

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

FEBRUARY 26, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 8

Reserve Marines produce Chosin documentary

GUNNERY SGT. CHRISTOPHER J. RANDAZZO

NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEW YORK — Reserve Marines from the New York area recently produced “Chosin,” a documentary chronicling the epic battle of the Korean War, often called the Forgotten War.

Cpts. Brian P. Iglesias and Anton Sattler traveled to 27 cities across the United States in 2009, interviewing 185 survivors of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. From Nov. 27 to Dec. 14, 1950, 15,000 United Nations troops, primarily Marines, fought 78 miles from the Chosin Reservoir to the port of Hungnam against more than 120,000 Chinese forces.

The combat was brutal, and the numerically inferior American forces battled over mountainous terrain in sub-arctic conditions, often surrounded by the Chinese, while at the same time escorting approximately 91,000 Korean refugees to safety. For their actions, participants received 14 Medals of Honor and 70 Navy Crosses, the nation's highest and second-highest combat decorations, which was more than were awarded for the Iwo Jima campaign.

Iglesias, the command-

ing officer of Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, directed and co-produced the film with Sattler. Iglesias and Sattler are infantry officers who each served two combat tours in Iraq. While serving as junior officers, both were inspired by “This Kind of War” by T. R. Fehrenbach. “It was not until after reading this book and experiencing war firsthand, that I fully understood the magnitude of the events in Korea,” Iglesias said.

He looked for films about the Korean War. The only ones he could find were all made in the 1950s. A filmmaker in his civilian job, he met Sattler while interviewing. The two decorated combat veterans decided to pool resources to produce a documentary on one of the most decorated battles in U.S. history, but acknowledged by few outside of the Marine Corps. Those who fought at the Chosin Reservoir set the standard for future generations of Marines, Sattler said.

“It was clear to me that before these men pass away, I needed to exhaust every effort to capture their story and share it with the world,” Iglesias said. “Only

See CHOSIN, A5

Marines sweep through new counter-IED training lane

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT



Seaman Jeremiah St. Thomas [right] and Pfc. Andrew Martin sweep through a notional mine field Feb. 18 here at the Combat Center's Op Barma. The training venue is the newest addition to Enhanced Mojave Viper.

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center opened its newest training venue here Feb. 18 when the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group ran one of the very first units through Op Barma in an effort to prepare Marines and sailors deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Elements of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii and 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., received training which was formerly conducted only in Afghanistan during Enhanced Mojave Viper, said Capt. Edward Rushing, the officer in charge of TTECG's engineer shop.

“The Marines get outstanding training in the new Tactical Modular Foot Bridges, Compact Metal Detectors, PackBots, [Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare systems], and other counter-IED equipment and [tactics, techniques and procedures],” said the Knoxville, Tenn., native. “This program was taken from Afghanistan, where it had previously only been offered to units once they were in country. Now, we’ve moved the exact training and information to here, where Marines have the opportunity to focus entirely on training.

“One of the primary purposes of Op Barma at TTECG is to allow units to receive critical counter-IED training before they get into Afghanistan.”

See TRAINING, A6

‘Thundering Third’ makes Afghanistan a safer place



CPL. DANIEL M. MOMAN

JAHAZI, Afghanistan — Marines assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, talk to a local Afghan boy outside Jahazi Feb. 4. Marines patrol the area daily to conduct sweeps of the village and deny the Taliban any safe havens in the area. The battalion is also searching the area for illegal weapons and ordnance.



LANCE CPL. CHAD J. PULLIAM

FARAH PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Lance Cpl. Richard Morgan, a rifleman with Co. I, 3rd Bn., 4th Marines, sights in on enemy positions in Farah Province, Afghanistan, Jan. 8. Morgan is guiding fellow Marines who are trying to hit enemy positions in the area.

Leading from the front; MCTOG Marine awarded Bronze Star Medal

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

To be a leader means to lead from the front and by example. For Maj. Seth MacCutcheon, a team officer in charge with the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group here, those leadership traits come naturally to him.

MacCutcheon was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a gold star in lieu of second award, during a ceremony outside MCTOG's headquarters here Feb. 18.

The award, which was presented to MacCutcheon by Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III, the Combat Center's commanding general, marked the second time the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., native, has received the honor.

MacCutcheon received the award for his actions while serving as the commanding officer of Company L, Task Force 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, from Aug. 27, 2008, to March 23, 2009, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During that time, MacCutcheon led and integrated nearly 400 Marines, sailors, soldiers and civilians in Iraq's Hit district, which encompasses more than 2,700



CPL. TYLER W. HILL

Maj. Seth MacCutcheon, a team officer in charge with the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, is awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a gold star in lieu of second award by Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III, the Combat Center's commanding general during a ceremony at MCTOG's headquarters Feb. 18. MacCutcheon was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions as the commanding officer of Company L, Task Force 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8, in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

miles of the Al Anbar Province.

He was first awarded the Bronze Star Medal after his actions during the beginning stages of OIF 1, where he saw action in Nasiriyah.

“It feels really good to receive this honor a second time,” MacCutcheon said. “I’ve been lucky enough during my career to have

had the opportunity to work with some very special people.”

Master Sgt. Ramon Martinez, a team staff non-commissioned officer in charge with MCTOG, said MacCutcheon is truly one of “the fewer.”

“He’s a very common

See BRONZE, A8



Lock ‘n’ load ~ See A3



Paving the way ~ See A4



Blocking bad sports ~ See B1



Sinise returns to stage ~ See B1

Tax Tips

Free tax assistance for members of the military

IRS TAX TIP 2010, #40

The IRS wants military members and their spouses to know they may be eligible to receive free tax return preparation assistance. The armed forces participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and provide free tax advice, tax preparation, return filing and other tax assistance to military members and their families.

- 1. Armed Forces Tax Council.** The Armed Forces Tax Council oversees the operation of the military tax programs worldwide, conducting outreach with the IRS to military personnel and their families. The AFTC consists of tax program coordinators for the Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard.
- 2. Volunteer tax sites.** Volunteer assistants at military-based VITA sites are trained to address military-specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the new Earned Income Tax Credit guidelines.
- 3. What to bring.** To receive this free assistance, you should bring the following records to your military VITA site:
 - Valid photo identification
 - Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents or a social security number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
 - Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents
 - Current year's tax package, if you received one
 - Wage and earning statement(s) – Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R
 - Interest and dividend statements (Forms 1099)
 - A copy of last year's federal and state tax returns, if available
 - Checkbook to get routing number and account number for direct deposit
 - Total amount paid for day care and day care provider's identifying number
 - Other relevant information about income and expenses
- 4. Joint returns.** If your filing status is Married Filing Jointly and you wish to file your tax return electronically, both you and your spouse should be present to sign the required forms. If it isn't possible for both of you to be present, a valid power of attorney that allows tax preparation can be used to sign and file the return.
- 5. Special exception.** There is a special exception to using a power of attorney for spouses in combat zones which permits the filing spouse to e-file a joint return with only a written statement setting forth that the other spouse is in a combat zone and is unable to sign.

For more information, review IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide, available on the IRS Web site at irs.gov or order a free copy by calling 800-TAX-FORM.

Centerspeak

What is your favorite Olympic sport to watch and why?

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



2ND LT. SETH ALFORD
MOJAVE VIPER SUPPORT DETACHMENT

“My favorite sport this year is hockey. It looks like America has a chance for the gold.”



CPL. BLAKE TOWNSEND
COMPANY L, 3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“Snowboarding because it takes a lot of skill to snowboard in general, but what they can do is amazing.”



STAFF SGT. C. J. FREEMAN
MOJAVE VIPER SUPPORT DETACHMENT

“Speed skating because you have to have a lot of endurance and a good game plan to be able to compete.”

Hot Topics

MARSOC SCREENING TEAM VISIT

The Marine Corps Special Operations Command will visit the Combat Center March 2 to brief and screen Marines. There will be two briefs; the first will be held at 8 a.m. for the following units: 1/7, 3rd LAR, 1st Tanks and Co. D, 3rd AAB. The second brief will be held at 1 p.m. for MWSS-374, 3/11, MCCES, 3/7, VMU-1, VMU-3 and CLB-7. Both briefs will be held at building 2070 on 13th Street. For more information, call 830-6171.

YOUNG MARINES NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Mojave Vipers, the Combat Center's Young Marines detachment, is looking for a few good volunteers. There is no military experience required to become a registered volunteer. For more information or to volunteer, call 830-3650 or 830-6520, or log on to <http://www.29palmsyoungmarines.webs.com>

LITTLE LEAGUE SIGNUPS UNDERWAY

Twentynine Palms Little League signups are still being accepted Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 4 Sports-N-More in Twentynine Palms, and Saturdays at the Twentynine Palms Junior High and High Schools. The cost is \$50 for the first child, \$45 for the second and \$40 for each additional child. Evaluations will be held on Saturday and Sunday at Luckie Park. There will be a signup table open on evaluation dates. Call Ray Gonzales at 799-4444 for more information.

HI DESERT PONY LEAGUE

The Hi Desert Pony League signups for baseball and softball are currently underway at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms. Evaluations will be held March 6 at Luckie Park. Call 910-546-6475 or 901-787-2175, or log on to <http://www.pony29palms.com> for more information.

Marine Corps History

Feb. 19, 1945

The 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions breach Iraqi defensive positions during Operation Desert Storm.



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



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

SUDOKU #1733

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		4				1		
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		6			9		8	
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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

School Liaison Information

Question: What is the cutoff date for children to be enrolled in kindergarten?

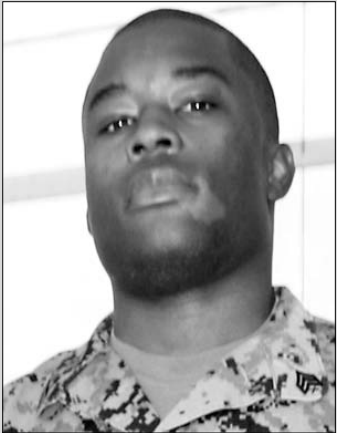
Answer: In order to enroll a child in kindergarten in the Morongo Unified School District, they must be age 5 by Dec. 1 of the desired school year. For instance, if a parent wishes to enroll their child in kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year, the child must be age 5 by Dec. 1, 2010.

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



Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Sgt. Demichael Riley
Hometown: New Orleans
Job title: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operator
Unit: Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3
Job Duties: “Provide reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. We are the ground unit’s eye in the sky.”
What do you like most about your job? “Making sure everyone stays safe.”
Hobbies: Music, playing instruments, writing music, skateboarding and bicycles.
Military Service: Three years in the Marine Corps.
Time at Combat Center: One year and three months.



OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General

Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

Public Affairs Officer Jennie E. Haskamp
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KNOCKOUT ENDINGS

[puzzle Solutions on A6]

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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63					64					65				

ACROSS

- 1. Frank McCourt's "Angela's ____"
- 6. Snail-mailed, say
- 10. Turns down, in away
- 14. Try to clear the bar
- 15. Ox team's burden
- 16. Skip past
- 17. Phil Silvers's TV sergeant
- 19. Ephrons member
- 20. Vitamin-bottle fig.
- 21. Surface calculation
- 22. Futz around
- 24. Felt excited
- 26. ____ Valley (Reagan Library site)
- 27. Jed Clampett's find
- 28. Showered with TLC
- 32. Howard of satellite radio
- 35. It's chopped liver
- 36. "Dumb" comics girl
- 37. Didn't give way
- 38. Christmas Club member
- 39. They "try harder"
- 40. Double Stuf brand
- 41. Take, as advice
- 42. Word accompanying a slap
- 43. Long-distance trucker's route, maybe
- 45. Browne who created Hägar
- 46. Hockey heavy
- 47. Trouser that resembles a skirt
- 51. PTA part
- 54. Venetian blind part
- 55. Guffaw syllable
- 56. Run ____ (go berserk)
- 57. Fugitive in a 1937 French movie
- 60. "Check this out!"
- 61. Imitative sort
- 62. ____ up (rose on the hind legs)
- 63. Flying "A" competitor of old
- 64. Set of antlers
- 65. Dope's lack

DOWN

- 1. Ward off
- 2. Noted Big Apple restaurateur
- 3. Zesty Chinese cuisine
- 4. Manning of the gridiron
- 5. Enter quietly
- 6. Acted the mole
- 7. "____ Enchanted" (Hathaway movie)
- 8. ____ Hockey (classic table game)
- 9. Philandering spouse
- 10. 2001 Jake Gyllenhaal title role
- 11. Reassurance after a fall
- 12. Mucky stuff
- 13. Walk of Fame implant
- 18. Belgian tune smith Jacques
- 23. Little devil
- 25. Michael Douglas's "Wall Street" role
- 26. Filled beyond full
- 28. Unlike a dirt road
- 29. Go from pillar to post
- 30. Largest dwarf planet
- 31. Sprinter's event
- 32. "Scram, fly!"
- 33. U. of Maryland athlete
- 34. "Waiting for the Robert ____"
- 35. Hymn of praise
- 38. Score a 72, perhaps
- 42. Oil-change needs
- 44. "Apollo 13" director Howard
- 45. Like a Jekyll-Hyde personality
- 47. Bob Cratchit's job
- 48. Androcles extracted one
- 49. Makes off with
- 50. Decrease, as popularity
- 51. Like some ales
- 52. Andy's cohort, in old radio
- 53. Outback hoppers
- 54. Blueprint detail, for short
- 58. Clean Water Act org.
- 59. Fannie or Ginnie follower



Marines with the Center Magazine Area fill out issue and receipt documents for their light boxes at one of the unit's magazines Tuesday. Light boxes are containers of ammunition which do not hold the original amount of rounds an unopened box houses.



Cpl. Benjamin Smith, a storage team leader with the Center Magazine Area, inventories ammunition at the unit's magazine area Tuesday.

Supporting war fighters; CMA Marines do it best

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Each year, thousands of Marines, sailors, soldiers and foreign military personnel train throughout the Combat Center's ranges. Most training evolutions are conducted using live ammunition, which results in the need for thousands of rounds and explosives. Thanks to the hard work of the Marines at the Center Magazine Area, the mission of tracking, issuing and storing the ammunition for all training units is met.

Lt. Col. Brent Norquist, the officer in charge of CMA, said a boost in the number of units going through Enhanced Mojave Viper predeployment training has nearly doubled his Marines' workload. "There has been a 142 percent work increase as reflected in annual tonnage of ammunition moved through our CMA from 2007 to 2009," said Norquist, a Portland, Ore., native. "Due to the increased force level and tempo with EMV, the same organization is handling and moving nearly twice as much ammunition now as we did back in 2007." Norquist also said his Marines do not share some of the luxuries other Marines in Headquarters Battalion have. "CMA is far from the comforts of mainside [Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center]," he said. "There's no chow hall or Taco Bell out here. "CMA Marines do most of their daily work outside of the magazines, which are



Lance Cpls. Darryl Viscusi and Marion Davis, both team members with the Combat Center's Center Magazine Area, crump a band around a shipment of ammunition at the unit's staging area Tuesday. CMA is responsible for storing, tracking and issuing thousands of rounds of ammunition to units training throughout the Combat Center's ranges.

not climate controlled, on the exposed hardstands preparing and moving ammunition. This means most of their time is spent in the sun, wind, rain and even snow," he added. Cpl. Benjamin Smith, a storage team leader with CMA, said his Marines are pushed hard every week. "We [physically train] five days a week as a unit," said Smith, a Greenville, S.C., native. "Then we get to work at eight and usually stay until around six every night." Norquist said scheduling issues and other mishaps significantly contribute to his Marines' workload. "Almost weekly we have at least one unit who fails to meet the required timelines for submission of routine ammunition requests or turn-ins," he said. "Often, the ammo

required is critical to a unit training opportunity, or the unit needing to turn in ammunition is leaving on their flights back to the East Coast the next morning at five. The CMA Marines get the job done, however, they are often required to work late into the night or on unscheduled weekends to accommodate these last minute requirements." Despite the workload and long hours, Smith said being a CMA Marine is something he takes pride in. "Working here's not bad," Smith said. "We recently earned a [72-hour liberty period] for not having an alcohol-related incident for 120 days. So it's nice to see good behavior and hard work pay off." Lance Cpl. Michael K. Marra, a CMA team mem-

ber, agreed. "You know the hours we work are at times long, but there's a high level of motivation and camaraderie within our unit that keeps our spirits high," said Marra, a native of Chicago. "CMA gives 100 percent around the clock, whether it's with issuing ammunition or field day at the barracks." Norquist said he is also proud of his Marines, and appreciates the dedication and hard working characteristics his Marines possess. "Bottom line, we ride the Marines at the CMA pretty hard and put them away wet too many times," he said. "Despite this, they always safely and correctly get the mission done, and without their efforts, effective live-fire training aboard the Combat Center wouldn't be possible."

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Writing women back into the history books

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Women’s History Month begins in March with the theme of “Writing Women Back into History.” Female Marines have a long history of uphill battles and a determination to serve their country. Although some military occupational specialties remain closed to females, women are now accepted within more than 90 percent of all MOSs. “We have really come a long way from not being able to vote to being able to serve in our nation’s military,” said Jessie Pickett, an office automation clerk for Marine Corps Community Services, and a Twentynine Palms native, who served as a Marine postal clerk from 2002 to 2006. “It takes guts to be a female Marine, and to stand next to these guys, demand respect, and prove you can keep their respect.” The first women to enlist in

the Marine Corps served during World War I. As men were sent overseas to fight, females were needed for the first time in American history to help fill the military’s ranks. Pvt. Opha Mae Johnson was the first female to officially join the Marine Corps in 1918. More than 300 other females also enlisted, which helped fill the jobs male Marines left behind. Even though they were not allowed to vote, those females were still willing to serve their country. “For those women to join the Marine Corps in that era must have been very patriotic and very courageous,” said Gunnery Sgt. Pamela Dinkins, the administration chief for Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, a Cape Romano, Fla., native, and former drill instructor. “You’d have to imagine how difficult it was for them to fill that role.” Twenty-five years later, America was engaged in the second world war, and

women stepped up again to take charge of the homefront so their male counterparts could head to the frontlines. During that time, Lt. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, the 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps, recognized the females who served and activated the formation of the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve on Feb. 14, 1943, paving the road for females to become Marines in the future. “Those females who first joined the Marine Corps opened a pathway for us to serve our country with equal rights,” said Lance Cpl. Kelly Moreno, a clerk at the Consolidated Material Support Center, and Los Angeles native. “They proved we could do the same things guys can do. During that time, most females were in the mindset they couldn’t do anything, but those few stepped up and proved everyone wrong. They said, ‘we can do this despite our gender. We are equals.’”

History of Female ‘Firsts’

- 1918** – Pvt. Opha Mae Johnson becomes the first female to enlist in the Marine Corps Reserve.
- 1943** – Second Lt. Anne Lentz, becomes the first female commissioned officer.
- 1943** – Col. Ruth Cheney Streeter becomes the first director of Women Marine Reservists.
- 1943** – Pvt. Lucille McClarren becomes the first active duty enlisted woman.
- 1945** – The first detachment of female Marines arrives in Hawaii for duty.
- 1948** – Col. Katherine A. Towle becomes first Director of Women Marines.
- 1961** – Master Gunnery Sgt. Geraldine M. Moran becomes the first female Marine to be promoted E-9.
- 1965** – The Marine Corps assigns the first woman to active duty. Later, she became the first female Marine to serve under hostile fire.
- 1978** – Col. Margaret A. Brewer becomes the first female Marine general officer.
- 1979** – The Marine Corps first assigns women as embassy guards.
- 1985** – Col. Gail M. Reals becomes the first woman selected by a board of general officers to be promoted to brigadier general.
- 1992** – Brig. Gen. Carol A. Mutter assumed command of the 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan, as the first woman to command a Fleet Marine Force unit at the flag level.
- 1993** – Second Lt. Sarah Deal becomes the first female Marine selected for Naval aviation training.
- 1993** – The Marine Corps opens pilot positions to women.
- 1994** – Brig. Gen. Mutter became the first female major general in the Marine Corps and the senior woman on active duty in the armed services.
- 1995** – The first female Marine pilot pins on Naval flight wings.
- 1996** – Lt. Gen. Mutter became the first female Marine, and the second woman in the history of the armed services, to wear three stars.

MCAGCC meets with MUSD reps



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Combat Center Marines and their families participate in a question and answer session with members of the Morongo Unified School District Wednesday during a town hall meeting at the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group auditorium. This was the first town hall meeting attended by Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, III, the Combat Center commanding general, and Sgt. Maj. Harrison L. Tanksley, the installation sergeant major, who addressed a number of hot topics concerning the installation and the community.

SBA offers disaster assistance to Calif. residents, businesses

PRESS RELEASE
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SACRAMENTO – Low-interest federal disaster loans are now available in California for residents and business owners affected by the severe winter storms which generated heavy rain, snow and high winds causing flooding, debris flows and mudslides as of Jan. 17, said U.S. Small Business Administration administrator Karen G. Mills. “The U. S. Small Business Administration is strongly committed to providing the most effective and customer-focused response possible to assist California residents and businesses with federal disaster loans,” Mills said.

“Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA.” “Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the disaster,” said Alberto G. Alvarado, SBA’s Acting Regional Administrator. Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair, or replace

damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to homeowners and businesses to help with the cost of making improvements which protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future. For small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage. The filing deadline to return applications for property damage is April 19. For more information, visit <http://www.sba.gov>.



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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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Spirit and Truth Worship Center
Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

Service Times:
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Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

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29 Palms, Ca. 92277
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Acts 2:38
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Baby Basics Class teaches necessities to new parents

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

When a baby is on the way, the news usually comes with excitement and joy. However, soon-to-be parents may also feel uneasy and have a lot of questions, but are unsure of whom to ask.

The New Parent Support Program has set up a wide range of classes, including their Baby Basics Class, to help active duty service members and their families learn as much as they can about caring for newborns.

Baby Basics is a day-long class held once a month. The class focuses on an array of topics, and the instructors answer any questions expecting parents may have.

The instructors of Baby Basics explain the importance of a healthy diet during a pregnancy, show a video of three different births and strap men with the “Empathy Belly,” which is a weighted pull over that accurately portrays how a pregnancy feels.

“There are two steel balls weighing down the sides of the belly which make it feel

like an elbow or knee of a baby poking you,” said Donna Templeton, the New Parent Support Program manager, and a registered nurse. “The guys who volunteer have to wear the belly all day. They get to experience

Combat Center have gone down since we have begun these classes,” said Templeton, a Memphis, Tenn., native.

Janet Kron, a home visitor for New Parent Support Program, said the classes also cover post-partum depression, “baby blues,” and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

“We emphasize the importance of putting a baby to sleep on their back so they can breathe,” said Kron, a Franklin, N.C., native.

During the second half of the class, instructors lay out dolls where participants can practice picking up, swaddling and diapering a baby.

“We have the guys raise their hands with how much experience they have regarding handling babies,” said Christina Long, an administrative assistant with the program. “We choose the other guys who have never diapered or sponge-bathed a baby to work with the dolls.”

By the end of the class, the participants have every opportunity to ask any questions regarding their upcoming parenthood. For more information, contact the New Parent Support Program at 830-7622.

2010 Baby Basics schedule

- March 11
- April 8
- May 6
- June 3
- July 8
- Aug. 5
- Sept. 2
- Oct. 7
- Nov. 4
- Dec. 2

what it feels like to have a big belly in the way when they try to sit down, stand up or even tie their shoes.”

The California Highway Patrol also sends an officer to speak to the class about Shaken Baby Syndrome and seat belt safety.

“The Shaken Baby Syndrome cases aboard the

Iwo Jima sacrifice remembered



CPL. PRISCILLA SNEDEN

ARLINGTON, Va. – Lance Cpl. Derrick Stevens, an administration clerk assigned to Marine Barracks 8th and I in Washington, D.C., awaits his cue to hoist the officer flag at the annual commemoration ceremony recognizing the flag raisings on Iwo Jima in 1945. Marines, past and present, attended the ceremony, Feb. 23, in remembrance of the historic World War II battle at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington. The ceremony honored the sacrifices of the Marines and sailors who fought the epic battle and the fallen Marines of all wars, to whom the memorial is dedicated.

CHOSIN, from A1

those men who were isolated in the frozen mountains of North Korea, relentlessly attacked by hordes of enemy soldiers can tell this story.”

Time was against Iglesias and Sattler; the youngest Chosin veteran they spoke with was 77 years old. One of those interviewed, Glenn Beckum, who served with 1st Motor Transport

Battalion during the Chosin campaign, died in November 2009.

Normally reluctant to discuss their wartime experiences, Chosin veterans and their interviewers bonded by the ties shared having undergone the crucible of combat, Sattler said.

One hour and twenty minutes in length, “Chosin” combines interview footage with photos and archival video. Many of those

interviewed provided personal photos and video, most of which have been unseen for almost 60 years, Iglesias said.

The documentary is currently in the post-production phase. Iglesias and Sattler are planning to show “Chosin” at independent film festivals, with a release date in time for the 60th anniversary of the battle. For more information, visit <http://www.frozenchosin.com>.



GUNNERY SGT. CHRISTOPHER J. RANDAZZO

Former Cpl. Daniel Sharkey displays photos taken of himself as a young Marine. Sharkey participated in the Chosin Reservoir campaign as an Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company representative attached to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and was among the first to be interviewed for the documentary, “Chosin.”

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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, from Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, dash across a Tactical Modular Foot Bridge at the Combat Center's new training venue, Op Barma, Feb. 18. These Marines, along with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, were the first to train at Op Barma, which has been integrated into the Enhanced Mojave Viper predeployment training package.

TRAINING, from A1

Rushing said. "This will enable them to spend more time conducting counterinsurgency operations during their deployment."

Rushing said the installation was thankful to those who did the labor to make the new range.

"[Combat Logistics Battalion] 5 did excellent work to build the compound on short notice and under an ambitious deadline," he said. "We needed them to have it ready to train Marines by the next month and, despite a torrential rain which destroyed much of their work, they came through in the end ahead of schedule. We're tremendously grateful to them for what they did."

Along with help building the compound, various units here also play a hand in running it, Rushing added.

"Base [Explosive Ordnance Disposal], robotics people and the base's Engineering Center of Excellence personnel all pitched in to train the Marines," he said. "We're really thankful for everything they do; their efforts increase the level of instruction dramatically."

Rushing elaborated on the different lanes within the range and why they are so useful.

"There are six total lanes in Op Barma, as well as academic classes that directly correlate with each practical application," he said, referring to the different training evolutions in the compound. "The main focus is on mobility and dismounted counterIED training, but exercise force Marines are exposed to other, related training as well."

"They get a lot of great experience with temporary bridges, the V-sweep lane, and the Compact Metal Detector lane," he said. "Marines get familiarized with the Guardian System and the PackBot as well, which is a tracked robot with two cameras and a gripper claw which is operated with a [PlayStation 2] controller. They also learn what a homemade explosives lab looks like so they can identify it in country."

Rushing went into more detail about just how vital their familiarization with the equipment and tactics were.

"Equipment like the robots and Guardian System aren't something every Marine is going to be taught to use expertly," he said. "But they'll learn a lot by just getting to see and use it at the station."

"The homemade explosives lab is very important too," he said. "If they know what to look for, they stand a better opportunity of preserving the lives of their Marines and setting EOD up for success when they are called into a suspected HME situation."

Every Marine gets crucial exposure to the training, with the expectation that a few select individuals from each company will be given additional training throughout Enhanced Mojave Viper to

bring them to a higher level of proficiency, Rushing added.

Leaders recognized the value of what their Marines were being taught, and expressed their enthusiasm over the training.

"What I think is most important here is the very, very complete training," said Capt. Francisco X. Zavala, the commanding officer of Co. I, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, and a native of Washington, D.C. "Marines take a lot from the hands-on skills they learn here."

Zavala said the procedures practiced at the Combat Center precisely mirror those they will use overseas.

"Everything they're doing here at Twentynine Palms, they'll be doing in Afghanistan," he said. "Particularly learning about how to spot homemade explosives and labs – that is very important for us to spot and stop before it gets too bad."

Zavala's Marines unknowingly echoed their captain's thoughts about the groundbreaking training they received.

"This stuff is new, exciting and we're all taking a lot out of it," said Pfc. Shane Kucera, a rifleman with Co. I, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, and a native of Jacksonville, Fla. "We're really building on our core competency to prepare for Afghanistan. It's not going to be easy over there."

Now that Op Barma has been integrated into Enhanced Mojave Viper, Marines and sailors deploying to Afghanistan can receive quality training on a variety of counter-IED scenarios, which has the potential to save numerous lives in country.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

The other day I read that for the first time ever a woman had won a bowling tour title, the 45th Tournament of Champions. Her name is Kelly Kulick. She is only 32 and her future in bowling should be exceptional after winning one of professional bowling's most prestigious events.

I asked Rob Fleck, proprietor of The Strike Zone in Twentynine Palms, and arguably the finest bowler in the High Desert (average 218), what he thought about Kulick's victory. He was not surprised. It was just a matter of time. There are many great women bowlers. More than that, Rob, a superior bowling instructor had watched the live telecast of Kulick win and thought she was completely in control of herself and cool under pressure. In fact, he had actually met her some time ago when they participated in a tournament together.

Incidentally, Rob must really be a fine instructor, just last Saturday his 16 year old daughter Elizabeth had a great 253/600 series!

I enjoy reading the bowling scores in the local paper each week; I know most of the people. They are of all ages and physical conditions and they are having a great time together.

Rob Fleck, the pro-bowling shop proprietor at the Bowladium is there to help you in anything you need: bowling balls, shoes, shirts, lessons, etc. You can reach him at 1-760-218-3235. He is also a great guy and a tough minded optimist.

This message sponsored by:

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Steering the relation ship

BRIAN P. SMITH
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

When does “Absence makes the heart grow fonder” turn into “Out of sight, out of mind?”

The first deployment, or the fifth, can put strain and stress on a couple. Relationships can withstand many things, but lengthy separations of time and distance aren't always the calmest waters.

When a deployment or an extended separation comes up, you make plans to cover the basics and take on extra responsibilities. You adjust your schedule, the children's schedules, set budgets and make vacation or holiday plans. The skills and tools you need to keep the household afloat might be different than when you had a full crew. Ongoing adjustments can strain even the most resilient person. A family experiencing the physical and emotional drain of navigating with a deployed spouse can start to feel adrift.

With each new turn along the deployment cycle, it will take time for everyone in the family to regain their sea legs. Be prepared for short bursts of depression, anxiety, stress and anger. These are all common, normal reactions to stressful situations. When your day-to-day life and relationships are affected by these sinking feelings, there is support.

Help weathering the storm
Trained chaplains, doctors and counselors are available for many types of help and support. Some services are available at your local military facility. Through TRICARE, you can visit a local, civilian behavioral health provider. Find a provider at <http://www.triwest.com>. It's easy to use your benefits—family members are eligible to self-refer for the first eight individual counseling visits

each fiscal year. Active duty service members and eligible family members can even access counselors online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TriWest Online Care offers short-term, non-medical counseling over the phone and through a chat feature at <http://www.triwest.com/onlinecare>. Eligibility requirements for this service are on the Web site. Over the Internet, you can also videoconference using Skype™ with a counselor. **Map, compass, GPS – chart a course**

When you find yourself in a place you've never been before and you can't get your bearings, it might be helpful to talk to someone who's been there before. Other spouses and family members may be able to help you ride the ups and downs during a deployment. TriWest can always help you find more options for help and support, too, over the phone at 1-888-TRIWEST and online at <http://www.triwest.com/onlinecare>.

Families like these also share their experiences in the Help From Home video series, a post-deployment resource available as streaming video at <http://www.triwest.com/helpfromhome>, or available to order as a free two-DVD set throughout TRICARE's 21-state western region.

Whether you're counting down to a deployment or a homecoming, resources are available to help you with your new normal and set your relationship back on the right course.

Offer a salute to your TRICARE doctor

■ TriWest Healthcare Alliance seeks stories of gratitude for Doctors' Day

ELIZABETH HILLESTAD
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

PHOENIX – In honor of National Doctors' Day March 30, TriWest is offering an opportunity for service members and their families to say “thanks” to the TRICARE doctors who've made a positive difference in their lives by visiting <http://www.triwest.com/DrDay>, or the Facebook page “Salute Your TRICARE Doctor 2010.” TriWest is accepting submissions through March 12.

From annual exams and immunizations, to surgical care and condition management, TriWest Healthcare Alliance's network of more than 150,000 doctors provide

2.7 million TRICARE West Region service members, retirees and their families with exceptional health care.

As the nation prepares to commemorate Doctors' Day March 30, TriWest joins its TRICARE beneficiaries in thanking and showing appreciation to the men and women who don scrubs or white coats to care for our military community.

“Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines can remain focused on the job at hand because they trust TRICARE providers stand ready to take care of their families and loved ones,” said TriWest president and chief executive officer David J. McIntyre, Jr. “Doctors' Day is a great opportunity to show apprecia-

tion for those who care for the families of those who defend our nation. They are truly heroes serving heroes.”

TRICARE providers must undergo stringent credentialing to ensure beneficiaries receive the highest quality of care they are entitled to receive. This also means more flexibility for beneficiaries in receiving the care when and where they need it and an exceptional level of care and customer service.

Doctors' Day was first observed March 30, 1933 - the anniversary of the first use of a general anesthetic in surgery. President George H.W. Bush signed legislation establishing National Doctors' Day in 1991.

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9	8	5	1	3	2	6	7	4				
1	7	9	8	2	5	4	6	3				
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For More Information Contact:

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1401 North Palm Canyon, Suite 100
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Phone: (760) 325-4590
Fax: (760) 322-6789
Email: msresearchpeg@earthlink.net



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
Maj. Seth MacCutcheon, a team officer in charge with the Combat Center's Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a gold star in lieu of second award during a ceremony outside MCTOG's headquarters Feb. 18.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
Marines with the Combat Center's Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group stand at parade rest during a ceremony where Maj. Seth MacCutcheon was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a gold star in lieu of second award at MCTOG's headquarters Feb. 18.

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BRONZE, from A1

sense-oriented person,” said Martinez, a Phoenix native. “He knows what he wants from his Marines, and he doesn’t waste their time. He draws the best out of everyone he’s around.”

Martinez and MacCutcheon also deployed to the Democratic Republic of Georgia together in October to support the training of foreign militaries.

Bree Lepke, MacCutcheon’s girlfriend, said she was proud to see him be awarded for his hard work.

“He’s really intense and focused in anything he does,” said Lepke, a Rochelle, Ill., native. “He’s always concerned about his team.”

As MacCutcheon was congratulated by the last of his friends and coworkers, the atmosphere at MCTOG returned to the mission of training warriors for combat.

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B1

Combat Center Varsity Soccer Team goes head-to-head with Palm Springs youth



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A. J. Wilson, a goalkeeper for the Combat Center's Varsity Soccer Team, clears the ball from his goal during a scrimmage against the Palms Springs Desert Raiders at Missions Springs Park in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., Saturday.

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

DESERT HOT SPRINGS, Calif. — The Combat Center's Varsity Soccer Team played their first game against the Palm Springs Desert Raiders in a scrimmage match at 3 p.m. Saturday at Mission Springs Park in Desert Hot Springs, Calif.

The game lasted about an hour and resulted in a 2-1 victory for the Combat Center.

"The team was formed a couple of weeks ago, so this is a good opportunity to get a feel of one another and learn how they respond to different situations," said Ian Anthony, the head coach of the Combat Center's Varsity Soccer Team. "It is an opportunity to get some experience and work on what I have

told them in the practices."

The teams played each other last season, when the head coach of the Palm Springs team called the Marine Corps Community Services Sports Department looking for a match.

"The first game was just a fluke," said John Hall, the head coach for the Desert Raiders.

"I was trying to find out if Twentynine Palms had a team similar to ours, and it turned into a scrimmage against the base team."

That first game evolved into a series of scrimmages, which helped both teams gain more experience and practice good sportsmanship.

"Before every game, I make sure my players know to play

See **SOCCER**, B2



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Players with the Combat Center's Varsity Soccer Team and the Palm Springs Desert Raiders shake hands after the game.

Spring season brings handful of youth sports

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports program here is accepting registrations for their upcoming spring season.

Beginning in April and throughout the season, children will be able to take part in Start Smart Baseball, Start Smart Tennis, 4-year-old T-Ball, 5 and 6-year-old T-Ball, 7 and 8-year-old Coach Pitch, Tennis, Junior Golf, and Track and Field.

The Start Smart programs are

parent-child interactive meets which teach younger children the basics, such as holding, throwing or kicking a ball. They meet one night a week for six weeks.

"The Start Smart Program is a wonderful way to get children interested in a sport at a young age," said Courtney Chambers, a recreation assistant for Youth Sports, and a native of Twentynine Palms.

"Children will learn at early ages how to work as a team, and it also gives them a chance to make friends."

Start Smart sports cost \$15,

which includes a shirt, a parent manual on what to expect during the program and an award at the end of the season. Start Smart Baseball and Tennis will accept 20 children each. Registrations end March 19.

The T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues are noncompetitive leagues where the children learn how to hit, run and catch. The 4-year-old T-Ball league only plays scrimmages and meets once a week. The 5 and 6-year-old T-Ball league meets twice a week and participates

in actual games.

Coach Pitch steps up the heat and has children swinging at live pitches to help get them ready for a baseball team. Although the league is non-competitive, the children still participate in a game every week.

The T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues are \$25, and all the children will receive a full uniform and an award at the end of the season.

"When the season is winding down, we will actually let some of the children pitch during the games," said Joe Rosselli, the youth

and community recreational manager here, and a Shenandoah, Pa., native. "It is important these children begin to learn the difference between a live pitch and a pitching machine. This league will help them with that."

Tennis accepts children ages 7 to 18. They are screened and placed into different groups depending on their skill level. Throughout the season, the children will learn the basics needed to

See **YOUTH**, B3

Lt. Dan Band coming soon

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will return to the Combat Center for their sixth annual concert March 13 at the Sunset Cinema.

Last year, more than 800 service members, families and civilian workers packed

the movie theater to participate in the free concert.

"This event is becoming a must see for anyone at Twentynine Palms," said Kelley Coe, the special events program manager for Marine Corps Community Services here.

"We are really excited about the event, because every year the event gets bigger

and more people show up."

Coe said this year they are running different advertisements to let more people know about the concert, including a VIP package anyone can sign up for at <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

The Lt. Dan Band performs a variety of songs from artists such as, Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Police, Lee Ann Womack, Linkin Park and Marc Cohn, according to their Web site, <http://www.ltdanband.com>.

Last year, the band performed several American classics and even encouraged interactive participation with the audience, Coe said.

"We love coming here," Sinise said during a previous interview. "It's a great feeling to come out and help our defenders. You guys deserve it."

For more information about the Lt. Dan Band, log on to <http://www.ltdanband.com>. For more information on MCCS events, log on to <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Gary Sinise, Lt. Dan Band co-founder and bass guitarist, rocks out on his bass guitar during the band's performance at the Combat Center's Sunset Cinema March 16, 2008.

Boy Scouts celebrates 100 years



LANCE CPL. BENJAMIN CRILLY

Gunnery Sgt. D. J. Ault, an instructor at Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, and former Boy Scout, congratulates members of Cub Scout Pack 78 during the Bear Rank Awards Ceremony at the Blue & Gold Banquet Monday at building 1707. More than 15 Cub Scouts were recognized during the ranks award ceremony for their work in scouting since June. Pack 78 and Boy Scouts of America emphasize parental involvement in their children's scouting experience while earning ranks and merit badges. The Cubs meet at the Scout Hut located across from Carl's Jr. and behind the Thrift Store parking lot. Any parents of boys, ages 5-11 interested in getting involved in Cub Scouts, should contact Melissa Burke at 910-9564 or by e-mail at burkemc@aol.com.



Local Events

Dave Gleason & The Country Ways
Description: The country singer and guitarist performs
When: 7:30 p.m., Friday and 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>.

Theatre: The Purr-loined Parlor
Description: A comedy by local playwright Wendy Cohen
When: 8 p.m., Saturdays, 2:30 p.m., Sundays 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>.

Music: Drum Circle
Description: Drum circle led by Sam Sloneker
When: 7 to 9 p.m., Sunday
Where: Joshua Tree Retreat & Event Center
59700 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree
For more information call 365-8371 or visit
<http://www.jtrcc.org>.

Sunday Brunch Music with Michael Callan
Description: Acoustic old school blues
When: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sundays
Where: The 29 Palms Inn
73950 Inn Avenue, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 367-3505 or visit
<http://www.29palmsinn.com>.

Lower Desert

Music: Cheap Trick
Description: The power pop band performs
When: 9 p.m., 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>.

Improv Comedy Series
Description: The comedy of Mike Burton & Kenny Kane
When: 8 to 11:30 p.m., Saturday
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sinbad
Description: The comedian performs stand up
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 6
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit
<http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Music: Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons
Description: The Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame legend performs his classic hits
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, March 20
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: Chicago
Description: The rock 'n' roll legends perform
When: 8 p.m., Friday, March 26
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Feb. 26
1:30 and 5:30 p.m. – That Guy comedy show
9 p.m. – Up in the Air, Rated R
Midnight – Daybreakers, Rated R

Saturday, Feb. 27
11 a.m. – Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Leap Year, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Sherlock Holmes, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Nine, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Precious, Rated R

Sunday, Feb. 28
2 p.m. – The Spy Next Door, Rated PG
6 p.m. – The Book of Eli, Rated R
9 p.m. – Legion, Rated R

Monday, March 1
6 p.m. – Daybreakers, Rated R
9 p.m. – Youth in Revolt, Rated R

Tuesday, March 2
6 p.m. – Sherlock Holmes, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Up in the Air, Rated R

Wednesday, March 3
6 p.m. – Leap Year, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Nine, Rated PG-13

Thursday, March 4
6 p.m. – The Lovely Bones, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Precious, Rated R

Mel Gibson stars in thriller ‘Edge of Darkness’

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

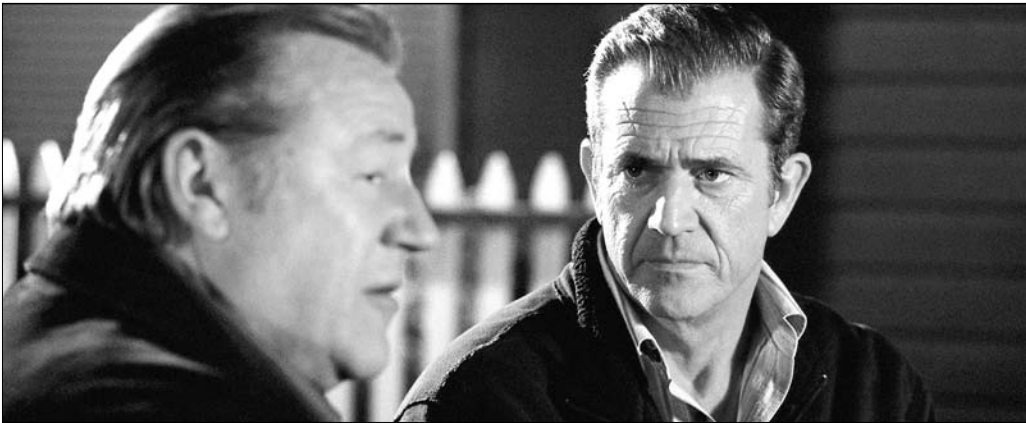
In Hollywood, there’s no such thing as an un-sinister conspiracy.

The deeper, the darker, the more deceptive and devilish, the better. And Mel Gibson burrows down into a murky rabbit hole indeed in “Edge of Darkness,” a revenge thriller based on an award-winning British TV series from the 1980s.

Gibson plays Tom Craven, a Boston homicide detective devastated when his visiting daughter is killed by a drive-by shooting. His fellow cops think the shot-gun blast was meant for their veteran coworker, but Craven’s not so sure. A little digging around uncovers his daughter’s involvement in an activist group trying to bring attention to the misdeeds of an energy corporation with some sinister, extremely troubling, and high-level ties to the U.S. government.

Could the government be involved in the assassination of Craven’s daughter?

That’s what mad Mel spends most of the movie trying to ferret out. You won’t be surprised, as he dives into this big can o’ conspiracy worms, to find sleazy



COURTESY PHOTO

Mel Gibson burrows down into a murky rabbit hole indeed in “Edge of Darkness,” a revenge thriller based on an award-winning British TV series from the 1980s.

corporate honchos, shady government operatives, rotten cops, corrupt politicians and some justifiably paranoid people who are terrified to share what they know.

There’s no direct link to the title “Edge of Darkness.” No character says, for instance, “We’re definitely on the edge of darkness now, man.” But the movie spends a good deal of time (and dialogue) pondering death as inevitable and unavoidable, a veil of unknown darkness on the other side of life.

Gibson’s character knows he walking on that edge as he tracks his daughter’s killers on his dangerous mission of vigilante justice.

British actor Ray Winstone, who still bears the imposing, tough-guy frame of the boxer he used to be before taking off the gloves and taking up drama, plays a character that might even be regarded as a sort of angel of death. His covert, government-sanctioned “fixer” makes problems disappear by whatever means necessary. At one point, Gibson’s character tells him he doesn’t want to “walk into the dark” with him, knowing what would likely befall him if he did.

But don’t mistake this for a deep cinematic chat-fest about the mortal coil and what happens when it gets shuffled off. The filmmakers know what audiences will

come to see, and they give it to them: Mel Gibson in full get-even mode, orchestrated to a bloody crescendo of pulpy revenge that cuts a final swath through a pileup of confusing details, tough-guy one-liners, predictable plot turns and only-in-the-movies coincidence.

It’s been eight years since Gibson’s last starring movie role in the alien-invasion thriller “Signs.” He might have chosen a better and brighter vehicle for his return trip to the big screen, but watching his character’s slow-burn anger unfurl into full, get-even grandeur keeps the crowd-pleasing juice stirring in this compound-conspiracy cocktail.

SOCCER, from B1

hard, but keep it as clean as possible,” Anthony said. “These games give the players something to do and keep them out of trouble.”

Saturday’s game started off slow, but rapidly became a highly competitive showdown.

“The biggest problem with both teams was communication at the start of the game, but the Marines were able to fix the problem first

with their yelling,” said Roger Rice, the regional commissioner for the American Youth Soccer Organization.

The Combat Center was able to score another goal before halftime. However, in the second half, the Palms Springs players had caught on to the Combat Center’s tactics, resulting in a fierce battle between the two teams.

“This is a great experience for the kids,” Hall said. “Not only are they gaining great experience by playing

the base but also how to be good sports.”


Although the game was highly competitive, the Combat Center came out ahead with a 2-1 victory. The players of both teams

then met in the middle of the field to congratulate each other on a game well played. Afterward, the two teams gathered together for a barbecue in a final show of good sportsmanship.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Juan Akell, a defender with the Combat Center’s Varsity Soccer team, slips past players from the Palm Springs Desert Raiders during a scrimmage at Missions Springs Park in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., Saturday.



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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


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Combat Center Sports



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
James Liccardi, Lollygaggers, puts everything he has behind a throw.

Intramural Dodgeball standings		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Red Dot	7	3
Jive Turkeys	7	3
Bad Karma	7	3
Hospital	7	3
Cranial Crashers	6	4
Sitting Ducks	5	5
Scrubbs	4	6
Worst	3	7
Plaza Sesamo	4	6
Lollygaggers	0	10



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
Lamarcus Coats [left], a player with Plaza Sesamo, gets some air during a Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League match against the Lollygaggers at the East Gym Wednesday.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
Lollygaggers players practice "the five D's of dodgeball" during a Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League match against Plaza Sesamo at the East Gym Wednesday.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS
MCCES All Stars and VMU--1 players battle for control of the ball during Wednesday night's Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League game at the East Gym. At the end of the game, MCCES All Stars remained undefeated and handed VMU-1 its sixth straight loss.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Andrew Messier
Hometown: Port, Okla.
Unit: Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital
Job title: Cast technician
Recognition: Member of the Hospital team in the Commanding General's Intramural Dodgeball League.
Favorite aspect of the sport: "It's a big stress reliever to use pent up aggression on someone else."
Advice for aspiring players: "Remember the five Ds of dodgeball: dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge."

2010 Intramural Basketball standings		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
3rd CEB	7	0
Tatitlek	6	0
MCCES All-Stars	6	0
Ole School	5	1
1st Tanks	4	2
IPAC	3	2
MCCES A	3	2
CLB-7	3	3
MWSS-374	2	3
MCCES B	1	4
NHTP	2	4
3/4	2	5
VMU-1	1	6
CLD	0	13

YOUTH, from B1

play competitively. Throughout the season they will compete against their fellow players in round-robin matches.

Tennis meets twice a week and is \$20. Each child receives a shirt, an award and a team pizza party.

Junior Golf is for 8 to 18-year-olds who are still in high school. The children must have their own clubs and have some experience. They will be split into two groups, the Birdies or the Eagles, depending on their skill level. The children will also receive instructions from a Professional Golfers Association player, and a hat and shirt. It costs \$55.

Track and Field is for children ages 6 to 14. The group meets twice a week and can travel up to 200 miles for a meet. The participants who qualify in a meet will move on to the next one. The children can participate in the 100, 200, 400 and 1600 meter runs, the softball throw and the long jump.

Track and Field costs \$20, and each child receives a tank top, shorts and an award. Certain meets have additional participation fees.

"Playing in any sport will help a child gain friends and boost self-confidence," said Misty Baladez, a Youth Sports coach, and a Burnet, Texas native. "That helps the children a lot since they aren't clueless about what is going on, and when they know what they are doing they are more likely to stick with it."

For more information about upcoming Youth Sports, call 830-8421.

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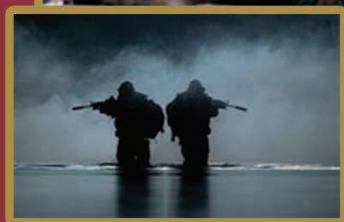
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