

# Torii Teller

VOLUME 50 NUMBER 3

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, JAPAN

JANUARY 28, 2005

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Service members, civilians gather at Landing Zone to participate in Monday Night Bingo.



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### Visit to fruit farm, winery provides sweet surprises

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### Young players kick off season

More than 300 players, family members gather at IronWorks Gym Jan. 22 to kick off new basketball season.

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## Barbershop increase price, coupon

TORII TELLER STAFF  
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Community Services will be raising the price of haircuts from \$6 to \$8, Feb. 1, as well as the value of their haircut coupon from \$1 to \$3.

The increased cost of a haircut was forthcoming because the price has remained the same since 1996. Then, the contract was awarded for a six-day workweek.

Customers pay for haircuts in dollars, but the contractor pays the employees in yen and the barber shop is now open seven days a week.

"The exchange rate back in 1996 was approximately 140 yen to the dollar, and now it is about one for one," said Ely Hipolito, MCCS Purchasing and Contracting Officer. "This decline in the dollar's value, the increase in employee's salaries, as well as the contractor's operating costs are significant."

When MCCS realized the current price was insufficient to adequately cover current operating costs, they conducted research to find a solution to this problem.

The solution was to increase the cost of the actual haircut to compensate the contractor for his costs, while at the same time providing the customer the ability to maintain his current cost by increasing the value of the coupon offered in the monthly *Preview* magazine.



Cpl. Dave Boni

**A Marine gets his weekly haircut at the Barbershop. Marine Corps Community Services will be raising the price of haircuts from \$6 to \$8, beginning Feb. 1, as well as their haircut coupon from \$1 to \$3.**

are distributed to each unit, so the \$3 coupons will be easy to obtain."

Lance Cpl. Brian Edgar, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administrative technician, agreed with Pipes, adding, "The coupons are a good idea. The price increase has no effect as long as you have your coupon with you."

Marine Corps Community Service will make up the cost for the coupons to the contractor.

"Our goal is to keep the amount customers pay as low as possible, while still charging a fair and consistent price that would allow us to cover expenses," said Ashleigh Pipes, MCCS marketing officer.

Pipes reported that haircut prices at other military installations in Japan range from \$7.50 to \$15.

Pipes said service members could look forward to four \$3 coupons in each *Preview* magazine.

"The coupons are increasing from \$1 to \$3, which makes up for the \$2 increase in the price for a haircut. With the coupons there is no price difference at all," said Pipes.

"We want to minimize any potential impact as much as possible. *Preview* magazines

## Sixth-grader wins National Geographic Bee here

LISA MAULDIN

Matthew C. Perry School Nurse

Alex Fulton, a sixth-grade student at Matthew C. Perry Elementary School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee here Jan. 14th, as well as a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship.

During the school-level Bee, M.C.

Perry students answered oral and written questions about geography. The competition here was the first of several rounds to be conducted as part of the 17th annual National Geographic Bee.

The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Station's Parent Teacher Organization.

This year's Bee began Nov. 15th with the participation of thousands of

schools around the United States, the five U.S. territories and Department of Defense schools.

At M.C. Perry, each fourth, fifth and sixth-grade classroom held a preliminary round to determine which student would be the class representative.

After a second and final bout, the school winners took a written test. The Bee's winning question is as follows:

"Founded as a gold rush town, which state capital city must be reached by boat or plane because it is not linked to the rest of the state by roads?" The answer - Juneau, Ala.

Up to 100 of the top scorers in each state or region will be eligible to compete in their state Bee April 1.

The National Geographic Society see NATIONAL Page 5

## Marine for Life Injured Support Program to be developed

PTC LUKAS J. BLOM

Combat Correspondent

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, recently established a new program that will continue medical assistance for Marines injured in combat situations after they separate from the Marine Corps.

The Marine for Life Injured Support Program was established Dec. 31, 2004, to provide continuing support for Marines who have suffered injury in the War on Terror.

"The Marine Corps has a long history of caring for its fallen and injured Marines," said the commandant in White Letter 11-04. "As we all know, many Marines would not have survived in previous wars. However, because of our magnificent medical care and our ability to get our wounded treated so quickly, they are fortunately still with us. Nevertheless, their trauma still has a potentially devastating impact on them, their families and their future."

The program will be the first in Marine Corps history to deal directly with the see MARINE Page 5



Torii Teller

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building one, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

The *Torii Teller* welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters must include a full name and unit, if applicable. Anonymous letters and comments will not be published. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions can be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to daveylm@iwakuni.usmc.mil or coakleylj@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

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# Another losing battle!

**CMDR. DONALD P. FIF**  
*Chaplain's Corner*

The Serenity Prayer came to mind today as I was in the midst of having a knock down & drag out fight. I was having another one of those inner battles with myself that seem to occur much too often. I usually go through this particular yelling match with myself almost every day, and I include many typical phrases such as, "you

should have done this!" or "why did you do that?" or better yet "that was so stupid of you!" and I might even add a "you are such an idiot!" to close off the inner argument.

I always lose the struggle and find myself beaten down fairly well, which is not surprising since I do know what gets me right where it hurts. Even though I put up with this routinely, I was more aware of it this morning. As I stood looking into the bathroom mirror

giving myself mean glances I remembered that it was just yesterday that I heard about this very thing.

Dr. Lloyd Davis spoke to a group of us at a monthly Clinicians meeting to share some basic tools for assisting others and us in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). I found the workshop eye-opening and realized that I have my share of 'Maladaptive Thoughts', which come

see **BATTLE** Page 5

## Ask the Inspector

**MAJ. MATTHEW D. RAZVILLAS**  
*Station Inspector*

How does the telephone office set its table of fees? What benefits do we get from having strict payee enforcement of all telephone related fees? Where does the money that we pay go? After receiving these questions from a concerned resident, I went to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chad H. LaSuer, Station telephone officer, for the scoop!

**How does the telephone office set their table of fees?**  
The Department of Defense Comptroller sets the basic "monthly rate" for phone service. Other fees, such as installation fees, class of service change, late fees, moving of telephones etc., are set in collaboration with Marine Corps Bases Japan.

**What benefits do we get from having strict payee enforcement of all telephone related fees?** Each month, the S-6 Department pays Japanese telecommunications companies directly for all toll calls placed from every phone aboard the Air Station. This includes "unofficial" phones in private residences, and it's done for two reasons. The first reason being that since the service providers are ensured of getting their money, they are able to offer lower rates to residents of the Air Station. The second reason is that it is a convenience to our customers since they receive only one bill and are able to pay it here on base.

**Where does the money go that we pay?** The Base

Collections (BC) account receives 100 percent of the money paid for toll charges and 70 percent of the money collected for monthly service charges, installation fees, equipment fees, feature fees, late charges and returned check fees. The Comptroller realigns all of the money collected for toll charges back to the S-6, because as explained earlier, the S-6 pays all phone bills ahead of time.

The remaining money (collected for monthly service charges, installation fees, equipment fees, feature fees, late charges and returned check fees) is distributed to three different places:

1. 70 percent of this money is given back to the base Comptroller. Portions of that are given back to the S-6 over the course of the year for the operation and maintenance of the switchboard and supporting infrastructure. The rest of the money is distributed by the CO via the Iwakuni Comptroller as required for mission success.
2. Headquarters Marine Corps receives 25 percent of the money we collect for their use.
3. The US treasury receives 5 percent of the money we collect for their use.

A little knowledge goes a long way in understanding why things are done. Thanks to CWO4 LaSuer, we now know how the fees are collected and where they go.

If you have a question please send it to: razvillasmd@iwakuni.usmc.mil or naseerd@iwakuni.usmc.mil or call 253-3100 and leave your question on the voicemail. If you do not wish for your name to be used please include with your question.

## CHATTERBOX

**Question: "What is your favorite thing about Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and why?"**



"My favorite thing is the cost of living allowance, because I like the extra money."

Cpl. John P. Lopez  
Westminster, Colo.



"My favorite thing is the newborn leadership that is willing to make change where it's due. The leadership is openly visible through new programs, excitement from Marines and different things going on around Station."

Staff Sgt. Hjardis A. Jones  
Canton, Ohio



"My favorite thing is the location, because you're close to Korea, Thailand and Australia. You have a lot of travel opportunities and places to visit."

Sgt. Luis A. Sanchez  
Chicago, Ill.



"My favorite thing is all the Station activities that go on, because when I'm done at work I have something to do other than sit in my room."

Cpl. Jeffrey J. Becker  
Youngstown, Ohio

# Station Girl Scouts begin cookie sale

**Pfc. MARK FAYLOGA**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Iwakuni Girl Scouts began selling Girl Scout cookies and calendars Jan. 15, as part of a fundraiser for the local Scouting Program.

The Girl Scouts sell cookies once every year. They begin in January and end when the cookies are all out of stock, said Candee M. Siaw, Iwakuni Girl Scout Program overseas committee chair.

The Scouts sell the cookies as part of a long-standing tradition, and also to raise money to pay for activities and field trips. Each troop aboard the Station gets a percentage of the money from each box of cookies sold, said Siaw.

For more than 80 years Girl Scouts, with support from their families and communities, have sold cookies to help develop valuable life skills and raise money for local Girl Scout chapters, ac-

cording to www.girlscouts.org.

Selling cookies helps teach the girls a variety of skills, said Siaw. They learn about salesmanship by interacting with customers, they build confidence by dealing with new people and gain a sense of accomplishment with each box of cookies sold, she noted.

The scouts here are also providing community service by taking



in donations to fund shipments of cookies to be sent to Iraq, she added.

"We have received a lot of donations to send cookies to the troops in Iraq, the community has done an excellent job supporting that," said Siaw.

The Scouts sell cookies here every other weekend, and can be found in front of the Commissary, Crossroads Mall, Exchange, Seven-day Store and around the Station, said Siaw.

"I wasn't planning to buy any Girl Scout cookies, but when I was on my way into the exchange, the girls asked 'would you like to buy some cookies?' I couldn't say no," said Pfc. Lukas J. Blom, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron combat correspondent.

So far, sales for the Scouts here have been going very well, said Siaw.

"I ate a whole box of cookies in 20 minutes," said Blom. "I plan on buying more because they taste great and the money goes to a great cause."

Anyone interested in purchasing Girl Scout Cookies can catch the scouts selling cookies every other weekend, or can call in and have them delivered. For cookie delivery call 253-3035.

## Marines Corps to increase manpower by 3,000

**CIL. SUSAN SMITH**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The Marine Corps is expanding its end strength by 3,000 Marines. The increase from 175,000 Marines to 178,000 Marines is directed in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2005, passed Oct. 8, 2004.

"The committee believes that an increase in manpower is essential to the Marine Corps' ability to provide and sustain the force levels required of it by our national security strategy," reads the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services NDAA press release.

"The 3,000 Marines will be phased in over the next three years — roughly one third each year," said Lt. Col. Tim Corley, head of the Future Operations Branch, Manpower Plans and Policy.

"Increasing the end strength by 3,000 will better position the Marine Corps to fight the global war on terror and decrease the amount of stress on the force."

**Increasing the end strength by 3,000 will better position the Marine Corps to fight the global war on terror and decrease the amount of stress on the force."**

**Lt. Col. Tim Corley**  
Head of Future Operations Branch, Manpower Plans and Policy

"The 3,000 Marines will be phased in over the next three years — roughly one third each year," said Lt. Col. Tim Corley, head of the Future Operations Branch, Manpower Plans and Policy.

The Marine Corps is currently comprised of 24 infantry battalions; however, they are not staffed to 100 percent. Prior to deployment, infantry battalions must receive augmentations from other units to bring manning up.

"Approximately 2,000 of the 3,000-Marine increase will go toward bringing our 24 infantry battalions up to 100 percent of their wartime requirement," explained Frank Donahoe, deputy director of the Total Force Structure division at MCCDC. "The boost in infantry battalion manning will reduce the requirement for augmentations, build greater unit cohesion and improve training readiness."

The majority of the increase in Marines will come from accessions; therefore Marine Corps Recruiting Command will receive 425 to help recruit more Marines. Marine Corps Recruiting Command will receive 425 allocations — 278 next fiscal year and the rest will

be phased in from there.

Foreign military training units will be formed to help train foreign militaries throughout the world to help our allies and friends train and establish a professional military.

"Each [Marine Expeditionary Force] will get 135 Marines to establish foreign military training units consisting primarily of infantry Marines," Donahoe said. "I MEF training units are scheduled to be fully operational in 2006, then II MEF in 2007 and III MEF in FY 2008."

Training and Education Command will get 120 new positions — 60 Marines for various school instructors seats and 60 Marines for Security And Stability Operations training at March Air Force Base in California.

Due to emerging requirements, an additional 45 Marines will be assigned to operating force units for the CH53 Delta support requirements.

Also, an additional 20 Marines will fill Combat Service Support Element operating force units for contingency contracting billet requirements. "These are the Marines who write contracts for the units out there (in Iraq or Afghanistan) if they need to get support from the local economy," said Corley.

"The cost for the increase will be paid out of supplemental funding. We are requesting 159 million in the FY 2005 supplemental," Corley explained. "The manpower costs beyond FY 2005 have not yet been exacted; however, they are expected to be slightly higher."

A decision has yet to be made on whether additional increases will be made. The NDAA FY 2005 directed the Corps to increase by 3,000, but left the decision to the Marine Corps for any further increases up to a limit of 9,000.

"We will continue to look at the emerging requirements and make decisions regarding any more increases based on those requirements," said Corley.

Continuation of this story could be found on page 11.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SEALED BID SALE

Iwakuni Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office's next local sealed bid sale will start Monday. Property on sale can and should be inspected at DRMO from Monday through Wednesday. Bids must be received no later than Thursday 8 a.m. Property on sale includes furniture, Automatic Data Processing equipment, military clothing, and scrap. Call 253-3982 or 253-4089 for details.

### PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Studio 2B Girl Scouts will be offering a baby sitting service, Feb. 4, 22 and 25, from 6-10 p.m. The fee is \$3 per hour per child. Small snack and a craft will be offered. Call 253-2485 or 253-2276 to make reservations for February. Reservations are needed to attend. This baby-sitting is part of the Girls' Silver Award project. The Studio 2B girls will be using the proceeds to reach their goal of attending an overnight horseback riding camp near Mr. Fuji in May.

### SILENT AUCTION

Matthew C. Perry Elementary School PTO holds the Fifth Annual Silent Auction at Club Iwakuni Ballroom Feb. 11. Preview starts at 5 p.m., and bidding is 5:30-6:30 p.m. To submit a donation, call Melissa Young at 253-2838 or Bob Keating at 253-2037.

# “B17”... “N24”... “G30”... “Bingo!”

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PFC. MARK FÆLOGA  
Combat Correspondent

The Club Iwakuni Landing Zone was filled with anticipation, as all in attendance silently awaited the call of their lucky number. Until the announcer hit G14 and someone in the back hollered “bingo!”

The Landing Zone hosts bingo every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. The game is open to all Marine Corps Community Service patrons. The minimum cost of a game is \$18, but players can pay for additional bingo cards. Prizes vary from week to week, with cash prizes varying from \$50 to \$1,199 per game, said Julie Delgado, Club Iwakuni Duty Manager.

“I come to Monday Night Bingo because you can win some money, you get to be with and make new friends, and it’s a great way to relax,” said Sho L. Roberts, Station resident. “It’s something to look forward to in the week that comes up and it doesn’t involve alcohol, loud music



The chosen one, 123, waits to be called in the hopes of giving someone a bingo, during Monday Night Bingo.

or an unruly crowd.”

Bingo is a game in which numbered balls are drawn at random; players cover the corresponding numbers on their cards. The first player to fill his card with a certain pattern and yell out “bingo!” wins.

“Bingo is provided by MCCA to give Station residents something fun to do. There are good prizes to be won, and you can eat and play in a good environment,” said Delgado.

Usually, 45 to 65 people will show for Monday Night Bingo- the majority

of those people being regulars. It’s not all about the chance to win cash and prizes that brings the regulars back it’s the hospitality and the time spent with friends that keeps them coming again and again, said Delgado.

“The great thing



They call her the pro. Sho L. Roberts scans her cards for a possible bingo. Bingo players gather every Monday night in the Club Iwakuni Landing Zone for food, fun and competition.

about bingo night here is that this is a place where rank isn’t a factor, sex isn’t a factor and marital status isn’t a factor. Everyone is just here to get together and have fun,” said Roberts. “I come every Monday to enjoy a meal, be with friends, play some bingo, win some money and go home with bragging rights.”

Bingo aboard the Station differs from bingo games in the States or on other bases, because it’s such a small Station the cash prizes are smaller than they would be other places. However, there are upsides to bingo night here, said Delgado.

“I like bingo on Station because you don’t have to deal with smokers here, and it’s a safer environment,” said Roberts. “I do wish they had bingo as frequently as they do in the States, and I also think they should guarantee at least one jackpot every night.”

Anyone interested in Monday Night Bingo can show up to the Club Iwakuni Landing Zone, every Monday. Bingo card sales begin at 5:30 p.m. An early bird game is played at 6:15 p.m., and the regular game begins at 6:30 p.m.



Station residents scan their cards in hopes of finding a winning card during a bingo game here Monday night.

## Book club here provides forum for diverse views

LANCE CL. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Warmth and shared perspectives flow as smoothly and richly as the fresh brewed coffee and homemade New York cheesecake that Belinda Pugh provides to the members of the Brown Bag Lunch Bunch during their monthly lunchtime meeting at the Station library.

A small group of readers gathered in the library’s multipurpose room Jan. 20th to discuss the month’s assigned book: “Skywriting” by Jane Pauley.

Since its inception six months ago, the Brown Bag Lunch Bunch has done what an evening book club could not – provided busy people with a more viable scheduling option to exchange ideas on their favorite topic – books.

“We read for the pure pleasure of reading,” said Pugh, Station supervisory librarian. “The purpose of the club is to give people here an opportunity to discuss books - part of inculcating a love of learning involves discussion, and we want people to learn.”

Books on the club’s reading list range from those with a classic bent to modern-day best-sellers, and from autobiographies to historical fiction, said Pugh. “The books we read bring out common experiences,”

said Kris Gildersleeve, Station resident. “I read a lot, and I think that sharing the reading experience is worthwhile – it’s fun to get other perspectives involved.”

Gildersleeve, a six-month book club veteran, recommends the Lunch Bunch group to avid and reticent readers alike.

“For those who read a lot, the [discussion group] is a new experience, and one that is rewarding enough that people who don’t read often may find an impetus to read more,” she said.

However, participating in a meeting involves more than simply discussing the written word, said Pugh.

Food, music, art and other books have found a place in supplementing core subjects, she noted.

“I try to involve as many senses as possible,” said Pugh. “We really try to recreate the book’s environment using a variety of resources, and the library has those resources.”

For example, when the group read “Girl with a

Pearl Earring,” Pugh gathered examples of period art and music, and made a traditional Dutch stew.

The idea for fully interactive discussions came to

Pugh at a book conference several years ago, she said.

“I found a book called “A Book Lover’s Cookbook” and thought it was an interesting way to read a book,” said Pugh.

“When you read, you feed your soul; when you eat, you feed your body. I think that by incorporating the two, you stimulate your soul.”

**Belinda Pugh**

Station supervisory librarian

body and soul at the book clubs.”

Both the Brown Bag Lunch Bunch and the evening group, the Happy Bookers, are open to all Station residents.

The Lunch Bunch meets the third Thursday of each month at the Station library from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Happy Bookers meet at the library the first Tuesday night of each month at 7 p.m.

For more information, or for February’s assigned books, call 253-3078.

# Daddy’s Baby Boot Camp – “Fall In!”

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PFC. LUKAS J. BLOM  
Combat Correspondent

The New Parent Support Program held its monthly Daddy’s Baby Boot Camp to help new or soon to be parents learn some of the finer points on how to raise a happy, healthy baby.

The day-long course, which kicked off at 8 a.m. in the Family Services Building, taught individual parents and couples how to care for their newborns during the infants’ first year of life.

The free course was split up into many separate classes through out the day. The classes covered everything from parent relationships to changing diapers.

“Our main goal is to raise [the parents] comfort level with actual hands-on baby care,” said Lisa A. Cadwalader, the programs master social worker and home visitor.

Speakers from the Marine and Family Counseling Service, Educational and Developmental Intervention Service, Women, Infants and Children Overseas Program, American Red Cross and Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, came to explain what their organizations could offer the expecting parents.

The first guest speaker from the Marine and Family Counseling Service spoke with the students about how to resolve communication problems when another person is introduced to the family, and how “husband and wife” issues will transform into “father and mother” issues.

“For these serious issues [listed above] parents need to come together face to face and resolve them,” said Kerri L. George, Marine and Family Counseling Service individual and family counselor.

After receiving classes on how to carry a newborn and change diapers, dolls were brought out for some hands on exercises.

“The dolls were actually pretty heavy, very real feeling,” said Cpl. Douglas Connelly, Marine

Aviation Logistics Squadron 12, nondestructive inspection technician. “It was great to actually get some real practice- kind of like a dry-run with diapers.”

Next was the quiz to see how well the couples knew each other. The husband and wife duos tried to predict the answers that their spouse would give to questions ranging from favorite ice cream flavors to favorite holidays. The quiz is usually one of the favorite parts of the class, or not, depending on the quiz results.

“He did pretty well on the quiz,” said Tamaki Connelly of her husband Douglas. “We spend quite a bit of time together, so we know each other pretty well.”

“This class was defiantly worth coming to,” said Cpl. Connelly. “Even if you have to get off work for it, new parents should take the time to come here.”

Along with a wealth of knowledge, the students walked away from the class with gifts of diaper bags, parenthood books, baby hygiene supplies and other baby equipment.

“We suggest that parents come in during their third trimester, but this class is designed for parents of newborns to six-year old children,” said Cadwalader, who is also five months pregnant with twin boys.

For more information call NPS at 253-6553.



Cpl. Douglas Connelly, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 nondestructive inspection technician, interacts with a realistic demonstration doll while his wife, Tamaki, practices the football style baby carrying technique.



Tamaki Connelly demonstrates the diaper changing techniques she learned in the Daddy’s Baby Boot Camp course at the Family Services Building here. The free course is offered once a month by the New Parent Support Program.

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will then provide state champions and their teacher-escorts an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Geographic Bee national championship May 24th and 25th.

The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership to the society.

Alex Trebek, host of the popular television game-show “Jeopardy,” will moderate the national finals May 25. The program will

air first on the National Geographic Channel, and afterward on public television stations.

The National Geographic Society is the world’s largest non-profit scientific and educational organization. The 116-year-old society reflects the world through magazines, books, maps, television and interactive media. The National Geographic magazine, the official journal of the society, has a circulation of about 10 million and is read in every country in the world.

The National Geographic

Channel, a daily television cable network launched in the United States in January 2001, is available in more than 50 million homes. The Society has funded more than 7,500 scientific research projects and supports an education program combating geographic illiteracy.

Anyone can brush up on geography with GeoBee Challenge, an online geography quiz at [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com), which poses five new questions a day from previous National Geographic Bees.

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down to all the ones I just mentioned.

The one thing that I realized this morning is that self name-calling and all the destructive ways I have developed don’t have to continue. There are ways in which I can work to change my thinking about myself. This morning as I stood in front of that mirror I prayed, ‘Lord, give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the

wisdom to know the difference.’

I hope I stick to what I said in the middle of that prayer and certainly find the time, courage and persistence to change that which I know is possible. I usually skip from doing that part because it takes work and effort and more time than I’m willing to spend. It’s no wonder why, after all these years, I’m still fighting and still losing the same battles in my life. It’s getting old and I’m getting tired. Dear Lord give me that courage!

MARINE from Page 1

issue of Marines directly supporting Marines after separation from the Corps, according to [www.hqmc.usmc.mil](http://www.hqmc.usmc.mil). The Marine Corps has often relied on various federal agencies to care for the wounded after they separate from the Marine Corps.

“This program will be our direct link to these injured Marines and their families,” said Hagee.

The implementation of this program is currently underway through out the Corps.

“M4L-IS (Marine for Life Injured Support Program) will address all aspects of care for the Marine and family to include the very best in medical care, travel and lodging for family members, coordination with external support agencies, retention in the Marine Corps if desired, transition support to Department of Veterans Affairs care, priority employment in the civil sector, continued monitoring after separation, and other forms of assistance as required,” said the Commandant.

Although the Marine for Life program has existed for many years, this addition to the program will ensure that we will be able to be “Marines for Life” for a much longer time, according to the Web site.

“Quite simply, it is the right thing to do,” said Hagee. “Once a Marine always a Marine.”



# Visit to fruit farm, winery provides sweet new experience

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
LANCE CIL. LYDIA DAVEY  
Combat Correspondent

Warmed by the early morning sun, fresh snow falls in powdery showers from the bare branches of towering trees, landing gently around the excited group that makes its way toward rows of greenhouses.

Sunny skies and newly fallen snow greeted the 34 Station residents who traveled to the Hirata Fruit Farm and Miyoshi Winery on an Information, Tourism and Travel event, Saturday.

The day's events began with a 30-minute strawberry-picking spree in the farm's greenhouses.

"My favorite part of the trip was the strawberry picking," said Station resident Diana Molina, who took part in the event with Bella, her 7-year-old daughter. "The strawberries were good and very sweet."

After picking and eating all the berries they could, tour-group members made their way to the farm's gift shop, where bottled fruit juice, sparkling jams and jellies and freshly baked pastries awaited purchase.

The group then made its way to

the Miyoshi Winery, and after a brief lunch, began to explore local attractions.

The Miyoshi Winery boasts restaurants, facilities for wine tasting, an observation post that allows visitors to observe a variety of wines being bottled and a gift shop.

Although Molina especially appreciated the observation post and wine tasting experience, she said that her daughter enjoyed the snow the most.

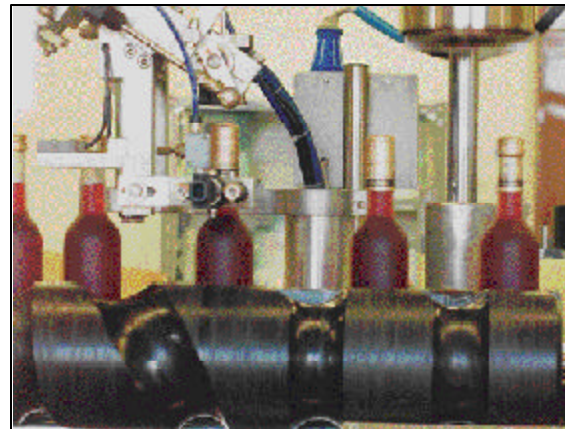
"The kids were really delighted with the snow," agreed Takayuki Takeda, IT&T tour guide. "We don't get much of it here in Iwakuni, so they were very excited."

According to Takeda, the biannual fruit farm and winery trips are so popular because the staff at both places are kind, the quality of the fruits and wines is high and such events allow Station residents to see the more tranquil side of Japan in the countryside.

"My daughter loved it," said Molina, first-time IT&T patron. "I would definitely recommend these trips to Marines, Sailors and families here."



A bell tower at the Miyoshi Winery dominates the courtyard designed in the manner of traditional Italian architecture.



LEFT: Wine bottles are sealed at the winery's factory. An observation post there allows visitors to view the bottling process from start to finish. BELOW: A Japanese youth samples wine at one of the winery's tasting stations Saturday.



Signs and a colorful banner point the way to the Hirata Fruit Farm's strawberry greenhouses. Station residents enjoyed a 30-minute berry-picking spree during the first part of the tour.



ABOVE: Barbara Roman and Nick Forti explore the fruit farm's gift shop during the tour. RIGHT: Rustic looks lend a certain charm to Hirata's headquarters.



Diana Molina and her daughter Bella, 7, enjoy fresh strawberries in a greenhouse at the Hirata Fruit Farm, Saturday.



ABOVE: Two bees work to pollinate strawberry plants in one of the farm's many greenhouses. BELOW: A worker at the Miyoshi Winery removes an imperfect bottle of wine from the conveyor belt. The bottles pass in front of a light which illuminates any impurities.





# February heralds Year of Rooster

GUNNERY SGT. M.A. ZEID  
Combat Correspondent

Starting Feb. 9, the year 2005 will be something to crow about as people in Japan celebrate the Chinese New Year and welcome the Year of the Rooster.

The rooster is the tenth of the "junishi," or 12 animal signs of the Oriental zodiac. The most popular legend states one New Year's Day long ago, the Jade Emperor called for all animals to come to the Heavenly Palace. However, only 12 came.

The rat was first since he had hitched a ride on the back of the ox. They were early and had to wait for the gates to open. When the gates did slowly open, the rat jumped off the ox and ran inside, thus becoming the first animal sign of the zodiac. The ox was next, and throughout the day other animals arrived in the following order: tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and wild boar.

Many people in Japan and Asia follow the Oriental zodiac and expect people to exhibit characteristics of their animal sign from the year they were born. Some Japanese "nakodo," or matchmakers, carefully consider future couples' compatibility based on their birth years when arranging marriages.

According to several Web sites such as [Loveevity.com](http://Loveevity.com), [www.usbridalguide.com](http://www.usbridalguide.com), and [www.Chinavoc.com](http://www.Chinavoc.com), people born in the year of the rooster are flamboyant, feisty and obstinate. They like to express their opinions and are proud of who they are. At the same time, they are seen as very hard working and honest. While they are blunt and up front, they are very loyal. As a result, they hate dishonesty of any sort.

They love to be the center of attention, but they also love the company of others. Once they start telling a story, they expect you to stay to hear the end and become miffed if you can't. The problem is often they tend to brag about themselves and their achievements.

Those born in 2005 are born in year of the wood rooster, which makes them a little different. These people enjoy being part of a team rather

**YEAR OF THE ROSTER**

**Previous Years of the Rooster**  
1921, 1931, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

**Personality traits**

**Pros**  
-Typically deep thinkers -Capable and talented  
-Enjoy being busy  
-Are devoted beyond their capabilities -Usually correct  
-Always interesting - Can be extremely brave

**Cons**  
-Often eccentric -Often have difficult relationships with others  
-Always think they're right -Can be selfish and outspoken  
-May be timid

**Rooster Hook-Ups**  
Roosters are most compatible with the Ox, Snake and Dragon.

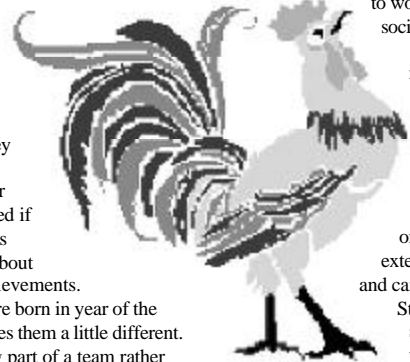
than taking the spotlight. They develop genuine friendships and enjoy the company of others. Furthermore, they have a real desire to work for the improvement of society.

When it comes to love, rooster people are hard to live with. First of all, they are up front with their feelings. Either they like you or they don't. Rarely is there any in between. They can also be bossy and stubborn. But once a person gets past that exterior, they find a very romantic and caring individual underneath. Still, rooster people need a stable partner who will stand up to them when necessary.

Good matches are people born in the year of the ox, or snake. People born in the years of the horse, sheep or boar can have a good marriage to a rooster person. Those born in the years of the rat, monkey or rooster would be the worst possible matches for marriage.

In business, those born in the year of the rooster are highly motivated and hard working. They have the eye for detail, which makes them good at finances. They rarely quit project once they begin. Rooster people make excellent actors, soldiers, dancers, bookkeepers, insurance agents, musicians, dentists and bankers.

Some famous rooster people are Groucho Marx, Errol Flynn, Steve Martin, Benjamin Franklin, Larry King, Melanie Griffith, Bette Midler, Michelle Pfeiffer, Eric Clapton, Mia Farrow, Rod Stewart and Yoko Ono.



## OUT THE GATE

Note: Japanese who do not speak English may answer the phone numbers provided.

### Display Of Tea Set, Hina Dolls And Paintings

There is a display of nearly 60 pieces of tea service items, hina dolls and paintings at the Kikkawa Museum near the Kintai Bridge now through March 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed every Wednesday and Feb. 15. English translations to the displayed items

are prepared. An admission fee is required. Call 41-1010 for more details.

### Setsubun Festival

There will be a festival celebrating the beginning of Spring, held Thursday at the Daishoin Temple on Miyajima Island. The service starts at 11 a.m. A Japanese drum performance is scheduled at 12:30 p.m., and the bean scattering for good luck will be performed 1-1:30 p.m. For further details, call 0829-44-0111.

### Otake Sunday Market

A market is scheduled Sunday, 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. at Harumi Daiichi Park, next to You Me Town, Otake. Booths will be set up to sell fresh vegetables, fish and more. An Oyster Festival will also be held at the same time. Call 53-7175 for more information.

### Southern Seto Concert of Japanese Music

This concert will be held at Sunbeam Yanai in Yanai City, Sunday, 12:30-4 p.m. Various groups will perform on Japanese instruments, such as taiko drums, koto and sangen. Admission is free. For further information, call 0820-22-0111.

## TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

To submit your ads or announcements: *Torii Teller* accepts ads/announcements from nonprofit organizations and groups only. Briefs run on space-available and time-

priority basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Thursday. *Torii Teller* reserves the right to edit to fit space. Stop by Building 1, Room 216 to fill out a form.

### AUTOMOBILES

**Hi-Jet Truck**, 1979, JCI until Feb. 2005, free. Call SSgt. Picklo at 253-6947 dwh or 253-7566 awh.

**Mitsubishi Delica**, 1993, 4WD van, includes roof racks, ski racks, chains, excellent condition, JCI until April 2006, \$1,500 obo. Call Gary Gilmour at

253-4256 dwh or 253-2579 awh.

**Toyota Starlet**, 1998, hatchback, excellent condition inside and out, runs perfectly, JCI until Oct. 2006, \$2,499. Call Mark at 080-5235-7229.

**Honda Prelude**, 1993, sport, silver with black graphics, brand new tires,

chrome rims, euro-light, perfect condition, JCI until Jan. 2007, \$2,300. Call Mimi at 253-2813.

**Nissan Serena**, 1992, well maintained, cold A/C, seats seven, great family vehicle, JCI until May 2006, \$2,400 obo.

**Subaru Domingo**, 1996, excellent condition inside

and out, runs perfectly, JCI until April 2005, \$1,999. Call Mark at 080-5235-7229.

**Toyota Windom**, 1997, sedan, dark green with black trim, excellent condition, JCI until Sep. 2006, \$2,900. Call Mimi at 253-2813.

### OTHER ITEMS

**Misc.**, 2 adult cats, 1 male (black), 1 female (white), both fixed and litter box trained, good with children, both love the outdoors, want to keep together. Call Samantha or leave a message at 253-2081.

**Misc.**, Pi tower speakers, \$250; musical fidelity A3.2 cr, Pream P, new in the box, \$1,175. Call Mark Parsons at 253-5487 dwh or 09052662270.

### LOST ITEMS

**Lost**, toddler girls fleece cap, light pink. If found, call Jenny at 253-2661.

### JOB OPENINGS

#### CHRO (253-6828)

**MCCS:**  
-Substance Abuse Counselor, world wide  
**Facilities:**  
-Interdisciplinary Engineer, world wide

-Architect, world wide  
**Logistics:**

-Supervisory Contract Specialist, world wide  
-Transportation Assistant, Iwakuni wide

**Clinic:**  
-Occupational Health Nurse, world wide

-Speech Pathologist, world wide

-Secretary (OA), Iwakuni wide

**Commissary:**  
-Secretary (OA), Iwakuni wide

**MCCS (253-3030)**  
(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel.)

**MCCS Job Listing:**

-Retail Area Supervisor, Sound Shop

-Procurement Assistant, Merchandising

-Senior Sales Associate, Main Complex

-Material Handler, Warehouse, civilian only

-Material Handler Supervisor, Warehouse, civilian only

-Retail Operations Assistant, Service Station, civilian only

-Sewing Machine Operator, civilian only

-Recreation Specialist, Youth/Teen Center, civilian only

-Operations Assistant, Youth Center/School Age Care, civilian only

-Recreation Specialist, Youth Center/School Age Care, civilian only

-Recreation Assistant, Youth Sports, civilian/military

-Sports Specialist, Athletics

-Supervisory Computer Technician, I.T.

**Continuously Open Jobs Announcements (FT, PT, FLX)**

**MCCS Executive Administration Office**

**Loss And Prevention:**  
-Security Guard (Loss And Prevention Agent)

**Business Operations Division**

**Retail Branch:**  
-Laborer

-Sales Clerk  
-Store Worker

-Food Service Worker, auto mini mart

**Food & Hospitality:**  
-ID Checker

-Waiter/Waitress  
-Food Service Worker

**Services Branch:**  
-Car Rental/Service Station Attendant

-Car/Washer/Laborer  
-Recreation Attendant

**Marine And Family Service Division**

**Library Branch:**  
-Library Aid

-Library Technician  
**Child Development Center/School Age Care Branch:**

-Program Assistant  
-Operations Assistant

**Youth/Teen Center Branch:**  
-Recreation Attendant

-Operations Assistant  
**Semper Fit Division**

**Athletics Branch:**  
-Recreation Attendant

-Lifeguard  
**SMP, Sakura Theater Branch:**

-Recreation Attendant  
-Food Service Worker

**Health Promotions Branch:**  
-Recreation Attendant

Go to [www.mccsiwakuni.com](http://www.mccsiwakuni.com) for a complete job listing.

## "I can mashed potato, I can do the twist - watch me now!"



Pfc. Mark Fayloga

**Pfc. Floyd James Browne, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron cook, prepares mashed potatoes for Wednesday's lunch in the galley of the R. G. Robinson Mess Hall. The mess hall prepares between 400 and 500 potatoes every day.**

## MOVIE SCHEDULE

### SAKURA

**FRIDAY**  
7 p.m. FlightOfPhoenix (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Ocean's Twelve (PG-13)

**SATURDAY**  
1 p.m. Christmas With The Kranks (PG)  
4 p.m. Phantom Of The Opera (PG-13)  
7 p.m. FlightOfPhoenix (PG-13)  
10 p.m. Blade Trinity (R)

**SUNDAY**  
4 p.m. Ocean's Twelve (PG-13)  
7 p.m. Alexander (R)

**MONDAY**  
7 p.m. FatAlbert (PG)

**TUESDAY**  
7 p.m. National Treasure (PG)

### WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. FlightOfPhoenix (PG-13)

### THURSDAY

7 p.m. Blade Trinity (R)

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. For show times call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291.



### FRIDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Win A Date With Ted Hamilton (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Shattered Glass (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Never Die Alone (R)  
2 a.m. Old School (R)

### SATURDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Rat Race (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Orange County (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Fargo (R)  
2 a.m. Trapped (R)

### SUNDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Rumor Of Angels (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Minority Report (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Changing Lanes (R)  
2 a.m. Windtalkers (R)

### MONDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Rollerball (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Paycheck (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. 8 Mile (R)  
2 a.m. Urban Legends: Final Cut (R)

### TUESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. View From The Top (PG-13)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. Pirates Of The

Caribbean (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. Rob Roy (R)  
2 a.m. Don't Say A Word (R)

### WEDNESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. The Prince And Me (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. The Medallion (PG-13)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Glass House (PG-13)  
2 a.m. Stranger Than Fiction (R)

### THURSDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Shrek 2 (PG)  
2 p.m./8 p.m. M.A.S.H. (PG)  
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Quiet American (R)  
2 a.m. The Score (R)



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This story is a translation of the bottom of page 3 text...

## Lunch Menus

Week Of Jan. 31-Feb. 4

- Monday - Soft Shell Beef Taco W/Lettuce & Tomato, Spanish Rice, Chilled Peaches, Chocolate Cake, Milk
Tuesday - Hamburger on a Bun, Lettuce, Tomato & Pickles, Curly Fries, Awesome Applesauce, Rice Krispie Treat, Milk
Wednesday - Spaghetti W/Meatsauce, Garlic Bread, Seasoned

- Green Peas, Chilled Pears, Cookie, Milk
Thursday - Chicken Sandwich, Carrot & Celery Sticks, Ranch Dressing, Crispy Potato Wedges, Baked Beans, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Friday - Chicken Burrito, Lettuce & Tomato, Spanish Rice, Assort Fruit Juice, Brownie, Milk



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS MCCS

Club Iwakuni (253-3727)
Sunset Garden: Sunday, 7 p.m. in the Club Ballroom. Open mic for musicians, poets, singers and comedians.

Youth & Teen Center (253-6454)
Monthly Birthday Party: Saturday, 3-5 p.m.
Passport To Manhood Meeting: Sunday, 3-5 p.m. Males ages 13-18 are invited to the Teen Center for plenty of free food and an afternoon of fun.
SMART Girls Meeting: 10 to 12-year-old girls meet Feb. 5, 3-5 p.m. Come on over for fee food and fun.

Single Marine Program (253-3585)
Madden Football Tournament: Saturday, 6 p.m. Prizes for first, second and third place winners.
Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 10 a.m.
Geihoku Valley Ski & Snowboarding Trip: Feb. 5, 5 a.m. \$10 transportation. ¥5,000 for a one-day lift ticket. Checkout skis and snowboards at the IronWorks Gym Gear Issue. Bring yen for lunch and souvenirs.

Think Light Healthy Cooking Class
Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. The "slow-carb" low fat recipes that train your body to release and burn stored fat. Sign-up for \$5. Call 253-3696 for more details.

Tuesday Night Happy Bookers Club
Tuesday, 7 p.m. in the library multipurpose room. The group is reviewing The Good Earth by Pearl Buck. March's book will be Midwives by Chris Bohjalian. Call 253-3078 for details.

NHK (TV & radio station) Tour And Shopping In Hiroshima
February 4, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This tour in English is free except for transportation fees. The trip includes a TV studio tour, 3-D scenography experience, weather camera experience and more. Call 253-6165 to sign-up.

Home Buying Workshop
Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call the office to reserve a seat. This course is a must for experienced and beginner home buyers alike, for those who will be purchasing soon and those just starting to think about taking the plunge. Call 253-6250 for more information.

### OTHER

Australia Travel Club Yard Sale
This club will sponsor a yard sale Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the triangle. The club consists of some of the seniors graduating with the 2004-2005 class. The Travel Club is in no way associated with any school.

# Station units called for President's Challenge

Pfc. Mark Fayloga
Combat Correspondent

The President's Challenge will begin Feb. 4, with a President's Champions Unit Physical Training Kickboxing Kickoff. The challenge is a 10-month competition where Station units can earn up to \$1,800 for their party fund. The challenge is open to any unit on Station.

The president's challenge consists of 12 events, beginning with the kickboxing kickoff and ending with Gladiators the Ultimate Unit PT Challenge Oct. 14.

The kickboxing kickoff will be the only opportunity for units to sign up for the president's challenge. In order to be eligible for any challenge event, at least 10 percent of a units work section must be present, said Tracy D. Morgan, IronWorks fitness coordinator.

During each of the president's challenge events units have a chance to win trophies and cash. Units can win \$100 for their party fund and a trophy for taking first place in any event. Second place in any event will earn a unit \$75 for their party fund and a trophy. Aside from the cash and trophies the events are a great way to PT as a unit and earn respect and recognition from other units, said Morgan.

"Our unit decided about this time

last year to accept the challenge and compete in all the events not only for the cash prize but also to become better known on base," said Master Sgt. Michael D. Henderson, staff noncommissioned officer in charge for Marine Air Control Squadron 4. Henderson's unit was last year's challenge winners.

Each event throughout the year carries a certain point value. All units earn the same amount of points at each event, as long as they show up. The exception is the final event. During the gladiators challenge points are earned through a nine-event competition, said Morgan. The team with the most total points at the end of the final competition wins \$500 for their unit's party fund.

"Events are spread out through the entire year because of frequent deployments," said Morgan. "By



Photos courtesy of IronWorks Semper Fit Division

Sgt. Jacob J. Witt, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron maintenance and lighting noncommissioned officer in charge, pushes a teammate during the Gladiator's Challenge, the final event of the President's Challenge.

having the events spread out through the year and the opportunity to earn bonus points at the gladiator's challenge, we were able to keep the president's challenge as fair as possible."

"The great thing about the

president's challenge is that most of the events through the year are events that units are going to be involved in anyway. So the challenge is a good way to earn cash for something you were already going to do," said Morgan.

"The president's challenge is a great chance for unit PT and to see all the semper fit programs available to Marines here in Iwakuni," said Henderson. "It made our unit tighter. We will compete again this year and barring any deployments, we will win again."

Any units interested in participating in the president's challenge must be present at the kickboxing kickoff to sign up. If there are any questions, comments or concerns about the challenge, units can contact Tracy Morgan at 253-5051 or e-mail her at MorganTra@usm-mccs.org.

## President's Challenge Events

Table with 3 columns: DATE, EVENT, POINTS. Lists 12 events from Feb 4 to Oct 14 with their respective point values.



Marine Aircraft Group 12, puts forward maximum effort to win the tug-of-war competition at last years Gladiator's Challenge. The Gladiator's Challenge is the last event in the President's Challenge.

# IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

### LAST MAN STANDING PAINTBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, 8 a.m. at the MCCS Paintball Range. Register for \$35 at the IronWorks Gym front desk. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 253-3822.

### UNIT PT KICKBOXING KICK-OFF (PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE)

Feb. 4, 5:30-7 a.m. Enter your unit in this kickboxing event and earn 20 points towards the Presidential Challenge. The military unit with the most fitness points in the challenge wins \$500 for their unit PT party fund. All participating units receive 20 points towards the President's Challenge. Call 253-5051 for further details.

### RUN FOR YOUR HEART 5K RACE

Feb. 11. Check in at 10:45 a.m. The race begins at 11:30 a.m. Participants complete in the following categories: ages 13-17, ages 18-34, ages 35

and older, and a unit competition. Registration is open until Feb. 4. First and second place units participating win money for their unit party fund. For more information, call 253-5051.

### EXTENDED \$1 TUESDAY HOURS

\$1 Tuesdays hours have been extended. Now starting at noon, U.S. and Japanese active duty service members play golf for \$1. Then 1-8 p.m., service members show their \$1 green fee receipt at the Eagle's Nest Lounge to receive a \$1 draft beer and a \$1 small order of buffalo wings. Only one order per service member is allowed. Call 253-3402 for further information.

### LIFEGUARD CLASS

Monday through Feb. 11, 5-9 p.m. Get certified and get hired. Work for MCCS Aquatics. Call 253-4966 for details.



# Young players kick off new season

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
PFC LUKAS J. BLOM  
Combat Correspondent

More than 300 players and family members sat in the gymnasium bleachers mesmerized by the pulsating drums of the Yuu Zenitsubo Taiko Drummers, anxiously anticipating the beginning of the 2005 youth basketball season. The Station Youth Basketball League got off to a rousing start during its opening ceremonies at IronWorks Gym here, Jan. 22.

"Welcome, all parents and players to the Youth Basketball Opening Ceremonies," said Jaime D. Buning, Semper Fit youth sports coordinator. "We will have a very busy season ahead of us this year."

The games kicked off following the Yuu Zenitsubo Taiko Drummers set of traditional Japanese drum music.

Each team has Japanese players as well as Americans.

"We've never had a real problem with the language barrier," said Nakia W. Witherow, head coach of the 7-9-year-old Celtics. "They pick up everything very quickly by watching and just having fun with the rest of the team."

The Celtic team began their season in a fast paced match up with the Timberwolves.

"We played extremely well," said

Witherow. "I'm very proud of the way they played. We've been running and shooting a lot more in practice than we did last year. I think we'll have a very good season, we've got a lot of talent on the squad."

The 7-9-year-old Pistons took on the Knicks in a pulse racing game next.

"We're pretty good this year," said Rori T. Stubbs, 9, Pistons center. "Everybody can run really fast and play pretty good."

A total of 20 teams were divided into four divisions by age, ranging from four to 12 years old, said Buning. This year is the first that children as young as four years old will be able to participate in the basketball season.

The players in the 4-year-old to the 7-9-year-old division play in a noncompetitive format where the score is not posted. The noncompetitive format is designed to have the players focus on the fundamentals, sportsmanship and have fun, said Buning.

Motivating the players with sharp dance moves and creative chants throughout the day's competition were members of three cheerleading squads: the Little Angels, All Stars and the Sun Fires.

"I would like to thank all my coaches and players parents ahead of time for their support throughout the season," said Buning. "I'm sure this will be a fun and exciting season."



Justice Lasyone, 9, drives down the court and dazzles a Pistons' player on defense with a vicious crossover. The youth basketball season kicked off at IronWorks Gym here, Jan. 22.



LEFT: Bulls' player Andrew Erwin, 5, practices his jump shots in the pre-game warm up session with his team. The Bulls went on to face the Lakers in their season opener. ABOVE: Members of the Yuu Zenitsubo Taiko Drummers captivated the crowd at the youth basketball opening ceremonies with the rhythmic beats of their traditional Japanese music.