



Defense Secretary Ash Carter addresses Marines and sailors at the Dunham Amphitheatre aboard the Combat Center, Tuesday. Carter visited the installation to observe a combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX), meet with Combat Center leadership, and address Marines and sailors stationed aboard the installation.

Defense Secretary visits Combat Center

STORY AND PHOTOS
 BY LANCE CPL.
 DAVE FLORES

The Combat Center hosted Defense Secretary Ash Carter, Tuesday. Carter visited the installation to observe a combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX), meet with Combat Center leadership, and address Marines and sailors stationed aboard the installation.

The Combat Center is the Marine Corps' largest combined arms live-fire training facility, encompassing more than 1,100 square miles of training area. As such, the installation plays a large role in ensuring Marines remain a force in readiness.

"This is important in our strategic history, because we have focused the better part of 15 years, out of necessity, on counter insurgency,"



Defense Secretary Ash Carter shakes hands with Cpl. Elizabeth Rock, armorer, Headquarters Battalion, after addressing Marines stationed aboard the Combat Center during a visit to the installation, Tuesday. Carter visited the installation to observe a combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX), meet with Combat Center leadership, and address Marines and sailors stationed aboard the installation.

Carter said, "Now, we are moving back to full spectrum warfighting and that is what we face once again

today in our extraordinary Marine Corps."

After commenting on the future of the Marine

Corps, Carter went on to thank the service

See **Secretary A7**

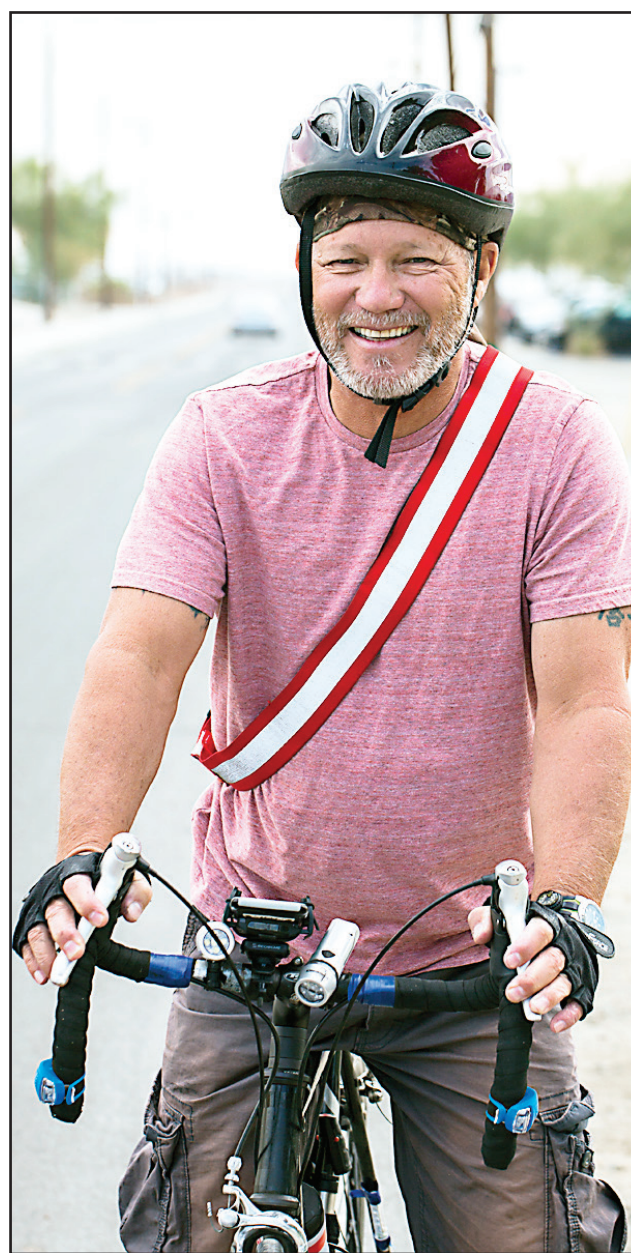
Combat Center rides for environment, health

STORY BY
 CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Through the month of October, the Combat Center collectively cycled 12,201 miles and burned 668,659 calories, all while preserving the environment by reducing 6,893 pounds of carbon dioxide

event to promote healthier living and maintain the Combat Center's standard of being good stewards of our environment.

"We used an internet site called nationalbikechallenge.org that allows you to log miles and points and then breaks it down individually by work sites,



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Chuck Hill, compliance support supervisor, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, gets on his bike to ride for "Get on Your Bike and Ride" month aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday. Hill logged more than 1,197 miles over the 29-day event.

emissions. According to nationalbikechallenge.org, the installation's 58 riders who participated in the inaugural "Get on Your Bike and Ride" month ranked 6th in the nation for total miles logged in October.

Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs hosted the month-long

states, individuals nationwide," said Norman Troy, munitions specialist, NREA. "The greatest benefit to the environment is a reduction in the carbon footprint. If you're going to take a short trip to the store or going to drive to work you could cut down on that

See **Bike Month A7**

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Sgt. Michelle Reif.



Marines train with the Norwegian army Cold Weather and Mountain Training Instructors in Blåtind, Norway, Oct. 27 to Nov. 4, to improve their ability to operate in mountainous and extreme cold weather environments.

Inside the Observation Post

Volume 60, Issue 46

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Morongo Basin Veteran's Tribute
 See page A4



Reprinted from the Observation Post
November 17, 1972

PAO disc jockeys call work interesting, dynamic

"Good morning ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Marine Soundbeat."

If you happen to be up at 6 a.m., these are the words you'll hear over your radio as Lance Cpl. Keith B. Dodd, of the Public Affairs' office, kicks off the morning and quips, quotes, music and news, over KDHI and KQYN-FM radio.

"Marine Soundbeat" is only half the story. Aired at 12:30 p.m. over Twentynine Palms only radio station is "Marine Showcase," an hour long, daily affair, also hosted by Dodd, bet-

ter known to his listening audience as "kaybee" Dodd.

The word "Marine" taken on to both shows does not mean that it's strictly martial fare.

Although military interest news is of prime concern, Dodd's music format is spread out to cover everything from soul to country and western, popular and easy listening, and a sprinkling of middle of the road.

Dodd's voice may be the only one you hear on both shows, but his vocal chords represent only fifty percent of the studio's assets. Corporal Steve

Becker is the guiding hand behind it all.

Heading up production, supervision and training, Cpl. Becker only recently handed the show over to Dodd. Dodd considers himself fortunate to be able to be working in one of the Corps' most glamorous jobs, having previously run the gamut from truck driver to message carrier. "It's all very immediate and dynamic," says Kaybee, "I feel like I really communicate with the radio audience."

Becker feels the same way, "Radio work is always interesting. It's never

the same from day to day," Cpl. Becker, having been in the field for several years, plans to work at a radio station in his home town upon his release from active duty.

Kaybee has similar thoughts, and think it's a good idea for other people. "I'd like to see more Marines get a crack at radio. I think a lot of people would really like it."

Maybe so. But for the time being, it's still the people's choice, Kaybee Dodd ... with compliments of the Public Affairs Office aboard Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California.

CROSSWORD

"To Scale"

Across

- 1 Raiding grp.
- 4 Breakfast strip
- 9 "___ gold in them..."
- 14 Score
- 15 Terse bridge bid
- 16 Right, in a way
- 17 Popular image manager
- 19 Union station?
- 20 Astronaut's wear
- 21 Coldplay "Viva la ___"
- 23 Means
- 24 Counseling, e.g.
- 25 Rio Grande city
- 27 Actress Carrie
- 28 Rubble-maker
- 29 Preserve, in a way
- 30 Whistler, e.g.
- 32 Bob of NBC sports
- 35 Lets up
- 36 Boxing class
- 39 Pioneer in Surrealism
- 40 Lays out
- 41 Modus operandi
- 43 Director DuVernay
- 44 Weep
- 47 "___ sport!"
- 48 Fine point
- 51 Elders' teachings
- 52 Kind of rock
- 54 God of war
- 55 Vessel detector
- 56 Excavation find
- 58 Say the word
- 60 Mercury 6 occupant
- 61 Site of Joan of Arc's demise
- 62 Christmas helper
- 63 Ancient
- 64 Some choristers
- 65 Asian occasion

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52			53		54					55				
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60						61						62		
63						64						65		

Down

- 1 Creeps
- 2 ___ burner (lab staple)
- 3 Dig
- 4 Bridge site
- 5 Geom. measure
- 6 "Don Quixote" author
- 7 Broadcasting
- 8 ___ plume
- 9 Musical syllable
- 10 Controls
- 11 Floor
- 12 Words that come before "go"

- 13 D and C, in D.C.
- 18 Hint
- 22 Nabokov novel
- 25 Whip
- 26 Tater tots brand
- 29 T-shirt fabric
- 31 Makes it
- 32 Bills, e.g.
- 33 Dadaism founder
- 34 Endures apprehensively
- 36 Solitaire variant
- 37 Required
- 38 It's a sin
- 39 Trade ban
- 42 Headlight setting
- 44 Shakespearean verse
- 45 Delphic shrine
- 46 Forlorn
- 49 Director Frank
- 50 Documentarian Morris
- 51 Crooner Rawls
- 53 Eat
- 55 Princes, e.g.
- 57 Blitzer's station
- 59 Prefix with realism

SUDOKU

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Medium

Last week's answers

M	A	R	I	S		V	E	T	T	E		P	E	G
I	V	A	N	A		A	T	E	A	M		A	V	A
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7	8	9	4	5	2	6	3	1
4	5	2	3	6	1	9	7	8
1	6	3	9	7	8	2	4	5
5	3	7	2	8	6	4	1	9
9	2	4	5	1	3	7	8	6
6	1	8	7	9	4	5	2	3

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- Sam's Smoke Shop, 16520 West Main Street, Barstow
- Teazer's Bar & Grill Nightclub, 14269 Seventh Street, Victorville
- Angelo's Kars, 222 & 226 S. Coast

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- Club San Diego, 3955 4th Avenue, San Diego
- Get It On Shoppe, San Diego
- Main Street Motel, 3494 Main Street, San Diego
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- Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar Street, San Diego
- Dream Crystal, 1536 Highland Avenue, National City
- Sports Auto Sales, 1111 National City Boulevard, National City

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Mark

Youngstown, Ohio Corporal, infantry rifleman, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment

NOEL

NOEL IS CURRENTLY TRANSITIONING OUT OF THE MARINE CORPS. HE HOPES TO MOVE BACK TO HIS HOME STATE OF OHIO TO WORK AS A CARPENTER.

> **I have a lot of family history** in the military. I wasn't quite sure what I was going to do once I graduated high school so I decided to join the military. It seemed like a great opportunity with good benefits. I felt like the Marine Corps was the best fit for me.

> **I've been in the Corps just under four years** now and I'm actually in the process of transitioning out. [The Marine Corps] really disciplines you; it teaches you good work ethic. You have to be a hard worker or you won't make it.

> **Being a rifleman makes you** mentally strong. The physical training is hard. We have done hike after hike every week for the last few years. It gets you to the point where you think you can't make it anymore but you just keep on pushing. One look at the Marines around you and it keeps you going.

> **I've gone to Jordan on two different deployments** and spent some time in Kuwait. While there, we bounced around a little bit and I've gotten to see some of the world. It makes you appreciate what we have here in the United States.

> **I'm really into hunting, fishing and golfing** when I have free time. Back home we hunt and fish a lot; it supplies probably 90 percent of our meat intake. We are pretty self-sustaining. It's just a good way of life as you know where your food is coming from.

> **I've been playing golf my whole life.** I played while in school and then came out here and it was just something to do and a good relief from my work. Once in a while, I go with other Marines from different units. It's a good way of meeting friends; when practicing on the range you meet new people and it's a good way to build new relationships. I've also had the chance to play in many golf tournaments and military sponsored events.

> **A lot of people support the military** and it's given me opportunities to participate in really nice golf clubs and fishing tournaments. There are a lot of golfing opportunities out here that have a seven handicap in Southern California and Northern California.

> **Once I've finished serving,** I'm going to go back to Ohio and fish for a couple of months. After that, I plan to start working as a carpenter.

> **Both in the Marine Corps and outside** the Corps, I've met people who have been positive role models for me and have helped me develop as a person. For those considering joining the Corps, my advice would be to make sure you're physically fit, and mentally strong. If you're going to join the infantry, definitely make sure you're able to work with others. It's not just



the Marine Corps but in life in general, you will need to learn to be a team player.

> **I've met a lot of good friends,** good people, and have had a lot of fun experiences; I'll definitely miss it.

Photographed and interviewed by Cpl. Levi Schultz



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Veteran's Day: Combat Center



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, talk with local veterans during the Morongo Basin Veterans' Tribute at Brehm Youth Sports Park in Yucca Valley, Calif., Nov. 11.



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

The Headquarters Battalion Color Guard presents the national and Marine Corps colors during the Morongo Basin Veterans' Tribute at Brehm Youth Sports Park in Yucca Valley, Calif., Nov. 11.



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

From left to right, Bob Leone, mayor of Yucca Valley, Calif.; Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Combat Center Commanding General; and Navy veteran Sidney B. Jones, guest of honor, sit together during the Morongo Basin Veterans' Tribute at Brehm Youth Sports Park in Yucca Valley, Nov. 11.

Keelan Vincent, 8, and Naomi Brunk, 10, explore a Light Armored Vehicle 25 with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion during the Veterans' Tribute in Yucca Valley, Calif., Nov. 11.



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ



CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

U.S. Navy veteran Sidney B. Jones, guest of honor, is recognized during the Morongo Basin Veterans' Tribute at Brehm Youth Sports Park in Yucca Valley, Calif., Nov. 11.

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CPL. JULIO MCGRAW
Light Armored Vehicles with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 drive through Palm Canyon Drive during the 20th annual Veteran's Day Parade in Palm Springs, Calif., Nov. 11.



CPL. JULIO MCGRAW
The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Color Guard, led by Sgt. Heather Keasler, marches with the National ensign and Marine Corps colors during the 20th annual Veteran's Day Parade in Palm Springs, Calif., Nov. 11.



CPL. JULIO MCGRAW
Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen III, Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Commanding General, salutes the Combat Center Color Guard, led by Sgt. Heather Keasler, as they march with the National ensign and Marine Corps colors during the 20th annual Veteran's Day Parade in Palm Springs, Calif., Nov. 11.



CPL. JULIO MCGRAW
Sgt. Justin Puente, Light Armored Vehicle technician, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, smiles at people from his LAV during the 20th annual Veteran's Day Parade in Palm Springs, Calif., Nov. 11.

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Secretary From A1

members for what they do aboard the installation.

"As the holidays approach I want you to convey to your families, on my behalf as well as the leadership of the country, the tremendous gratitude that we owe to those

in uniform," Carter said. "I tell people this all the time, you [those in the Department of Defense] get to wake up to do the noblest thing, which is protecting their fellow citizens and leave a better world for their children."



Defense Secretary Ash Carter addresses Marines and sailors at the Dunham Amphitheatre aboard the Combat Center, Tuesday. Carter visited the installation to observe a combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX), meet with Combat Center leadership, and address Marines and sailors stationed aboard the installation.



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The top riders with Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs stand with a trophy for "Get on Your Bike and Ride" month aboard the Combat Center, Thursday. NREA took first place aboard the installation for total miles logged during the 29-day event.

Bike Month From A1

impact by hopping on your bike instead."

Taking first place for individuals aboard the installation, Chuck Hill, compliance support supervisor, NREA, logged more than 1,197 miles over the 29-day event; an astounding 41 miles per day.

"I wasn't really into riding a lot, but I am now," Hill said. "I was riding to work in the morning, out to Camp Wilson during lunch and back home at the end of the day. I had a really good time and I feel healthier too."

NREA took first place for the installation in total

miles logged. According to Eddy Valls, NREA air resources manager and organizer for "Get on Your Bike and Ride" month, the event was a huge success and there will be many opportunities for participation in upcoming cycling events in April and May.

"We would first like to thank all those who participated and took the time to put in the miles," Valls said. "We also want to thank those riders who put in the big miles and kept the rest of us chasing until the end of the month; truly motivating."



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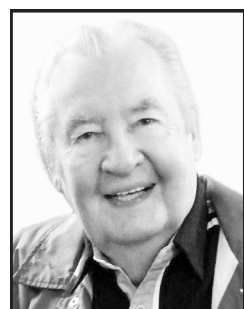
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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



This Thanksgiving I am sharing with you a revealing incident from the life of the Duke of Wellington. The Duke, as you may recall, was the British military leader who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. The Duke was not an easy man to serve under. He was arrogant, demanding and not one to shower his subordinates with compliments.

Yet even Wellington realized that his methods left something to be desired. In his old age someone asked him what, if anything, he would do differently if he had his life to live over again. Wellington thought a moment then replied, "I'd give more praise."

Think about it, dear friends, and do not hesitate to offer praise and gratitude at every opportunity. My mother often said that we are never wrong when we offer our thanks and our praise.

This Thanksgiving give more praise to the Creator for the beauty of the earth and the glory of the skies. Give more praise to your husband or your wife. Give more praise to your children. Give more praise to your friends. Give more praise to those who serve your needs in restaurants, grocery stores and in other public places. Give more praise!

The Book of Psalms is crammed with the word PRAISE. The final words of the Book of Psalms are: "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."

The spirit of what I have written brings to mind the insightful words of William Butler Yeats:

"I have believed the best of every man, and find that to believe it is enough to make a bad man show his very best or even a good man swing his lantern higher."

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WeekINPhotos

Montford Point Marine receives Congressional Gold Medal



Dr. Ernest James Harris, Jr. greets U.S. Navy Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Navy Surface Warfare Group, Middle Pacific, after a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Honolulu, Hawaii, Saturday. Harris was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service as a Montford Point Marine.



The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific color guard present the colors during Dr. Ernest James Harris, Jr.'s Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Honolulu, Hawaii, Saturday.



Dr. Ernest James Harris, Jr. receives the Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony in Honolulu, Hawaii, Saturday.

PHOTOS BY CPL. WESLEY TIMM



Brig. Gen. Brian W. Cavanaugh, deputy commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, presents the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Ernest James Harris, Jr. in Honolulu, Hawaii, Saturday.



Distinguished guests stand with Dr. Ernest James Harris, Jr. during his Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Honolulu, Hawaii, Saturday.

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A LOOK INSIDE

241st Marine Corps birthday meal



A Sodexo employee puts the finishing touches on an American Bald Eagle ice sculpture during preparation for the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Nov. 10. The Marine Corps' birthday is one of the many traditions that Marines take great pride in celebrating annually.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Since its inception, the Marine Corps has been known as the nation's force in readiness. Marines are recognized by the way they train, the customs they uphold, and the morals they possess. Although the organization continues to grow, many of the customs have remained the same.

The Marine Corps' birthday is one of the many traditions that Marines take great pride in celebrating annually and when the time came on Nov. 10, Combat Center food service specialists partook, once again, in the time-honored observance.

"The Marine Corps birthday meal is pretty much our biggest meal of the year," said Tommy Vincent, general manager, Phelps Mess Hall. "This is the one meal a year where you get to see the cooks from different units come in to help out and give everybody a hand."

Preparation for the meal begins three days in advance, with Marines and Sodexo employees working in unison to ensure the birthday meal is just right. On the day of the birthday, the food service specialists of Phelps Hall spend the morning completing the preparation for the infamous steak, lobster tails, baked potatoes and Cornish hens.

"The Marines who prepare the food receive an opportunity to show their appreciation for their fellow comrades," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Burgan, chief cook, Headquarters Battalion. "If you were to look behind the scenes you'd find organized chaos. The Marines take great pride in the products they put on the line. They know what they're doing and they do it to the best of their abilities."

In addition to the long-awaited meal, Combat Center patrons, retirees and loved ones enjoyed the sights of the mess hall aptly adorned with scarlet and gold for the occasion, an American Bald Eagle ice sculpture and, for the first time, a performance by the Yucca Valley High School Jazz band.

"This is one of two days out of the year where anyone with base access can come and eat here," Vincent said. "This is our day to give back so we make sure we serve a quality meal, we have great decorations and live entertainment. We get to see Marines, young and old, and their loved ones commemorate the Corps' birthday together. Anybody can walk through that door, so we want to make sure we're doing our part."



Lance Cpl. Kenneth Martin, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion, places lobster tails in the oven during preparation for the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Nov. 10.



Cpl. Laquann Dixon, corporal-on-watch, Headquarters Battalion, grills ribeye steaks during preparation for the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Nov. 10.



Sgt. Steven Homidas, chief cook, constructs a garnish during preparation for the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Nov. 10.



A cake commemorating the 241st Marine Corps birthday sits on display during preparation for the Marine Corps birthday meal at Phelps Mess Hall, Nov. 10.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

Come and build your own turkey craft while watching the movie *Free Birds* at the Fall Turkey Craft Night, 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center, Nov. 18. Register now at the Community Center; cost is \$2 per kit. For more information, call (760) 830-3910.

Head to Mameluke's Pub Monday Nights from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for Monday Night Football! Food and drink specials are available. See if your team will make it all the way to the championships. For more information, call (760) 830-6610.

The Combat Center Holiday Show will be at Sunset Cinema 5 to 8:30 p.m., Dec. 3. The Creating Arts Studios will perform the Grinch and there will be a meet and greet with the cast. For more information, call (760) 830-5086.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Nov. 18

4:00 p.m. – *Mulan* (NDVD – Free Admission), G

6:00 p.m. – *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, PG-13

8:50 p.m. – *The Accountant*, R

11:30 p.m. – *Kevin Hart: What Now*, R

Saturday, Nov. 19

10:00 a.m. – *The Little Mermaid* (NDVD – Free Admission), G

12:00 p.m. – *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life*, PG

2:00 p.m. – *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, PG-13

4:40 p.m. – *Deepwater Horizon*, PG-13

7:00 p.m. – *Masterminds*, PG-13

9:00 p.m. – *The Girl on the Train*, R

11:30 p.m. – *The Birth of a Nation*, R

Sunday, Nov. 20

12:30 p.m. – *Tyler Perry's Boo! A Medea Halloween*, PG-13

3:00 p.m. – *Jack Reacher: Never Go Back*, PG-13

5:30 p.m. – *The Accountant*, R

8:00 p.m. – *Kevin Hart: What Now*, R

Monday, Nov. 21

4:10 p.m. – *Home for the Holidays* (NDVD – Free Admission), PG-13

6:30 p.m. – *The Girl on the Train*, R

Tuesday, Nov. 22

4:00 p.m. – *Free Birds* (NDVD – Free Admission), PG

5:40 p.m. – *The Nut Job* (NDVD – Free Admission), PG

7:30 p.m. – *Masterminds*, PG-13

Wednesday, Nov. 23

4:10 p.m. – *Pocahontas* (NDVD – Free Admission), G

6:40 p.m. – *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, PG-13

8:30 p.m. – *Deepwater Horizon*, PG-13

Thursday, Nov. 24

1:00 p.m. – *Jack Reacher: Never Go Back*, PG-13

3:30 p.m. – *Tyler Perry's Boo! A Medea Halloween*, PG-13



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Ben Affleck plays a pencil pusher with lethal skills and dark secrets in "The Accountant."

'The Accountant' adds up to more than a conventional spy movie

NEIL POND

"The Accountant"

Starring Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick and J.K. Simmons
Directed by Gavin O'Connor

Rated R

"Do you like puzzles?" veteran U.S. Treasury director Ray King (J.K. Simmons) asks newbie analyst Marybeth Medina (Cynthia Addai-Robinson) as he introduces her to one last big, baffling case he wants to crack before he retires.

King wants to reel in the mystery man behind an international string of dirty-money laundering, an American who seemingly moves with ease through the slime of the world's underbelly of gangsters, cartels and drug kingpins as well as regular billionaire businessmen who need to tidy up their "financials" quietly and quickly — and H&R

Block is out of the question. King calls him simply The Accountant.

"Who survives this kind of clientele?" King muses. "Coming in cold, cooking the books and getting out alive?" Puzzles play a significant role in "The Accountant," which starts out with a familiar cops-and-crooks, espionage-movie feel but quickly corkscrews into something with more twists, turns — and pieces.

Ben Affleck plays Christian Wolff, a mathematical savant whose bland "day job" as a non-descript, pencil-pushing accountant is his cover — his disguise — for wide-ranging contract work, zipping around in his Chevy pickup and his totally tricked-out 34-foot-long Airstream trailer. Because he ventures in and out of some dicey, dangerous situations, Wolff has also developed a highly specialized skillset in other areas, too.

When things take a turn for the worse or run afoul of his strict moral/ethical code, he does whatever it takes to set them straight. Bullets fly, blood flows, bodies crumple. He's like

a laser-focused cyborg, a walking lethal weapon — a hulking superhero without a costume.

In fact, his "origin story," told in flashbacks, might remind you of how Bruce Wayne became Batman (another role, as you probably know, currently played by Affleck in DC's big-screen franchise) or how other superheroes got started down their paths.

When we first meet young Christian as a boy, he's working on a jigsaw puzzle.

But here's where "The Accountant" takes its first turn. Christian has autism, which explains much about how he grew up and became gifted with numbers, but not so tuned in to people. There's a whole subplot about how his domineering military dad (Robert Treveiler) further shaped and steered — rather than coddled — him, helping shift his neurological condition from a liability to an asset.

A stint at a minimum-security prison introduces Wolff to an organized-crime book-keeping snitch (Jeffrey Tambor) who takes him under his wing, teaches

him basic socialization skills and schools him in the "dark-money" arts.

When Wolff is hired to find the source of \$62 million leak at a high-tech robotics firm, it puts him and a perky young employee, Dana (Anna Kendrick), on the hit list of an assassin (Jon Berthal) and his crew hired to stop them and cover their tracks.

The original screenplay, by Bill Dubuque (who also wrote "The Judge"), craftily keeps you guessing — although some viewers will probably see the movie's biggest "surprise" twist coming long before it arrives — and plants several puzzle pieces along the way to be picked up and set in place later.

In the middle of the action is another story entirely, a tale of family, siblings, daddy issues, kids who are "different," and the relationship between Wolff and Dana, which doesn't necessarily go where another, more conventional movie might have taken it.

It's so cannily drawn in its characters, backstory and detail, it sometimes feels like the pilot for a new TV series or the setup for another movie. I guess we'll have to wait and see: Where *The Accountant* will turn up next is a puzzle with a piece that's always missing.

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LANCE CPL. CHRISTIAN OLIVER CACH
An HH-1N "Huey" flies overhead to deliver a ceremonial sword during the annual cake cutting ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Nov. 10. The delivery of the sword by a U.S. Navy Corpsman to a U.S. Marine signifies the bond between the Navy and Marine Corps.

CPL. SAMANTHA BRAUN
Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller shakes hands with a U.S. Marine Corps veteran after the 35th Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, Va., Nov. 11. Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller attended the ceremony as the guest of honor.

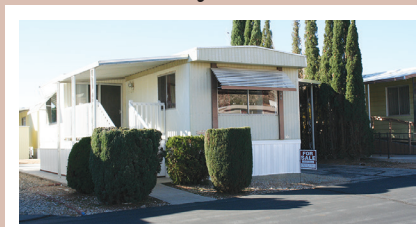
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CPL. CLARENCE WIMBERLY
A Marine with Black Sea Rotational Force 16.2 fires his Mossberg 500 shotgun during the Veterans Day weapons range in Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania, Nov. 11. The BSRF is an annual multilateral security cooperation deployment in the Black Sea, Balkan and Caucasus regions that is designed to enhance participants' collective professional military capacity, promote regional stability and build enduring relationships with partner nations.



STAFF SGT. JASON FUDGE

Civilians, veterans and service members participate in the 2016 Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, Hawaii, Nov. 11. The theme for the ceremony was "Veterans: for love of country, they served," which included a parade of flags, presentation of floral leis and music from the 111th Hawaii Army National Guard Band.

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