

Next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps announced



CPL. JAD SLEIMAN

Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green, former Marine Forces Africa sergeant major, speaks to a group of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 12 Marines and sailors, Oct. 29, 2011. SPMAGTF-12 was a newly formed unit charged with conducting training partnerships with African militaries dealing with regional terror threats.

BY OFFICE OF MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY

The Commandant of the Marine Corps announced Wednesday, Jan. 21 the selection of Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green as the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

"It gives me great pleasure to name Sgt. Maj. Green as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps," said Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the commandant of the Marine Corps.

"His dynamic leadership is well known throughout the ranks of our Corps. His wide range of experience in both peacetime and combat, and his record of performance make him



extraordinarily well-qualified to serve as our senior enlisted leader," Dunford said.

Green, currently the sergeant major of I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), will replace Sgt. Maj. Miche-



al P. Barrett, who has held the billet since June 2011.

Barrett is credited with improving Marines' training, education, compensation, quality of life, bachelor

See NEXT page A6

It gives me great pleasure to name Sgt. Maj. Green as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps,"

— Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, commandant of the Marine Corps

Integrated Task Force AAV Platoon takes aim on gunnery skills

BY CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. - Marines with Amphibious Assault Vehicle Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, conducted a live-fire exercise at Range SR-10 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Tuesday.

The platoon focused on firing tables three and five of the AAV gunnery manual, with a particular emphasis on their competency with quickly reloading and firing their Mark 19 40 mm grenade and .50 caliber machine guns while moving.

"The biggest thing we want to prepare them for in regards to the evaluation is being able to conduct those reloads and quickly put rounds downrange," said 1st Lt. Robert S. Dyer, AAV platoon commander, Co. B, GCEITF. "We have spent the last two weeks in the classroom preparing for this by starting with the basics, and in the turret trainer to prepare the Marines for the live-fire portion."

See AIM page A6



CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

Marines with Amphibious Assault Vehicle Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, assault targets downrange during a live-fire exercise at Range SR-10 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Tuesday.

Competition bolsters camaraderie for base shooting team



LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Brandon Debolt, 1st Tank Battalion, native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, puts his weapon away in preparation to move to the next yard line during the Combat Center DieSeL Classic at the base Qualification Range, Saturday.

BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Combat center hosted its Combat Center DieSeL Classic at the base qualification Range, Saturday.

This is one of several competitions the Combat Center shooting team participates in each year. The Diesel Classic is the mid-range match, a competition where shooters fire from the 300, 500 and 600 yard lines. Marines, sailors and service members have several opportunities to fire on the range year-round.

"Most of our competitions are on weekends," said Lance Cpl. Brandon Debolt, 1st Tank Battalion, native of Philadelphia, Penn. "Marines can come

to the range, they'll get a rifle and pistol issued to them and they just register for any range fees that are needed. After that, they get to enjoy a day of shooting on the range."

The competition is split up into individual and team matches. Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Recruiting District San Diego, and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar are some of the bases the Combat Center shooting team has competed against. For the past two years the Combat Center shooting team has brought home two trophies.

"I think it's good, because you get two big trophies that you get to bring

See TEAM page A6



LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Egber Piza, takes his shot during the Combat Center DieSeL Classic at the base Qualification Range, Saturday. The competition is split up into individual and team matches.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans vote for the week on the best photograph, posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This weeks top shot comes from Cpl. Carson Gramley.



You voted and this week's Corps Top Shot comes from Cpl. Carson A. Gramley. He took this photo of a team leader with Golf Company firing a .50 caliber Special Applications Scoped Rifle at a target 1,200 meters away on Jan. 6.



LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Combat Center DieSeL Classic, held on Saturday, is one of several competitions that the Combat Center shooting team participates in each year.



Reprinted from the Observation Post
January 22, 1982

Live-fire exercise begins today

Approximately 1,500 Marines from the 1st Marine Division and 1st Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, El Toro and Yuma, Arizona, will comprise the operating air-ground forces for the Combine Arms Exercise 3-82. The training here will be climaxed during a three day live fire exercise beginning today in the Delta Corridor training area.

The ground combat element, the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, commanded by LtCol. L.H. Anderson arrived here January 11 to begin pre-exercise training. The air combat element, comprised of various detachments of fixed wing aircraft, helicopters and support personnel, is commanded by LtCol. R.R. Renier, Major R.G. Mellon heads the logistical or combat service support element for the combined arms exercise.

During the exercise, the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, supported by their air and logistical

arms will face a soviet-type threat scenario consisting of a simulated motorized rifle battalion. On January 22, as H-Hour approaches, artillery, mortars and air will begin bombarding known enemy positions. Mobile companies aboard assault amphibian vehicles with the protection of tanks then attacks across the line of departure, spotting and destroying targets until the sights and sounds of battle increase near that of actual combat. Day one activities will include following a night enemy mechanized counter attack.

The second day of exercise is a movement to contact phase. Unlike the previous day, the enemy is not in fixed locations; therefore, the battalion must search for, locate, then attempt to destroy the simulated opposing force. The third and final day is highlighted when the 3rd Battalion locates a determined enemy dug into fortified positions. The advancing friendly force must stop, dismount and conduct a ground

assault into a 1,000 meter area consisting of 30-bunkers.

As needed throughout the exercise, F-4N "Phantom" and AV-8A "Harrier" jet aircraft and cobra attack helicopters will make bombing and rocket runs. This close air support to the mechanized infantry adds yet another dimension to battlefield realism.

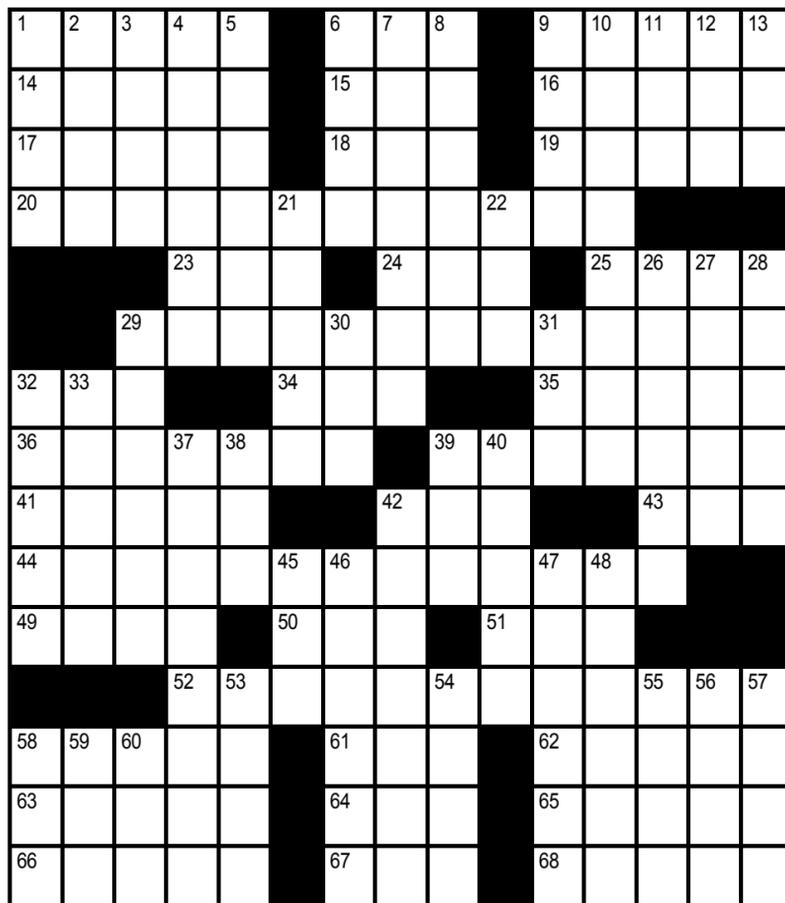
Logistical challenges become real because of the climate, the terrain and live fire nature of the exercise. Food, water, ammunition, batteries, spare parts and replacement items will continue to be moved forward, while simulated or any actual casualties are evacuated to the rear.

As in all exercises, Combat Center Tactical Exercise Evaluation and Control Group personnel will coordinate and evaluate the visiting battalion's performance during the training. When the exercise is concluded Sunday, a formal critique will be conducted before the units return to their home bases.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Caramel candies
- 6 Certain bachelor, in ads
- 9 Commonplace
- 14 Part of a girl scout's uniform
- 15 "... good witch ___ bad witch?"
- 16 Tweeteers' quarters
- 17 Postcard's allure
- 18 Word after chicken or small
- 19 Wooded
- 20 "Spartacus" actor
- 23 Refrigerator insignias
- 24 Brit. record co.
- 25 Area near the high altar
- 29 The folks, slangily
- 32 "Keep it down!"
- 34 A tic-tac-toe winner
- 35 Fender guitar, familiarly
- 36 Walking on foot, with "it"
- 39 Rubdown
- 41 Took the loss
- 42 Mick Jagger's title
- 43 Letter after bee
- 44 Natural gas or electric company, e.g.
- 49 Dueling method
- 50 South Bend's st.
- 51 I problem?
- 52 Side in a sports negotiation
- 58 Lab analysis
- 61 Yoko who loved John Lennon
- 62 "Ah, Wilderness!" mother
- 63 "The French Connection" highlight
- 64 Kind of brother
- 65 Places for plants
- 66 Student's needs
- 67 Rural road feature
- 68 Does Buffy's job

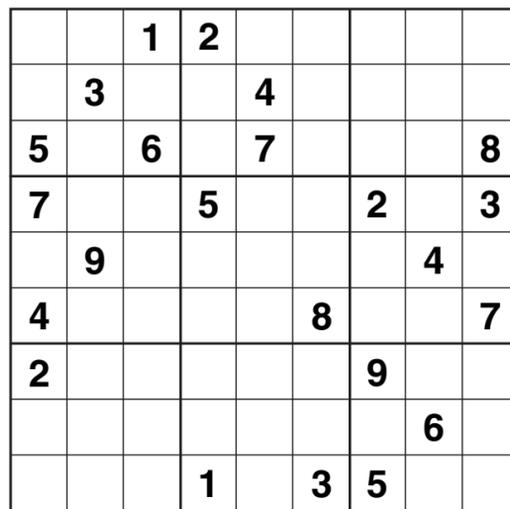


Down

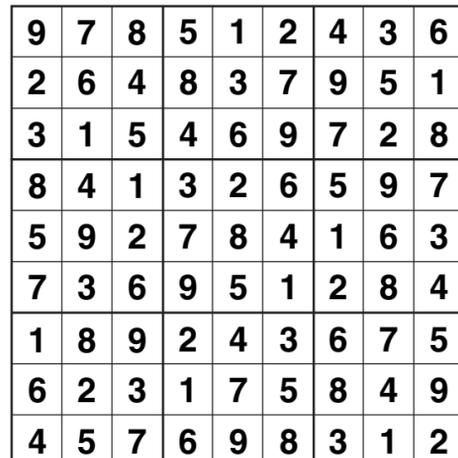
- 1 Abbr. on an invitation
- 2 Depression Era figure
- 3 Shopper's note
- 4 Old El Paso rival
- 5 Rubberneck
- 6 Gets the last of the gravy
- 7 E-mailed, e.g.
- 8 Graph peaks
- 9 "Golden Rule" preposition
- 10 Helping hands
- 11 Put into practice
- 12 Took the cake?
- 13 It was dropped at Woodstock
- 21 Ointment label words
- 22 Squat
- 26 Illegal duplication
- 27 Play setting
- 28 ___ Lauder (big name in perfume)
- 29 Character on "Friends"
- 30 Drink from a bowl
- 31 Initials on an American vessel
- 32 Octagon or oval, e.g.
- 33 Make something more exciting
- 37 March by singly
- 38 "Is ___ Lord?" (disciples' query)
- 39 Nintendo Wii avatar
- 40 City painted by Van Gogh

- 42 Patron of France
- 45 U.S. spy agency
- 46 Break up a team?
- 47 "Sounds good to me"
- 48 Throat feature
- 53 Strong cleaners
- 54 Divining tools
- 55 Island: Sp.
- 56 Like service station rags
- 57 Untouchables name
- 58 Don't just sit there
- 59 "___ Believes in Me"
- 60 "Yakety ___," 1963 hit

SUDOKU



last week's answers



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For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official-website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Joseph Durham, N.C. H&S Company, 1/7 HAMMONS

> **Most of the time** I'll go down to San Diego and hang out with my brother, so I'll stay there for the weekend and if I'm not doing that then I'll be in Palm Springs at the USO.

> **I went to LAX to pick up** around 30 Marines. We swung by the USO there and there was this mother and daughter and they were just getting off their shift. We got there around three [in the afternoon] and they ended up staying and helping us until two in the morning, which was pretty crazy to me. It was something that they did not have to do at all. They were there to help us and I was kind of blown away by it.

> **I've always loved** volunteering because it makes me feel good. I love helping others and then the USO the volunteers there are willing to help us and that was something that I want to be a part of. It's just amazing to see that they see hours of their time to make us feel more at home across the country. It's something very close to my heart.

> **I love to cook and bake**, so eventually I'd like to open up my own coffee shop somewhere. I've been cooking for as long as I remember. In high school I did the grocery shopping for the family, I cooked most of the dinners.

> **It definitely comes from** my parents. Like my dad he's never at home, he's always out working in a different state, and he comes home once or twice a month. To me that is the ultimate sacrifice, being away from your family just so you can provide for them. That's kind of where my willingness to volunteer stems from.

> **I always wanted to** serve in the military.

> **I like the family aspect** of the Marine Corps. You'll never find anywhere else working wise, where everyone is so close and has your back. There are people who have gotten out and retire, and I can call

them up at any time and ask a favor.

> **We moved around a lot** when we were growing up so we were really close, and we didn't have a lot of the typical fighting that brothers have.

> **I like anything outdoors**, hiking, climbing. That's how we grew up, Kayaking, fishing basically anything outdoors.

> **My parents always liked** being outdoors, we always climbed when we were little but after that we didn't really have an opportunity to climb anywhere, until we got here.

> **Climbing is the only thing** that will give me a rush. When it's actual natural rock you have to think and plan out your next moves otherwise you'll get up there and you'll be stuck. It's the only thing I'm kind of afraid of.

> **I climb a couple times a month**, usually in Joshua Tree. A lot of times I climb by myself because it's hard to find people to climb with.

> **The feeling I look for is** that fear, because you get that feeling in your gut if you make the wrong move you'll fall because I usually go without a rope.

> **You know that you're alive.** When you're not really scared to do that many things and you do something like that and you have that 'oh crap!' moment, it's just a good feeling because you don't have it that often. I've been sky diving and bungee jumping, but I don't get that rush. Because you know the parachute is going to open and that you'll be alright. But for this it's dependent on you.

> **To me it's just recreational.** Some people are super into, I just think it's fun. It's a way to kind of just get away. I always bring a book with me in my backpack when I climb and I read it up at the top.

> **I think being in** Twentynine Palms, climbing is really underrated by a lot of the Marines here. I think a lot more people should get out and do it, at a place

Hammons has been rock climbing from a very young age and climbs at least twice a month at Joshua Tree in Yucca Valley, Calif. He also practices 'free climbing' which is a form of climbing without a harness or rope.



not even 10 miles away. They should take the opportunity and enjoy what's here while they're stationed here.

> **I guess you can sum it up** in one word and that's adversity. A lot of people join the Marine Corps because they want a challenge and if you don't challenge yourself in your life and on a daily basis you're not going to get anywhere. But if you challenge yourself, and try to do better, then you'll get better, just like climbing. The more hard and difficult stuff you do the better you get and the more experience you have.

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

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In this 2013 image, Sgt. Maj. Ronald L. Green, then serving as the sergeant major of 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, speaks with Marines participating in Exercise Desert Scimitar during a battlefield circulation aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, May 3, 2013.

CPL. JAD SLEIMAN

NEXT, from A1

enlisted quarters, on-base housing, and family support programs.

"Sgt. Maj. Barrett has poured his heart and soul into serving Marines, Sailors, and their families," Dunford said. "He has truly

made a positive impact on the combat readiness of our Corps."

The relief and appointment ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m., Feb. 20, at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

The post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957 as the senior enlisted advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the first such post in any of the branches of the United States Armed

Forces.

The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps is selected by the Commandant, and typically serves a four-year term, though his service is at the pleasure of the Commandant.



LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Participants prepare to shoot during the Combat Center DieSeL Classic at the base Qualification Range, Saturday. This is one of several competitions that the Combat Center shooting team participates in each year.

AIM, from A1

Four lanes of AAVs engaged targets between approximately 700 and 1,500 meters away. In table three, crews are required to spend 96 Mark 19 40 mm grenade machine gun rounds; and in table five, 48 Mark 19 rounds and 450 .50 caliber rounds. Crews worked in teams of three, with the driver, turret gunner and assistant gunner each having a hand in completing the tables.

The exercise left crews eager for their upcoming assessment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

"Shooting has been a blast," said Sgt. Zarina I. Flemming, crew chief, AAV Plt., Co. B, GCEITF. "This is the stuff you join the Marine Corps to do. It's been humbling to be in this (military occupational specialty), and the learning that comes with it. I am excited for our assessment, and I feel this

training has been preparing us for (it)."

Dyer made note of the progress that the platoon has made since their inception.

"The Marines have been doing an outstanding job," Dyer said. "The ability for the vehicles to stand up is just a result of the hard work that the crews have been putting in. It's a great reflection of them and how they have been progressing with this assessment."

From October 2014 to July 2015, the GCEITF will conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.



CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ

Marines with Amphibious Assault Vehicle Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, assault targets downrange during a live-fire exercise at Range SR-10 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Tuesday.



LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Brandon Debolt, 1st Tank Battalion, native of Philadelphia, Pa., takes his shot during the Combat Center DieSeL Classic at the base Qualification Range, Saturday. For the past two years the Combat Center shooting team has brought home both the individual and team trophies.

TEAM, from A1

back, so it's a little bit of bragging rights, but most importantly it shows what we're doing here at the Combat Center is working," said Cpl. James Marker, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, native of Wausau, Wisc.

Competitions like this bolster camaraderie; it gives Marines from different units the chance to work toward a common goal. Although there's a pride in competing and winning competitions, there is always the Marine's primary mission at

play; training.

"It brings camaraderie," said Staff Sgt. Joseph T. Modula, precision weapons specialist, headquarters battalion, native of Columbus, Ohio. "You bring units together that have never worked together. Marines learn how to shoot better. I look at this as not only is it fun to compete but it's also training. You're constantly training. So when you do go into combat or have to pull the trigger, you know what you're doing."

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Combat Center patrons stay fit with Body Blast

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - Energetic music fills the gymnasium as people look to get the New Year off to a healthy start. Inside, participants choose weights and prepare themselves for an hour of body strengthening. The Community Center hosted Body Blast, a low intensity exercise class, Jan. 12.

The class is held every Monday at 9 a.m. with the goal to get people into shape in a fun and exciting way.

"They love it," said Marlena McGuire, fitness instructor. "They love to come to the group exercise programs, they see results and they feel great all week."

Body Blast hosts approximately 15 people and is open to service members and their loved ones. Not only is it fun, but it also provides an alternative to the traditional methods people use to stay in shape.

"It's something different," "We've got the regular [high intensity tactical training] courses, the [physical fitness test], the [combat fitness test] but this is something different," said Sgt. Vania Berthiaune, food service, headquarters battalion. "It helps you utilize body muscles that you didn't know you had."

McGuire has been instructing the class for a year and a half. Part of the class' success is the group exercise element.

"Group exercise is really important because it motivates people who might feel intimidated to go into the gym and work out," said Marlena McGuire, fitness instructor. "They might not have the techniques or the knowledge to work out on their own and I think that they work out longer and harder when they're in a group setting."

For more information on classes and other programs call 830-3380.



Sayde Escajeda, spouse, does repetitions during the Body Blast class at the Community Center, Jan. 12. The hour long class hosts approximately 15 people.

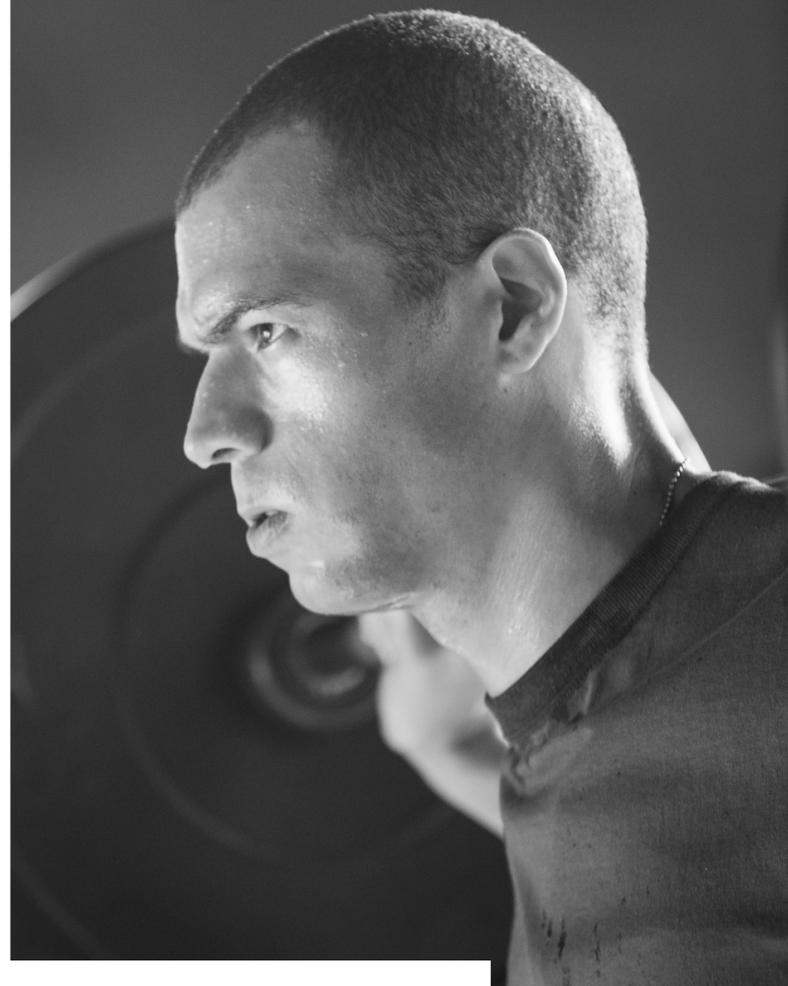


Marlena McGuire, fitness instructor, instructs participants during the Body Blast class at the Community Center, Jan. 12.



Heather Kines, Combat Center patron, does a cool down exercise during the Body Blast class at the Community Center, Jan. 12. The class is hosted every Monday morning at 9 a.m. and there is a similar class conducted at the East Gym at 6 p.m.

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WeekINPhotos

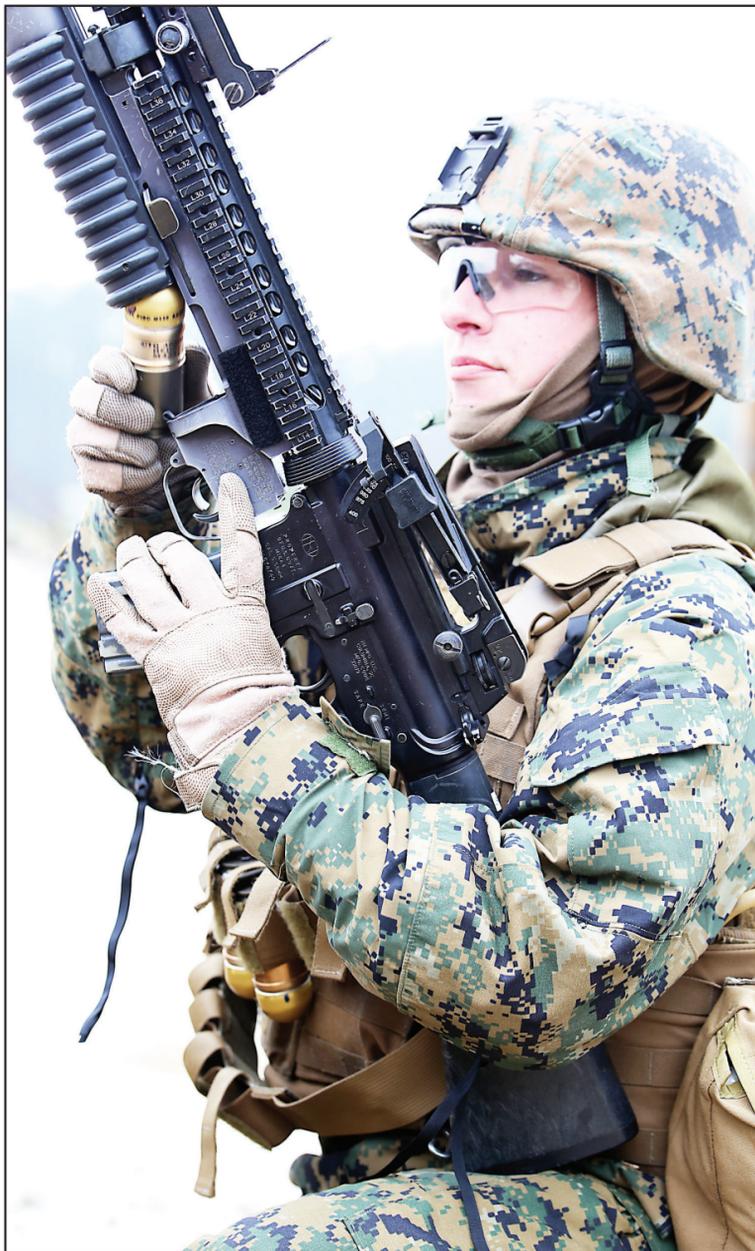
Integrated Task Force infantry Marines conduct grenadier training



Cpl. Sierra K. Tilson, rifleman with 3rd Platoon, Company A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, fires the M203 grenade launcher during a live-fire range at the Verona Loop training area, near Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 14.



Sgt. Radmila M. Allen, left, team leader with 3rd Platoon, Company A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, talks with Sgt. Jesus Garcia, squad leader with 3rd Plt., Co. A, GCEITF, and position safety officer, about the course of fire for the M203 live-fire at the Verona Loop training area, near Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 14.

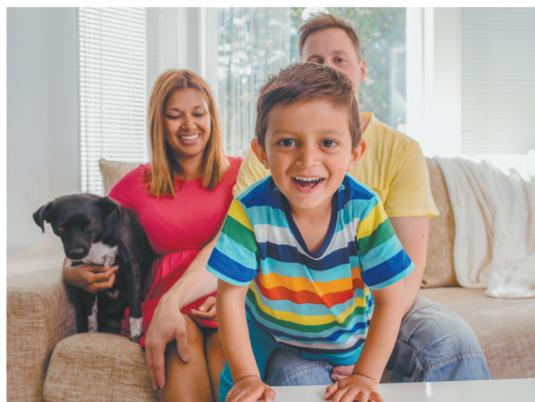


Sgt. Radmila M. Allen, team leader with 3rd Platoon, Company A, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force loads a 40 mm grenade into an M203 grenade launcher during a live-fire range at the Verona Loop training area, near Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 14. Marines with Co. A conducted live-fire training, squad attacks, and patrolling in preparation for their upcoming assessment at the Combat Center, Calif.

Photos by Sgt. Alicia R. Leaders

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Combat Center Marines present flag during 3rd annual Hearts for Arts Gala



Combat Center Marines present the flag during the Old Town Artisan Studio's 3rd Annual Hearts for Arts gala in the Flora Ballroom of a La Quinta Hotel located in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday. The flag was the first item auctioned that night.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

There is an excited murmur in the air as smiling men and women anticipate the night's first item for auction. The chatter dies down as Combat Center Marines begin marching onto the stage. They come to a halt and the room bursts into applause. They are presenting the American flag.

Old Town Artisan Studio held their third annual Hearts for Arts fundraiser gala hosted in the Flora Ballroom of a La Quinta Hotel located in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday.

"Our whole goal is to put art into the hearts and hands of children and other non-profit groups where art has been taken away from their programs and their schools," said Victory Grund, founder of Old Town Artisan Studio, native of La Quinta, Calif. "We appreciate the Marines and what they do so much, so it's great to have them be a part of this ceremony."

Old Town Artisan Studio was started in 2009 in an effort to provide free and

low cost classes to the community.

"We're doing kiln based art and my biggest dream is to take our mobile van and serve children, spouses, and families of our active duty men and women [in my own way]," Grund said.

The night began with silent auctions of various art works and approximately 200 people were in attendance. Once those closed, there were performances by entertainers singing songs by Frank Sinatra and Marilyn Monroe during which dinner was served. The live auctions began shortly after dinner was served.

Everything from original artwork to cruise tickets were offered as auction items to those in attendance. The proceeds raised during the gala will go toward funding art programs.

"Art is healing. Art heals stress, and I know it would mean so much to our service men and women up there, our children up there, to build memories they can keep forever," Grund said.



Children from the Color Guard Choir preform during the Old Town Artisan Studio 3rd Annual Hearts for Arts gala in the Flora Ballroom of a La Quinta Hotel located in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday. The proceeds raised during the gala will go toward funding art programs for children and service members.



Victory Grund, founder of Old Town Artisan Studio, native of La Quinta, Calif., thanks all in attendance during the Old Town Artisan Studio 3rd Annual Hearts for Arts gala in the Flora Ballroom of a La Quinta Hotel located in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday. Grund founded the Old Town Artisan Studio in 2009 because she believes art is healing and hopes to give children and service members the opportunity to benefit from it.



La Quinta natives and art enthusiast enjoy dinner and entertainment during the Old Town Artisan Studio's 3rd Annual Hearts for Arts gala in the Flora Ballroom of a La Quinta Hotel located in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday. The night featured live entertainment, in addition to the silent auctions.



Colby Cramer, ceramic instructor, Old Town Artisan Studio, native of La Quinta, Calif., sculpts clay into a vase during the Old Town Artisan Studio 3rd Annual Hearts for Arts gala in the Flora Ballroom of a La Quinta Hotel located in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday. The gala included both live and silent auctions, as well as various forms of entertainment.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

The Officers Club will be hosting a Mongolian Barbeque night on January 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. At the event you will be able to mix fresh ingredients to create an amazing meal. The event is open to all hands and reservations are highly recommended. For more information contact the Officers Club at 760.830.6610.

The Winter Dodgeball League season will begin on January 26 to March 9 at the East Gym from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Deadline to register in Wednesday, January 14 at 3:00 p.m. at the East Gym. For more information contact MCCS at 760-830-4092.

The Officers Club will be hosting a Black, White & Bling night today at 7 p.m. at the Officers Club. All hands are welcome to attend and tickets will be \$20 dollars and it includes admission, prizes and dessert. To buy your ticket, go to www.osc-29mccspalms.com

Sandy Hills Bowling Center will be having its Grand Opening and 35th Anniversary Celebration on January 30 from 11 a.m. to midnight. There will be new interactive bowling games and an automatic scoring system, Marine Vs. Pizza Eating Contest at 6 p.m., Free Giveaways to the first 250 guest, and lunch combos for free from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Games and shoe rentals will be .50 cent per game and shoe rental.

The Education Center will be offering Free SAT Prep from February 1 to March 22 at the Education Center. The course topics that will be focused on is math, writing and critical reading. The courses objective is to increase test scores, introduce test taking strategies, connect students with others who are taking the SAT and many more. If you would like your son or daughter to participate, please contact the Education Center at 760-830-6881.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Jan. 23

6:00 p.m. – The Theory of Everything, PG-13
8:30 p.m. – The Pyramid, R
10:30 p.m. – The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies, PG-13

Saturday, Jan. 24

10:30 a.m. – Antz, PG
12:30 p.m. – Annie, PG
3:00 p.m. – The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies, PG-13
6:30 p.m. – Exodus: Gods and Kings, PG-13
9:30 p.m. – Top Five, R

Sunday, Jan. 25

12:00 a.m. – Wild, R
12:00 p.m. – Top Five, R
2:30 p.m. – Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb, PG
5:00 p.m. – Into the Woods, PG
8:00 p.m. – Unbroken, PG-13

Monday, Jan. 26

6:00 p.m. – Unbroken, PG-13

Tuesday, Jan. 27

6:00 p.m. – Into the Woods, PG

Wednesday, Jan. 28

5:30 p.m. – The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies, PG-13

Thursday, Jan. 29

5:00 p.m. – The Theory of Everything, PG-13
7:30 p.m. – The Pyramid, R

Friday, Jan. 30

5:00 p.m. – Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb, PG
7:30 p.m. – Exodus: Gods and Kings, PG-13
11:00 p.m. – Unbroken, PG-13



'Selma' connects past and present at pivotal civil rights flashpoint

NEIL POND

"Selma"
Starring David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo & Tom Wilkinson
Directed by Ava DuVernay
PG-13

It depicts events that happened half a century ago, but the drumbeat—and the heartbeat—of the present pounds loud and clear in Selma.

Set in the weeks leading up to March 1965, it's a moving, powerful portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King and his passionate work to turn back the toxic tide of segregation and discrimination against African-Americans, especially in the South.

British actor David Oyelowo does a phenomenal job as King, conveying the combustible cocktail of faith, focus, outrage, diplomacy and drive that fueled his mission leading up to the "peaceful

protest" marches from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., to bring national attention to voting rights. His King is no martyred saint, but a charismatic, pragmatic leader who can take sit-down meetings with the President in the White House, as well as a husband, father and family man trying to keep his own "house" from crumbling from pressures inside and out.

A scene in which King's wife, Coretta (Carmen Ejogo, also terrific), confronts him over his well-known infidelities is a masterfully staged, perfectly written and expertly performed moment in which the silence becomes as important as—and even more weighty than—the words.

The protests at the heart of the movie may have been "nonviolent," but the event that came to be known as Bloody Sunday, March 7, was an episode of horrific, horrendous brutality, as hundreds of marchers were attacked by state and local police on the Edmund Pettus Bridge with tear gas, clubs wrapped in

barbed wire, and horse-whips. Director Ava DuVernay, a former Hollywood publicist who worked her way up through the studio system via music documentaries and indie films, depicts the one-sided confrontation as a melee of swirling smoke, raining blows, sickening thuds and crumbling bodies.

King is the movie's central figure, but note that it doesn't bear his name. It's about more than the man; it's about the movement he inspired. And specifically, it's about how the crucial flashpoint of that movement came at one moment in time, in one specific place, and that place was Selma.

And, appropriately, there's a big supporting cast that helps get it there, including Tom Wilkinson as Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson; Tim Roth as Alabama Gov. George Wallace; Oprah Winfrey as activist Annie Lee Cooper; Dylan Baker as J. Edgar Hoover; Ledici Young as gospel singer Mahalia Jackson; and numerous other actors, including Martin Sheen, rapper Common, Stephen

Root, Niecy Nash, Cuba Gooding Jr., Giovanni Ribisi, André Holland, Stephan James and Wendell Pierce, portraying other real-life players in the drama.

The filmmakers didn't have access to King's archive of speeches, so his orations are paraphrased—to magnificent effect. And there have been questions and quibbles about the movie's authenticity and precise historical accuracy, especially about its portrayal of King's relationship with L.B.J. But leave the parsing of small details to small minds. As the 50th anniversary of the events depicted in Selma approaches, this big-issue movie—with policemen beating and killing unarmed black men, streets filled with peaceful protesters, and repressive voting laws that disenfranchise minorities—feels chillingly contemporary, all too real, and monumental in more ways than one. Selma profoundly reminds us that while the marching may lead to the mountaintop, we still, sadly, haven't fully made it there yet.

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Island Warriors Destroy Targets

Photos by Lance Cpl. Aaron S. Patterson



U.S. Marines assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment (2/3), aim down range during simulated machine gun fire at Range 104 aboard Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Tuesday.



U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Joseph P. Clem, a rifleman assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment (2/3), fires the AT-4 launcher during simulated machine gun fire at Range 104 aboard Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Tuesday.



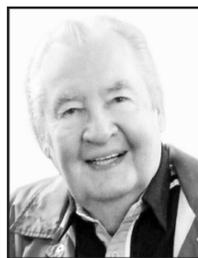
U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dacotah E. Roskop, an automatic rifleman assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment (2/3), fires the M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle (IAR) down range during various courses of fire at Range 105-A aboard Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Tuesday.



U.S. Marines assigned to mortar section, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment (2/3), fire the M224 60 mm mortar system during various courses of fire at Range 106 aboard Camp Wilson, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Tuesday.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



I am a tough minded optimist who is also a realist. I mean that I have an understanding with my soul as to what realism means to me.

For one thing, realism is degraded when it slips down into the idea that only ugly things are real. Some people are so afraid of being sentimental and idealistic that they manage their thinking and their living as some people write their novels, as though sewers were the only real things and mountain streams were not real too.

Sewers are real but so are our seemingly timeless San Geronio mountains and so is the majestic snow capped San Jacinto peak.

Slums, of course, are real but so are the thousands of humble and love-filled homes that populate our High Desert.

The late Sydney Harris wrote: "Reality is sitting on a moonlit pier at midnight and dangling your feet in the water. Reality is toasting marshmallows over an open fire and singing the old, almost forgotten songs of camp days."

Finally, my friends, remember that while the mighty Goliath was real, so was young David with his sling shot. And while Adolph Hitler was real so was Winston Churchill. And while teenagers who use illegal drugs and form street gangs are real, so are the many hundreds of bright and wholesome young people who attend our schools in the Morongo Basin.

If people are going to be realists, they should go all the way.

This column sponsored by:

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sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38

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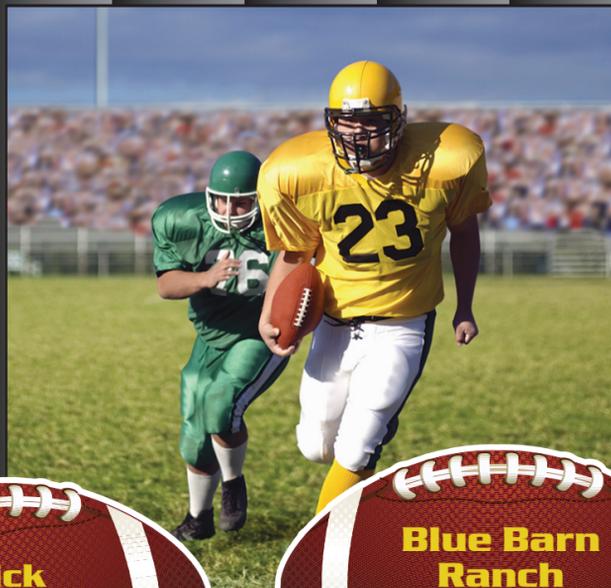
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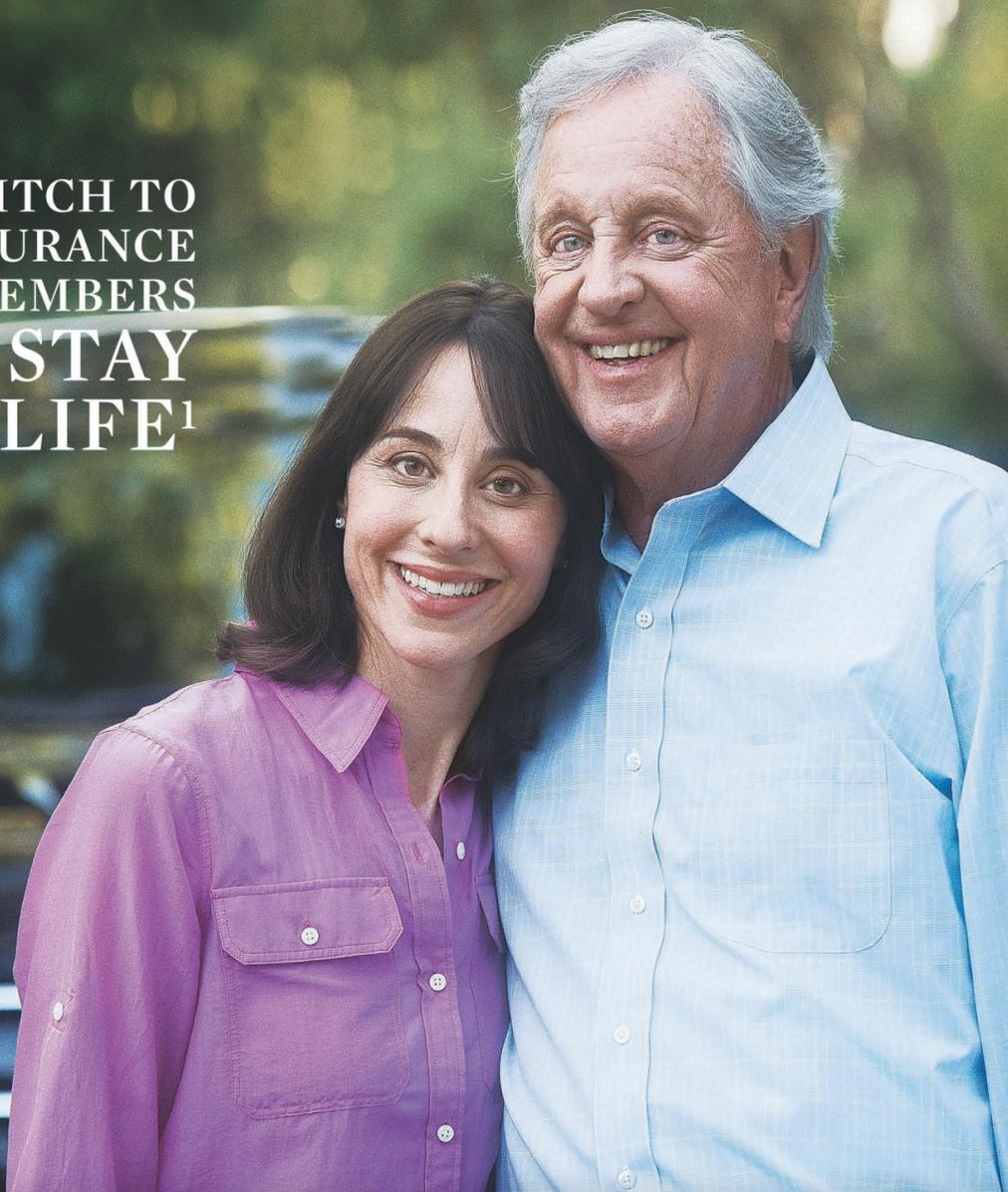
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