

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

FEBRUARY 5, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 5

School leaders talk transitions

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center educational representatives met with officials from the Morongo Unified School District for the Military Child Education Coalition Transition Counselors Institute seminar in the Officers' Club Mesa Room here Tuesday and Wednesday.

During the seminar, members from organizations like the Marine Corps Family Team Building Office, and the Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program, discussed the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children with local school officials.

MCEC focuses on making transitions easier for children who are forced to change schools when their parents are assigned to a new duty station, said Tina Paulson, the Combat Center school liaison.

"[The Interstate Compact] was signed into law by the state of California Jan. 15," said Paulson, a Tucson, Ariz., native.

An Interstate Compact is an agreement, with the consent of Congress, between two or more

See **SCHOOL, A5**



COURTESY PHOTO

The original Purple Heart Medal, designated as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by order of George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782. During World War II, nearly 500,000 Purple Heart medals were manufactured in anticipation of the estimated casualties resulting from the planned Allied invasion of Japan. To the present date, all American military casualties of the 65 years following the end of World War II have not exceeded that number. As of 2003, there were still 120,000 Purple Heart medals in stock.

3rd Bn., 11th Marines, presents Purple Hearts

■ "Let it be known that he who wears the Military Order of the Purple Heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen."

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

When George Washington established the Badge of Military Merit on Aug. 7, 1782, while in command of the Continental Army, the award was intended to identify and honor America's service members who were wounded or killed in battle while defending the nation.

In keeping with Washington's tradition, three Marines and sailors from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, received the Purple Heart Medal Monday during a promotions and awards ceremony.

Capt. Jarrod Overton, the commanding officer of Battery I; Staff Sgt. Lawrence Salcido, the battalion's local security chief; and Sgt. Robert DeLuca, an ammunition technician, all earned the medal for wounds they received while deployed to Afghanistan last year. All three recipients were wounded by improvised explosive devices.

Salcido said he and 17 other Marines were sent on a mounted patrol to find insurgents who had attacked a convoy the previous day.

"When we stopped our vehicle to use Expray and the vehicle moved that last little bit from putting it into park the IED went off," he said.

According to the Plexus Scientific Web site, <http://www.expray.com>, Expray is a unique, aerosol-based field test kit for the

See **WOUNDED, A3**

NCIS sets sights on fraud prevention

PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Every quarter, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service here focuses on a different crime to target in its annual crime reduction program. This quarter, NCIS has its sights set on fraud prevention.

Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines fraud as the intentional perversion of truth in order to induce another to part with something of value or to surrender a

legal right or as an act of deceiving or misrepresenting.

Eric MacLennan, an NCIS special agent aboard the Combat Center, said the program focuses on education to help prevent fraud from occurring.

"The more educated the public is, the more ability they will have to recognize and stop people committing these crimes," he said.

MacLennan said he plans on hosting several command briefs around the installation to help edu-

cate unit leaders so they can pass the knowledge to their junior Marines.

He said there are ways to defend against becoming a victim of fraud.

People need to safeguard their social security number and any personally identifiable information, said the Virginia Beach, Va., native.

"In the Marine Corps, sometimes it's hard to keep from giving out your social security number," MacLennan said. "Out in town though, be extremely leery of

anyone asking for credit card information or any information that can identify you."

It was a former lack of education and knowledge which Lance Cpl. Tracy Stanley, an ammunition technician with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group here, credits as the cause of internet fraud. She said if she had not acted quickly, fraud could have cost her a large sum of money.

"I just started college a couple of months ago and I needed books for

my classes, so I went online to find them," said the McAllen, Texas native. "I ordered my book from the internet and noticed a couple of weeks later more money was being taken out of my bank account for magazines I never purchased.

"It all got taken care of, but I know now not to trust certain Web sites," she said.

To report suspected fraud, call NCIS at 830-6275, or the Criminal Investigation Department at 830-6820.

3rd CEB volunteers time, effort to preserve Keys Ranch

PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. - While most Marines and sailors stationed aboard the Combat Center were carrying out their military mission, Jan. 28, 14 members of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion were working hard on another mission, a mission to preserve the history of Keys Ranch in the national park here.

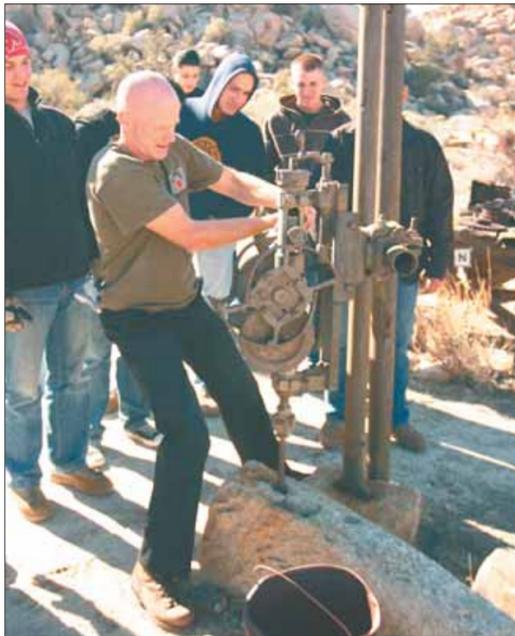
The warriors volunteered their day to help restore a cabin which had succumbed to the harsh climate of the Mojave Desert and remove unwanted vegetation from the ranch.

While in its prime, the ranch was bustling with activity.

But now, the ranch has transformed into a slow-moving tourist attraction, more akin to sunny days with sightseers milling around the grounds than a haven of hard work and a sweat-built homestead.

With the days of ranch life and constant mending behind it, one cabin fell, leaving behind a pile of rubble covered with the remains of the old, tin roof which provided shelter to the splintered

See **KEYS, A4**



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Navy Lt. Bryan Davenport, the chaplain of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, works an old masonry tool left on Keys Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park during a guided tour Jan. 28.

Commandant calls for ideas to improve Marine Corps

QUALITY AND INNOVATION BRANCH

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

QUANTICO, Va. - The Marine Corps is looking for a few good suggestions.

To tap the knowledge of Marines at all levels in developing battlefield and garrison efficiencies, Headquarters Marine Corps is revamping the Beneficial Suggestion Program. Often, the best solutions to pressing problems come from the "boots on the ground."

The Beneficial Suggestion Program encourages all Marine Corps employees to suggest improvements to the Corps' processes and operations. Those with suggestions have the opportunity to help their fellow Marines and to earn up to \$25,000 for suggestions which are adopted. The program also provides a communication channel between staff and leadership for improvements to the Corps. All suggestions are welcome.

The revamped Beneficial Suggestion Program will significantly reduce the time it takes to evaluate and adopt good solutions. It will also establish a way to repli-

cate good local solutions throughout the Marine Corps. A Marine Administrative Message and an updated order for the revised program are due out shortly.

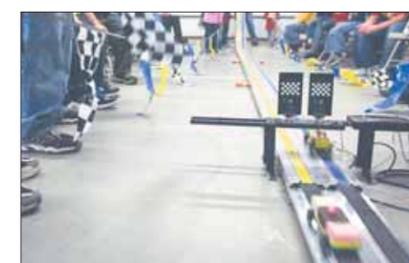
One place the Corps' needs your solutions is in improving energy efficiency on the battlefield. As we strive to "lighten the load" on our Marines, opportunities exist to improve convoy operations, water purification, tent insulation, power generation, and many other areas. Although Marines can always use the Universal Need Statement or Urgent UNS process for battlefield improvements, the Beneficial Suggestion Program provides an additional process for making improvements that help Marines.

Suggestions may be submitted immediately at <http://www.logcom.usmc.mil/benesuggs>. Including as much detail as possible will speed up the evaluation process.

If you have any questions, contact the Quality and Innovation Branch, Business Management Division, Logistics Capabilities Center, at 229-639-5578 or the Marine Corps Continuous Process Improvement Program Office at 703-614-4760.



Deli delights~ See **A6**



Derby showdown~ See **B1**



Hail to the beef! ~ See **B1**



Dodge'baller' status ~ See **B3**

Tax Tips

Everyone can use Free File service

IRS TAX TIP 2010 #16

The IRS Free File service provides free federal income tax return preparation and electronic filing for all taxpayers. All you need is access to a computer and the Internet and you can prepare and e-file your federal tax return for free.

Free File is offered through a partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, a group of private-sector tax software companies. Since Free File's debut in 2003, more than 27 million returns have been prepared and e-filed through this program.

Free File offers two options. The first is Traditional Free File, which includes approximately 20 tax preparation software products from which to choose. Taxpayers with 2009 incomes of \$57,000 or less are eligible for this service. The second option is Free File Fillable Forms, which is an electronic version of IRS paper forms. All taxpayers can use Free File Fillable Forms to prepare and file tax forms electronically. Use the following steps to file your return through IRS Free File:

Step 1. Get Started Access IRS.gov and click the Free File logo or go to www.irs.gov/freefile. You must access Free File companies through the official IRS Web site to qualify for the free service.

Step 2. Determine Your Eligibility If your 2009 income was \$57,000 or less, you're eligible for Traditional Free File's easy-to-use, step-by-step software. If your income was higher, you are eligible for Free File Fillable Forms.

Step 3. Link to Free File Company Service If you opt for Traditional Free File, you can choose one of the approximate 20 offerings by reviewing which one fits your situation. You can click "I Will Choose A Free File Company" or "Help Me Find A Free File Company." To get started with Free File Fillable Forms, just click the "Choose Free File Fillable Forms" button.

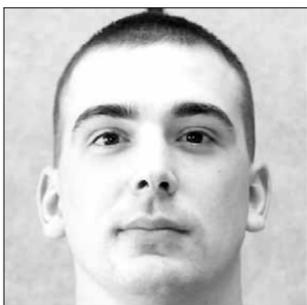
Step 4. Prepare and e-file your Federal Income Tax Return Either Traditional Free File or Free File Fillable Forms will allow you to file your return electronically, for free.

Both the fillable-forms option and the "full service" Free File offerings are only available through IRS.gov. Whether you are new to Free File or a returning taxpayer, you must access Free File through IRS.gov; otherwise, the provider may charge a fee.

Centerspeak

Who do you think is going to win the Super Bowl and why?

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



CPL. JONATHON CROFOOT
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY,
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"The Saints because they are the underdogs."



STAFF SGT. JASON COVERT
MARINE CORPS
COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"Indianapolis because everyone underestimates their defense."



LANCE CPL. BRANDON NAGY
COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION,
2ND MARINE REGIMENT

"The Colts because they have Manning."

Hot Topics

COMBAT CENTER TAX OFFICE

Free and accurate tax filing is now available through the installation tax office in building 1651 on 7th Street. Tax center personnel are now available to answer any tax-related questions. The tax office is currently open for walk-in customers from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Appointments will be available starting Feb. 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, questions, or to schedule appointments, call 830-4829.

OFFICERS' SPOUSES CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

The Officers' Spouses Club now has scholarships available for the 2010-2011 academic year. If you are a military family member applying to an accredited two or four-year institution for undergraduate study or vocational certificate, you may be eligible. All application materials must be postmarked by March 1. For more information or to receive an application, e-mail oscscholarship@gmail.com or call 910-9576.

HI DESERT PONY LEAGUE

Hi Desert Pony League for baseball and softball are currently underway at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms. Additional signups will occur Saturday and Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Luckie Park. Call 424-6329 or 910-787-2175, or log on to http://29hdpl.clubspaces.com for more information.

MILITARY ALL STAR BASEBALL TEAM

There will be an open tryout for the U.S. Military All Star Baseball Team for active duty personnel aboard the Combat Center Feb. 21 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Felix Field. The team is currently seeking players for the upcoming "2010 Red, White, and Blue Tour." For further information and questions, call Randy Husted at the Marine Corps Community Services Sports Office at 830-4092, or e-mail your questions to hustedr@usmc-mccs.org.

Marine Corps History

Feb. 2, 1968

Three battalions of Marines participate in Operation Hue City in Vietnam after the Tet Offensive.



Eagle Eyes

Report any suspicious activity immediately which may be a sign of terrorism, including:

1. Surveillance
2. Suspicious questioning
3. Tests of security
4. Acquiring supplies
5. Suspicious persons
6. Trial runs
7. Deploying assets

830-3937

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Marine Kids in School

SEMPERTOONS: CREATED BY GUNNERY SGT. CHARLES WOLF, USMC/RET.

SUDOKU #1712

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT [puzzle Solutions on A8]

School Liaison Information

Question: Where can I find information regarding financial aid?

Answer: The following Web sites will help with resources for financial aid:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
Federal Student Aid: <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/>

For more information, please contact smbplmsmccsschoolliaison@usmc.mil or call 830-1574.



Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Steve Selser
Hometown: Beaverton, Ore.
Job Title: Natural resources specialist
Job Duties: Respond to wildlife calls, brief incoming personnel about natural resource laws, wildfires, invasive species management, tortoise management.
What do you like most about your job? "It is diverse and I love dealing with wildlife."
Hobbies: Golf, watching movies, hunting, camping and playing with dogs
Military Service: Four years in Navy
Time at Combat Center: Three years

WINDY CITY

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ACROSS

1. Big bash
5. Propelled a dinghy
10. Warming in relations
14. Passed with flying colors
15. "___ porridge hot..."
16. Lamarr of "Samson and Delilah"
17. Chats idly
20. Battle of Trenton losers
21. Van Gogh's town
22. Peebles or Vardalos
23. PC pop-up
25. Tear into
29. "___ for Alibi" (Graft on novel)
30. Dumb cluck
34. ___ Island Red (kind of chicken)
35. Dwight's two-time opponent
37. "The Simpsons" storekeeper

DOWN

1. Cause for stitches
2. Need ibuprofen
3. Many August births
4. Hubbubs
5. Tall ships celebration, for short
6. Met Life rival
7. Cheerleaders' cheers
8. Language suffix
9. Society newbie
10. "Ay, there's ___": Shak.
11. Bread end
12. Timber-shaping tool
13. Road-fork shapes
18. Hardest to spot
19. Vied for a seat
23. Home to La Scala
24. Jacob's twin
25. Shop lingo
26. Don't hog
27. Loafer bottoms
28. Sidewalk stand quaff
29. Go off script
31. Rock's Hall & ___
32. Starts the concert
33. Fluid-filled sac
35. Jackson 5 'dos
36. Prankster's cry
39. "That hurts!"
40. Med. ins. group
45. Blue feeling
47. Tourist centers
49. Cost-of-living no.
50. Dummy Mortimer
51. Herding dog's name
52. Take the mound
53. Golden Fleece transporter
54. Golden Rule word
55. Woody's musical son
56. "___ lively!"
57. Caterpillar's creation
58. Libidinous god
60. Smoke, slangily
61. "It's ___-brainer!"

OBSERVATION POST

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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

(from left to right) Lt. Col. Eduardo Abisellan, the commanding officer of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment; Capt. Jarrod Overton, the commanding officer of Battery I; Staff Sgt. Lawrence Salcido, the battalion's local security chief; Sgt. Robert DeLuca, an ammunition technician; and Sgt. Maj. Robert Caldwell, the battalion sergeant major, pose for a photo during a promotions and awards ceremony Monday. Overton, Salcido and DeLuca were all awarded Purple Heart Medals for wounds they received while on a mounted patrol during the battalion's deployment to Afghanistan last year.

WOUNDED, from A1

detection and identification of explosives and compounds containing inorganic nitrates, which are used to make IEDs.

Before awarding the medals, Lt. Col. Eduardo Abisellan, the battalion's commanding officer, spoke to the Marines and sailors about the Purple Heart recipients' sacrifice.

"These young men gave willingly of themselves and served our nation in-time of need," said the Miami native. "They possess a tremendous spirit, dedication and love for our nation, the Corps, and for one another. I know they are humbled by the presentation, but not nearly as humbled as I am for being able to present it to them."

Since the battalion returned from Afghanistan, the Marines and sailors have been conducting training exercises in support of infantry battalions and in preparation for future deployments.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Lt. Col. Eduardo Abisellan presents a Purple Heart Medal to Staff Sgt. Lawrence Salcido Monday.

'Red Patchers' take pride to new level

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

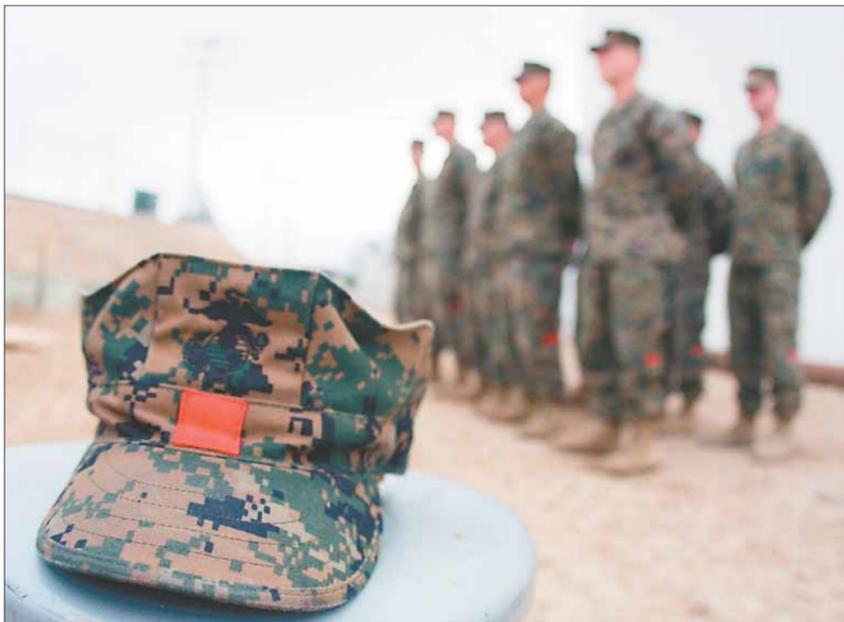
While walking around the installation, Combat Center personnel may come across Marines who sport red patches on their uniforms. Some may have heard the red patches mean they have a military occupational specialty as an underwater scout sniper, submarine door gunner, warrant officer in training or an in-flight missile technician.

Despite popular beliefs, the patches are not any of these Marines—they are worn by landing support specialists, said Cpl. Jeffrey Phillips, a landing support specialist with Transportation Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7.

"Even though our MOS has changed and added different elements over the years, we still play an essential role in the Marine Corps," Phillips said. "If you look back to any major movement the Marine Corps made, we were involved in it."

Landing support specialists have a wide range of duties they perform for the Marine Corps. They build beach landing zones, perform helicopter extractions, create and manage arrival, departure air control groups for deployments and port operations.

The history behind the red patches dates back more than 60 years to World War II, when landing support specialists created beach landing zones so infantrymen could get into the fight.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Landing support specialists with Transportation Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, stand in formation behind their work section Jan. 20. Only 18 Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 have the privilege to wear the red patch on their utility uniforms, which continues the legacy of their military occupational specialty as landing support operators. The Red Patchers' history dates back to the Island Hopping Campaign more than 60 years ago.

"Some of the grunts didn't want to push up so they would pretend they were part of the shore party," said Phillips, a Richmond, Va., native. "They had no idea what they were doing so they screwed up the entire show."

To solve the situation, a 3-inch by 1-inch red patch was sewn on the trousers; a 1-inch by 1-inch patch was sewn onto the covers; and a 3-inch by 3-inch patch was sewn onto the back of the blouse to distinguish the landing support Marines from the ground pounders.

Although the patch on the back of the blouse has

been phased out, the red patches on the trousers and covers remain. It's the only MOS distinguishing device worn in the Marine Corps and can only be worn with the utility uniform.

Aboard the Combat Center, there are only 18 'Red Patchers,' all of whom are with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, the noncommissioned officers with Transportation Support Co., have taken it upon themselves to teach the junior Red Patchers the history of their distinct uniform item.

"We want them to take pride in the patches we wear," said Cpl. Naomi

Bachochin, a landing support specialist with CLB-7. "I know when I have worn cammies without the red patch I feel naked—it just doesn't feel right."

Cpl. Stewart Laurents, who also wears the Red Patch on his uniform, agreed with Bachochin and said he takes immense pride in the uniform because it shows the uniqueness of his MOS.

"I am proud to wear my red patch and I am proud of the history behind it," said Laurents, a Rayne, La., native. "It would be a shame to let that all go because we didn't pass it on to our junior Marines."

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



It is always a joy for me to meet a tough minded optimist. It was a delight, therefore, for me to become acquainted with Raj Idnani, proprietor of Travelodge Inn and Suites in Yucca Valley.

In this challenging economic market in which many cautious people are simply staying away from any type of risky enterprise, Raj has enthusiastically moved ahead with vision and confidence and has purchased what was the Yucca Valley Inn and Suites and is going to do exciting things with the entire property.

I mean Raj, together with his brother, nephew, have moved "lock, stock, and barrel" into our High Desert and are totally dedicated to making the Travelodge a high quality place to stay.

They have already spent huge sums of money remodeling and improving existing facilities and are making exciting new additions both inside and outside the buildings. This includes what is arguably the largest and nicest pool at any inn of the High Desert. There is also a first class restaurant on the property.

The rooms and suites are priced to fit any budget and have been made fresh and attractive. And there is also a Continental Breakfast every morning.

Anyway, I want to salute Raj and his family for bringing their vision, confidence, and dedicated spirit to our High Desert.

They are truly tough minded optimists!

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KEYS, from A1

wood which, in better days, provided structural support. That's where the Marines and sailors of 3rd CEB came into the picture.

The goal of the volunteer project was to help restore the area to how it looked when William Keys and his family inhabited it in the early 1900s, said John Schroeder, an archeologist with Joshua Tree National Park.

Schroeder said the Keys family was one of the first families who built their homestead in the area and was not forced out by the area's climate.

"They built everything on the ranch from nothing," he said, surveying the area. "He even built a schoolhouse because he knew his children needed an education."

The Keys settlement is now an attraction which can be only seen by appointment Saturdays and Sundays during a park ranger-guided tour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. from October through May. Weekday scheduling varies

and can be checked at the Web site, <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/programs.html>.

The cabin belonged to one of the Keys' friends, Bill McHaney, and was moved to the ranch after McHaney grew too old to live alone, Schroeder said.

"We have historic photographs of what the cabin looked like while it was lived in," said Schroeder, a San Diego native. "We're going to use all the original materials and rebuild it exactly how it was before it fell."

With the exception of the volunteer project lead, Navy Lt. Bryan Davenport, 3rd CEB's chaplain, the Marines and sailors of 3rd CEB had never visited the park before. Most brought with them a sense of wonder and all came with a willingness to work.

"We came out to help," Davenport said. "The roof was sitting on top of what was left of the cabin, so we had to move it to let the archeologists see what they have to work with when

they rebuild it."

Besides providing the manpower and engineering know-how to move the roof properly, the Marines and sailors also picked weeds which had grown up in the ranch's disuse.

"It was a big job," Schroeder said. "If the little group of park rangers here and I tried to pick all the weeds, it would take us forever. Having these Marines out here really helps us to preserve the ranch for the future."

Marines have a history of helping keep Joshua Tree National Park beautiful, said Laureen Lentz, the volunteer coordinator with the park.

"We always have groups of Marines out here doing odd-jobs and helping us," she said. "It's great because not only are we getting help, the Marines stationed here get the chance to see how beautiful the park is and what it has to offer."

"I know a lot of Marines never come here, and once they do, they normally realize what they were missing," Lentz said.

Lance Cpl. Michael



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Navy Lt. Bryan Davenport, the chaplain of 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, makes his way through a pile of wood, removing any unwanted vegetation at Keys Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park Jan 28.

Ehrhart, a field radio wireman with Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd CEB, made his first venture into the park when he volunteered to help preserve the ranch, and he said it won't be his last.

"I've never been here before, but I'm coming out here this weekend," said the Columbia, Md., native. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to come out here, I never realized the desert in our backyard could actually be cool. It

seems like a whole new world in the park - and I would have never known about it until I came out here."

For information regarding volunteer opportunities in Joshua Tree National Park, contact Lentz at 367-5524.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Fourteen Marines and sailors from 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, spend their day Jan. 28 helping restore a cabin which had succumbed to the harsh climate of the Mojave Desert and removing unwanted vegetation from the ranch Jan. 28. This was one of many times service members stationed aboard the Combat Center have volunteered to help preserve the park. Ranch visits are only available by appointment Saturdays and Sundays during park ranger-guided tours at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. from October through May. Weekday scheduling varies and can be checked at the Web site, <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/programs.html>.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Seaman Elbert Gonzalez, a hospital corpsman with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, adds another dried plant to the growing pile Jan. 28 at Keys Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park.

JOSHUA SPRINGS
CALVARY CHAPEL
57373 Joshua Lane ~ Yucca Valley, CA 92284 ~ (760) 365-0769 ~ joshuasprings.org

Service Times:
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Wednesdays 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Saturdays 6:00 PM

Servicio en Espanol: Sun 10:40 AM & Wed 7:00 PM

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- Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 A.M.
- Wednesday Night Church in Action - 7 P.M.
- Friday Night Interspersory Prayer - 7 P.M.

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10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.
7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree
Pastor Abe Casiano
Church (760) 366-9119

This Week's Spotlight Church

United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms
6250 Mesquite Springs Road
Phone: 367-7338
Sunday School: 8:00 a.m. - Worship: 9:00 a.m.
(Child Care Provided)

Reverend Lynn Reece
"open hearts, open minds, open doors"

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Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM
367-9400

St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church
God Loves You As If You Were His Only Child.
Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M.
Onaga at Church St., Y.V.
365-7133

New Beginning Community Church
Pastor Lynn Gary Thompson
Christ Centered Church
Sunday School - 9:30 am Adult & Youth
Worship Service - 10:30 am
Music & Fun - 6:00 pm
55922 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley
760-910-5261

United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms
6250 Mesquite Springs Road
Phone: 367-7338
Sunday School: 8:00 a.m. - Worship: 9:00 a.m.
(Child Care Provided)

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United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms
6250 Mesquite Springs Road
Phone: 367-7338
Sunday School: 8:00 a.m. - Worship: 9:00 a.m.
(Child Care Provided)

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367-7812
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Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church
73493 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms, Ca
367-4185

Pastor Titus R. Burns
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 PM

Acts 2:38
"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
365-4014
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Worship.....10:45am

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Jordanians gain explosive knowledge



STAFF SGT. CARL A. ATHERTON

Maj. Michael Glass, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer in charge at the Combat Center, shows members of the Jordanian Delegation robotic technology used within EOD to assist them in their duties aboard the installation Jan. 28 during the delegation's visit to the installation.

SCHOOL, from A1

states. These agreements often result in the creation of a governmental agency which is responsible for administering or improving some shared resource like the MCEC – the agency created as a result of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children, according to its Web site,

<http://www.militarychild.org/whats-happening/interstate-compact/>.

Dave Price, the director of student services with the Morongo Unified School District, said the Compact should help military children change schools more smoothly.

"Mostly, it makes sure everyone's aware of the needs of military children

and families around deployments, and the needs of the military," said Price, a San Bernardino, Calif., native. "It also gives school districts a place to start to establish the accommodations available."

Paulson said there are several problems transitioning military families run into when enrolling their children in a new school.

A peek in the Corps' playbook



CPL TYLER W. HILL

A member of the Advisor Training Group shows the Republic of Korea Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major In-HO Seo, different types of weapons the Marine Corps faces during overseas deployments during the emissary's visit to the Combat Center Jan. 28. Seo visited the Combat Center to see how the Marine Corps trains and prepares its personnel for future deployments.

"A lot of the time, and especially at the high school level, tryouts for sports or deadlines to join school clubs have come and gone by the time the child is enrolled," she said. "This agreement gives transitioning military students the same opportunities to participate."

Zoe Trautman, the lead trainer during the seminar and Burke, Va., native, said another issue facing military families, is the length of time children spend out of school with parents scheduled to deploy overseas.

"We understand children need to see their parents before they deploy," Trautman said. "When deployments come, some parents keep their children

out of school for weeks at a time. Usually 10 days is the norm. We just can't have children missing weeks and weeks of school."

Paulson said the Compact also standardizes each participating state's graduation requirements for high school students.

Currently, 26 states have signed the Compact.

"There are still a few states on the fence," said Paulson. "But 26 is a lot of states. It's a huge difference from last year because there were only 11 states under the agreement."

For more information on MCEC or the Interstate Compact, visit <http://www.militarychild.org/whats-happening>



CPL R. LOGAN KYLE

Combat Center educational representatives met with officials from the Morongo Unified School District for the Military Child Education Coalition Transition Counselors Institute seminar in the Mesa Room of the Officers' Club Wednesday to discuss key education issues facing military families.

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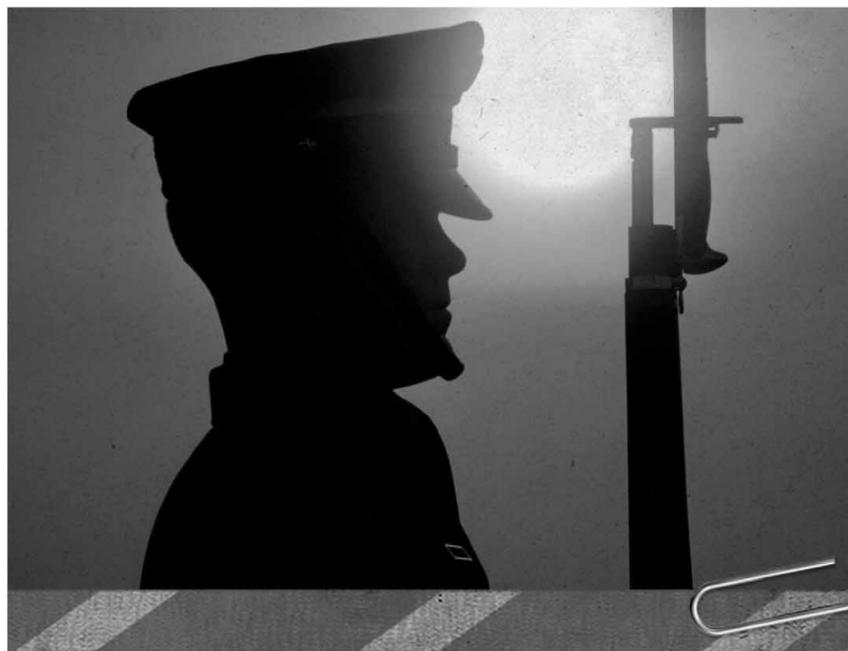
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TYLER PATTERSON AND SHARI LOPATIN

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To file your own TRICARE claim, follow these four steps:

1. Ensure your information in the Defense Enrollment

Eligibility Reporting System is current. This can be done in several ways:

- In person at a military personnel office or uniformed services ID card-issuing facility

- Online through the DEERS Web site by visiting <http://www.tricare.mil/deers>

- **By mail by sending the required information to Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, Attention: COA**

400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771

- Via fax, 1-831-655-8317, or
- By phone, 1-800-538-9552.

2. Once you update DEERS, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, which administers TRICARE throughout the West Region, will be notified of any changes. Verify with TriWest the changes have been made before proceeding.

3. Complete and sign the

See TRICARE, A8



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



ERIC DOUGLAS MCCORMICK

Son of Sgt. Shane McCormick and Liz McCormick born Jan. 5, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

KYLE THACH NGUYEN

Son of Petty Officer 3rd Class James Nguyen and Mylie Nguyen born Jan. 6, weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 21.8 inches.

JACKSON LEVI MYERS

Son of Dylan Myers and Kirsten Cooper born Jan. 7, weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 19.1 inches.

BRANDON JAMES GRIJALVA

Son of Sgt. Ben M. Grijalva and Jenni Grijalva born Jan. 8, weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

ASHLYNN GRACE GOLDIZEN

Daughter of Cpl. Brett Goldizen and Amy Goldizen born Jan. 8, weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

ALICE RYAN STEPHENS

Daughter of Cpl. Ryan N. Stephens and Whitney Stephens born Jan. 9, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 20 inches.

RILEY MAE JENKINS

Daughter of Cpl. Joseph D. Jenkins and Meghan Jenkins born Jan. 11, weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 20.2 inches.

MARCOS ALEJANDRO PADRON

Son of Sgt. Erasto Padron and Christy Padron born Jan. 11, weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 20.3 inches.

SKYLAR ALLEN HESS

Son of Seaman Robert Hess and Angela Hess born Jan. 11, weighing 6 pounds, 4.3 ounces and measuring 19.1 inches.

PRESTON DAVIS MARZAN

Son of Cpl. Jerry Marzan born Jan. 11, weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

CALEB JAMES HILL

Son of Lance Cpl. Christopher J. Hill and Sarah K. Hill born Jan. 12, weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 19.75 inches.

LLIANA ROSA BRUNO

Daughter of Master Sgt. Eduardo Bruno and Gunnery Sgt. Rena Bruno born Jan. 13, weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 18.7 inches.

TAYLOR JAMES LINDLER

Son of Capt. James R. Lindler and Stephanie Lindler born Jan. 18, weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 19.5 inches.

AALAYAH SANAA MCCALL

Daughter of Cpl. Damian Y. McCall and Rena McCall born Jan. 18, weighing 6 pounds, 12.6 ounces and measuring 20.6 inches.

RHIANON CAOIMHE SIOBHAN DHABOLT

Daughter of Staff Sgt. John P. Dhabolt and Trisha Dhabolt born Jan. 20, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches.

KAMI JO HAJEK

Daughter of Cpl. Brian Hajek and Samantha Hajek born Jan. 20, weighing 5 pounds, 11.5 ounces and measuring 18 inches.

AXEL RICHARD STEPHENS

Son of Sgt. Patrick R. Stephens and Tiffany Stephens born Jan. 21, weighing 8 pounds, 3.4 ounces and measuring 20.8 inches.

VINCENT ANGELO FATTICCI

Son of Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Fatticci and Jill Fatticci born Jan. 21, weighing 6 pounds, 12 ounces and measuring 20.3 inches.

ZAHARAH BREHM

Daughter of Lance Cpl. Eric Brehm and Shivali Brehm born Jan. 22, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 21 inches.

ANGEL GABRIEL SANCHEZ CECILIANO

Son of Cpl. Antonio Sanchezjasso and Yanet Sanchez born Jan. 23, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 19.8 inches.

Combat Center Trader Ads

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VIPER TRUCK. V-10, 6 speed, white with blue stripes, commemorative edition, 24,000 miles, warranty. \$31,500. 408-9088. 1/29/10

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2009 HONDA SHADOW FOR SALE. Great condition, low miles, never dropped. \$5,500. Call Logan for details. 423-504-6926. 1/8/10

2005 YAMAHA 650 SILVERADO CLASSIC. 9,200 miles. Excellent condition. \$3,600 OBO. Contact Glen at 238-8850 for more information. 12/18/09

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FOOTBALL CARDS. Sets, individuals or whole collection. 567-7921. 12/11/09

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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: 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.

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4. Attach a copy of the doctor's bill to the claim form. Make sure the billing information includes the name and address of the person who treated you, the date and place of each service, a description of each service, and the diagnosis. If the diagnosis is not on the bill, remember to complete "Block 8a" on DD Form 2642. After that, mail the information within the one-year deadline to:

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Madison, WI 53707-1028**

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Registered users of triwest.com receive QuickAlert notifications when their claims status changes. You can also learn how to Go Green with statements on www.triwest.com/gogreen. For more information and exceptions to the one-year filing deadline for claims, visit www.triwest.com/beneficiary/claims.aspx.

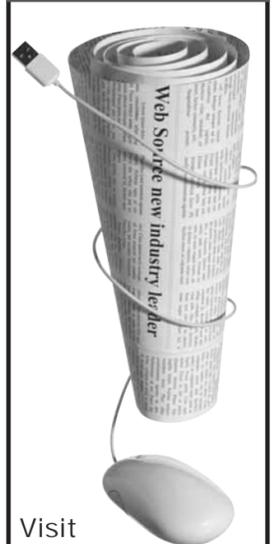
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B1

Pack 78 races through Pinewood Derby

The race kicked off the Pack's participation of the Boy Scouts of America's 100th year

JENNIE HASKAMP

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Cub Scout Pack 78's Scout Hut, nestled behind the Combat Center Thrift Store, was alive with energy as the Scouts and their families gathered for the annual Pinewood Derby Saturday.

The source of the excitement? More than two dozen hand-carved, hand-painted dragsters and their racers, anxious to see who would be crowned the downhill champion.

The Scouts received Derby kits at a December Pack meeting and had a month to work on their entries.

The instructions were to carve, paint and add weight to their cars without exceeding the Boy Scouts of America Pinewood Derby weight limit of five ounces per entry.

For Derby newcomers Maj. Ron Storer and his Scouts, Jack, a 10-year-old Webelo, and Ryan, an 8-year-old Bear, weighting the dragsters proved to be an interesting experiment.

"The kit was basic," said Storer, the executive officer of 1st Tank Battalion, whose M1A1 Abrams tanks weigh more than 60 metric tons.

"The boys received a block of wood and four wheels and were only instructed they could not use liquid mercury to achieve the five ounce entry weight."



Tigers	Wolves	Bears	Webeloes	Overall Pack Winners
1st Matthew Perez	1st Nicholas Redmon	1st Matthew Mcklusky	1st William Kines	1st Matthew Mcklusky
2nd Kyle Boyce	2nd Jacob Masterson	2nd Matthew Burke	2nd Couy Harrington	2nd William Kines
3rd Ashton Powell	3rd Joseph Flores	3rd Hunter Sprung	3rd Cameron Cox	3rd Nicholas Redmon

PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Maj. Ron Storer, the executive officer of 1st Tank Battalion, releases two Pinewood Derby race cars down the track Saturday at the Boy Scouts of America Pack 78 Scout Hut behind the Combat Center's Thrift Store. More than two dozen entries were submitted to the Derby, including Storer's own sons, Jack, a 10-year-old Webelo Scout, and Ryan, an 8-year-old Bear Scout. The BSA is celebrating its 100th year as an organization, so there are more activities planned for the future both locally and nationally.

Like many of the Scouts, Jack and Ryan had help with cutting the designs they drew – dad did that with a jigsaw – and the rest of the work –

shaping, sanding and painting – was left to them. "We experimented with Lego engines and finally ended up with egg sinkers

from fishing lures," said Storer, an Idaho Falls, Idaho native, who was selected to launch the cars at the start of each race. "It was our first

Pinewood Derby, and I found out the day of the Derby the BSA actually sells Pinewood Derby weight kits. We'll be more prepared next year."

With scouts ranging in age from 6 to 12 years old, the dragsters varied in design and

See DERBY, B4

Officers' Club holds year's first themed dinner

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Officers' Club hosted its first themed buffet dinner of the year Tuesday night in the club's Mojave Room from 5 to 8 p.m.

A presidential theme was chosen for the dinner, and each menu

item was specific to one of America's commanders in chief.

"People don't have high expectations for food on base, and this is our opportunity to show them wrong and shine," said Charles Harris, the O'Club's executive chef. "We have done a lot better with advertising so we're expecting a good turnout."

Despite the club's advertising efforts, attendance was sparse throughout the night – no more than six tables were occupied at a time.

"I am little disappointed with the turnout and believe that it deals with the name Officers' Club," Harris said. "I want to stress that this is 'all hands,' meaning if you can come through the gate then you are able to eat here."

Most of the attendants were families or couples, all of whom seemed impressed by both the food and the decorations.

"I like the theme of the dinner, especially the little cards of information about the food and presidents," said Cpl. James Sinclair, a logistics clerk with Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibious Battalion, and a patron at the dinner.

Darryl Gilmer, a family resiliency trainer with the Families Overcoming Under Stress Program here, said he enjoyed the evening and hopes to attend again in the future.

"I was a little concerned about how the food would be, but the roast beef was fantastic," Gilmer said. "This is a great month to have the presidential theme since you have three presidents' birthdays and Presidents Day."

Despite a small number of guests, Harris feels optimistic about the dinner.

"Even though we did not have that many people show up, they all liked the food and will tell their friends," Harris said. "It will be word of mouth that will help bring in more customers in the future."

The O'Club plans to continue hosting the themed buffet dinners on the second Tuesday of every month.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Patrons serve themselves from the buffet line during this year's first themed dinner at the Officers' Club Mojave Room Tuesday night. A presidential theme was chosen and each menu represented a different commander in chief.

Famous Presidents Themed Dinner

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Theodore Roosevelt's Filet of Beef

John F. Kennedy's Poulet a l'Estragon
(Chicken with Tarragon)

Franklin Pierce's Fannie Daddies

Harry S. Truman's Macaroni and Cheese

William Howard Taft's Green Peas

Barack Obama's Sopa Azteca

Calvin Coolidge's Corn Muffins

Grover Cleveland's White Cake with Chocolate Frosting

Gerald Ford's Fresh Strawberry Shortcake

☆☆☆☆☆☆

All recipes are authentic and were made by their wives or White House kitchen staff.

COMMISSARY SUPER BOWL PARTY AND SIDEWALK SALE

The Combat Center Commissary will host a special sidewalk sale Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the commissary's employee parking lot in honor of the Super Bowl. All military ID card holders are welcome to enjoy a day of food, fun and prizes. The sidewalk sale will feature discounts on snack items like Coca-Cola and Pepsi products, various chips and dips, paper products and produce items.

TWENTYNINE PALMS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The Twentynine Palms Women's Softball League is looking for active, interested players ages 16 and up to participate in the local slow-pitch league this spring. The league needs at least five teams with 10 players each to be fully stood up, so whether you're a skilled player or someone who is interested in playing the game and meeting new people, contact the Twentynine Palms Parks and Recreation Department at 367-7562, or log on to <http://29softball.webs.com> and create a free account.



Local Events

Biker Larry and the Black Rope

Description: The band will play classic rock favorites
 When: 7:30 p.m., Friday
 Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace
 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
 For more information call 365-5956 or visit
<http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Theater: 'Blithe Spirit'

Description: A Noel Coward comedy
 When: 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday
 Where: Theatre 29
 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms
 For information call 361-4151 or visit
<http://www.theatre29.com>.

Classic Rock w/ 007 & The Souls

Description: Music from the Beatles, Stones and more
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday
 Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace
 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
 For more information call 365-5956 or visit
<http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Steve Lester's Songwriting, Poetry, and Rhythm

Description: Open mic night
 When: 7 to 10 p.m., Wednesdays
 Where: Rattlesnake Jake's
 51572 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley
 For more information call 363-6513 or visit
<http://www.rattlesnakejakes.net>

Theatre: The Purr-joined Parlor

Description: A comedy by local playwright Wendy Cohen
 When: 8 p.m., Saturdays, 2:30 p.m., Sundays, starting
 Feb. 13 through March 7
 Where: Groves Cabin Theatre
 8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley
 For reservations and information call 365-4523 or visit
<http://www.grovescabintheatre.org>.

Pianist Robert Edward Thies & flutist Boglarka Kiss

Description: The award winning musicians perform
 classical favorites
 When: 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 12
 Where: The Blak Box Theatre
 61231 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree
 For more information call 366-3777 or visit
<http://www.hidesertplayhouse.com>.

Lower Desert

Comedy: Martin Lawrence

Description: The comedic actor performs standup
 When: 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 12
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
 For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Music: John Fogerty

Description: The classic rock legend performs his hits
 When: 9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 12
 Where: Agua Caliente
 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
 For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Music: Johnny Mathis

Description: Pop legend performs his hits
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 13
 Where: Agua Caliente
 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
 For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Comedy: Larry the Cable Guy

Description: Blue Collar Comedy legend performs
 standup
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 20
 Where: Agua Caliente
 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
 For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Music: Cheap Trick

Description: The power pop band performs
 When: TBA, Friday, Feb. 26
 Where: Agua Caliente
 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
 For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Sunset Cinema

The Sunset Cinema is getting an upgrade

The theater will be closed from Jan. 8 through Feb. 12 for a lighting project which will enhance your movie experience. We apologize for any inconvenience. The Lifelong Learning Library has movies for check out new releases, classic titles and everything in between. Call 830-6685 for more details or stop by building 1524 to check them out.



COURTESY PHOTO

A nuclear war has turned Earth into a seared wasteland, and one wandering survivor named Eli (Denzel Washington), carries an important, one-of-a-kind artifact: a Bible.

Gritty, grim 'Book of Eli' is difficult movie to enjoy

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Book of Eli"

Rated R

Spoiler Alert!

In a not-too-distant future, a nuclear war has turned Earth into a seared wasteland, and

one wandering survivor carries an important, one-of-a-kind artifact: a Bible.

Denzel Washington plays Eli, a man on a mission even he doesn't fully understand. But it involves a westward trek across an endless stretch of lawless desolation that was once America, and a series of

encounters with various scoundrels, scavengers, cannibals and cutthroats.

We learn that most books and other objects of our contemporary culture were destroyed in the aftermath of the war, 30 years ago. But somehow, Eli got his hands on what may very well be the only Christian Bible that survived the holocaust – and the purge that followed.

We've seen drab, post-apocalyptic landscapes in movies before, but sibling directors Albert and Allen Hughes come up with a few twists on the familiar formula, like how things considered disposable in the pre-war world have now become commodities of great value. Eli barter for goods and services with little packages of pre-moistened KFC towel-ettes; an unopened plastic sample-size bottle of shampoo is a luxury few can afford. Fresh water is more coveted than gold.

"We had no idea what was precious and what wasn't," Eli explains to another character, a much younger woman (Mila Kunis) born after the great atomic reckoning that killed most humans and left many others blind. "We threw away things that people kill each other now for."

Eli has managed to survive with defensive skills that have been fine-tuned to a lethal edge. He's particularly effective with a big serrated blade and a bow and arrow, which he uses to dispatch all sorts of would-be way-layers who get in the way of his mission. When he tells you that the next time you lay a hand on him, you're going to lose it, you'd better believe him.

While most of the people Eli comes across are illiterate, having grown up in a world without books, one (Gary Oldman) is not—and he'll do anything to get his hands on Eli's Bible. Suffice it to say, those two characters want the sacred text for entirely different purposes.

It's hinted that Eli may be protected on his journey with some sort of "holy" power that lets him vanish and reappear, be peppered by bullets and not injured, tackle a gaggle of weapon-wielding goons and emerge without a scratch, or perhaps even rise from the dead. But the movie never brings any consistency to these attributes, and we never learn anything at all about who, or what, Eli was, or is. He may be a holy warrior, a wilderness prophet or an avenging angel...or just a guy in cool-looking sunglasses with a backpack and a big knife. We never find out, and such anything-goes, what-the-heck storytelling here just seems lazy and half-baked.

While "The Book of Eli" offers some interesting things to ponder, its excessive violence will turn off a lot of moviegoers who might otherwise be attracted to its "spiritual" message. Gritty, glum and grim, it's not a movie that's easy to enjoy. And it's one of the bleakest-looking screen-fillers to hit theaters in some time, almost completely devoid of color.

Some will applaud the crowd-pleasing conclusion, in which Eli provides a missing ingredient for humanity's resurrection. Others will nod along with the movie's message about the dismal state of any society built on a foundation that doesn't include the written word. And the audacious, "Gotchal" ending will divide viewers into those who think it's wonderful because they never saw it coming, and those who roll their eyes because it stretches believability past the breaking point.

After two hours of hacking, stabbing, slicing, blasting and raping, all in the service of a story built around the Good Book, I felt like my library card had been pulverized into tiny little apocalyptic-dust pieces and I needed a good shower. Ugh.



COURTESY PHOTO

"We had no idea what was precious and what wasn't," Eli explains to another character, (Mila Kunis) who was born after the atomic reckoning which killed most humans.

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Combat Center Sports



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Eric Charles, a player for Bad Karma, eliminates the competition during Tuesday night's Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League game at the East Gym. Bad Karma won both matches they competed in Tuesday.

Intramural dodgeball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Jive Turkeys	4	0
Cranial Crashers	2	0
Red Dot	3	1
Worst	2	2
Bad Karma	2	2
Hospital	2	2
Sitting Ducks	1	3
Scrubbs	1	3
Plaza Sesamo	1	3
3rd LAR	0	4



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Scrubbs player Erik Martinez and his teammate work together to nail players from the Jive Turkeys Tuesday night at the East Gym during one of the two matches they played. Scrubbs lost both their matches.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

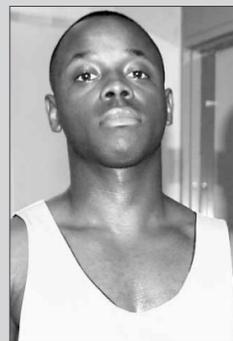
'Scuba' Steve Sterle, a player for the Jive Turkeys, hurls a dodgeball at an opponent.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Bad Karma springs into action during one of their two dodgeball matches at the East Gym Tuesday.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Maurice Williams
Hometown: Killeen, Texas
Job title: Administration chief of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3.
Recognition: "I work out twice a day, I play basketball and I was just made the Semper Fit coordinator."

Favorite aspect of the sport: "Getting people to work together; the unselfishness."

Advice for aspiring athletes: "Be consistent and dedicated, and good things will come."

Team Tatitlek player Jason Williams strains to save the ball during Wednesday night's Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League at the East Gym against VMU-3. Williams was able to keep the ball in-bounds, and he and his teammates won 70-50.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS



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PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

William Corser, a player on team Tatitlek, goes up strong to sink a basket.

2010 Intramural Basketball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
1st Tanks	3	0
MCCES All-Stars	3	0
IPAC	2	0
Tatitlek	2	0
Ole School	2	1
MWSS-374	1	1
MCCES B	1	1
MCCES A	1	2
CLB-7	0	1
NHTP	0	2
3/4	0	3
VMU-1	0	3
CLD	0	3



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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

More than two dozen Scouts from the Combat Center's Pack 78 entered their race cars in the Boy Scouts of America annual Pinewood Derby Saturday at the Scout Hut behind the Thrift Store. The BSA is celebrating its 100th year as an organization, so there are more activities planned for the future both locally and nationally.

DERBY, from B1

skill. Entries included a patriotic red, white and blue car with one dollar coins attached for weight, and a car designed to resemble an ice cream sandwich. The rest of the entries included a wide array of colors and shapes.

William Kines, a three-year veteran of Webelo Troop 78, said he set out with a design for his car to be a cheese wedge, but turned it into a hot rod halfway through the process. Changing up served him well; he took first place

in Webelos and second place in the overall competition.

Gunnery Sgt. Bradley Cox, the Scoutmaster for Pack 78, and the assistant operations officer for Company B, Marine Corps Communications- Electronics School, said the competition helps reinforce Scouting values because the cars are difficult to build and there is no room for cheating.

"Pinewood Derby is about showing good sportsmanship and helps the Scouts get creative in designing their car," said Cox, a

Hermann, Mo., native, whose son Cameron placed third in the Webelo division. It also provides them an opportunity to do something with a parent or another adult. It is just a time to get together and have fun.

This year marks the Boy Scouts of America's 100th year as an organization, and there are numerous events planned locally and nationally throughout the year. For more information on Pack 78, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scoutpack78/> or call 910-9564.



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