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March 17, 2006



LT DAN BAND, A5

OBSERVATION POST



DELTA CO, AAV, A5

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This Issue

- A3 - Women's History Month
- A7 - Meritorious Civilian Service Award
- B3 - Designated Drivers

Hot Topics

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.

2ND ANNUAL MSG REUNION

All Marines, whether active, retired or former, who served as Marine Security Guard's are welcome to attend the 2nd Annual MSG Reunion June 3, at Hashmarks SNCO Club. The bar opens at 6 p.m. and there will be a free buffet. Casual attire is expected and the dreaded blue blazer is optional.

Anyone interested in helping out with the planning of the reunion should Contact Master Sgt. Cowan at 830-5543.

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

- VMU-1 returns
- CG Basketball Championship
- PREP class

THIS DAY IN MARINE CORPS HISTORY

March 17, 1967

The first female Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon.



LANCER CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Former Combat Center sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. James M. Ricker, speaks to the attendees on the Combat Center's Parade Field during the Combat Center Sergeant Major relief, appointment and retirement ceremony.



LANCER CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Sgt. Maj. William Johnson Jr. becomes the Combat Center sergeant major after serving as the Headquarters and Service Battalion sergeant major at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.

Combat Center greets a new sergeant major Corps bids farewell to predecessor

LANCER CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sgt. Maj. James M. Ricker was relieved of his duty as sergeant major of the Combat Center by Sgt. Maj. William Johnson Jr., in a sergeant major relief, appointment and retirement ceremony Wednesday held on the Combat Center's Parade Field.

Along with appointing duties of the new sergeant major, the Marine Corps also recognized the retirement of Ricker, who served as sergeant major of the combat center for two years, a sergeant major in the Marine Corps for nearly 10 years, a staff noncommissioned officer for 24 years, and a Marine for 30 years.

The Moorhead, Minn., native embarked on his journey in the Marine Corps in the Spring of 1976. His first assigned duty station was at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., with Marine Training Unit. He journeyed through the country in the late 1970's, landing a qualification as an Aircraft Plane Captain at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif.

He continued his career as a leader, serving in the Western Pacific Ocean in the early 1980's, picking up tasks as a staff NCO, and returning to the United States where he served in an array of billets, to include Golf Company first sergeant, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. After serving as the sergeant major of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, he was appointed as sergeant major of the Combat Center in March 2004.

Ricker imparted his wisdom on the Marines and Sailors at the morning ceremony, before departing his duties in the Corps.

"Marines, always take care of the mission, and the mission will take care of you," said Ricker. "All of you have what it takes when the nation calls for us, and I thank you for that."



LANCER CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
Sgt. Maj. James M. Ricker, former Combat Center sergeant major, hugs a fellow Marine after the ceremony.

Combat Center commanding general, Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, spoke of Ricker to the guests who attended the ceremony.

"He's truly a Marines' man," said Stone. "He's done more for the Corps and for the Marines and Sailors than I can ever describe. The public affairs officer found a Chinese proverb that says 'talk does not cook rice.' Sgt. Maj. Ricker

See APPOINTMENT, A5



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

Battle Color Ceremony

Story & photos on B1

*"Just watching it
made me feel good to
be a Marine."*

— Lance Cpl. Curtis T. Brown Jr.

The Silent Drill Platoon performs their drill sequence without cadence or verbal command. Each Marine carries an M-1 Garand rifle with a fixed bayonet, which together weigh 10-and-a-half pounds.

Women's History Month observed at Combat Center



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COURTESY OF THE U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Women played a vital role during World War II, serving on the home front as well as overseas.

GUNNERY SGT. LUIS M. LEIVA
MCAGCC EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ADVISOR

In order to discuss Women's History Month, we have to go back to the conception of Women's History week in 1978, which was deliberately timed to coincide with the March 8th observance of International Women's Day. It was the state of California that pioneered this week long celebration of amazing women in history, and the response was so positive, that participants of the weeklong observance were determined to have Congress declare a national Women's History Week.

Three years later, the United States Congress passed a resolution establishing national Women's History Week. This passage encouraged a greater expanse of participation by schools and organizations in the form of special projects and exhibitions honoring women in history. Simultaneously, the National Women's History Project provided materials for distribution to aid in the awareness and support of Women's History Week, as well as aiding in the teaching of women's history throughout the year, to include notable women and women's experience. In 1987, the national Women's History Project took even greater action, by requesting and having Congress expand the week to a month, and Congress has issued a resolution every year since then, as well as the U.S. President, both in wide support of Women's History Month.

President Bush's proclamation for Women's History Month, 2006 starts off by saying: "For generations, women across our great land have helped make our country stronger and better. They have improved our communities and played a vital role in achieving justice and equal rights for all our citizens. During Women's History Month, we celebrate the many contributions women make to our society." This proclamation of course ties in with this year's theme of "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams."

As we go through the month of March, Women's History Month, the Commandant of the Marine Corps per MarAdmin 105/06, has highly encouraged that Commanders recognize and celebrate the role of female Marines. Commanders are further encouraged to conduct programs and promote participation in observance events both on base and in the local community, and to develop local themes for use at their commands. This month is meant to reflect on the challenges, changes, contributions and sacrifices women have made in the building of our great nation and preserving America's freedom.



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES
"Rosie the Riveter" posters were used during World War II to encourage women to support the war effort by filling jobs, such as factory work, normally held by men.

Springtime brings out the desert tortoise

BRENT HUSUNG
NREA

As spring arrives and warm temperatures become more prevalent, desert tortoises will become active. We expect that tortoises this year will become active during the month of March and continue being active into the months of April, May and early June. Tortoises have spent most of this mild winter hibernating underground and with the onset of spring, the tortoise will awaken from hibernation and begin its pursuit of food and water as well as the challenges of finding a mate.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division (NREA) would like to remind Marines, Sailors, dependents, and other military and civilian personnel to be alert for tortoises, MCAGCC's only "threatened species." Protected by the Endangered

Species Act (ESA), desert tortoises are facing possible extinction from many threats, including predation, diseases, urban sprawl, and off road vehicle travel.

If you see a tortoise in town, Mainside, or crossing a street, it is legal and appropriate to move the animal out of harms' way. Do this by slowly approaching the tortoise, carrying it a short distance in the same direction it was traveling, and leaving it in a safe place, ideally in the shade of a bush or tree. It is illegal to take a tortoise from the wild to keep as a pet. It is also illegal to intentionally harm or kill a tortoise. The Endangered Species Act is a serious law, and consequences for violation of the ESA include both civil and criminal penalties.

It is legal for people to keep pet tortoises with a few conditions: tortoises that were in captivity before 1989 or

their offspring are legal as pets, but only if they are registered with the California Department of Fish and Game. Because many captive tortoises are infected with bacteria in their respiratory tract, the Base Housing Order and Environmental Protection Order prohibits pet tortoises in military housing. If you would like to adopt a pet tortoise (be aware that this can be a 50 year commitment!), call Joshua Tree Tortoise Rescue at 369-1235. This non-profit group can also provide plenty of information on diet and health factors of tortoises.

As temperatures get into the high 80's and low 90's, tortoises may seek out shade, so it's also important to look under parked vehicles before you move them, especially out in MCAGCC's training areas.

Units in the field that see a desert tortoise should contact Range Control (BEARMAT)

immediately, either by radio or cell phone for instructions. At Mainside and Camp Wilson, NREA personnel and Provost Marshall Office (PMO) are available to assist with the desert tortoise issues. For further information, call NRI-A at 830-7396 x236 or x234.

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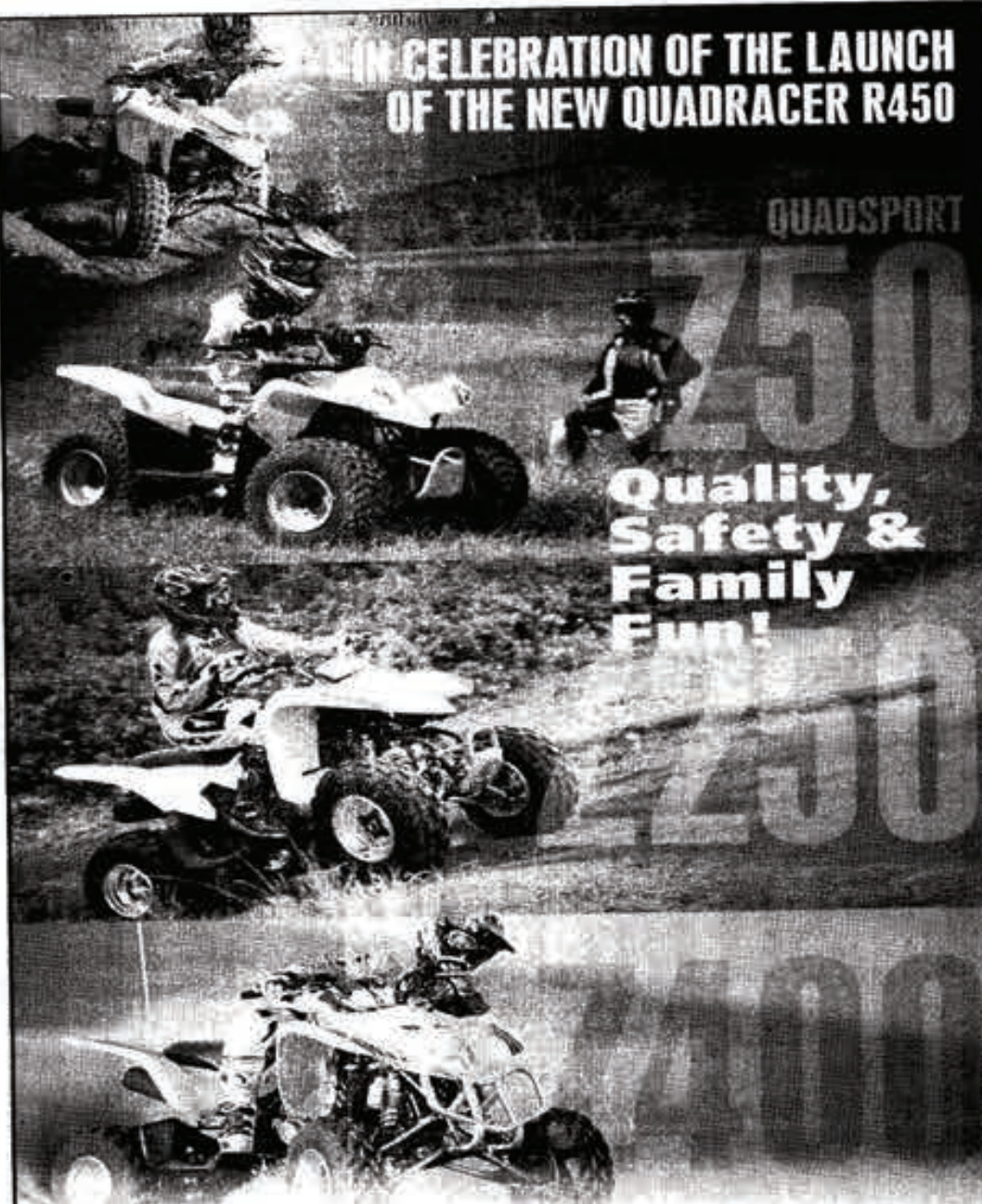


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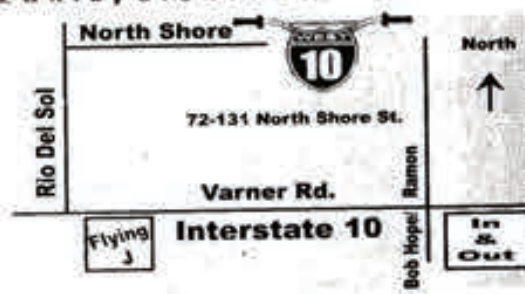
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Delta Company, 3rd AABn., dismount from AAVS, storm MOUT facility



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

According to the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion's Web site, the mission of an amphibious assault battalion is to land the surface assault elements of the landing force and their equipment in a single lift from assault shipping during amphibious operations to inland objectives and to conduct mechanized operations and related combat support in subsequent mechanized operations ashore.

Along with their mission, they are to provide direct and indirect fire support as required within the capability of their weapons systems during amphibious operations ashore.

Delta Company, 3rd AABn., exercised a different, yet equally valuable role March 9 as they stepped out of their amphibious assault vehicles and stormed Combat Center Range 215 on foot.

The company returned from Camp Schwab, Okinawa, serving with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Dec. 12, and are expecting a deployment to Iraq later this year.

The company kicked-off their first training exercise since their return from the Western Pacific, executing maneuvering drills, and more recently, military operations on urban terrain.

"We normally do not get to perform a lot of infantry training," said Staff Sgt. Garret Robinson, section leader with 1st Platoon, Delta Company, and an Airville, Pa., native. "We usually support an infantry unit when training here, but now it's our turn to take a shot at this MOUT facility."

According to the company's Web site, they are tasked with supporting 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, "New England's Own" reserve bat-

alion, as they partake in a month long pre-deployment training evolution dubbed Mojave Viper. However, since Delta Company will also be deploying to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, they too are partaking in Mojave Viper, said Robinson.

Throughout the second week of March, the company was educated and trained on urban warfare. Capt. Christopher E. DeAntoni, commanding officer of urban warfare training center teams, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, taught classes on clearing houses, patrolling cities, and maneuvering AAVs through the MOUT town streets.

"Cordon searches are vital when patrolling the streets in Iraq," said DeAntoni during a class with Charlie Company, 1/25, and 1st Platoon, Delta Company, 3rd AABn. "This is what we do to gather important information about Iraqi cities."

After morning classes, the units performed their lessons in the MOUT facility, interacting with role players who dwell on the range.

"This is the best set-up I've ever seen," said Staff Sgt. Jared Hoversten, a section leader with Delta Company, and an Iowa Falls, Iowa, native. "This facility is the best way to train for any cir-

cumstances we may encounter during our deployment. These tasks we execute here are tasks AAV trackers aren't necessarily used for, but it's always a possibility we might have to perform. We usually don't get this type of training so we are definitely taking advantage of it."

Delta Company's first platoon broke into two sections during these training exercises. They performed vehicle block drills, personnel detail searches for weapons, building entries by permission, building entries by force, reaction to improvised explosive devices, city patrolling and reaction to snipers.

The training was new to all AAV crewmen, even though some had prior deployments to Iraq.

"This was a great learning experience," said Sgt. Jerome Griego, an assistant section leader with Delta Company and an Albuquerque, N.M., native. "I've been with the company for almost three years and this is my first time patrolling this terrain. It's a great way to prepare for Iraq, especially in a mental sense. The role players made me feel as though I was in an actual situation. Training with the simunition rounds was an eye-opener. It let us know where we stand, and what we need to do."

"I expect to continue this

type of training," continued Griego. "The more we train this, the better we will become with these situations. We are taking in a lot right now. We all pay close attention so we can hit these exercises hard. Being on foot is very different from what we're used to, but soon that will change."

Delta Company is known for their vehicles and weapons systems, said Griego. Even though the vehicles were made for the ocean as well as land, the company feels more skilled on land, because of their vast training area aboard the Combat Center.

"We are very proficient in our military operational specialty," said Cpl. Joshua L. Waters-Jackson, an AAV crew chief with Delta Company, and a Des Moines, Iowa, native. "Now it is time to excel on our infantry training. A lot of us found the training really interesting. We have a new way to look at combat scenarios. There are many new Marines in our unit and not too many Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans. We usually train to proficiency, and that's what we will continue to do. We have high expectations around here, so we will get the best out of our pre-deployment training."



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

Marines with Delta Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, storm into the second floor of a building during a reaction to an improvised explosive device exercise March 9 aboard the Combat Center's Range 215.

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APPOINTMENT, A1

exemplifies the true meaning of that proverb. In Marine language, it means taking care of Marines and completing the mission, while balancing the two. He does. He's always been in the business of 'making it happen.'"

Stepping on deck as the Combat Center's sergeant major is a Georgetown, S.C., native and a Howard High Vocational School graduate. Johnson embarked on his journey in the Marine Corps in the Fall of 1978, graduating from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. He received training in his military occupational specialty as hygiene equipment operator and was honor graduate of his class at the Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Va.

Through great initiative and after proving his worth, Johnson was meritoriously promoted to sergeant in February 1981, continuing his role as a leader. He served on embassy duty in Abidjan on the Ivory Coast of Africa, and Madrid, Spain.

After achieving the rank of staff sergeant, he received training to become a career planner. He later reported to drill instructor school in 1987 and became a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego.

Johnson continued serving in an array of billets throughout the Marine Corps, deploying to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope and voyaging with the 31st MEU, as one of the world famous "Black Sheep," Marine Attack Squadron 214.

After serving with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va., since July 2003, Johnson came to the Combat Center to take charge of Ricker's duties as sergeant major of the base.

"What I have to bring to this base is myself as a person, and leading as a Marine," said Johnson. "My philosophy of leadership is to lead by example. So, what you see here is what you will get, and I will lead by example."

"I'm really excited to join this base," continued Johnson. "This is a vital area for all Marines who are deploying. I'm glad to be a part of it. I am definitely going to be getting involved with the Marines and Sailors in the training area on every occasion and opportunity I have. I am really impressed with the professionalism, integrity and honesty with the staff here. They greeted my wife [Daisy] and I with open arms. It's a pleasure and humbling to now be a part of the Combat Center team."

Combat Center sergeant major retires after 30 years

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sgt. Maj. James M. Ricker has served 30 years in the Marine Corps, passed through many installations and billets, and the end of the road is here.

Ricker, The Combat Center sergeant major for the past two years, retired during a ceremony at the Combat Center's Parade Field Wednesday.

A Moorhead, Minn., native, Ricker enlisted April 20, 1976, and graduated boot camp from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, July 15, that same year.

Becoming a Marine was something Ricker wanted to do since he was a child.

"When I was a young kid, my sister had a friend who married a Marine, and one day, we came upon his dress blues," Ricker said. "I remember thinking, 'I don't know how he got these, but I've got to get a pair.' Years later when I was in high school, I saw a recruiter in those pants and that's how it got to me."

Ricker began training for his first military occupational specialty, as a structure and hydraulic mechanic, at Marine Air Training Support Group, Millington, Tenn., and later qualified to be an aircraft plane captain for the TA-4 jet.

His other job descriptions include, but are not limited to, maintenance quality assurance inspector, aircraft maintenance control chief, and more than three non-commissioned officers-in-charge billets.

In 1991, as a gunnery sergeant, Ricker was an instructor at the Naval Aviation Maintenance Training Group Detachment, Lemoore, Calif. During his assignment as an instructor, he was qualified to instruct five different courses dealing with F/A-18 Hornet aircraft. He was awarded the Department of the Navy Master Training Specialist designation in 1993.

In 1999, Ricker was appointed as director of the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy in Okinawa, Japan.

He picked up the rank of sergeant major in March 1998. Ricker served in more than four different commands in the role of sergeant major.

"Sergeant majors take care of the enlisted Marines, Sailors and their families," said Ricker. "A sergeant major must be prepared to be very busy, but satisfied at the end of the day."

Ricker has served as the Combat Center sergeant major since March 14, 2004.

Throughout his career, Ricker has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation medal with gold star and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Ricker says he stayed in the Marine Corps for so many years because he was having fun, and he enjoyed being surrounded by the focused individuals he met in the Marine Corps. He also offers advice for those faced with the decision of staying Marine.

"You don't know how it's going to turn out," he said. "You just have to apply yourself. The more you put into it, the more you get out of it. It's very linear like that. Don't expect anything. Go earn it."

Following his retirement, Ricker plans on staying in the area, relaxing for a while, and spending time with his wife, Barbara, and his two children, Jade and Jacob.

Through the many paths the Marine Corps has taken him, Ricker takes away something from each one.

"From serving here, at the Combat Center, I've learned the real value of teamwork," he said. "I've seen from both sides of the communities, military and civilian, the same goal: making sure everyone's taken care of in all aspects."

Ricker hopes he can pass on what he has learned through his career to the Marines and Sailors he has served with.

"Earn every dollar that passes through your hands," he said, passing along advice gleaned from his 30 years of experience. "Never let the onset of liberty cloud your judgment, and always take care of the mission."

"Thank you for stepping up," he continued speaking towards all Marines and Sailors. "You answered the call. Whether you serve for four, eight, 20 or 30 years, when you go back to your community, give back to the community."



COURTESY PHOTO
Sgt. Maj. James M. Ricker, then a private, poses for a photo in 1976.



COURTESY PHOTO
Sgt. Maj. James M. Ricker, then a staff sergeant, poses with his wife, Barbara.



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Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band performed an extravagant concert for Combat Center Marines, Sailors and families Sunday at the Sunset Cinema.



Gary Sinise holds the hand of young concert goers Sunday during the three-hour long, entertaining performance.

The Lt. Dan Band lights up Combat Center with familiar tunes, great entertainment

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines, Sailors and family members were on their feet and singing along to America's most renowned music Saturday evening at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema as the Lt. Dan Band stopped by for a three-hour performance.

The Lt. Dan Band, featuring Gary Sinise, an actor and musician who played the role of Lt. Dan in "Forrest Gump," came to the Combat Center for the second time and performed American hits for the fans, courtesy of United Service Organization.

The theater was full and most of the attendees crowded the stage from the moment Sinise came out with his bass guitar, waving his hands for all to stand up.

Last year, The Lt. Dan Band came to the Combat Center and they couldn't help but look forward to returning to put on another hit, free concert, said Sinise.

"We had a great show last year, not only for this base, but

for many others as well," said Sinise. "At the same time, we've gotten tremendous feedback. It's very rewarding when we play for service members, and most of all, their families who need just as much moral support."

The Lt. Dan Band acquired its name from the movie, "Forrest Gump." Gary Sinise, played Lt. Dan, a name which is known by many people, but not many people know the name Gary Sinise, he said. Since the band dubbed its name, they have gotten a great reputation around the country and established an ongoing network as well.

"The mission of the tour was to support the troops and their families," said Jennie Ryan, a USO celebrity tour producer. "We enjoy bringing support and entertainment wherever we go. More importantly, we know this base is vital to our deployed forces. We are also aware of units who are deployed right now, and I know their families would enjoy some fun. It's very touching to do this, and it brings out very high emotions."

The band played an array of American tunes — from Jimi Hendrix to Alicia Keys; from The Who to Beyonce and Jay-Z. Some children, who stood in front of center stage, sang along with the singers on the stage. Some singers came off the stage

to dance with some audience members and brought them on the stage. The entertainment they brought lifted spirits high, song after song. Most couldn't help but sing along, said Thomas DeFrancisci, virtual convoy combat trainer instructor with Alpha Company, Headquarters Battalion.

"I was singing along to almost every song," said DeFrancisci. "They are a great band and played everything so well. That is why everyone loves them and are on their feet. They play each song real well. It's good to see a familiar face play with a big band for us. I can't wait until they come again next year."

Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, commanding general of the Combat Center, extended his gratitude to Sinise moments before the show.

"There are a lot of pressures on the families of the deployed Marines and we thank you for giving them the opportunity to have an enjoyable night," said Stone. "The Marines, Sailors and families need the fun because these events are sometimes rare."

The military is in difficult times and the USO has to help keep them strong, said Sinise.

"Their families are like a backbone to individual service members. We have to keep them both strong and let them know we are grateful for their work and sacrifices."

During the show, Sinise voiced his appreciation to the audience.

"I know it can be tough being in the military during these times, and that is why we're here," said Sinise. "We come tonight to tell you that we're right here with you, and we will continue to be here with you every step of the way, in the fight, until everyone comes home. Don't think you don't have someone behind you, because you do."

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Outstanding civil servant recognized for meritorious service

CPL. BRIAN A. TUTHILL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A 31-year veteran of the Combat Center finance office was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award March 9 for her superior performance which included saving tens of millions of federal dollars.

Grace A. Lebda was awarded the medal and certificate by Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone in front of friends and Finance Office and Comptroller Directorate Marines. Her citation and recommendation for the award spanned from the period of Sept. 1, 2002, through Jan. 10, 2006, and listed numerous accomplishments as she led her office through trying times.

"To give a background on her experience, Grace trained our senior chief warrant officer in our field when he was just a corporal here," said Chief Warrant Officer Darryl W. McCoy, finance officer. "She's also trained nearly every staff non-commissioned officer and chief warrant officer at some point during their careers."

"Grace took over my job when I deployed to Iraq for nine months," continued McCoy. "We lost half of our manpower when she took control and you could not tell anybody left. Near the end of that nine months was when our staff non-commissioned officer-in-charge deployed so she ended up doing all three jobs."

Lebda worked as a finance clerk at Fort Monmouth in her

native New Jersey in 1972 at the start of her civil service career. She came to Twentynine Palms as a pay and separations clerk in March 1975, after two years at Earle Naval Weapons Station, N.J.

When Lebda received her award, for which she now wears her lapel pin, she said she was at first surprised because through it all she felt she was merely "doing her job."

"When I stepped up, I had a lot more responsibility and it made me look at my job from a different perspective," said Lebda, who currently serves as the pay and separations section supervisor. "In the beginning it was very challenging, but I knew I had the backing of my colonel and support from staff here in my office, and that helped."

"Doing both of those jobs was overwhelming," added Lebda, who plans to retire after her 40th year of civil service. "I had my moments then, but I had that good support from my Marines and made it through."

Another accomplishment on Lebda's award citation was her identification of a Marine Corps-wide error in the computer system for pay and taxes, which saved the Corps more than \$47 million.

"In our computer system, there was an error which affected leave balances and taxable income computations, and eventually added up to millions of dollars," said Lebda. "When I found it, I thought it was just a local problem, but it turned out to affect the entire Marine Corps."

In most cases, with computer system problems, McCoy said, word usually comes from Headquarters Marine Corps but in this case, it was he who had to inform them of the anomaly.

"Even the experts at DFAS [Defense Finance and Accounting Service] didn't see this problem until she identified it," said McCoy. "This glitch personally affected more than 12,000 Marines worldwide. The dollar figure was staggering and she was the first person to see it. That really says a lot about her attention to detail. She's the backbone of this building and what we do."

Lebda's attention to detail has not gone unnoticed over the years. In her time at the Combat Center, Lebda's section has yet to fail a Marine Corps Administrative Analysis Team inspection. That included standing an inspection during her time filling in as finance officer, said McCoy.

Throughout her time in Twentynine Palms, Lebda has also become an active member of her community, serving as treasurer for the 29 Palms Community Food Pantry and Outreach Ministries. Lebda said she is extremely proud to be part of that organization, which last year provided food for more than 2,650 families, and more than 525 Thanksgiving dinners.

"On top of all the great work she does, she's always here, is always in a good mood, treats her Marines well, and is very active in her community," said McCoy. "You could not pick a nicer person to work with, or who is more worthy of this award."

Three years into Iraq, defense leaders assess successes, challenges

DONNA MILES
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Nearly three years into Operation Iraqi Freedom, it's fair for people to ask why the United States should see the mission through, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Tuesday.

In a Pentagon news briefing, Rumsfeld acknowledged Iraq is facing "a very difficult situation."

Similar questions were raised in the past when the country confronted tough challenges, he said. And just as past generations endured tough times, so too must Americans today in Iraq. "Consider what the world would be like if, whenever things seem to go wrong or to have grown more difficult than expected, the Americans and the leaders in that generation had simply thrown in the towel rather than persevering," the secretary said.

Rumsfeld ran down a litany of examples of how history would have changed if the United States had cut and run when the going got tough. Europe probably wouldn't be free and united, he said. The Soviet Union would not have dissolved. Germany and Japan would not be democra-

tic allies, and the Republic of Korea wouldn't be an important ally with the world's 12th-largest economy. "So too the sacrifices of today will, over time, prove the worth of this cause [in Iraq]," Rumsfeld predicted.

The secretary acknowledged that Iraq faces challenges: Violence continues; the democratic process can be frustratingly slow; predictions of an imminent civil war circulate.

But to get a real handle on the overall situation in Iraq, Rumsfeld proposed three questions to consider:

- Are the Iraqi people supporting their nation's democratic transformation?
- Are the Iraqi forces taking on responsibility for the security of their country?
- Are the coalition forces in Iraq helping to make the United States safer?

Rumsfeld answered all three questions with a clear "yes."

The vast majority of Iraqis support the country's new democracy and oppose the people who threaten it, he said. Iraqis turned out in force during national elections despite threats to their lives and families. They're volunteering in droves to join the

security forces, even as terrorists target these forces. They're reporting tips about terrorist activities to authorities at "encouragingly high levels," he said.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters most Iraqis are choosing the path that leads to freedom, a representative government and a prosperous future—not civil war. "They are very much looking toward how can they have a unified government and move down that path," Pace said. "And there are many, many more voices for unification and freedom amongst the leadership, both elected and religious, in that country than there are voices of opposition."

Reflecting on progress among Iraqi security forces, Rumsfeld said the army and police are growing in both numbers and capabilities. Some 100 Iraqi battalions are in the fight against terrorists, with 49 of these battalions controlling their own battle space. Iraqi security forces control about 60 percent of Baghdad, including some of the toughest areas there: Haifa Street, Sadr City and the airport road. In addition, Rumsfeld said, about 75 percent of operations involve

Iraqi security forces, nearly half of them independently planned, conducted and led by Iraqis.

Rumsfeld said he's a firm believer that progress in Iraq is helping protect the United States' long-term security. "A free and stable Iraq will not go to war against its neighbors, will not use chemical weapons against its own people, will not harbor or support terrorists, will not pay rewards to the families of suicide bombers, and will not seek to kill Americans," he said.

"Our coalition is fighting terrorists in Iraq so we do not have to fight the terrorists here at home," Rumsfeld said.

The coalition also is bringing hope of living in a free society to millions of Iraqis, just as is happening in Afghanistan, he said. "And as that desire spreads, it will severely undermine the militant ideology that feeds terrorism and opposes the rights of free people," he said.

Pace reminded the group that Iraq is just one part in the global war on terror. Even if the United States were to leave Iraq tomorrow, it would still have a long effort ahead to defeat terrorism around the world, he said. "And we as a nation need to understand that, to understand that it takes decades for terrorist

organizations to either be defeated or to lose their ideology," he said.

Although it won't be at the current numbers, the United States will have to continue deploying troops overseas for the foreseeable future to respond to terrorist threats. "And that will take a long time," Pace said.

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- **Mountains - March 20**
Big Bear - Parks and Recreation Community Room
41220 Park Ave., Big Bear Lake
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Running Springs - Hootman Senior Center
2929 School Road, Running Springs
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- **West End - March 23**
YMCA - 215 West C Street, Ontario
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Myths and misconceptions about alcohol and its effects on safe driving are widespread. Knowing the truth may mean the difference between life and death this holiday season and throughout the year.

Myth: "Alcohol is a stimulant." **Fact:** Alcohol is a depressant. It acts on the central nervous system like an anesthetic to lower or depress the activity of your brain.

Myth: "Drinking coffee sobers me up." **Fact:** Coffee cannot rid your system of alcohol. It just makes you a nervous, wide-awake drunk. Only time reverses impairment.

Myth: "I always stay away from the hard stuff." **Fact:** Alcohol is alcohol. Beer has the same effect as straight scotch. One 12-ounce beer has as much alcohol as a 1.5-ounce shot of whiskey or a 5-ounce glass of wine.

Myth: "I'm bigger so I can handle liquor better." **Fact:** Size is only one factor in how much you can drink. Metabolism, amount of rest, and food intake all play a part in how you handle liquor. Impairment in motor reflexes and judgment can begin with the first drink.

Myth: "Once I roll down the car window, I'm okay." **Fact:** No amount of fresh, chilly air can reverse impairment. You gain nothing by rolling down a window or turning on the air conditioner.

Myth: "I just drive slower." **Fact:** Many people do, believing they can actually compensate for being impaired by creeping along at 22 mph. This can be dangerous. Others race along at 75 miles mph. The truth is, impaired drivers are unsafe at any speed.

Myth: "All I have to do is splash my face with cold water." **Fact:** Splash all you like. You can even take a cold shower. It may make you cleaner, but it won't sober you up or make you a safe driver.

Myth: "A drink or two makes me a better driver." **Fact:** Even one drink can cloud your thinking, dim your vision, and slow your reflexes. Small amounts of alcohol can impair your judgment and put you and others on the road at risk of death or disabling injury.

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RCT-7: Iraqi soldiers making progress, on track for independent operations in Al Anbar Province



STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN
A 23-year-old Iraqi Army first lieutenant, the training officer for the 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division, observes as one of his "Jundi"—Iraqi Army private—sights in with his assault rifle during a day of marksmanship training at a small arms range at Camp Al Asad, Iraq, Feb. 27.

STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN
1ST MARINE DIVISION

CAMP AL ASAD, Iraq — Iraqi soldiers are right on schedule with training requirements that will allow them to eventually relieve U.S. military forces in western Al Anbar Province, according to Marine officials here.

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division — one of two Iraqi Army brigades in western Al Anbar Province — have spent months now learning the administrative and decision-making processes they'll need to function as a military headquarters element to the three Iraqi infantry battalions which will eventually be under their charge.

Partnered with a Military Transition Team — groups of Marines assigned to track and guide each Iraqi military unit's transition to full control — the Iraqi soldiers here are learning the skills required to operate as a command staff, such as administration, logistical procurement, command and staff relations and tactical decision making.

Marines from Regimental Combat Team 7, who arrived in Iraq about a month ago to relieve the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based Regimental Combat Team 2, have spent the past 30-plus days here evalu-

ating, training and mentoring the Iraqi soldiers.

Progress is steady

So far, the Marines are pleased with what they've seen.

"In that month's time, we've seen big progress," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Kenney, who spearheads the Marines' military transition team for the 2nd Brigade. "There are a lot of things they couldn't do before that they can do now. It's a sign they're really doing better."

The progress of Iraqi military units is not limited to just Iraqi soldiers here. The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., told reporters at a recent press conference that the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police both performed well overall during recent sectarian strife, quelling violence in eight provinces in Iraq.

"This demonstrates a maturing capability to cooperate and operate effectively in providing domestic order, and we saw this in several places around the country," said Casey.

"The men who attacked the mosque [in Samarra] want to make a civil war between Iraqis. We will not let this happen," added Chief Warrant Officer Zahra Ar-Raheem, 41, who added that he is fed up with violence

caused by insurgents. The recent sectarian violence around the country has reinforced his will to serve in the Iraqi Army, he said.

On the path to independent operations

In eight of the 18 provinces in Iraq, there was little to no reaction to the [Samarra mosque] bombing, to include Al Anbar province, said Casey. While the General praised Iraqi Security Forces elsewhere for operating independently during the recent violence, Marine leaders here are confident of Al Anbar-based Iraqi Army units to do the same.

In fact, the 2nd Brigade, as well as its subordinate Iraqi infantry battalions throughout Al Anbar, will be operating independently by the end of the year, said Kenney.

Furthermore, the three Iraqi battalions in western Al Anbar have been conducting counterinsurgency operations alongside Marine and U.S. Army battalions for more than a year. In the Haditha "Triad" region, which consists of several towns along the Euphrates River just north of here, Iraqi soldiers have operated side-by-side with Marines on nearly a dozen counterinsurgency operations, resulting in more than 200 insurgents captured and 350-plus weapons caches discovered.

"We have a permanent combined presence with Iraqi and American forces now in 15 towns throughout the region, where we had none when we came here a year ago," said Col. Stephen Davis, who commanded Marine forces in western Al Anbar for more than a year, during a Pentagon press briefing last month.

"You will not confuse them [Iraqi soldiers] with United States Marines, but they are making good progress when you consider what it takes, especially to stand up a nation's military essentially from scratch in the course of a year, year and a half," said Davis.

Marines here plan to turn over full operational control of western Al Anbar to Iraqi units by gradually pulling out of the limelight and allowing Iraqi forces to take the lead, according to Kenney.

"The [Iraqi] staff guys [here] are getting better and better with the training and they're showing a lot of enthusiasm," said Kenney, a 48-year-old from Harvard, Conn. "They'll be able to handle their own battle space."

Enthusiasm aside, the Marines say progress is steady. The Brigade's training regimen includes long days of classes and practical application. Staff officers here are learning basic operational planning, command-staff relations and tactical decision making. The enlisted soldiers — known as "Jundis" (pronounced "JUNE-dees") — are busy learning basic marksmanship, convoy operations, counter IED measures and plenty of other skills they'll need to survive on the road and allow them to support the Iraqi infantrymen throughout Anbar.

Some Iraqi units, like the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade in Rawah, located along the Euphrates River about 215 miles northwest of Baghdad, have been participating in daily patrols and even combat operations for several months now with their U.S. counterparts.

Maj. Anthony M. Marro, the team leader for the Military Transition Team in

See RCT-7, A9

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RCT-7, A8

Rawah, has spent two-plus months working with Iraqi soldiers in Rawah. In that time, he, too, has seen an improvement in the development of the Iraqi military there in several critical key areas, such as leadership, command and control, interacting with the local communities, and planning operations.

"Their individual movement techniques and skills are ... improving," said Marro, a 15-year Marine Corps veteran and infantry officer. "A lot of the soldiers genuinely want to learn and get better, so that's very promising. If that trend continues, this alone will be a large factor in allowing them to operate independently."

Marro, an Ilion, N.Y., native, says the Iraqi soldiers' leadership is competent, but still needs more practice "being in charge and making their own decisions."

Confidence, experience and self-reliance will come in due time, he said.

"We've also seen a gradual improvement in the autonomy they are willing to give some of their better junior officers and senior NCO's [noncommissioned officers]," said Marro, who is on his third deployment to Iraq. "They have also started to interact with the local people while out on patrol and passing out candy to the kids. They wouldn't even have thought about doing that a month ago."

Iraqi soldiers' goal: a terrorism-free Iraq

Inside one of the dozens of aircraft hangars of this barren airbase, Iraqi soldiers have spent days getting their hands dirty working underneath the hoods of High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles, or "Humvees." They're learning how to conduct basic maintenance on the military vehicles — changing fluids, replacing parts, checking basic vehicle operations.

Soon, the Iraqis will be receiving their own Humvees — an upgrade in protection from the small pick-up trucks and other commercial vehicles they currently use for transportation.

Huddled in groups underneath the hoods and bellies of the Humvees, which bear a spray-painted Iraqi flag on the doors, the soldiers speak frantically to one another in Arabic, and resemble a group of surgeons on deadline to perform life-saving surgery.

Though most say they've joined the Iraqi Army to "kill the terrorists and free Iraq," some have been affected by insurgent attacks firsthand.

During a soda break from working under the hood of beige Humvee, Iraqi Warrant Officer Fatima Muhammed, 24, recalled several occasions of violence near his home, such as random shootings, bombings, kidnappings and thievery. His friendly demeanor turns quite serious on the subject.

"The terrorists are just like Saddam," he said. "Explo-

sions, killing, robbery — all terrorism. If I had authority, I would kill the terrorists directly."

He said most of the Iraqi soldiers here are truly dedicated to the new Iraqi government, and are not part of Iraq's new Army "just for the money."

"We are all eager to serve Iraq and be a part of Iraq's future," said Muhammed, who added that voting in last year's national elections was a freedom he never thought he'd live to see in Iraq. "I was afraid to show my [ink-stained] finger because the terrorists, they could kill me."

"Only thing we want is safety. I want my family to walk down the streets without any guards or any protection," said Muhammed. He said he is anxiously waiting for that day, but for now, Iraqis "don't have that freedom."

A family affair

But while some of the soldiers are still weary of insurgent threats against their families and friends, many are beginning to exude confidence and pride of their service in the Army, despite any threats of retribution for their service. These soldiers see their progress as a sign of an already free Iraq, one in which they control, not terrorists or sectarian leaders.

"Even our families have asked us to be hard workers in the military," said Ar-Raheem.

Undeterred by insurgents, Ar-Raheem spoke of a photograph he took while holding an M16 rifle of a U.S. Marine; a photo he proudly shows his families and friends in his neighborhood as proof that he is serving in

Iraq's Army.

Hassan Al-Saheed, an Iraqi private, agrees with Muhammed. The 40-year-old said that the country is now safer since the 2003 fall of Saddam Hussein, but more importantly, his family is safe, and he and two of his five sons now freely serve in Iraq's military.

Al-Saheed said he is less concerned with terrorist threats against his family for his service in the Iraqi Army than he is with taking care of his family while he undergoes training "so far away" from his home. His family relies on him to provide food and to bring the children to the local hospital when they're sick, which is hard to do when he's not there, he said.

But his family's sacrifices for his service are for an important cause, said Al-Saheed.

"Until the country is safe, I try to make protection for all the people," he said. "My family told me, 'Go and help the country.'"

Key to progress is training, dedication

At one of the base's small arms firing ranges, a platoon from 2nd Brigade spent the afternoon firing at silhouette paper targets, a way for them to get what the Marines call "trigger time." While Marines were present, two Iraqi officers — a captain and a first lieutenant — ran the show, giving commands to the soldiers and critiquing them on their shooting technique.

The Marines assist only when needed, usually to help the Iraqi officers evaluate and plot the soldiers' shot groups on the paper targets, and ensuring range safety rules are followed.

Some of the soldiers have more experience shooting the rifles, as evidenced by the number of shots they place inside the target's black bull's eye center. Others are still learning the proper way to hold the rifle, and how to apply basic marksmanship skills so bullets meet paper.

"Some of them have never held a weapon before, but they're getting better," said Maj. Jonathan P. Dunne, operations officer for the Military Transition Team here. "They're hearts are in it, and they're excited about doing their own missions."

After several strings of firing, one soldier, Pvt. Kdr Muhaymin, says his accuracy behind a rifle is improving. Pointing to his target, he eagerly awaits for either his captain or lieutenant to make their way to his target to evaluate his shot group.

"Now I'm very good — just take a look at how I shoot," said the 25-year-old, holding up seven fingers to indicate how many shots he put in the target's center black ring. Like many of the Iraqi soldiers here, Muhammed is from one of many towns south of Baghdad.

More work needed

While Marines here admit that there is still more work to be done before 2nd Brigade is ready to take operational control of its subordinate battalions, progress is consistent, and the Iraqis are beginning to receive more equipment, such as the Humvees, to go along with their training.

For the Iraqi soldiers here, the progress they're making marks the start of an envisioned Iraqi-led military force in Al Anbar. Though they agree that the new Iraqi Government, with U.S. support, has provided new found freedoms for Iraqis, they too understand that there is still more work to be done —



STAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN
A 40-year-old Iraqi soldier from 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division, waits on the firing line to begin an afternoon of marksmanship training with his assault rifle at a small-arms firing range at Camp Al Asad, Iraq, Feb. 27, 2006.

more days at the rifle range, more time in the classroom and behind the wheel of a Humvee — before they are ready to fully take the operational reins from their U.S. counterparts here.

"Now I am working serious and accomplishing something," said Hussein Al Fattah, 18, who told his parents last year that he was "joining the Army to serve his country."

"We are doing good and

have all the help of the U.S. military. [but] we still have to get better, learn more," said Muhaymin, one of the more proficient marksmen during the afternoon's rifle training.

"They [Americans] are helping us, but we will be in full control [soon]," added Ar-Raheem. "When we control everything, we will succeed. Our efforts will be in the right direction."



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GUINNESS SGT. MICHAEL Q. RETANA
Hospitalman Louis A. Menendez, a U.S. Navy corpsman from Regimental Combat Team 7, and an Iraqi Army medic watch as fellow Navy Corpsman, Hospitalman James J. Campbell writes the type of injury sustained by a mock "casualty" on a triage tag during a mass casualty drill at Camp Al Asad, Iraq, March 7.

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It's getting close

Lance Cpl. Chase Toon, a Houston native with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, holds and hugs his four-year-old daughter, McKenzie, when returning to the Combat Center's Victory Field Monday after a seven-month deployment to Iraq. Forty-six Marines from 3/7's Advance Party reunited with their friends and loved ones, an indication of the rest of the battalion's upcoming return.

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

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WOMEN SOFTBALL
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Tryouts/Practice for the Base Women's Travel Softball Team, the Desert Divas, is being held at Victory Field across from the base theater every Tuesday night from 6pm - 8 pm. The team has lost several players from the past couple seasons due to relocation and deployments. The Desert Divas have been together for five years and hold a record of 76-32 with four tournament wins including a fifth place finish in the Women's NSA World Tournament held in Las Vegas in 2004. Coach Randy Husted is looking forward to a outstanding team in 2006. The first tournament is March 25 in La Mirada, Calif. Players with softball experience should call 830-4092 for further information.

MCCES MARATHON

Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School will be holding a marathon, a half-marathon and a 10K run, March 25. Entry for each is \$25, \$15 and \$10 respectively. All military, DoD employees and dependents are welcome. The race begins and ends at MCCES. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers. You may register in advance or at 6 a.m. on race day. For more information call Capt. Perrone at 830-6147.

LEISURE

L.I.N.K.S. CAX

The L.I.N.K.S. CAX will take place Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Victory Field. Free Day Care will be provided by Marine Corps Community Services. The point of contact for sign-ups or more information is Christina Curtin. She can be reached at 830-4262.

AMERICAN CANCER
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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.

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Tigers have
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The Battle Colors detail lowers the Marine Corps Colors with battle streamers for the playing of the National Anthem.

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III

Battle Color
Detachment leaves
lasting impression
on Combat Center

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center welcomed the United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., March 9 at the base's Parade Deck for a ceremonial performance by the elite members of "The Commandant's Own," the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon and the Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps.

More than 500 students from Condor and Palm Vista Elementary schools, and a local Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps attended the performance.

The ceremony, which was marked by strong winds, opened with "The Commandant's Own" program called "Music in Motion," which included six different songs that ranged from traditional Marine Corps medleys to recent hits from Jonathan Larson's award-winning musical "Rent."

The Marines executed choreographed drill movements in coordination with their performance of the songs, demonstrating one of the most impressive skills of all Marine Corps bands.

The Commandant's Own closed their performance with the national march of the United States of America, "The Stars and Stripes Forever," then stepped aside for the Silent Drill Platoon to take center stage for its performance.

Comprised of 24 carefully-selected and highly-trained Marines, the Silent Drill Platoon performed the drill sequence without cadence or verbal commands. Each Marine performed carrying an M-1 Garand rifle with a fixed bayonet, which together weigh 10-and-a-half pounds.

The Marines fearlessly tossed and spun the rifles in the air in close proximity to each other, creating a unique and suspenseful visual effect for first-time and recurring viewers.

"Just watching it made me feel good to be a Marine," said Lance Cpl. Curtis T. Brown Jr., a Baltimore native. "You forget your sense of pride when you're working everyday, but seeing the way they are on point and put on a great show reminds you."

"The Marine Corps is looked at as a combat-oriented branch, but the band and the Silent Drill Platoon shows how we honor our traditions," Brown continued.

The Color Guard of the Marine Corps presented the official battle colors, with 54 streamers and silver bands representing the military campaigns Marines have participated in from the Revolutionary War to the present conflict in Iraq. Palms, oak leaf clusters and stars decorate the colors, representing more than 400 awards and campaigns throughout Marine Corps history.

The ceremony closed with the pass and review, reviewed by Brig. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, Combat Center commanding general.

As the Silent Drill Platoon made their way off the parade deck, the Marines stopped to talk to Palm Vista students.

Lance Corporals Michael Morales, Josh Lewthold and Robert Stukel, took their time to let the students take a closer look at their weapons and answer any and all questions.

"We practice all day, every day," said Lewthold, a Reno, Nev., native. "Drilling is what we do, and all we do."

The Marines let the students carefully feel the weight of the rifle, having them pick the rifle up with one hand.

"Cool," said Andrew Kennedy, a 10-year-old, fifth-grade student at Palm Vista Elementary School, as he held Stukel's bayonet in his hand.

These Marines know it's more than just a show, their job can inspire young children to make the best out of life, explained Stukel.

For more history and information on the United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment, log on to: <http://www.mbc.usmc.mil>.



A mellophone player with "The Commandant's Own" performs in the Battle Colors Ceremony on the Combat Center's Parade Field March 9.

CPA BRIAN A. TUTTILL



Members of the silent drill platoon toss their rifles into the air in sequence.

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III



The drummers of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps perform a solo during the Battle Color ceremony on the Combat Center's Parade Field March 9.

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ



SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
Carlos Carmichael, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, flies through the air and arches back for a dunk in a dunk contest in the West Gym March 9.

CG Intramural Basketball stars put on show

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Competitors in the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League got a break from the regular competition to play in an all-star basketball game and other competitions March 9 at the West Gym.

"The purpose of the all-star game was for bragging rights and to let the guys play with players from other teams competitively," said Skip Best, Marine Corps Community Services athletics director.

Players were separated into two teams according to team standings with the first, third and fifth place teams combining against the second, fourth and sixth place teams. Both teams from Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School joined with 1st Tank Battalion for Team 1, and both teams from Headquarters Battalion combined with Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital to form Team 2.

The game was a close match through the first half, but in the end Team 1 took the win 81-67.

"The game was OK but it was too much strategy involved," said Jerome Hawkins, MCCES Team 1 coach and a player on all-star Team 1. "I thought it should have been more scoring, but we needed a break from the season to have fun."

Along with the all-star game, players had a chance to compete in a three-point shootout and dunk contest.

1st Tanks' athletes dominated the competitions when Nathaniel Hovsepian won the shootout, and Bruce Woolley took the dunk contest.

"It was a nice feeling after Tanks took the dunk contest and the three-point shoot out, and being the coach of the winning all-star team," said William S. Harvey, 1st Tanks coach and all-star Team 1 coach. "The all-star game was a chance for the Marines to relax and have fun. Game recognizes game, and it was a true honor to coach the all-star team consisting of Tanks, MCCES 1 and 2."

As the all-star game came to a close and the regular season now over, teams turn their focus to the playoffs and championship game.

"We just lost two more players, however, I think we still have a great shot at winning it," said Lance D. Raymond, Headquarters Battalion Team 1 coach. "We are disappointed with losing three of our last five games. I feel like we are going to be extremely focused for the playoffs."

Jerome Hawkins, MCCES 1 coach, expressed confidence in his team and their abilities. According to him, the only ones who can stop them is themselves.

"Everyone knows we are the team to beat," said Hawkins. "So what we need to do is stay focused, and stay with our game plan and do what we have to do to win. The only team that can beat us is MCCES 1, which is us."

At the top of the league, Tanks carries a little extra pressure to maintain their winning strategy into the playoffs.

"We have some pressure; however, it's an advantage getting to sit out the first night," said Harvey. "We'll play hard all 40 minutes of the game and stick to the game plan."

"Whatever team we face, we will have the mindset of no wins, no losses, just man up and play to the best of our ability," he said.

Four-week class may save smokers' lives

SGT. ROBERT L. FISHER III
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Bad breath? Yellow or missing teeth? Bleeding gums? Foul body odor? Are these desirable features? These are common traits found in tobacco users.

For those who want to be rid of those characteristics and live a healthier life, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital holds tobacco cessation classes each month.

Martha Hunt, health promotion coordinator and tobacco cessation class instructor, said the course is for those who really want to give up tobacco. It's not for those who are pushed through the door by their boss or their spouse, but for those serious-

ly interested in quitting.

"We want you to come to this class to give you what you need to give up smoking," said Hunt.

She discusses the different methods of quitting and how the Naval Hospital staff will support them. Through the class, participants also receive nicotine replacement patches and Zyban, a prescription drug that chemically hinders the signal for cravings to the brain, said Hunt.

Taking the class is the only way to receive Zyban medication and nicotine patches through the military.

The patches and medications are set up for participants on the first day so they can use them throughout the

class. If there are any problems or side effects, Naval Hospital staff can assist in getting through the problems and finding the right medication.

"We start you out from the beginning," said Hunt. "We get you through the rough spots of using the patches."

The class runs four Tuesdays in a row. Participants must attend all four classes or they will be dropped from the course and no longer receive medication.

On the first day of class, participants receive a wealth of information along with a textbook handout covering everything in the course, said Hunt.

"Some of them go home and say they can do it themselves," she said. "We give them a lot of information... and see what fits best for them. This way, they have the information with them, so they have a chance."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Lisa Dutra, population health, is a prior smoker who will start teaching the tobacco cessation class soon. She gave up smoking in August 2005, by going cold turkey, but still gets cravings.

"My biggest craving occurs when I see other people smoking," said Dutra. "It's when one of your friends lights up a cigarette and you're like, 'hey, that's a good idea,' or when you're bored, or driving, or trying to keep awake."

She says she has yet to see a major change in her life, but mentioned a few minor differences.

"I don't smell anymore," she said. "I'm a swimmer and I can hold my breath longer when I swim. I don't get sick as often. My sisters don't mind being around me."

These changes may be exactly what a smoker wants, but has been unable to quit on their own.

Those who choose to take the course each have their own reasons: some of them for themselves, others for loved ones or friends, and others have yet to find a reason for quitting.

"It's time to quit smoking," said Cpl. Brandon Lacy, remain behind element, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. "I'm 21 years old, and I've been smoking for 10 years. It's just time to quit."

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The grass is greener at Desert Winds Golf Course

LANCE CPL. MICHAEL S. CIFUENTES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Hidden from Mainside lies 110 acres of land that provides enjoyment, relaxation and competition for all personnel aboard the Combat Center and is known as Desert Winds Golf Course.

The golf course is a half-million dollar establishment that was brought to the base for all who are interested in keeping up with their golf game or trying to get into the sport.

A golf school is offered for those who haven't played before, and are willing to learn, or for players who want to enhance their skills.

Todd Wade, Desert Winds manager and golf professional, runs the six-week-long school, designed for players 18-and-over, but is willing to include younger golfers who are up to par with the course.

"The school is mainly for the basics of golf," said Wade, who has been managing the golf course for five years. "We begin the course with classroom knowledge about the sport; continue it with instructions on the putters and their uses; advancing to driving golf balls down the course; and finally, spending the last week playing the course."

Wade doesn't expect all students to become great golfers by the end of his six-week class, but shows his students a routine that they can practice on their own, depending on their initiative and interest on the course, he said.

"The best thing about the golf course is that it's mainly not for golfers," said Wade. "It's for any authorized patron who wishes to give golf a shot during their free chance."

"I encourage families to come out on a Saturday or Sunday to spend their time learning the sport," continued Wade. "More so, units from the base can come out here and have fun hitting a ball down range. It's a hobby that can maintain unit cohesion, and keep Marines or Sailors busy during their free time."

The course is equipped with golf carts, clubs, a pro shop and a snack bar known as Duffer's Retreat.

"The snack bar is open all week long," said Cisco Harris,

Duffer's Retreat cook. "The golf course is a great way to spend a day playing golf with your buddies, and getting some food and drinks with afterwards, or even before for breakfast. No matter how bad your golf game is, there is still good food here, so you will leave happy."

Harris learned the sport when he started working here five years ago, and is hooked on it, he said.

"I've sat in on Todd's classes and learned so much from him," said Harris. "He is a great teacher. He has patience for everyone he teaches—old or young. He's such a fan of the sport that he just wants everyone to see how enjoyable it is."

"This place is a paradise away from Mainside," said Harris. "If you want to hang out with your friends on the greenest grass on the base and play some golf, this is the place to come. It's worth the drive."

The golf course has its regular patrons, which includes some that travel as far as Washington to enjoy the course.

"We come to the [Combat Center] every winter from Washington, just to play on this course," said Jo Hendrickson, golf patron. "We drive down here to the base's motorhome park with our recreational vehicle so that we can golf here every day of the winter. Not only is the course very nice and well-kept, the people who work here are spectacular. They know us by name and talk to us all the time. That is what brings us back."

The golf course is also looking into a new game called Frisbee Golf, said Wade. The game is played with throwing a Frisbee into a basket. The score is kept by adding up the amount of times it takes a person to get the Frisbee to land in the basket. The person with the least amount of tries wins.

The golf course is a great place to learn the game because it is never too crowded, said Wade.

"I encourage everyone on this base to use our facility because it is here for them," said Wade. "It's fun, challenging and addicting. And for those who are interested, our driving range and putting area is open 24-hours-a-day. I'm always available to assist any patrons of the course with their needs."



Tony Buzzard, who retired from the Air Force, focuses before putting a golf ball on the green, on the Desert Winds Golf Course Tuesday afternoon.

Designated drivers save thousands of lives, become today's heroes

LANCE CPL. REGINA N. ORTIZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

What does it take to be a hero?

One simple decision can save the lives of more than 50,000 people each year and it doesn't take superhero powers, a doctorate degree or magic.

All that is needed is a driver's license and the ability to remain sober for one full night.

Designated drivers are saving lives and preventing injuries across the world. But there are still too many people taking the risk of getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol, said David Roman, the Combat Center drug demand reduction coordinator.

More than 16,700 people died in alcohol-related car accidents last year in the U.S. This was only the second consecutive year that the number has dropped, and the first time the number has been below 17,000 in five years, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

This month, the Combat Center is highlighting the issue with the Stop the Madness campaign. As part of this campaign, David Roman gave a brief to noncommissioned officers March 10 at the Sunset Cinema about designated driving.

Roman briefed NCO's because in the Marine Corps, the responsibility of junior Marines becomes top priority. Setting the example and giving helpful guidance is an important tool in Marine Corps leadership.

Since designated drivers are hard to find, according to the numbers, Roman challenged the Marines to look at the advantages.

Friends will appreciate it. Once they've realized they were saved from humiliation, an accident or a whole series of events that may happen after a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol, friends will thank the designated driver, Roman said.

Many establishments provide free non-alcoholic drinks to designated drivers.

There is more to consider than driving safely as a designated driver. While friends have drinks in public, the sober person can make sure they don't have one too many. Keeping friends from doing things they will regret the next day is also part of the designated role, explained Roman.

The concept of a designated driver is easy to understand, is free and can save lives. It just takes someone to step up to the plate, he said.

The designated driver plan should be set before reaching the drinking area. Friends should be considerate and

agree to cooperate with the designated driver when they say it is time to go, or when someone has had too much to drink.

Sometimes the plan doesn't run as smoothly as it should. Sometimes a designated driver is faced with a confronta-

tion when reaching for the keys. How do they get keys?

Roman made sure to answer this question.

"Take them," he said. "You have to convince them it is the right thing to do and they will face serious consequences if they drive drunk."

"They will thank you later," he added.

Roman, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, has worked in drug and alcohol abuse prevention for 16 years and came to the Combat Center more than a year ago. Each unit has a substance abuse counselor, who

goes through his training.

Roman, with help from Marine Corps Community Services is fixed on eliminating the senselessness of alcohol and drug incidents.

Every Friday this month, Roman, with a pair of drinking goggles, helps simulate

alcohol's influence on a person's vision at the Motor Exchange from 4-5 p.m. to make people think twice about drinking and driving.

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First to Fight tournament gives Marines first hand look at drug abuse

CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Six teams squared off in a three day tournament, at the Single Marine Program's headquarters, the Zone, battling for the highest scores in the Marine Corp's newest drug awareness and prevention game, "First to Fight - Close Combat."

The tournament, which ended March 8, was made possible by the Single Marine Program and the efforts of David Roman, the Combat Center's Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator.

Aimed at teaching Marines and Sailors the dangers of illegal drugs, the tournament was held in conjunction with the DUI awareness campaign, "Stop the Madness."

"This tournament is set up to complement March Madness," said Roman. "We want to create awareness to keep Marines and Sailors away from using drugs and alcohol. They look at this game and see what drugs can do to them on a combat mission. It's all about prevention education."

Released in December 2005 the game has been distributed throughout the Marine Corps by base drug demand reduction coordinators. Marines and Sailors have had the opportunity to play the game here since January, on four computers dedicated to its usage at the Zone.

"First to Fight - Close Combat" takes a Marine fire team through various combat missions in Beirut, Lebanon. Each of the four members of the fire team are controlled by a Marine on one of the four computers.

In addition to the threat of the enemy during the missions, one member of the fire team is under the influence of an illegal drug. At the end of each level, if the fire team can complete it, the Marines try to identify which illegal substance the member of the fire team was abusing.

"It's pretty intense to see the different effects of drugs," said Cpl. Steven Boone, a Cave Creek, Ariz., native, and Unit Deployment Program noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Installation Personnel Administration Center. "I wouldn't know what they were, or what they could do to you otherwise."

The tournament, which began March 6, was set up in a single elimination bracket, where each of the four members of the top four teams took home prizes after the championship game March 8.

The championship game was played between Team Ripper, composed of IPAC Marines, and Team Unknown, composed of Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students. Team Ripper, who held team practices before entering the

tournament, easily took first place, and went home with a Playstation 2 for each member. For finishing in second place, Team Unknown received MP3 players.

Although not taking the first place prize, the other teams, the East Coast Killers and the Destroyer Dudes left with prizes, and a better understanding of how drug abuse not only affects the Marine who uses them, but how it affects the whole unit.

For Staff Sgt. Brian Davis, the new joins Staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, IPAC, and a member of the winning team, the tournament was a good tool for teaching Marines and Sailors about drug prevention.

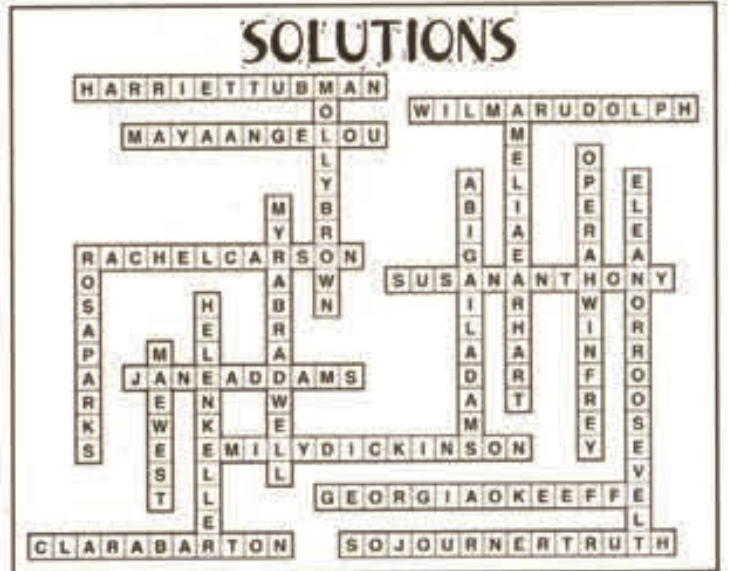
"With so many Marines within the eighteen to twenty-two years of age range, this game is a great prevention tool," said Davis, a San Jose, Calif., native. "The younger guys can relate to video games."

"If they learn something from it, then they achieved their goal," Davis said about the tournament organizers.

Regardless of how the teams fared in the game, the main goal of teaching Marines and Sailors about the dangers of drug use was accomplished. The point was made simply, by turning education into competition.



Pfc. Raul Cachonegrete, Marines Awaiting Training platoon, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School and a Miami native, plays "First to Fight - Close Combat" at the Zone.



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(760) 369-1000

120 LOTS & ACRES

DEVELOPERS, BUILDERS, INVESTORS, INDIVIDUALS. 29 Palms BOOM AREA. Broad St & Baseline City water & electric, 7800sf \$19,500. 2nd builders lot downtown area 7800sf SE corner Desert Queen & Cactus, all utilities \$30,000/obo "CALL" (760) 668-6857

JOSHUA TREE

BY owner, 2 lots, APN# 0603263040000 APN# 0603152160000 Call (760) 366-7911

JOSHUA TREE PARK INTRANCE, 10 ac. on Quail Springs Rd., dividable, \$550K, also Salt-on Sea lots from \$25, Agt (760) 574-6598 www.RobertsRealty.com

YUCCA VALLEY

1.9 acres commercial land on Pima Tr. behind Hi-Desert Star. \$199K (760) 285-2996

5 ac. w/water meter, \$375,000, look for 2 peaks of rocks on hillside behind 53727 Ridge Rd. YV, call Pat (760) 228-0423

PRIME 2 acre parcel next to pwr/wtr, reduced for quick sale. \$59,900, corner of Goleta, Three Palms Ave. Look for C21 sign. Call (760) 899-8615, agent.

125 MOBILE HOME SALES

YUCCA VALLEY
AFFORDABLE dream, \$29,900, 2 bdrm, 2 ba in country club, senior park near golf course, www.sharonkaiken.com Tarbell Realtors. 333-0386

135 REAL ESTATE WANTED

I buy lots, land, cabins, homes, any condition, for cash. Can close quickly Call (760) 366-4669

220 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

135 REAL ESTATE WANTED

Absolute Fair Prices For Houses. AS IS
Cash Fast No Fees
Little or No Equity Okay
(760) 779-9922
property-partner.com

Equal Housing Opportunity

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-424-8590.

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.



Properties for Rent
200 • 299

200 APTS. & DUPLEXES

29 PALMS
1-2 bdrm duplexes \$500-\$600. 29 Palms 1 (800) 688-2219

2 bdrm 1 ba, 1 car gar, Indry rm, close to base, includes wtr/tr. \$585mo + dep. (310) 866-7598

LARGE 1 bdrm, 1 ba, frplc, tile, section. 8 ok, w/ paid. \$525 365-2333

JOSHUA TREE

2 bdrm, 1 ba. + gar, south JT, \$625/mo. + dep. (760) 366-1188

JT Adorable 1 bdrm

Perfect for writer or day sleeper. Great area, sm yd, for pet, porch w/sunrise view. W/T paid. Gas heat.
Judy & Dave Co.
\$385 366-8229

YUCCA VALLEY

2 bdrm, 1 ba Apts. for rent, \$675/mo + sec. dep. Pets ok. Sec 8 ok. Call (323) 229-1924

110 HOMES FOR SALE

200 APTS. & DUPLEXES

2 bdrm, 2 ba, \$650/mo. + \$655 dep., credit check, laundry hkup, att. gar., trash pd. 365-9411

LARGE, CHARMING 2 bdrm, 1 ba garden apt. Very nice & clean, well maintained grounds. Fncd bk yd, carport, great loc., w/ paid. \$695-Call Steve 228-1292

LG 1 bdrm, 1 ba, sing. att. gar., 7319 Dumosa, great loc., \$550/mo. + \$550 dep. (909) 484-6464

YV, 2 bdrm, 1.5 ba, condo \$650 + util. 55885 Sante Fe Trl, drive by & call (805) 648-5105 Avail. 4/15/06

205 COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

YUCCA VALLEY
STORE for rent, avail. soon! Over 1,200 sq ft. Next to Panda Restaurant, 365-7176

210 MOBILE HOME RENTALS

29 PALMS
SMITH'S Ranch 2 & 3 bdrm rentals. Clean, quiet, close to base. (760) 367-7203

29P EDGE-O-TOWN
Mobile Home Park. Furn/ufurn. 1 & 2 bdrm. \$300-\$400 + \$300 dep. Laundry room, Adjacent to Stater Bros. Possible discounts available. (760) 367-9364

YUCCA VALLEY

1 & 2 bdrm mobile homes for rent. \$400+, call (760) 228-3077, Mon.-Thurs. 10-4

220 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

AVAILABLE now! 1-3 bdrm. houses & apts. Call Affordable Rentals (760) 228-5000 or AffordableRentals.bz

NICE 3 bdrm, 2 ba, house w/fncd yd. Pets OK! Call Libby's Realty to see 7045 Mission Ave. home

RENTALS

DESERT VISTA REALTY (8) New 3, 4, 2, bdrm. homes in Y.V. and JT. Call for Availability (760) 406-1161 or (760) 369-2884 desertvistarealty.com

1, 2, 3 bedroom rentals, call now for availability. AAA Property Management (760) 369-1221

FLAMINGO HEIGHTS

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

110 HOMES FOR SALE

and only \$1,500 per month if you have normal credit and make \$55,000-\$65,000 for your household...with no money down.

3 bedroom • 2 baths • 1,546 Square Feet



Call 951-696-3860 for details Military welcome.

220 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

29 PALMS
2 bdrm, 1 ba, Indry rm new tile, paint, completely redone. \$795 Avail 3/23. 365-2333

29 Palms - Houses & Apts. G. Mgmt. Co./ Del Gagnon Co. Call for info. 367-3535

29 Palms, 3 bdrm house \$900/month + \$900/dep. Call (760) 361-4216

3 bdrm, 1 ba, w/d hkups, stove, fncd yd, new exterior paint, avail 4/1 \$795 365-2333

3 bdrm, 2 ba, stove, refrig, dishwasher, fncd yd, 2 car gar, w/d hkups \$1000. 365-2333

3 bdrm, 2 bath, stove, refrig, cedar closets, jacuzzi tub, \$1,050/mo. no pets 365-2333

3+2+1+1, 1 garage, new paint & carpet, section 8/military discount. 760-362-3077

4 bdrm, 2 ba., frplc, 2 car gar, w/d, \$975/mo., + dep. no pets/ smoking, near base 361-0035

5893 Marine Dr., 3 bdrm, 1.75 ba., w/gar. \$975/mo. + dep., pets ok. 361-5334

6607 Galleta Ave., 3 bdrm 2 ba, fncd bk yd, ac/swamp, avail Mar 20. No pets. \$900/mo+deposit. 367-5854

72231 Sunnyvale Dr., 3 bdrm 2 ba, nearly new home, frplc, ac/swamp, fncd bk yd, \$1000/mo + deposit. No pets. Call 367-5854

BEAUTIFUL & clean 3 bdrm 2 ba house w/pool. Nice street 6075 Encelia 29P. Call Denise at Marr Realty (760) 367-3568 \$950/mo. Avail now.

COMPLETELY refurbished 2 bdrm, 2 ba, \$800/mo. + sec. dep. (323) 229-1924

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

NEWLY renovated 3 bdrm, 1 ba, house in quiet 29 Palms neighborhood w/ yard. Military discount. 366-7654

QUAINT 2 bdrm 1 ba older home, nice carpet & appliances on quiet street, needs nice tenant w/TLC. Ref's & dep \$535/mo. 368-7777

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

220 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

SMALL House for "one" in town YV. \$400 per month 365-0010

110 HOMES FOR SALE

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110 HOMES FOR SALE

110 HOMES FOR SALE

220 UNFURNISHED HOUSES

JOSHUA TREE
2 bdrm, 1 ba, 2 car gar, a/c, very nice, everything new, fncd yd, \$835/mo. 365-9738

3 bdrm, 1.5 ba, w/din. rm, gar., super clean, \$950/mo. + dep. pets ok. 361-5334

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

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

LG 3 bdrm, 1 ba, 1/2 ac, fncd, a/c & evaporative cooler, new everything, 2 car gar., \$995/mo. + dep., ref's chk carefully, pets negotiable. (760) 325-5298

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

LANDERS

Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

'02 DODGE STRATUS COUPE - V-6, 3.0 L, 5 speed, Fully loaded. Leather, sunroof, alloy wheels etc. 79K, \$8,200. Call 589-4513. 3/17/06

'03 HONDA ODYSSEY EX - Leather, DVD, new tires. Below Blue Book, \$16,000. Call 760-819-9353. 3/17/06

05 DODGE RAM XLT REG CAB - 5th wheel hitch and brake control toolbox. \$29,600, \$5,000 below retail value. RV Park on base, space 67. 2/24/06

5th WHEEL TRAILER - 26 ft. Celebrity / 2 slides, many upgrades. \$19,300. Space 67, RV Park on base. 2/24/06

'90 5TH WHEEL HOLIDAY RAMBLER - 32ft., AC, TV, DVD, new fridge, full bath,

microwave. \$5,000 OBO. Call 573-528-4037. 2/17/06

'74 MGB - All parts included, runs 1.8 engine, 5 speed, project car, excellent body. \$700. Call 361-3509.

'57 CHEVY P/U TRUCK - Model 3100, 350 small block, 350 transmission, auto, \$8,100 OBO. Call 361-3509. **'99 YAMAHA** - V-Star Classic 650, great bike, lots of extras. PCSing to Iwakuni. \$4,200 OBO. Call 760-406-1218. 2/10/06

'04 HARLEY DAVIDSON - 1200 Custom, \$7,500/ 1999 HD Dyna Wide Glide, \$13,500 OBO. Call 361-7004. 2/10/06

'91 FORD RANGER XLT - 4WD, long bed P/U, 4.0 V6 w/ 4sp. O.D., A/C, tinted windows, cruise, power windows and door locks, slider rear window, hitch. Pioneer

AM/FM cassette deck w/ 12 disc CD changer, amp, sub. Only 60,000 orig. miles, 2nd owner, \$5,200 OBO. Call 760-367-4690 or 760-217-5474. 2/10/06

CAMARO - 6 cyl., black, rebuilt engine, rebuilt transmission, new tires, runs good, \$4,000. Call 760-406-1569. 2/3/06

'02 HARLEY-DAVIDSON - FLSTF Fat Boy, carburated, non-California rated, 10,000 plus miles, black, aftermarket pipes/grips/levers/mirrors, excellent condition, minor blemishes, all paperwork from servicing, \$17,500 will negotiate. Call 760-819-9208. 2/3/06

'03 MAZDA PROTEGE - Great condition, <43,000 miles, leaving country, must sell \$8,500 OBO. Call 760-366-9322, leave message. 2/3/06

'05 HONDA CRF150F - Less than 15 hours, must sell \$2,800 OBO. Call 760-819-9353. 2/3/06

'00 SPECIAL EDITION MIATA - Must see. \$13,500 OBO. Call 760-218-1364. 2/3/06

TRAVEL TRAILER - 1993 Fleetwood Prowler travel trailer. Must sell \$5K OBO. Call 760-819-9353. 2/3/06

PETS

BLACK LAB - 10-month-old AKC purebred black lab, leaving country, \$300 OBO. Call 760-366-9322, leave message. 2/3/06

CHOCOLATE LABRADOR - AKC, OFA hip & elbow. CERF male, 4 years old. Shots, dewes, microchipped, \$200.00. Call 760-449-0944. 1/20/06

MISC.

WANTED - Recliner chair for elderly patient. Call 367-6604. 3/17/06

MSG MTG - Planning meeting for 2nd Annual MSG Reunion. Call 830-5542. 3/17/06

VISIONEER 8100 SCANNER - complete with software. \$35.00. Call 367-7066. 3/3/06

MOTEBECANE BIKE - Unisex, with clips, frame fits 5'4" to 5'6", good bike for beginner triathlete. \$400 OBO. Call 362-4812.

GAS DRYER - Kenmore heavy-duty gas dryer with manuals. In excellent condition, \$60 OBO. Kitchen rug 8 X 11, like new, \$25. Call 361-3686. 2/10/06

STROLLER - In Step Safari

- TT double jogging stroller, blue. Never used, \$175 for a \$300 stroller. Call 368-0552. 2/10/06

WORKOUT EQUIPMENT - Weider 3200 Pro Home Gym \$150, Nordic Trak Elliptical Machine \$400. Call 361-7004. 2/10/06

G.E. WASHER AND DRYER - Almond color, \$150. Call 361-7004. 2/10/06

HOME FOR SALE - 1650 sq. ft. on 1/2 acre lot. 3br 2bath, large kitchen, living room and dining room. 232K. House is 6854 Alpine Ave. Call 760-880-6928. 2/3/06

ELECTRIC DRYER - Sears Kenmore 70 series. Used 3 months. Sacrifice for \$300 OBO. Call 760-819-9353. 2/3/06

The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Friday, the week prior to publication. Trader ad forms may be filled out during normal working hours at the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1417. Ads may

also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. Ads will only be accepted from active or Reserve duty and retired personnel, their family mem-

bers and civil service workers. The limit for ad submissions is two per household per week.

The Trader may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of

personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanges not of sustained business nature.

Ads for housing rentals

will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad

approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-served, space-available basis.

300 HELP WANTED

AMERIGAS Propane looking for propane delivery driver, needs Class B lic., F/T, full benefits, 401K, good starting salary @ \$14.70/hr 365-2432

ASSISTANT Manager, PT, some maintenance req'd, computer knowledge helpful. Fri-Sun. No smoking. Apply at Yucca Valley Self Storage, 55970 Yucca Tr.

AUTOCAD Tech needed for immed opening, pay is DOE, call (760) 369-8418

CAMP counselors for residential camp in Joshua Tree from 6-18 thru 8-18. Apply at Angel View, 12379 Miracle Hill Rd., Desert Hot Springs or 6889 Sunny Vista, Joshua Tree. (760) 329-6471

CARE staff, will train. Xint benefits. Paid training & continuing education. Apply at 6889 Sunny Vista, Joshua Tree, Angel View Crippled Children's FDN., 12379 Miracle Hill Rd. Desert Hot Springs. (760) 329-6471

CROSSROADS Cafe & Tavern is currently seeking energetic personable dishwashers. Applications accepted @ 61715 29 Palms Hwy. Joshua Tree. No Phone Calls.

DANCERS wanted. No nudity. Make big \$\$\$, Flexible hours. Amateurs welcome. Leave msg. (760) 363-7266

DENTAL Oral Surgery Practice Surgery Assistant (760) 365-0658

DRIVER wanted for medical supply delivery, will train. Neat appearance, clean DMV. Call for appt. (760) 228-3309

ELECTRICIAN, 2 yrs min. exp. Full time x/benefits, 364-4201

ELECTRONIC - Cable & Wiring Harness Assembly. Exp. req'd. 369-9550

EXECUTIVE Director, Boys & Girls Club in Yucca Valley is seeking experienced & motivated individual. Apply Via Fax at (760) 365-7016 or email at bgchi-desert@aol.com

GARAGE door installers wanted. Must have valid DL, own tools & truck. Will train if ness. Call 369-4601 or fax resume to 369-4607.

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

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

HOUSEKEEPER wanted part time, some wknds req'd. 29 Palms Resort (760)367-3320

MASSAGE Therapist & Esthetician wanted (760) 401-1089

300 HELP WANTED

JT Dental office looking for exp. dental receptionist, bilingual a plus, call 366-8877

KOKOPELLI'S Cantina seeking energetic bartenders, & servers for immediate positions, 819-9498 or 861-3764

LANDSCAPE maintenance workers, irrigation workers, P/t & F/T, 29 Palms, drug test req'd, apply at www.mainscape.com

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

LINE COOK "WANTED" Fill out application at 72317 29 Palms Hwy, 29 Palms Carousal Cafe

LOGISTICS Coordinator for nonprofit Boojum Institute, Pioneertown. Responsible for equipment, purchasing, office management, maintenance. Start ASAP. \$8-10/hr DOE 228-2311 X11

MANAGEMENT trainee and delivery specialist needed for retail store in Yucca Valley. Please fax resume to Aaron's (951) 486-0710 or call Michael (909) 528-4312

MEDICAL Assistant, must be cert. & exp. a must for busy family practice. Fax resume to (760) 320-0499

MEDICAL Receptionist for High Desert, medical exp a must, knowledge of back office a plus, Fax resume with ref's to (760) 320-0499

300 HELP WANTED

FT Pressman & Pressman's Helper (nightshift position)

Benefits, paid vacations, no week-ends. Apply at Hi-Desert Star 56445 29 Palms Hwy, YV. No phone calls. EOE

300 HELP WANTED

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

OFFICE Manager Trainee, strong computer skills req'd. Location Desert Hot Springs. 251-0251 or 251-0496.

P/T HOUSEKEEPER wanted for elegant JT vacation rental Dale (323)939-2200

PAINTER - Journeyman \$15-21.25/hr. Call for interview (760) 369-2351

PHLEBOTOMIST/LVN Blood draws, please fax resume to: (909) 428-7486

PIPES Canyon Preserve is hiring a PT seasonal outdoor educator to Requires an outgoing and natural history background. Exp. w/ks preferable. \$10/hr. 369-7105

PLUMBERS: Why drive far to work, when work is here in the Morongo Basin? Growing Co. needs Exp. Plumbers in new construction, xint benefits, now accepting applications. call 365-7680

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) 408-3083

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

300 HELP WANTED

FT Pressman & Pressman's Helper (nightshift position)

Benefits, paid vacations, no week-ends. Apply at Hi-Desert Star 56445 29 Palms Hwy, YV. No phone calls. EOE

300 HELP WANTED

RECEPTIONIST/OF-FICE assistant for construction company in 29 Palms. Exp. Word & Excel req'd, Quickbooks a plus! Fax resume to (760) 362-4668

RESTAURANT help needed, all positions including P/T, on call & F/T. Apply in person at Rice King USMC Base 29 Palms Bldg 1532.

ROLE Players/Background actors, \$100-\$220 per day. No exp. nec. 10 mo. project, incl. rm. & board. Project begins early April. Apply online and get details at: www.forceprep.com/work

ROOFERS needed, must be willing to do hot tar, must have own transportation, (760) 361-4402

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

300 HELP WANTED

COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

DIRECTOR, FISCAL SERVICES
Annual Salary: \$59,010 - \$90,529
Requires a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting/ Business Administration and 5 years experience in business, accounting, or budget development & administration. Experience in the direction, supervision, training & evaluation of personnel.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I, Office of Instruction, \$2,493 monthly. Requires 2 years responsible secretarial/administrative support experience in a busy service-oriented environment and 1 year college coursework. Strong WORD, EXCEL and ACCESS skills.

DEADLINE: 3/31/2006 4:00 PM FOR APPLICATION & INFORMATION:
Copper Mountain College Human Resources 6162 Rotary Way, Joshua Tree, CA 92252 Tel# (760) 366-5267 (TDD# 366-3241) hresources@cmccd.edu WWW.CMCCD.EDU EOE

300 HELP WANTED

Pacific Clinics, a non-profit leader in behavioral healthcare services, has several opp'tys available for:

THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIOR SPECIALISTS
Opportunities for several motivated individuals to perform para-professional duties. Req's BA, BS or 5+ yrs exp plus exp w/SED children. Must demonstrate ability to work as part of as multidisciplinary team & have a valid CA drivers lic. & insurable driving record. Bilingual Eng/Span pref'd. Chem Dependency exp pref'd. Send resumes to:

Pacific Clinics
Human Resources
800 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006
FAX: (626) 294-1079; E-mail: hr@pacificclinics.org

STELLAR Performance is expanding & seeking a Master Technician. Medium Duty Truck and Fleet, exp. a plus. Best compensation and benefits package in the business. Apply in person at 7363 Wamego Tr. Yucca Valley

Advertise in the Classifieds

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300 HELP WANTED

THE Rib Co. is hiring a bartender. Must be a happy, friendly, people person. Apply in person 56193 29 Palms Hwy, YV.

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.

EXP. 15 yr. old for babysitting, housecleaning, & anything else I can work @ any time on wknds, wkdays, anywhere rom 2:30-6:00, info- 365-4748 or 831-4775

RESPONSIBLE high school student looking for yard work. Monthly weekly or one time. Also odd jobs, reasonable rates call 365-6941

300 HELP WANTED

General
Field Coordinator (21 hrs/week) Yucca Valley
Field Coordinator (F/T) San Bernardino
Volunteer Coordinator (F/T) San Bernardino
\$10-\$15/hr DOQ Plus Benefits
Exp. w/phone intake & Spanish bilingual skills desirable. F/T Field Coordinator Reqs exp w/data entry. Volunteer Coordinator reqs exp working w/volunteers. Send resume by 4/7/06 to: Ombudsman Program, 686 E. Mill St., San Bdn, 92415.

300 HELP WANTED

BANKING
PACIFIC WESTERN BANK

29 PALMS:
Customer Service Manager. Must be knowledgeable in all areas including Teller, New Accounts and Customer Service. This position manages the daily operations of the branch.

Teller.
Must have min. of six months to one year of teller experience.
YUCCA VALLEY:
HOA/Lockbox Processor- part time:
1 yr. data entry experience required. Banking/cash handling experience a plus.

Teller.
Must have min. of six months to one year of teller experience.
Fax or email resume to 310-765-4803 or alorchelli@pacificwesternbank.com or visit the branch to fill out an application. Branch locations on our website at www.pacificwesternbank.com

300 HELP WANTED

Foundation
for the Retarded of the Desert

Would you like to make a difference in someone's life?

Become a staff member! (3+) rewarding positions available:

Direct Care Staff
To care for Developmentally Disabled adults on-site. 8AM - 4:30PM, M - F, benefits included! On-job training including 1st Aid & CPR certifications. Apply at: 6889 Sunny Vista Rd., Yucca Valley or call Teri Rounds @ (760) 366-0155

Job Coach
To instruct, train and supervise Developmentally Disabled adults on-site. 7:30AM - 4:00PM, M - F, benefits included! On-job training including 1st Aid & CPR certifications. Apply at: 58923 Business Center Dr., Yucca Valley or call Kari Grimes @ (760) 228-1860

310 WORK WANTED

BOOKKEEPER/ administrative asst., exp'd in QuickBooks, Excel, etc. Call 369-7067

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

NURSES Aide, I work for the elderly, dr. appts, shopping, house cleaning. Evelyn 366-3102

Services
400-499

LOOK FOR IT IN OUR CLASSIFIEDS

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Field Coordinator (F/T) San Bernardino
Volunteer Coordinator (F/T) San Bernardino
\$10-\$15/hr DOQ Plus Benefits
Exp. w/phone intake & Spanish bilingual skills desirable. F/T Field Coordinator Reqs exp w/data entry. Volunteer Coordinator reqs exp working w/volunteers. Send resume by 4/7/06 to: Ombudsman Program, 686 E. Mill St., San Bdn, 92415.

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Customer Service Manager. Must be knowledgeable in all areas including Teller, New Accounts and Customer Service. This position manages the daily operations of the branch.

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Must have min. of six months to one year of teller experience.
YUCCA VALLEY:
HOA/Lockbox Processor- part time:
1 yr. data entry experience required. Banking/cash handling experience a plus.

Teller.
Must have min. of six months to one year of teller experience.
Fax or email resume to 310-765-4803 or alorchelli@pacificwesternbank.com or visit the branch to fill out an application. Branch locations on our website at www.pacificwesternbank.com

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To instruct, train and supervise Developmentally Disabled adults on-site. 7:30AM - 4:00PM, M - F, benefits included! On-job training including 1st Aid & CPR certifications. Apply at: 58923 Business Center Dr., Yucca Valley or call Kari Grimes @ (760) 228-1860

OH NO!

THE DOG ATE MY TRAIL!

You can read all the headlines on our web site. 24-7.

www.hidesertstar.com

Check it out!

300 HELP WANTED 300 HELP WANTED

COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Full Time Faculty:
Life Science-Anatomy & Physiology, Mathematics and Nursing

Management:
Director Health Sciences & Registered Nursing

FOR APPLICATION & INFORMATION:
6162 Rotary Way, Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Tel# (760) 366-5267 • (TDD# 366-3241)
hresources@cmccd.edu WWW.CMCCD.EDU
EOE/Title IX/Sec. 504/ADA

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 indicated in their 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

Your High Desert Paint Store
Proudly Announces
That we are now open for business at our new location 57560 29 Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley in the Vons center. Hope to see you there!
(760) 369-9097

Photo Ads
Get 5 editions for only \$27.00
1x2 size ad with photo and ad description.

For more information contact Linda!

The Desert Trail 367-3577

403 BOARD & CARE

AASSEN VILLAGECARE
Now Accepting Ambulatory & Non-Ambulatory

Residents
Assisted living for the elderly. "You will feel like you're at home!"

7633 & 7645 Kickapoo Trail, Yucca Valley (760) 228-2729 RCPE Lic# 366410679 Lic# 366410681

DESERT ROSE ELDER CARE
Assisted Living for Seniors

"Experience the homelike family atmosphere"

73511 Sunnyvale Dr. Twenty-nine Palms (760) 367-9175
Shari McGill-Cunagin Owner/Administrator Lic#366404872

HIDESERT FAMILY ELDERCARE
"Senior Living at its best" Specializing in Alzheimer's & Dementia care.

6410 El Reposo St. Joshua Tree, Ca 92252 (760) 368-3845 Lic. #366409076

Advertise in the Classifieds 365-3315

405 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

AAA Home income, 23 people needed Now. Earn P/T/F/T income. Apply online to get started: www.wahusa.com

410 SENIOR CARE & CHILD CARE

CLARK family Child care-accepting ages 5 & up, near FHES Call 366-2766 Lic.#364812046

425 INSTRUCTIONAL

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

Buildozer, Backhoes, Loaders, Dump Trucks, Graders, Scrapers, Excavators -National Certification -Financial Assistance -Job Placement Assistance
(800) 383-7364
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435 SERVICES

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

ATTENTION Lawyers!
MG Courier can do your Court Filings. 369-4270

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

BEST Maintenance & Home Improvement, 35 yrs. Lic. #57239, Call 228-0532

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, roof iron fences.

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

435 SERVICES

CONCRETE, driveways, patios, house slabs. Also carpentry & room 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 T. T. Wolf Construction block - brick - wood patios, decks, retaining walls & fences. www.ttwolfconstruction.com (760) 660-3325

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

CONSTRUCTION, New construction, additions, remodels & repairs. John Saffie Construction Co. 363-7134 Lic. #298895

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 Hamon 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, Serving the Morongo Basin Since 1984. Goodpaster Construction (760) 228-1985 Lic#903172

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

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

CUSTOM cabinet refitting/remodeling for kitchen or bath, media centers, etc. Call Jim @ (760) 215-3037

435 SERVICES

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

Dick & Cheri's Butchering Shop
"We are still local!"
63536 Aberdeen Dr. Joshua Tree 366-3391
All size pigs avail. Universal pig feed for sale, high protein, great price! call for details

DRYWALL, Drywall, tape, texture, acoustic, patch work, custom textures. Sonrise Drywall Inc. #848068 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#C19-550008

ESTATE buyers, foreign gold, scrap & dental gold, jewelry, sterling. Pay 4 X's face value. Call Quality Coins (760) 365-8991

EXPRESS Cleaning Services: Residential, Commercial, Industrial. I clean your house, office, factory, yard and haul garbage away. Call Emma (760) 369-3515 or cell (760) 401-1571

EXPRESS Electrical Services: residential, commercial, industrial. I take care of your electrical problem. Lic #C-10 454172 Call John (760) 228-0892 or cell (714) 721-9924

FENCING, Applied Fencing Inc. 24 yrs. exp. Custom fencing, enclosures & automated entry systems. Free estimates 366-0101, Lic #832834

FENCING, Chain link, field fencing, wood fence, no job too small. Fatty's Fencing 366-5462 or (760) 868-3525. (Lic. pending)

GARAGE Doors, For all your garage door needs. Call Door Medic. (760) 401-7324 Lic#846130

GARAGE Doors, Hi-Desert's largest Inventory Family owned & operated. Precision Garage Doors. 369-DOOR (365) Lic#815220

GARAGE Doors, Openers, Parts and Service. Great Prices! Dan Dan 366-3353

HANDYMAN, Retired electrician. No job too small! Ceiling fan installation, etc., general repairs. (760) 902-1531 unlic.

HANDYMAN, Try Us Handymen

No job 2 big or 2 small Call Art 364-4884 Senior & Military Disc.

435 SERVICES

HANDYMAN, You got chores and don't want to do them... call Mike I do it all... no job 2 big or small. Cowboy Handyman 369-7035 or (909) 841-4311 unlic.

HANDYMAN, Free estimates. Prompt reliable service. "Call Husbands for Rent @ 365-3438 or (760) 218-8567 unlic.

HANDYMAN, Call Henry's your #1 confident handyman. Lic#779866 (760) 362-4184

HANDYMAN, drywall, paint, plumbing, electrical, framing. Call for est. (760) 217-8880 unlic.

HANDYMAN, Home Maintenance & Repair. See Business Directory for more info. KMS Services 369-0521

HANDYMAN, one call does it all! General home repair, custom sheds & door installation. Call Ed Kennedy 365-2177

HAULING ??? Busy Husband ??? Gar. cleaning, hauling & odd jobs. Low rates for seniors. Free Estimates Call (760) 401-2719

HAULING, Trash & debris removal from homes, garages, yards & construction sites. Reasonable rates. Call 369-7330 or (760) 408-4334

HOUSE Cleaning, Honest & Reliable. Serving the Desert since 1994. Call Denise's Desert Dusters (760) 365-1967

LAURIE WHITE House Cleaning

• Reasonable Rates
• Free Estimates
• One Day
• Weekly
• Monthly

Call (760) 366-7330 or Cell (951) 852-0552

LANDSCAPING, contractor w/ over 15 yrs of designing & installation of all types of commercial & residential landscaping. (760) 217-2622 unlic. 779986

LANDSCAPING, Clear It Away Landscaping, Commercial and Residential landscaping at a low rate. Call for your free quote. 366-3435 or 365-4083

LANDSCAPING, No job too small! Best Quality & Lowest Prices. Call Bill's Landscaping (760) 365-7964 Lic#785593

LANDSCAPING/TREE Can haul about anything Reasonable rates! Call Scott's Tree & Yard Serv. 363-7304 / 485-8022 unlic.

MASONRY, Brick, Block, Stone, Tile and Concrete. A little more money for a lot more quality. Elam Masonry (760) 365-6251 Lic#823651 B+C-29

435 SERVICES

MASONRY, Stone Mason, counters, ceramic tile, showers, fountains, floors & fireplaces. Call Johnny Donovan (760) 668-8866 (unlic)

NEED HAY? WE DELIVER!
• Alfalfa
• Retail Alfalfa
• Tarped Bermuda
• Alfalfa Grass Mix
• Three Way Oat Mix
• Cattle Hay
• Whole Semi Loads
• 1/2 Loads
• Split Loads

Order in Bulk & Save!!
Brooks Hay Sales
Yucca Valley, CA
(760) 910-1130

NEED Kerosene, MG Courier has it! 369-4270

NOW OPEN! Chinese Caidis Massages 5910 Adobe Rd #D 29Palms 760-361-0928

PAINTING - Shaw Painting, custom craftsmanship, keeping the value of your investment high! See business directory (760) 369-6586 Lic. #541557

PAINTING, 35 yrs. exp. Quality Work Guaranteed up to 1 yr. Call Dominic's Custom house painting (760) 488-8880 365-1895

PAINTING, also offering home inspections & handyman services for sellers. Call Classic Painting 369-2351 or (760) 898-2588 Lic. #845488

PAINTING, Concrete restoration, acid staining, custom painting, garage floor finishes. Zebra Concrete Coatings & Painting (760) 401-0650 Lic#820337

PLUMBING, Jack's Plumbing servicing the Desert area since 1993. "No job too small" 228-1215. Lic#720014

PLUMBING SERVICE - 24 hr., Ipeck plastic pipe certified. Y.V., Landers, Johnson Valley, J.T. & Morongo (760) 464-1518

PLUMBING, drain cleaning & gas lines. Low prices, free estimates. Call Accustom Plumbing. (760) 217-2622 unlic.

POOL Repair, Free estimates, salt systems, acid wahses, remodels, and more! 333-1588 or 366-7781

PRINTING, Copies, color copies, calendars, business printing. Self service copies or professionally prepared 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 - All types. Call Mike @ 369-0200 Lic. #871085

ROOFING, Repairs & Maintenance is our specialty! Roof certification A & N Roof Co. 365-9885 Lic#576241

SCREENS: (760) 364-2552 Hunter's Mobile Screen, (760) 953-9704 Glass

435 SERVICES

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

TELEPHONE installation & repair, business & residential. See Business Directory ad or call 365-3609 or 343-3700

THE Chimney Sweep & Stone Mason-See ad in Business Directory or call (760) 219-1398

TOOL REPAIR, Small engine repair, generators, compressors, chainsaws, repairs and more. Call (760) 228-0360 D & B Tool Repair.

TRACTOR Work, General grading services, brush removal, water truck service, back hoe service, stump removal, dust control, yard cleanup. Free estimates. 228-2044 (unlic)

TRACTOR Work, Road repair, weed abatement, gravel/soil hauling, post holes, backhoe, stump removal, etc. Call (760) 224-6899 (unlic)

TRACTOR work, backhoe, trenching, grading, septic tanks, leach lines, new installation & repair. Ask for Sam 366-8154 Lic#881009

TREE Services, Free Estimates! Call Dee Bee Tree service (760) 228-1922 Lic# 535741

TREE Services, landscaping & housecleaning. concrete serv., free estimates. 485-9166 or 368-7209

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

TRI-COUNTY, Clean up, Hauling Service. Junk, wood, metal, trash, debris removal from houses, garages & rentals. Member of Better Business Bureau. 361-6701, c# (760) 685-8001

WATER Truck & Backhoe Service, Foundations, septic systems, irrigation, retaining walls, post holes. Call A.J.M. Custom Trenching, Water Truck & Backhoe Service. 365-3012 or (760) 553-4229 (unlic)

WINDOWS/GLASS, Finance avail. Custom replacement windows, wood, vinyl, aluminum. United Glass & Door/ Yucca Valley Mirror & Glass. 365-6302

WINDOWS, Residential & commercial. Xint ref's. Call Steven at Rightway Window Cleaning. 364-3678 or 401-1754 cell unlic.

NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor or materials) must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB. Unlicensed contractors taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

"I Do Windows" and Yard Maintenance

Call Randy at 366-7330 Free Estimates

Merchandise 500-599

For Classifieds & Legals 365-3315

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.

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

520 BARGAIN COUNTER

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

WHITE washed Oak baby bed, complete, \$75 364-3015

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

29 PALMS

2 Family moving sale Sat/Sun 3/18-19, 7am? 5977 Encella 29P Everything must go!

GARAGE Sale Sat 3/18, 7am-12pm. 74858 Amboy Rd. just past golf course. Sm. furn. piece, dining rm. set, and more!

GARAGE Sale Sat/Sun 3/18-19, 8am-7 72732 Granite Ave behind High School. Treadmill, tble/chrs, 7 rolls barbed wire, sheets, towels, misc cam jackets & more

SALEWALK sale/fund raiser at Knott Sky Park Pre School 6851 El Sol Ave 29P, Sat March 18 7am-1pm. Sponsored by the Parents/Friends of Knott Sky Park Pre-School.

JOSHUA TREE

FRI, Sat & Sun, Mar. 17, 18 & 19, 8am-3pm, kids toys, hshld gds., elec. htrs. bikes, antiques, gas & elec. saws, camping/fishing equip., beds, honda generator, gas & elec. welders, better quality queen bdrm. set. South on Sunset from Alta Loma for 3/4 mi. Right on Prescott to 7920 Hillview

ST. Patrick's Day Sale! Gathering of friends w/treasures. Furn., collectable, antiques & lots of unique goodies. 8-5pm, Thur-Sat, 5995 Valley View St. (near Sunset)

YARD Sale, lots of misc. & furn., 8am Sat. & Sun., March 18 & 19, 60710 Natoma Tr.

YUCCA VALLEY

CALVERY Chapel Landers, 1 day parking lot sale at Southwest Fetish in YV on Hwy 62, March 18, 7:30am-3:30pm. All proceeds go to the Missions trip.

FRI-SAT, 8-1pm, Henderson Scene Three dining rm. set: 2 ext., 8 chairs + buffet. Henderson 10 pc bdrm. set, dolls, bedding, china, tux, shoes, house full of furn. 7690 Joshua Ln.

GARAGE Sale, Sat. March 18, 7-3. 58134 Spring Dr., YV. applic., exercise equip. & more

HUGE yard sale by Unity Church to benefit youth ministry. Mar. 18 @ 8am. 7613 Apache Tr. Call 202-4505 for donations & info.

INDOOR sale! Rain or shine. Furn., collectibles 3/17 & 18, 8-1: 7716 Megan Ct., Copper Hills, off Onaga & Hanford

MOVING sale, 56585 Anaconda, Fri. & Sat. 3/17 & 18, 7am, furn., household, clothes, books, jewelry, freezer, glider, exersaucer, swing, tables, tools, much more!

MOVING Sale, antiques, collectibles, household, outdoor, 100's of books, map file, sm. applic., 4X6 ft plastic storage unit, 4 Mercedes wheels. All must go in 1 day, Fri. 3-17, 8:30, 5275 Faith Ln. Xst Buena Vista/ Duarte



Treasure Chest

(3) double mattresses \$30 367-2476	Coffee & end tbls set \$45. 367-1538	Oak bathrm pullman \$5 367-3353
1950's golf cart \$35 408-5960	Craftsman bandsaw \$100 365-3653	refrigerator \$100 228-2275
2		



Jeff McGowan
Concrete & Masonry
Lic# 732649
228-1694

Myths and Facts about Alcohol and Driving

Myths and misconceptions about alcohol and its effects on safe driving are widespread. Knowing the truth may mean the difference between life and death this holiday season and throughout the year.

Myth: "Alcohol is a stimulant."
Fact: Alcohol is a depressant. It acts on the central nervous system like an anesthetic to lower or depress the activity of your brain.

Myth: "Drinking coffee sobers me up."
Fact: Coffee cannot rid your system of alcohol. It just makes you a nervous, wide-awake drunk. Only time reverses impairment.

Myth: "I always stay away from the hard stuff."
Fact: Alcohol is alcohol. Beer has the same effect as straight scotch. One 12-ounce beer has as much alcohol as a 1.5-ounce shot of whiskey or a 5-ounce glass of wine.

Myth: "I'm bigger so I can handle liquor better."
Fact: Size is only one factor in how much you can drink. Metabolism, amount of rest, and food intake all play a part in how you handle liquor. Impairment in motor reflexes and judgment can begin with the first drink.

Myth: "Once I roll down the car window, I'm okay."
Fact: No amount of fresh, chilly air can reverse impairment. You gain nothing by rolling down a window or turning on the air conditioner.

Myth: "I just drive slower."
Fact: Many people do, believing they can actually compensate for being impaired by creeping along at 22 mph. This can be dangerous. Others race along at 75 miles mph. The truth is, impaired drivers are unsafe at any speed.

Myth: "All I have to do is splash my face with cold water."
Fact: Splash all you like. You can even take a cold shower. It may make you cleaner, but it won't sober you up or make you a safe driver.

Myth: "A drink or two makes me a better driver."
Fact: Even one drink can cloud your thinking, dim your vision, and slow your reflexes. Small amounts of alcohol can impair your judgment and put you and others on the road at risk of death or disabling injury.

Information provided by (www.luhs.org)

Roy's Tires
367-0222

Brooks Hay Sales
(760) 910-1130

Hutchins Motorsports & Route 62 Diner
Now open evenings

McClay Distributors Inc.
367-2828

Yucca Valley Florist & Gifts
365-9779

LAIDLAW
EDUCATION SERVICES

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366-2275
Lic#B/C10 #706267

FARMERS
Jennifer Collins
(760) 365-2420
Lic#OD04667

jazzercise
363-7461

BLUE MESA Pools, Spas & Supplies
366-7662

Door Medic Garage Doors
369-4601
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Nelson's Heating & Air
367-3142

Plaza Realtors
367-5839

Southwest Fetish
228-1363

Wiefels & Son Funeral Directors
365-2301
367-3579

BARKLEY REAL ESTATE
367-1068

Advantage Real Estate
228-2333

Pam's Coffee Shop
365-9508

Pringle Insurance
365-8813
Lic# OD78340

Grand Central Storage
365-0093

Titan Realty
365-0608

VALLEY INDEPENDENT PRINTING AND COPY CENTER
365-6967

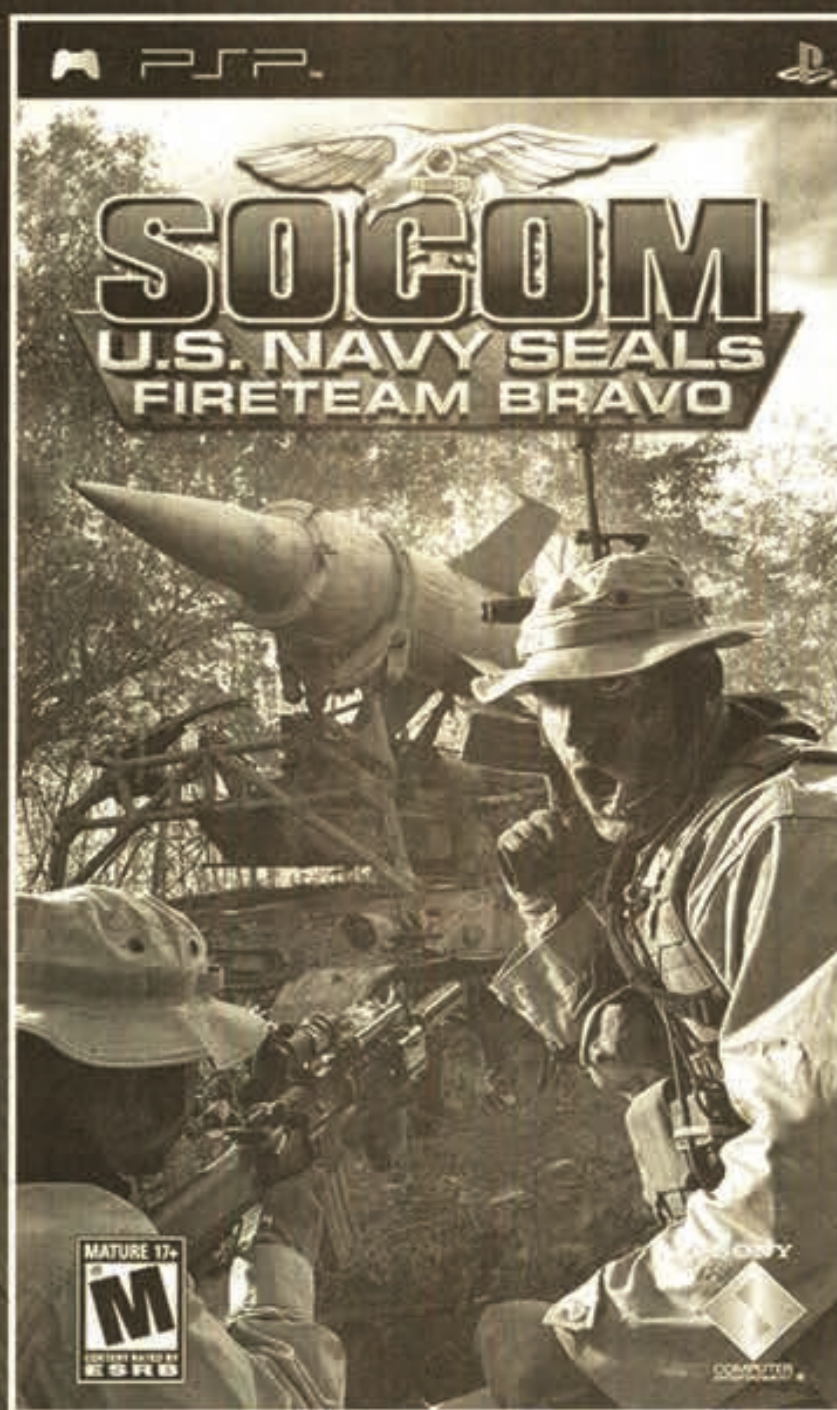
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PlayStation Portable



540 LIVESTOCK

QUARTERHORSE mare, 19 yrs old, 15.1 hands, good trail horse, \$1,500 OBO, 963-0899

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

545 LOST & FOUND

FOUND cat, gray w/bk stripes, very friendly, wearing flea collar in the area of Aztec Mobile Home Park. Call 228-2209

FOUND dog, female, chocolate lab, no collar, calm, Aberdeen & Balsa, YV 228-2387

FOUND keys, in the 29 Palms Water District parking lot, found 2/21. Call to ID, 367-7546

GREEN backpack full of truck bed in Morongo Basin, 2/27. It was picked up by white truck. Items of personal value inside. If found, call (307) 690-7988

LOST cat, male, yellow/orange, no collar, Alta & Campanula on the Mesa, 365-4590

LOST dog, chihuahua, black female, wearing pink collar, around Airway & Ciela YV, 366-5462 or 668-3525

LOST dog, Female black w/white lab mix, around Linda Lee & Sunflower, 792-6072

LOST dog, Male, large breed Pitt Bull mix, tan, white feet, no collar, in YV, lg scar on front leg, 365-2313

LOST kitten 2/28 @ 72000 Block of Sunny-slope & La Buena Tierra 29P. She is a long hair striped w/gray eyes please call 361-3366.

LOST small brown & black German Shepherd mix, female, fixed, in the Flamingo Heights area on Friday. Call 364-4546

550 Misc. 4 SALE

13 X 21 above ground pool, complete, can be seen in operation \$1,000 firm 365-8388

8 X 12 unused storage shed. Will deliver locally, \$1,200 362-3094 or 364-2185

AUCTION

Sun. March 19th @ 12 noon
Corner of Cherokee Trl.
Furniture, household items, glassware, tools, vehicles, misc. items, and box lots. 10% buyers fee. Auctioneer Jack Pope St. Lic. A691

BRAND new Pride mobility lift chair, paid \$600 asking \$350, 364-3133

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

PROFESSIONAL contractor hand tools for sale by retired handyman. 12" Dewalt Compound Miter Saw, almost new, 5-eighth tooth blades plus other misc. items. 365-3420

SPA DELUXE 2006 Model, Neckjets, Therapy Seat. Never Used, Many Jets. Warr., Can Deliver. Worth \$5,750, Sell \$1,750. (760) 843-7550

(PAYING CASH)

For Gold Coins - Jewelry - silver coins - any silver or gold scrap - diamonds - antiques - tools - autos - trucks - tractors - equip. - appliances - household furniture - hand tied rugs - horse tack - or anything of value.

We will buy complete households or estates, or businesses, none too large or too small. You bring to us or we will come to you. We will guarantee to beat any price you are offered.

We have 2 locations:
Pope's Auction Yard
Corner of Santa Fe Trl. & Chevrolet Ave. in Yucca Valley

Pope's Antiques & Auctions
(Main store & office)
10345 N. Indian Ave.
No. Palm Springs, CA
1/2 block North of Interstate 10

For more info:
Call
(760) 365-7887 or
(760) 329-1077

555 MISC WANTED

PRIVATE party seeks cabin on land, <\$65K, u-haul water Ok. (909) 585-7810

565 PETS & SUPPLIES

AKC Black & yellow labs, avail. 3-11, 7 wks old, 1st shots, \$400 ea. 369-9212

LAB puppies pure bred papered, \$350 ea. 1st shots & wormed 228-1281

565 PETS & SUPPLIES

LONG haired Chihuahua, male & female 7wks old, mother has papers, \$500. Blue Mastiff, 9wk old female, no papers, \$650 228-0247

PET Grooming, Award winning Groomer, Dogs, cats & other beloved pets. Call Sandy Paws Pet Grooming @ 228-1233

570 SELL/TRADE

GOLF cart wanted, private party, reasonable 369-8213 or 401-0331



Transportation
600-699

600 ATVs

2000 Yamaha Quad, \$1800. (760) 365-3232 or (760) 366-7743

600 ATVs

2004 Polaris 400 4X4 clean \$5,000, 2004 Polaris 330 2 wd like new \$4,000, 2004 Polaris 90cc Predator Clear, \$1,200 call ask for Bill 567-9609

620 CARS

1973 Super Beetle, w/Sun roof, \$1,800 OBO call (229) 809-0594

1979 Pontiac Bonneville, current tags & smog, runs good, needs door \$700 366-9840

1982 Chevy Celebrity, 3k/mi on rebuilt motor, xint cond inside/out, \$2500 367-6444 after 3

1988 Suzuki Samurai, \$2,000. 1992 VW Cabriolet convertible, \$3,500 367-1487

1994 Jeep Cherokee Sport, 4x4, auto, all electric, cd player, runs great. \$3,500 369-3194

2000 Toyota Camry LE, V6, low mileage, Xint cond, \$10,300 OBO 369-2206

2003 Mazda Protege LX, silver, 6 CD, sunroof, economical, in great condition! 39.5K mi. \$8,499 365-8195

620 CARS

CASH FOR UGLY CARS 1965-69 Mustang, 65-67 Chevy, or? Finders fee. (760) 773-0272

DODGE 2004 SRT4, moonroof, CD player, red, like new, \$17,500 OBO 365-9132

630 CYCLES

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