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THE PICKEL Post

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER NEWSLETTER

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Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 9 - Jayne Wayne Day
- 16 - Spouse's Coffee
- 22 - MCMWTC 60th Anniversary celebration

OCTOBER

- 5 - Love & Respect Class
- 7 - Spouse's Coffee

NOVEMBER

- Turkey Bowl (Date TBD)
- Belle of the Ball (Date TBD)
- 10 - Marine Corps Ball
- 11 - Spouse's Coffee

For more upcoming events visit mccsmwtc.com



mccsmwtc.com

Operation Magic astonishes MCMWTC

By Penny Mouridian

On May 14 MCMWTC was treated to Operation Magic, featuring the magic of Jeff and Kim Bornstein and the standup comedy of Chris Strait. With Colonel Chandler and his wife Gail, SgtM Power and his wife Gretchen and about 100 Marines, Sailors, family members and civilians in attendance, the show kicked off with Chris Strait taking the stage. Chris kept the audience laughing with impersonations and jokes about his personal life, most I cannot mention!

The show continued as Jeff and Kim Bornstein took the stage to wow the audience with their magic act. I was a little apprehensive, wondering just how authentic the show would be. My thought was if you have seen one magic show, you have seen them all. But moving from one act to another, it became clear that this was not your ordinary magic show. It was not about sawing a person in half or pulling a rabbit from a hat, but rather the ability to read a person's thoughts and perform a show around that one concept with a twist of humor.

This was exactly what they did, astounding everyone. In one section they called an audience member, Heather Cates, to the stage and performed an act that involved pulling puzzle pieces from a bag. Heather was instructed to grab a handful of pieces, transfer them from hand to hand and place them back into the bag until she was left with one piece. Kim then retrieved a puzzle of Mona Lisa which had one piece missing. When she took the puzzle piece from Heather and placed it in the picture, it fit perfectly.

In another act, several members of the audience were selected to do various things and asked to show no one; change the time on their watch, pick an item from their purse or retrieve an item from their pocket. Kim went from person to person and told each of them what item they had chosen or the time on the

watch. She was right every time.

The final act was the one that made me a believer. Jeff explained that prior to coming to Bridgeport, Kim had stopped at a store in Walker and bought a lottery ticket. Grabbing a balloon that had been on stage during the whole show, Jeff tossed it into the audience and asked that as it stopped at a person they call out a lottery number. When several numbers were called, the last one holding the balloon was asked on stage and it was explained that inside the balloon were the numbers Kim had

chosen. The balloon was popped and the Marine read the numbers written on the piece of paper. They were exactly the same numbers as the audience members had called out. Luck? I don't think so!

After the show I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Kim at the Pickel Chalet, where she and Jeff took the



Chris Strait, Jeff Bornstein, Ms. Percy, Kim Bornstein

time to meet with audience members.

When I asked her to tell me about her ability to read minds, she told me that when she was young she felt she always had something in the back of her head but did not know what it was. It wasn't until a childhood accident that she became fully aware of this gift.

Years later she met and married Jeff. He had been entertaining worldwide for over 40 years. Three years ago they decided to use her gift to entertain audiences all over the United States. I asked her why they entertained the troops and what they personally get out of it. She replied that they want to bring happiness even for a brief moment and that they get great satisfaction from being able to bring them relief. If a service member can forget, for even a half a second, about the things they face, whether it be deploying overseas or even going to work the next day, then it is all worth it to them. ☺

Mom & Tot Playmorning meets Smokey Bear

By Deb Goodman, PHN



In June, the New Parent Support Program, Mom & Tot Playmorning families, teamed up with the kids from the Child Development Center and the U. S. Forest Service fire crew for a morning of fire safety. Smokey Bear came to

the LMH Community Center to meet all of the kids. They had a great time meeting, shaking hands and having a picture taken with Smokey.

The fun continued outside when the fire crew allowed them to squirt the fire hose, they watched the fire truck lights flash and listened to the fire siren on Smokey Bear's fire truck. They also discussed fire readiness and answered questions about fire safety. The fire crew gave all of the kids a bag of goodies that included a Smokey Bear coloring book.

The New Parent Support Program would like to thank the US Forest Service, the Child Development Center and Penny Mouradian for a successful Mom and Tot Playmorning with Smokey Bear and his fire truck.

For more information regarding Mom & Tot Playmorning, visit the New Parent Support Program at 700 Champagne Ave., Coleville or contact me at 530.495.9358, 760.910.3302 or drew-goodmanDA@usmc-mccs.org.

Understanding Your Spouse

By Gail Jacobs

What makes your spouse tick? What ticks them off? Does it seem as though you speak different languages? The majority of couples seeking counseling will report "communication" as their number one concern. Couples who report the most marital happiness are those that develop a deep respect and understanding of their male/ female differences. Come and learn how to better understand your spouse. Join us for a 3 week class on LOVE AND RESPECT (Understanding Your Spouse). Class begins Wednesday, October 5 and continues through Wednesday, October 19. Class will be from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Childcare will be provided through CDC.

For more information or to register, contact Gail Jacobs at 530.495.2685 or jacobsgj@usmc-mccs.org.

Semper Fit Welcomes a New Addition

By CheVonne Barksdale

In June, Semper Fit welcomed its newest addition to the fitness staff. LaTashia Smalls (Recreation Attendant) hit the ground running as she joined our team here at the fitness center. A graduate of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, she brings additional professionalism to the program with her knowledge of Exercise Science. Mrs. Smalls is also an ACE certified Personal Trainer. With her experience in rehabilitation, stretching techniques and her general love for fitness, she adds another facet to the program. A self starter, LaTashia has quickly made her mark by acquiring an impressive personal training clientele, introducing her new Warrior Training class, as well as a Hip Hop dance class to those that attend our classes in Coleville. On a constant quest for additional knowledge, she has already begun to plan her additional certifications around the skills that she feels will most benefit the Marines, Sailors and families she works with. As always, we ask that if you have any suggestions, feel free to speak to any of our Semper Fit staff members. Our program remains a direct result of the interest expressed and feedback given by our patrons. Attend her classes and welcome LaTashia Smalls with a big smile. But beware... I am pretty sure I have seen a few teary-eyed Marines leaving her classes! ☺

Impact Aid Makes an Impact

By Tessa LoPresto, Installation School Liaison

During the first few weeks of school, your child is going to come home with a backpack stuffed with paperwork. There is one extremely important form that you do not want to get lost in the shuffle: the Eastern Sierra Unified School District (ESUSD) Parent-Pupil Survey. Not properly filling it out and returning it to the school is like setting Benjamins on fire. Lots of Benjamins.

The survey is how the district finds out and verifies what students live on federal property or have parents who work for the federal government. This is important because the district uses the information to apply for federal Impact Aid. Impact Aid is a 60-year-old federal program designed to ease the burden of having military bases, tribal reservations, or other federally-owned land within a district's borders.

Last school year, about 70 of the Antelope Elementary School's 145 students had a connection to MCMWTC Bridgeport. Any given year, students with parents attached to the base make up about 50 percent of the small school's population. The exact numbers are important, according to Mollie Nugent, director

of special projects for the district. Districts that are more heavily impacted get a higher percentage of Impact Aid. ESUSD is usually very close to that fine line, she said. So even one or two students can tip the scale in the right direction.

For example, Ms. Nugent contacted me in July because 11 names on the Impact Aid application were flagged for minor reasons that were easily fixed. The financial impact of verifying those 11 names equaled \$60,000 because they pushed the district into a more heavily-impacted category.

Even though the money accounts for a small percentage of the district's overall budget, it's enough to make a difference. The money goes into the general fund and is used for a variety of purposes.

"For this next school year, we're able to hire a part-time classroom aide this year using Impact Aid monies," said Coleville schools Principal Jason Reid. ☺

The school liaison can be reached at 760.590.3015.

MCCS STAFF UPDATES

NEW HIRES

- Howard Elwell
- Joseph Heinan
- Jamie LaBarge
- Kerry Hummel
- Latashia Smalls
- Patrick Burgan
- Austin Mills
- Shawn Wallace

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Angela Hypio



Mike McClure presents Angela Hypio Employee of the Quarter Award

Marine Corps Family Team Building's new Unit and Personal Family Readiness Officer

By Jamie LaBarge

My name is Jamie LaBarge and I am your new Family Readiness Officer and member of the Marine Corps Family Team Building Staff. I hope that together we can get these programs re-energized and come up with new ways to enhance our community. I look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone, and I ask that you please come to me with any questions, advice or ideas. I am located in the Marine and Family Services Building in Coleville at 700 Champagne Avenue or you can reach me by phone at 530.495.2954 and email at labargejl@usmc-mccs.org

Please Save the Date for some upcoming events:

- Jane Wayne Day - Friday, September 9
- Spouse's Coffee - 9-11 a.m. Friday, September 16
- Spouse's Coffee - 9-11 a.m. Friday, October 7

Be on the lookout for more information and dates for L.I.N.K.S. sessions and mentor information, Spouse's Self Defense Class, Couples Dance Class, Gown Exchange and Family Readiness Volunteer information.

Child Development Center News

By Maria Quintana

Here at the Child Development Center, we pride ourselves on providing the best service to our patrons by implementing quality programming at an affordable price. We believe that good programming begins with educating and training our staff about child development. As well as by showing our appreciation to our program assistants and leads as often as possible so that they are aware that the job they are doing does make a difference. Just recently we rewarded three of our staff members for doing an exceptional job at our facility. Ms. Jami Hunter and Ms. Shannon McMichael were awarded Certificates of Excellence for continually doing an outstanding job when communicating to coworkers and providing the highest quality of child development to the children who attend. We also acknowledged Ms. Amanda Wolfe with a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedication to the facility, teamwork and her hard work ethic. At the CDC we are constantly reminded of what a wonderful staff we have, and we hope that the people within the community utilize our most valuable resource.

To enroll your child or to inquire about a position with the CDC, call us at 530.495.2644.

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