

'Total Recall' forgot to outshine original
WEEKEND



Douglas takes all-around gold **SPORTS**



MEAL COUNT				TOTAL
UNITED STATES	18	9	10	37
CHINA	18	11	5	34
JAPAN	2	6	11	19

U.S. gymnast Gabrielle Douglas



ON TAP TODAY
 ■ Michael Phelps favored in the men's 100 butterfly.

The Desert Sun

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012

WWW.MYDESERT.COM

A GANNE

SERVING THE COACHELLA VALLEY SINCE 1927

Balloonists get another crack at farm

Appeals court will consider legal fees reimbursement in long fight over airspace

By Keith Matheny
 The Desert Sun

The California 4th District Court of Appeal has agreed to hear the case of local hot-air balloon oper-

ators seeking to recover attorney fees from an east valley olive farm that waged a more than two-year legal battle against them. Steve and Cynthia Wilkinson of Palm Desert, owners of Fantasy

Balloon Flights, and Denni Barrett, owner of Magical Adventures Inc., are asking the appellate court to reverse a Riverside County Superior Court judge's ruling last November denying their request that JCM Farming Inc. pay their attorney fees.

The balloonists' attorney in the appellate case, T. Peter Pierce of Los Angeles, declined to discuss

the potential amount of attorney fees being sought, noting that the matter at hand is only whether balloonists have a right to have those costs paid by JCM Farming. But the balloonists and the attorney for their Superior Court case, Robert Gilliland Jr., earlier placed the amount at about \$330,000. The balloonists were among 15 companies or operators sued by

iSun Investigation

Read past coverage of the balloonists' long battle with JCM Farming Inc. at mydesert.com/iSun.

JCM, owned by John C. and Carol Marrelli and their daughter, Marilena Marrelli, all of Solana Beach.

Please see **APPEAL, A5**

PALESPRINGS MODERNISM WEEK

Palm Desert joins Modernism mania



Steven Love, owner of Egg and Dart Designer Showroom, enters one of the Marrakesh Country Club homes in Palm Desert that will take part in Modernism Week. OMAR ORNELAS/THE DESERT SUN

Mid-valley homes to shine in mid-century design event

By Sherry Barkas
 The Desert Sun

PALM DESERT — Traveling along Portola Avenue, Marrakesh Country Club's signature pink-colored wrought iron fence, matching guardhouse and homes with white mansard roofs are hard to miss.

In February, the public will get a chance to step inside some of the Hollywood Regency-styled digs designed by legendary architect John Elgin Woolf — tying the city of Palm Desert to Palm Springs' Modernism Week for the first time.

"It has always been the aim of Modernism Week to include as many cities within the Coachella Valley as possible," said Nickie McLaughlin, Modernism Week executive director.

Modernism Week also is working on a recep-



A CLOSER LOOK

■ Scan the QR code to visit our coverage — stories, photo galleries and videos — of Palm Springs Modernism Week.

tion, possible lecture and a display at the new Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert, plus a home tour in the Sandpiper community. The La Quinta Arts Foundation could get involved as well, McLaughlin said.

According to Modernism Week organizers, last year's event drew a record 35,400 people to 100-plus exhibits and home tours showcasing midcentury modern design, architecture and culture of the 1940s, '50s, and '60s.

The economic impact was an estimated **Please see MODERN, A5**

CAMPAIGN 2012: PALM DESERT

'Time to move on': Council's Finerty won't run this fall

By Blake Herzog
 The Desert Sun

PALM DESERT — City Councilwoman Cindy Finerty told The Desert Sun on Thursday she has decided not to run for re-election in November.

"After 17 years, I think it's time to move on and focus on my business. I think we've got a good field of candidates, and it's time to move on," she said.

She has been on the council for six years, having first been elected to a two-year term in 2006. She held the rotating title of mayor in 2010. Before that, she served on the city's Planning Commission for nine years.

The other two incumbents, Mayor Bob Spiegel and Mayor Pro Tem Bill Kroonen, have qualified to be on the Nov. 6 ballot, along with Planning Commission member **Please see FINERTY, A5**



Cindy Finerty discusses issues concerning Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley during a newsmaker interview with The Desert Sun in December 2009. MICHAEL SNYDER/THE DESERT SUN

Accused teacher in district since '86

Felony sex charges forthcoming, official indicates

By Denise Goolsby
 The Desert Sun

INDIAN WELLS — Robert Keith Bryan, the Gerald R. Ford Elementary School teacher arrested this week on suspicion of sexually assaulting a fourth grade girl and other children, has a long history with the Desert Sands Unified School District.

"He's been with us since 1986," Jeff Kaye, the district's director of Security and Safety Services, said of Bryan.

The Palm Desert man posted bail, which had been set at \$220,000, and was released from the Riverside County Jail in Indio on Thursday, according to jail records.

Kaye said Bryan, 59, previously taught at Lincoln and Kennedy elementary schools, but he could not say why Bryan moved from school to school.

There's been speculation Bryan also taught in the Coachel-



Bryan

la Valley Unified School District prior to his employment with Desert Sands, but that information could not be confirmed Thursday.

Mari Tarango, CVUSD public information officer, said she could not locate the records to determine if Bryan had worked in the district in the past.

She added that CVUSD staff would look for the records on Monday.

According to information on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing website, Bryan was first issued a teaching credential in May 1978.

According to the website, his multiple-subject credential authorizes him to teach grades 12 and below, including preschool and adult education classes. **Please see TEACHER, A5**

GOOD MORNING

TGIF

102° 83°

Bridge **D2** Obituaries **B5**
 Classified **D1-6** **IN WEEKEND**
 Crossword **D4** Advice **W13**
 Horoscope **D3** Comics **W14-15**
 Lottery **B5** TV listings **W16**



The Desert Sun is printed using recycled paper



\$1 all markets

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER

WELCOME HOME

Three families get the keys to new homes from Habitat for Humanity and the city of Indio. **B1**



OMAR ORNELAS/THE DESERT SUN

SHARED EXPERIENCE

USC and former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger join forces in a new policy think tank. **A4**

COMING TOMORROW

MEASURING THE PULSE

The new Escape section — which focuses on the Coachella Valley's \$1 billion tourism industry — debuts.



DAZZLING!



3.00 CTW \$1,999
 5.00 CTW \$2,999
 7.00 CTW \$5,999
 10.00 CTW \$8,999
 29.55 CTW \$129,999



EL PASEO JEWELRY
 73-375 EL PASEO • PALM DESERT
 760.773.1040
 WWW.ELPASEOJEWELRY.COM

To subscribe or report a delivery problem, call (800) 834-6052 or visit mydesert.com/cs