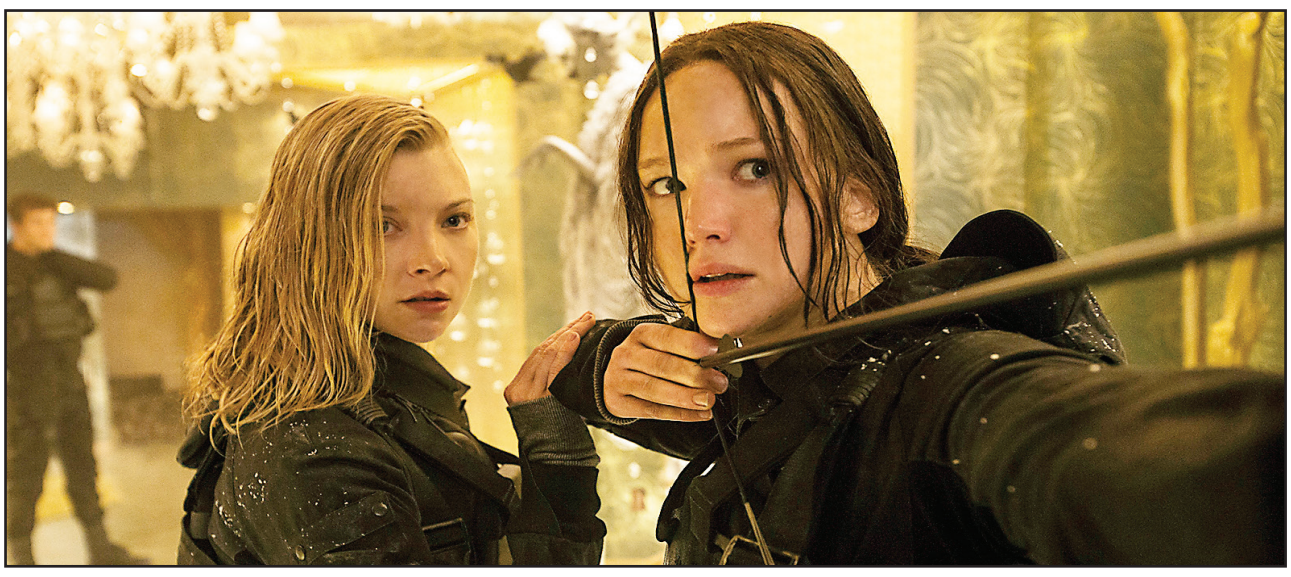
Monday, December 14
6:30 p.m. – The 33, PG-13

Tuesday, December 15
7:00 p.m. – Our Brand Is Crisis, R

Wednesday, December 16
5:00 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie, G
7:00 p.m. – Burnt, R

Thursday, December 17
5:00 p.m. – The Last Witch Hunter, PG-13
7:30 p.m. – Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension, R

Friday, December 18
5:30 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie, G
8:00 p.m. – The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2, PG-13
11:00 p.m. – The Night Before, R



The Future is Finished

NEIL POND

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2"
Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutherson, Donald Sutherland and Liam Hemsworth
Directed by Francis Lawrence
Rated PG-13

"MANDATORY VIEWING" is the directive that pops up on holographic screens across all of post-apocalyptic Panem when dictator Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland) beams a transmission to the masses.

That message couldn't be truer for Hunger Games fans, especially as it pertains to this movie, the final film of the four made from author Suzanne Collins' trilogy of best-selling dystopian young-adult novels. This is the end, the big finish. The Games have come to a close—mandatory viewing for the masses, if ever there was.

The first Hunger Games, in 2012, made Jennifer Lawrence a household name as Katniss Everdeen, the galloping, galvanizing firebrand who became the leader of a revolution and an icon of female empowerment. As Katniss fought and forged her way to freedom in brutal, futuristic "games," fans faithfully came back, movie after movie, to follow her—and to see just how faithfully Hollywood kept to the details of Collins' books, which melded a young-love triangle with wicked satire on reality TV, media propaganda, social stratification and war.

Fans will be satisfied with Mockingjay—Part 2. It covers all the bases and ties up the loose ends, and everybody's back on board: Peeta (Josh Hutcherson), Gale (Liam Hemsworth), Haymitch (Woody Harrelson), President Coin (Julianne Moore), Primrose (Willow Shields), Finnick (Sam Claflin), Cressida (Natalie Dormer), Johanna (Jena Malone). Even Phillip Seymour Hoffman returns, and he died in early 2014. It could have used a bit more of the colorful Games escort Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks) and wackadoo master of ceremonies Caesar Flickerman (Stanley Tucci), but hey, you can't cram everyone front and center, even in a movie that runs two hours and nearly 20 minutes.

And about that: Most of those minutes are filled with chatter. Characters talk a lot—about what they've done, they're doing and going to do. Occasionally they get up and actually do something—like Katniss throwing a cup at a cat, or heading out on a covert, high-stakes mission, which sets up the two big action scenes. One (a subterranean attack by a horde of hissing, spastic lizard-people) looks like something out of a horror flick, with a nod to Alien; the other involves a massive, surging wave of sludge and oil, which everyone outruns like it's only slightly more terrifying than an overflowing toilet—or the not-even-there computer effect that it really is.

And it's dark. Yes, people die. But it also looks dark, dim and dull—greys, browns, blanched-out, bleach-y, blahhhh tones that seem to blot out the sun. Sure, it's a grim, wintry, wartime world. But why did director Francis Lawrence (who's helmed every Games movie, except the first) make every scene look like it was lit with a 40-watt bulb? Did he blow his lighting budget on CGI sludge and lizard people?

And does everyone in the movie have that "over it" look because they're tired of all that fighting for the revolution—or because they really are? As Mockingjay flutters and flaps to a close, this victory lap looks and feels like a slog.

The Hunger Games franchise made billions of box-office bucks and became a pop-cultural phenomenon. But finally the Games have run out of gas. Jennifer Lawrence, now 25, has become a global, Oscar-winning superstar, above and beyond the YA bow-and-arrow heroine, the "girl on fire" she started out playing four years ago.

"I am done," Katniss says in one scene. Yes she is. Congratulations and good job, everyone. Now proceed toward the exits, and let's all just keep moving.

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GARAGE SALES

29 Palms

TPJHS gymnasium annual craft fair Dec.12th 9 am-3 pm. Children's one stop holiday shopping. Santa visits with treats from 10 am-2pm. Most items 10$ or less!

Christmas Bazaar. Fresh green wreaths, cookies galore! Holiday Treasures SAT DEC 12 9AM - 12 PM at United Methodist Church 6250 Mesquite Springs Rd, 29 Palms

Joshua Tree

Christmas Boutique Dec. 12 - 13. 11am-7pm. 5 Local artists - Ceramics, clothing, arts & crafts & jewelry @ La Casa De Arte Studio. 63434 Broadway St., Joshua Tree. Hwy 62 Left @ Sunfair Rd, left Broadway, @ end of paved Rd.

Yucca Mesa

Estate Sale - Everything goes. Collectibles, household,m metal ladders, lg appliances, floor ott lamps & misc. Fri & Sat 8:00-4:00. 57233 Canterbury. Off 247 on Mesa. Follow signs

Yucca Valley

Charlotte's Annual Christmas Boutique- jewelry, purses, handcrafted pen & accessories, horseshoe art, wearable art, antiques & collectibles, Arbonne, decorations. Saturday 12/12, 8am-4pm, 57931 Joshua Lane YV

Thurs - Sat. 8am-4pm. Washer & Dryer, 2 twin beds, dining room table, stove, glassware, crystal, misc. 7433 Frontera Ave

Happy Holidays

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Merry Christmas!

Yucca Valley/Landers
7993 Aster **3/1.5** - $1100
56564 Zuni Tr. **3/2** - $1100
58330 Navajo **3/2** - $1050
55330 Navajo **3/2** - $995
7386 Condalia **2/2** - $725
7393 Condalia **2/2** - $725
7475 Church **1/1** - $575

Joshua Tree
63457 Singletree **2/1** - $1000
60369 Adobe **2/1** - $795

Commercial
7281 Dumosa #5 - $875
49863 29 Palms Hwy. - $900

Twentynine Palms
73824 White Sands **3/2** $1400
72555 Larrea Ave **3/2** - $1300
73047 Manana Dr. **3/2** - $1250
74815 Indianola **4/2** - $1200
7624 Maude Adams **4/2** - $1200
74817 Saddlehorn **3/2** - $1125
72976 Sullivan **3/2** - $1000
6443 Cahuilla **3/2** $900
6904 Eucalyptus **2/1** - $800
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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 their advertising.

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

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

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Legals

IDSPub #0095817
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-15-674174-AB Order No.: 150155600-CA-VOI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 9/14/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): KEITH M KATCHMARK, SURVIVING J/T OF ROBERT J KATCHMARK DECEASED** Recorded: **9/26/2006** as Instrument No. **2006-0657327** of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **SAN BERNARDINO** County, California; Date of Sale: **12/22/2015 at 9:00 AM** Place of Sale: **At the Ontario Convention Center, 2000 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, CA 91764, in the Auction.com Room** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **$181,905.61** The purported property address is: **58353 ARCADIA TRL, YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284** Assessor's Parcel No.: **0588-319-14-0-000 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call **800-280-2832** for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site **http://www.qualityloan.com ,** using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-15-674174-AB** . Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. **If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney.** If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. QUALITY MAY BE CONSIDERED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Date: **Quality Loan Service Corporation 411 Ivy Street San Diego, CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: http://www.qualityloan.com Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318** Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: **CA-15-674174-AB** IDSPub #0095817 11/26/2015 12/3/2015 12/10/2015
(PUB: S. 11/26, 12/3, 12/10/2015)

NPP0263814
Trustee Sale No. : 00000004492906 Title Order No.: 140125087 FHA/VA/PMI No.: 04036 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 10/08/2008. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 10/15/2008 as Instrument No. 2008-0458424 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of SAN BERNARDINO County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: ANDRES CASTILLO, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by California Civil Code 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 12/16/2015 TIME OF SALE: 1:00 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE MAIN (SOUTH) ENTRANCE TO THE CITY OF CHINO CIVIC CENTER, 13220 CENTRAL AVE., CHINO, CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 60142 GRANADA DR., JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA 92252 APN#: 0601-461-09-0-000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $204,087.40. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case 00000004492906. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: NATIONWIDE POSTING & PUBLICATION A DIVISION OF FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY 1180 IRON POINT ROAD, SUITE 100 FOLSOM, CA 95630 916-939-0772 www.nationwideposting.com BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TREDER & WEISS, LLP as Trustee Dated: 11/11/2015 NPP0263814 To: HI DESERT STAR 11/26/2015, 12/03/2015, 12/10/2015
(PUB: S. 11/26/2015, 12/03/2015, 12/10/2015)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
6527 White Feather Road
PO Box 6602
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Joshua Tree District
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Michelle Barker and Terry Barker
CASE NUMBER: CIVMS 1500169

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner:
Michelle Barker and Terry Barker filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

(a) Present Name:
Shaunna Nicole Cravy-Barker
Proposed Name:
Shaunna Nicole Barker

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be grated. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING Date: **12/30/15** Time **9:00 AM** Dept: **M4** The address of the court is the same as noted above.

A copy of this *Order to Show Cause* shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
Hi-Desert Star

Date: **NOV 09 2015**
Judge of the Superior Court
/s/ James Bruce Minton
(PUB: S. 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17/2015)

T.S. No.: 2014-02350-CA A.P.N.:0595-052-12-0-000 Property Address: 56280 Buena Vista Unit 6, Yucca Valley, CA 92284-0000

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(a), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/17/2004. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Trustor: **Leo F. Kramer and Audrey E. Kramer, husband and wife, as joint tenants**
Duly Appointed Trustee: **Western Progressive, LLC**
Recorded **12/23/2004** as Instrument No. **2004-0947177** in book —-, page—- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Bernardino County, California,
Date of Sale: **12/30/2015 at 01:00 PM**
Place of Sale:
NEAR THE FRONT STEPS LEADING UP TO THE CITY OF CHINO CIVIC CENTER, 13220 CENTRAL AVENUE, CHINO, CA

Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **$ 77,251.28**

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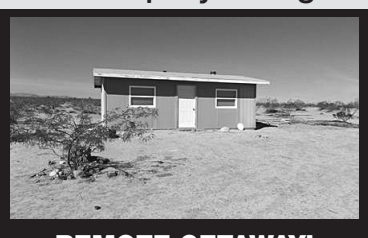

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Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. MIGUEL ROSALES

Two actors re-enact the popular V-J Day photo taken in Times Square, New York City on Aug. 14, 1945 during the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade on Fort DeRussy Park, Honolulu, Monday. Civilians, veterans, and service members gathered for the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor to remember and give their respect to those who fought and lost their lives during the attack.

Bob Addott gives a thumbs up as he and Thomas Petso attend the opening ceremony of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade at Fort DeRussy Park in Honolulu, Monday. Civilians, veterans, and service members came together to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and pay their respects to those who fought and lost their lives.

Raven Pridemore, a private in the Young Marines, holds up a banner during the opening ceremony of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade on Fort DeRussy Park in Honolulu, Monday. Civilians, veterans, and service members came together to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and pay their respects to those who fought and lost their lives.

Dan Quinn, pipe major, leads members of the Celtic Pipes & Drums of Hawaii in the playing of Amazing Grace, during the opening ceremony of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade at Fort DeRussy Park in Honolulu, Monday. Civilians, veterans, and service members came together to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and pay their respects to those who fought and lost their lives.

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