

THE Dog Face Daily

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Serving Task Force Marne

Market opens in central location of Salman Pak



Sgt. 1st Class Scott Maynard

A Mada'in Qada policeman takes the lead in security at a market opening in Salman Pak, Iraq, March 11. Soldiers with the 59th Military Police Company from Fort Carson, Colo., currently attached to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, assisted with security during the event.

SGT. NATALIE ROSTEK
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

COP CARVER – A new market opened in Salman Pak March 11 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by leaders of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, local citizens and council leaders.

The market consists of seven stores including two restaurants, a super-market, an electronics shop, a photo shop, a sweets store and a cell phone

store.

Capt. Mathew Givens, projects planner for the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, said planning for the market began last December when 1-15th Inf. Regt. Soldiers in the area saw run-down shops where the new market now stands.

Givens, a native of Columbus, Ga., said the stores had potential to be revitalized and turned into a thriving shopping area.

"We chose the area because there

is so much going on and it is at the beginning of the main part of town," Givens said. "The JSS (joint security station), the government building and the Salman Pak Fire Station are right across the street. It's in a central location."

Leaders of the 1-15 Inf. Regt. provided store owners with microgrants enabling them to refurbish their stores.

"The electronics store owner bought

See SHOP, page 3

GoI shows concern for its citizens

CAPT. ALLISON FLANNIGAN
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER – The Government of Iraq's Joint Rural Planning Committee chairman, Subhi Mashhedani, visited Mahmudiyah Qada to discuss essential service projects and cooperation between all levels of government March 10.

The Rakkasans of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) facilitated the two-part meeting held at the Iraqi Army compound in Mahmudiyah and the thermal power plant in Abu Farris.

Brig. Gen. Edward Cardon, deputy commander of support for Multi-National Division - Center, also attended the meeting along with representatives from the Baghdad provincial reconstruction team and the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The goal of the meeting was for the GoI to demonstrate to the people that it is concerned with their wellbeing and to re-engage them in the political process, said Rusty Barber, chief of party for USIP's Baghdad field office.

"The hope," Barber said, "is this type of congregation will encourage the process of engagement between tribal structure, local government and central government so they can bring reconstruction to this area, identify priorities and actually improve the economic conditions."

Maj. Robert Bertrand, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT), civil military operations officer, said Mashhedani's



Capt. Allison Flannigan

More than 200 Abu Farris citizens attended a meeting at the thermal power plant March 10 to listen to the Government of Iraq's Joint Rural Planning Committee chairman Subhi Mashhedani and Mahmudiyah Qada leadership discuss essential services.

"Today's engagement is truly a miracle as, one year ago today, this community was at war with each other and the Coalition forces."

– Maj. Robert Bertrand
3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (AASLT)

visit was a step toward ensuring local citizens' needs were met.

"Linking the provincial government with the local people is a critical step in providing the essential services to the people in this important area," Bertrand said. "Today's engagement is truly a miracle as, one year ago today, this community was at war with each other and the Coalition forces."

Following speeches by Mashhedani, Cardon and several local leaders, all the attendees partook in a traditional Iraqi meal.

THE Dog Face Daily

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214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MPs conduct vehicle search training with Baghdad IPs



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

Sgt. Adam Coleman, a military policeman with the 153rd Military Police Company, Delaware National Guard, trains Iraqi policemen on how to properly search vehicles at the Criminal Investigation Department Headquarters in Baghdad March 11. The 153rd MP Co., conducts Police Transition Team operations to help improve the effectiveness of the Baghdad police force.

SHOP: *New market in Salman Pak*

From Page 1

more work tools,” Givens said. “The cell phone store owner bought a display case. (The restaurant owners) bought refrigerators and tables and chairs so people can sit outside and eat. They were also able to design their own store front signs. Out in front of the market is one central sign with all the store names.”

Fathil, owner of the al Ressala restaurant, said before the project, his store was too small and lacked necessary equipment.

“With the microgrant,” he said through a translator, “I bought more equipment, the sign, a storage shed and tables and chairs. People like to come here now because they can sit out front of my restaurant and eat and rest.”

Construction of the \$240,000 refurbishment began in early February, Givens said. In addition to the stores’ interior renovations, the outside of the market was painted and a raised, cement walk with a rubber, non-slip coating was added to the front of the building.

Givens said while the market is not 100 percent complete, each store is fully operational. He said lights and cement garbage cans will be emplaced soon.

Givens attributes much of the success of the project to the improved security in Salman Pak.

“We could not have done any of this without the improved security in the area,” he said. “Before, the market was dead. No one wanted to shop here because it wasn’t safe. Now they are coming back because they feel safe.”

After the opening ceremony, Salman Pak leaders were invited back to COP Carver for a luncheon hosted by Lt. Col. Jack Marr, from Minneapolis, commander of the 1-15 Inf. Regt.

Before the chicken, lamb and rice spread was served, Marr welcomed Gen. Jassem, commander of the 9th Iraqi Army Division, and Gen. Abdullah, commander of the 1st Brigade, 9th IA Division, whose unit recently assumed responsibility of Salman Pak from the outgoing 1st Brigade, 1st National Police Division.

Jassem said he wants people to come visit the Mada’in Qada to see the improved security.

“The efforts of the good people in the area are not lost,” he said through a translator. “People ask me, ‘Is the area safe?’ ... I tell them, ‘Yes, it’s safe.’”

Safety Thought of the Day

Wet Weather Safety Reminders

- Rain, dust and mud make roads in Iraq as slick and slippery as ice.
- PMCS becomes more critical during inclement weather, ensure:
 - Inspection of worn tire tread and replace if necessary.
 - Inspection of windshield wipers for worn or missing wiper blades.
 - Windshield windows and lights are kept clean at all times.
- Adjust your driving for the conditions.
- Avoid areas that flood or that have become an obstacle due to mud.
- Drivers and ground guides must take extra precautions during ground guiding operations.
- Rehearse rollover drills before all vehicle operations.
- If you must drive through deep puddles, gently pump your brakes to dry them.
- Rain may cause roads to erode. If possible, avoid driving on road edges and shoulders.
- Wear your seat belt at all times.

Headline Highlights

Corvette honored; pink poodle; century-long book loan

Corvette to be honored as state's official sports car

DETROIT (Reuters) — Chicken, cornhole and Corvettes. An effort to honor General Motors' iconic Corvette as the official sports car of Kentucky has stalled in the state's legislature along with efforts to honor other famous exports.

General Motors Corp assembles Corvettes at a plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky, where it employs almost 1,000 workers. There are plans to add 2,000 more workers when the company adds two more vehicle lines by 2012.

C.B. Embry Jr., a Republican member of Kentucky's General Assembly, introduced a measure earlier this year to boost the state's spirits and honor "one of the bright spots" of Kentucky's economy.

But with pressing issues such as the state budget, casino gambling and proposed tax hikes occupying the legislature, the effort to honor the Corvette has been tabled for now.

Other measures put on hold include a proposal to name Kentucky Fried Chicken as the official picnic food and to make cornhole -- a bean bag toss game -- the official state game.

"It would still be easy to spend five or 10 minutes to do this bill," Embry told Reuters in an interview. "We certainly waste a lot more time than that standing around."

Embry has gamely pushed to name

the Corvette as the state's sports car, instead of the state's official car, to avoid minimizing the contributions of Ford Motor Co and Toyota Motor Corp, which also build vehicles in Kentucky.

A spokeswoman for GM said the company would be very happy if the bill gets passed, but understands the reasoning behind the delay as the legislature grapples with other topics.

"We're honored Kentucky recognized the Corvette's special status," the spokeswoman, Wendy Clark, said.

The Corvette, considered the first all-American sports car built by an American manufacturer, has been assembled in many locations including Michigan and Missouri since 1953 and has been produced in Bowling Green since 1981.

Bowling Green is now the sole production site for the vehicle.

Woman faces \$1k fine for dyeing poodle pink

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A Boulder woman facing a \$1,000 fine for dyeing her poodle pink has hired a lawyer to fight the charge in court.

Joy Douglas says she dyed Cici, her white miniature poodle, to call attention to breast cancer. She says she used beet juice and Kool-Aid.

She was ticketed March 1 under a Boulder ordinance that makes it illegal to dye animals. The ordinance is designed discourage people from dyeing rabbits and chicks for Easter.

Douglas had a court hearing scheduled Tuesday, but the judge postponed it until April after she said she has hired a lawyer.

Douglas took Cici with her Tuesday but had to leave her outside the courthouse.

Yes, I'd like to renew this..

HELSINKI (Reuters) — A Finnish library-goer apparently thought 'better late than never' and quietly returned a book on loan for more than 100 years to a library in Vantaa, in southern Finland.

The library had long since lost track of the loan but welcomed back to its collections the bound copy of a 1902 volume of Vartija, an active religious monthly periodical at the time.

"We are unclear when exactly it was borrowed and who returned it. There weren't any documents with it," librarian Minna Saastamoinen told Reuters.

"There is an old note attached to the book which says there is a fine of 10 pennies a week for late returns," she added.

The library sticker inside the cover, and the old-fashioned handwriting on it, showed the book was last officially loaned out at the beginning of the last century, she said.

The periodical was borrowed such a long time ago that the Korso branch of the Vantaa library, where the tome was finally handed in, did not even exist when the book was borrowed.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

here

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