

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 13, 2007

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VOL. 50 ISSUE 14

Combat Center welcomes four units home over Easter weekend



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sgt. Endy Zavala, an amphibious assault vehicle mechanic assigned to the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, embraces his parents upon his arrival at the Combat Center's Victory Field Sunday.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

An advance party of Marines and sailors from Company A, 1st Tank Battalion and Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion returned to the Combat Center Sunday after being deployed to Al Asad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The returning troops were greeted by the open arms of friends, family members and fellow Marines when their buses arrived at Victory Field at approximately 3 p.m.

These Marines and sailors spent the past seven months patrolling critical stretches of supply routes in Iraq and maintaining security.

For some of the Marines, this was not their first tour in Iraq. Cpl. Joseph Moran, an armorer assigned to 1st Tanks, returned home from his second tour Sunday. Moran spent his first tour in Fallujah, Iraq, from March to October 2005, said Diane Ramos, Moran's mother.

"We're very happy and glad he came back safe," said Ramos. "We're very proud of him and all of the troops serving our country. I'm a proud parent of a U.S. Marine."

"I'm just glad he's back," said Federico Moran, Joseph's father.

In addition to his family, four of Moran's friends from high school also anxiously awaited his arrival at Victory Field.

"We're very glad to have him back," said Ben Cano, a friend of Moran. "Every time I say his name, I feel very proud. I talk about him everywhere I go."

"I'm happy that he is back," said Yolanda Ledezma, Cano's mother. "He's like a son to me."

"He's like a brother to all of us," added Angel Mendoza, another friend of Moran. "It's about time he's back."

Moran's friends and family came to greet him from Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

Cpl. Scott Jowers, an amphibious assault vehicle mechanic assigned to 3rd Assault Amphibian

Battalion, was greeted by his wife Sarah, who traveled from Wichita, Kan.

"I'm very glad to have him home," she said. "I also came to see Cpl. Matt Leech and Cpl. John Lanoye. Matt has nobody here today, and John's wife is getting ready to have a baby."

"It just feels great to be home," added Jowers.

"When you're away, you miss all the little things, like hot showers and real food," said Cpl. Jason Evans, a motor transport operator assigned to 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion. "I'm just glad to be home with my family."

In addition to Sunday's homecoming, Marines and sailors from Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 and Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment received a warm welcome home Saturday after deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Both units arrived at approximately 11 a.m.



GUNNERY SGT. CHRIS W. COX

Julyanna Aldrete looks up at her father Staff Sgt. Nicholas Aldrete, a warehouseman assigned to the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion.

MCAGCC recognized for installation excellence

CPL. EVAN M. EAGAN
COMBAT CORRESPONDANT

The Combat Center was recently announced as the Marine Corps' 2007 Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence winner by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in a news release published March 30.

One base from each of the four military service branches, and one Defense Logistics Agency facility, are recognized yearly for the outstanding and innovative efforts of the people who operate and maintain U.S. military installations.

The five recipients of this highly competitive Presidential award were selected for their exemplary support of Department of Defense missions, according to the news release.

Marines from the Combat Center, headed by the Installations and Logistics Directorate, began putting the Installation Excellence package

together late last year and submitted it to Marine Corps Installations West, where it was reviewed and then forwarded to Headquarters Marine Corps by Dec. 31.

Many different sections worked together to prepare the package, which resulted in a 74-page, spiral-bound book.

"The Combat Center did a fantastic job of working together as a team to effectively showcase the outstanding work that is being done on behalf of the thousands of Marines, sailors and their family members," said Maj. Paul Davis, the I&L project coordinator for the Installation Excellence package. "The challenge in preparing our packages was to summarize all the Combat Center accomplishments into a four-page summary format. We were also required to provide a six-line narrative to accompany each of our eight pages of photo exhibits."




See EXCELLENCE, A7



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

The Combat Center was recently announced as the Marine Corps winner for the 2007 Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence.

Weekend Weather

Friday		76/46 Sunny
Saturday		80/51 Mostly Sunny
Sunday		67/47 Cloudy

Inside this issue

- A3: Religious Ministries Directorate host Easter egg hunt
- A5: Circus comes to town
- A9: Desert Tortoise activity increases

Observations



Good Friday Stations of the Cross Run

This Day in Marine Corps History

— 1847 —

Marines captured La Paz, Calif., during the Mexican War.

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**OFF/Duty Recreation Presents:
25 Facts on Drunk Driving**

1. Alcohol-related crashes kill every 22 minutes. One of every 50 drivers is drunk. This number increases to one out of 10 on weekend nights.
2. According to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, there are 105,000 annual alcohol-related deaths due to drunk drivers and related injuries or diseases.
3. Alcohol-related accidents are the leading cause of deaths among young people.
4. The damage caused by alcohol impaired drivers compares to a Boeing 747 with more than 500 passengers crashing every eight days killing everyone on board.
5. Drunk drivers are responsible for 50% of highway fatalities.
6. 65 people each day die on our highways due to alcohol.
7. The incidence of intoxication (BAC of 0.08 g/dl or greater) for drivers in fatal crashes in 2003 was highest for motorcycle operators (29%) and lowest for drivers of large trucks (1%).
8. About three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash some time in their lives.
9. In 2002, an estimated 17,419 people died in alcohol-related traffic crashes. An average of one every 30 minutes, about 41 percent of 42,815 annual traffic fatalities.
10. Beer is the drink most commonly consumed by people stopped for alcohol-impaired driving or involved in alcohol-related crashes.
11. The intoxication rate (.08+ BAC) for male drivers involved in fatal crashes was 25%, compared to 12% for female drivers.
12. The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is 61%, more than three times as high at night. For all accidents, alcohol factors in 16% of nighttime accidents, vs. 3% for days.
13. Weekends account for 54% of fatal alcohol related crashes as compared to 32% during the week.
14. More than 500,000 people are injured annually in crashes involving alcohol.
15. One person is injured in an alcohol related accident approximately every two minutes.
16. In 2005, nearly 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.
17. Drugs other than alcohol (e.g., marijuana, cocaine, prescription narcotics) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle drivers deaths. However these drugs are generally used in combination with alcohol.
18. 50% of the 414 child passengers ages 14 years and younger who died in alcohol-related crashes during 2005 were riding with a drinking driver.
19. The arrest rate for DUI is one arrest for every 139 licensed drivers in the United States.
20. In 2005, 48 children age 14 and younger who were killed as pedestrians or cyclists were struck by impaired drivers.
21. Economic costs of alcohol-related crashes are estimated to be \$114.3 billion yearly.
22. Among motorcycle drivers killed in fatal crashes, 30% have BAC's of 0.08% or greater.
23. Half of alcohol-impaired motorcyclists killed each year are age 40 or older, motorcyclists age 40 to 44 have the highest percentage
24. Drivers involved in fatal crashes, with a BAC of .08% or higher, were nine times more likely to have had a prior conviction for DWI or DUI.
25. Drunk driving is the nation's most frequently committed violent crime.

Accidents are an unacceptable risk to mission accomplishment!

"MAGTFTC/MCAGCC Safety - Be Relentless with Safety"

Sempertoons

By Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf



C.O.P. Corner



Community Oriented Policing



The proactive voice of crime prevention

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Exercising tips

A topic that applies to all Marines, sailors and their family members is exercise. Everyone likes to run and exercise, but how can you be safe while doing it? Here are some tips for running safely:

- Have a buddy run with you. If one is not available, you can run with man's best friend, a dog.
- If you like to run during the dark hours, you must run with a reflective strap or road guard vest.
- Stay hydrated! Even if you do not feel thirsty you should drink water.

Running with traffic is also very dangerous. Always run against the flow of traffic. Make sure you keep in mind that cars have the right of way, and may not always see you.

For more information on running safety go to the Web site <http://www.orthoinfo.aaos.org>.

The following services are available to on-base personnel and residents through Crime Prevention: literature, briefs, education, crime assessments, safety tips, the Stranger Danger program, McGruff the Crime Dog, the Officer Friendly program, the Property Marking program, and the Child Identification and Fingerprinting program. For more information call Crime Prevention, 830-6094/5457.

Presented by the Provost Marshal's Office Crime Prevention Section

Marines, Sailors, and cab drivers: MCOS will reimburse any licensed cab company for transportation to the Main Gate, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. Drivers, please legally record information from your fare's military ID card. Thank you for participating.

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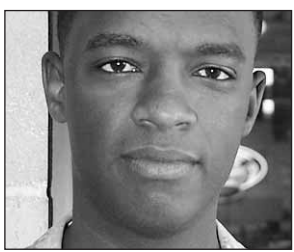
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Centerspeak

"What would you do with the \$200,000 the base receives for winning the Commander in Chief's Award for Installation Excellence?"

Opinions expressed in Centerspeak are not necessarily those of the OBSERVATION POST, the Marine Corps or Department of Defense.



STAFF SGT. MICHAEL WALKER
1ST TANK BATTALION



CPL. JASON KING
2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT



PVT. JASON GARCIA
3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Renovate the barracks."

"Get rid of Lake Bandini."

"Better recreational services."

What's on your mind?

Centerspeak welcomes questions or submissions from service members, Department of Defense civilians and family members.

Call Cpl. Evan M. Eagan at 830-5472

Or e-mail to: evan.eagan@usmc.mil

OBSERVATION POST

- | | |
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Children go ape for easter bunny



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Children race to collect eggs on Felix Field during the Easter egg hunt Saturday.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Little girls dressed in bright, frilly sun dresses and boys dressed in little polo shirts were scattered across the green field, laughing and shouting as they gathered brightly-colored plastic eggs with treats inside of them.

The Combat Center held its annual Easter egg hunt at Felix Field Saturday for all Combat Center families.

The Easter festivities included egg hunts divided into four age groups, free food, games, prizes, face paintings, dunk tank and fun-shaped balloons.

There was also an Easter egg decoration contest, where all participants received a prize.

The food for the barbeque lunch, which included hot dogs, grilled chicken, hamburgers, potato salad, potato chips, drinks, and candy, was provided to the Combat Center by Calvary Chapel Armor of Light Ministry from Costa Mesa, Calif.

"The Calvary Chapel cooks said they handed out more than 1,000 meals," said Lt. Terry Moran, command chaplain at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital and official coordinator of the event.

At the end of the festivities, there was still a large amount of left over food, said Moran.

"They packed up all the extra food and brought it over to the Marines who had just returned home that same day at Victory Field," said Moran, referring to Lima Battery, 3rd battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1.

Moran said the event was more successful than last year's Easter Egg Hunt because he and the other volunteers learned from shortcomings last year.

Part of the success for this year's event Moran attributed to its early planning which began in January.

"There were family members who approached me and told me how much smoother it went this year," said Moran. "All the positive comments we

got just let us know how well it went this year."

Moran said he wishes to give thanks to all the hard work put in by Company B, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School working party, chaplain assistants, volunteer cooks, face painting artists, Morale Welfare and Recreation Committee, decorators, the Religious Ministry Directorate participants and hospital corpsmen.

"The RP's (Religion Program Specialists) working party filled more than 1,600 plastic eggs with goodies for the kids," said Moran.

For many, the day filled with warm sun, green grass and good food marked a very welcoming and memorable Easter Holiday. Whether participants

were parents or young ones, the joy of family could be felt by anyone.

"These family events really help keep the morale up," said Moran. "It's nice to be able to have a good time with the families while they are around each other. Anytime we can help them out in that way, we will."



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Jayla Filtch, daughter of Sharon and Thomas Filtch, is greeted by the Easter bunny at the Easter egg hunt at Felix Field Saturday.

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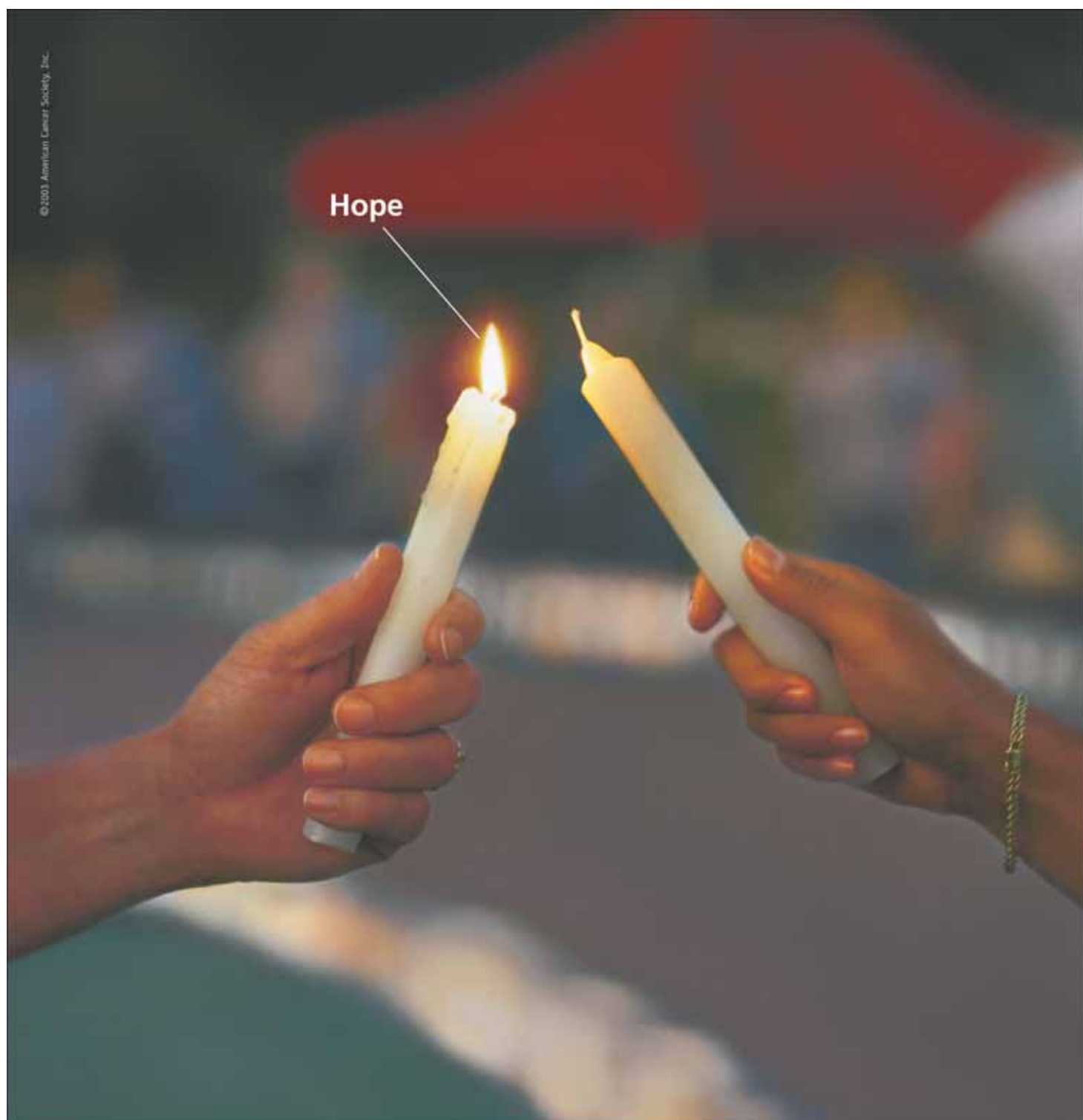
We are proud to announce that Dr. Demiany is a member of our professional medical staff.

Dr. Demiany is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and is Board Certified in Family Medicine

His hospital affiliation: Hi-Desert Medical Center and he resides in Joshua Tree with his wife and three children.

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HOT TOPICS

VISTA DEL SOL PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER TOWN HALL

The Military Family Housing Office will host the final town hall meeting for Vista Del Sol residents concerning the issuance of portable air conditioners. The meeting will be held at the Protestant Chapel, Bldg. 1541 on April 21 at 9 a.m. Residents are required to attend this brief prior to being issued portable air conditioners.

TAX CENTER UPDATE

Location: Village Center, Bldg. 1551
 April 20 - Tax Center closes for the season at 3:30 p.m.
 Hours: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Monday through Friday
 Phone: 830-4829
 Friday - Close at 12 p.m.
 Monday - Closed
 Tuesday Re-open at 8 a.m.
 April 17 - last official day of the tax season
 No children are allowed at the tax center. Please make arrangements for day care. If you prefer a direct deposit of your refund, please bring in proof of your bank account such as a MyPay print out or blank check showing your bank routing number and account number. A joint tax return

refund must be deposited into a joint banking account. If you need tax preparation assistance after the tax center closes on April 20, your options available online are: TaxCut Basic Online by H&R Block at <http://www.militaryonesource.com> is available for active duty, guard, reserve (regardless of activation status), and family members. There is no income limit. This tax program will prepare and e-file one federal and one state return per military member. If there are additional states you may prepare and then mail those in. A toll free number is available for tax questions. The number is 800-730-3802. IRS.gov lists free file services that are limited to taxpayers

with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$52,000 or less. Some services have age limitations, i.e. if you are age 50 or under. Some companies offer free state tax return preparation and e-filing and others may charge fees. Visit IRS.gov and click on 2007 Free File for more information.

ROAD CLOSURES

Del Valle Road will be repaved from Sixth to Tenth Streets beginning around Monday. Northbound traffic will be routed up Sixth Street to Brown Road, then down Tenth Street back to Del Valle Road. Southbound traffic will be routed up Tenth Street to Brown Road, then down Sixth Street back to Del Valle Road. Please be atten-

tive to all traffic control signs.

MARINE OnLINE PASSWORD RESET

Effective March 5, Marine OnLine users are required to change their individual user passwords. The password reset is for every MOL user account throughout the Corps (civilian accounts included). Users who have not changed their Marine OnLine passwords since March 5 must do so using the following password criteria:

1. 16 characters in length.
2. Contain a minimum of two uppercase letters.
3. Contain a minimum of two special characters.
4. Contain a minimum of two numeric characters.

Marine OnLine role control agents and commanders no longer have the ability to reset Marine OnLine passwords. Per MARADMIN 155-06, Par 4D(5), only a system administrator may perform this function: Those Marines and civilians having difficulty resetting their Marine OnLine passwords can call their servicing MISSOs. MISSO analysts will be asking each user a series of security questions to confirm the user's identity before resetting the password.

civilian attire will be permitted. Departure will be 6 a.m. from the Zone. For further information, contact your SMP Coordinator at 830-4767.

LIVE BAND AT BLOODSTRIPES NCO CLUB

Live Band "Vital Ethic" at Bloodstripes NCO club on Today from 8 - 11 p.m.

FREE STEAK BBQ LUNCH AT VICTORY FIELD

Cooks from the Valley will host a free steak barbecue lunch today at Victory Field from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is open to all active duty service members and their families. The mess halls will be closed. For more information call 830-5086. There will be no alcohol and no pets allowed.

DESERT WINDS GOLF COURSE YOUTH GOLF SCHOOL

For children and teens between the ages of 7-18, Desert Winds Golf Course offers a Youth Golf School. Starting Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Not only will you have instruction from a PGA Pro, but you will also receive golf club rental, range balls and greens fees for \$50. Space is limited, so make your way to Desert Winds Golf Course to register by today. If you have any questions, please call 830-4094.

SNCO CLUB CASINO NIGHT

Hashmarks Staff NCO Club will host another popular Casino Night on April 27. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and play begins at 6 p.m. The evening is open to NCOs, SNCOs and Officers. For more information, call 830-6610.

LEISURE ITEMS

SMP PRICE IS RIGHT TRIP

The Single Marine Program will be taking a trip to Hollywood and the Price Is Right to meet the famous Mr. Bob Barker. Join in on the fun April 18. This is a uniform only event. No

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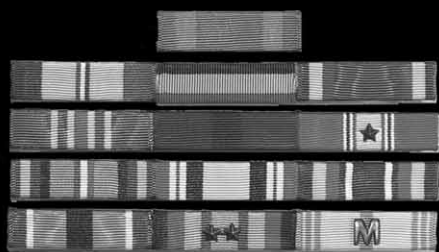
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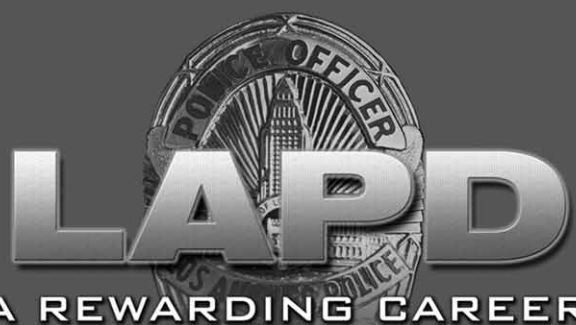
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Circus comes to Combat Center



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Luigi the clown juggles soccer balls during the Circo-Osorio American Crown Circus April 4.

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Circo-Osorio American Crown Circus put on a series of performances at the Combat Center's Victory Field April 4 and 5.

The circus held two shows each night, with one at 6 p.m. and one at 8 p.m. and featured a variety of acts.

"We have more of an acrobatic show," said Leo Osorio, co-owner of Circo-Osorio. "However, we also have clowns to make the kids laugh."

The show opened by featuring a clown named P.T. Mini performing acrobatics on a trampoline while blowing a whistle to accompany his actions. The audience giggled and smiled as P.T. Mini unsuccessfully tried time and again to mount the trampoline, slipping, and sliding his way to defeat. He even managed to get himself caught between the springs.

Once he was finally on the trampoline, P.T. Mini dazzled the crowd by flipping and flying through the air. For his finale, he completed 23 consecutive flips before exiting the arena.

Next up were the jugglers, Luigi and Silvy, who juggled by themselves as well as together, tossing projectiles back and forth and catching them with both skill and grace. They managed to bring comedy into their routine as well by attempting to distract and position each other and set them up for failure.

After the jugglers, the announcer introduced Bronco, the "world's largest horse." In actuality, Bronco only stood 24 inches tall and is considered to be fully grown. This caused a great deal of laughter and applause as Bronco paraded around the circus floor.

Luigi made a second appearance dressed as a clown, entertaining the audi-

ence with physical comedy before the Pintado family was introduced to perform the teeterboard. One performer jumped from a platform onto a see-saw, launching another person onto the shoulders of an assistant. Following the teeterboard, the show was put on hiatus for a 15-minute intermission, where Bronco made another appearance for photo opportunities.

The second half opened with Stefanie Pintado flying through the air on Roman rings and balancing in many different positions. Following Stefanie, Silvy made another appearance riding a unicycle. Silvy rode around the ring and even climbed up and down a set of stairs on the unicycle. Next, she successfully attempted to ride the world's smallest unicycle. The wheel was approximately the size of a dime.

Indiana Pintado appeared next, performing a balancing and contortion act. Her signature was balancing upside down on two piles of small blocks and eliminating the pile brick by brick.

Luigi and Silvy made a final appearance dressed as clowns, providing comic relief following the series of awe-inspiring performances.

The final act of the circus featured Vardo Garcia, also known as P.T. Mini, balancing on the high-wire. Garcia walked, ran, and rode a bicycle back and forth on the high-wire. His final performance was to walk the tight-rope

blindfolded and without the aid of a balance beam. The tent fell silent in suspense as Garcia successfully accomplished the feat and stunned the cheering crowd.

The audience enjoyed the show and performers of Circo-Osorio received a standing ovation at the end.

"The show was great," said Capt. Greg Funk, the installation law officer-in-charge at the Combat Center's Staff Judge Advocate's office. "My daughter had a lot of fun."

"It was his first circus," said Cpl. Casey Bezner, an infantryman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, while looking at his 2-year-old son Nathan. "We came for him. He enjoyed it, and we enjoyed it too."

Not only did the audience enjoy the show, but the owners were very pleased to bring their circus to the Combat Center.

"When you get to perform for any of the armed services, you have the opportunity to give back to them for the sacrifices they make," said Robert Osorio, co-owner of Circo-Osorio. "That's what makes this country great."

In addition to four stellar performances, Circo-Osorio also donated approximately \$650 back to the Combat Center.

Circo-Osorio, which is based in Las Vegas, tours 30 weeks out of the year, traveling all over the West Coast, and performing as far east as Chicago. The show's next stop is Indio, Calif.

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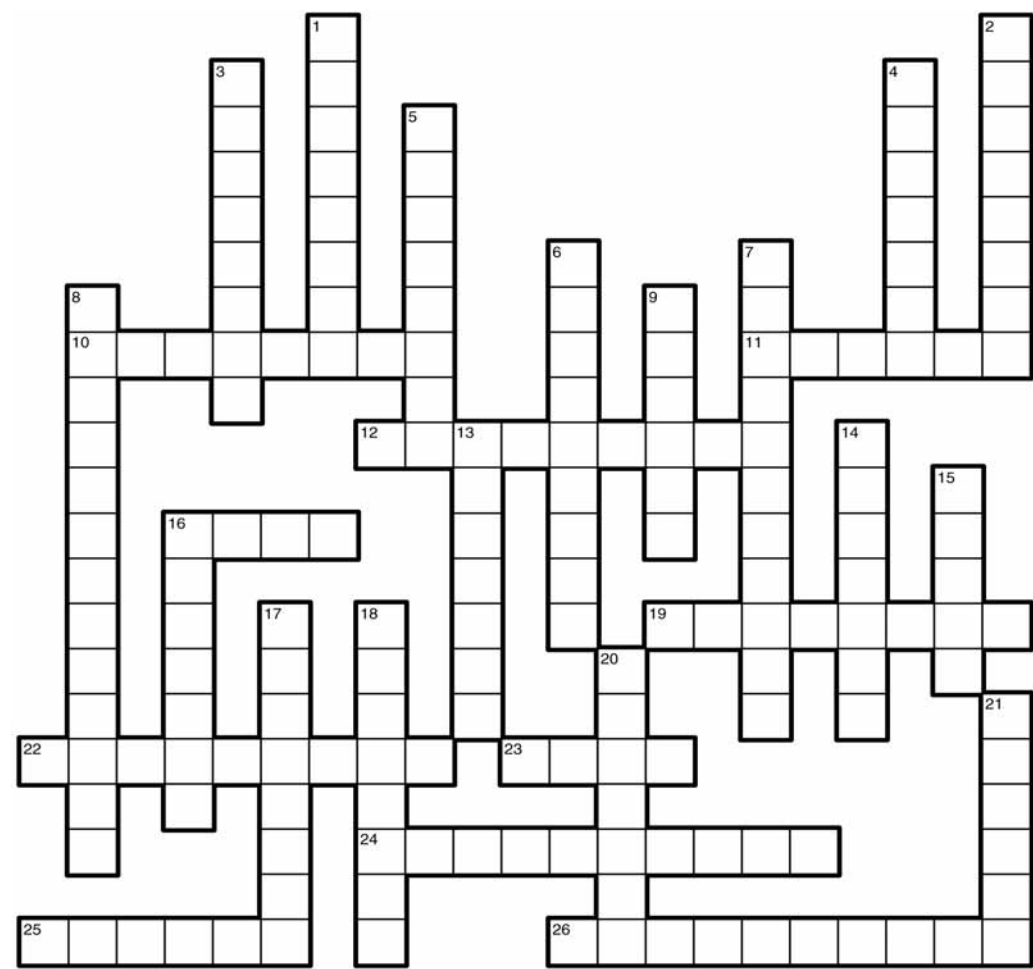
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Children's Bible School - Rides Available
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Bread of Life Mission Ministries Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am Food Ministry 1st & 3rd Friday of Every Month Starting at Noon Pastor: Daniel Slaby Church 760-364-3060 Co-Pastor Patricia Slaby Pastor 760-364-2008 55960 Reche Rd., Landers, Ca.	Victory Christian Center Shaking the hi-desert...reaching the world! Sunday Morning • Service 10:00 AM Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM 57889 Pueblo Trail, Yucca Valley (760) 365-4302	DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "A Bible Believing Church" Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship Children's Bible School - Rides Available Visitors Welcome Sunday Concert Series • Call for info 29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086	St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 11:30 am • Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Sunday Bible Study 10:30 am We're Here for Everyone phone (760) 367-7133 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org
Church of Christ Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am 1:30 pm Ladies' Bible Classes 11am Wed. Wed. Bible Study 5pm 7021 Airway, Yucca Valley • 365-9215	Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org	EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Nursery and Children's Church Adult Bible Study Wed. 6:30 PM 6804 Mohawk Tr., Yucca Valley (760) 228-1747	FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am WEDNESDAY Bible Study.....7pm
St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church Just the Best place to get Married Father Ian Hanley Sunday School, Holy Eucharist 9:00 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590	Desert Hills Presbyterian Church 56750 Mountain View Trail Yucca Valley • 365-6331 Worship Service 10:00 A.M. Child Care, Bible Studies, Youth, Choir A Friendly and Loving Congregation!	United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms 6250 Mesquite Springs Road - 367-7338 Sun. Worship Service at 9:30 AM - Child Care Available Sun. School: Adults 8:30am - Child & Youth 8:45 am A welcoming and inclusive Christ-oriented community Beth Glass, Pastor
The United Methodist Church Yucca Valley 57273 Onaga Tr., 365-3671 Sunday Classes for All Ages - 9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM (child Care Available) Bible Study: Mon., 10:30 AM; Wed., 7:00 PM	OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am & 11:00am 367-7812 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com	JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER Calvary Chapel Fellowship Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph 8415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree Sunday Services 10:30am & 6:30pm call (760)366-7420 • Office (760) 366-7422 Website: JHOPFOOD.ORG	First Southern Baptist Church Sun. Worship 8:15am • 10:45am • 6:00pm Sun. Bible Study 9:30am Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm 6088 Sunset Road JT (760) 366-9211

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ACROSS

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- 11. Silver State
- 12. Volunteer State
- 16. Hawkeye State
- 19. Wolverine State
- 22. Land of 10,000 Lakes
- 23. Buckeye State
- 24. Golden State
- 25. Aloha State
- 26. Evergreen State

DOWN

- 1. Centennial State
- 2. Cornhusker State
- 3. The Natural State
- 4. Peach State
- 5. Diamond State; First State; Small Wonder
- 6. Garden State (2 words)
- 7. Constitution State (official, 1959); Nutmeg State
- 8. Tar Heel State (2 words)
- 9. Jayhawk State
- 13. Empire State (2 words)
- 14. Sunshine State
- 15. Lone Star State
- 16. Hoosier State
- 17. Show-me State
- 18. Bluegrass State
- 20. Grand Canyon State
- 21. Beaver State

[Solutions on A8]

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive Results

Raised:: \$84,291

MCCS	\$420
23d Dental	\$180
HQBN	\$1,224
MCCES	\$23,634
7th Mar HQ	\$1,875
MVSD	\$0
2/7	\$0 (Deployed)
3/7	\$0
1/7	\$735
1st Tanks	\$1,984
3d LAR	\$5,901
3/11	\$16,227
D. Co. AAV	\$0 (Deployed)
MWSS-374	\$4,492
VMU-1	\$480 (Deployed)
CLB-7	\$2,085
Hospital Band	\$9,952
C&D	\$1,016
Comptroller	\$245
I&L	\$1,275
G-3	\$2,442
PAO	\$646
PMO	\$420
IPAC	\$924
SJA	\$2,136
TTECG	\$301
3/4	\$4,747
	\$0 (Deployed)



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Disturbia (PG 13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Th: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Redline (PG 13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Th: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	The Last Mimzy (PG) Fri-Sun: 2:15 Mon-Th: 2:30
Blades of Glory (PG 13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Th: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Grind House (R) Fri-Sun: 4:00, 7:30 Mon-Th: 6:00	* FREE* Military Day Sunday, April 29th ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6:00 PM \$5.50 * ADULTS \$7.50 * SENIORS \$5.50 * CHILDREN \$5.50 www.Cinema6theatre.com



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LANCE CPL. KATELYN A. KNAUER

Da plane, da plane...

The flying club Children of the Gods performed a flyover of the Combat Center Mar. 30 and 31 to show their support for the military and show their support and appreciation for Marines and sailors aboard the base.

Desert Hot Springs High School seeks JROTC instructor

The Marine Corps is seeking a recently retired, or soon-to-be retired, staff non-commissioned officer to teach Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students at Desert Hot Springs High School in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., starting this summer. Applicants for this full-time position must enjoy working with teens and have a desire to develop the leadership potential of his or her students. Retirees looking to "take it easy" should look elsewhere. MCJROTC instructors dedicate extensive time and effort to the mentorship of America's youth.

Basic qualifications include: retired

SNCO, within the past three years, with at least 20 years of active duty service, a high school diploma, a minimum GT score of 100 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, a competitive military record, and be physically qualified according to Marine Corps standards. A complete list of requirements, applications, application procedures and background information on the program can be located on the internet at <http://www.mcjrotc.org>. Interested parties should contact retired Lt. Col. Lewke, the Desert Hot Springs senior Marine Instructor at 288-7088 for more details about the position.

FREE SUMMER CAMP FOR MILITARY KIDS

NMFA's *Operation Purple* camps offer a free week of fun for military kids with parents who have been, are currently, or will be deployed.



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Visit www.operationpurple.org for locations, dates, and registration information.

OperationPurple
A program of the National Military Family Association

EXCELLENCE from A1

Receiving the award is a reflection of the hard work the Marines, sailors and civilians have accomplished over the last year at MCAGCC, said Davis.

"The Marines, sailors and civilian employees of the Combat Center work vigorously to maintain this national asset while also fulfilling their responsibility to support the Department of Defense," he said. In selecting the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center as the recipient of this year's award, the citation recognizes the teamwork between uniformed and civilian men and women who demonstrate excellence in installation management.

For earning this honor, the Combat Center, as well as the other four winners, receives a trophy with the President's seal displayed for permanent retention by the installation, an Installation Excellence flag, a congratulatory letter signed by the President, special recognition certificates signed by the Secretary of Defense recognizing the unit and individuals making key, significant contributions to the installation's achievement in excellence and a recommendation for the winning command to be awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

The other award winning installations are: U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Zama, Japan; Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.; Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho; Defense Supply Center Columbus, Ohio.

The Combat Center replaces Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., as this year's Marine Corps recipient.

The 2007 Commander in Chief's Award ceremony is scheduled for May 4, at the Pentagon and a team of four representatives from the Combat Center will be present to accept the award.

3rd Annual WOODWORK CRAFT fair

Saturday, APRIL 28





WANTED

MCAGCC patrons to display & sell their **homemade** crafts & woodworking projects!

Booths are **FREE!**

There is no fee for opening a booth at the fair. Interested in a booth? Call 830-7214. Sign-ups will be taken from April 1 - 25.

- Prize Giveaways
- Craft Contests
- Craft & Woodworking Demonstrations & Classes.



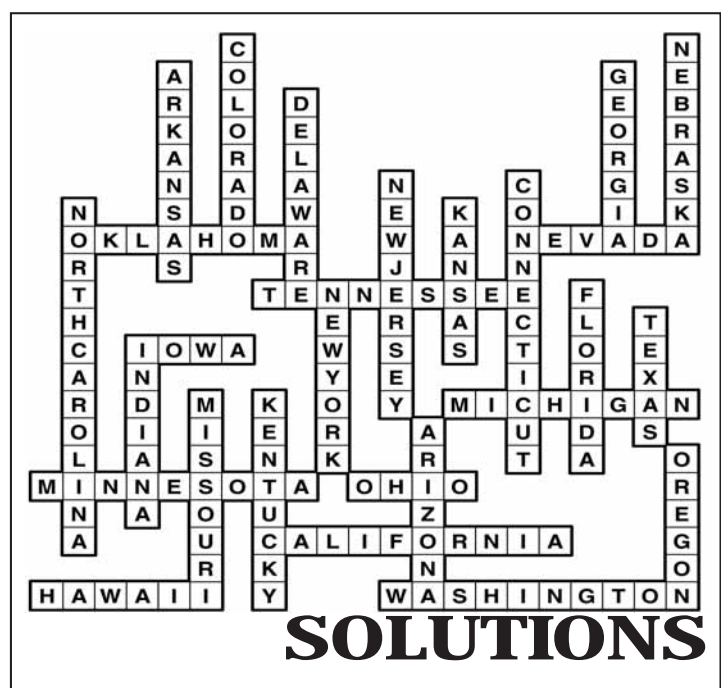
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<p>06 JEEP LIBERTY LOW MILES, 4X4</p>  <p>#265109 \$16,888</p>	<p>04 NISSAN XTERRA LOW MILES, LIKE NEW</p>  <p>#647759C \$17,888</p>	<p>06 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LOW MILES, FULL POWER</p>  <p>#241267 \$20,888</p>	<p>06 TOYOTA TUNDRA ACCESS CAB LOADED, LOADED</p>  <p>#472188 \$24,888</p>

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Spring time brings out the Desert Tortoise

STEVE SELSER
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES TECHNICIAN, NREA

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division would like to remind Marines, sailors, their dependents, and other military and civilian personnel to be alert for tortoises. MCAGCC's only threatened species protected by the Endangered Species Act, desert tortoises are facing possible extinction from many threats including: predation, disease, urban sprawl, and off road vehicle travel. Be sure to look under your vehicles before operation, as there may be a tortoise using it for shade on hot days.

As spring comes around and the warm temperatures become more prevalent, desert

tortoises are likely to become more active in March and into the months of April, May and early June. The desert tortoise has spent most of the winter hibernating underground and with the coming of spring, the tortoise will awaken from hibernation and begin its pursuit of food and water, as well as the significant challenge of finding and mating with another tortoise.

If you see a tortoise in town, around Mainside, or crossing a street, it is legal and appropriate to move the animal out of harm's way. Do this by slowly approaching the tortoise, carrying it a short distance in the same direction it was traveling, and leaving it in a safe place, ideally in the shade of a bush or tree. It is illegal to take a tortoise

from the wild to keep as a pet. It is also illegal to intentionally harm or kill a tortoise. The Endangered Species Act is a serious law, and consequences for violation of the ESA include both civil and criminal penalties.

It is legal for people to keep pet tortoises with a few conditions: tortoises that were in captivity before 1989 or their offspring are legal as pets, but only if they are registered with the California Department of Fish and Game. Because many captive tortoises are infected with a unique type of bacteria in their respiratory tract, the base housing order and environmental protection order prohibits pet tortoises in military housing. If you would like to adopt a pet tortoise (remember this can be a 50 year commitment!), call Joshua Tree Tortoise Rescue at 369-1235. This non-profit group can also provide plenty of information on diet and health factors of tortoises.

Units in the field that encounter a desert tortoise should contact Range Control immediately, either by radio or cell phone for instructions. On Mainside and at Camp Wilson, personnel with NREA and the Provost Marshal's Office are available to assist with desert tortoise issues. For further information, call NREA at 830-5717, 5719, or 5728.



COURTESY OF NREA

This juvenile Desert Tortoise was spotted and removed from the training area March 26 by NREA's Dr. Brian Henen and Steve Selser.



COURTESY OF NREA

Gunnery Sgt. Alfredo Rosas, Sgt. Matthew Amescua, Dr. Brian Henen and Capt. David Diestro stand in for a photo after Amescua spotted this juvenile Desert Tortoise in the training area March 26.

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Kay Kiley
Private Inurnment

Ronald Guzman
Memorial Service, Sat., 4/14,
1pm at Wiefels Chapel in Yucca Valley

Evelyn Marquit
Visitation, Wed. 4/11, 11am to 2pm at Wiefels Chapel in 29 Palms

Merry Derrick
Memorial Service Wed,
4/11, 11am at Blessed Sacrament Church in 29 Palms

Barbara Stone
Private Inurnment

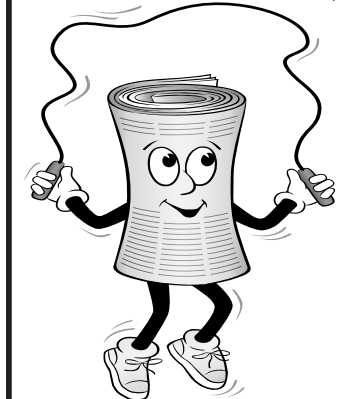
Amaya Harkley
Rosary, Thurs. 4/12, 9:30am,
Visitation 10am to 11am,
Funeral Mass 11am at Blessed Sacrament in 29 Palms with Graveside Services to follow at 29 Palms Cemetery in 29 Palms

Mountain Valley Memorial Park
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
(760) 366-9210 FD1393

Betty Mac Coach
Graveside Service, 1:00pm,
Friday, April 13, Joshua Tree Memorial Park

Cynthia Hagerman
Memorial Service: Sunday,
April 15th, 4:30pm at Joshua Springs Calvary Chapel

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FAIR

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MAKE THE CHANGE!

The Marine Corps Community Services Career Resource Office will host a Career Fair on **Wednesday, April 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Community Center (bldg. 1004)**. This is a great opportunity for transitioning military personnel, spouses and retirees to speak with prospective employers regarding careers as they transition to civilian life.

Business Dress or Uniform of the day is highly suggested!
Bring plenty of resumes and come ready to interview!

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OBSERVATIONS

APRIL 13, 2007

Stations of the Cross motivates mass of runners for Good Friday run



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines use a cross as their guidon during the Stations of the Cross Run April 6.

LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center Marines, sailors and civilians came together for the annual Stations of the Cross Run sponsored by 7th Marine Regiment April 6.

The run, which was organized by Cmdr. John T. Hannigan, regimental chaplain for 7th Marines, was a voluntary, three-mile run beginning at the 7th Marine Regiment Command Post parking lot at 6:30 a.m.

Other units, including Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Company A, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, 1st Battalion 7th Marine Regiment and Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, took part in the run to start off their Easter holiday the right way, said Lance Cpl. David P. Farmer, a landing support specialist with CLB-7.

During the run, Marines and sailors stopped at 14 stations, which symbolized the 14 Stations of the

Cross in the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

Service members executed an exercise at each station, which was then followed by a visual example of the cross station carried out by volunteers in the formation, as well as a brief prayer.

"It gives everyone a chance to lead Marines of a higher rank and PT [Physically Train] with other units," said Cpl. Omar S. Vargas from Headquarters Company, 1/7, about the run.

Hannigan agreed, saying he enjoyed watching the Marines and sailors go through both a physical and spiritual work-out that morning.

"This run called to mind the same aspects of Christ walking the Calvary," said Hannigan. "The reason for the boots and utes instead of green-on-green PT gear was because we wanted to make it as grueling as we possibly

See CROSS, B2



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

PFC Austin Mann, Company A, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School lays on the ground as he portrays the ninth station of the Cross during the Stations of the Cross Run April 6.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Tomas Romero runs with a cross as his guidon during the Stations of the Cross Run April 6.



LANCE CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines bow their heads as they share a prayer after the Stations of the Cross Run April 6.

Movies and recreation for the upcoming week at the Sunset Cinema

Today
 6 p.m.
 Breach (PG-13)
 9 p.m.
 Ghost Rider (PG-13)

Saturday
 2 p.m.
 The Astronaut Farmer (PG)
 6 p.m.
 The Number 23 (R)
 9 p.m.
 Black Snake Moan (R)

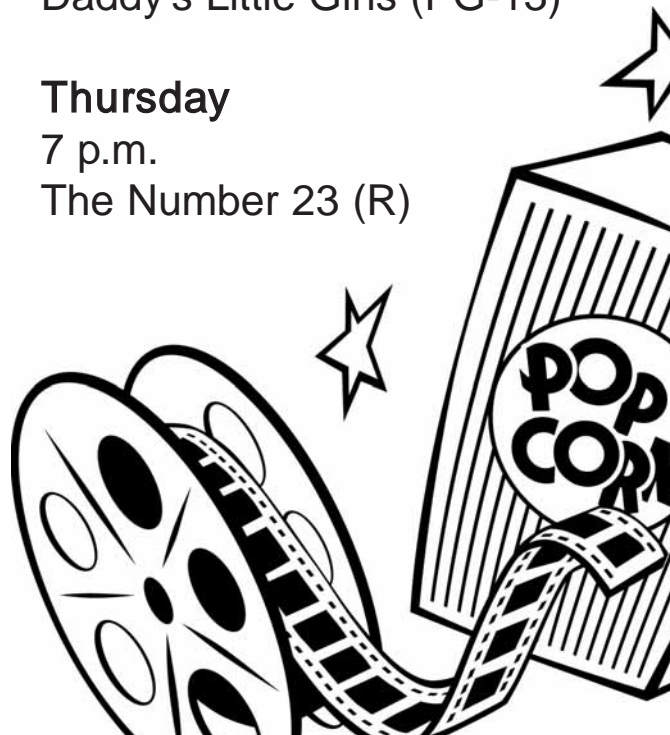
Sunday
 2 p.m.
 Bridge To Terabithia (PG)
 6 p.m.
 Music & Lyrics (PG-13)
 9 p.m.
 Breach (PG-13)

Monday
 7 p.m.
 Reno 911 (R)

Tuesday
 7 p.m.
 The Astronaut Farmer (PG)

Wednesday
 7 p.m.
 Daddy's Little Girls (PG-13)

Thursday
 7 p.m.
 The Number 23 (R)



CROSS from B1

could so we could call to mind the suffering Christ endured for us."

In addition to the added physical labor of running through sand with boots, Marines also carried a wooden cross as their guidon.

It was because of this religious content that the run was voluntary, said Hannigan.

"It was really motivating to see all those young people volunteer for the run," said Hannigan about the 79 runners.

Hannigan added that, in his previous experiences with a Good Friday run aboard other Marine Corps facilities, there have been as few as three participants to as many as 250.

What set this run apart from the others was the sugar cookie mountain, said Hannigan.

The twelfth station, Christ's crucifixion, took place on top of Sugar Cookie hill, just as the sun peaked over the top of the sandy dune. The silhouette of one of the Marines on the cross with two others flanking him on each side as the two thieves was what Hannigan referred to as a very realistic image.

After the drudgery of going up Tenth Street and Sugar Cookie, Hannigan said the breeze and bird's-eye view from atop the hill was a reward in itself.

"This run was not only fun because of the good PT," said Hannigan. "It also gave those young people a chance to share their love for Jesus. They also saw all the symbolism that was there. It was nice to hear them bring it up afterward and know that they appreciated its value."



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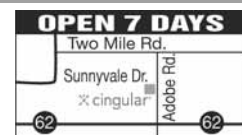
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What to Do if You Have Been Sexually Assaulted

- Go to a safe location away from the attacker.
- Preserve all evidence of the assault. Do not bathe, wash your hands or brush your teeth. Do not clean or straighten up the crime scene.
- Contact your local Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim Advocate or healthcare provider.
- Seek medical care as soon as possible. Even if you do not have any visible physical injuries, you may be at risk of becoming pregnant or acquiring a sexually transmitted disease.
- Ask the healthcare provider to conduct a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination to preserve forensic evidence.
- If you suspect drugs were involved in the assault, request that a urine sample be collected.
- Write down, tape or record by any other means all the details you can recall about the assault and your assailant.

Local Prevention and Response Sources

Giving first-class care to a victim, regardless of where he or she is located, constitutes the core of the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. In order to provide consistent levels of care to

victims, local personnel, known as Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates respond to assaults, ensuring the appropriate level of care is provided to each victim. Health Care Providers, Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigators, Judge Advocates and Chaplains also play significant roles in response.

SARCs manage each installation's sexual assault prevention and response program, serving as the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care and tracking the services provided to the victim from initial report of a sexual assault through disposition and resolution of the victim's health and well-being. While the SARC primarily provides management and oversight of victim care, the VA provides 24/7 direct response to victims. VAs assist victims in navigating the military's response network. They are not counselors, therapists, or investigators, but instead, they furnish accurate and comprehensive information on available options and resources so the victim can make informed decisions about their care and involvement in the investigative process.



Birth announcements

XAVIERA ASHAWN GABRIELLE BAKER
 Daughter of Staff Sgt. and Mr. Emanda Baker
 Born Feb. 22, 2007, weighing 10 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 20.2 inches.

PRESTEN MICHAEL SHANE ROBINS
 Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Zachary S. Robins
 Born Feb. 22, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 19.8 inches.

ANTHONY FABIAN GABRIEL BOTELLO
 Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Ricardo Botello
 Born Feb. 28, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 19.3 inches.

TAYLOR MCKENNA SHAW
 Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Joshua Shaw
 Born Feb. 28, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 18.7 inches.

KEELY ASHLYN HOWARD
 Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. John Howard

Born March 1, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 19.4 inches.

JEREMIAH LEE CRUZ
 Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Jordan Cruz
 Born March 3, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 19.3 inches.

LILY JANE FORDHAM
 Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Sean M. Fordham
 Born March 3, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 3 oz. and measuring 18.5 inches.

ELI VICTOR MATHIS
 Son of Cpl. and Mrs. Ryan Mathis
 Born March 4, 2007, weighing 5 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 18.5 inches.

CAILIN REMI GARCIA
 Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Gary J. Garcia
 Born March 5, 2007, weighing 7 lbs.

HEATHER ELIZABETH MACLEOD
 Daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Chris Macleod

Born March 6, 2007, weighing 9 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 20.9 inches.

JAYANTI DESTINY ARCHULETA-MENCHAGO
 Daughter of Seaman Apprentice and Mrs. Marcio Menchago
 Born March 6, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 18.2 inches.

JORDAN NICOLE BURRELL
 Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Cody Burrell
 Born March 9, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz. and measuring 19.7 inches.

CONRAD LEE CHAPMAN III
 Son of Sgt. and Mrs. Conrad Chapman
 Born March 9, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 18.5 inches.

ALEXANDER MICHAEL SMITH
 Son of Petty Officer 3rd Class and Mrs. Bryan Smith
 Born March 10, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 19.6 inches.

DERRICK JAMES BROWN
 Son of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. D'Andre Brown
 Born March 12, 2007, weigh-

ing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 19.4 inches.

HUNTER MATTHEW BOLTON
 Son of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Rodney Bolton
 Born March 13, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. and measuring 19 inches.

IZABELLE PARRISH
 Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Marshall Parrish
 Born March 14, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 18.1 inches.

ISABEL JESSICA GARCIA
 Daughter of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Victor M. Garcia
 Born March 14, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 20.2 inches.

CAROLINA MERAZ
 Daughter of Gunnery Sgt. and Mrs. Ildegardo Meraz
 Born March 15, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 20.4 inches.

MADILYN KAY GIDEON
 Daughter of Dillon Gideon and Melinda Yakowenko
 Born March 19, 2007, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 19 inches.

ISABELA CAROLINA RUIZ
 Daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Josue Ruiz
 Born March 21, 2007, weighing 6 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 18 inches.

TANNER ADAM PIERCE
 Son of Lance Cpl. and Mrs. Nicholas Pierce
 Born March 21, 2007, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measuring 19.8 inches.

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 Cpl. German E. Jarquin, 21, postal clerk, Combat Logistics Brigade 8, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward) and Miami, Fla., native unloads a container of mail and sorts packages.
 Photo by: Lance Cpl. Aaron P. Mankin



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