

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JULY 30, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 30

1st Tanks receives new CO

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lieutenant Col. Thomas J. Gordon relinquished command of 1st Tank Battalion to Lt. Col. Timothy Barrick Thursday during a change of command ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Sergeant Maj. Conrad Potts, 1st Tanks' sergeant major, said he has had a working history with the incoming commanding officer and looks forward to working alongside him again.

"He was my platoon commander back in 1992," said Potts, from Louisville, Ky. "I was his platoon sergeant back then in 2nd Tank Battalion at Camp Lejeune."

Potts said Gordon will be missed around the battalion, but he is sure the new commander will fill his shoes and continue the battalion's storied, successful journey.

"It's all part of the job," Potts said. "We've been in command together for about two years, and he really cared about his Marines."

"Lieutenant Col. Barrick is definitely getting a great group of Marines," he said. "[Barrick] will take this battalion to greater heights."

Barrick, the former executive officer of the battalion in 2006, said he is very pleased to return to the unit and looks forward to leading the Marines.

"Tank battalion is the armored fist of the 1st Marine Division," said Barrick, who claims the whole state of



Lieutenant Col. Thomas J. Gordon [right] hands the unit colors, and command of 1st Tank Battalion to Lt. Col. Timothy Barrick during a change of command ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Thursday.

California as home. "The commandant talks about the Marine Corps being a two-fisted fighter – and we're the armored fist in that fight.

"There's no better place to be than 1st Tanks," he said. Gordon is saying goodbye to the hard working Marines and sailors of

the battalion and heading back to his hometown of Boston as Security
See COC, A5

Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay, providing \$500 to service members for each month or partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans, and beneficiaries of service members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for RSLSP.

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay. Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to service members, veterans and their families through direct mail, veteran service organizations, and the media. But there is still money left to be claimed, and the deadline is approaching. The average benefit is \$3,700.

Individuals who meet eligibility criteria may submit an application between Oct. 21, 2009 and Oct. 21, 2010. By law, there is no authorization to make payments on claims that are submitted after Oct. 21, 2010.

Eligible members should

See PAY, A3

Combat Center protects tortoises

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center is known for its vast ranges and capability to provide unparalleled training opportunities for deploying units. However, within the more than 900 square miles of training ranges, lives one of the desert's most interesting survivors – the desert tortoise.

On April 2, 1990 desert tortoises were listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Dr. Brian Henen, an ecologist with the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs office, said several factors have con-

tributed to the decline in desert tortoises. "Habitat loss and an upper respiratory tract disease has been the main cause in the population decline," said Henen, a native of Rockford, Ill. "When humans move into an area occupied by tortoises, they bring predators like ravens and coyotes along with them."

But for nearly five years, personnel with the NREA have studied and observed desert tortoises at the Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Site, or TRACRS, located near Camp Wilson in hopes of attributing to population recovery. The site provides experts the opportunity to

See NREA, A5



JENNIE E. HASKAMP

The Combat Center's Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Site, or TRACRS, provides ecologists and biologists a way to study and hatch desert tortoises. The first set of hatchlings is slated to be released in the wild in 2012.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center is currently the test grounds for the Marine Corps' newest solar energy experiment. Third Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., is currently utilizing solar energy panels to help reduce the need for supplies in the field.

Solar powered Devil Dogs

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Marines, long known as innovators, are using cutting-edge energy technology that promises to make them leaner, meaner and a whole lot greener during an Experimental Forward Operating Base exercise at the Combat Center July 22 through Thursday.

Experiments like EXFOB are part of Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps' vision to ensure the Corps remains the premier, self-sufficient expeditionary force.

Marines from Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., are the first military unit to use nothing but renewable energy to power their systems, as they

take part in Enhanced Mojave Viper, a month-long combined arms pre-deployment training exercise, here.

The Marines used the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Energy System, or GREENS, a portable power system developed for the Marine Corps which uses rechargeable batteries and solar panels to provide 300 watts of continuous electricity for Marines in remote locations and lessens the need for fuel resupply, reducing the associated threats to vehicle convoys in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to a Navy fact sheet.

"It's going to make Marines more lethal because they will be able to move from

See SOLAR, A7



Healing hands ~ See A3



Fostering diversity ~ See A6



Pinned 'em ~ See B1



Tri, tri again ~ See B1



Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page by seaching "The Combat Center at Twentynine Palms" at <http://www.facebook.com>

See more photos and articles online at facebook and <http://www.marines.mil>

The sour side of salt

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Most people hear to cut down on salt for a healthier heart, but do you know how salt actually affects the heart?

For one, too much salt increases blood pressure, and high blood pressure is a risk factor for heart disease and stroke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As a matter of fact, a 2009 CDC study revealed that most Americans consume more than double their recommended amount of salt per day.

Besides affecting blood pressure, online literature from the American Heart Association says salt causes the body to retain extra fluid. This fluid retention impacts you by:

- Causing weight gain, which makes the heart work harder.
- Causing the heart to use more energy to pump excess fluid through the body.

People with heart disease should keep their salt intake to less than 2,000 mg a day, the American Heart Association recommends. That's less than one teaspoon. For people with heart disease, too much salt in the diet can worsen symptoms like swelling and shortness of breath. Should these symptoms increase in severity, hospital admission may be required.

How can I reduce my salt intake?

According to the CDC, most salt intake comes from processed and restaurant foods. So cutting back on those will help. However, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute recommends following the guidelines of the DASH diet. DASH, which stands for Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, emphasizes eating lots of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, poultry, fish, nuts and low-fat dairy foods. Avoid anything high in salt or sodium, red meats, sweets and sugared drinks. Clinical studies have shown the DASH diet helps to reduce high blood pressure.

For more information on this topic, visit TriWest's heart health page at <http://www.triwest.com/hearthealth>.

Misfire

In last week's Observation Post, we misidentified Armed Forces Financial Network as Armed Forces Network.

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Spc. Nathan Kahnle
Hometown: Chicago
Unit: Veterinary Clinic
Job title: Non-commissioned officer in charge of the vet clinic
Job duties: Taking care of privately owned animals and military working dogs.
What do you like most about your job? "Caring for the working dogs, and I like training the dogs and handlers."
Significant achievements: "Worked with over 500 dogs and helped training with over 100 handlers."
Hobbies: "Working out and taking classes at Central Texas College."
Time in service: Five years
Time aboard the Combat Center: Two and a half years.



Centerspeak

Where do you see yourself in five years?

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



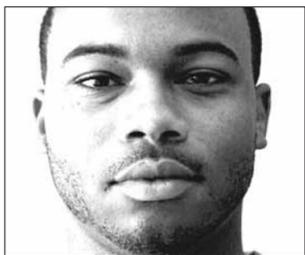
LANCE CPL. ANDRES SALCEDO
 HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 3

"I'm looking forward for my next deployment in October, staying in the Marine Corps and hopefully getting an East Coast duty station close to my family."



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2
 EDUARDO QUIROZ
 COMPANY A, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"Retired and going fishing."



CPL. LIONEL FLOWERS
 HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 3

"Probably out of the Marine Corps and going to college for sports medicine."



STAFF SGT. LINDSAY MAXWELL
 COMPANY B, HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"In five years I'll be at a duty station in southern Florida."

Hot Topics

HOUSING SURVEY

The Commanding General is asking for all hands participation in a housing survey released by Headquarters Marine Corps. The survey is to ensure adequate housing on and off base for all Combat Center Marines and sailors, married or single, and to predict a need for Basic Allowance for Housing rate increase. The survey is extended until August 20. Go to <https://survey.rdniehaus.com> to take the survey. Username: Twentynine. Password: 2010.

MOPS ON THE WAY

Mothers of Preschoolers is coming to Twentynine Palms at Knott's Sky Park Preschool August 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for more information about this event or about the local MOPS group call 367-9506 or visit <http://www.mops.org>.

BABY BASICS CLASS

Baby Basics classes cover labor and delivery, postpartum, breast-feeding and baby safety from pregnancy to 12-months. It emphasizes father's involvement and includes demonstrations of basic infant care, bathing, diapering and soothing a crying baby. The class combines Mommy's Basic Training and Daddy's Baby Boot Camp and is provided to expectant parents (couples and singles). Pre-registration required. Classes are offered August 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2. For more information call 830-7622.

VOYAGE TO BOOK ISLAND

Encourage your children to come to the summer reading program 2010 at the Lifelong Learning Library during the hot summer days! Preschool age children will meet every Tuesday from 10-11:30 a.m. and children who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade will meet every Friday from 10-11:30 a.m. For more information please call the Library at 362-3934.

Marine Corps History

July 30, 1846

First Lt. Jacob Zeilin leads a Marine detachment ashore at Santa Barbara, Calif.



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

"OHOO NOO!, Looks like grandpa has been talking to the kids again!!"



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

SUDOKU #1885

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

STICKERS

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13						14					15			
16						17					18			
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49								50				51	52	53
54						55	56				57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

- ACROSS**
1. Astrological ram
 6. Painter of wilting watches
 10. "___ nuff!"
 13. Titled one
 14. Plowman's team
 15. Use UPS, say
 16. Sharply creased fold
 18. Boat's trail
 19. Tucked away
 20. Acted the fink
 21. In need of rehab, maybe
 23. "You, there!"
 24. Handfuls for babysitters
 25. Microwave button
 29. Brought on board
 30. Some roasts
 31. Highly collectible
 32. List heading
 36. Jim Davis dog
 37. Carried on, as war
 38. All fired up
 39. Greek salad cheese
 40. Fateful time for Caesar
 41. Pageant wear
 42. Aired again
 44. Green Giant's home
 45. Bottle cap affixer
 48. Lobster eater's need
 49. Dogie catcher
 50. La ___ Tar Pits
 51. Use a Toro
 54. Score after deuce
 55. Sinclair Lewis novel
 58. Spray finely
 59. Burnable bog product
 60. A la ___
 61. "Annabel Lee" poet
 62. Pageant wear
 63. Popular theater name
- DOWN**
1. Hippie's cross
 2. Rice-A-___
 3. Bibliographic abbr.
 4. Keebler worker
 5. Does a slow burn
 6. Cloned sheep of 1996
 7. Pink-slipped
 8. Shepherd's domain
 9. Debt-ridden
 10. Drum major's topper
 11. Trail mix eater
 12. Opinion pieces
 15. Popular aquarium fish
 17. Yeats or Keats
 22. Bonanza find
 24. Runs out of steam
 25. TA's boss
 26. Ill-bred
 27. Give off
 28. Common gum flavor
 29. Duvall role in "The Godfather"
 31. "M*A*S*H" clerk
 33. Shape of some mirrors
 34. In ___ straits
 35. Jazz singer Anita
 37. Surveillance aids
 41. Hot sauce
 43. Clean air org.
 44. Penthouse plus
 45. Workbench gripper
 46. Fireside Chat medium
 47. Angelou's "Still ___"
 48. Bouillon
 50. Victoria's Secret buys
 51. Bog down
 52. Grid great Graham
 53. "___ do we eat?"
 56. Stephen of "V for Vendetta"
 57. Neuman's mag

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

Public Affairs Officer - Jennie E. Haskamp
 Public Affairs Chief - Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

Press Chief/Editor - Cpl. Andrew S. Avitt
 Layout, Design - Leslie Shaw

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Marines, sailors provide medical care to Afghan women, children

CPL. MEGAN SINDELAR

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

MARJAH, HELMAND PROVINCE, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – Due to cultural sensitivities, medical treatment for Afghan women is extremely difficult, forcing them to travel to the Helmand provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, or even crossing national borders into Pakistan.

To improve the quality of life and health care for this sect of Afghan society, a team consisting of female Marines and sailors embarked on a ten-day mission throughout northern Marjah, Afghanistan, July 5, to provide medical care to the Afghan people.

With the medical engagement consisting of female medical personnel, this was the first time most of the visiting Afghan women received medical care.

The team, including a Marine female engagement team from Regimental Combat Team 7 and medical personnel from Combat Logistics Battalion 5, set up medical tents for approximately two days, each at four Marjah locations.

The medical officer and corpsman treated 97 patients, primarily women and children, who traveled to each medical site from their homes.

Site 1: Initial disappointment

Upon arriving at Combat Outpost Coutou late July 5, the Marines and sailors crashed in their tent on field cots to relax and get some much needed sleep before their first medical engagement. The next day, after struggling to set up two tents and preparing their medical equipment, the Marines waited seven hours for patients to arrive. To their disappointment, no one came out and they decided to head back to the COP.

The next morning, the Marines headed back out to the tents anticipating Afghans seeking medical aid.

"If we only see one person, this will be a success," said Navy Lt. Jisun Hahn, a medical officer with CLB-5.

The day proved to be successful, with 13 people coming to receive medical attention.



CPL. MEGAN SINDELAR

Navy Lt. Jisun Hahn, a medical officer with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, cleans an Afghan girl's foot, during a female health care engagement, just outside Combat Outpost Riley, Marjah, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 10, 2010. Hahn is from Enid, Okla.

After breaking down both tents and medical equipment, the Marines headed back to the COP for rest before their departure the next morning.

Site 2: Just a couple more

The Marines jumped on an early-morning convoy and headed to COP Reilly, July 7.

Having arrived late in the afternoon, they relaxed and got some sleep before setting up their next site.

The Marines awoke around 6 a.m., got ready and headed out to the new site to, once again, set up their medical tents.

This site saw five Afghans

the first day, including a small Afghan child whose body was covered in a severe rash. Although it resembled chicken pox, her feet were peeling so badly, she couldn't walk.

"I felt sorry because she looked so miserable," said Lance Cpl. Yvonne C. Yumol, a FET member with 3rd Bn., 6th Marine Regiment.

The Marines treated six more Afghans before packing up the tents and jumping on an outgoing convoy to Patrol Base Siapan.

Site 3: From obstacles to great progress

Upon arrival at PB Siapan, July 11, the Marines threw their packs under a Hesco shelter and went straight to the next site.

As the Marines began to set up the medical tents, a massive sandstorm hit their area, pelting them with debris. Pushing through the sandstorm and effectively putting up one of tents, which was difficult enough without the wind and sand, the Marines sat on each leg of the tent to hold it down until stakes and sandbags were brought to take their places.

The Marines headed back into the PB, knowing the villagers were not going to visit the site during the sandstorm.

The next two days proved very successful for the team, as they saw about 70 patients come through the medical tent. The Marines split up into separate groups with some searching the local

Afghans before entering the site, others playing with the children and speaking, with what little Pashtu they had learned during training, to the Afghans waiting to be seen by the medical staff.

"We've made some great relations with families and it can only get better from here," said Yumol, from Los Angeles.

Yumol and the other FET Marines handed out toys and snacks to the children while their mothers received medical treatment. Some of the children ran around giggling, while wearing the Marines' Kevlar helmets.

"They were very happy to come see us because there are

See MEDICAL, A4



CPL. MEGAN SINDELAR

Petty Officer 3rd Class Liz J. Arevalo, a corpsman with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, looks over a young Afghan child during a village medical engagement, just outside Patrol Base Siapan, Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 10. Arevalo, 20, is from Los Angeles.

PAY, from A1

print, complete and sign Department of Defense Form 2944, Claim for Retroactive Stop Loss Payment.

Next, choose the appropriate method for submitting the claim form and available supporting documents based on

your service specifications. This information can be found on your service's stop loss Web site.

The following documents are examples of authorized source documents but may not be comprehensive, depending on specific status and service.

Effective Dec. 19, 2009, per the Defense Appropriations Act, stop-lossed servicemembers who voluntarily reenlisted or extended their service, and received a bonus for such reenlistment or extension of service, became no longer eligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay.

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DEL VALLE



After being seen by medical professionals, a young Afghan girl attempts to apply extra ointment from a package used to treat the rash that covers her body during a village medical engagement just outside Combat Outpost Reilly, Marjah, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 9.



Navy Lt. Jisun Hahn, medical officer, and Petty Officer 3rd Class, Liz J. Arevalo, corpsman, both with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, I Marine Headquarters Group, look over a young boy to determine his illness, during a village medical outreach, July 12, just outside Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

MEDICAL, from A3

no female doctors around," said Hahn. "I believe we helped the females become more familiar and grateful of us being around."

Site 4: Further progress, improved relations

The last stop on the medical engagement tour was at COP Sistani, where the Marines of

Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, called home. The Marines were happy to find a building they could use instead of the tents in which they were working.

The Marines were able to see 10 patients in the two days they spent at the site. They saw mostly Afghan men and children with aches and pains from farming.

One woman suffered from a tumor and had to be pushed to the site in a wheel barrow.

Hahn, from Enid, Okla., felt her team provided great medical care to locals who were in eminent need of medical aid.

"We definitely made a positive effect," said Hahn. "I'm not sure how much though, as we were only at each location two days."

Marine Corps policy urges responsibility online

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Internet has provided an ever-expanding social network that blurs the lines between personal and professional lives like never before.

To ensure Marines understand the Marine Corps policy and guidelines for posting online, the officials released Marine Administrative Message 181/10, titled Responsible and Effective Use of Internet-Based Capabilities.

The message reversed a previous message and now authorizes Marines to have an external official presence and limited personal

use of social networking sites on government-provided networks.

External official presences means official public affairs activities on non-DoD sites on the internet, such as official Marine Corps pages on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr. Limited personal use, means Marines are allowed to visit SNS, user-generated content, e-mail, instant messaging and discussion forums for reasonable durations and frequency based on the determination of a supervisor, according to MARADMIN 181/10.

Marine Corps units that want to create or already have pages on Facebook, Flickr, Twitter and YouTube must

go to www.marines.mil, to register their page, said Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez, facebook administrator for the Combat Center.

While Marines are encouraged to have an official online presence, they must also be careful what they put on their personal pages.

"Marines should always be aware that positive and negative behavior reflects upon themselves and the Marine Corps," said Jimenez, a Los Angeles native. "I encourage Marines to use common sense and do the right thing and not post anything they would not want their family or leadership to read. Marines taking part in illegal or inappropriate conduct online are

subject to being disciplined under the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

Given the opportunity for Marines to get into hot water, one question arises. Why would the Marine Corps allow their personnel to visit social media sites?

The Marine Corps understands and embraces the Internet-based capabilities," said Maj. Gen. George J. Allen, the chief information officer for the Marine Corps, in an official statement. "We can collaborate and enhance our business processes, and also provide a level of morale for our force that has never been seen before."

The Internet is also ingrained in our society,

According to figures cited by Headquarters Marine Corps, 65% of more than 2.6 million military service members are digital natives and have grown up using new media technologies.

"It's become an essential technology our society uses to communicate," said Jimenez. "Also, there is no better spokesperson, who can tell the Marine Corps' story better than the individual Marine."

While Marines are encouraged to engage the public and posting messages online, Marines should make it clear they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the Marine Corps, Jimenez said.

"Marines are encouraged to professionally and respectfully correct errors and misrepresentations made, by oth-

ers, about the Marine Corps," according to the social media guidance. "Marines must remember however, to respond and act with their mind and not their emotions when posting content."

Some Marines avoid the blurred line altogether.

"I just don't mention work when I'm on Facebook," said Lance Cpl. Arthur Lopez, a Towed Artillery Systems Technician with the Exercise Support Division. "If someone looked on my Facebook they probably could not tell that I am in the military."

No matter what strategy individuals to comply with the policy, Marines are encouraged to receive training and guidance from their leadership. For more detailed information visit <http://www.marines.mil/omg>

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<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 Pastor Abe Casiano Church (760) 366-9119</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>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 A.M. 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</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.fb29.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>Joshua Tree First Baptist Church Bible School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Wednesday 6:15 PM 6740 Sunset Rd. 366-3704</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>Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church 73493 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms, Ca 367-4185 Pastor Titus R. Burns Sunday Service: 10:00 AM Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 PM Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."</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 367-9400</p>	<p>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 9:00 am • Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Sunday Bible Study 8:00 am We're Here for Everyone Phone (760) 367-7135 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>	<p>First Christian Church 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am</p>
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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lieutenant Col. Thomas J. Gordon relinquished command of 1st Tank Battalion to Lt. Col. Timothy Barrick Thursday. The two are pictured saluting the national ensign at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lieutenant Col. Thomas J. Gordon, the outgoing commander of 1st Tank Battalion, gives a speech to friends and family.

COC, from A1

Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I could stand out here and tell you about the battalion's exploits and success over the past two years, but I think that would probably come across as a little self serving," Gordon said. "It's not me, it's them. The successes of this battalion belong to them."

"I've been blessed with some truly remarkable Marines," he said. "My mentors always used to tell me – just play the cards you've been dealt – and I was dealt a straight flush. The Marines and [noncommissioned officers] out there are the best I've ever seen."

The battalion's new commander, and soon to be new sergeant major in the coming months, will be training their Marines for their next assignment when some of their Marines return from Afghanistan toward the end of the year.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lieutenant Col. Timothy Barrick, the incoming commanding officer of 1st Tank Battalion, addresses the crowd.

NREA, from A1

closely monitor and study tortoises, as well as gain more knowledge of the respiratory tract infection.

Ravens and other birds of prey frequent the TRACRS in search of an easy meal, but a series of nets and fences protect the hatchlings, said Nora Bruennel, a biologist with NREA.

NREA, one of the leading proponents in the recovery of the desert tortoise population, also has an extensive training program all Marines and sailors must receive before participating in Enhanced Mojave Viper. Each year, more than 40,000 service members and nearly 1,000 civilian contractors receive the training. The training outlines the restrictions regarding the tortoises as well as the procedures to take when one is spotted while training.

"There are several areas throughout the installation where units must

stick to the [main supply route] in order to not interfere with tortoises or their habitat," Henen said. "If a unit sees a tortoise in the road or other dangerous area, they must call BEARMAT and follow the proper steps."

Bruennel said having the opportunity to make an impact on a species such as the desert tortoise is one of the biggest reasons she loves her line of work.

"It's a great feeling to know we may be able to contribute to a long-term success with the desert tortoise," said Bruennel, a Cheyenne, Wyo., native. "Others could look at our research as a reference."

With the help of the men and women with NREA, coupled with the cooperation of training units, the Combat Center may be able to significantly increase the amount of desert tortoises in the wild. Henen said the first group of tortoises is slated to be released from the TRACRS as early as 2012.

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Female Marine brings diversity to Afghan women



CPL. MEGAN SINDELAR

Lance Cpl. Sharhonda U. Jones a female engagement team member with Regimental Combat Team 7, sits with a local child while he waits for medical attention during a village medical outreach at Patrol Base Siapan, Marjah, Afghanistan, July 12.

CPL. MEGAN SINDELAR
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

PATROL BASE SAIPAN, Afghanistan – Lance Cpl. Sharhonda U. Jones had constantly asked her command for a chance to deploy, so when they approached her and told her about the new female engagement team program, she jumped at the opportunity.

The 21-year-old from Wills Point, Texas, trained for three months before she deployed. She participated in field and weapons training, as well as classes on the Pashtu language and civil affairs.

The FET members, with Regimental Combat Team 7, believe the more they go out and are seen by Afghan men, they will start to see what their women are capable of and give them a chance to become businesswomen, teachers and even members of the government. Male Marines cannot effectively talk to Afghan women because of cultural sensitivities.

“When I had to search my first Afghan woman, it was scary,” said Jones, originally an administration clerk. “I could see she was uncomfortable because she thought

I was a guy.”

Jones, admitting it was hard to engage Afghan women at first, said that most of the locals in this area have never seen an African-American female before. They have grown accustomed to only seeing African-American males come through. Every time Jones visits a compound or is involved in a village medical outreach, the local females automatically assume she is a male.

Jones has become more vocal around the women and has even gone as far as removing her flak so they can see her female figure. This way the Afghans are more comfortable and Jones can move on with her mission of engaging the Afghan women and children; showing them that this is so much more than just a war – the Marines are helping the Afghans build their government and use their own resources to rebuild their country after years of fighting.

“She’s great with the kids,” said Lance Cpl. Kathryn L. Mannion, Jones’s team leader with the FET. “And once the Afghan women realize she is a woman as well, they get a kick out of her. She’s really funny.”

Most FET members get assigned to ground forces made up of entirely male Marines, but Jones has a different perspective than most female Marines on that topic.

“I like it,” she exclaimed. “Growing up around males, I believe I have a different look on the Marine Corps. I see what they are going through and I have a lot of respect for them.”

She said that the male Marines have grown accustomed to working with her and her teammate, and they are treated as one of their own.

“She makes friends really easily,” Mannion said. “Everywhere we go, she always knows just about everyone there.”

Jones really enjoys and is proud of what she is doing out here, but when she returns home, she is going to be busy putting in her reenlistment package. Her plan is to request temporary orders to try out for the Marine Corps basketball team.

“She loves the Marine Corps; I’ve never heard her complain once, no matter how bad the living conditions can get,” Mannion said. “She’s more than just a team member, she is a great friend.”



CPL. MEGAN SINDELAR

Lance Cpl. Sharhonda U. Jones, a female engagement team member with Regimental Combat Team 7, takes a break during the medical enhancement clinic at Combat Outpost Coutu, Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 6.

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LANCCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Third Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., puts cutting-edge portable energy efficient power generation equipment to the test during an Experimental Forward Operating Base exercise at the Combat Center Monday.

SOLAR, from A1

one place to the other without having to wait for a logistics convoy to follow them around on the battlefield," said Capt. Adorjan Ferenczy, an engineer officer at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab. "As technology develops, we may even be able to eliminate the use of fossil fuels on the battle field."

Marines used other high tech gear, including more durable, lightweight, and user-friendly tents, energy efficient lighting systems, and PowerShades, field shelters with embedded solar panels which provide one to two kilowatts of energy to power radios, laptop computers, lighting and ventilation systems.

This technology offers more than agility and efficiency, said Ferenczy, a Detroit native.

"The majority of casualties in combat right now are from IEDs and Marines delivering supplies to the troops who need it," he said. "By reducing the amount of fuel and water transportation, we can take

vehicles off the road, which we believe will save lives of Marines."

Company I ran their equipment on solar and battery power for more than 192 continuous hours. This led to a saving of approximately eight gallons of fuel per day, which would have been used to power generators and vehicles, Ferenczy said.

The level of maintenance required to run the system has also been a substantial benefit as well, he said.

"These are very simple systems," Ferenczy said. "You're not always worried about doing preventative maintenance on a generator or vehicle to power the [command operation center]."

Sergeant Gregory Wenzel, an intelligence analyst with Company I, who has been on six deployments and seen the many methods Marines use to power-up, said this expeditionary energy system is the best.

"As far as disadvantages, I really haven't seen any," said Wenzel, from Altoona, Pa. "You don't need any fuel. It's much quieter than a generator but can still power any electrical asset you need."

First Lt. Stephen Cooney, the executive officer of the company, said he was in awe of the array of benefits the solar sources provided for his Marines.

"As far as benefits go at the company level it's easy to see," said the Sacramento, Calif., native. "You have virtually no issues with power, and you're supplying everything internally."

"The Marines gain so

much too from having the [PowerShade]," he said. "They have shelter during the day when they're not training or operating and they have lights at night as well."

Ferenczy said the technology is still being closely monitored and evaluated, but he added that after the testing is complete, 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan with this new technology this fall.



LANCCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Tactical solar panels soak up rays and convert them into electrical power at Combat Center's Range 220 July 26.

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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*

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

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

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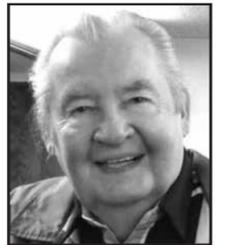
Muslim prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 87.

Jewish prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 93.

For more information call 830-5430.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



One of the criticisms of this weekly column is that I am always saying good things about people, businesses and events. My critics say I am too "Pollyanna-ish" and never discuss the negative aspects of people and their often disappointing actions.

My critics are absolutely correct. So be it.

Last week I wrote with pride about my friend Lynn Gibson owner of Itsutrade's Boxes (Lynn's One Stop Shop) located in Stater Brother's Shopping Center, Twentynine Palms. I pointed out that when an office supply store closed its doors in Twentynine Palms Lynn immediately doubled her inventory and stocked her shelves with many new supplies to meet every possible need. She is also a Fed Ex and UPS shipping and receiving center and offers many US Postal Service aides. And now in addition to the computer and copy machine services available (copies currently only 5 cents each) she has added a wide format copy machine and a copy machine that scans documents and puts them on disks.

The most wonderful thing about my friend, however, is that she is a great mother and grandmother. As you read this, Lynn will be enjoying a visit from her daughter Erecka and her 2 1/2 year old granddaughter Olivia. Lynn is a true tough minded optimist with a heart as big as the universe. Lynn is both strong and warm.

Finally, I want you to know that Lynn is a notary public and has a master's degree in telecommunications/information systems from John Hopkins University.

There is not a phony bone in her body and to know her is to love her.

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MISC.

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The deadline for submitting Trader Ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's newspaper.

Trader Ad forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417. Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address.

If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used

only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

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

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

SPORTS AND LEISURE

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B1

'Sport This' strikes out at championship

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE
CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

After four months of intense competition, the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League championship tournament rolled on at Sandy Hill Lanes July 28.

Throughout the season, both teams played 77 games and entered the tournament with a one game difference. The championship was decided by 3 games, as the teams compiled their competitive record into one night. The prize – a year's worth of bragging rights.

"Cuban Pete's Rollers had a one game lead over Sport This," said Randy Husted, a sports specialist with MCCC's sports department. "It's a big rivalry because last year it was the same two teams for the championship."

The teams faced off in adjacent lanes six and seven for what was sure to be a close competition.

The first game was close and came to an end with a pin difference of less than 20 pins. The first game went to Cuban Pete's Rollers, both teams admitted although the games were close, the scores were lower than usual.

"Today was pretty rough," said Brent M. Hughes, a player with Sport This. "We put in new pins in the championship lanes so the pin fall was dramatically different. They are not just falling over because they are there, you actually have to hit the pins to knock them over. The heat in the building right now is making the lanes break down really fast, so adjustments are really key right now, that's why all of us scored really, really low."

The Rollers came out on top with the first game increasing their lead by two games making the second game of the night Sport This last chance to stay in the competition.

During the second game, both teams seemed to adjust to the lanes and performed considerably better.

Tensions were high and tempers were pushed in the hot ally as both teams

See **BOWLING, B3**



Brent Hughes, a player with Sport This, goes for a strike during the Championship game of the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League against Cuban Pete's Rollers Wednesday at Sandy Hill Lane. All the games ended with less than a 50 pin difference.



Bowlers in the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League play their final games of the season Wednesday at Sandy Hill Lanes. The competition was tough between four to five teams until the final few weeks when Sport This and Cuban Pete's Rollers pulled ahead.



Bowlers in the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League competed for the championship title, trophies and certificates Wednesday night at Sandy Hill Lanes.

First ever women's soccer team kicks off season

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in the history of the Combat Center, a women's varsity soccer team has been formed.

After the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League ended, the women athletes who play soccer were given the opportunity to play on an all-women's team and form the first ever Combat Center's women base team.

"We've never had enough girls for a varsity soccer team," said Skip Best, the athletic director for Marine Corps Community Services. "This year I was surprised at the number of girls that showed interest and wanted to put a team together."

The development of the team may take time and will be a growing process, said Steve Bohanan, the coach of the team. "I want to make sure the women's

team has a good solid base to start out," he said. "Without a good base line, you have no potential to grow."

The purpose for building a solid foundation women's soccer team, is to set up for a six on six league for the women in the upcoming years, Bohanan said.

For the women on the team, a change in the style of play is more beneficial now on an all-girl team than it was during the men's intramurals.

"My skills and style of play are improving," said Rylin Hughes, a player for the women's varsity team. "I am more confident now and having a lot of fun. I am learning, and my skills are growing a lot more on this team."

Since this is the first season, it needs to be successful so next year the girls will want to come back and develop their

See **SOCCER, B4**



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM JACKSON

Brigitte Ng [left], a player for the women's varsity soccer team, shoots the ball as Elissa Bohanan [right], attempts to block it during a practice Monday at Felix Fields.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Donald Tolbert, a captain for the Twentynine Palms Triathlon Team demonstrates a stroke exercise for training in the Training Tank Tuesday.

Training pushes triathlete beyond limits

PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The body reaches its limits when one pushes themselves farther than they believe possible. The Combat Center's triathlon team makes it a priority to challenge the body and see how far they can go.

Every Monday morning the team runs, every Tuesday afternoon, they swim, and every Wednesday they bike. These extreme athletes seem to never stop, but they love what they do.

"The sport of triathlon is our passion and we train and race together while representing the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps at local events,"

said Donald Tolbert, a captain for the Combat Center's triathlon team. "Our roster includes some sixty athletes on base including notable multi-day adventure racers, marathoners, ultra runners, ironmen, cyclist, mountain bikers and swimmers."

The triathlon, a combination of sports, forces the body to learn and adapt to unfamiliar training. "It balances all different sports and dynamics," said Randy Paschall, a participant on the Triathlon team. "You may be a good runner but not a good swimmer. It's an all around conditioning that gives you discipline."

In athletics, no matter

how long one has participated in the sport, they never stop learning, and on the triathlon team, it is no different. "You get feedback from your team mates and learn from other's experience," Paschall said. "It challenges you. I was a swim instructor and I'm still learning."

The endurance and drive needed to finish a race strengthens one's character as well as physique. "It enhances you, physically and mentally, and increases your motivation," Tolbert said. "It strikes your competitive side, and makes you mentally tougher. I always say 'you are stronger

See **TEAM, B4**



Liberty Call

Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Fridays: Social food, 5 to 7 p.m.; Salsa dancing, 7 to 8 p.m.; Ladies' night, 8 to 10 p.m.; DJ Vlad, 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: Variety Night with DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m.
Wednesdays: Karaoke with DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 10 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Mondays: Free chicken nuggets/nachos, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Buffalo wings, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: DJ, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Monday-Friday: All Hands Lunch, 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

Monday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mondays: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Local Events

The Shadow Mountain Band

Description: An outdoor mini-music festival
When: 7:30 p.m., Friday, July 30

007 and the Souls

Description: A tribute to psychedelic rock 'n' roll
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, July 31

Where: Pappy and Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

The Town of Yucca Valley Music Festival "The Yucca Valley High School Alumni Band"

Description: Featuring big band era music
When: 7 p.m., Saturday, July 31
Where: Yucca Valley Community Center ball field
Dumosa Avenue north of Twentynine Palms Highway.
For more information call 369-7211 or visit <http://www.yucca-valley.org>.

Theatre 29 presents The Pajama Game

Description: The final two performances of the romantic comedy set in a pajama factory
When: 7 p.m., Friday, July 30 and Saturday, July 31
Where: Theatre 29
73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>.

Lower Desert

Ted Nugent

Description: The rock 'n' roll legends perform his hits
When: 9 p.m., Friday, August 13
Where: Agua Caliente,
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information, call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

The Comedy of Bill Maher

Description: The famous political humorist performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, August 28
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information, call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Huey Lewis and the News

Description: The San Francisco rock band performs
When: 9 p.m., Friday, August 27
Where: Agua Caliente,
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information, call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Don Henley

Description: The classic rock legend performs
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 17
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, July 30

6 p.m. – Toy Story 3, Rated G
9 p.m. – Killers, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Jonah Hex, Rated PG-13

Saturday, July 31

11 a.m. – Free Matinee, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Marmaduke, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Knight and Day, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The A-Team, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Get Him to the Greek, Rated R

Sunday, August 1

2 p.m. – Toy Story, Rated G
6 p.m. – The Karate Kid, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Grown Ups, Rated PG-13

Monday, August 2

7 p.m. – Splice, Rated R

Tuesday, August 3

7 p.m. – Killers, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, August 4

7 p.m. – Marmaduke, Rated PG

Thursday, August 5

7 p.m. – Get Him to the Greek, Rated R



COURTESY PHOTO

"Inception," is a spectacular new sci-fi psycho-drama starring Leonardo DiCaprio playing Don Cobb, a corporate-espionage hacker who is able to steal peoples most guarded secrets directly from their sleeping minds.

'Inception' a challenging mindbender

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Inception"
Rated PG-13

What if someone could break into your dreams and take over your thoughts?

That's the premise of the "Inception," a smart and often spectacular new sci-fi psycho-drama starring Leonardo DiCaprio as a specially trained corporate-espionage hacker with a knack for sneaking into someone's sleeping mind – and then stealing their deepest, most guarded secrets.

This surreptitious skill set has made DiCaprio's character, Dom Cobb, a valuable, outside-the-law asset to companies who use him for snoop-n-scoop missions into rivals' nappin' noggins for

compromising information too valuable to trust to a vault or computer drive. But Cobb's gifts have also made him a fugitive, on the run for the death of his wife after one of his head trips took a tragic turn.

The movie kicks into gear early, as Cobb is presented with a daunting challenge by a wealthy Japanese tycoon: Get into a rival industrial's dreams, then plant an idea there that will blossom into waking reality. That's a particularly tricky, experimental-stage feat called "inception," and if Cobb and his team of mind burglars can pull it off, he'll get a clean slate and be able to return to a normal life again.

But we discover that Cobb has a deep secret of his own, one that keeps popping up in his subconscious

with the potential to sabotage everything.

London-born writer-director Christopher Nolan certainly knows his way around a brainy thriller. His 2000 "Memento" was a murder-mystery mini-masterpiece that unfolded backward, like a story read from end to beginning. In 2008 he dazzled fans and critics alike with "The Dark Knight," widely regarded as the meatiest and most masterful of the Batman movies.

Nolan worked on the idea for "Inception" for most of a decade, and it shows. It's a rare must-see summer movie with brains to match its brawn and its budget.

But it would be even more dazzling if the story at its core weren't essentially a rather conventional heist caper with car chases and booming gunfire, albeit one played out in the crazy theater of the mind. And it's a movie that requires you to keep up, pay attention and

stay focused. "So...who's subconscious are we in?" asks a greenhorn Cobb recruit, played by Ellen Page, about midway through. She could very well be speaking for the audience.

But you, like her, will likely find yourself swept up and carried away into Nolan's meticulous mental movie maze, in which time can be slowed down to the point of near suspension and people dream in different, ever deepening layers, dreams within dreams. As Cobb knows, you can get lost in there...and possibly never come back.

And the ending will have you leaving the theater scrambling to process what you've just seen – and what you haven't.

Are our thoughts really as secret as we'd like to believe? Can dreams become reality? What's real, and what's imagination? This is one marvelously challenging mind-bender of a movie that truly gets into your head.



COURTESY PHOTO

Cobb is assisted in his mental meddling by green horn recruit played by Ellen Page.

Cinema 6 Showtimes Effective 7/30/10 - 8/5/10	
Dinner For Schucks (PG13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Salt (PG13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Cat & Dogs (PG) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Ramona & Beezus(G) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00
Inception (PG13) Everyday: 6:00, 9:00	
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Combat Center Sports

Bikers hold first poker run for wounded Marine

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Whirling wind and an open road is every biker's dream, but for one wounded warrior and brother, those dreams seem far away.

Bikers from all over the Morongo Basin came to help raise money to build a three-wheeled motorcycle for Staff Sgt. David Lyon, a member of the Wounded Warriors Regiment, during Phantom Fury Nomad Motorcycle Club's first Poker Run, Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lyon, was injured while serving in Afghanistan as a member of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit. He lost both legs at mid thigh and in addition sustained severe damage to his right arm and hand as well as internal injuries. He is receiving care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C.

"I fought with Dave in Operation Phantom Fury and this bike is for him," said Joel Miller, the President of the Phantom Fury Nomad Motorcycle Club. "We have

ridden motorcycles together and he doesn't want to stop because of his injuries."

Participants gathered at the Handlebar and Grill, in Palm Springs, Calif., to register, pick up their first card and receive the route.

"This is the first time we have done anything like this and it should have been done a long time ago," said Allen Lambert, one of the organizers of the event.

Miller said registration went from 8-11 a.m. and by 9 a.m. there were more than 60 participants either at the first stop or on the road. By the end of the day, more than 80 bikers registered for the event.

Riders came with good spirits and seemed happy to help the wounded Marine.

Jeff Hemphill, one of the participants in the ride, said it was a good cause to participate in, and he plans to assist in building the trike.

The last stop for the bikers was Club Vo, Twentynine Palms, Calif., on the corner of Adobe and 2nd street, where they turned in their cards and received a free meal during a post ride barbeque outside the building.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Bikers ride along Highway 62 to their next stop of a Poker ride to raise money for a wounded Marine and brother in the wind Saturday.

Melissa Morgan, a friend of Lyon and volunteer at the event, said "The bar has done quite a bit to help, including providing a drink special for the event."

She also said some of the

employees made baked goods to sell to help raise money.

After the poker ride artists from different local bands came and provided music for the first time at Club Vo from 2-6 p.m.

Miller said the bar also donated a percent of its sells that day. Besides the funds from the bar sells, the ride raised just under \$3,000.

For more information on the Phantom Fury Nomad

Motorcycle Club visit their Web site at <http://www.PhantomFuryNomadMC.com>, or for more information on Lyons' condition visit <http://www.themarinedavidlyon.blogspot.com>.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Brent Hughes

Hometown: Portland, Ore.

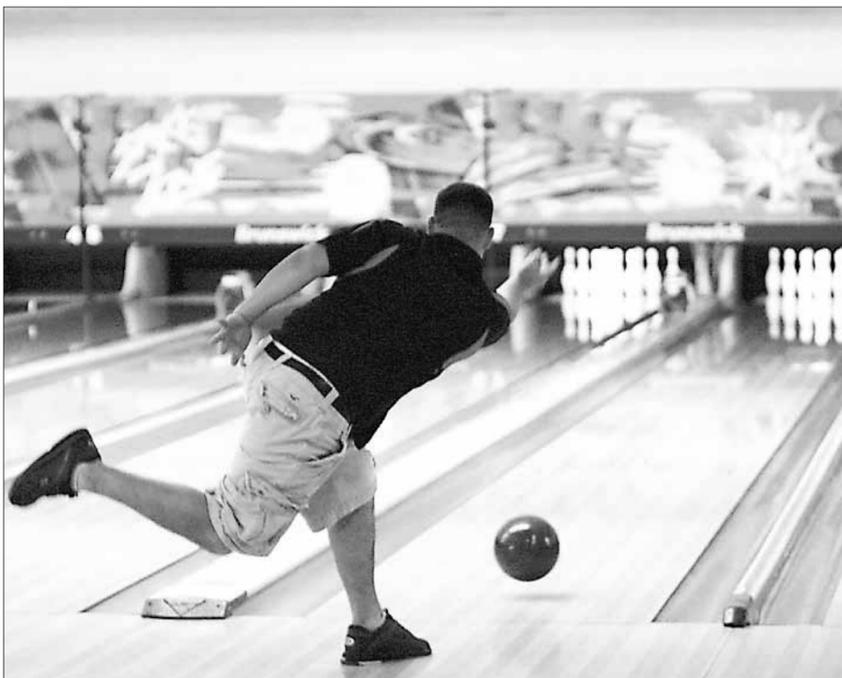
Unit: Marine Headquarters Battalion

Job title: Head mechanic for Sandy Hill Lanes

Recognition: Highest score for second place championship bowling team.

Favorite aspect of the sport: "Coaching"

Advice for aspiring players: "Listen to those that can help. This is such an intricate sport and every little thing affects how you play."



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Rick Ericson, a player for the Cuban Pete's Rollers, sends the ball down the lane during the Championship game of the Commanding General's Intramural Bowling league against Sport This Wednesday at Sandy Hill Lanes.

BOWLING, from B1

pushed for every pin they could get. By the last frame it was still anyone's game with the Rollers having a slight lead.

As the players finished the final frame the Rollers kept their lead to win the game and secure their second championship in a row for the Intramural league.

"I thought it was very competitive, both teams were neck and neck it could have gone either way," said Jeff Meads, a player with the "Cuban Pete's Rollers."

After the teams played their third game and all the other bowlers in the ally were finished, Huston presented multiple awards for not just the championships but also the men and women's scratch game, scratch series, handicap game and handicap series.

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41st congressional district

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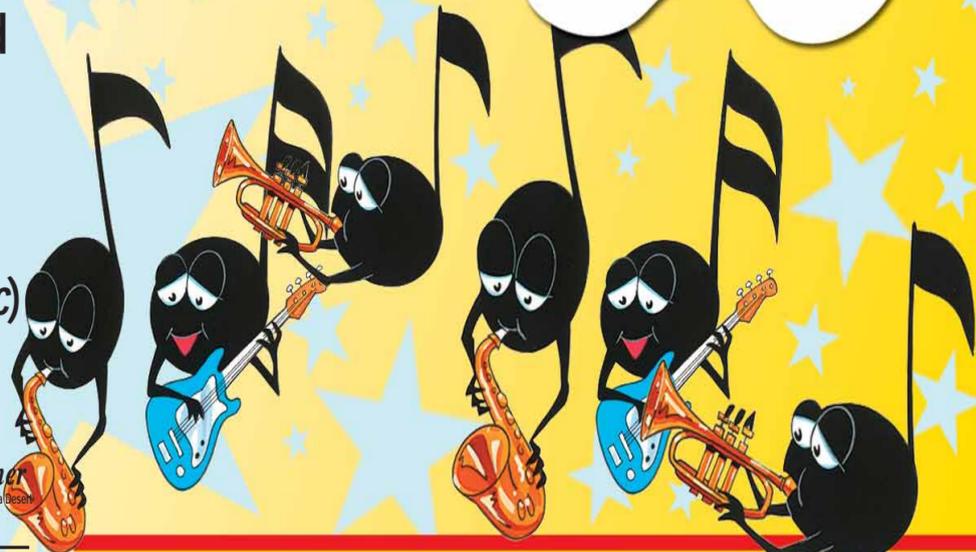
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TEAM, from B1

than you think you are." Looking at the sport, one may be intimidated by the amount of endurance required to accomplish the entire race, but the more experienced athletes on the triathlon team are looking for Marines interested which they can mentor, Tolbert said. "We accept everybody," he said. "They will catch the

triathlon bug because this is fun." However, physical shape and stamina needs to be built over time and the process takes patience. "It's step by step, stroke by stroke," Tolbert said. "You have to set a goal for yourself. Anybody can do it if they are dedicated and put the training into it." All in all, companionship and love of the sport is a motivation to an ath-

lete to come out and work everyday. "It gives you people to train with and compete with," said Dave Keele, a member of the triathlon team. "It provides motivation and camaraderie. It's really fun, and I enjoy the physical activity." If interested in joining or for more information contact the triathlon team captains by calling Ed Tennison at 830-2675 or Don Tolbert at 830-5581.



PFC. SARAH ANDERSON

Athletes on the Twentynine Palms Triathlon Team ride down the road during training Wednesday.



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM JACKSON

Sandy L. Santiago, a player for the women's varsity soccer team, passes the ball to a teammate during a practice Monday at Felix Field.

SOCCER, from B1

skills further, Bohanan added. Women played in the intramural season, but did not have the opportunity to play to their full potential, Best said. "It's a chance where the girls can do something for themselves and not have to compete against the guys." "Guys and girls play soccer a lot differently," Hughes said. "Guys play with more power where as girls play with more finesse." The goal for MCCS is to grow the program to a point where the women of the Combat Center have more opportunities to play on a more national level for the Marine Corps. "We are looking to eventually send girls to the All Marine Team," Best said. "Hopefully Headquarters Marine Corps will hear about the programs, us and Pendleton have out here, and look for players for the team." Despite the strong start of the program, the team is still in need of more players. "We are looking for quality players, maybe girls who haven't played in a year or two, who want to come out and give it a shot. We can build on that." For more information about the women's varsity team, contact MCCS Sports by calling 830-4092.

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