



Marines with Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire an M777A2 Howitzer in the Quackenbush Training Area aboard the Combat Center, Saturday during the regiment's "Top Gun" competition.

# 11th Marines 'Top Gun' blasts through competition

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

Knowledge, speed and accuracy; every gun crew in 11th Marine Regiment put these talents to the test to attain the title of "Top Gun" in the regiment during the annual Top Gun Competition aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

11th Marines evaluated each battalion, battery and gun crew on the standards set forth by the Commandant of the Marine Corps in Navy Marine Corps 3500.7 Artillery Training and Readiness Manual. The tests varied from the crew's ability to effectively and expediently emplace their howitzers to the fire direction center's ability to relay information to the gun line.

"They've given us a



Marines with Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, prepare an M777A2 Howitzer to fire in the Acorn Training Area aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 2, during the regiment's "Top Gun" competition.

checklist to grade both the gun line and the fire direction center on the different training and readiness standards for artillery," said 2nd Lt. Cramer Sampson, fire direction

officer, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. "It's good camaraderie building and competition within the regiment."

Top Gun is a way that each battery's com-

mand can show off their Marines while continuing to train to the standard set for artillery. The winner will be announced

See **Top Gun** A6

## Marine Corps strives to be leaner, meaner, greener

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. LEVI SCHULTZ

As an ongoing effort to be the premier self-sufficient expeditionary force, the Marine Corps is striving to make itself leaner, meaner and "greener" as it takes a look at energy use across the Corps, equating the efficient use of vital resources with increased combat effectiveness.

The Marine Corps' Expeditionary Energy Office held an Energy Capability Exercise at Camp Wilson, Tuesday, in alignment with the Great Green Fleet initiative, to highlight different efforts and technologies the Corps has developed to promote a more energy conscious force.



Lance Cpl. Marlon A. Hill, field artillery cannoneer, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, explains different efforts and technologies 3/11 has utilized during the Energy Capability Exercise, in alignment with the Great Green Fleet initiative, at Camp Wilson, Tuesday.

GGF is a year-long, Department of the Navy initiative that demonstrates the sea service's efforts to transform its energy use. As one of the Secretary of the Navy's key energy goals, the purpose of the GGF is to make our Marines and sailors better warfighters, able to go farther, stay longer and deliver more firepower.

"2016 is the year of the Great Green Fleet, highlighting the energy efficiencies in both installations and operations in the Navy and Marine Corps," said Col. Bryan Magnuson, director, Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office. "Today, we are demonstrating operational energy technologies that allow the Marine Air Ground

See **Great Green Fleet** A6



Marines with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, display the Ground Renewable Expeditionary Electronics Network System during the Energy Capability Exercise, in alignment with the Great Green Fleet initiative, at Camp Wilson, Tuesday.

## Inside the Observation Post

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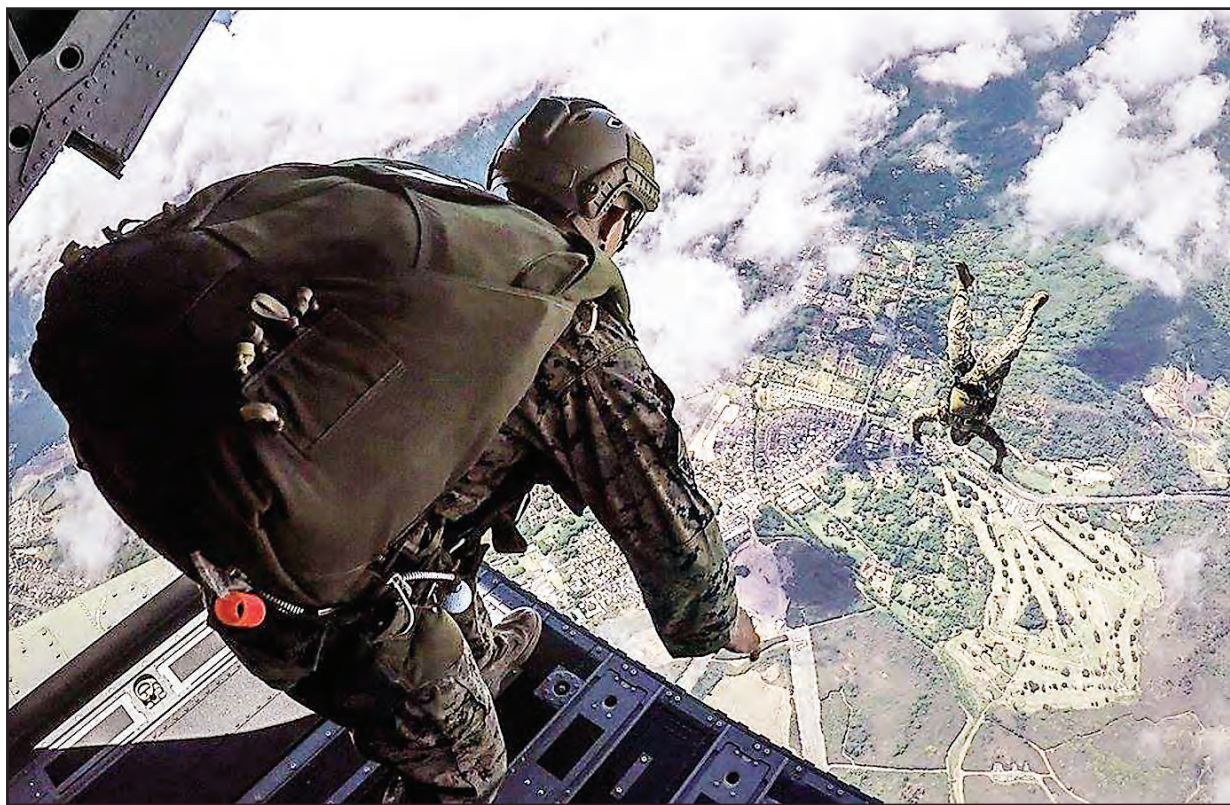


**Combat Center Holiday Show lights up at Sunset Cinema**

See page B1

## 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 Lance Cpl. Devan Gowans.



Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, conduct military free-fall training over Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Oahu, Hawaii, as part of the 11th MEU's Western Pacific 16-2 deployment, Oct. 18. During the training, the MRF employed two forms of aerial insertion: high-altitude, high-opening (HAHO), which consists of a free-fall from a high-altitude before the parachute is manually deployed; and double-bag, static-line, which consists of a line of jumpers exiting the aircraft from a low altitude before the parachute, which is tethered to a cable located inside the aircraft, is automatically deployed due to the force on the tether as the jumper is falling.



Reprinted from the Observation Post  
Dec. 8, 1989

## The Corps needs decisive, confident leaders

CPL. JENNIFER RICE

For the first time in NCO school history, an NCO presented the graduation speech to the graduating class of NCOs, Oct. 27.

The commanding officer of Detachment A was selected to be the speaker for the Oct. 27 graduation. Sgt. Barry Ladner, a specialist in the Marine Corps Integrated Maintenance Management System, was the "acting" commanding officer for NCO Day. Therefore, by virtue of the billet Ladner was holding, he spoke during the ceremony.

"We've been promoting NCO Day, and debating how much leadership we should give the

NCOs. After careful consideration, we decided there should be no limits," said Lt. Glenn Johnson, Maintenance Management officer. "The first NCO Days were done by the most senior NCOs. This time, we chose the ones who stood out. Sgt. Ladner did, and he was chosen to represent the detachment."

Ladner spoke to the class about their need to seek responsibility and be aggressive in training their troops. "The troops will always look to you for guidance," said Ladner. "Be bold in making decisions, and don't be afraid to make mistakes, making mistakes is all part of being a leader."

Ladner said that boldness is an essential morale trait which gener-

ates combat power – initiative is a prerequisite for boldness.

"I feel it's really important to get good leadership back in the ranks of the NCOs," said Ladner. "I want to help motivate NCOs to take leadership; to rebuild NCO confidence in themselves."

"Everyone who heard the speech was very impressed said GySgt. Karl Bullock, chief instructor of the NCO school. "He is one of the best speakers we've had here."

Ladner's motto for the NCO day was "NCOs Must Make It Happen." "Don't be afraid to make decisions. NCOs must believe in themselves and continue to be faithful to God, country, and Corps."

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunny Alexander Davis**

Born on November 28

Born to Steven and Windy Davis

**Natalia Inocencia Cruz**

Born on November 25

Born to Miguel and Heather Cruz

**Kaylana Leigh Wilkes**

Born on November 25

Born to Michael and Kodie Wilkes

**Hunter Lee Espinal**

Born on November 25

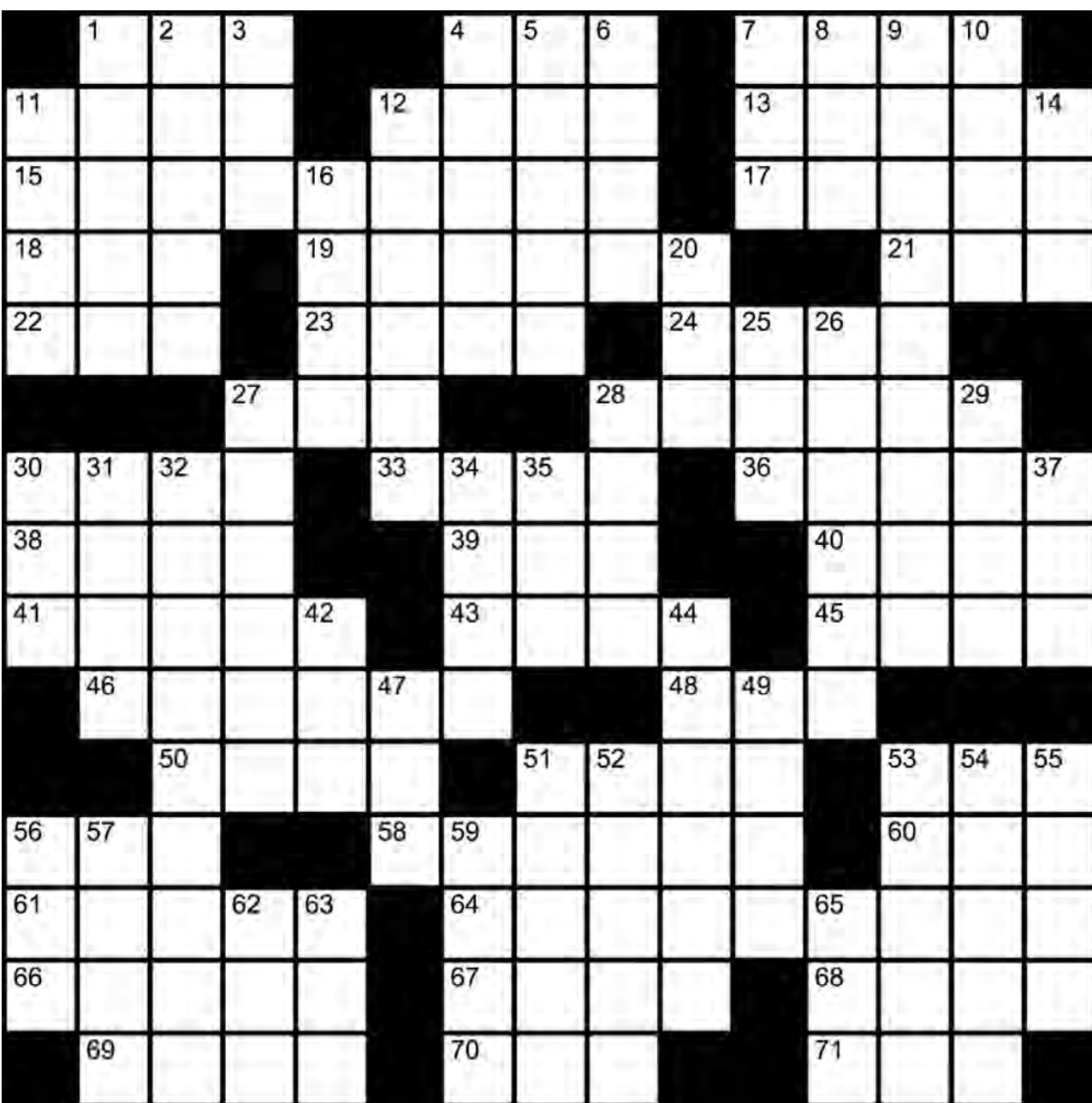
Born to Kayla and Domingo Espinal

**Ella Marie Figueroa Alexander**

Born on November 23

Born to Brittne Alexander and Juan Figueroa

## CROSSWORD



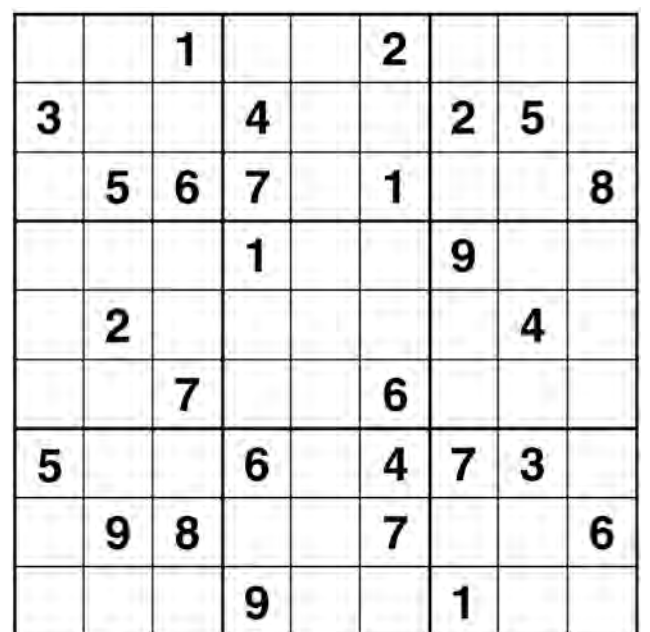
- Across**
- Chester White's home
  - Computer monitor, for short
  - The Amish, e.g.
  - "Your majesty"
  - Liquid butter used in India
  - Cliffside dwelling
  - Pieces of plate armor
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the Elder
  - Store convenience, for short
  - Freshen
  - Golf ball support
  - Cooking meas.
  - Leave in a hurry, with "out"
  - Miles per hour, e.g.
  - Big \_\_\_\_\_ Conference
  - Comes back
  - Dangerous biters
  - Fill
  - Attempts
  - French for a senior

- \_\_\_\_\_ v. Wade
- Cram, with "up"
- Allowances for waste after deduction for tare
- Gangster's gal
- A chip, maybe
- Holdings
- Barley bristle
- \_\_\_\_\_ carotene
- Diminish
- Aged
- Carry on
- Baggage handler
- Drone, e.g.
- 4:1, e.g.
- Lined school paper out of notebook
- Ancient Greek theater
- Fluff
- "\_\_\_\_\_ of Eden"
- Coastal raptor
- A pint, maybe
- Not just "a"

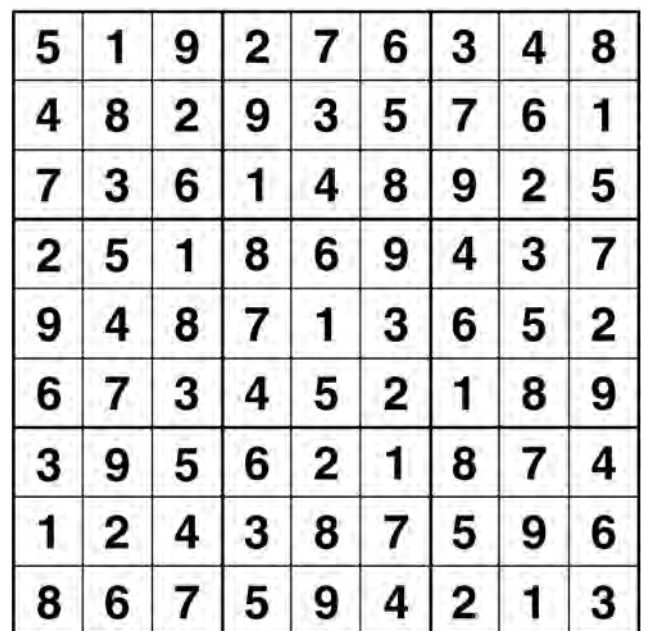
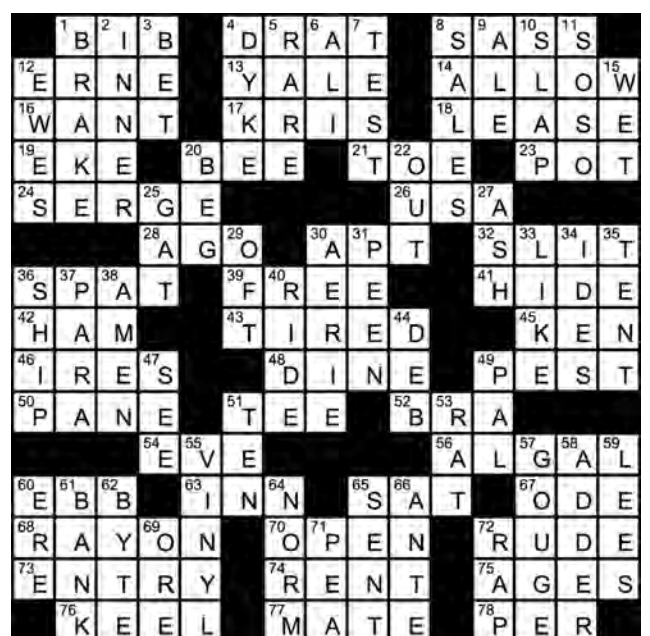
- Down**
- Earty soils
  - Bum
  - "Absolutely!"
  - Job
  - Kidney-related
  - Makeup, e.g.
  - Chucklehead
  - Moray, e.g.
  - Standard of judgment
  - Food sticker
  - Clash
  - Mustard or collar
  - Artist's asset
  - Bind
  - "... \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
  - Appear
  - Muslim headdress
  - \_\_\_\_\_ fly
  - Casting need
  - Cast
  - Appropriate
  - "Buona \_\_\_\_\_" (Italian greeting)

- An elder in a Presbyterian church
- Kind of dealer
- "\_\_\_\_\_ bad!"
- "Comprende?"
- Undertake, with "out"
- Most recent
- Bug
- "As you \_\_\_\_\_"
- Barbecue
- Agreeing (with)
- A belief involving sorcery
- Car dealer's offering
- Adroit
- Ace
- Put on board, as cargo
- Cantina cooker
- Carbonium, e.g.
- "\_\_\_\_\_ moment"
- Affranchise

## SUDOKU



Last week's answers



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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

- Highway, Oceanside
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- Burger King & McDonald's, 28th Street (parking lots), San Diego
- Club Mustang, 2200 University Avenue, San Diego
- Club San Diego, 3955 4th Avenue, San Diego
- Get It On Shoppe, San Diego
- Main Street Motel, 3494 Main Street, San Diego
- Trolley Stations, Palomar Street & San Ysidro, San Diego
- 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

# George

Harlem, Ga. Corporal, field artillery cannoneer, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment

# ASHMEN

ASHMEN COMES FROM A FAMILY WITH AN EXTENSIVE HISTORY OF SERVING IN THE MILITARY. ONCE HE COMPLETES HIS ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE MARINE CORPS, HE HOPES TO WORK IN LAW ENFORCEMENT TO CONTINUE SERVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

> **I enlisted two days after** my 17th birthday. I grew up in Harlem, Ga. It's a very small town, and everyone sort of grew up together. I attended a small high school; my graduating class was 130 students. It's one of those places that everyone bashes while they are there but when you leave; its home, you have to go back.

> **I'm from a very heavy** military family. Most of my family is Army, but I definitely wanted to be something different.

> **I've always liked** the Marine Corps. I liked the pride and confidence I saw in Marines as well as the uniforms because they were better looking than the other branches of service. I went into the recruiting office because this is what I wanted to be.

> **When I went to the recruiter,** I was asked what job I wanted. Thinking about my family, I told him I wanted to do something combat related but did not want to be infantry.

> **He gave me the option** of artillery. Americans love big guns so, naturally I took it. Not many people can say they shoot a cannon for a living.

> **Currently, I'm looking to** go to section chief's course to learn how to lead a gun crew and once I get out of the Marine Corps, I'm looking for a job in police force or security. I feel it will be a smooth transition.

> **I want to be able to do something** for my country and community, while not having to be away from my family. I've been looking at different colleges for criminal justice to give me an edge on other candidates.

> **I love the outdoors.** I'm married and we have two dogs; living the



American dream. When we get the chance, my wife and I try to go to the beach. I love going shooting; I'm a country boy so we did that a lot. There is not much to hunt out here but, it is always nice to be able to go out to the desert and enjoy the wildlife.

> **The best part of being stationed out here** is being so close to everything. It's only a couple hours away from Las Vegas or the beach.

> **Every Saturday night,** sports are

a big thing in the south. The Georgia Bulldogs are definitely my favorite to watch.

> **My family is definitely proud** of me out here. They are proud of what I do and what I've become, going from a teenager in a small town to a man on the other side of the country.

> **Sgt. Justin Tullock has been my section chief** since I've been here and has been crucial in my development as a person. He really taught me how to

be a better cannoneer than I was.

> **The biggest thing I will take away** from the Marine Corps is leadership. While I was in high school, I was in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, so I got a little taste of what it's like to be a leader, but it wasn't taken as seriously as out here.

> **Leading Marines will transition** to anything I do. Maturity wise, I'm also able to see when I go home how much I've progressed.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Levi Schultz

# “AMU HELPED ME REACH HIGHER”

AMU ALUM AND VETERAN WES O'DONNELL (MBA 2011)

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\*As reported by Military Times, July/August 2015

# Steel Knight 2017:

## 1st Battalion 11th Marine Regiment brings out the big guns

Photos by Cpl. Justin Huffty



Marines with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, stand by their M777 Howitzer for a fire mission during Steel Knight 17 aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 2. Steel Knight is a division level exercise designed to enhance the command and control and interoperability with the 1st Marine Division, its adjacent units and naval support forces.



Lance Cpl. Nathan Thunstrom, a field radio operator with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, scans the horizon as he provides security during Steel Knight 17 aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, load the M777 Howitzer for a fire mission during Steel Knight 17 aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 2.



Marines with 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, dig into the sand to place the M777 Howitzer's stabilizers during Steel Knight 17 aboard the Combat Center, Sunday.

### TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



Lalo Alvarez attends my Thursday seminars on positive living. He is vice-president of A.C.T. Tours and has visited more than 130 countries. I asked him to share this story.

When I came to America from Mexico, I knew I would not be able to go back and see my beloved mother until I got a Green Card, a legal process which would last 14 years. I spoke to her over the phone, of course, but I longed to hug her, to kiss her cheek and again taste her homemade Mexican food. Mom's tamales, especially, were *delicioso*. So when the Green Card finally arrived in early December, we both planned for my return to Mexicali, where I was raised. There was just one problem: I owned a store and could not leave until after Christmas.

My siblings had warned me that Mother was failing in health, but she assured me she was fine and eagerly looked forward to our reunion. On December 24, I packed the car with \$1000 in gifts—this would be one unforgettable fiesta!

Then the call came—Mom had been rushed to a hospital and physically died of a stroke shortly afterward. Shattered, I drove all night to Mexicali and joined by heartbroken family who had gathered to pay their final respects to the mother of 14 children. Afterward, when I was alone with my grieving father, he looked at the unwrapped gifts I had brought and said, "Your mother made you a present, as well, and left it in the kitchen." Inside the refrigerator was a plate of tamales, with a note attached that read, "Welcome home, my dear son Lalo. *Feliz Navidad.*"

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# ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Around the Corps ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



A Sailor on the USS Mesa Verde (LPD-19) directs a landing craft air cushioned vehicle aboard the USS Mesa Verde (LPD-19) during a ship to shore for the Amphibious Ready Group Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise Saturday. Amphibious Ready Group Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise, or ARGMEUEX is a three-week training evolution intended to build upon previous relationships, thereby enhancing Navy and Marine Corps' interoperability and amphibious warfare capabilities to tackle a wide range of operations during their upcoming deployment.

GUNNERY SGT. ADAECUS BROOKS



CPL. BRIANNA GAUDI

A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit takes off from the deck of the USS Mesa Verde (LPD-19) during flight operations for Amphibious Ready Group/Marine Expeditionary Unit exercises Dec. 2. ARGMEUEX, or Amphibious Ready Group Marine Expeditionary Group Exercise, is a three-week training evolution intended to build upon previous relationships, thereby enhancing Navy and Marine Corps' interoperability and amphibious warfare capabilities to tackle a wide range of operations during their upcoming deployment. During the exercise, sailors and Marines work together to conduct flight operations, noncombatant evacuation exercises, simulated raids and visit, board, search, and seizure drills. The 24th MEU and Bataan Amphibious Ready Group is committed to executing realistic and relevant training in partnership as the nation's premier crisis response force.



LANCE CPL. GABRIELA GARCIA-HERRE

The hazardous material, or hazmat, team with the Robert M. Casey Medical and Dental Clinic set up a three-line articulating frame shelter at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, Dec. 1. The hazmat team has approximately 20 minutes to set up a three-line articulating frame shelter, attach a water heater and get dressed in their hazmat suit. If they were in a real-world situation they would need to respond quickly in order to take care of patients.



CPL. JAMES GULLORY

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Sean McHugh, an AV-8B Harrier pilot with Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 542, sits in his Harrier after arrival to Chitose Air Base, Japan, Monday. Following the arrival of the squadron's Harriers, a press conference was held to acknowledge questions pertaining to the aircraft and the Aviation Training Relocation Program.



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# Top Gun From A1

once scoring has been completed.

"It's sort of an ego booster to see who is the best gun in the regiment, said Cpl. George Ashmen, field artillery cannoneer, Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment. "Everyone likes to have bragging rights. I always look forward to seeing all the guys really step up to meet the challenge."



Marines with Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire an M777A2 Howitzer in the Quackenbush Training Area aboard the Combat Center, Saturday, during the regiment's "Top Gun" competition.



Marines with Battery K, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire an M777A2 Howitzer in the Acorn Training Area aboard the Combat Center, Dec. 2, during preparation for the regiment's "Top Gun" competition.

# Great Green Fleet From A1

Task Force to go further on the same amount of energy. We have representatives out here from the office of the Secretary of Defense; the departments of the Navy, Air Force and Army; and Marine leadership to include general officers and commanders."

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus chose the name Great Green Fleet to honor President Theodore Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet," which helped usher in America as a global power on the world stage at the beginning of the 20th Century. Likewise, GGF will usher in the next era of DON energy innovation.

The Expeditionary Energy Office intends to change the way the Marine Corps employs energy and resources to increase combat effectiveness and reduce need for logistics support.

"We take a look at the Marines Corps' future requirements and how to fulfill those requirements," Magnuson said. "We are focused on a multitude of capability sets from vehicles, currently in use, such

as the [Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement] to make it go further on the same amount of energy, as well as different commercial technologies to make [Marines] more effective."

In order to find the best technology for the future of the Marine Corps, the Expeditionary Energy Office has reached out to commercial industry through technical field demonstrations.

"We go out to industry and we say, 'Here are our challenges, what do you have out there that can help us?'" said Capt. Michael Herendeen, science and technology analyst, Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office. "We actively search for those sorts of things. One of the challenges is to make sure what we are buying is good so we make sure Marines have hands on to test products before we invest."

According to Magnuson, field artillery cannoneers with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, have already put to use a Ground Renewable Expeditionary

Electronics Network System, a hybrid energy power system, which utilizes solar panels and high energy density batteries to be more sustainable in a deployed environment. This has allowed them to go totally off the grid, without having to haul a large generator through arduous terrain.

"[The system] provides the same power that Marines would normally need to idle the truck for," Herendeen said. "Instead of burning fuel to power the cannon's computer and communication systems, we can plug it into the green system and not need to consume that fuel or cause a need for additional maintenance on the truck."

In 2012, the Commandant of the Marine Corps identified Expeditionary Energy as one of the six pillars of modernization in the Marine Corps. The Expeditionary Energy Office is working toward a Marine Expeditionary Force that can maneuver from sea and sustain command, control, communi-



Capt. Michael Herendeen, science and technology analyst, Marine Corps Expeditionary Energy Office, explains different efforts and technologies the Marine Corps has developed during the Energy Capability Exercise, in alignment with the Great Green Fleet initiative, at Camp Wilson, Tuesday.

cations, computer, intelligence and life support systems in place, with more efficient mobile systems requiring less liquid fuel.

"The future force is going to be much more energy intensive, so we need to understand how we use our energy," Magnuson said. "Right now, Marines don't know how we use our fuel other

than with the E and the F gauges. When we give Marines that information, they make it possible to implement change within the MAGTF."

In line with the Marine Corps' Future Operating Concept, they will put things in the hands of small units to allow them to be self-sustaining in respect to energy and water so we

don't have to take on the risk and logistics of moving fuel and water around the battlefield. Marines will sustain the fight in a more distributed environment.

"If you run out of energy, you can't do your mission," Magnuson said. "If we can go further with the same amount of energy, we can be much more agile on the battlefield."

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# WeekINPhotos

## Exercise Alligator Dagger 2016

Photos by Lance Cpl. Devan Gowans



A landing craft air cushion with the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group moves through the Gulf of Aden during the initial landing phases of Exercise Alligator Dagger, Tuesday. The MKI ARG and 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit will conduct amphibious operation rehearsals to maintain a high level of readiness in the event there is a need for an immediate response to a crisis.



A landing craft air cushion with the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group departs the well deck of USS Makin Island carrying U.S. Marines and their light armored vehicles as part of the initial phases of Exercise Alligator Dagger, Tuesday. The size and composition of the ARG/MEU make it well suited for a number of operations: amphibious assaults, helo-borne raids, visit, board, search and seizure missions, noncombatant evacuations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and other specialized missions.



The USS Makin Island and USS Somerset convene in the Gulf of Aden during the initial landing phases of Exercise Alligator Dagger, Tuesday.



Amphibious assault vehicles with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit prepare to land during the initial landing phases of Exercise Alligator Dagger, Tuesday.

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## Combat Center Holiday Show lights up at Sunset Cinema

Creating Arts Company performs "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" during the Combat Center Holiday Show at Sunset Cinema aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. DAVE FLORES**

For more than 19,000 service members and their family members who live and work aboard the Combat Center, time spent with loved ones can often be scarce. The holiday season provides an opportunity for those who live aboard the installation to unite with friends and family and partake in the seasonal cheer. Marine Corps Community Services helped make time spent together worthwhile with the annual Combat Center Holiday Show at Sunset Cinema, Saturday.

The Combat Center Holiday Show provided live entertainment, a vehicle give away and a meet and greet with Santa Claus.

"We like to host events like this because it shows our support for active duty service members and their families,"

said Stephanie Andrews, social media manager, MCCS. "Marines and sailors have a lot to take care of with their jobs and families but this allows us to help them enjoy a stress free event."

The event commenced with the Twentynine Palms High School Select Choir singing seasonal holiday songs.

Following the choir, MCCS concluded the yearlong Motor Mania Giveaway. The contestants who won the monthly Facebook competition came on stage, and participated in a game that had them blindly choose between candy or a set of car keys. The winner of the contest was Maj. Jesse Rubio, instructor, Marine Corps Logistics and Operations Group.

Creating Arts Company, an educational performing and visual arts company, performed "How the Grinch Stole Christmas,"

and throughout the performance, actors moved through the aisles to interact with the crowd through song and dance of their rendition of the play. At the conclusion of the play, families were able to meet with the cast and crew during a meet and greet.

"This is the fourth holiday show we've been able to put on for service members and their families, so it's definitely exciting," said Shannon Sukovaty, CEO/artistic director, CAC. "We love doing these shows because it lets us show our respect and give back to the people who serve our nation, even if it is through something as simple as a play."

After the performance, Santa Claus came to visit with the children and families had the opportunity to take a free photo with Santa as well as receive a small gift and holiday book of their choosing.



Creating Arts Company's cast performs "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" during the Combat Center Holiday Show at Sunset Cinema aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



The Twentynine Palms High School Select Choir performs during the Combat Center Holiday Show at Sunset Cinema aboard the Combat Center, Saturday.



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS REBECCA WOLFBRANDT

Pearl Harbor survivor Mickey Ganitch speaks with friends while on a tour of the USS Arizona Memorial. Dec. 7, marks the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Oahu. As a Pacific nation, the U.S. is committed to continue its responsibility of protecting the Pacific sea-lanes, advancing international ideals and relationships, as well as delivering security, influence, and responsiveness in the region.

## Pearl Harbor White Boat Crew reflect on 75th anniversary

STORY BY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JEFFREY TROUTMAN

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — “I’ve been looking forward to this moment for quite a while now, and it’s finally near,” says Petty Officer 1st Class Wren Pettett, of Atoka, Oklahoma. “You always hear so much about the history of Pearl Harbor, but to actually be a part of that history...”

His voice trails off as he tries to find words that describe his emotions. Over his shoulder, the sun begins to set behind the Battleship Missouri Memorial, and to his right, the USS Arizona Memorial. Each day, Pettett has the honor of driving one of the white boats that tour the waters of Pearl Harbor, as visitors from around the world come to pay their respects and learn about the history that lives in infamy after that fateful December day in 1941.

Today, Pettett drove around perhaps the most important kind of visitor: the survivors of the Pearl Harbor attacks and their families, here to honor the 75th anniversary of one of the United States’ darkest days. For the young Oklahoman, he expressed that “opportunity of a lifetime” doesn’t begin to justify the honor.

“Every day, when I’m driving one of these

boats and we go by the resting place of the USS Oklahoma, the USS Utah and the USS Arizona, the humbling feeling of honor and privilege I feel to take people around this beautiful harbor is indescribable,” says Pettett. “But to have the honor of driving a boat carrying survivors of the Pearl Harbor attacks for the 75th anniversary...it brings a new kind of self-worth to this job. It makes me happy to be alive in this moment, to serve at this particular moment in history.”

As the survivors and their family members make their way onto a white boat, moments from reuniting with the memories of a day long past but never forgotten, Seaman Erwin Garrett, of Houston, Texas, renders honors to a Medal of Honor recipient. He then helps a survivor in a wheelchair get up the bow. A gentleman’s wife appears and he helps her aboard and then to her seat. For him, this isn’t his job or duty. It’s his way to say thank you and pay his respects to the sacrifices these men and their families made almost eight decades ago.

“This is my first duty station,” says Garrett. “When I found out I was coming to Pearl Harbor right out of basic training, I

was elated. I knew it meant I’d be here for the 75th anniversary, and that’s a once in a lifetime opportunity for anyone, not just a service member.”

Garrett, like Pettett, says he needs a moment to take in the fullness of his day, with the survivors, before he can accurately describe its impact on him.

“If there’s one thing I’ve learned from the survivors here these last few days, it’s that there really is no shipmate that gets left behind,” says Garrett. “These men didn’t just work together; they lived together and died together. And for them to come back year after year, decade after decade, to honor their fallen shipmates, it sets a precedent for any generation of our Navy.”

The survivors take their seats and the boat pulls away from the pier. A light rain begins to fall as the tour makes its way out past historic, Ford Island and heads first towards the USS Utah Memorial. Chief Petty Officer Michael Sears, from Clatskanie, Oregon, the narrator for this tour, immediately lets the survivors know how grateful the Navy is for their service and sacrifice. Sears has voluntarily narrated this tour dozens of times in the past, but this one holds special meaning. “I previously worked in public affairs here in Hawaii

and I’ve always helped out with the white boat tour narration, because it’s a fun thing to do and the atmosphere is always good,” says Sears. “I do this because, to me, history will be repeated if it’s not known. The time we spend with these survivors and learn about the things they had to endure in their time of service is the only way that we’ll ever honor their sacrifice and prevent this kind of attack from ever happening again.”

At the Arizona Memorial, the survivors and their families return to the resting place of the 1,177 Sailors who lost their lives during the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Oahu. Some weep openly, while others pray silently to their fallen friends. Others

embrace and share memories of how much the area has changed since they were stationed here, all those years ago. One survivor stands before the wall of names, at the end of the memorial, and points out the names of men he may have known during his time of service. Nearly 75 years after a day that would help define their entire lives, these men came back to pay their respects to those who never lived past that day.

“It’s surreal, when you try to take it all in,” says Seaman Anthony Ruiz, of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, one of the ushers on the white boat tour. “This 75th remembrance has given my career a new meaning going forward. These veterans are why we’re here

today, why this country is as great as it is today and why our Navy is the best of its kind. It’s because of them, and the sacrifices they’ve made. To just have the chance to show my appreciation for that and to be a part of this anniversary is something I’ll remember for the rest of my life.”

As evening colors are rendered and the sun dips under the Pacific horizon, the white boat eases off the dock of the memorial and heads back to land. Survivors and active duty Sailors sit next to one another and share some of their adventures. Some look back at the memorial and wave to their fallen shipmates.

It isn’t goodbye. It’s a salute to their timeless sacrifice.

### Sunset Cinema

- Friday, Dec. 9**  
6:50 p.m. – Keeping Up With the Joneses, PG-13  
9:00 p.m. – Inferno, PG-13  
11:30 p.m. – Ouija: Origin of Evil, PG-13
- Saturday, Dec. 10**  
12:00 p.m. – Trolls (3-D), PG  
2:30 p.m. – Hacksaw Ridge, R  
5:30 p.m. – Doctor Strange (3-D), PG-13  
8:00 p.m. – Almost Christmas, PG-13  
10:30 p.m. – Arrival, PG-13
- Sunday, Dec. 11**  
12:00 p.m. – Doctor Strange, PG-13  
3:00 p.m. – SNEAK PREVIEW, Collateral Beauty, PG-13  
6:00 p.m. – Hacksaw Ridge, R
- Monday, Dec. 12**  
6:30 p.m. – Almost Christmas, PG-13
- Tuesday, Dec. 13**  
6:30 p.m. – Arrival, PG-13
- Wednesday, Dec. 14**  
6:30 p.m. – Hacksaw Ridge, R
- Thursday, Dec. 15**  
5:00 p.m. – Tyler Perry’s Boo! A Madea Halloween, PG-13  
7:10 p.m. – Jack Reacher: Never Go Back, PG-13
- Friday, Dec. 16**  
8:00 p.m. – Almost Christmas, PG-13  
10:30 p.m. – Inferno, PG-13

### Combat Center Events

Head to the Desert Winds Golf Course tonight at 7:00 p.m. for the Festival of Lights and Hayride. Come and enjoy the lights, decorations and Santa Clause. The event is free and open to all hands. For more information call (760) 830-6132.

The Combat Center Toy Giveaway will be held at the West Gym, tomorrow from 1 to 4 p.m. Each military child ages fourteen and younger will be offered a free age appropriate toy to keep. The USO will be serving Hot Chocolate during the event. For more information call (760) 830-5086.

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.

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**December 15**  
Office Christmas Party (R) Arrival (PG13)  
Moana (PG)  
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

**Starting Thursday**  
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# Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms conducts point of dispensing exercise

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Corpsmen of Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms and the Adult Medical Care Clinic held a point of dispensing exercise at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School aboard the Combat Center, Tuesday through Thursday.

During the three-day exercise, corpsman administered the required influenza vaccine to approximately 3,000 Marines. The point of dispensing exercise simulates a large distribution of medication in a short amount of time during a simulated pandemic.

"We conduct the point of dispersion exercise every year," said Navy Lt. Stephany Harris, environmental health officer, NHTP. "The training allows us to practice being able to distribute medication and vaccines in the event a pandemic were to happen. At the same time, we are able to provide as many Marines as possible at MCCES their required flu vaccine."

Corpsmen who participated in the exercise spent several hours distributing the flu vaccine to the Marines several hundred Marines a piece.

"We are really completing two of our requirements for the year with one exercise," said Seaman James Bryantshock,



Lance Cpl. Brian Garner, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, receives a vaccine from Seaman Nicolas Stacy, corpsman, Adult Medical Care Clinic, during the Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms point of dispensing exercise at building 1661, Tuesday. The exercise trains the corpsmen on how to quickly and efficiently distribute vaccines during a pandemic.

hospitalman, AMCC. "The AMCC doesn't have the ability to manage the vaccines for all the Marines in MCCES

while handling other units as well. This helps us meet that requirement while receiving the training."



A Navy corpsman administers a vaccine to a Marine during the Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms point of dispensing exercise at building 1661, Tuesday.



Marines finish their screen process before receiving their influenza vaccine during the Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms point of dispensing exercise at building 1661, Tuesday.

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### POLICIES FOR HI-DESERT PUBLISHING CO. CLASSIFIEDS

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**  
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-424-8590.

**EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISING POLICY**  
This newspaper does not knowingly accept employment ads that indicate an age preference, from employers covered by the Age Discrimination Act, or knowingly accept ads express-

ing a preference of sex, where no bona fide occupational qualification exists under the Fair Employment Act from employers covered by that act. Nor, do we in any way condone employment that discriminates on a basis of race, religion, ancestry or national origin. For further information regarding occupational qualifications and employers covered, contact the Fair Employment Practice Commission.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor or materials) must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at www.cslb.ca.gov or by calling 800-321-CSLB. Unlicensed contractors taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the

Contractors State License Board.

**SERVICES OFFERED POLICY**  
This newspaper does not accept responsibility for services offered, by any advertiser, using this newspaper. Please carefully evaluate any services advertised, and do not use that service unless you have checked the references, and know and understand all terms of agreement and conditions between you and the advertiser.

California State law requires that contractors, builders, and landscapers who perform work for \$500 or more, including materials and labor, must be licensed. License numbers should be so indicated in their advertising.

Family child care providers are required by state law to be licensed, and facility license numbers must be indicated in all advertising.

Unlicensed contractors should also be indicated in their advertising.

Please refer questions to Contractors State License Board, 1250 East Cooley Drive, Suite 200, Colton, CA 92324

**GENERAL POLICY**  
Please check your ad the first day it runs to see that all the information is correct. This will ensure your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. Call us the very first day your ad appears to make any changes or corrections. This way, we can credit you for the first day if any error occurred. The Publisher wants to do everything possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your products or services to your best advantage. The newspaper does reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or illustration.

**HELP WANTED** 300

**HELP WANTED** 300

**HELP WANTED** 300

**APPLIANCES** 500

**MISC. FOR SALE** 650

**MISC. FOR SALE** 650

**CYCLES** 630

**TREASURE HUNT** 700

**The Town of Yucca Valley is recruiting for the following position for the Community Development Department:**

**Full-Time Administrative Assistant I**  
**\$15.76/hr - \$22.82/hr plus benefit package.**  
**or**  
**Full Time Administrative Assistant II**  
**\$18.27/hr - \$26.46/hr plus benefit package.**  
(Pending Town Council review/approval January 2017)

Under direction of the supervisor, this position performs a variety of complex administrative and clerical duties involved in the support of Code Compliance; and to provide general information and assistance to the public. Possess a thorough working knowledge of general office methods, practices and procedures. Skill in communicating clearly and concisely verbally and in writing; performing mathematical computations quickly and accurately; the operation of a wide variety of office equipment; computer skills including Microsoft Office software, spreadsheets, and database entry. Ability to learn custom software program(s); understand and follow verbal and written instructions; make correct change and maintain accurate records; courteously and effectively receive the public and respond to inquiries in person or over the phone; and establish and maintain cooperative working relationships, experience with cash handling, dispatching and transcribing meetings. Successful candidate must possess superior customer service skills.

**Min. Quals:** High School Diploma or equivalent education;  
**Administrative Assistant I** - at least one (1) year of administrative or clerical experience.

**Administrative Assistant II** - at least two (2) to three (3) years of progressive administrative or clerical experience in a fast paced environment.

All positions require the successful candidates to pass a post offer criminal background screening, tuberculosis and drug screening; and possess a Class C California driver's license with a satisfactory driving record.

Applications available at Town Hall/Yucca Valley or visit the website at [www.yucca-valley.org](http://www.yucca-valley.org) for application, job announcement and job description.

Closing date: **Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 5:00p.m.**

EOE/ADA

**LOST & FOUND** 545

**Found Dog** - Young Rottie, black & brown, found on Joshua Lane in Y.V. Friday 11/25/16. (760) 401-3456

**HELP WANTED** 300

**Best Western Joshua Tree Hotel & Suites** is currently seeking professional, reliable, friendly and outgoing candidates with Strong Work Ethic for the following positions:

- Front Desk / Guest Services Associate
- P/T & F/T Night Auditor
- Executive Housekeeper
- Housekeeper
- Maintenance
- Breakfast Attendant

Please apply in person at: Best Western Joshua Tree Hotel & Suites, 56525 Twentynine Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley, CA 92284. No phone calls please!

**HELP WANTED** 300

**POPE'S AUCTION'S**  
**WE BUY GOLD & SILVER, JEWELRY & COINS, AND SCRAP JEWELRY**  
**CALL JACK:**  
**760-217-2179 or 760-365-7887**  
**ALSO**  
**WE DO ESTATE SALES & AUCTIONS**

**MISC. WANTED** 555

**WANTED!** 1950s-60s traveltrailers 10-24ft Any condition no title ok Local 818-261-5318

**CARS** 620

1967 Mustang - Project Car. \$3500 760-819-1069

**HELP WANTED** 300

**TREASURE HUNT** 705

Antique Oak Dresser \$200 (760) 365-8258

3 brass & glass lamps \$75 760-819-1069

patio set \$20 (760) 660-9068

mattress w/headboard \$150 760-365-4985

3HP B&S \$30 (760) 364-2010

Brown suede couch \$200 (760) 333-1274

2 story chicken coop \$140 obo 367-9349

student guitar \$60 (760) 364-2010

2 TV's \$50 4both(760) 367-9349

NEW Fitbit Flex \$65 Teri 760-831-2328

4x4 chain link gate \$50 (760) 660-9068

glass tbl & chairs \$50 (760) 366-5336

+Sz Suede fringe jackets \$50ea 366-5336

Bathroom shelf \$5 760-475-2345

Megabox Tv/DVD \$30 760-475-2345

Men's Schwinn bike \$35 (760) 228-0030

Washer \$75 760-974-9769

5 pc white wicker \$100, 760-865-0810

Native Ameri. Books \$100, 760-865-0810

**HELP WANTED** 300

**HELP WANTED** 300

**HELP WANTED** 300

**Library Page - Twentynine Palms Branch**  
**\$10.10 - \$11.66 / Hourly**

**Application Date**  
Saturday, December 10, 2016 • 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

All applicants must apply at the 29 Palms Branch Library located at 6078 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277.

**NOTE**

Only the first 35 applicants will be tested on the date listed above. Candidates who are not tested will be notified of testing as needed within the next six months.

*All applicants must show photo identification.*

For further information, please visit our website:  
[www.sbcounty.gov/hr](http://www.sbcounty.gov/hr)

County of San Bernardino Human Resources  
Equal Opportunity / ADA Compliant Employer  
[www.sbcounty.gov/hr](http://www.sbcounty.gov/hr)  
**(909) 387-8304**



- Competitive hourly earnings and benefit options including retirement.
- Paid training, vacation
- Operate SAFE, maintained vehicles.
- Must successfully complete a DOT physical and pre-employment Drug Screen.

Interested applicants must be customer service oriented, dependable with a clean driving record (H-6 printout).

APPLICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED AT:  
62405 Verbena Rd. Joshua Tree, CA  
M-F 8:00AM to 5:00PM,