

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MAY 21, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 20

Golden Guardian shakes Combat Center



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Tuesday at 7:01 a.m., the San Andreas Fault suddenly awakened sending seismic energy waves out in all directions. Strong shaking, lasting 20-45 seconds, reached the San Bernardino Valley causing death destruction and mayhem. California was finally experiencing "The Big One."

Notionally, of course. This was only the beginning of Golden Guardian, an elaborate annual exercise taking part at the Combat Center Tuesday through Thursday.

Golden Guardian is a California-wide emergency response exercise designed to test the response capabilities of installation personnel during a catastrophic event.

While other organizations in California used Golden Guardian to test their abilities to react to a terrorist attack, the Combat Center chose to go in a different direction.

"Chances of an earthquake hitting Twentynine Palms are a lot greater than a terrorist incident at a port like the rest of California is training for, so we need to know how to do this properly," said Col. Tim Green, the assistant

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Navy Lt. Juliana Palumba, the acting triage officer, reads the dog tags of a simulated casualty during a mass fatality scenario at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Thursday in conjunction with Exercise Golden Guardian, the California-wide exercise. The Combat Center responded to a mock 7.8 magnitude earthquake Tuesday through Thursday, to assess the communication and response capabilities of the emergency operations center.

See **GOLDEN, A4**

Marines, Romanian forces partner for evacuation test

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
BLACK SEA ROTATIONAL FORCE

BABADAG TRAINING AREA, Romania — Marines and sailors deployed with Black Sea Rotational Force, in close partnership with Romanian Air and Naval forces, put their budding partnership to the test and came out on top after successfully executing a casualty evacuation rehearsal exercise May 14. "The Romanian forces had remarkable responsive-

ness," said Lt. Col. Tom Gordon, the commander of the Marines and sailors deployed to Romania for Black Sea Rotational Force. "I was extremely impressed. I have full trust and confidence that, should a Marine, sailor or partner-nation military member be injured during training, the Romanian forces are fully prepared to provide top-rate care."

For the exercise, the Romanian Air Force evacuated a casualty with a simu-

lated gunshot wound from the Babadag Training Area to a hospital in Constanta, Romania, via a Romanian IAR-330 "Puma" helicopter. The Romanian Naval Forces provided additional coordination on the ground to ensure the exercise went smoothly. Gordon said the exercise demonstrated the ability for multiple branches of the Romanian military to work with Marines as a

See **TEST, A3**



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines and sailors with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, transport a simulated casualty to a Romanian Air Force helicopter during a casualty evacuation rehearsal at Romania's Babadag Training Area May 14. The Marines, in close partnership with Romania's air and naval forces, tested their response time in transporting a casualty from the training area to a hospital in Constanta, Romania.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

U.S. Navy Capt. Ann Bobeck, the new commander of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, speaks during her change of command ceremony at the hospital Friday. She took over the position from U.S. Navy Capt. Don Cenon B. Albia.

New Naval hospital commander renews expectations of excellence

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Navy Capt. Ann Bobeck assumed command of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital from Navy Capt. Don Cenon B. Albia during a change of command ceremony at the hospital May 14. In a speech, Rear Adm. Donald R. Gintzing praised Albia while welcoming Bobeck.

"The performance of this command has been exemplarily, a top per-

former in a variety of categories," said Rear Adm. Donald R. Gintzing, a guest speaker at the ceremony. "It is recognized not only within all of Navy medicine, but within the military health system as one of the finest hospitals in the entire military. That's a reflection of what my shipmates have done, but it is also a deep and personal reflection of Capt. Albia's leadership."

During the course of Albia's command, the hospital has performed bril-

liantly, providing care to 52,000 Marines, sailors, retirees and their family members, Gintzing said.

"When I took command over two years ago, I took the goal to continue to support a leadership tradition and to make outstanding medical care the norm," Albia said. "There's no doubt in my mind that you will continue on the path of personal and professional excellence under Capt.

See **HOSPITAL, A8**



Dip 'n' drop ~ See A3



Building partnerships ~ See A8



Pickup sticks ~ See B1



Kickin' it ~ See B3

Stress on your schedule?

BRIAN P. SMITH
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Military families can seem to eat, sleep and breathe stress. Some days, it can just feel like...oh, hold on a second.

Hello? Air conditioning's going to break at 10 p.m.? On a Saturday? That doesn't work for me at all. How about at 8 a.m. on a Tuesday? Oh, hold on—I have to take this other call.

Hello? Toddler with a fever and an ear infection? No, sorry. That won't work. I'm all booked up until next Thursday. Thanks for calling.

Challenges and conflicts don't check your calendar. Stress doesn't clock out at five, doesn't take a sick day and never asks when you're free. You can't always clear time during daylight hours to focus on your struggles. Those times when you need to talk to someone – day or night – you might not even know where to start. TriWest Online Care gives you the support you need, available over the phone and online, when you need it.

Call, click or chat 24/7/365. Anytime of the day or night, when it's convenient to you, contact TriWest Online Care over the phone at 1-888-TRIWEST or through online chat at triwest.com/onlinecare for behavioral health information and crisis intervention.

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- Those eligible for the Transitional Assistance Management Program
- Family members over the age of 18.

You won't need a referral or prior authorization to talk to someone, and you can use the service as many times as needed, from anywhere with an Internet connection and, a webcam. If medical support or a higher level of care is needed, they can help you find the proper services.

Stress is a part of life. Whether you start to feel overwhelmed at 2 p.m. or 2 a.m., TriWest Online Care has resources available to connect you with the support you need.

Centerspeak

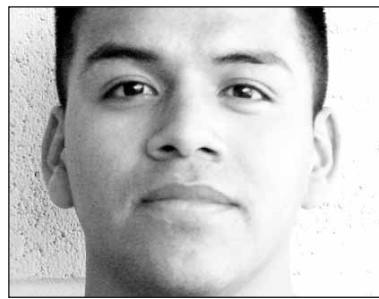
What is your favorite movie and why?

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



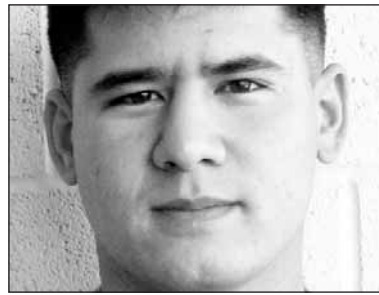
LANCE CPL. TRAVIS HARTMAN
COMPANY B, 3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

"The Hangover, because I can relate, and it's funny."



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS ROGELIO SALDANA
COMPANY E, 3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

"Black Hawk Down, I've liked it since I was in high school. The medical gave me an interest in becoming a corpsman."



CPL. JOHN THELL
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Princess Bride, I grew up with it, and it's a good story."

Hot Topics

MOTORCYCLE REGS

Motorcycles on base are required to have two rearview mirrors. CCO 1630.8d (Motor Vehicle and Traffic Regulations) states "Privately owned motorcycles shall not be operated on a Marine Corps installation without a rearview mirror mounted on each side of the handlebars or fairing."

CO-ED SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

The Sports Department is looking for women to play on a varsity traveling co-ed softball team. The team is open to active duty service members and their families, and civilian employees working on the base. For more information, call 830-6857.

SCION BATTLE OF THE BUILDS

Scion, in conjunction with MWR and MCCA, is offering a car design contest for all active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel. The top designers from each base will be given money to build their dream cars and fly to Vegas for the final contest in November. Participants must be in teams of 5-8. Registration deadline is June 11. Go to <http://www.battleofthebuilds.com> for additional details.

SIX FLAGS MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY & PICNIC

Six Flags Magic Mountain is hosting a Military Appreciation Day & Picnic July 3. Ticket price is \$29.75 and includes a fully-catered all-you-can-eat buffet style meal. For tickets, visit the MCCA ITT office at the exchange or call 830-6163 ext. 252.

Marine Corps History

May 23, 1988

The V-22 Osprey made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility.

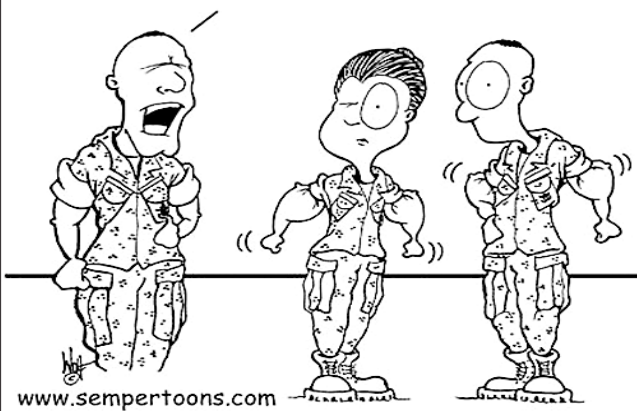


Report any suspicious activity immediately which may be a sign of terrorism, including:

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

830-3937

"Ahhhh, Yes... It's that time of year when Marines suffer from "I-Think-I-am-big-but-I-am-not-my-sleeves-are-so-tight-I-can't-feel-my-arms-and-I-am-out-of-regs" Syndrome!"



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

SUDOKU #1816

1		2		3	4			
		2	5		6			
7	6		3					8
	4		7	3				5
	9						3	
2			6	8			7	
6				7			9	1
		8			4	5		
	1	5			9			2

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

School Liaison Information

Question: What can I do if my child is behind in school?

Answer: If you think your child is behind, you have several options. The first is to work with their teacher. Find out what you can do at home to help them catch up. Consider finding a tutor or other outside help for the student. Then, work with the school. The school counselor is your advocate in this arena.

Make an appointment with the counselor and inquire about options. If you and the teacher notice that your child is having specific difficulties, it might be time to consider having your child tested for a disability or specific learning issue. The teacher and school should be able to help with that decision. Most importantly, you have to work with your child. Find out all you can about what they are doing, where and how they are falling behind and how they are feeling about school. Once again, you are your child's advocate, and they rely on you to learn all you can and speak up for them.

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



Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Seaman Kevyn Nolan Neal
Job title: Dental Technician
Job duties: Assisting in routine dental procedures.
What do you like most about your job? There's something new every day.
Significant achievements: Traveling to Bridgeport and Barstow multiple times for dental runs.
Hobbies: Basketball and reading
Military service: One and a half years
Time aboard Combat Center: Seven months



ICK!

[Puzzle solutions on A8]

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
20									21	22					
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25	26	27	28				29	30	31						
32						33						34	35	36	
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40				41							42				
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46	47							48							
49						50		51				52	53	54	55
56						57	58								
59						60					61				
62						63					64				

- ACROSS**
1. Acid neutralizers
 6. Robin's Marian, for one
 10. Tiny colonists
 14. Dance partner for Fred
 15. Lhasa ___ (Tibetan dog)
 16. Creditor's claim
 17. "Garden Party" singer
 19. Need Advil, say
 20. Come before
 21. Suez Canal vessel
 23. Braun or Gabor
 24. Did some cobbling
 25. Shy and modest
 29. Formation on copper
 32. Out of whack
 33. Blows a gasket
 34. Sharkey's TV rank
 37. Parcheesi need
 38. Cheech of Cheech & Chong
 39. Hit the mall
 40. Huckabee's state: Abbr.
 41. Mantle's number
 42. Knight or rook
 43. Came together
 45. "Guys and Dolls" writer Damon
 46. Early name in arcade games
 48. Tierra ___ Fuego
 49. Papal diplomat
 51. Winslow Homer's "Eight Bells," e.g.
 56. Fails to keep pace
 57. "Laugh-In" cohort
 59. "Gotcha"
 60. Commedia dell' ___
 61. Assigned stars to
 62. Societal klutz
 63. Dallas NBAers
 64. Features of some snow tires
- DOWN**
1. Theda of silents
 2. Score after deuce
 3. Sunni or Shia, e.g.
 4. Sommer of "A Shot in the Dark"
 5. Spam transmitters, say
 6. Island nation near Sicily
 7. Basilica area
 8. Prefix with metric or tonic
 9. "It's forbidden!"
 10. Support group for problem drinkers' families
 11. Ex of Jessica Simpson
 12. [titter]
 13. Dummy Mortimer
 18. Icicle formation site
 22. Sale condition
 25. Jean Arp's art genre
 26. Mideast bigwig
 27. Stones leader
 28. Do something with
 29. Removed the rind from
 30. Opposed to, in dialect
 31. Perfect score, sometimes
 33. Act like a lunatic
 35. Somewhat, musically
 36. Ready for customers
 38. Gibson or Blanc
 39. Part of a confession
 41. Open with a letter opener
 42. Celestial radio sources
 44. Took off the board
 45. Stationery store purchase
 46. Risking everything, in poker
 47. Pick on
 48. Fakes out on the ice
 50. Red-coated cheese
 51. Old John Candy comedy show
 52. Suffix with pluto or auto
 53. Westernmost Aleutian
 54. Like the fabled piper
 55. Wraps up
 58. Nest-egg letters

OBSERVATION POST

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Aerial firefighting exercise unites federal, state agencies

LANCE CPL. DANIEL BOOTHE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Federal and state fire agencies remain ready to respond after local military and civilian fire personnel completed their third annual aerial firefighting drill at Camp Pendleton, May 13.

Approximately 34 emergency service personnel and several aircraft from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Naval Air Station North Island and California's Department of Fire and Forestry Protection (CAL FIRE) extinguished simulated fires on base by coordinating helicopter water drops.

"The importance of exercises cannot be overstated," said Mathew Bettenhausen, secretary, California Emergency Management Agency. "The lessons learned here are necessary to keep improving response and ultimately save lives and property."

After wildfires devastated Southern California in 2007, federal and state fire officials developed an operating plan for the annual exercise. The joint aerial effort is expected to close any gaps in procedures and remedy the lack of training between federal and state agencies which was exposed by the unforgettable blaze.

"In 2007, there were a handful of aircraft available on base, but without properly trained personnel, a specific activation process or even contact procedures, we couldn't use them,"



LANCE CPL. DANIEL BOOTHE

A CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter from 3rd Marine Air Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, empties more than 320 gallons of water from the nearby Las Pulgas Lake during the third annual aerial firefighting effort at Camp Pendleton, May 13. Approximately 34 emergency service personnel and several aircraft from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Naval Air Station North Island and California's Department of Fire and Forestry Protection (CAL FIRE) extinguished simulated fires on base by coordinating helicopter water drops.

said Tom P. Humann, forestry fire pilot with CAL FIRE, who helped design the annual aerial fire drill. "The result was some confusion, response delays, unused buckets and

a lack of coordination amongst flight crews. This training effort takes steps to address each of these issues," added Humann, former CAL FIRE military program coordinator.

During the exercise, helicopters scooped as much as 900 gallons of water on each pass at the base's Las Pulgas Lake, with what firefighters refer to as "Bambi buckets," to pour

on designated targets. The primary purpose of water-dropping is not necessarily to extinguish the flames as much as it is to assist ground-based firefighters to safely contain the blaze.

"The main purpose of the training was to practice the planning and execution of the actual operating plan," said Maj. Steven R. Christman, operations action officer, Marine Corps Installations West. "The exercise clarifies how the armed forces works together with civilian agencies in a time of crisis with our assets and personnel and allows us to apply these principles during actual flight operations."

According to CAL FIRE officials, a majority of fires are extinguished before they have the opportunity to surge out of control. The organization reports that nearly 95 percent of all fires caught by the agency are kept to 10 acres or less.

"When you have the big, major fires and they are burning tens of thousands of acres, then we have to go outside and get assistance and that's when the military comes into play," said John Winder, deputy chief for CAL FIRE's Tactical Air Operations.

The joint aerial exercise's official operation plan mandates military resources should be identified within four to 12 hours after the initial call for help is made.

According to the Stafford Act, which regulates military involvement and emergency response, the

See FIRE, A6



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Sergeant Chris Dare, a section leader with scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, calls in a helicopter to Romania's Babadag Training Area during a casualty evacuation rehearsal May 14.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Marines with scout platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, load a simulated casualty into the back of an ambulance May 14, during a casualty rehearsal exercise at Romania's Babadag Training Area.

TEST, from A1

cohesive team.

The goal for the exercise was to demonstrate U.S. and Romanian troops could complete a casualty evacuation within the "Golden Hour," the standard to provide the appropriate level of care to injured service members within one hour's time.

Gordon said the Romanian forces were able to transport the simulated casualty well within the hour timeline.

The exercise ensured U.S. and Romanian forces could begin peacekeeping operations training with knowledge that Marines, sailors and Romanian forces are ready for a worst-case scenario.

"This exercise demonstrated that in the event of a real-world emergency, the Romanians and Americans can work in partnership to save a life," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Jesse Tossetti, the senior medical department representative for Black Sea Rotational Force, and a native of San Bernadino, Calif. "The Romanians and Americans worked in a seamless partner-

ship to complete the exercise in a flawless manner."

Black Sea Rotational Force is a multi-year commitment by Marine Corps Forces Europe to deploy U.S.-based Marines to installations in Europe on a rotating basis. This year, the force deployed as a Security Cooperation Marine Air-Ground Task Force, designed to promote regional stability, build enduring partnerships and

increase the military capacity of Romania and other partner nations in the Black Sea, Caucasus and Balkan regions.

The Black Sea Rotational Force officially began service Monday, during a joint ceremony with U.S. and Romanian troops.

This Security Cooperation MAGTF marks the first deployment of this kind for Marines to the Black Sea

region. 1st Tank Battalion, out of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., forms the core of the MAGTF, with the command, logistics and ground combat elements. First Tank Bn. is reinforced by the 4th Civil Affairs Group, and will be supported by a detachment from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452 out of Newburgh, N.Y.

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We Want Your Story!

Are you or a loved one among the ranks of Morongo Basin residents who are sworn to protect and serve? If so, we want your story. Hi-Desert Publishing Co. has revamped our annual public safety special section to tell the stories of emergency medical responders, firefighters and law enforcement officers who work in the trenches in the Hi-Desert every day.

"Real Stories of Those Who Protect and Serve"

will be published in JULY 2010 and will feature stories written by everyone from firefighters and EMTs to sheriff's deputies, California Highway Patrol officers, military policemen and probation officers, or by their family members.

To submit your story and photographs for the section, e-mail them to Features Editor Kelly O'Sullivan at osullivan@desert-trail.com or call her at (760) 367-3577 for more information. Be sure to include your contact phone number. All submissions are subject to editing for style and for length, and we request that they be 800 words or less. We prefer text submissions via e-mail or on disk as a text-only or Word document (.doc only, no .docx). Digital photographs should be at least 1 megabyte in size. If you don't have a digital photograph, call O'Sullivan for more information on how to submit a photo. Deadline for all submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, June 4, 2010.



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GOLDEN, from A1

chief of staff for the Mission Assurance Directorate.

Although installation personnel knew the earthquake would hit Tuesday morning, most of the chaotic details were withheld until reports of damaged buildings or casualties were called in.

After the earthquake, the Provost Marshal's Office and Combat Center Fire Department rushed into action. Both organizations are part of the operations section working out of the emergency operations center, which was set up at 4th Tank Battalion's headquarters building to help control the situation.

The first responders quickly

assessed the situation aboard the installation, aided injured people and extinguished fires. As reports came in, the situation worsened. Building damage, fire and transportation system accidents caused 282 deaths and 103 serious injuries within the county. Thousands of people were without homes and all electric power throughout the county was knocked out. While the two sections raced to the mock scenarios.

To ensure the Combat Center responds effectively to a disaster, the EOC must run smoothly with little or no hitches, said Green, a native of Phoenix.

"We want information redundancy throughout the entire EOC," added Staff Sgt. Joe Evans, an

emergency management specialist for PMO, while he marked incidents such as destroyed buildings and personnel movement on a map. "That way, you see the most current information everywhere you look."

The EOC is made up of five main sections – the incident management team, operations center, planning and intelligence, logistics and finances. Each section is in charge of different aspects of containing the disaster.

Green said it was a struggle in the beginning of the exercise to juggle real-world work while working in the EOC, but he said the personnel were making things work because it is important for the installation to be prepared in the midst of a disaster.

As the exercise progressed, more emergencies were inserted into the scenario to see how well the personnel responded to new threats. Participating families were evacuated from their homes to a shelter. Search and rescue missions were deployed to find people buried in destroyed buildings. Wednesday morning, military police were informed two people with malicious intent stole weapons from an armory. This caused the force protection condition to rise to delta, which is achieved when intelligence reports indicate an attack is likely. This made it more difficult for people driving on and off the Combat Center while PMO's special reaction team searched for the role players.

Sgt. Patricia Newby, who provid-



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Cpl. Cynthia Rivera and Sgt. Jacob Kallash stand security duty outside the emergency operations center inside 4th Tank Battalion's headquarters building after a notional 7.8 earthquake struck the Combat Center Tuesday during the annual California-wide Exercise Golden Guardian.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Leaders from all sections within the emergency operations center at 4th Tank Battalion's headquarters building hold a meeting to discuss the current situation after a notional earthquake struck the Combat Center Tuesday during the annual California-wide Exercise Golden Guardian.

ed security during the exercise, said she was surprised at how in-depth the exercise went, but was glad the plans included every aspect to ensure everybody's safety.

Thursday morning, mass casualties, fatalities and a hazardous material spill were reported causing a flurry of movement from Center Fire, and PMO's Special Reaction Team responded to rioting, hungry role players at the front gate.

At the end of the exercise, feedback was provided from evaluators, and suggestions were given to ensure Combat Center personnel knew how to respond in case a disaster hit.

"We need an efficient flow of information between the sections or else everything falls apart," Green said. "This is the first time we exercised a full stand up of the emergency operations center, and so far we are working well together."

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Extreme Pita opens for business



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Anthony Reyes works the grill at the newly-opened Extreme Pita shop Wednesday. Extreme Pita opened its doors at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course Monday. The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. "We serve breakfast and lunch, and we cater," said Ketan Parikh, the restaurant and franchise owner. Extreme Pita doesn't use oils or fats, opting to use water instead to make their food healthier and more enjoyable, Parikh added. Extreme Pita is scheduled to open a second location on the Combat Center in July at the Home Store.

COMBAT CENTER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

<p>Sunday Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel Roman Catholic Services 8:45 a.m. - Confessions+ 9 a.m. - Rosary 9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass* 9:30 a.m. - Children's Liturgy of the Word 4 p.m. - Choir Practice 4:15 p.m. - Confessions+ 4:30 p.m. - Rosary 5 p.m. - Catholic Mass Christ Chapel 8:30 a.m. - Lay-led independent Baptist breakfast in the West Wing Non-denominational: Calvary Chapel-AGC 9 a.m. - Contemporary Worship* 9 a.m. - Children's Church 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School, building 1551*</p>	<p>Interdenominational: Good Shepherd 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School, building 1551* 10:30 a.m. - Traditional Worship* 10:45 a.m. - Children's Church Lay-led Gospel Service 12:15 p.m. - Worship Youth Group 6 p.m. - Jr. and Sr. High School Youth Weekday Events Immaculate Heart of Mary Monday - Friday, 11:45 a.m. - Catholic Mass Christ Chapel Monday - Friday, noon - Daily Prayer Tuesday Christ Chapel 9 a.m. - Christian Women's Fellowship* (September through May) 6:30 p.m. - "EKKLESIA" Assemblies of God Fellowship Immaculate Heart of Mary 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Military Council of Catholic Women</p>	<p>Wednesday Christ Chapel Noon - Communion Immaculate Heart of Mary First Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Baptism preparation class First Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Knights of Columbus Thursday Christ Chapel 6 p.m. - Praise Band Rehearsal Immaculate Heart of Mary 9 a.m. - Adult Class 6 p.m. - Children RCIA 6:30 p.m. - RCIA (September-April) 7 p.m. - Gr. 7 and Confirmation Friday Christ Chapel 5 p.m. - Gospel Rehearsal Immaculate Heart of Mary First Friday each month, 12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament Legend * Indicates child care is provided + Appointments can be made for confessions by calling 830-6456/6482</p>
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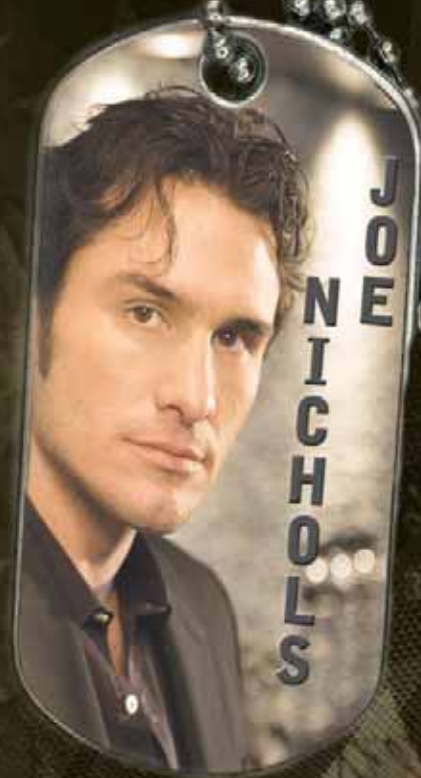
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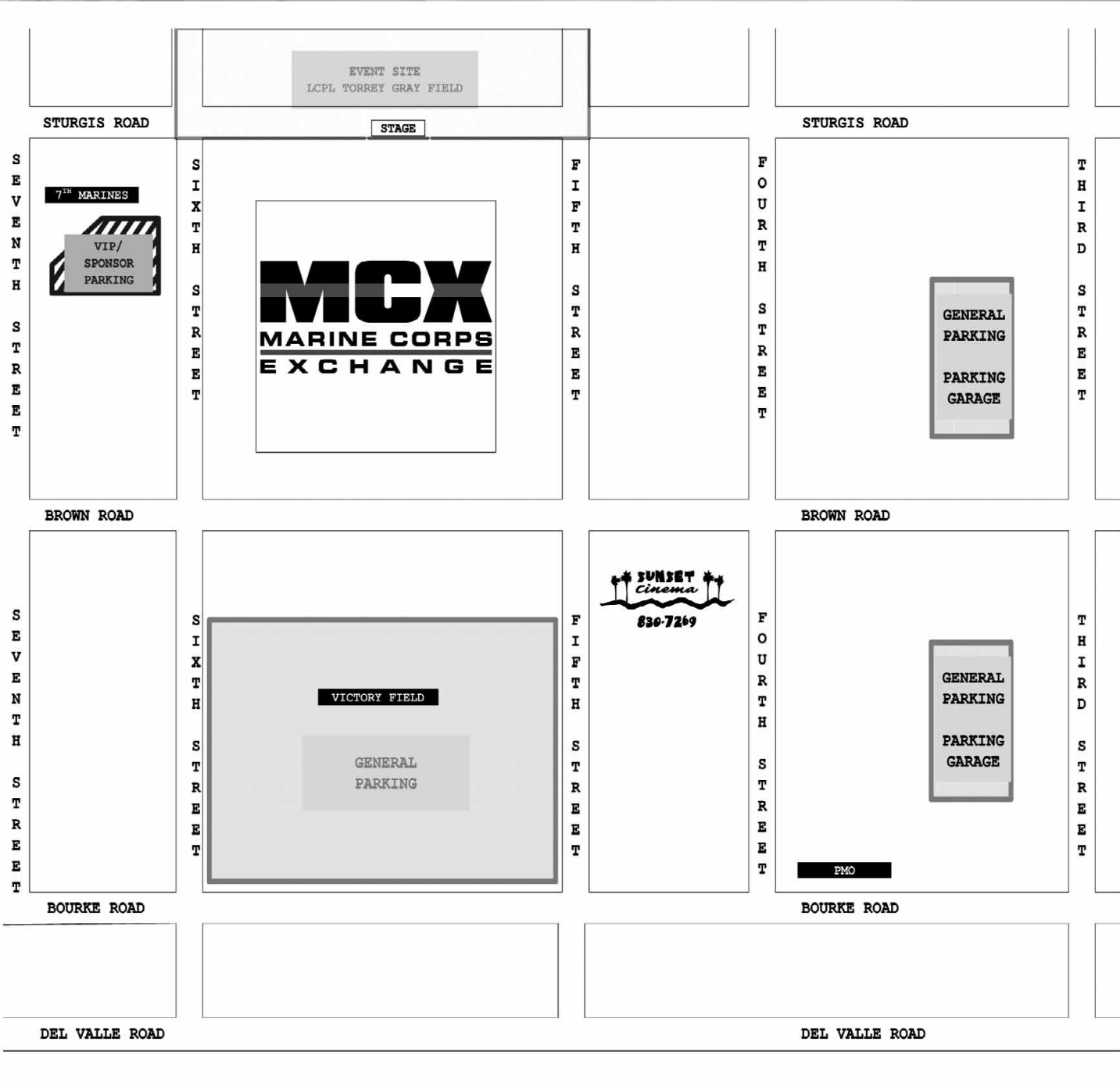


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 29 Palms, Ca. 92277
 spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com



FIRE, from A3

Department of Defense may only respond to save lives, prevent human suffering and mitigate great property damage.

Military commanders are, however, authorized to take

necessary action to respond when those conditions are met and time does not permit approval through command channels, states the aerial exercise's operating plan. Those actions must then be reported up the proper chain of command, all the way to

the Secretary of Defense.

Base officials announced that the Marine Corps will keep two helicopters at Camp Pendleton with a trained crew on standby during this fire season. The Navy Reserve will also remain ready throughout the year to support any civilian fire agency with insufficient available assets.

"More practice for the

aircrews has led to improvements in safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of fire suppression," said Humann, a California native who also served as a Marine helicopter pilot. "In addition, the improved coordination between agencies has resulted in quicker activation times and easier transitions to joint operations."

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<p>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</p>	<p>Skyview Chapel Church of God Worship Service 10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M. 7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree Church (760) 366-9119</p>	<p><i>This Week's Spotlight Church</i></p> <p>First Southern Baptist Church of Joshua Tree Pastor Doug Hutcherson Sun. Worship 10:45am • 6:00pm Sun. Bible Study 9:30am 1st. Wed. Potluck 6:00pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm 6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211</p>	<p>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST SUN. SERVICE & SUN. SCHOOL... 10 AM WEDNESDAY MEETING... 7 PM READING ROOM Tues.-Thurs. 12-3 PM Sat. 9-Noon (Except Holidays) 56039 Santa Fe Trail • 365-4185 Corner Apache Trail, Yucca Valley</p>	<p>29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST 72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC) Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM</p>	
<p>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am 367-7812 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</p>	<p>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</p>		<p>DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Call for free van ride Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship Sunday School ages 4-10 yrs Visitors Welcome Sunday Concert Series • Call for info 29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086</p>	<p>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Sunday Bible Study 9:00 am We're Here for Everyone Phone (760) 367-7133 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>	
<p>Two Mile Apostolic Tabernacle 74301 Two Mile Rd., 29 Palms (Next to Lucky Park) "Where Jesus Embraces You" Sundays 10:00 am 6:00 pm Wednesdays 7:30 pm Website: TwoMileApostolic.com 760-367-0080</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms Childcare Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 am. Morning Worship 10:30 am. Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Services Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 p.m. www.lbc29.org 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p>First Southern Baptist Church of Joshua Tree Pastor Doug Hutcherson Sun. Worship 10:45am • 6:00pm Sun. Bible Study 9:30am 1st. Wed. Potluck 6:00pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm 6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211</p>	<p>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"</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am</p>
<p>United Methodist Church Joy in Worship-Fun in Fellowship Sunday Worship-10:30 AM 57273 Onaga Trail at Joshua Lane Yucca Valley CA-760-365-3671 Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors</p>	<p>Come Pray With Us</p>			<p>Valley Community Chapel Sunday Services - 9:00 AM • 11:00 AM Wednesday Service - 6:30 PM Sundays en Español - 1:30 PM • 3:00 PM 59025 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley</p>	

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MCCES Marine receives GEICO military award



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Staff Sgt. Christopher Fulgium, the safety chief for the Combat Center's Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, received the 22nd annual 2009 GEICO Military Service Award for the Marine Corps for his work in traffic safety and accident prevention. Fulgium's club of riders at MCCES hasn't had a single fatality since he took the reigns of the program.

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines killed in motorcycle accidents in 2009 outnumbered Marine Corps' casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom at the end of the campaign. Marines like Staff Sgt. Christopher Fulgium do their best to avoid becoming one of those statistics.

Fulgium, the safety chief at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School here, was awarded the 22nd annual GEICO Military Service Award for the Marine Corps for his work in traffic safety and accident prevention. Fulgium received a plaque, and a week-long vacation in Washington, D.C., along with a check for \$2,500 and a tour of the nation's capital in recognition of his work.

Fulgium was cited primarily for the weekly briefings he gives to new MCCES students. In addition to creating posters about motorcycle safety and making videos about proper

motorcycle inspection.

"There haven't been any incidents since I've been here," said the Neodesha, Kan., native. "I took over as safety chief in December of 2009, and our club here got as large as 140."

Fulgium, a sport bike owner, said knowledge is power when it comes to staying alive during a ride.

"It's more important riders know what will keep them safe, instead of what happens a lot of the time," he said. "The information gets put out, and Marines don't know about it until someone who does calls them out for being jacked up."

Organizing what knowledge and training is available to riders was crucial to a program's success, Fulgium added. This is where the Semper Ride Web site, which features safety tips, forums, administrative messages and current road rules, comes into play.

"Finding where everything was available was tough," he said. "The idea behind the Semper Ride Web

site is huge. We needed a place to let motorcyclists be heard. It's a good forum and Web site for people to get information about programs, orders and laws."

Communicating not only within MCCES, but with leaders of other unit clubs within the installation has been a huge help, Fulgium said.

"I started a Facebook page called 29 Stumps Riders," he said. "The whole point was to collaborate as mentors. We also have meetings with all the mentors [from each command] on the second Wednesday of each month at the Staff Club to discuss big things."

Dr. Joyce Teters, MCCES' director of safety, said it was rewarding to see a second Marine who worked with her receive the award.

Teters said Fulgium shouldered the duties of safety chief, along with those of being a husband and his regular job, when he initially took

See GEICO, A8

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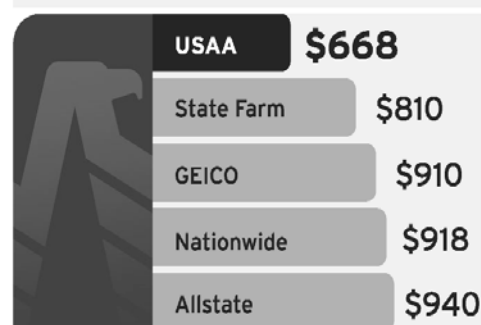


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Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-6213.

ANSF-ISAF partnership stabilizing southern Badghis province



SGT. EDMUND L. HATCH

Afghan National Army Lt. Ghonm Ali, Afghan National Police Maj. Abdullah and U.S. Army Lt. Christopher Kirchner, listen to an upcoming security operation brief at the Afghan National Police Headquarters in Muqor, Badghis Province, Afghanistan, April 11. Due to increased efforts by ANSF and Coalition Forces from Task Force Professional, 82nd Airborne Division, the level of security within Muqor District has significantly improved throughout the last six months.

FEATURE NEWS RELEASE

MARINE CORPS FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

KABUL, Afghanistan – Since October 2009, Afghan National Security Forces have partnered with the 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, and U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Forces to establish security and support an Afghan government presence in Muqor district, Badghis province.

Before “Team Battle,” as the force is called, established Combat Outpost Husker outside of Muqor, there was no long-term coalition presence in the area. Qal-e-Naw was the closest coalition outpost, and the Taliban could move about mostly undeterred as Afghan National Police did not have enough personnel to stop them.

“Before we began to maintain a presence here, the enemy had complete freedom of movement to the north,” said U.S. Army Capt. Joey

Nickel, commander of Team Battle. “Now that we’ve established the joint force presence, conducted joint patrols, and expanded security in the area, the bubble we’ve created for the populace has curbed Taliban influence.”

As a result of the increased security in the valley, support for the Afghan government has begun to increase. “People have a need to feel safe, and people are happy with the increased security,” said Moqur ANP Chief Lt. Col. Obaidullah Nyabzada.

“It’s gotten a lot better. The thing is, as you support security, you expand support for the government,” added Nickel. A team of Marine Corps Special Operations Forces along with their partners, the Afghan National Army’s 3/1/207th Kandak arrived in Muqor in early April. The force allowed Team Battle and the Muqor District ANP to expand their reach, and security in the valley.

“The interaction with the Marines has been great,” Nickel

said. “They understand the plan we’ve laid out for the valley.”

The newly-formed partnership has already produced a better understanding of the district.

“We’ve complemented Team Battle by bringing specialized equipment and capabilities to the battlefield,” said a Marine Corps Special Operations Forces operator. “This has led to the enhancement of district security by engaging the populace and developing the human terrain.”

Before ANSF and ISAF forces established security in Muqor, there were no safe routes to Qal-e-Naw which could be travelled without Taliban harassment and taxation. Now there are multiple roads which are safe to travel between the two towns. The ability for people to move freely about the valley and to Qal-e-Naw has had a noticeable effect. The ANP can now visit areas not possible before, allowing them to interact with more of the population and bring the Afghan government to places it hasn’t been before.

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HOSPITAL, from A1

Bobeck. If you read her bio, you will be amazed with the experience she brings, and I can assure Twentynine Palms that you are getting an outstanding officer.”

Albia will be transferring to the U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., where he will serve as the deputy command surgeon.

Previously, Bobeck served as the executive officer of Naval Health Clinic Annapolis, Md.

“We are responsible for ensuring that our Marines and their families are medically ready to support our nation’s freedom,” Bobeck said. “I understand that responsibility, and I accept that responsibility.”

However, “leaders do not succeed alone, to the crew of the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, what a great reputation you have throughout Navy Medicine, and I’m very much looking forward to serving with you,” she said. “This is a journey we all take together; none of us walk alone.”

GEICO, from A7

over the position in January of 2008.

“When he started out on this, it wasn’t his duty. He was an instructor over at the school,” she said.

Mike Baker, the director of GEICO’s military department, said it is an honor for a former veteran like himself to bestow this honor to current service members.

“I did 33 years in the Navy,” said Baker, from Atlanta. “It’s really special to me that we recognize the enlisted people and what they do, because I was an enlisted man myself. It’s great I work for a company that thinks so much of them.”

For those who feel they are worthy of recognition, as the saying goes, there’s always next year.

For more information on the awards program or to read about other DoD recipients, visit <http://www.geico.com/information/military/serviceawards>.

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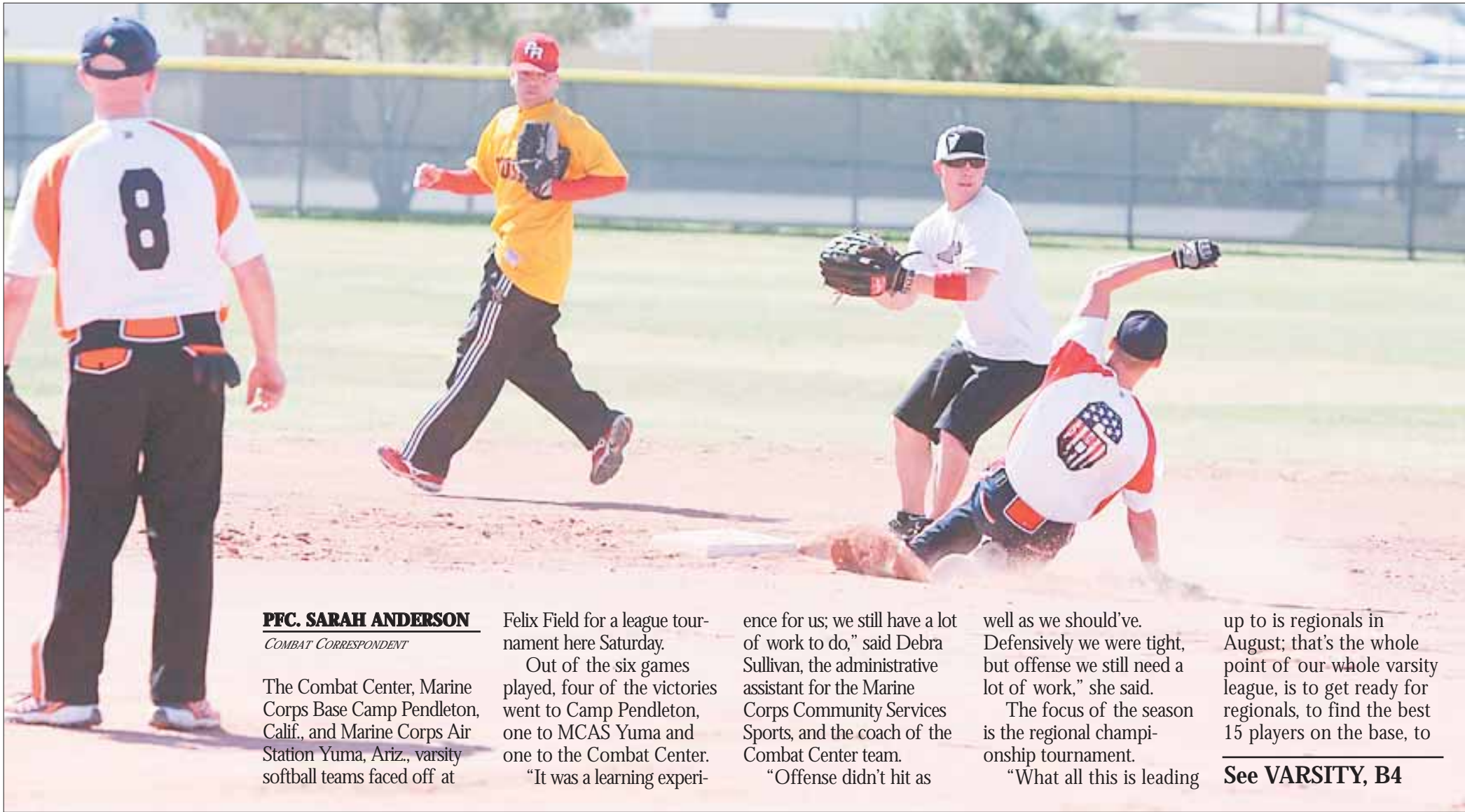
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B1

Teams face off in softball tournament



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., varsity softball teams faced off at

Felix Field for a league tournament here Saturday.

Out of the six games played, four of the victories went to Camp Pendleton, one to MCAS Yuma and one to the Combat Center. "It was a learning experi-

ence for us; we still have a lot of work to do," said Debra Sullivan, the administrative assistant for the Marine Corps Community Services Sports, and the coach of the Combat Center team. "Offense didn't hit as

well as we should've. Defensively we were tight, but offense we still need a lot of work," she said.

The focus of the season is the regional championship tournament.

"What all this is leading

up to is regionals in August; that's the whole point of our whole varsity league, is to get ready for regionals, to find the best 15 players on the base, to

See VARSITY, B4

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Joe Barton, a player for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, catches the ball as David Wrench, a player for the Combat Center team, attempts to slide into second base during a game Saturday at Felix Field. Barton forced Wrench out during the game which resulted in Camp Pendleton's victory 5-2.

HQBN 1 wins volleyball championship game



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Sosaia Papaalii, a player for HQBN 1, who was named "Most Valuable Player" for the game, jumps to spike the ball over the net during the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League championship game against MCCES 1 Tuesday at the East Gym and Fitness Center.

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A one-hour volleyball game turned into a three-hour, two-game battle as HQBN 1 fought their way out of the losers bracket in true underdog fashion to win the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League championship game against MCCES 1 Tuesday night at the East Gym and Fitness Center.

The game started at 6:30 p.m. with the arrival of the Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III, the Combat Center's commanding general, and Janet Peercy, the Marine Corps Community Services deputy director.

MCCES 1 was favored to win the championship game due to their leading standings throughout the season, but the game was going to be close, said Randy Husted, a sports coordinator for the MCCS Sports Department, from Torrance, Calif.

Since HQBN 1 was in the losers bracket and won the first game, the two teams needed to play again to

determine the champion.

"It was extremely competitive between the two teams," said Sosaia Papaalii, a player for HQBN 1, who won most valuable player of the game. "It was an absolutely great feeling to win and move out of the losers bracket, and then win the championship game."

Papaalii, from Auburn, Wash., was named the "Most Valuable Player" due to his constant movement throughout the court, setting up plays and scoring dozens of points for his team.

Volleyball games consist of three matches, and the team to reach 25 points during the first two matches wins. If the teams are tied, the third match is played to 15 points.

During the first game, the first match was close, but HQBN 1 outplayed MCCES 1, winning 25-22. MCCES 1 came back the second match, winning 25-18, moving the game into a third match, where HQBN 1 dominated, winning 15-8,

See GAME, B2

New inline hockey club on a roll at Combat Center

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Roller hockey has been a popular sport since its resurgence in popularity after World War II in the United States, according to <http://usarollersports.org>.

Service members aboard the Combat Center are currently trying to pass along the torch and spread the word about the sport, and their small club dedicated to it.

The skaters meet several days a week for pickup games at the installation's roller rink

across from Victory Field. They are small in numbers, but big on passion for the sport, which drives them to keep playing every week, along with the hope their group will expand.

"We're all huge hockey fans," said Stephen Wilson,

the group's manager, from East Palestine, Ohio. "It all started when we would see people playing here by themselves. After that, we'd swap info and actually play.

"When we started, we'd

See HOCKEY, B4



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Inline hockey players fly around the Combat Center's outdoor roller rink Tuesday during one of their games. The team plays several pickup games a week.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Adrian Anderson [left] and Eric Finnilla, inline hockey players aboard the Combat Center, fight for control of the puck Tuesday at the installation's outdoor roller rink. The players are constantly searching for more people to join their ranks.



Liberty Call

Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Fridays: Salsa dancing, 7 to 8 p.m., ladies' night, 8 to 10 p.m. and DJ Vlad, 8 to 11 p.m.
 Tomorrow: Club opens after We Salute You show, 10 p.m. to midnight.
 Wednesdays: DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 10 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Tomorrow: Club closed due to We Salute You show.
 Mondays: Free food, chicken nuggets/nacos.
 Wednesdays: Free food, Italian sausage with peppers, onions and green salad.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: DJ at 8 p.m.
 Tomorrow: Club closed due to We Salute You show.
 All Hands Lunch, Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 Mondays: Steak Night, 5 to 8 p.m.
 Wednesdays: Karaoke, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center's Officers' Club

Lunch served Monday-Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Tonight: All Hands BINGO!, 6 to 6:45 p.m.
 Tomorrow: Club closed due to We Salute You show
 Mondays: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m.

For complete calendars, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

Rockabilly Madness with the Big Fat Steve Band

Description: Country western music
 When: 7:30 p.m., Friday May 21 and Saturday May 22
 Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace
 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
 For more information call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Movies in the Park program begins with "Up"

Description: Free movies shown at Luckie Park
 When it gets dark, about 8 p.m. Friday, May 21
 Where: Luckie Park at the corner of Two Mile Road and Utah Trail, next to the racquet ball courts.
 For more information call the Recreation Department at 367-7562.

Opening night at the Groves: In the Rest Room at Rosenblooms

Description: A poignant contemporary comedy
 Date: Saturday, May 22, 2010
 When: 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays through June 13.
 Location: Groves Cabin Theatre
 8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley
 For more information call 365-4523.

Lower Desert

Steve Miller Band

Description: The rock 'n' roll legend performs
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 22
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
 For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Heart

Description: The rock 'n' roll sisters perform their hits
 When: 8 p.m., Friday, May 29
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
 For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Boz Scaggs

Description: The rock legend icon performs
 When: 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 1
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
 For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Donna Summer

Description: The disco star performs her hits
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 19
 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, May 21

6 p.m. – How to Train Your Dragon, Rated PG
 9 p.m. – The Bounty Hunter, Rated PG-13
 Midnight – Repo Man, Rated R

Saturday, May 22

The 2010 We Salute You Celebration
 Event begins at 4 p.m. at the Parade Deck. For information call 830-5086 or visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.
 Midnight – Hot Tub Time Machine, Rated R

Sunday, May 23

2 p.m. – Clash of the Titans, Rated PG-13
 6 p.m. – Why Did I Get Married Too?, Rated PG-13
 9 p.m. – The Ghost Writer, Rated PG-13

Monday, May 24

7 p.m. – Hot Tub Time Machine, Rated R

Tuesday, May 25

7 p.m. – How to Train Your Dragon, Rated PG

Wednesday, May 26

7 p.m. – The Bounty Hunter, Rated PG-13

Thursday, May 27

7 p.m. – Repo Man, Rated R

'Losers' has colorful, comic book feel

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"The Losers"

Rated PG-13

Revenge is big in the movies. It helps get the story moving, provides clear character motivation and draws a hard line down the middle between good and evil.

In "The Losers," when an elite team of military Special Forces mercenaries is double-crossed by their devious stateside leader on a South American search-and-destroy that goes disastrously awry, what do they do? They vow revenge, of course!

Presumed dead and forced to live in hiding, these now-disenfranchised "losers" encounter a foxy femme fatale – is there any other kind? – who wants to hire them for a mission that aligns, mysteriously enough, with their own.

Happens all the time, right? Only in the movies!

"The Losers" is a slam-bang, prelude-to-summer popcorn flick for action junkies who like their heroes dry any wry, their women sleek and sexy, and their explosions sonic and slo-mo. A school bus outruns a jungle-flattening fireball. A hijacked helicopter uses a junkyard magnet to pluck a heavily armored car off a highway. A sniper shoots a speeding motorcycle, which flips, sending its rider flying into... well, a rather implausible rendezvous.



COURTESY PHOTO

In "The Losers," an elite team of military Special Forces mercenaries is double crossed by their stateside leader.

It very much looks and feels like the comic book on which it was based, staged with bright, garish colors, relentless hyperactive pacing, mono-dimensional characters and smart-alecky zingers of dialogue that sound like they just fell – kerplunk! – right out of a hand-drawn word balloon.

This PG-13-pushing buffet of swagger, strut, sweat, smirk, smash, soar and sizzle is served up by a cast which tries gamely to avoid being overshadowed by all the chaos, crossfire and ka-BOOM that follows their characters on their globetrotting, conspiracy-busting quest for retribution.

Zoe Saldana, the blue princess from last year's "Avatar," brings most of the

star power. The other actors, each with extensive movie and TV credits, have that vaguely familiar, seen-'em-somewhere factor that falls in the vast Hollywood middle ground between "unknown" and "recognizable." Jeffrey Dean Morgan, from TV's "Gray's Anatomy," plays Clay, the rumpled Losers leader whose demeanor, attire and facial expressions suggest someone who's seen a lot and isn't surprised by much. Jason Patric, a grandson of Jackie Gleason, hams it up as a devilishly dapper billionaire

weapons monger with an ominously gloved left hand and a wicked little plan to ignite the next world war.

"The Losers" doesn't aspire to greatness, and it certainly doesn't end up there. But for viewers who like a bit of punchy, playful pulp with their popcorn, it's a decent warm-up for the real blockbusters, with bigger stars, bigger budgets and bigger buzz, set to arrive in the coming weeks. At that point, like comic book ink exposed to the glaring summer sun, "The Losers" will look pretty faded by comparison.



COURTESY PHOTO

Femme fatale, Zoe Saldana, from last year's "Avatar," is the movie's biggest star.

Cinema 6		Movie Times	365-9633	Showtimes Effective 5/21/10 - 5/27/10
Shrek (PG)	Ironman 2 (PG13)	Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	
Back-up Plan (PG13)	Robin Hood (PG13)	Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Everyday: 1:30, 6:00, 9:00	• ADULTS \$8.50 • SENIORS \$7.00 • CHILDREN \$7.00 • MATINEE \$6.50

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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	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*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	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35			
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35			

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

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GAME, from B1

taking the teams into another game. The second game brought the points even closer, but HQBN won the first match 25-23. The second match saw MCCES defeat HQBN 25-16, but they couldn't keep a hold on their lead during the third match, as HQBN defeated MCCES, and won the cham-

pionship title with the end score of 15-13.

"What a great competition. I thought it was going to be an hour, but I was here for three, which is fine because it was great volleyball and great team work from both teams," said Clardy, after congratulating both teams. "It was great joy for me to be here and watch the game. Well done. I am very proud of both teams and how well they played."

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Combat Center Sports



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Rafael Tabaoda, a player for the MCCES team (left), battles for the ball with Lorenza Alford (right) during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game at Felix Field Tuesday. MCCES won the game 4-2.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Sosaia Papaalii
Unit: 7th Marine Regiment
Hometown: Auburn, Wash.
Recognition: Named "Most Valuable Player" for the championship volleyball game.
Favorite aspect of the sport: "Working together as a team."
Advice to any aspiring athletes: "Never give up."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Jose Orozco, a player with Thunder, lines up a pitch Wednesday at the Combat Center's Felix Field. The teams play every week during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League.

Intramural softball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
ESD	8	1
MCCES Red	7	1
3/11	5	1
Tanks	8	2
374 #1	6	2
PMO	6	2
ATG	6	3
MCCES C Co.	5	2
Mojave Viper	4	3
CLB-7	4	5
IPAC	4	6
AAV	3	4
MCCES White	3	5
MCTOG	3	5
3rd LAR	3	6
MCCES Maint	3	7
Hospital	2	8
374 #2	1	6
Dental	1	7
CMA	1	8

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



Because I have always been fascinated by successful men and women I decided to learn more about Mike Branning, proprietor of the Unique Garden Center, located west of Ideal Mall, Yucca Valley on 29 Palms HWY.

After speaking briefly with Mike, I telephoned a member of leading citizens of the High Desert including newspaper and radio people, elected officials, and several loyal customers (including two especially close friends of mine).

There was simply no question about it. Mike is probably the finest horticulturalist in the High Desert. I hope you realize that I did not write such strong words without careful investigation. One extremely well known High Desert man told me that Mike loved all God's creations, including the trees, plants, grasses, flowers, shrubs, etc. This man emphasized that Mike cares for the welfare of all growing things: "like a parent cares for a child."

I then listened to Mike on his weekly radio program "The Unique Garden Show" (Saturdays 8:30 a.m., Z107.7 FM) and he was terrific! He truly is a horticulturalist who is able to discuss all aspects of agriculture including gardening in the desert and transplanting trees and plants. He is also able to intelligently discuss the needs of a small garden or landscaping at a private home as well as large projects and developments, involving parks and activities that involve hundreds of homes.

I have often written that all people who plant and grow things are obviously optimists.

Mike is a tough-minded optimist.

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Stay & Play

Big Bear



AQUATIC SPORTS IN BIG BEAR LAKE ARE TOPS!

This summer splash into Big Bear Lake, Southern California's premier alpine getaway. Fun is the top priority at this "timberland playground" with a refreshing seven mile long lake, deep blue skies, mild temperatures, lots of sunshine, and vast amounts of aquatic sports. The variety of fun in the sun at Big Bear Lake ranges from action-packed to easy-going. Visitors can be found racing across the lake on waverunners or jet skis, kayaking or canoeing along the lake's coves and inlets, skimming the water on skis or wakeboards, or sailing with a little help from the constant lake breezes. Another one-of-kind experience is parasailing at 7000' to experience a completely

different perspective of Big Bear Valley's vast beauty. Instruction is offered for most water sports at all skill levels. For the less adventurous,

fish in Big Bear Lake is tremendous. Big Bear Lake is a first-rate trout fishery because its depths allow trout to thrive, even in the heat of summer.

Therefore, it is one of only a handful of Southern California lakes to get planted with rainbow trout. Big Bear Municipal Water District Lake stocked 250,000 rainbow trout in April 2006. Furthermore, Department



narrated lake tours are offered onboard the Big Bear Queen paddlewheel boat or the Spanish galleon replica, the Big Bear Pirate Ship. Meadow Park Swim Beach is open for daily and has protected areas for children to enjoy splashing in the clear lake waters. Adjacent, there are play areas for volleyball, tennis and barbecues. The success rate for catching

of Fish and Game regularly stocks the lake from April to October with approximately 2000 lbs. of rainbow trout every two weeks. Several marinas offer boat rentals, bait, tackle and licenses, docks and repair services. Launch ramps are found at all marinas and the north shore public ramps.

year's annual Bear Country Fair held in the Moonridge Animal Park on Sunday, May 30, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM., where there is something for everyone including an animal feeding tour following the fair activities. Face painting, jewelry making, and pine cone bear tossing and walnut tosses will be featured. Youngsters can make their own artistic collages. Children 12 and under can enter the count the Bears in the Jar Contest. They can also have a roaring good time as they participate in the Bear Roaring Contest. Who can you guess which of our three black bears will win the pie eating contest? Park admission is \$9 for ages 11 - 59; \$6 for ages 3-10 and seniors 60 plus, and free to children under 3.

Moonridge Animal Park 50th Anniversary

The Moonridge Animal Park, one of Big Bear's most popular attractions, turns 50 this year. Since 1960, The Moonridge Animal Park has provided animal sanctuary, rehabilitation and education dedicated strictly to alpine wildlife. Various events are scheduled throughout the summer including the Bear Country Fair. It is a family affair at this



year's annual Bear Country Fair held in the Moonridge Animal Park on Sunday, May 30, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM., where there is something for everyone including an animal feeding tour following the fair activities. Face painting, jewelry making, and pine cone bear tossing and walnut tosses will be featured. Youngsters can make their own artistic collages. Children 12 and under can enter the count the Bears in the Jar Contest. They can also have a roaring good time as they participate in the Bear Roaring Contest. Who can you guess which of our three black bears will win the pie eating contest? Park admission is \$9 for ages 11 - 59; \$6 for ages 3-10 and seniors 60 plus, and free to children under 3.



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Can a vacation really sweep you off your feet? Some destinations may claim it, but



only figuratively. In Big Bear Lake vacationers are swept off their feet, literally. This summer Big Bear offers not one, not two, but four ways to suspend visitors high above the Earth with nothing but air beneath their feet. Visitors who want to add an extra boost above Big Bear's already high elevation include ziplining, parasailing, the Scenic Sky Chair and the new wakeboard cable park. Ziplining is the ultimate gravity defying adventure where participants zip through forested landscapes and cross over rocky canyons to experience the sensation of flying.

Big Bear Lake is the only freshwater lake in Southern California that offers parasailing. At 7000 feet parasailing is a one-of-kind experience that allows flyers to see Big Bear Valley's vast beauty from a bird's perspective. In the summertime Snow Summit's East Mountain Express chairlift transforms into the Scenic Sky Chair. Guests are whisked away, leaving their feet dangle over the forest floor on a leisure 15-minute ride to the top Snow Summit. It only takes a day or two on the playing grounds of Big Bear to literally get swept off your feet.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Alain Espinosa, (right) a player for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, races in vain to beat the throw to Twentynine Palms first baseman Michael Hesse during a softball tournament at Felix Field Saturday.

Varsity, from B1

go to regionals and represent Twentynine Palms," Sullivan said. "That's what we're gearing up for. That's what we're excited for."

Eric Culver, the coach for the Yuma team, said he was not impressed with his team's performance at the tournament, either.

"We were struggling offensively to hit the ball," Culver said. "It was just one of those days where every hit went straight to a man."

However, he said his team did pull out all the stops on defense.

In the future, Culver plans to involve the players in more games to boost morale, experience and team unity, so they will perform better in the regional tournament.

"Our biggest plan is to get together and play more tournaments, that way we can get better as a team unit," he said. "If we get better as a team, we can rely on any man to do anything," he said.

The day seemed to go better for the Camp Pendleton team than any

other team.

"We hit the ball better than I expected. Practice is definitely paying off," said Armando Delsi, the coach for Camp Pendleton's team.

The hardest part of the tournament was not a matter of skill for Camp Pendleton, but the lack of experienced players.

"Watching young players make mental mistakes and trying to teach them how to play is one of the issues early on in the season," Delsi said.

Delsi said he has high expectations for the team and pushes his players to use their maximum potential.

"I expect to win every game, and they know that," Delsi said. "We are there to win."

"We won the state championships last year," he said. "We have a good team and have high expectations for this year."

The tournament Saturday was held in preparation for the regional championship in August. The team which wins the regional title will move on to the state championship game later this year.

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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Jim Brock sits out a round and watches his friends play inline hockey Tuesday. Brock and the others are always looking for players to join them in the rink.

HOCKEY, from B1

play almost every day," he said. "After a while people started getting sore and hurt, so we moved it to every other day."

Wilson said even though the club has a deep running passion for the sport, they still have trouble keeping their numbers.

"We got as large as 30 people at one point," he said. "But, because of people [transferring to other duty stations], we're down to probably 15 or 16 people right now. We all try to make it every time, but there's always a straggler or two, or people's jobs interfere with them being able to make it."

Another issue they run into is one all too familiar to Marines - gear complications. "The rink we play on is not an adequate size," he said. "It limits our games to four-on-four, and a five-on-five gets really crowded. We use our own safety equipment, like shin guards and gloves, but we need stuff like a safety net, so we don't hurt anyone, or ourselves."

Adrian Anderson, another player with the team, said the group of die-hards is just a welcome stepping stone in his life-long journey through the sport of hockey.

"I've been playing hockey for 12 years," said the Portland, Ore., native. "I started off actually playing inline, and I played four years of ice hockey, too."

I get out in August," Anderson said. "But I'm going to keep playing when I'm out. I'm probably going to join the house league when I move back home."

Anderson said the thrill of the sport and the camaraderie are what keep him and his friends coming back.

"It's just fun," he said. "We all get a big kick out of it, so we just keep playing every week."

Jim Brock, one of Anderson's fellow enthusiasts, gave insight into one of the groups' methods for picking teams.

"We don't have a lot of different guys," said the Dyer, Ind., native. "What we do to keep it interesting, is we'll throw our sticks into a pile in the middle of the rink."

"The last guy to throw his down randomly divides them up equally," Brock said. "If we were to pick teams, we'd just have the same teams over and over again, and it would get kind of boring."

For more information, or to join the group, call Wilson at 401-7783.