

OBSERVATION Post

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MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 51 ISSUE 9



5 Defenders of Wildlife looks at climate change



6 Teenagers job shadow different MOS'



6 New trees branch out on Del Valle



7 Combat Center's rugby team continues to grow

This Day in Marine Corps History

-February 28, 1991-

Operation Desert Storm officially ended with a ceasefire declared by President George H. W. Bush

OLDEST POST IN CORPS TO VISIT COMBAT CENTER

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Battle Color Detachment is on their way to the Combat Center during their West Coast Installation Tour to treat Marines, sailors and their families to a world-renowned performance Friday at Lance Corporal Torrey L. Gray Field at 10 a.m.

The Battle Color Detachment features the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, also known as "the Commandant's Own", the Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard, led by the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, the most senior sergeant's billet in the Marines who is responsible for carrying the National Colors.

"This is one of the most popular events of the year," said Irene A. Cruse, protocol officer. "The Battle Color Detachment showcases the talent of the top musicians in the Marine Corps."

Every year, the Battle Color Detachment travels to multiple military installations across the world to perform for service members and their families.

"The detachment from the Drum

See OLDEST, A8



CPL. REGINA N. ORTEZ

Indian Wells awards Marines with proclamation

PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center Marines accepted a proclamation recognizing the traditions and accomplishments of the Marine Corps from the Indian Wells City Council Thursday afternoon at the Indian Wells City Council chamber.

"It was a great oppor-

tunity to be able to receive this proclamation and represent the Combat Center and the Marine Corps," said Col. Wes A. Weston, assistant chief of staff, G-4 logistics.

Several veterans and supporters of the Marine Corps, such as members of the 1st Marine Division Association's Desert

See AWARDS, A10



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Col. Wes A. Weston, assistant chief of staff, G-4 logistics, accepts a proclamation from Indian Wells Mayor Mary Roche Thursday afternoon. The proclamation recognizes the traditions and accomplishments of Marines at the Combat Center as well as the Marine Corps.



C.O.P. Corner Community Oriented Policing

The proactive voice of crime prevention • Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office, Crime Prevention Section
Information current as of Feb. 20.



Larcenies aboard MCAGCC

Larcenies have always been a big problem across the U.S. There has been an increasing problem of thefts aboard the base and especially in the barracks, which is an issue we have to strongly look at and find a way to address.

Out of the ten larcenies, almost all of them could have been prevented or been easier to solve if the person would have secured the items properly, kept receipts of merchandise or marked or engraved their property for identification purposes. Also ensure that you write down and keep a record of all serial numbers and other identifiers of merchandise and keep that list in a secure location. Most pawn shops will not take property that has engraving markings on them.

Unit	Larcenies
7th Mar	1
1/7	2
2/7	1
3/7	0
3/4	4
3/11	0
3rd LAR	0
1st Tank Bn	0
3rd AABN	0
MWSS-374	0
CLB-7	2
VMU-1	0
MCCES	0
HQBN	0
NAV HOSP	0
23rd Dental	0
Staff Housing	0
Other	0
Grand Total	10

DUI / DWI Update

Here are the stats on how many DUIs/DWIs we have had aboard MCAGCC and off the installation:

Unit	Totals	On Base/Off Base	Ranks
7th Mar	0	0/0	
1/7	0	0/0	
2/7	1	0/1	1LCpl
3/7	3	1/2	1LCpl/2Cpl
3/4	1	0/1	1Cpl
3/11	2	0/2	2Cpl
3rd LAR	1	1/0	1Pvt
1st Tank	2	2/0	1LCpl/1Cpl
3rd AABN	2	2/0	1LCpl/1Cpl
MWSS-374	2	2/0	1Pfc/1LCpl
CLB-7	1	1/0	1Pvt
VMU-1	0	0/0	
MCCES	4	4/0	2Pfc/1LCpl/1GySgt
HQBN	5	3/2	2LCpl/3Cpl
Nav Hosp	0	0/0	
23rd Dental	0	0/0	
Other Mil	0	0/0	
Mil Dep	0	0/0	
DOD Civ	0	0/0	
Other	1	1/0	1Sp4
Grand Total	25		

The total number of Marine-related DUIs so far this year are 25, through Feb 20.

All of them have lost or will lose their driving privileges for a minimum of one year.

For more information on DUI/DWI and convictions go to:

- http://criminal-law.freeadvice.com/drunken_driving/california-dui.htm
- <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/hdbk/pgs73drinkcostchart.htm>

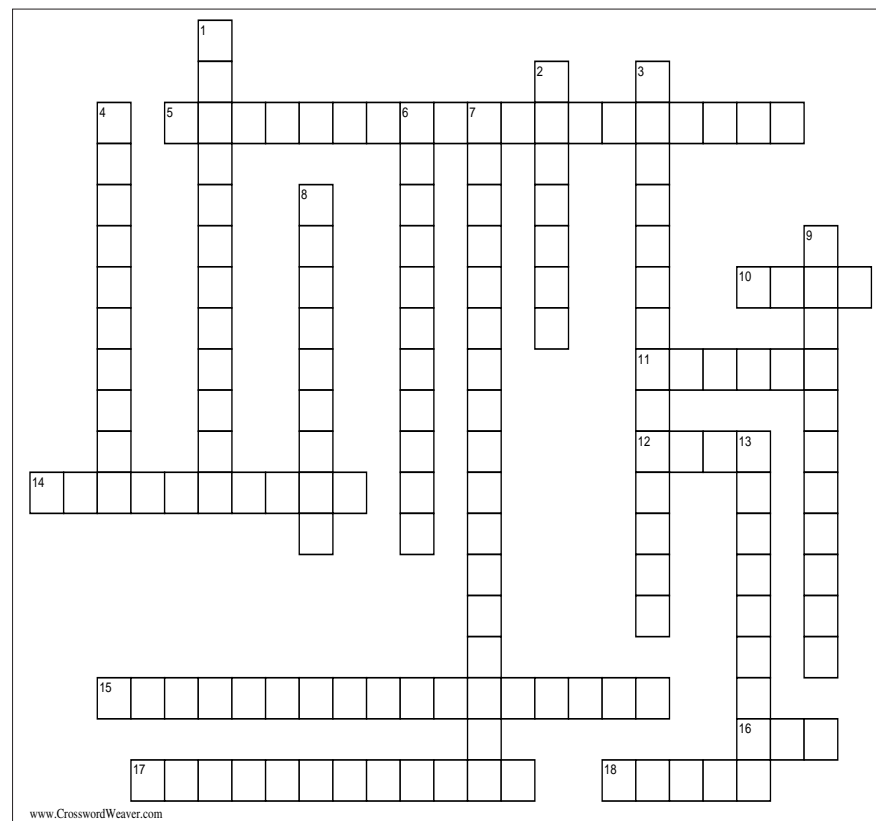
The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through the Crime Prevention Section:

Literature, Briefings, Education, Crime Assessments, Safety Tips, Stranger Danger Program, McGruff the Crime Dog, Officer Friendly Program, Operation Identification (Property Identification), Child Identification and Fingerprinting.

For more information about the above services, contact the PMO Crime Prevention Section at 830-4561 or 830-6094.



SHOWS AFFECTED BY WRITERS STRIKE



ACROSS

- How many hot housewives could possibly live in the same neighborhood?
- The twisted world of PapparaZZi
- Total rip-off of X-Men
- Stranded on an island. How original...
- How many hours are in a day?
- The skits have gotten worse over the years, now wonder the writers quit
- Always starts with someone dying
- Talkin' about karma
- About a brilliant, heartless doctor

DOWN

- Another hospital show
- Mathematic crime busters!
- Charlie Sheen is still resorting to sitcoms
- Where Superman grew up
- Doh!
- Doogie Houser returns
- The most random cartoon ever
- How many seasons does it take to escape from jail?
- Steve Carrell continues to be ridiculous

[Solutions on A11]

Centerspeak

If you could be any character in any movie, who would you be and why?

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



PFC. JAMES HAMILTON
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"I would be James Bond in Golden Eye because he's unique and different."



CPL. BRANDON LINDSAY
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

"I would be any one of the three main characters from Boondock Saints because they are splendidly awesome."



MASTER SGT. SIMON DORSEY
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL, ALPHA COMPANY

"Platoon is my favorite movie, so I would have to be Elias because he's a leader who uses the common sense approach when it comes to his men."

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf

STEP 1: Secondary Marine holds nail while primary Marine strikes nail with hammer.

STEP 2: Primary Marine strikes nail with Sledge Hammer.



-Engineers: They always Skip STEP 1 -

OBSERVATION POST

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	<p>TONIGHT Square Dance Classes Time: 7-9 p.m. Where: The Elks Lodge 6501 Elks Trail Dr. Twentynine Palms For more info call (760) 367-7061</p>	<p>THURSDAY Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Time: 8 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts 73000 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert For more info call (760) 340-ARTS</p>	<p>FRIDAY Freddie Aguilar Time: 9 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort & Spa 49500 Seminole Drive Cabazon For more info call (951) 755-5391</p>	<p>FRIDAY "Bye Bye Birde" the musical Time: 7 p.m. Where: Theatre 29 73637 Sullivan Rd. Twentynine Palms For more information call (760) 361-4151</p>
<p>FRIDAY Frank Sinatra, Jr. Time: 8 p.m. Where: McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts 73000 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert For more info call (760) 340-ARTS</p>	<p>FRIDAY Larry the Cable Guy Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946</p>	<p>SUNDAY The Thriftstore Allstars Time: 7 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace 53688 Pioneertown Road Pioneertown For more info call (760) 365-5956</p>	<p>SUNDAY Terry Fator (Ventriloquist) Time: 7 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort & Spa 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info 1 (888) MORONGO</p>	<p>MONDAY Foo Fighters Time: 7:30 p.m. Where: Cox Arena 5500 Canyon Crest Drive San Diego For more information call (619) 594-6947 or (619) 220-8497</p>

Movies for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

WEDNESDAY
 Sweeney Todd
 7 p.m. - R

THURSDAY
 First Sunday
 7 p.m. - PG-13

FRIDAY
 One Missed Call
 6 p.m. - PG-13
 The Great Debaters
 9 p.m. - PG-13
 Alien vs Predator: Requiem
 Midnight - R

SATURDAY
 The Ant Bully
 11 a.m. - PG
 The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
 2 p.m. - G
 The Bucket List
 6 p.m. - PG-13
 The Kite Runner
 9 p.m. - PG-13

First Sunday
 Midnight - PG-13

SUNDAY
 TBA 2 p.m. - G
 TBA 6 p.m. - PG-13
 TBA 9 p.m. - PG-13

MONDAY
 One Missed Call
 7 p.m. - PG-13

TUESDAY
 Alien vs Predator: Requiem
 7 p.m. - R

The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival is approaching!

Don't wait to purchase tickets for this 3-day concert in Coachella Valley because they're going fast!

Some bands rocking out the Coachella Valley include Portishead, Jack Johnson, Roger Waters of Pink Floyd performing the "Dark Side of the Moon," Kraftwerk, the Verve, Death Cab for Cutie and many, many more.

For more info visit <http://www.coachella.com>

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RIDE MBTA

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30			
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00 4:00	10:25 4:25	10:30 4:30	10:40 *4:40	10:45 *4:45	11:00 *5:00	11:10 *5:10	11:45 *5:45
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
12:00 *6:00	12:10 *6:10	12:15 *6:15	12:50 *6:50	1:35 *7:35			

*SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 29 PALMS COMMUNITY CENTER. All weekend service is for Saturday only except for the final return trip which includes both Saturday and Sunday service.

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Dear Salty Sally,

I am expecting and am due to have my baby while my husband is deployed. I know the best way to get medical news to him would be a Red Cross Message, but how do I do that?

Sincerely,
Expecting in M/C

Dear Expecting,

Yes, a Red Cross Message will be the best method to pass medical information about yourself and other family members. Also, notify your KV or KVC and she may be able to pass an e-mail to the company commander through the Family Readiness Officer. The number to the American Red Cross is (877) 272-7337. You will need to provide your name, relationship to the military personnel, your message, and the name and number of a doctor or hospital to verify your medical condition. You will also need to provide the military person's information; name, rank, social security number, unit including battalion, company and platoon, and general location. The more information you have the more likely of a successful message delivery.

Please use discretion with sending Red Cross Messages. If it is information that your service member does not need to know or can do nothing about, then think before you send it. If you have a question about the relevance, then contact the FRO for guidance.

Sincerely,
Salty Sally

✿ Dear Salty Sally ✿

Dear Salty Sally,

I have heard several times the command describe the mission to Afghanistan as being "austere". What does that mean?

Thanks,
Wondering, Echo Company

Dear Wondering,

Austere is a description of the conditions that they are likely to encounter. The dictionary definition for austere is: severe in manner or appearance; uncompromising; strict; forbidding. Synonyms are: BLEAK, SPARTAN, STARK. All suggests lack of ornament or adornment and of a feeling of comfort or warmth.

Warmly,
Salty Sally

Dear Salty Sally,

My dad is always going "to the field". Where is it and what is he doing in the field?

A Marine Kid

Dear Marine Kid,

When your dad says he is going out to the field he is talking about going out to one of many different training areas on the base. The training areas are out in the desert but still on the Marine Corps base. When your dad is out in the field, he is practicing and training with the other Marines. The training is important for your dad so he can be the best at his job!

Fondly,
Salty Sally

Dear Salty Sally,

I attended the pre-deployment brief and heard that pre-deployment leave was only a week long. Isn't pre-deployment leave mandatory? Isn't it supposed to be longer than a week? Who decides if leave is granted and for how long?

Curious Wife

Dear Curious Wife,

Block leave is a command decision based on different elements such as time and the status of a unit's preparedness. The commander must evaluate the preparedness of the sailors and Marines to accomplish their mission. The commander must also decide on leave based on the constraints of time available before the deployment, factoring in the training needs that NEED to be met. Under normal conditions time does allow for some leave time but not always.

Sincerely,
Salty Sally



HOT TOPICS

BASKETBALL AND SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

Varsity men and women basketball tryouts are ongoing. Varsity men's softball tryouts are from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays until further notice. Contact Skip Best at 830-4092 for more information.

MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is accepting applications for academic college scholarships to the children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen serving with Marines. The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation reminds communities across the country that the deadline for student applications for this year is March 3. Applicants are urged to visit www.mcsf.org for more information and requirements, or call 1-800-292-7777.

MARINE SECURITY GUARD SCREENING TEAM

The Marine Security Guard screening team is coming to the Combat Center March 10. The team will screen Marines for assignment opportunities in building 1707 Classroom C from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. All interested Marines are encouraged to see their unit career planner for eligibility requirements. For more information, contact the Combat Center career planner, Gunnery Sgt. Daniel L. Mintz at 830-6171.

MOAA SCHOLARSHIPS ON BASE

The Military Officers Association of America is pleased to offer the Base/Post Scholarships again this year. This MOAA program provides grants of \$1,000 each to 25 dependent children of military personnel. MOAA's immensely successful scholarship grants and zero-interest loans are currently helping over 1,600 uniformed services dependents to meet their college expenses. The scholarship is part of MOAA's ongoing effort to assist young members of military families. For more information visit www.moaa.org or call Mandi Rumble at 1-800-234-6622 x 816.

South Pacific Sales

Arietta Buckles
P.O. Box 242, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
E-Mail: ffido@yahoo.com

An open letter from Arietta Buckles to the former patrons, friends, and colleagues of South Pacific Sales

First of all, I want to thank God for this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation toward all the wonderful people that assisted me during the three years that I ran my little Polynesian gift shop in the Main Exchange. As you know, we closed up on the first of the year to make way for the new barber shop.

My special thanks go to the Commanding General of MCAGCC, Command Personnel Manager Daisy Davis, Maggie Jones, Jim Harris, David Cahoon, and Janet New for their professional business relationship that allowed me to serve our military community as a vendor.

South Pacific Sales was more than just a shop for me, it was a special place where friends, families and fellow vendors could meet and greet one another, share news, and allow many a homesick Marine and sailor to come to "Auntie Ari" for a sympathetic ear, a hug, and a prayer.

As business people, we are called to serve our community in many ways. This is not new for me. In American Samoa, I co-founded and served as president of our Family Support Group for over 10 years, for the assistance of more than 300 military families based there. My husband, Mike, a former Vietnam combat Marine, and retired chief warrant officer, and I, will continue to make Twentynine Palms our home. Our home has always been open to young Marines and sailors, and most weekends, especially holidays, three or four can be found "hanging out", sharing family atmosphere and home cooking. When the buses came home, we were there to greet them with hundreds of donated leis and of course, hugs.

Once again, thanks to all, God bless you, and may God bless our brave military men and women and their families.

Arietta Buckles
Owner/Manager
Ari's South Pacific Sales

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Mojave Desert Land Trust looks at climate changes

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Defenders of Wildlife and Mojave Desert Land Trust held a conference at the Joshua Tree National Park and Recreation Center Feb. 8.

The conference, which was attended by members of MDLT and Mojave Desert locals, was divided into three separate discussions. All of the discussions addressed different concerns stemming from desert climate change.

The first discussion was presented by Dr. Robert Wilkinson, the adjunct instructor for water policy at the University of California Santa Barbara Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management and an expert on environmental policy and issues.

He briefed all who attended on water and climate change in the desert, the impacts of water use on

the state of California, intergraded responses and strategies, and more.

Many climate issues in California are anthropogenic, or human-caused, said Wilkinson.

He added that these effects included elements like flash floods, wild fires and droughts, which could be results of over-consumption of water on the industrial, public and single family levels. More than 55 percent of water consumption is used in single home outdoor integration.

Dr. John D. Wehausen, an associate research scientist from the University of California White Mountain Research Station, spoke about the population of California's Bighorn sheep.

The Bighorn sheep are an ideal fixed variable to demonstrate changes in climate because they are surface water consumers and are affected by desert elements such as temperature, precipitation and vegetation growth, said Wehausen.

Micah Lang, a program officer for the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, also referred to as Local Governments for Sustainability, covered topics such as potential strategies to adapt to climate change and set codes and laws that will assist in the common goal of sustaining natural resources while promoting energy management.

ICLEI's motto says it best: "Local action moves the world."

Although the population in the Mojave Desert varies from long-term locals and vacationers to temporary military service members, this is a home to all of them and must be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The Mojave Desert and Joshua Tree National Park are examples of some of the few, precious landscapes left that has been unmarked and untainted by an over-spill of society.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Dr. John D. Wehausen, a research scientist with the University of California White Mountain Research Station, speaks at a conference about the Mojave Desert population of Bighorn sheep Feb. 8.

Marines hone combat skills with MCMAP



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Sgt. Christopher Ballard, Center Personnel information technology noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Battalion, and Lance Cpl. Omar Askew, paralegal, Staff Judge Advocate's Office, Headquarters Battalion, grapple at the base of the Combat Center's "sugar cookie," a soft, steep, sandy hill located behind the obstacle course. Ballard, a Glendale, Ariz., native, is a green belt instructor for the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. Askew, an Atlanta native, was a student in the Gray Belt course that ended Friday.

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Teenagers job shadow different MOS' aboard Combat Center

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Students from Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley high schools visited the Combat Center to participate in the Groundhog Day Job Shadow Program Thursday.

The program is a nationwide effort to arouse interest in teenagers about different vocational options and allow students to follow Marines, sailors and civilians as they perform their work duties for a few hours.

More than 40 students from the two high schools visited different work sections aboard the base ranging from the Officer's Club to learn about restaurant management, to Condor Elementary School to get a glimpse of school teaching.

"This is our fifth time out here for job shadowing," said William Shay, a Transition Partnership Program teacher for Twentynine Palms High School

and a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native. "By bringing them to the Marine Corps base, they have the opportunity to explore the hundreds of career fields available to them."

Shay continued to say how the TPP helps students from the Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms high schools look into more options for their future.

The TPP is a collaborative program between the Department of Rehabilitation and the Morongo Unified School District that assists eligible students in the Morongo Basin wishing to participate in the job shadow program, take career expectation and career planning classes, which in turn helps provide teenagers the chance to open more doors for their future.

"They get to interact with us while we are doing our job," said Master Sgt. John P. Humbertson, operations chief for the Provost Marshal's Office. "It's first-hand knowledge passed down to these teens."

Humbertson, a Cumberland, Md., native, was impressed with the students' interested in law enforcement. They asked good questions that are important to know if they are going into law enforcement, he said.

Yucca Valley High School student Angel Weisz, 17, and Jacquelyn Ramirez, 18, shadowed Humbertson and were able to view all the departments of PMO, including the PMO dog kennels. There, Cpl. Danial Swafford, military working dog handler, was able to show off his trusted canine, Jack's, obedience skills and "bad guy" take-down techniques.

"[Job shadow day] gives students more opportunities to open their eyes on how to succeed," said Weisz. "It helps show people more options they have, especially in the military so they aren't just sitting at home holding a minimum paying job."

Ramirez agreed with Weisz, saying her father is a retired police



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Angel Weisz and Jacquelyn Ramirez, Yucca Valley High School students, praise Jack, a military working dog, after he showed off his obedience skills and his technique of taking down a "bad guy" during Groundhog Day Job Shadowing Thursday.

officer and shadowing military police has opened her mind to being a dog handler for a local police department.

The Groundhog Day Job

Shadow Program allowed students to ask questions, receive first-hand experience in the jobs they want to do and travel the first steps toward their future.

New trees branch out along Del Valle

PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Civilian contractors from RMA Land Construction are planting a variety of more than 500 trees along the Combat Center's Del Valle Road in efforts to rid the installation of tamarisk trees.

The newly planted trees will include desert pine, honey mesquite and sweet acacia and will provide the base with a more scenic look, more shelter for wildlife and eventually re-establish a windbreak from the Mesquite Dry Lake next to Adobe Road.

Brent Husung, natural resources specialist with the Combat Center's Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs division, said tamarisk

trees are an invasive plant and consume too much water.

"Depending on the size [of the tree] and how far the water table is under the surface, a full grown tamarisk tree can consume up to 100 gallons of water per day," Husung said. "Tamarisks are non-native to the desert's ecosystem."

Executive Order 13112 requires all federal agencies to control the spread of invasive species and to minimize the economic, ecological and human health impacts these species cause.

Tamarisk trees are also known as the "salt-cedar" because they release a salty substrate that sterilizes the soil, therefore hindering other plants from thriving.

Some say the tamarisks are not

as bad as they seem. At the bottom of the Grand Canyon in Nevada, tamarisks thrive where at one time there was no vegetation thus providing birds and other animals a habitat. Most birds are unattracted to the tamarisk except for the southwestern willow flycatcher, which was placed on the endangered species list in 2007.

Workers have installed a new irrigation system and are treating the soil to ensure the newly planted trees will survive where the tamarisks once were.

The new trees will be watered with treated non-potable water from the waste water treatment plant on base.

The project began in October 2007 and is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.



PFC. R. LOGAN KYLE

Brothers Raoul and Nicalas Gana, RMA Land Construction workers, plant a sweet acacia along the Combat Center's Del Valle Road. This tree is one of more than 500 trees being planted along Del Valle in order to replace the invasive tamarisk tree. The project began about four months ago and should be completed within the next few weeks.

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Combat Center rugby team continues to grow

LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Thanks to a few experienced players aboard the Combat Center and across the Marine Corps, installation rugby teams are beginning to take form again.

Led by coaches and players, John Henderson and Matthew Kelly, the Combat Center team is growing and accepting new faces willing to play the game.

"We're calling for all athletes from all sporting backgrounds to join us," said Kelly. "We have about 10 players on the team right now, and we hope to build, at

least, a roster of 15 and eventually work our way up to 20 or 30."

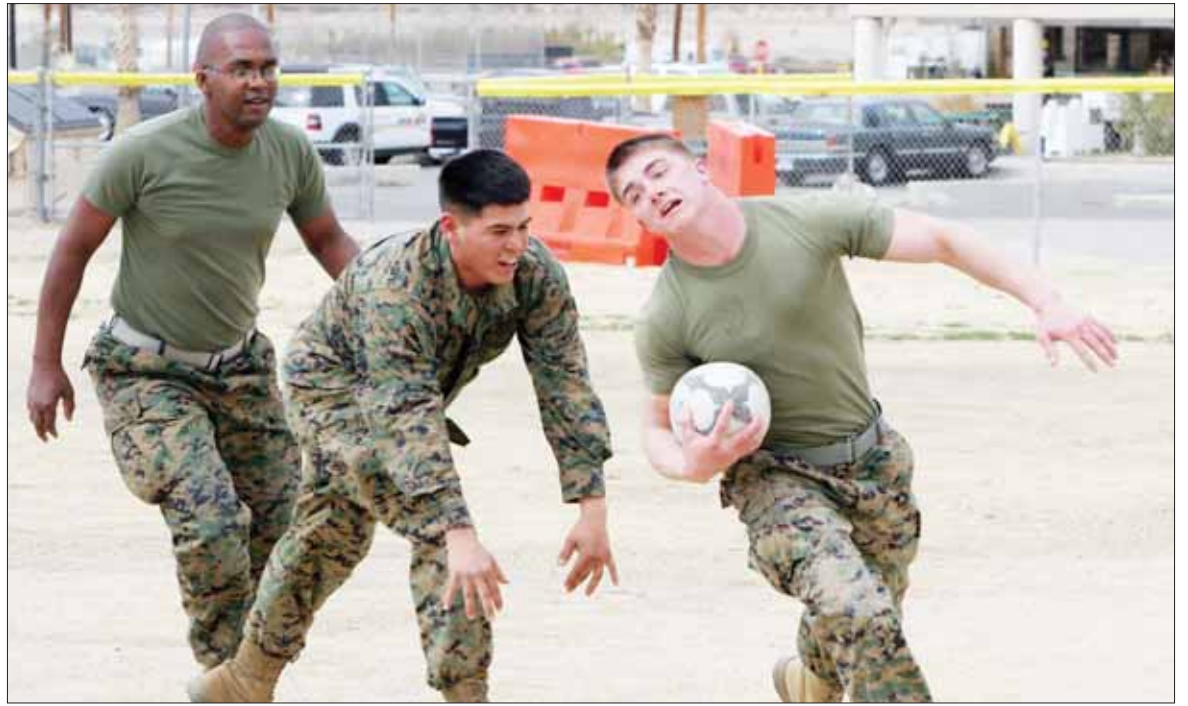
The team encourages experienced players, as well as newcomers to the sport to come and participate in the practices and games.

"People who have never played rugby before can step up, learn, and be effective on the playing field," said Henderson. "The only way to learn rugby is to play rugby."

The base team has already attracted new participants to the game and utilized their athletic skills and abilities in their games.

"Everyone who has played a game with us wanted to come and

See RUGBY, A11



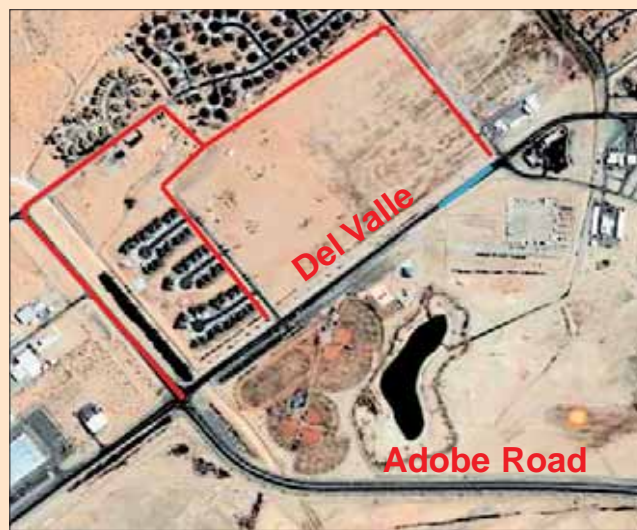
LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER
Kevin Ahlers stretches to avoid defenders Michael Seto and Dennis Johnson during a Combat Center rugby team practice session at Victory Field Friday.



LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER
Matthew Kelly and Kevin Ahlers test their strength and skills against each other during a drill at a Combat Center rugby team practice session at Victory Field Friday.

Road closures and construction

PHASE I



Work Description - Install new box culvert under Del Valle near the vehicle storage lot.

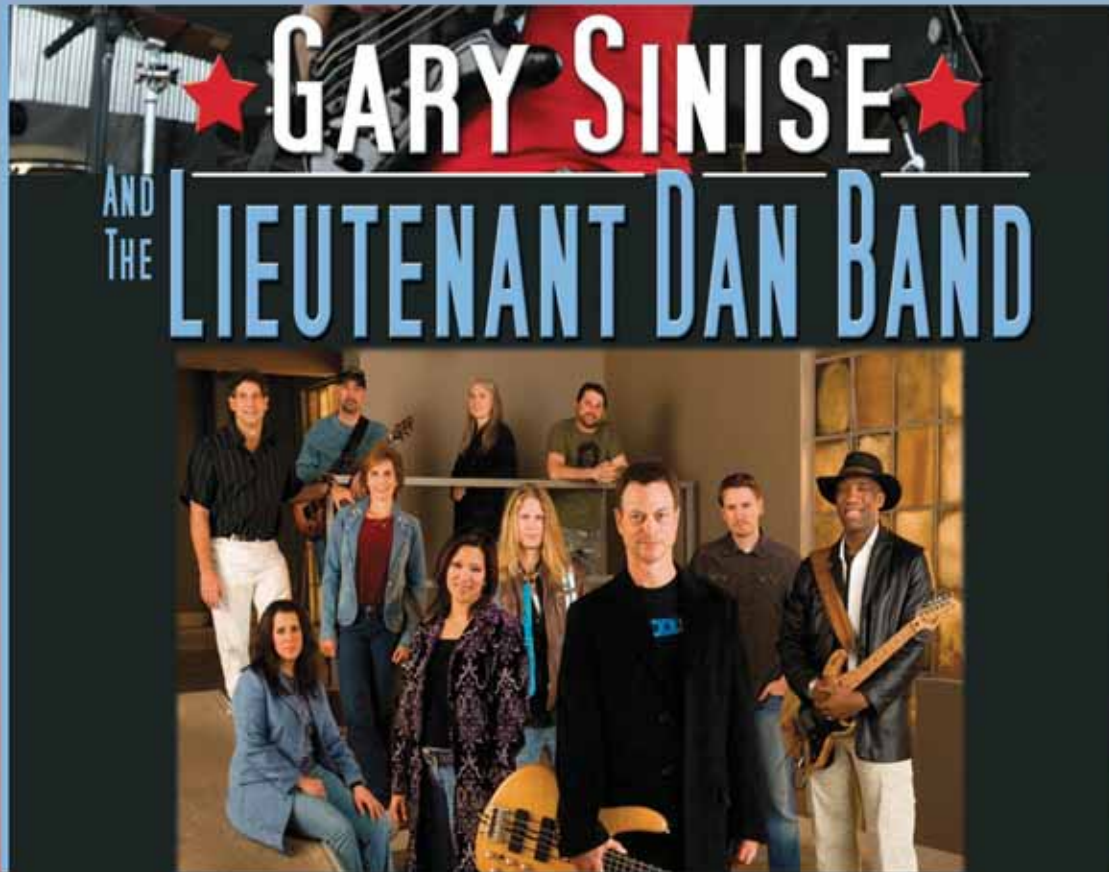
Scheduled Dates - Feb. 19 - March 6

Detour Description - The detour for this area will be to follow Smoketree Avenue to an improved access road through old Marine Palms housing to Mineral Street and then to Del Valle Road. Del Valle will be open up to the work area but closed to through traffic.

Key	
Detour	—
Road Closure	—

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March 16th



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OLDEST, from A1

and Bugle Corps are out there practicing every single day in all types of weather," said Michael King, protocol specialist. The Drum and Bugle Corps' history can be traced from the

18th and 19th centuries when field musicians played on the battlefield to pass commands to Marines in battle formation. In 1934, the unit augmented the United States Marine Band to provide support in ceremonies around Washington, D.C.

Their popularity continued to rise when in the 1950's the Drum and Bugle Corps was designated as the Commandant's Own to show their distinctive status as musicians for the Commandant of the Marine Corps. "I get chills down my back," said Cruse. "People are always sitting in the edge of their seats

while watching the performance." Another important part of the Battle Color Detachment is the Silent Drill Platoon. They are made up of 24 Marines that perform synchronized drills without verbal commands. The platoon selects Marines individually from the School of Infantry. "Children from various

schools in the area are invited to the event," said Cruse. "Last year they were just awestruck by the synchronizations of the Silent Drill Platoon."

According to their Web site, the platoon first played as a one-time deal in the Sunset Parades of 1948. After an overwhelming response from viewers it became a regular addition as part of the parades at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

Throughout the year, the Silent Drill Platoon performs in front of endless spectators in Washington, D.C., across the United States and overseas.

The United States Marine Corps Color Guard makes up the rest of the Battle Color Detachment led by the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps.

The Battle Color itself, the Corps' official flag, also bears the 54 battle streamers authorized for the Marine Corps as a whole.

All three different elements bring the Battle Color Detachment together, giving them an open road to perform their best and give viewers an opportunity to witness a memorable event to remember for the rest of their lives.

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<p>Church of Christ Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm Ladies' Bible Classes 11am Wed. Wed. Bible Study 5pm 7021 Airway, Yucca Valley • 365-9215</p>	<p>Unity Church of Morongo Basin Join us for Worship & Celebration *New Location* Desert Dome 5420 Border Ave., J.T. Church Service - 10:30 AM Childrens Church - 10:40 AM 760-366-4840</p>		<p>DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Call for free van ride Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship Children's Bible School - Rides Available Visitors Welcome Sunday Concert Series • Call for info 29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086</p>	<p>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 11:30 am • Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Sunday Bible Study After Service We're Here for Everyone Phone (760) 367-7133 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>	
<p>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church Just the Best place to get Married Father Ian Hanley Sunday School, Holy Eucharist 9:00 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</p>	<p>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms 6250 Mesquite Springs Road Phone: 367-7338 Sunday School: 8:30 a.m. - Worship: 9:30 a.m. (Child Care Provided) Pastor Beth Glass "open hearts, open minds, open doors"</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....7pm</p>		
<p>Yucca Valley 57273 Onaga Tr., 365-3671 The United Methodist Church Sunday Classes for All Ages - 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM (Child Care Available) Bible Study: Mon., 10:30 AM; Wed., 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p>Desert Hills Presbyterian Church 56750 Mountain View Trail Yucca Valley • 365-6331 Worship Service 10:00 A.M. Child Care, Bible Studies, Youth, Choir A Friendly and Loving Congregation!</p>	<p>JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER Calvary Chapel Fellowship Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph 6415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree Sunday Services 9am, 10:30am & 6:00pm call (760)366-7420 • Office (760) 366-7422 Website: JHOPCC.ORG</p>	<p>First Southern Baptist Church Sun. Worship 10:45am • 6:00pm Sun. Bible Study 9:30am 1 st. Wed. Potluck 6:00pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm 6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211</p>	
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Stumbling over the truth behind potholes

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Salutations, faithful readers! Please pardon my hiatus in your entertainment; I was preoccupied with problems like not having enough room in the paper for my literary stylings.

I'm sure you're all wondering if I bought someone something for Valentine's Day. While you prepare for the answer to this query, you should probably call the chair store and ask for a refund, because you'll only be using the edge of your seats.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, the answer is no. However, Valentine's Day is no longer the issue. That abysmal "holiday" has been put behind us. Water under the bridge, Chaucer. See you next year.

Folks, in my recent travels, I have literally stumbled across the newest terrorist threat. Forget hijackings and suicide bombers, there is another problem that lurks around every corner in America.

I'm talking about potholes, people. If potholes were a disease, they'd be an epidemic. Unfortunately, <http://www.ready.gov>, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Web site, doesn't have any information regarding this menace.

While they may seem harmless as you drive past them on the roadside, just think of the many inherent dangers present in those shallow pits of broken asphalt. My recent brush with disaster occurred two weeks ago. An innocent physical training routine became a trip to the emergency

room faster than someone could say: "Watch out for that pothole on the side of the road. You could really hurt yourself."

Sure enough, no one said anything to me, and my left ankle was at the whim of the road. Sadly, the road proved to be as unforgiving as a hurricane battering the coast of a Third World country.



Like a plywood shack with a tin roof in 80-mile per hour winds, I went down hard.

After a two-and-a-half hour trip to the emergency room, I was told the ankle had been sprained. Thankfully, that was all that happened, aside from a minor scrape on my right knee. Did you know you can break your femur if your ankle is twisted hard enough? Well, you can.

Now, I hobble around town like Tiny Tim, sans the cheap, wooden crutch. It will heal, but it put me out of action for several

weeks. I'm beginning to think this was no accident.

If a terrorist cell was able to harness the awesome powers of the roadside pothole, imagine the chaos that could unfold. It'd be like the old Warner Bros. cartoons, where someone fell down a hole and kept falling comically from the top of the television screen to the bottom. Only this is no laughing matter.

If one Marine tripped in a pothole every day, an entire company could be put out of action in a few months. This threat must be put to a stop. Like the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, we should grab our torches and pitchforks and set upon these devils with reckless abandon.

Since we can't hang potholes in the gallows, or put them in the stocks and throw vegetables at them like the old days, we should probably just fill them in. While I make light of my recent misfortune, potholes are actually dangerous. Tens of people every year fall victim to the harsh consequences of these monsters.

Let's start the revolution and fill these potholes in. The sentries at the gates may keep our borders safe, but what about the roads within the walls? Let no one else become temporarily disabled by a hole in the ground. We shall not be defeated!

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Roman Catholic Services Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Sun 7:30 a.m. Rosary
Sun 8 a.m. Catholic Mass*
Sun 9 a.m. Military Council of Catholic Women (Bldg 1551)
Sun 9 a.m. Faith Formation/CCD (Bldg 1551)
Sun 9:15 a.m. Confessions+
Sun 10 a.m. Rosary
Sun 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sun 4 p.m. Choir Practice
Sun 4 p.m. Life Teen/Youth Grp.
Sun 4:30 p.m. Rosary
Sun 5 p.m. Catholic Mass
Sun 6 p.m. Cyrus Young Adult Group age 18-35, married or single (3rd Sunday of the month)
Fri 12:15 - 4:30 p.m. Exposition/ Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (1st Friday Each Month)

Holy Days of Obligation Masses

12:30 p.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Non-denominational Christian Service Christ Chapel

Sun 8 a.m. Sunday School*
Sun 9 a.m. Worship*
Wed 7 p.m. Praise & Worship*

Protestant Liturgical Service Christ Chapel

Sun 11 a.m. Worship

Lay-Led Independent Baptist Service Christ Chapel

Sun 11 a.m. Worship
**Lay-Led Gospel Service
Christ Chapel**
Sun 12:30 p.m. Worship

Midweek Events

**Monday
Immaculate Heart of
Mary Chapel**
Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m. Catholic Mass

**Tuesday
Immaculate Heart of
Mary Chapel**
5-7:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting (2nd Tues. of the month)
6 p.m. Baptism Class 1st Tuesday each Month

**Wednesday
Village Center**
11:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting in the Prayer Room contact Chaplain Flint 830-6187
6 p.m. RCIA, building 1551

Christ Chapel
5:30 p.m. Catholic Choir Rehearsal
6 p.m. Praise & Worship Rehearsal
6 p.m. Pre-Service Food/Fellowship
7 p.m. Lay-Led Gospel Bible Study
7 p.m. Praise & Worship Service.

1st Thursday each month
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus

Legend
*Indicates Child Care Provided
+Appointments can be made for Confessions, call 830-6456/6646

Clinique adds touch of beauty to MCAGCC



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
Brenda Leiva, Clinique Laboratories counter manager, adds a touch of makeup to Brenna Odoski, a Marine Corps Community Services employee, at the Marine Corps Exchange Feb. 20. The Clinique counter is located within the main exchange and provides complimentary consultations with appointments.

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75-year-old Marine to make second charity coast to coast run

CAPT. NEAL V. FISHER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Tom Knoll is making final preparations to begin his second 3,300-mile cross country run to raise money for sick and disabled children, wounded service men and women, and disabled athletes.

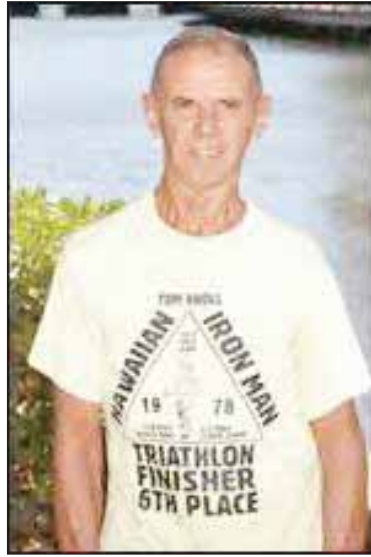
The 75-year-old original "Ironman" triathlete says this time he's only going to be able to run about 30 miles per day as opposed to the 46 miles per day he averaged during his first cross country run in 1983.

As listed on Knoll's Web site, www.USFREEDOMRUN.com, this run is dedicated to raising money for multiple charities including the Wounded Warrior Project, which assists wounded veterans and their families; the Sunshine Foundation, which grants wishes to seriously ill and abused children; and the Challenged Athlete Foundation, which assists disabled athletes.

Assisting Knoll in this endeavor will be his 44-year-old son, Warren. A second generation Ironman and tremendous athlete in his own rite, Warren will be both running the 30-mile per day stretches with his father and bicycling those same miles. Each day he will be driven the 30 miles back to that day's start point, mounting his bicycle and then retracing the route to wherever his father has stopped. His efforts will make him the first person to ever run and bicycle across the United States in the same event.

This charity run is scheduled to begin March 1 at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and end 112 days later on July 4 at the Marine Corps War Memorial, just outside of Washington, D.C. Knoll said the goal for this run is to raise \$1 million for charity.

No stranger to fundraising, Knoll has completed nine 250-mile charity runs and one 500-mile charity run. He completed a



COURTESY PHOTO

Tom Knoll, triathlete and retired Marine, plans to run the route pictured above to raise money for sick and disabled children, wounded service members and disabled athletes.

Labor Day 300-mile charity run in 3 days and 7 hours for Jerry Lewis and muscular dystrophy, raising more than \$25,000 in that one event. Knoll's Web site for this event lists him as being well over the half-million dollar charity mark and he expects to reach his

lifetime goal of raising \$1 million plus for charity with this 2008 cross-country run.

Humanitarian, author, original 1978 "Ironman", and retired 33-year United States Marine veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars, Tom Knoll, as

described on the back cover of his book "Why not a million?", is "definitely an overachieving giant among men..."

Don't miss your opportunity to run with a legend when he passes through our area between March 4 and March 5.

Open up! The dentist needs to take a look



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

U.S. Navy Lt. Elissa McRae, a dentist with 23rd Dental Company, 1st Force Service Support Group, examines the teeth of Cpl. Sean Hudson, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, during a routine check-up Feb. 12. Combat Center Marines and sailors are required to go to the dentist once a year for annual check-ups.

AWARDS, from A1

Cities Chapter, attended the council meeting to stand behind the Marine Corps' mission and philosophy.

Weston made a speech after Indian Wells Mayor Mary Roche presented the proclamation describing the close relationship between Indian Wells and the Marines at the Combat Center.

Roche's husband is part of a volunteer program that gives Marines rides from the Palm

Springs International Airport to the Combat Center, which saves troops both time and money.

Several clubs and organizations support the Marine Corps by donating books and establishing scholarship programs.

It is normal for city councils to present proclamations to recognize the contributions of members of the community.

Many Marines have participated as event marshals for the Skins Game, a popular golf tourna-

ment that has been played in the Coachella Valley for more than 20 years.

"Having being stationed here [at the Combat Center] as lieutenant and now as a colonel and several visits in between, I can attest to the support we've received from the low-desert area," said Weston.

The proclamation was a symbol, recognizing the Marine Corps for a job well done and hopes of continued success.



Birth announcements

ELIJAH MONORIO MENDOZA

Son of Sgt. Fabian M. Mendoza and wife, Amanda. Born on Feb. 5, weighing 7 lbs, 9 oz and measuring 18.6 inches.

BRIANNA MARIE BURGESS

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Andrew M. Burgess and wife, Jill. Born on Feb. 6, weighing 8 lbs, 10.8 oz and measuring 19.6 inches.

HANNAH ABIGAIL HUNTER

Daughter of Marie Cecil and John Hunter. Born on Feb. 7, weighing 7 lbs, 8.2 oz and measuring 18.6 inches.

ELYSE CHRISTINE ROMKOWSKE

Daughter of Staff Sgt. Thomas Romkowske and wife, Andrea. Born on Feb. 7, weighing 7 lbs, 2.8 oz and measuring 19.6 inches.

VIVIAN MARIE MAWSON

Daughter of Gunnery Sgt. Robert Mawson and wife, Lisa. Born on Feb. 8, weighing 5 lbs, 6 oz and measuring 16.2 inches.

CONNOR CERRETA

Son of Lance Cpl. Brandon Cerreta and wife, Destiny. Born on Feb. 9, weighing 7 lbs, 4 oz and measuring 20.5 inches.

MIA BEATRIX CHATFIELD

Daughter of Sgt. Randolph J. Chatfield II and wife, Monica. Born on Feb. 12, weighing 7 lbs, 6 oz and measuring 19 inches.

ALYSSA AURORA GOMEZ

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Daniel Gomez and wife, Karen. Born on Feb. 12, weighing 6 lbs, 11 oz and measuring 18.7.

PIPER TOBEY ELLIS MAGNACCA

Daughter of Sgt. Chris Magnacca and wife, Casey. Born on Feb. 12, weighing 6 lbs, 8 oz and measuring 18 inches.

GRACIE LYNN PAYNE

Daughter of Cpl. Anthony Payne and wife, Stephanie. Born on Feb. 13, weighing 8 lbs and measuring 18.6 inches.

AVA MARIE MONROE

Daughter of Patricia O'Bourke and William Monroe. Born on Feb. 14, weighing 7 lbs and measuring 19.3 inches.

DESTINY ARIELLE DARIS

Daughter of Cpl. Tiffany Davis and wife, Dominique. Born on Feb. 15, weighing 6 lbs, 8.4 oz and measuring 19 inches.

JESSE EDWIN ODERMATT

Son of Lance Cpl. Henry Odermatt and wife, Mindy. Born on Feb. 17, weighing 8 lbs, 4.5 oz and measuring 19.9 inches.



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MUST SELL CAR: 1999 Grand AM GT, 2 dr, blk, 100K miles, minor paint damage, excellent running condition, \$3000 firm. Call 220-5680. 2-13-08

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04 HARLEY DAVIDSON NIGHTRAIN black on black. 103-inch balanced motor. many extras. \$13,000 OBO. Call (808) 225-2473 1/30/08

2005 CHEVY IMPALA: 65,400 miles. GREAT condition interior/exterior. Runs great! \$8,800. Call (760) 992-4570. 1/30/08

90CC QUADS: Pink and Green Cammo, \$400each. 495 KTM Dirt Bike \$750. '04 Blaster 200cc \$2200 OBO. Helmets included. Call (760) 368-7098. 1/30/08

PROWLER 25.5 FOOT 5th WHEEL TRAILER. Sleeps 4, great condition. \$6599/obo. Call (760) 219-2184. 1/30/08

1969 MACH ONE MUSTANG for sale. Complete except wheels, engine and trans. \$2,000 cash. Call (760) 362-5156. 1/30/08

MISC.

PRECOR EFX 546 ELLIPTICAL, same as in west gym. Bought for \$7,000. Sacrifice for \$3,000. Call (760) 819-9660. 2/27/08

JOGGER STROLLER excellent condition. \$50. Call (760) 819-9660. 2/27/08

AKC YELLOW LABRADOR named Charlie. 2 years old. Mommy and daddy are divorcing and I need a new home. \$300. (760) 819-9660. 2/27/08

32-INCH HDTV flat screen. \$300 OBO (760) 819-9660. 2/27/08

TURTLE FOR SALE. \$45. Tank and food included. Call (760) 368-9375. NEEDS a good home. 2/27/08

ROOMMATE WANTED: Looking for a clean responsible roommate. Located in Twentynine Palms. For more information and details, call Lorenzo at (760) 702-0075. 2-13-08

ROOM FOR RENT: Two mature Marines seek roommate for a place close to base. All utilities included and garage. \$450/month. Must be clean and responsible. Call (713) 857-7227 for more info. 2-13-08

BOWFLEX ULTIMATE XTLU HOME GYM - 310 pound bars - Excellent condition, \$900/obo. Call (760) 219-2184. 1/30/08

The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, the week prior to publication.

Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base

Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: there is a 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and 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 exchanged 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-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-3762.



LANCE CPL. JARED J. BUTLER

Dennis Johnson catches the ball during a drill at a Combat Center rugby team practice session.

RUGBY, from A7

play again," said Henderson. "Rugby is a fanatical sport. The players love it, and they love to play it."

The Combat Center rugby team not only offers players the chance to stay in great shape and enjoy the competitive sport, but it gives them a chance to leave the base on weekends and travel to various places in Southern California to play games against local civilian teams.

"Normally, we'll get together for a meal with the opposing team after a match and get to know them," said Henderson. "It's a great way to meet new people."

The game requires a multi-

tude of skills since all players play offense, defense and special teams.

"Rugby really teaches Marines, as well as anyone else who plays, to act on their feet," said Henderson. "These talents are especially good to possess in our line of work."

Walk-ons willing to participate are welcome and encouraged to test their skills and play for the base team.

"If you want to play, you will definitely get the opportunity on this team," said Henderson.

Team practices are held every Monday and Wednesday at 5 p.m. at Victory Field. Games are played every Saturday, and cleats and mouth guards are required. "We're working to compete in the Military Nationals in May and enter the Sevens Tournament in Las Vegas June 21," said Kelly.

With the determination of experienced players to put rugby back on the map, Marine Corps installations are expected to return and participate in the 2008 Rugby Military Nationals.

For more information regarding the Combat Center rugby team, contact Matthew Kelly at 830-8022 or at matthew.c.kelly@usmc.mil.

Employee Spotlight



Employee: Heather Sommer

Organization: Officer's Club

Job Title: Operations assistant

Duties: Works nights; runs special events and Sunday brunches.

Hometown: Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Hobbies: Interior decorating, knitting, fashion.

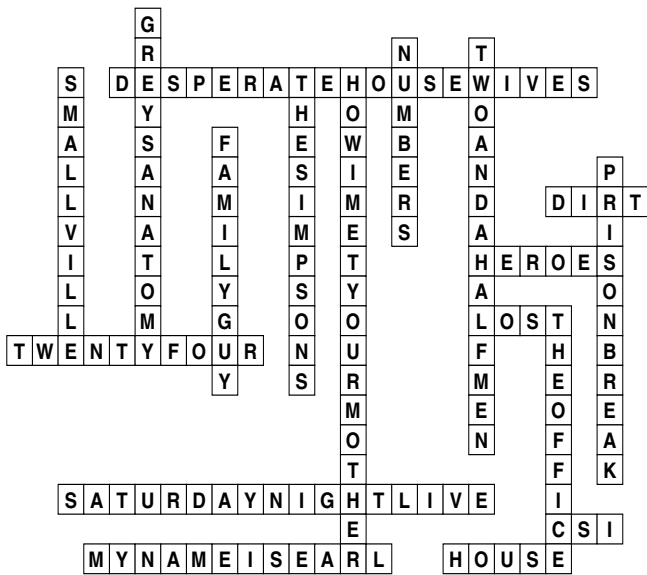
What I like best about my job: The customers. Without them, I wouldn't have a job.

One of the most significant achievements since you've been here: I've been praised for my high amount of energy at my job.

Have you ever served in the military: No, but my grandfather was a gunnery sergeant.

Time employed at MCAGCC: I've been here for four months, but I worked at the Marine Corps Exchange for two years.

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