



PHOTOS BY PFC. ALLIE JESSE

Sgt. Maj. Abel T. Leal, outgoing battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, performs the passing of the non-commissioned officer sword to Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin, oncoming battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, during a relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, Dec. 3.

Passing of sword; HQBN holds relief, appointment

STORY BY LANCE CPL.
LEVI SCHULTZ

Sgt. Maj. Abel T. Leal relinquished his post as Headquarters Battalion sergeant major to Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin at Felix Field, Dec. 3.

Leal served as the battalion's sergeant major since 2013 and received orders to serve as 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, sergeant major out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"My time with the battalion was good and we've grown a lot since I first took over," Leal said. "I feel the way ahead is good and Crespin is going to do an outstanding job with the battalion."

During the ceremony, the sergeants major performed the passing of the ceremonial non-commissioned officer sword. Leal spoke on the important representation that exists within the emblematic passing of the sword between sergeants major.

"The ceremony symbolizes the passing of the torch between sergeant majors," Leal said. "As the new battalion sergeant major, he can continue to build upon what we've built in these last few years."

Crespin previously served as the sergeant major for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 beginning March 2015. According to Crespin, his focus for the battalion will be aimed primarily at improving non-commissioned officers.

"It's always about the NCOs," Crespin said. "They are truly the backbone of the Marine Corps. I'd like to see more NCOs stepping up to lead the fight."

Headquarters Battalion consists of more than 60 different sections with a large variety of missions. The battalion is responsible for not only supporting but training units that come through the Combat Center.

"The biggest challenge

See **HQBN pg. A6**



Sgt. Maj. Abel T. Leal, former battalion sergeant major, Headquarters Battalion, receives a plaque from 1st Sgt. Frank O. Robinson, Company A First Sergeant, Headquarters Battalion, during a relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, Dec. 3. Leal served as the battalion's sergeant major since October of 2013 and was relieved by Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin.

Volunteers offer 'Treats for Troops'



Preston Herrera, 4, son of Master Sgt. Manuel Herrera Jr., faculty advisor, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, and Raija Ginder, 3, daughter of Zachary Ginder, college counselor, Base Programs Office, color Christmas artwork for service members at the Frontline Restaurant, during Treats for Troops, Tuesday. Volunteers made approximately 50 hand-colored pieces of artwork during the event.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Approximately 40 volunteers provided Combat Center service members with holiday treats, Tuesday. They baked 2,200 cookies for the event and more than 2,000 were decorated within the first hour and a half of the event.

Volunteers from MCCC plan to give out 1,900 cookies to service members during the Santa Extravaganza at the Combat Center's Marine Corps Exchange, scheduled Friday.



Heidi Bosseler and Eadon Bosseler, 7, son of Cpl. Clay Bosseler, tank crewman, 1st Tank Battalion, color Christmas artwork for service members at the Frontline Restaurant, during Treats for Troops, Tuesday. Holiday artwork made during the event will be put on display during the Santa Extravaganza at the Combat Center Exchange, Friday.

See **Treats pg. A6**

Getting feet wet during opening of Steel Knight 2016

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. JUSTIN BOLING

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. —The 1st Marine Division launched Steel Knight by securing the Camp Pendleton beachhead in the early morning of Dec. 4, 2015, aboard Camp Pendleton, California.

Following infiltration and follow-on surveillance conducted by 1st Reconnaissance Battalion Marines, Marines with 1st Bn., 1st Marine Regiment, surged from the amphibious assault vehicles operated by 3rd Assault Amphibian Bn. after their cold trek over the waves of the Pacific Ocean to conduct a notional raid on a small town complete with enemy role players.

See **SK16 pg. A6**



1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment infantrymen tactically move from building to building in a simulated combat zone during Exercise Steel Knight 2016 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 4. 1st Marine Division has conducted Steel Knight for the past three years, making this the fourth iteration of the exercise. Steel Knight will test I Marine Expeditionary Force's amphibious capabilities through realistic, scenario-driven training.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Sgt. Owen Kimbrel.



Cpl. Taylor Giffard, ground signals operator, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, acts as an opposition force during a mission readiness exercise for 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Nov. 24.

HQBN from pg. A1



Lt. Col. Dennis A. Sanchez, battalion commander, Headquarters Battalion, salutes during a relief and appointment ceremony at Felix Field, Dec. 3. Sgt. Maj. Abel T. Leal passed on his post as sergeant major of Headquarters Battalion to Sgt. Maj. Avery L. Crespin.

for us was communication between the different sections and more than 11,000 Marines,” Leal said. “Each of the sections has their own mission to accomplish but we all have to find time to also complete annual training, such as rifle qualification and the different [professional military education.]”

Crespin also recognized the challenges that come along with managing so many different sections. “The biggest challenge with any unit is always communication,” Crespin said. “As long as we are professional and respect each other’s missions then we will be successful.”

Treats from pg. A1



Carolina Herrera, 9, and David Herrera, 6, children of Staff Sgt. Jose Herrera, telecommunications systems chief, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, decorate cookies for service members, during Treats for Troops at the Frontline Restaurant, Tuesday. A portion of the cookies made will be given to MCCES Marines staying aboard the Combat Center during the holidays.

SK16 from pg. A1

“This was my first Steel Knight,” said Cpl. Dustin Weiss, an amphibious assault vehicle crew chief. “This is a great opportunity to get excellent training going from ship to shore and back again.”

These large floating armored personnel carriers bring Marines from naval vessels to shore to assault targets, provide humanitarian aid or a variety of other missions. Marines have been using these vehicles since 1972. For this iteration of Steel Knight, the USS Somerset provided the amphibious platform from which the Marines could maneuver and assault.

“This exercise helps you realize how truly important it is to get these Marines to the shore,” Weiss said. “You see the variety of skills we bring to the fight by getting these guys where they need to be.”

This year’s Steel Knight is the fourth iteration of the division’s combined arms, live fire exercise to be executed across multiple locations. The two-week-long exercise offers a variety of

An amphibious assault vehicle proceeds to assault the objective after conducting an amphibious landing during Exercise Steel Knight aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 4. The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps continue to combine efforts to revitalize, refine and strengthen fundamental amphibious capabilities, and reinforce the Navy and Marine Corps team. Steel Knight will test the Marine Air Ground-Task Force’s expeditionary capabilities through realistic, scenario-driven training.

For continued Steel Knight coverage see next week’s edition of the OP.



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Reprinted from the Observation Post
December 9, 1977
Story by Sgt. David Jeffers

Grunt training for all Marines

Every Marine is a rifleman. Training for the profession begins in boot camp. For those assigned as infantrymen, that training continues as long as they remain on active duty.

But for the “supporting” Marines, an annual two weeks at the rifle range and essential subjects testing are the bulk of continuing that training. Many Marines feel that’s not enough.

One such Marine is First Sergeant William Wire of Communication Support Company. The 1stSgt. decided that his Marines were not going to be without the experience necessary to maintain their combat readiness. So, he designed a three-day exercise to take place in the MCAGCTC training area over a weekend.

1stSgt. Wire wasn’t sure what kind of reception his idea would get from his company and he was prepared to assign the billets for the provisional rifle platoon. But he decided to ask if anyone wanted to

volunteer for exercise.

After he outlined the training, which included a seven-man aggressor force of officers and staff NCOs, and a rifle platoon of privates through sergeants, he found himself with an unexpected problem—more volunteers than bullets. For instance, he had fifteen corporals wanting to take part, but needed only nine. He assigned the billets by rank seniority and the case was closed.

During the exercise, the rifle platoon set-up a main camp and made sweeps and reconnaissance patrols during the day and night, setting-up ambushes for the aggressor force.

The best feature of the exercise was that the NCOs were completely responsible for everything. They gave classes, assigned the tasks, supervised the chow and, in short, took care of every detail.

When it was over, the rifle platoon had accomplished their mission, to hold their command post from the

aggressor force and to train. Those involved felt they had learned more in three days about what Marines must know than at anytime since recruit training.

There’s no doubt that this is the kind of training and initiative that make the strongest possible Marine Corps: a Corps of knowledgeable and experienced Marines.

This view was confirmed by Corporal Greg Uribe, training NCO at Comm Supt Co, in his remarks about what it was like to spend three days playing grunt.

“It’s not what you’re expecting,” said Cpl Uribe. Specifically, what he was referring to was the “enemy,” in this case the seven-man team of officers and staff NCOs that generally harassed the provisional rifle platoon.

Despite the harassment from experienced Marines, the platoon kept their command post intact and found out a

lot about being infantrymen in the process. “You meet the enemy only when he is ready,” said Cpl Uribe, describing the guerilla tactics of the aggressors.

The American Indians of the southwest have long claimed that it’s your routines that kill you. That’s exactly what the volunteer rifle platoon discovered. The enemy doesn’t attack on schedule, they make the most of yours. “They fire on you when you are most tired or confused, eating chow or sleeping,” said Uribe, “you have to be on your toes all the time—always alert.”

Overall the platoon enjoyed their stay in the desert except for the temperatures. It was cold. The rats weren’t much fun either.

What do they think it would be to be a grunt in the war zone? Cpl Uribe pondered that question and said succinctly, “It’d be a hassle.” He then added, “But somebody’s got to do it, and that’s why we are Marines.”

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Treasury
 - 6 Small woods
 - 11 Swindle
 - 14 Gulf ship
 - 15 Looks out for, maybe
 - 16 Be in the red
 - 17 Damsel's rescuer
 - 19 Unfamiliar
 - 20 Young fellow
 - 21 Dirty coat
 - 22 Writer Hemingway
 - 24 Ten-gallon hat
 - 26 "That tastes awful!"
 - 27 Slippery sort
 - 28 Convertible sofas
 - 31 French mothers
 - 34 Dwarf
 - 35 Auto club letters
 - 36 Unbending
 - 37 Dilutes
 - 38 1700 in letters
 - 39 Maximum
 - 40 Peter, Paul or Mary
 - 41 Court events
 - 42 Mouth-watering
 - 44 "The Thin Man" co-star Myrna
 - 45 Barbecue fuel
 - 46 Not terminal
 - 50 Igloo dweller
 - 52 Stable color
 - 53 In the open
 - 54 Holtz of ESPN
 - 55 "The Good Apprentice" novelist
 - 58 Shelley work
 - 59 Moxie
 - 60 Navel variety
 - 61 One of the Bobbsey twins
 - 62 Proficient
 - 63 More like Solomon

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 - 3 Drop
 - 4 Hardened
 - 5 Locks
 - 6 Religious law
 - 7 Passing mention?
 - 8 Dowel
 - 9 Washington erupter of 1980
 - 10 Band that backs Springsteen
 - 11 Classic "S.N.L." characters
 - 12 Has a mortgage
 - 13 Former Speaker Gingrich
 - 18 ___ & The Gang (R. &B. group)
 - 23 Kindergarten break
 - 25 One nearing adulthood
 - 26 Not mincing words
 - 28 Police operation
 - 29 Contest of speed
 - 30 Anatomical pouches
 - 31 Jazz vibraphonist Jackson
 - 32 New York canal
 - 33 "Love's Been Good to Me" composer
 - 34 Lower leg parts
 - 37 Like a well-fitting suit
 - 38 Poet Angelou
 - 40 Marathoner's need

- 41 Tight-against-the-scalp braid
- 43 Hawaiian dish
- 44 Hilo feast
- 46 Member of Santa's team
- 47 Sends packing
- 48 Desi's daughter
- 49 The wild blue yonder
- 50 North Carolina school
- 51 Fountain order
- 52 Common request
- 56 Outrage
- 57 SADD focus

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Last week's answers

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Danell

The Caribbean Island of Dominica, Chief Petty Officer, Lead and chief petty officer, Human Resources/ Manpower Office

DUMAS

Chief Petty Officer Danell Dumas was born on the Caribbean Island of Dominica and moved to the Virgin Islands. She became a naturalized citizen and has been in the Navy for 16 years.

>I moved from Dominica when I was 19. Our education was a little different, so by that age I had already completed 2 years of college. I was a business student, which meant I took economics and accounting but I also took a lot of sociology. I love learning about how people interact with each other.

>Adapting to life in the U.S. was difficult. At the time I had a green card and wasn't a naturalized citizen.

>I was a student at the University of the Virgin Islands and worked full time. I was given the choice to either move with my family or set out on my own.

>After some consideration, I decided to go out on my own. I figured the easiest way to do that was to join the military. Back then you ordered a video to get the information you wanted. After that I started getting calls from the recruiter. Two weeks later, I had taken the [Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery] and enlisted in the Navy.

>After my first two years of college, I taught for about a year. I wanted to continue giving back to people. I decided to be a Navy Corpsman because I wanted to be part of a job field where I could help people.

>So far, I've had an interesting career in the Navy. Although I wanted to be a corpsman, I didn't start out as one. I joined as a deck seaman back when you could join the Navy without a specialty. The idea was that you would work toward the job you wanted.

>After a year on a ship, I was given the opportunity to go to school and become a corpsman. Toward the end of school, I was told that I was going to be a Fleet Marine Force Corpsman. I didn't know that the Navy even attached to the Marine Corps, but after my course I was stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

>Being stationed there was awesome. I had gone from living on a little island to a different island on the other side of the world.

>I have been stationed on the USS Supply; Okinawa, Japan; London; Jacksonville, Fla.; San Diego, Calif.; and now here at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms.

>I have been stationed here for one and a half years. This is a small hospital which allows all the people here to get to know each other closely. Because we know each other so well I feel that we are able to help the people here better.

>This hospital is also unique in that we serve everyone from newborns, to Marines, to retirees.

>Throughout the time I have spent in the Navy, I have been part of units that are primarily corpsmen and sailors as well as units that are mostly Marines.

>As corpsmen, we help the privates all the way up to the unit's Commanding Officer. If you treat all of them with the same respect they will show you that same respect.

>My career in the Navy has been great so far. I have been able to help people throughout my service and plan to continue helping Marines and their families.

>When Marines start calling you 'Doc' it means that they trust you and know you will help them.

Interviewed and photographed by Lance Cpl. Thomas Mudd



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Marine JROTC cadets



Lance Cpl. Cole Coburn, military working dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office, prepares a K-9 demonstration for Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets during a tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 4.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Young men and women file off a bus in Marine Corps Combat Utility uniforms and quickly get into formation. Each individual takes in the brisk morning air, standing expressionless with postures akin to those of statues. When given the command they begin to sound off.

Junior cadets with the Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps out of Henderson, Nev., learned many aspects of being a Marine aboard the Combat Center Dec. 3-4.

"The purpose of this organization is to immerse these young men and women into the lifestyle of the Marine Corps," said retired 1st Sgt. Jay Foote, MCJROTC Instructor, Basic Academy. "They live the Marine Corps life over at the academy and this was an opportunity for them to be able to see the different job skills, and intermix with the Marines that they always hear so much about."

This is the first time cadets of the Basic Academy have been invited to visit the Combat Center to get a feel for what life on an installation is like.

"I'm in love with the base," said Aaron Bates, cadet, MCJROTC. "I wish I could stay here all the time. I think it's important

for us to come and see different facets of the Marine Corps so we can grow not only as cadets but people as well."

During the two-day tour the cadets visited Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the Battle Simulation Center, the Provost Marshal's Office's K-9 division and the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer. They were also able to tour the Military Operations on Urban Terrain at Range 215, dine at Dunham Hall, spend a night in the field, and feast on Meals Ready to Eat. The trip was concluded with a visit to the Marine Corps Exchange.

"This trip was extremely important because some of these kids will never witness the Marine Corps before actually joining," Foote said. "This gives them an opportunity to see what [military occupational specialty] they might want to do and hear from subject matter experts about all the different things the Marine Corps has to offer."

At each stop the cadets were given an opportunity to learn more about each particular MOS and receive insight into what performing the job entails.

"I think this was a great experience especially for people who are not sure what they want to do in the future," said Kailee Moore, cadet, MCJROTC. "If they think they want to be in the military I think this gives them a confidence boost."

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s visit Combat Center



Matthew Iverson, cadet, Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, operates a simulated High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle in the Battle Simulation Center during a tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 4.



Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets shop at the Marine Corps Post Exchange during a tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 4.



Axel Morales, cadet, Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, shoulders an decommissioned AT-4 missile at Explosive Ordnance Disposal during the Basic Academy of International Studies' tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 3.



Zoe Stockton, cadet, Basic Academy of International Studies Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, tries on an advanced bomb suit at Explosive Ordnance Disposal during a tour of the Combat Center, Dec. 3.

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Combat Center families celebrate the holidays

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Combat Center children laughed and played with new toys and a variety of carnival games at the Marine Corps Community Services' second annual Combat Center Holiday Celebration at the Sunset Cinema, Saturday.

The event featured a special performance by Twentynine Palms High School Band, a toy give-away, and the opportunity to take a photo with Santa.

"It's a great opportunity for Combat Center families to come out and enjoy the holiday season," said Selena Laserna, special events manager, MCCS. "The mission of MCCS is to provide quality of life events for our Marines and sailors. The goal is to provide the Marines, sailors and their families the opportunity to have a good time during this festive season."

Jsera Catholic High School and Operation Homefront donated more than 500 toys to Combat Center children. Toys varied from stuffed animals to board games and there was something for children of all ages.

"We have a large variety of toys for different age groups," said Brent Norquist, deputy director, MCCS. "I've seen some children with really big smiles out here."

The event was hosted to provide families who might not be capable of going home for the holidays an opportunity to celebrate here with the Combat Center community.

"All of our family events, this one in particular, are really important because we are a remote and isolated base," Norquist said. "When we are able to hold performances and give toys away it gives families who may not be able to go home for the holidays the opportunity to engage with the Combat Center family and enjoy some fun with their family here for the holidays."

According to Norquist, this event is one that MCCS intends to host annually.

"The families enjoy it and we get a lot of positive feedback," Norquist said. "It's one of the events where we are able to help the families who are unable to return to their homes."



Payton Bitterman, daughter of Navy Capt. Jeffrey W. Bitterman, executive officer, Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, plays carnival games at the Marine Corps Community Services' second annual Combat Center Holiday Celebration in the vicinity of the Sunset Cinema, Saturday.



Caroline Johnson, 5 months, daughter of Navy Lt. Klint A. Johnson, battalion chaplain, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, snuggles with a plush doll at the Marine Corps Community Services' second annual Combat Center Holiday Celebration at the Sunset Cinema, Saturday.



Combat Center families pause to take photos with 'Elsa' from Disney's "Frozen" at the Marine Corps Community Services' second annual Combat Center Holiday Celebration at the Sunset Cinema, Saturday.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



I am delighted to report that for the second year in a row Tom Huls and the Yucca Valley Big O Tires team has received the Platinum Performance Award. Wow!

Actually, this is not a surprise to me.

Tom Huls and his entire team are as good as it gets. John, Paul, Sandy, Tom Mose, Dave R., Dave B., Tommy and Jeff comprise a great staff.

Big O Tires has been serving the Morongo Basin's automotive needs for 23 years. Owner Tom Huls, who bought the tire shop eight years ago, points out that Big O does much more than tires. Big O also does brakes, maintenance, fluid exchange, belts, hoses and is a true one-stop shop for your automotive needs.

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Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a glorious 2016

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Civilians awarded for faithful service

PHOTOS BY PFC. ALLIE JESSE



Brett Baker, tank mechanic, Exercise Support Division, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.



Samuel Crabtree III, tank mechanic, Exercise Support Division, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.



Brian Lee, boiler plant operator, Public Works Department, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.



David Knopp, motor vehicle operator, Public Works Department, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.



Joseph Leonard, contract surveillance representative, Public Works Department, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.



Carl Mericle, boiler plant supervisor, Public Works Department, is awarded the Federal Length of Service Award by Combat Center Commanding General Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 1.



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Combat Center PMO, Fire Dept. participate in school Winter Fest

PHOTOS BY KELLY O'SULLIVAN



Daren the DARE lion, played by Lance Cpl. Steve Hernandez, high-fives Brandon Scott, 9, during Joshua Tree Elementary School's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. Daren and DARE Officer Meghan Estrada of the Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office interacted with families, passed out information, stickers and candy to students during the evening event.



Joshua Tree Elementary School students and family members crowd into the cab of the Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office mobile command post vehicle under the watchful eye of Staff Sgt. Joshua Gerland, physical security chief, during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. The kids tried their hand at using the public address system and pretended to drive to the scene of an emergency.



Capt. Mike O'Donnell, Combat Center Fire Department, instructs Joshua Tree Elementary School third-grader Adryon Gonzalez, 9, in the art of putting on firefighting gear during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. O'Donnell and his crew spoke with students and their families about their jobs and showed them the tools of the firefighting trade during the evening event.

Personnel from the Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office and Fire Department were a highlight of Joshua Tree Elementary School's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. The police and fire crews interacted with students and their families during the evening event, sharing safety information, discussing their jobs and showing off the tools of their respective trades.



Staff Sgt. Joshua Gerland, physical security chief, Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office, shows Joshua Tree Elementary School fourth-grader James Gonzalez, 9, his badge during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. Gerland told students and their families about his job and showed them around PMO's mobile command post during the evening event.



Firefighter John Hart helps Joshua Tree Elementary School fifth-grader Rodney Frazier, 10, out of the Combat Center Fire Department's engine during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4. Fire personnel talked with students and their families about their jobs and showed off their gear during the evening event.



Joshua Tree Elementary School second-grader Brady Inman, 7, gets a lift from Firefighter John Hart, Combat Center Fire Department as his 4-year-old cousin, Russell Bloom of Maryland, waits his turn after the pair inspected the cab of CCFD's engine during the school's annual Winter Festival, Dec. 4.



Combat Center Events

Marine Corps Community Services invites you to the Santa Extravaganza at the main Exchange Dec. 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. Get your picture taken with Santa, enjoy holiday treats, a caricature artist, balloon artist and face painters. For more information call (760) 830-6163.

Marine Corps Community Services is taking registration for the 2016 Winter Dodgeball League starting Feb. 10. The league is open to active duty military, family members and NAF/DOD employees. To register, download the sign-up sheet at mccs29palms.com. For more information, call (760) 830-6857.

Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center is hosting the 2nd Annual Challenge Tournament Dec. 17 at 6pm. The top six players of eight different bowling challenges will win a cash prize. Entry fee is \$10. For more information call (760) 830-1574.

Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center invites you to the New Year's Bowling Bash 2016, Dec. 31. Youth and teen hours are from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pre signups are recommended. Adults only times are from 8:30pm to 12 a.m. For more information, call 760.830.6422.

Registration and Coaches meeting for the Winter Basketball League will end Jan. 5. The season starts on Jan 12. There can be 12 participants per roster and a minimum of seven. The event is open to all active duty personnel, Marine Corps Community Services employees and DOD civilians. Registration is free for active duty personnel and all other personnel will have a \$20 fee.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, December 11
5:30 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie (3-D), G
8:00 p.m. – The 33, PG-13
11:00 p.m. – Spectre, PG-13

Saturday, December 12
12:00 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie, G
2:30 p.m. – The Last Witch Hunter, PG-13
5:00 p.m. – Steve Jobs, R
7:30 p.m. – Our Brand Is Crisis, R
10:00 p.m. – Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension, R

Sunday, December 13
12:30 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie (3-D), G
3:30 p.m. – The 33, PG-13
6:00 p.m. – Spectre, PG-13

Monday, December 14
6:30 p.m. – The 33, PG-13

Tuesday, December 15
7:00 p.m. – Our Brand Is Crisis, R

Wednesday, December 16
5:00 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie, G
7:00 p.m. – Burnt, R

Thursday, December 17
5:00 p.m. – The Last Witch Hunter, PG-13
7:30 p.m. – Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension, R

Friday, December 18
5:30 p.m. – The Peanuts Movie, G
8:00 p.m. – The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2, PG-13
11:00 p.m. – The Night Before, R



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“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2” Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Donald Sutherland and Liam Hemsworth Directed by Francis Lawrence Rated PG-13

“MANDATORY VIEWING” is the directive that pops up on holographic screens across all of post-apocalyptic Panem when dictator Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland) beams a transmission to the masses.

That message couldn’t be truer for Hunger Games fans, especially as it pertains to this movie, the final film of the four made from author Suzanne Collins’ trilogy of best-selling dystopian young-adult novels. This is the end, the big finish. The Games have come to a close—mandatory viewing for the masses, if ever there was.

The first Hunger Games, in 2012, made Jennifer Lawrence a household name as Katniss Everdeen, the galloping, galvanizing firebrand who became the leader of a revolution and an icon of female empowerment. As Katniss fought and forged her way to freedom in brutal, futuristic “games,” fans faithfully came back, movie after movie, to follow her—and to see just how faithfully Hollywood kept to the details of Collins’ books, which melded a young-love triangle with wicked satire on reality TV, media propaganda, social stratification and war.

Fans will be satisfied with Mockingjay—Part 2. It covers all the bases and ties up the loose ends, and everybody’s back on board: Peeta (Josh Hutcherson), Gale (Liam Hemsworth), Haymitch (Woody Harrelson), President Coin (Julianne Moore), Primrose (Willow Shields), Finnick (Sam Claflin), Cressida (Natalie Dormer), Johanna (Jena Malone). Even Phillip Seymour Hoffman returns, and he died in early 2014. It could have used a bit more of the colorful Games escort Effie Trinket (Elizabeth Banks) and wackadoo master of ceremonies Caesar Flickerman (Stanley Tucci), but hey, you can’t cram everyone front and center, even in a movie that runs two hours and nearly 20 minutes.

And about that: Most of those minutes are filled with chatter. Characters talk a lot—about what they’ve done, they’re doing and going to do. Occasionally

they get up and actually do something—like Katniss throwing a cup at a cat, or heading out on a covert, high-stakes mission, which sets up the two big action scenes. One (a subterranean attack by a horde of hissing, spastic lizard-people) looks like something out of a horror flick, with a nod to Alien; the other involves a massive, surging wave of sludge and oil, which everyone outruns like it’s only slightly more terrifying than an overflowing toilet—or the not-even-there computer effect that it really is.

And it’s dark. Yes, people die. But it also looks dark, dim and dull—greys, browns, blanch-out, bleach-y, blahhhh tones that seem to blot out the sun. Sure, it’s a grim, wintry, wartime world. But why did director Francis Lawrence (who’s helmed every Games movie, except the first) make every scene look like it was lit with a 40-watt bulb? Did he blow

his lighting budget on CGI sludge and lizard people?

And does everyone in the movie have that “over it” look because they’re tired of all that fighting for the revolution—or because they really are? As Mockingjay flutters and flaps to a close, this victory lap looks and feels like a slog.

The Hunger Games franchise made billions of box-office bucks and became a pop-cultural phenomenon. But finally the Games have run out of gas. Jennifer Lawrence, now 25, has become a global, Oscar-winning superstar, above and beyond the YA bow-and-arrow heroine, the “girl on fire” she started out playing four years ago.

“I am done,” Katniss says in one scene. Yes she is. Congratulations and good job, everyone. Now proceed toward the exits, and let’s all just keep moving.

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29P. \$200 off 1st mo rent. 2 bdrm house laundry in double car garage. \$675. 2 bed new kitchen, bath and everything \$625 760.902.0295

Available right away! Beautiful 3bd/2ba in 29P. Garage & fenced. \$1000 310-968-0819

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Clean modern home, all amenities, income, refs & credit req'd. \$600. 760-365-3315

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UNFURNISHED 220

HOUSES

JOSHUA TREE

3bd/2b + bonus room. Lg. corner lot/fncd \$900mo + sec. 760-987-8764

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MORONGO VALLEY

2bd, 2ba, 2/gar, cntrl air, fncd yrd, \$825mo. 818-458-4622, www.budgundersen.com

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Upper Sky Harbor 3 bdrm, granite tile throughout. All Nat Gas, fenced, \$1100. Townhouse 2 story 2 bd garage \$700. Suzanne 760-219-2191

Available 3bd/2ba, dbl car garage, tile & carpet, Washer, dryer, frig, furnished, fenced yard front & back. \$985 + last & deposit. (760) 992-6895

3bd/1ba, 2/gar, fenced front & back yrd, small pet ok \$795/mo+dep. Call (949) 637-1128

ROOMS FOR RENT 223

House w/ room for rent. Female 55+, non smoker. No pets. Wash/dryer. \$500mo + shared utilities. Quiet nbhd. 760-228-2205

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WANTED TO RENT 230

Man with limited income will do any tasks for room. Clean record, 760-717-6934

HELP WANTED 300

Employment Advertising Policy

This newspaper does not knowingly accept employment ads that indicate an age preference, from employers covered by the Age Discrimination Act, or knowingly accept ads expressing a preference of sex, where no bona fide occupational qualification exists under the Fair Employment Act from employers covered by that act. Nor, do we in any way condone employment that discriminates on a basis of race, religion, ancestry or national origin. For further information regarding occupational qualifications and employers covered, contact the Fair Employment Practice Commission.

Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

Landscape Construction Laborer

position for a very busy landscaping company. Must have 1 year experience, CDL & pass drug test with clean background. Call (760) 364-3019

Part Time Occupational Therapist or COTA. Fax resumes to 760-367-1083

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE HI-DESERT

The Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Desert is seeking a new Teen Director, working 25 hours per week beginning January 4th. Experience working with youth, especially teens, is desired. Applicants must be caring, goal-oriented, and able to multitask. Food handler's license and CPR/First-Aid training is a plus, and will be required if not already attained. Applicants will undergo a mandatory background check upon turning in their application. Apply online at www.yvkids.org, call at (760) 365-5437, or at the Boys & Girls Club at 56525 Little League Dr. in Yucca Valley.

KIDS CLASSIFIED 305

Free Ads!

If you are between the ages of 12 -17 and are looking for work after school, bring your ID to the Hi-Desert Star or Desert Trail office and We will give you a free ad in this classification.

Christian Feoch Yard clean up & misc. handyman. 760-820-1722

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PAINTING exterior &
interior, FRENCH door
retrofits, SECURITY
/ screen doors. SLID-
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SUN SCREEN WIN-
DOW COVERINGS
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We will be happy to as-
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garage, great neighborhood.
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\$900.00 mo.
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Owners please call for information

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Beautiful panoramic views if our desert.
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58831 Yucca Trail, Y.V. - \$900
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6613 Sunny Hill Rd. J.T. - \$1050
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Online @ www.trivalleyrealtymls.com
760-365-3331 760-365-8353
Ideal Mall, 56659 29 Palms Hwy., Suite A

SERVICES 435

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This newspaper does
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services advertised,
and do not use that
service unless you
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references, and know
and understand all
terms of agreement
and conditions be-
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advertiser.

California State law
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landscapers who per-
form work for \$500 or
more, including mate-
rials and labor, must
be licensed. License
numbers should be
so indicated in their
advertising.

Family child care pro-
viders are required
by state law to be li-
censed, and facility li-
cense numbers must
be indicated in all ad-
vertising.

Unlicensed contrac-
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indicated in their ad-
vertising.

Please refer ques-
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Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

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will ensure your ad is
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readers to see. Call us
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Appliances, NEW
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For Sale - Office desks,
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UNFURNISHED HOUSES 220

LOST & FOUND 545

Circus going out of
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small elephant, FREE
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Lost dog: female 2 yr
old rottweiler, red col-
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bah, very sweet well
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children. Last seen Sat
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JT. Call 714-200-4367

Found Cat - all gray
with orange tint on
Sunfair & Broadway.
(760) 366-2459

LOST male chuchilia 8
yrs old, named Poppy.
Last seen by Sunny-
slope Dr and Hilton,
near Tractor Supply.
Please call if found
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Misc. For Sale 550

POPE'S AUCTION'S
WE BUY GOLD &
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FIREWOOD SALE!!!
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FIREWOOD
1 Cord Mix \$325
Stove size
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Buy Locally
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Mxd hardwood. Full,
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Misc. Wanted 555

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TV. (760) 974-2765

CYCLES 630

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1999 Yamaha motor-
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AC \$2,000 (760) 365-
4748

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FREE Toyota camper
shell 760-217-9721

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HELP WANTED 300

Garage Door Sales/Service Technician
Successful candidates will have:
Strong communication skills, mechanical skills
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TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
57090 29 Palms Hwy.
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
Telephone: 760-369-7207
Fax: 760-228-1310

The Town of Yucca Valley is recruiting for the following
temporary, full-time, non-benefitted position:

Kennel Technician \$12.7408/hr – \$18.4525/hr:
Under general direction, performs a variety of duties
involved in maintaining the Animal Shelter areas in a
clean and sanitary condition; care for, feed and exercise
impounded animals; provide customer service in the
shelter during afternoon office hours; assist in placement
or disposal of animals; and assist w/euthanizing animals
when necessary. Min. Quals: H.S. diploma or
equivalent w/1 year experience in care and handling of
animals or equivalent related field required. This position
requires availability on the weekends and holidays.

All positions require the successful candidates to pass a
post offer criminal background screening, tuberculosis
and drug screening; and possess a Class C California
driver's license with a satisfactory driving record.

Applications available at Town Hall/Yucca Valley or visit
the website at <http://www.yucca-valley.org> for
application, job announcement and job description.

Closing date: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at 5:00p.m.
EOE/ADA
THANK YOU.

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Radiator electric heat-
er \$25 760-364-4180

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Save up to 93%! Call
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LEGALS

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674174-AB Order No.:
150155600-CA-VOLYOU ARE
IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED
OF TRUST DATED 9/14/2006.
UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION
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YER. A public auction sale to
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drawn by state or federal cred-
it union, or a check drawn by
a state or federal savings and
loan association, or savings
association, or savings bank
specified in Section 5102 of
the Financial Code and au-
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this state, will be held by duly
appointed trustee. The sale
will be made, but without cov-
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or implied, regarding title,
possession, or encumbrances,
to pay the remaining principal
sum of the note(s) secured by
the Deed of Trust, with inter-
est and late charges thereon,
as provided in the note(s),
advances, under the terms
of the Deed of Trust, interest
thereon, fees, charges and
expenses of the Trustee for the
total amount (at the time of
the initial publication of the
Notice of Sale) reasonably es-
timated to be set forth below.
The amount may be greater
on the day of sale. **BENEF-**
ICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID
LESS THAN THE TOTAL
AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s):
KEITH M KATCHMARK,
SURVIVING JT OF ROBERT
J KATCHMARK DECEASED
Recorded: 9/26/2006 as In-
strument No. **2006-0657327**
of Official Records in the office
of the Recorder of **SAN BER-**
NARDINO County, California;
Date of Sale: **12/22/2015** at
9:00 AM Place of Sale: **At the**
Ontario Convention Center,
2000 East Convention Cen-
ter Way, Ontario, CA 91764,
in the Auction.com Room
Amount of unpaid balance and
other charges: **\$181,905.61**
The purported property ad-
dress is: **58353 ARCADIA**
TRL, YUCCA VALLEY, CA
92284 Assessor's Parcel No.:
0588-319-14-0-000 NOTICE
TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If
you are considering bidding on
this property lien, you should
understand that there are risks
involved in bidding at a trust-
ee auction. You will be bidding
on a lien, not on the property
itself. Placing the highest bid
at a trustee auction does not
automatically entitle you to free
and clear ownership of the
property. You should also be
aware that the lien being
auctioned off may be a junior
lien. If you are the highest
bidder at the auction, you are
or may be responsible for
paying off all liens senior to
the lien being auctioned off,
before you can receive clear
title to the property. You are
encouraged to investigate the
existence, priority, and size of
outstanding liens that may ex-
ist on this property by contact-
ing the county recorder's office
or a title insurance company,
either of which may charge
you a fee for this information. If
you consult either of these re-
sources, you should be aware
that the same lender may hold
more than one mortgage or
deed of trust on the prop-
erty. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY**
OWNER: The sale date shown
on this notice of sale may be
postponed one or more times
by the mortgagee, beneficiary,
trustee, or a court, pursuant to
Section 2924g of the California
Civil Code. The law requires
that information about trustee
sale postponements be made
available to you and to the
public, as a courtesy to those
not present at the sale. If you
wish to learn whether your sale
date has been postponed, and,
if applicable, the reschedu-
led time and date for the sale
of this property, you may call
800-280-2832 for information
regarding the trustee's sale or
visit this Internet Web site
<http://www.qualityloan.com>,
using the file number assigned
to this foreclosure by the Trust-
ee: **CA-15-674174-AB**. Infor-
mation about postponements
that are very short in duration
or that occur close in time to
the scheduled sale may not
immediately be reflected in
the telephone information or
on the Internet Web site. The
best way to verify postpone-
ment information is to attend
the scheduled sale. The un-
designated Trustee disclaims
any liability for any incorrec-
tess of the property address
or other common designation,
if any, shown herein. If no
street address or other com-

mon designation is shown,
directions to the location of
the property may be obtained
by sending a written request
to the beneficiary within 10
days of the date of first pub-
lication of this Notice of Sale.
If the Trustee is unable to
convey title for any reason,
the successful bidder's
sole and exclusive remedy
shall be the return of mon-
ies paid to the Trustee, and
the successful bidder shall
have no further recourse.
If the sale is set aside for any
reason, the Purchaser at the
sale shall be entitled only to
a return of the deposit paid.
The Purchaser shall have no
further recourse against the
Mortgagor, the Mortgagee,
or the Mortgagee's Attorney.
If you have previously been
discharged through bank-
ruptcy, you may have been
released of personal liability
for this loan in which case this
letter is intended to exercise
the note holders right's against
the real property only. As re-
quired by law, you are hereby
notified that a negative credit
report reflecting on your credit
record may be submitted to a
credit report agency if you fail
to fulfill the terms of your credit
obligations. QUALITY MAY BE
CONSIDERED A DEBT COL-
LECTOR ATTEMPTING TO
COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY
INFORMATION OBTAINED
WILL BE USED FOR THAT
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92101 619-645-7711 For NON
SALE information only Sale
Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login
to: <http://www.qualityloan.com>
Reinstatement Line: (866)
645-7711 Ext 5318
Quality Loan Service Corp.
TS No.: CA-15-674174-AB
IDSPub #0095817 11/26/2015
12/3/2015 12/10/2015
(PUB: S. 11/26, 12/3,
12/10/2015)

NPP0263814
Trustee Sale No. :
00000004492906 Title Order
No.: 140125087 FHA/
VA/PMI No.: 04036 NOTICE
OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU
ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A
DEED OF TRUST, DATED
10/08/2008. UNLESS YOU
TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT
YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY
BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE.
IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANA-
TION OF THE NATURE OF
THE PROCEEDING AGAINST
YOU, YOU SHOULD CON-
TACT A LAWYER. BARRETT
DAFFIN FRAPPIER TRED-
ER & WEISS, LLP, as duly
appointed Trustee under and
pursuant to Deed of Trust
Recorded on 10/15/2008 as
Instrument No. 2008-0458424
of official records in the office
of the County Recorder of
SAN BERNARDINO County,
State of CALIFORNIA. EX-
CUTED BY: ANDRES CAS-
TILLO, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC
AUCTION TO HIGHEST BID-
DER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S
CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT
or other form of payment au-
thorized by California Civil
Code 2924h(b), (payable at
time of sale in lawful money of
the United States). DATE OF
SALE: 12/16/2015 TIME OF
SALE: 1:00 PM PLACE OF
SALE: AT THE MAIN (SOUTH)
ENTRANCE TO THE CITY OF
CHINO CIVIC CENTER,
13220 CENTRAL AVE., CHI-
NO, CA. STREET ADDRESS
and other common designa-
tion, if any, of the real property
described above is purported
to be: 60142 GRANADA DR.,
JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA
92252 APN#: 0601-461-09-0-
000 The undersigned Trustee
disclaims any liability for any
incorectness of the street
address and other common
designation, if any, shown
herein. Said sale will be made,
but without covenant or war-
ranty, expressed or implied,
regarding title, possession,
or encumbrances, to pay the
remaining principal sum of
the note(s) secured by said
Deed of Trust, with interest
thereon, as provided in said
note(s), advances, under the
terms of said Deed of Trust,
fees, charges and expenses
of the Trustee and of the trusts
created by said Deed of Trust.
The total amount of the unpaid
balance of the obligation se-
cured by the property to be
sold and reasonable estimated
costs, expenses and advances
at the time of the initial publi-
cation of the Notice of Sale is
\$204,087.40. The beneficiary
under said Deed of Trust here-
tofore executed and delivered
to the undersigned a written
Declaration of Default and De-
mand for Sale, and a written
Notice of Default and Elec-
tion to Sell. The undersigned
caused said Notice of Default
and Election to Sell to be re-
corded in the county where
the real property is located.
NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BID-
DERS: If you are considering
bidding on this property lien,
you should understand that
there are risks involved in bid-
ding at a trustee auction. You
will be bidding on a lien, not
on the property itself. Placing
the highest bid at a trustee
auction does not automatic-
ally entitle you to free and clear
ownership of the property. You
should also be aware that the
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for paying off all liens senior
to the lien being auctioned off,
before you can receive clear
title to the property. You are
encouraged to investigate the
existence, priority, and size of
outstanding liens that may ex-
ist on this property by contact-
ing the county recorder's office
or a title insurance company,
either of which may charge
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Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade

PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. MIGUEL ROSALES



Two actors re-enact the popular V-J Day photo taken in Times Square, New York City on Aug. 14, 1945 during the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade on Fort DeRussy Park, Honolulu, Monday. Civilians, veterans, and service members gathered for the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor to remember and give their respect to those who fought and lost their lives during the attack.



Bob Addott gives a thumbs up as he and Thomas Petso attend the opening ceremony of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade at Fort DeRussy Park in Honolulu, Monday. Civilians, veterans, and service members came together to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and pay their respects to those who fought and lost their lives.



Raven Pridemore, a private in the Young Marines, holds up a banner during the opening ceremony of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade on Fort DeRussy Park in Honolulu, Monday. Civilians, veterans, and service members came together to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and pay their respects to those who fought and lost their lives.



Dan Quinn, pipe major, leads members of the Celtic Pipes & Drums of Hawaii in the playing of Amazing Grace, during the opening ceremony of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade at Fort DeRussy Park in Honolulu, Monday. Civilians, veterans, and service members came together to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and pay their respects to those who fought and lost their lives.

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