

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 10, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 14

'Thundering Third' prepares to tame Viper



Marines and sailors with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, conduct a patrol early Tuesday morning at the Combat Center's Noble Pass training area as part of a week-long preparation for their Mojave Viper pre-deployment exercise.

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment prepared for their Mojave Viper pre-deployment exercise training their small unit to company level combat skills from Monday to today.

The purpose of the training is to gain proficiency from the individual Marine to eventually the battalion level, through refresher and small-unit training, said Maj. Rigoberto Colon,

the battalion operations officer and a native of New York.

"This is part of the battalion's building block approach to training," Colon said. "Our approach is to start at the lowest level; the individual Marine. Then we build up through our training and refreshing tactics all the way to the company level out here."

The next step in preparation for the battalion's upcoming deployment will be operating at battalion strength, their largest level during Mojave Viper.

"Right now we're only moving up

to the company level," he said Tuesday, before the bulk of the training began. "We're certifying all of our Marines at the platoon level right now. Later in the week we're going to be operating with whole companies doing live-fire ranges."

Colon said the rifle platoons and eventually companies would be performing patrols as well as assault courses during the day and night in addition to the battalion's other elements using

See VIPER, A8

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

MCTOG receives new commander

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group bid farewell to its first commanding officer and welcomed a new leader.

Col. Michael P. Killion, the outgoing MCTOG commanding officer, passed the colors on to Col. William F. Mullen III, the incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony at building 1707 April 3.

Killion, who came to MCTOG in June 2007, led the unit throughout its formation process. The command was officially at mission-capable capacity by March 2008, and has since held two successful Operations and Tactics Instructor Courses. The third course is scheduled for May 10.

The New Jersey helped bolster MCTOG's capabilities with combat and contingency operations experience from past deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Liberia, Central African Republic, Cuba, Horn of Africa, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Mullen comes to MCTOG from the Naval War College in Washington, D.C., and has participated in numerous other leadership courses around the world, including the Army's Airborne and Ranger schools, the Marine Corps' Summer Mountain Leader Course, and the Royal Marines' Arctic Warfare School.

His vast wealth of knowledge from Operations Desert Storm

and Iraqi Freedom, counter-narcotics operations, and serving as both a plans and operations officer will also aid him in his new command.

"He [Killion] did a great job here and this organization is adding a great deal of value to the Marine Corps as a whole due to his efforts, and also the efforts of all the people working here," Mullen said. "It is simply amazing to me what they have accomplished after starting from scratch during the summer of 2007."

"I am excited about the opportunity presented by taking over MCTOG and also at the prospects for the future of this organization," he said.

MCTOG's mission is to provide advanced and standardized training in Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations at the battalion and regimental levels, and to enhance the training and operational performance of Ground Combat Element units, according to White Letter 04-08, published by the Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway May 27, 2008.

MCTOG personnel are responsible for training select Marines at the battalion and regimental levels through OTIC to combat the enemy – an enemy who has also adapted to the rigors of the contemporary battlefield.

Although Killion will be missed by the MCTOG staff, Mullen's leadership will carry MCTOG into the future and help successfully train OTIC students.

Combat Center replacing lights, saving energy

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Over the past few years, military installations worldwide have been making vast efforts to "go green" and cut down on energy usage.

In an effort to reduce the

light pollution and energy footprint made by the Combat Center, the Public Works Division is replacing all the current outdoor lighting aboard the base with energy-efficient light fixtures.

The energy manager for Headquarters Marine Corps at Marine Corps Base

Quantico, Va., Scott Houldsworth, said the transition to renewable energy sources is an important part of the Marine Corps' mission.

We must ensure a secure and reliable energy supply to support the operating forces and their families through the

energy efficient management of facilities' infrastructure, Houldsworth said. We also need to reduce the operating costs of the Marine Corps facilities.

The lighting project began approximately three months ago as part of a Night-Sky Initiative to reduce the

amount of light seen from the base in the surrounding community.

"We used to have the old globe-style lights for our streetlights, but what we've done is gone to a flat light design that focuses more light onto the ground," said Gary Morrissett, the PWD

energy manager. "We're also replacing all the lights on the buildings with security lights that have hoods to focus light down."

The old 400-watt, high pressure sodium light bulbs will also be replaced with

See LIGHTS, A6



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

The Combat Center has adopted a night-sky initiative to reduce energy usage aboard the base and cut down on light pollution, which means more stars can be seen by the surrounding community.



L.I.N.K.S. CAX helps kids taste Marine Corps life ~ See A3

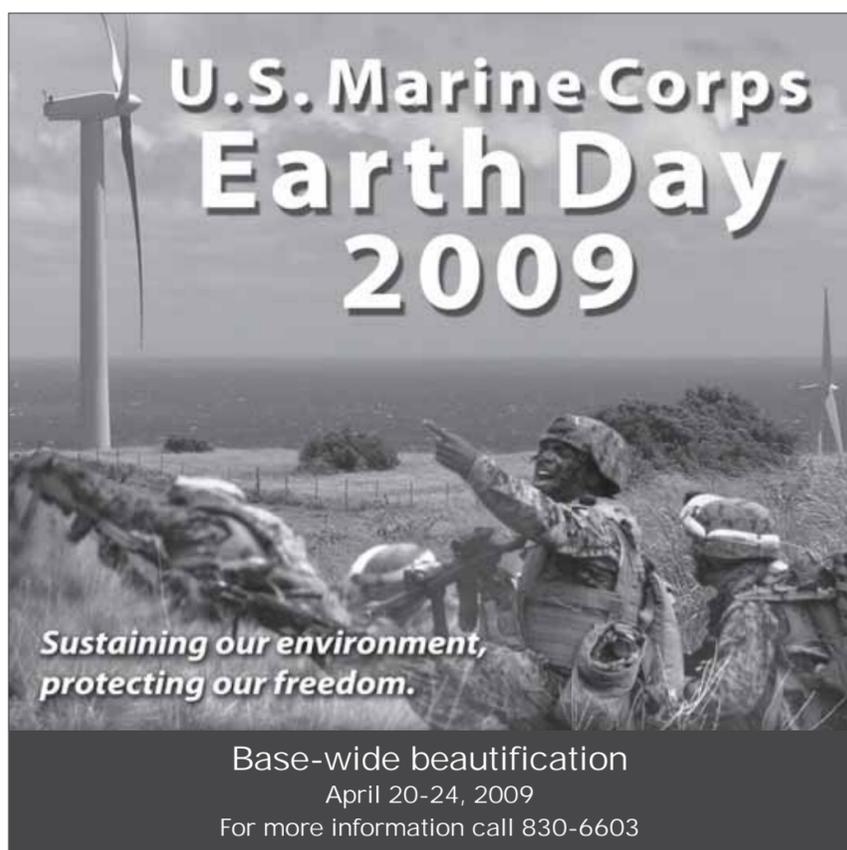
Combat Center leads the way in an energy efficient Corps See A6



Aaron sets sail to SeaWorld ~ See B1

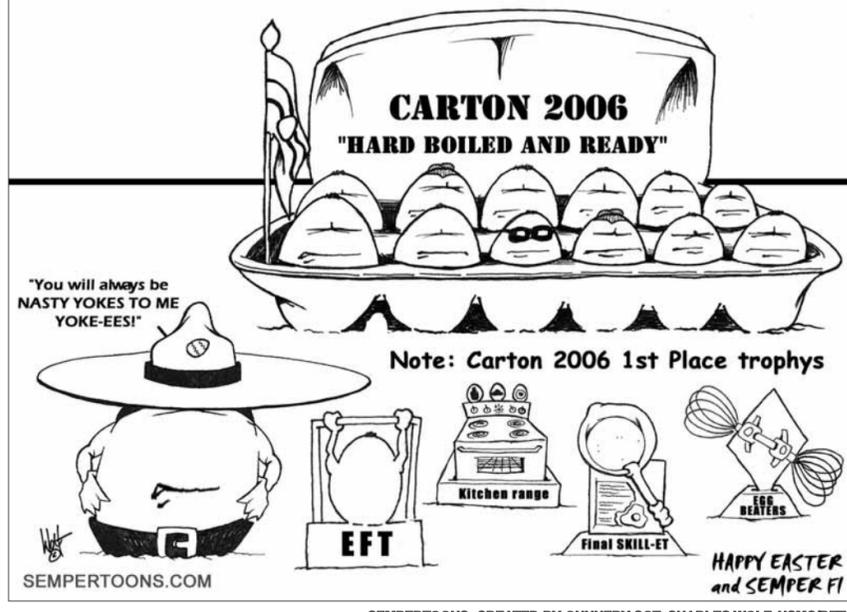
Fight Club grabs silver in Golden State See B1





Prior to all EGGraduations, the OMLET-DANT and Sgt-Egger of the Carton Corps gives each hardboiled a certificate of Eggenticity.

We at Sempertoons are honored to present the graduating Carton of Easter 2006. These twelve tuff and motivated Hard boiled eggs are ready for coloring in every clime and place. Please join us in a round of EGG-plause!



GUITAR GIZMOS

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American Profile Hometown Content 02/01/2009

- | | | | |
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| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1. "That's the truth!"</p> <p>6. VHS alternative, once</p> <p>10. Oodles</p> <p>14. 100-meter dash, e.g.</p> <p>15. City areas, informally</p> <p>16. Big do</p> <p>17. Casio holder</p> <p>19. Make eyes at</p> <p>20. ___ Z (the works)</p> <p>21. Soup to ___ (the works)</p> <p>22. Muppets' creator</p> <p>24. Like a rubberband</p> <p>26. 100-meter dash, e.g.</p> <p>27. Lone Star States ch.</p> <p>28. Western neckwear</p> <p>32. Heckles</p> <p>35. Circus stunt, e.g.</p> <p>36. "___ victory!"</p> <p>37. Actor Epps</p> <p>38. + and -</p> <p>39. Early Briton</p> <p>40. Square dance seat</p> <p>41. Gay Nineties and Roaring Twenties</p> <p>42. Essential parts</p> | <p>43. Full of oneself</p> <p>45. Snapshot, for short</p> <p>46. Toe in the water, say</p> <p>47. Scavenging wild dogs</p> <p>51. Space cloud</p> <p>54. Blood fluids</p> <p>55. Moon jumper of rhyme</p> <p>56. Waffle cooker</p> <p>57. Theme park feature</p> <p>60. Bench material</p> <p>61. ___ and anon</p> <p>62. Marsh growth</p> <p>63. Blacken, in a way</p> <p>64. Blue staters, for short</p> <p>65. Early stage</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1. Not yet experienced in</p> <p>2. Humpty Dumpty shaped</p> <p>3. Reveal, as feelings</p> <p>4. Business card abbr.</p> <p>5. Natives</p> <p>6. Western formation</p> <p>7. Blows it</p> <p>8. Sked abbr.</p> <p>9. Paving materials</p> <p>10. Have ___ (air grievance)</p> <p>11. Drops back</p> <p>12. Nobel Prize city</p> <p>13. In that case</p> <p>18. Crewmate of Uhura</p> <p>23. Green's prefix</p> <p>25. Part of an audiophile's rig</p> <p>26. Colorful horses</p> <p>28. Sired, biblically</p> <p>29. ___ for the long haul</p> <p>30. Mark indelibly</p> | <p>31. They're often stewed</p> <p>32. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" desert</p> <p>33. Mosque VIP</p> <p>34. Soothing stuff</p> <p>35. Who's position, in a comedy routine</p> <p>38. Had a tough time deciding</p> <p>42. "Guernica" painter Pablo</p> <p>44. Pa. neighbor</p> <p>45. Catherine ___ (Henry VIII's sixth)</p> <p>47. Bleacherites' barbs</p> <p>48. HCl and HF</p> <p>49. Elks' place</p> <p>50. Like dessert wines</p> <p>51. Tiny drinks</p> <p>52. Toledo's lake</p> <p>53. ___ fide</p> <p>54. Meerschaum part</p> <p>58. St. crossing</p> <p>59. Spy novelist Deighton</p> |
|--|---|--|--|
- [puzzle Solutions on A5]

Combat Center Spotlight

Employee: Edna Espinoza

Organization: CZee Cyberzone Internet Center

Job Title: Manager

Job Duties: Customer service, payroll, scheduling, inventory

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Hobbies: Reading, and I am addicted to Sudoku

What I like most about my job: It keeps me busy and I enjoy seeing new faces everyday. I love to work.

Significant achievement since aboard MCAGCC: Going through my husband's two deployments to Iraq.

Any military service: No, my husband has been in for 13 years.

Time employed at MCAGCC: 3 years.

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

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Hot Topics

ASYMCA SUMMER CAMP
Armed Services YMCA is hosting a free summer camp for children of active duty service members who are 8-14 years of age. Registration is limited to the first 86 children. The deadline to sign up is June 11. To register, visit the ASYMCA for a registration form at Building 192 across from Carl's Jr. Current physical and shot records are required. The registration form must be brought by the parent or legal guardian. Service member or dependent's military ID is required. For more information call 830-7481.

IMMIGRATION
The Legal Assistance Office, building 1514, assists all active duty (no fee) and their spouses (\$675) with becoming a U.S. citizen. Pick up a packet. Schedule an appointment when forms are complete. A military outreach by U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services is scheduled for June 4. Immigration officers will assist active duty & family members with all types of immigration issues, including naturalization, permanent resident status, VISAs, petitions, applications, immigration forms, and answering questions. For more info and to schedule an appointment please call 830-6111.

EASTER EGG HUNT
An Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Felix Field April 11 from 12 to 3 p.m., featuring free food, games and entertainment. For more information call 830-6464.

3-ON-3 BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAY SET FOR LUCKIE PARK
Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms Hospital Corps Committee is sponsoring a 3-on-3 basketball and 3-on-3 volleyball tournament at Luckie Park May 9, to support the 111th Hospital Corps' birthday. Games begin at noon and will continue until 5 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Open to all base members. The entry fee for each team is \$20. Food and drinks will be sold during this event. Come on out for some fun and help your "docs" raise money for their event. POC is Petty Officer 2nd class J. Rice at 830-2002.

This Day in Marine Corps History

April 10, 1959

Lt. Col. John H. Glenn, Jr. is selected for Project Mercury, later to become the first American to orbit the Earth.

SUDOKU #12

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Centerspeak

How do you feel about MarSOC opening to all MOS's?

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

2ND LT. MICHAEL ARTHUR
3RD ASSAULT AMPHIBIAN BATTALION,
COMPANY D

“Overall it is a good thing. We have motivated Marines in all MOS's that want to be part of the fight any way they can.”

STAFF SGT. KOREY EVANS
MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 374,
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

“It is good. It gives everyone a chance to expand their horizons and do something new.”

LANCE CPL. JACOB LUCERO
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION, COMPANY A

“It is awesome and it is a good opportunity for everyone to get their training in.”

L.I.N.K.S. program gives children new insight

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Even though children of service members know their parents are heroes, they may not know just what it is about their moms and dads that make them heroes.

The first outdoor Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge & Skills Combined Arms Exercise class for children took place Tuesday at Felix Field and showed 25 military children what their Marine parents do for a living.

Students, ranging from ages 6 to 11 and currently on spring break, spent the day learning what it means to be a Marine and how to deal with some of the hardships that come with living in a military family.

They first got to know each other with a short introductory game, and then stood with their hands over their hearts as the colors were brought in by four Marines from the Combat Center's Headquarters Battalion.

After the colors ceremony, the children learned some important facts about the Corps, including the Marine Corps birthday and how to properly respect the National Anthem, Anchors Aweigh and the Marine's Hymn.

Then members of the Young Marine gave the students a small taste of recruit training.

The children were herded into a formation with two ranks and shown how to stand at the position of attention and properly space the formation.

As they milled about, trying their hardest to get properly positioned, the urge to scratch their faces and whisper to each other grew overwhelming, leading to a series of pushups and sprints led by the Young Marines.

After their "boot camp" was over, the children got into lines behind gear that some had never seen such as undershirts, utility blouses, a flak-jacket and a helmet.

As the children stood by with puzzled looks on their faces, Amber Bilderein, the L.I.N.K.S. coordinator, demonstrated the proper way to don the oversized gear and had them run a relay race with the gear on.

After having fun learning about some typical Marine Corps equipment, Marines with the Provost Marshal's Office introduced the students to some atypical Marines.

Marines from the Combat Center's K-9 unit brought two dogs, Danny and Bo, as well as the equipment they use to train the dogs.

After explaining the canine's training aids, the students were given a demonstration as Cpl. Carlos Santiago tried to run from Lance Cpl. Jonathan Boland and his partner Bo.

Bo had an easy time catching Santiago.

With no doubt in their minds that these dogs were something special, the students moved on to learning about deployments and ways they can stay in contact with their deployed parents and overcome the stresses a deployment can put a family through.

"I'm about to deploy soon," said Lance Cpl. Roel



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

A student of the first outdoor Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge & Skills Combined Arms Exercise class for children, races in a utility uniform, flak jacket, and helmet to complete a relay race Tuesday at Felix Field. The students learned many skills to help them relate to their military parents.

Delagarza, a cook at Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps Mess Hall and father of two. "I'm glad my daughter is learning ways to deal with me being gone."

Deployed parents love getting letters, care packages and drawings from their children, explained Bilderein.

"My hero is deployed right now and he loves to get letters," she added.

Along with dealing with a parent's deployment, children of military members must also deal with the struggles of moving to new places in the world, often leaving close friends behind.

Bilderein sat the students down and explained to them ways to help them stay in touch with their friends they leave behind. The students were given bags containing a journal and a pen that they can bring to school and get their friend's names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses to contact them after they move.

After all the activities, the L.I.N.K.S. staff prepared a meal every service member who has been in the field can relate to, a Meal Ready-to-Eat, or MRE. The students were briefed on how to heat their meals using the disposable heater provided in each MRE and then wolfed down their much-needed portions.

"I love MREs," exclaimed Samantha Burke, one of the many enthusiastic students.

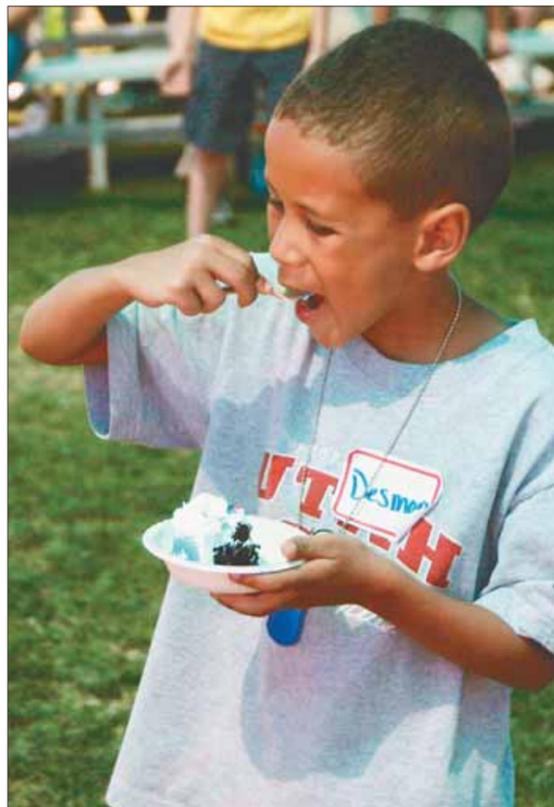
As the day neared completion, students were treated to a guided tour of one of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1's many unmanned aerial vehicles and its launcher.

Staff Sgt. Jacksby Sewell, a UAV operator with VMU-1, explained to the students the different parts of the aircraft and the uses of these small flying cameras.

After their guided tour, the exhausted students piled into their seats for cake. But first, a call went out for the oldest and the youngest students attending the activity to cut the first piece using a ceremonial non-

commissioned officer's sword which is a standard ceremony performed at every Marine Corps' Birthday Ball.

The oldest child took the first bite then the youngest took the second. After each student received a piece of cake and a graduation certificate, their day of learning about Marine Corps' customs, traditions and hardships was over.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

The youngest student in the L.I.N.K.S. Combined Arms Exercise for children at Felix Field Tuesday takes a bite of the ceremonial first piece of cake. The students learned many different ceremonies and customs of the Marine Corps during the day-long class.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Cpl. Carlos Santiago, a dog handler with the Provost Marshal's Office, tries to run from a military working dog, Bo, to no avail as he is brought down during a demonstration for the children of the L.I.N.K.S. class Tuesday at Felix Field.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Easter Weekend Events Saturday, April 11, noon-3 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt, Felix Field: Egg hunts for different age groups, free BBQ, and more!

Easter Weekend Services Sunday, April 12 at 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, Parade Deck. Join the MCAGCC and local civilian communities for a Christian celebration of Jesus Resurrection!

Roman Catholic Services Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel. Sunday, April 5, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Palm Sunday Masses Thursday, April 9, 7 p.m., Opening of the Sacred Triduum: Mass of the Lord's Supper/Adoration until 10 p.m. Friday, April 10, noon: "The Passion of Christ" April 10, 3 p.m. Celebration of the Passion of Jesus Christ Saturday, April 11, 8 p.m. The Great Easter Vigil: Blessing of the Easter Fire, Proclamation of the Great Scriptures, Easter Mass, Baptisms and Confirmations. Sunday, April 12, 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass, Closing of the Sacred Triduum. N.B. No 3 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday

Calvary Chapel/AGC Christ Chapel. Friday, April 10, 5 p.m. Good Friday service. Sunday, April 12, 9 a.m. Resurrection Sunday: Praise & Worship, Bible-centered teaching, Baptisms

Jewish Services. April 8 and 9, Celebration of Passover Place: Chabad Congregation, Palm Springs, California POC: Rabbi Denebeim. 325-0774

Sundays

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel Roman Catholic Services

8 a.m.-Faith Formation/CCD September through May building 1551 8:45 a.m.-Confessions+ 9 a.m.-Rosary 9:30 a.m.-Catholic Mass* 9:30 a.m.-Children's Liturgy of the Word 4:15 p.m.-Confessions+ 4 p.m.-Choir Practice 4:30 p.m.-Rosary 5 p.m.-Catholic Mass

Christ Chapel

Lay-led independent Baptist breakfast 8:30 a.m.-West Wing

Non-denominational:

Calvary Chapel-AGC 9 a.m.-Worship* 9 a.m.-Children's Church 10:30 a.m.-Sunday School* 6 p.m.-Youth Group

Lay-led Gospel Service

11:30 a.m.-Worship Building 1707

Pastor-led Assemblies of God worship

9:30 a.m.-Sunday School 10:30 a.m.-Worship

Legend

* Indicates Child Care Provided

+ Appointments can be for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

Weekday Events

Monday-Friday

Immaculate Heart of Mary 11:45 a.m.-Catholic Mass (except holidays)

Tuesday

Christ Chapel 9 a.m.-Christian Women's Fellowship* September through May Immaculate Heart of Mary 4-5:30 p.m.-Children's RCIA 5-8 p.m.-Catechist Meeting (Second Tuesday each month) 6-7:30 p.m.-Baptism Class (First Tuesday each month)

Wednesday

Christ Chapel 7 p.m.-Lay-led Gospel Bible Study Immaculate Heart of Mary 9:30 a.m.-Military Council of Catholic Women* September to May 6 p.m.-Youth Teen 7 p.m.-Knights of Columbus (1st Wednesday each month)

Thursday

Christ Chapel 6 p.m.-Praise Band Rehearsal Immaculate Heart of Mary 6-7:30 p.m.-RCIA Resumes Sept. 11 C&E Barracks Bldg 1666 11:30 a.m.-Bible Study Chaplain Moran 830-6187

Friday

Christ Chapel 5 p.m.-Gospel Rehearsal Immaculate Heart of Mary 12:15 p.m. 4:30 p.m.-Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (First Friday each month)

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Combat Center Marines got talent...or do they?

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Whether using their voices to sing, rap, tell jokes or any other talent they may have, Combat Center Marines and sailors will put their talent to the test Saturday night at the Sunset Cinema.

The second annual Marines Got Talent show starts at 6 p.m. and is open to all base personnel and their families over the age of 18.

"The show is geared to Marines," said LaVonne Lessard, the Combat Center's Single Marine Program coordinator. "Some things might be inappropriate for younger age groups."

Lessard said the show gives the service members a chance to unwind and have fun entertaining each other with their respective talents.

"We wanted to make sure that the Marines [and sailors] on base have a chance to do something special," said Beth Ayash, the base's drug demand reduction coordinator. "We want to break up the same old, same old of living on base."

The show last year had more than ten singers, rappers

and stand-up comedians and performed for a large, enthusiastic crowd that enjoyed it a lot, she said. There was even a Marine who played the bagpipes well enough to win the competition.

The performers this year were hand-picked after auditions Thursday night and are gifted with a variety of talents to entertain patrons.

"The performers are truly qualified," Ayash said. "When you watch them you wonder why these people aren't stars."

It's a fun show, you never know what to expect out of the performers, Lessard said.

Judging is non-partial, with none of the judges knowing any of the contestants. The judges will be Lessard, Ayash and Marines from different Combat Center units.

"The show rocked last year," said Lessard. "We expect this year's show to draw an even larger crowd. We've marketed it more and the Marines I've talked to seem really interested."

Come out and support your favorite contestants, she added.

For more information, call 830-4767.

MARINES GOT TALENT
event
April 11 • 6 p.m. • Sunset Cinema

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

Selected participants from the audition will perform their talent at the Marines Got Talent event show at Sunset Cinema on Saturday, April 11th at 6 p.m. Must be 18 or have an active duty military I.D. to attend. (No infants or babies in carriers allowed.) For more information call 830.4767. mcs29palms.com

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- Wednesday Night Church in Action - 7 P.M.
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Don't Just Be...
...LIVE!

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5898 Adobe Rd. Twentynine Palms, CA
www.gfccc.org

EASTER
One eighty Ministries
Easter Sunday Celebration
April 12th 10:30 am
Joshua Tree Community Center

Nursery & Children's Church Available
BBQ and Easter Egg Hunt following service

one80jt@hotmail.com

Spirit and Truth Worship Center
Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

Service Times:
Sunday Morning Worship 9:45
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

(760) 361-2450
4751 Adobe Rd.
29 Palms, Ca. 92277
spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com

Compañerismo de Creyentes en Cristo
FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS IN CHRIST
(meets at Little Church of the Desert)
6079 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

SUNDAY/DOMINGO: 1:00 P.M.
Albert L. Perez, Pastor (760) 819-9669
E-mail: creyente-y-siervo@verizon.net

Evangelical Free Church
Bill Wilcox, Senior Pastor Marcus McDaniel, Youth Pastor

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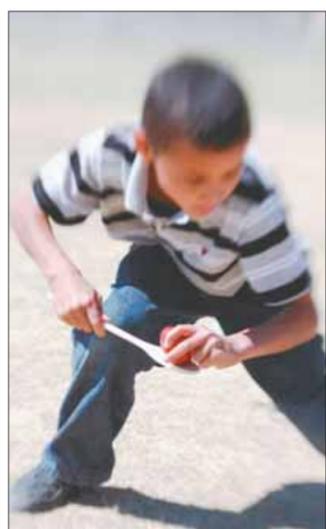
Combat Center children play during spring break

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Lifelong Learning Library celebrated the Month of the Military Child with a free carnival for more than 500 children of base personnel Monday at Victory Field.

The carnival featured games, face painting, food and prizes for the children on their first day of spring break.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

A child replaces his dropped egg during the egg-on-a-spoon race at the Month of the Military Child carnival at Victory field Monday.

The Month of the Military Child is a national celebration dedicated to showing the children of military families that they are an important part of the military family as a whole, said Tara Drummonds, a Library Technician at the Lifelong Learning Library and Tucson, Ariz., native.

"It helps show children that we know it's hard on them and we want to help," she added.

Children were treated to face painting by Vicky and Jade Sarchet, games run by volunteer Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 and the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, and prizes provided by the library, Drummonds said.

"The Marines who were running the games really added to the excitement," said Candice Maza, a Marine Corps spouse and mother of two. "They raced against them and helped the little ones with the games they couldn't do themselves."

The kids had a great time Monday and it was nice to have something fun for them to do outside during spring break, she added.

The carnival is slated to become an annual-springtime event, with plans to improve the services offered for children each year, Drummonds said.

For more information on upcoming events at the Lifelong Learning Library, call 830-6875.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

A mother helps her daughter with the junior ring-toss game at the Month of the Military Child carnival at Victory Field Monday.

Marines learn about Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The month of April has been designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month throughout the entire Marine Corps.

This year's theme "My Strength Is For Defending," challenges bystanders to intervene and prevent sexual assaults. It also emphasizes that Marines, sailors have a moral responsibility to report and help stop sexual assault and protect their fellow servicemembers, said Lt. Col. Brent R. Norquist, the sexual assault response coordinator for the Combat Center and a native of Portland, Ore.

The Marine Corps' goal is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate Marines, sailors and civilians at the Combat Center on how to prevent sexual assault, said Norquist. Another goal is to make it very clear that sexual assault will not be tolerated, said Norquist.

"Sexual assault is a crime defined as intentional sexual contact characterized by the use of force, physical threat, or abuse of authority when the victim does not or cannot consent," according to Marine Administrative Message

0224/09 dated April 6, 2009.

During the last four years, the Marine Corps has made significant advances in victim support through mandated sexual assault awareness and prevention training as well as through the establishment of first responders who provide care and support to victims of sexual assault, according to MARADMIN 0224/09.

Some of these responders are Uniformed Victim Advocates. Each battalion aboard the Combat Center has two UVAs who provide victims of sexual assault with emotional support, as well as information on the medical, legal, and administrative processes. They also ensure victims receive fair, conscientious and unbiased treatment, said Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez, the Headquarters Battalion Uniformed Victim Advocate, from Los Angeles.

"It's important that anyone who is victimized to know that UVAs are on their side. We are here to help and provide a supportive and confidential environment," Jimenez said. "From there, the victims can decide whether or not they want medical treatment and learn about the two dif-

ferent reporting options available to them," Jimenez said.

The two options are the restricted report and the unrestricted report. Although the UVA can explain in further detail the consequences of choosing one over the other, Norquist explained some of the key points.

If a victim files an unrestricted report, law enforcement and the commands of the victim and perpetrator are informed of the suspected crime and an investigation is conducted. The victim can receive medical and advocacy services, and an optional sexual assault forensic examination. The victim is also entitled to receive military protection orders and be separated from the offender, if they work in close proximity, he said.

Restricted reports allow the victim to keep the incident confidential between themselves, the UVA, SARC, and Marine and Family Services counselors and medical personnel, if they choose to get treatment.

"This enables them to leave their command and the authorities out of the incident," he said.

"Victims, regardless if they make a restricted or

unrestricted report, have the same access to medical care and counseling services," Norquist said. "That is the one good thing about the services, a uniformed victim or dependant can walk into any naval medical care center, report they have been sexually assaulted and they can receive care on the spot."

Norquist said the unrestricted report is the more popular of the two, but it is estimated about 80 percent

of cases still happen without being reported.

Another focus of the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention program is to let the victims and offenders know that those who commit this crime will be held accountable and that crimes will not be swept under the rug, Jimenez said.

"The ultimate goal of this program is to create a climate of confidence, where Marines trust that the

Corps will respond appropriately when a sexual assault is reported, and will support the victim's recovery throughout the Marine Corps," Jimenez said. "Through training we can create an environment in which sexual assault and sexual harassment are driven from our ranks."

For information regarding sexual assault, or for assistance in reporting, call the Combat Center's SARC at (760)-830-7437.

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Combat Center's paves way for 'going green'

GARY MORRISSETT

ENERGY MANAGER FOR PUBLIC WORKS
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The Combat Center has put a large emphasis on the Earth Day and its impacts to the surrounding community, state, and global level year round.

The base has an aggressive energy and water conservation program. The base has saved 13 percent in energy, and 30 percent in water savings while maintaining a high recycled-water use.

The base is currently studying geothermal potential and wind resources. The key is finding the greatest potential to develop.

The primary renewable source in this area of California is the sun. The Combat Center's solar farm, rated at 1.1 megawatts, is one of the largest federally owned solar photovoltaic facilities and produces about three percent of the base's load. The base is currently in the works on expanding the solar farm and with that, along with other projects, the Combat Center will triple the amount of renewable generation. These and other projects being developed will keep the base the renewable energy leader in the Marine Corps.

The base currently generates about 60 percent of its own power. The power generated with the cogeneration

plant is 50 percent more efficient than typical off-site generation. Emissions from the plant are also less than conventional power plants due to the advanced low nitrogen-oxide emissions controls. The efficiency of the plant is increased by using waste heat for other needs and by using absorption chillers in our central chiller plants. These chillers create chilled water that supplies 40 percent of the buildings on base with cooling.

The other ways the Combat Center saves energy is by better controlling the temperatures and lighting.

New lighting, both inside and outdoor, is being installed. The new inside lights use 21 percent less energy than the previous fixtures. Most are getting motion sensors installed to save more energy and the external lights are using 50 percent less energy, having motion sensors installed to turn off when not needed. The orange lights are being replaced with high efficiency induction lighting. These lights are also being pointed down to comply with dark sky issues. This way the lights stay on base, saving our night sky for looking at the stars. About 60 percent of the base has the new lights installed.

Overall, any energy and water savings save the earth. The less generation and the



GARY L. MORRISSETT

The Combat Center had 8,706 solar panels installed on the base October, 2007 and is planning to install more on rooftops to help keep up with the base's energy usage.

more efficient a community becomes, the more affect they have on the limited resources available.

Doing small things like light turning off lights, computers, coffee pots and any other electrical using equipment, or fix-

ing a dripping faucet can have a large effect when you figure out how much everyone combined can save.

"One thing many of our residents take for granted is the remarkable purity of our air, and the natural purity of

the water we get from our aquifers," said Col. Wes Weston, the assistant chief of staff for Installation and Logistics. "The Mojave Desert is one of American's last pristine environments, untouched by industrializa-

tion and air, and water pollution. Together, we can help preserve this unique environment and ecosystem by conserving energy and water, purchasing green products and recycling our waste."

LIGHTS, from A1

new 200-watt compact fluorescent or induction bulbs, which will cut the base's light usage in half. The new bulbs also produce what is known as "white light," which allows for more visibility than the current "orange" lights.

"The new light source is easier on the eyes and the bulbs will last three times longer than the old one," Morrissett said. "We'll also be installing solar panels and motions sensors to the outdoor lighting to cut down on energy usage."

The Combat Center's indoor lighting is also being

revamped in order to save energy. Motion sensors are also being fitted to indoor light fixtures so they will shut off during periods of inactivity.

The current 32-watt indoor bulbs will also be replaced by 25-watt induction bulbs, which will reduce indoor energy usage by 21

percent.

With the lighting project underway and already more than halfway finished, the deadline for completion is set for September. Once the project is completed, the base will be able to save approximately \$600,000 each fiscal year in energy conservation

The Combat Center will be able to also reduce its light pollution out in town, reduce maintenance and provide a better quality of light aboard the base.

In fiscal year 2008, the Combat Center was awarded by the Secretary of the Navy for not only meeting, but surpassing its energy saving

goals. Morrissett said this is a goal he hopes to continue to transcend.

PWD will continue its initiative to reduce the amount of energy used aboard the base, and will look at alternative, renewable sources of energy to help save the environment surrounding the base.

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Marksmanship coaches graduate trainers course

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Marksmanship Training Unit sharpened minds and skills of the most recent Combat Marksmanship Trainer students who graduated at the MTU instructor building today.

The five-day course taught Marines how to properly give marksmanship classes and instruction so they will have the capabilities to train service

members in their own units, said Sgt. Peter E. Cornelius, the chief instructor of the course.

"A CMT is the type of guy a battalion master guns can go to with ideas for training, and they can figure out the details," said Cornelius, a Missoula, Mont., native. "Coaches are a great asset to a unit, but they can't do all the things a CMT can do."

Before a Marine is eligible for the CMT course, he or she must first undergo the stan-

dard Combat Marksmanship Coaches course.

There, Marines learn about range safety, firing line commands, how to conduct weapons safety briefs and preparatory classes, and gain a deeper knowledge of fundamental marksmanship.

If a Marine desires to further his or her marksmanship knowledge, the CMT course can do just that, Cornelius said.

A CMC or CMT billet does not replace the Marine's pri-

mary Military Occupational Specialty; it is only added in the Marine's records.

Marksmanship trainers need to possess an internal drive and integrity to succeed both in the course and in the job, Cornelius said.

"CMTs should have enough internal integrity that when they get tasked with something, they'll come out and do the work," Cornelius said. "They've got to be trusted to do things on their own."

While on the job, CMTs

are responsible for organizing class demonstrations, assuring that marksmanship scoring is done properly, delegating the amount of ammunition needed, keeping watchful eyes on the firing line, and teaching students about combat mindset and survival.

For the course, Marines were tasked to choose non-military subjects for formal PowerPoint presentations to the class. The students were critiqued by instructors on the visual of the presentation, body language, speaking voice, involvement of students, and length of the lecture.

"If we pick a military subject for the Marines to present, it will most likely be a class they've already had," said Sgt. Jacob T. Addington, a course instructor. "We want to see what these guys can do on their own."

Cpl. Ben E. Dellinger, a combat engineer with 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion,

graduated the CMC course last month, and said he felt excited about learning everything the CMT course had to offer.

"I really enjoy the fundamentals of marksmanship," said Dellinger about his motivation to take the course. "Everyone has that one thing they love about the Marine Corps, and that's mine."

Dellinger said he believes all Marines, not just those in a combat MOS, need to have a firm grasp on marksmanship fundamentals before putting rounds down range. He said his confidence will grow in his junior Marines' skills once they achieve a greater understanding through dedicated CMTs.

The CMT course is offered six times a year aboard the Combat Center, and more courses are available at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. For more information, call MTU at 830-6700.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Lance Cpl. Tyler Young, a student in the Combat Marksmanship Trainer course, gives classmates a presentation about golfing while instructors with the Marksmanship Training Unit take notes nearby at the MTU instructor building Tuesday.



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

In January of 2007 I wrote an article for our local newspapers that triumphantly proclaimed that, while my friend Pastor Henry Matson had physically died, his beautiful soul was alive and well. In fact, I wrote that his glorious spirit was already enriching the magnificent realm of heaven itself.

I think it is important to know that during the last years of Henry's earthly life, he developed a passion for an educated citizenry and had a vision of a small parochial school where boys and girls would be able to obtain a superior education in the basics, while learning to study, play, laugh, learn and grow into young people with a respect for themselves and others and, above all else, a respect for Almighty God.

Henry's vision became a reality and the Twentynine Palms Seventh Day Adventist Christian School for children K-8 is now a fully accredited institution. The school has a small, totally dedicated staff and is committed to providing each student individualized attention. In addition to the basics, the school offers a music program in which students receive training in the instrument of their choice and a sports program in which every child is encouraged to participate.

I am proud to have devoted this column to Henry and his dear wife, Freda who keeps alive his vision.

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The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's paper.

Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address. If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base

Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only for

noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad

approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-3762.

VIPER, from A1

their weapons as well. "In addition to our rifle platoons doing their normal job, we have every element of the battalion out here for the exercise doing their own thing," he said. "We have our CAT [Combined Anti-Tank] teams out here doing hunter-killer missions.

"In addition to that we have our snipers doing patrols and unknown distance shoots," he said. "We're setting up defensive positions later in the week as well. We're doing gun line drills as well and unilluminated night movements with our Marines."

Navy Corpsmen, who were part of the exercise along with their Marines, took a lot from the training.

"Docs go along with the Marines all the time," said Seaman Sskief Ahmed, a corpsman with 3/4's Company L, and a native of Tampa, Fla. "Doing this training helps us be closer with the unit and helps us understand the green side more.

"It's good for me to know what I'm doing on a patrol," he said. "I know my job well on the medical side,

so this is just making what I'll be doing in country that much easier."

With their buildup to

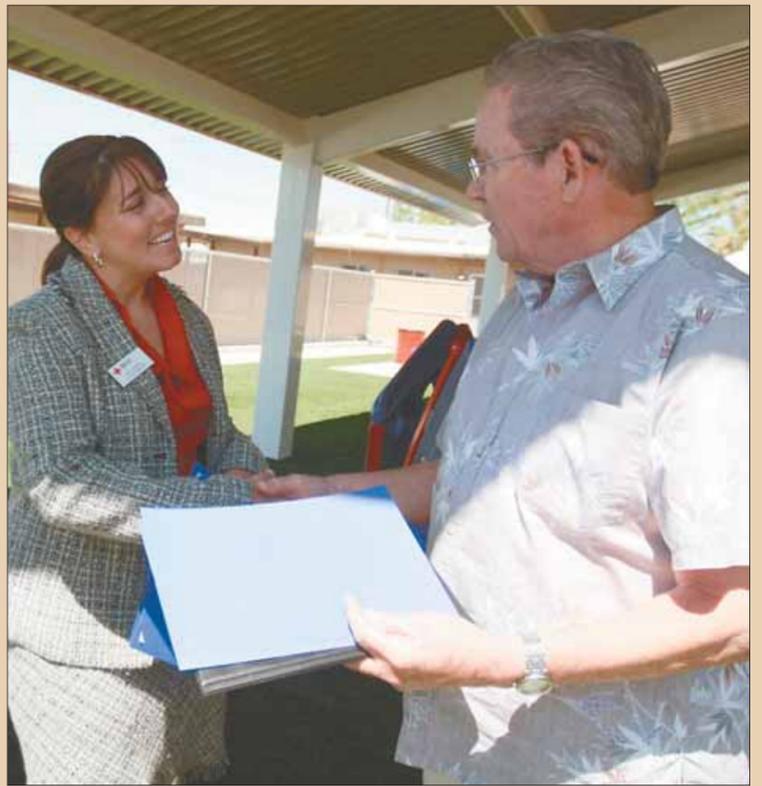
Mojave Viper over with, the battalion is slated to deploy during the summer later this year.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

A 60mm mortar round flies from the tube as Pfc. Adam Freidman, a mortar man with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment fires for effect at the Combat Center's Noble Pass. The week-long training exercise was part of the battalion's buildup to their Mojave Viper pre-deployment training exercise.

Donations to the helpers



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Niki McBain, the Combat Center's American Red Cross station manager, receives a check for \$1,000 that was donated to the Red Cross from Terry Kay, a member of the Sun City Palm Desert Veterans Club during a ceremony at the Armed Services YMCA new playground April 9. The Sun City Palm Desert Veterans Club donated \$4,000 total to the Red Cross, the ASYMCA, the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and the Marine Corps Community Services.

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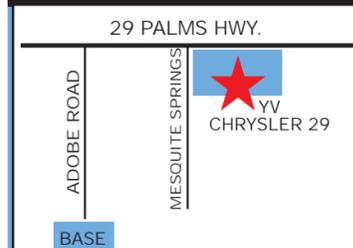
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B1

Fight Club 29 earns second in state



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

A referee raises the hand of welterweight Fight Club 29 member James Clark after winning his first bout in the California State Pankration Championships in Santa Ana, Calif., Sunday. Clark later claimed the gold, making him the top MMA welterweight fighter in the state.

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Four members of the Combat Center's Mixed Martial Arts club added their team's name to the list of notable California MMA competitors in a statewide tournament in Santa Ana, Calif., Sunday.

Nate Wolf, Allen McBroom, Omar Askew and James Clark, members of Fight Club 29, fought their

way through their respective weight classes and claimed second place overall at the California State Pankration Championships, which is an MMA tournament open to competitors of all levels.

Three of the fighters earned medals at the event, even though their team was the smallest in the tournament.

Clark, a welterweight fighter, claimed the gold, making him the top MMA 160-

pound fighter in the entire state. Askew followed with a silver, and Wolf took bronze.

"We work really hard for these competitions," Clark said on behalf of his team. "For us, five minutes in the ring is nothing. We just sprint for those five minutes and they can't keep up."

The last time Clark, a native of Spokane, Wash., was awarded an all-state gold medal was when he claimed both Greco-Roman and Free-

style wrestling gold medals in high school, he said.

It was his extensive wrestling background and conditioning that gave him the cutting edge above his challengers, Clark explained.

"We have a very competitive room," Clark said of his teammates and training. "We each have our strengths and weaknesses, but we really push each other."

Mark M. Geletko, the team's head coach, agreed.

"I'm not the only coach on this team," said the Pittsburgh native. "They coach and support each other. They're a true team."

Askew, who was fighting after recently overcoming an ankle injury, took down each of his opponents, but then lost his final match due to an accidental disqualifying strike. Regardless of his close loss, Askew said he still learns from each fight.

"I fought 100 percent

today," said the Atlanta native. "So it's disappointing that it ended in a DQ [disqualification], but I did enjoy not knowing who my competitor was going to be since it was an open tournament. You went in blindfolded and had to fight your way out."

Wolf, the team's heavy-weight fighter, said the tournament held more significance to him since it would

See FIGHT, B4

Aaron's Exploits; set out to sea

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

After broadening his horizons and temporarily satisfying his seemingly insatiable wanderlust on his cavern trip, Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik, a paralegal clerk with the Combat

Center's Staff Judge Advocate and a native of New Britain, Conn., decided to head down to the coast and experience one of San Diego's biggest attractions - SeaWorld.

After yet another two-hour drive, this time through Southern California's

rolling hills, Kristopik made it down to San Diego to experience something he had dreamed of for as long as he could remember.

"I've really only seen the Atlantic Ocean," Kristopik

See EXPLOITS, B2



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik, a paralegal clerk with the Combat Center's Staff Judge Advocate and a native of New Britain, Conn., throws fish to a sea lion Saturday at a SeaWorld San Diego, exhibit where patrons can feed the animals.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Mario Villescas, the chairman of the Copper Mountain College Foundation, concentrates on his putt while taking part in the CMC Foundation's 25th Annual Golf Tournament at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course Saturday.

College hosts base golf tournament

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Copper Mountain College Foundation held its 25th Annual Golf Tournament at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course Saturday.

The CMC Foundation hosted the event on base to show support for the military community, which makes up a large percentage of the local population as a whole, said Dr. Roger Wagner, the CMC president.

"The mission of the college is to serve all contingency groups in the community," Wagner said. "The Marines do so much to serve us, so this is just a small way we can give back."

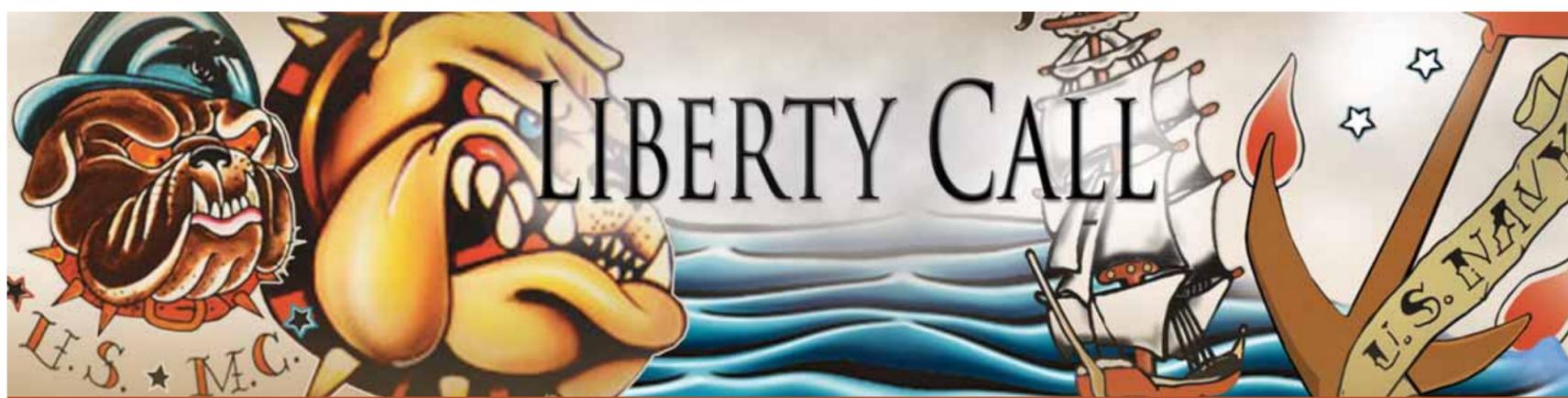
This is the first time in about 10 years the foundation has held its tournament aboard the installation, said Mario Villescas, the chairman of the CMC Foundation.

The tournament had attendees partake in a 18-hole round of golf, contests for prizes, a continental breakfast, free driving range play, and admission to the awards dinner held after the tournament.

Jane Smith, the president of the CMC Foundation, said the annual tournament is typically a two-day event, but this year for the sake of convenience.

"This is a great mix we have out here today," Smith said. "There are

See GOLF, B2



TUES. 4/11 Don Felder, An Evening at the Hotel California Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort 46-200 Harrison Pl., Coachella For more info call 866-377-6829 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com	MON. 4/13 Jam Night Time: 7 p.m. Where: Mama Hillybeans 426 E Tehachapi Blvd. Tehachapi (661)822-BEAN	FRI. 4/17 India Arie & Musiq Soulchild Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy, Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com	SAT. 4/18 Earth Day Fair 2009 Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center Complex 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7211	SAT. 4/18 Little Petroglyph Canyon Tours Time: All day event Where: Maturango Museum 100 East Las Flores Ave. Ridgecrest. Museum hours are from 10 a.m., to 5 p.m. every day except major holidays. e-mail: matmus3@maturango.org
SAT. 4/18 Ramon Ayala in concert Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasinoresort.com	THURS. 4/23 Songwriting Poetry & Rhythm Club Time: 7 p.m. Where: Water Canyon Coffee Co. 55844 29 Palms Highway Yucca Valley. West end of Yucca Valley, corner of 29 Palms Hwy. and Pioneertown Road. 760-365-7771	SAT. 4/25 UB40 Time: 8 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasinoresort.com	FRI. 5/15 The comedy of Lisa Lampanelli Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Dr. Rancho Mirage For more info call (888) 999-1995	SAT. 5/23 Allman Brothers Band & Doobie Brothers Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy, Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com

Marines, sailors to hit Theatre 29 stage

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Soroptimist International of Twentynine Palms, Calif., invites the local community to join club members and Marines as they host the opening night gala for "A Bad Year for Tomatoes," at 6 p.m., April 24, at Theatre 29 located at 73637 Sullivan Road.

The play, directed by Theatre 29 veteran Butch Pelfrey, tells the story of Myra Marlowe, played by Maj. Val Hodgson, an actress fed up with the demands of her acting career who leases a house in a tiny New England hamlet with the intention of writing an autobiography.

When her nosy, omnipresent neighbors get to be too much, Myra invents a ruse to keep them away. Of course it backfires and hilarity ensues.

This is the third year SI-Twentynine Palms has hosted the opening of a

Pelfrey-directed play. "We are very much looking forward to hosting this opening," said Irene Cruse, the gala coordinator. "Butch is very creative in his directing, which makes it very inviting to attend his plays. His work is consistently wonderful."

Pelfrey will also have the help of a few Combat Center Marines and sailors as they stepped up for a chance in the spotlight.

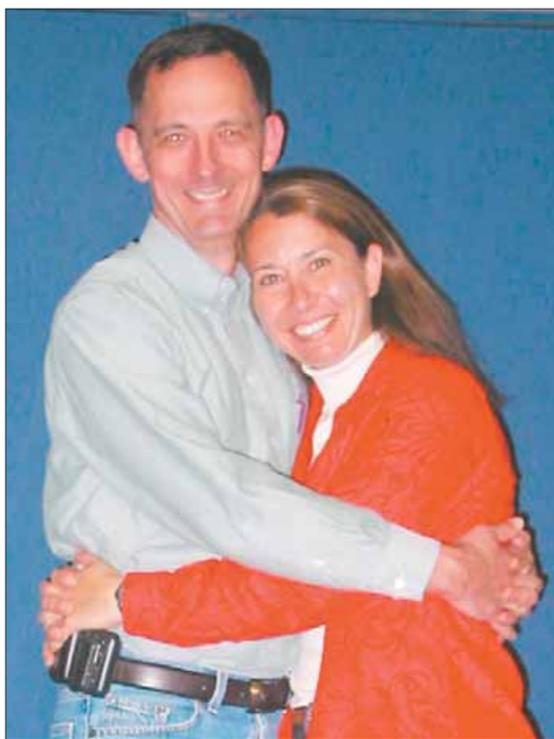
"I've been in two of Butch's plays," Hodgson said. "I love working with him because he mainly sticks to comedies and those are what I enjoy most."

Hodgson has been acting for nearly four years and said she is excited to be playing the main role.

"Acting in itself is fun," Hodgson said. "But it's the people you work with that make it even more enjoyable."

Before the play begins, Soroptimist members will

See **THEATRE, B4**



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Greg Crabill and Maj. Val Hodgson star in the opening night gala for "A Bad Year for Tomatoes," at 6 p.m., April 24, at Theatre 29 located at 73637 Sullivan Road. The play, directed by Theatre 29 veteran Butch Pelfrey, tells the story of Myra Marlowe, an actress fed up with the demands of her acting career who leases a house in a tiny New England hamlet with the intention of writing an autobiography.

GOLF, from B1

people from the community, the college, avid golfers, and those that live on base."

Synde Slayton, executive director of the CMC Foundation, said in addition to receiving support from base patrons for the fundraiser, the tournament also brings the community together.

"We are pleased to be at Desert Winds Golf Course this year as many Marines and sailors, and their families, attend CMC and want to participate," Slayton said in a press release. "Having the event on base will make it easier for them to support this fundraising effort and to take part in the fun. It's also exciting for Morongo Basin residents to venture onto the base; something many of us don't do often."

Sheldon and Maggie Chaffer, a civilian couple living in the local area, brought their two granddaughters with them for the event.

"This is a great course," Maggie said. "We really enjoyed ourselves today."

Sheldon, an active member in the men's golf club here, represented just a portion of the type of golfers who

swarmed to the tournament.

Other golfers like Cpl. Nathan Rich, a rifleman with Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, participated in their first golf tournament on base that day.

"I would recommend stuff like this to other Marines," said Rich, an Eau Claire, Wis., native. "It's a fun time and it gets people to come out here, bring some of their other friends along and just relax."

After the tournament, the golfers gathered in the main building for a free awards dinner, raffle event, auction, and announcement of the tournament winners.

Cash prizes were given to winning teams from a \$400 prize for the first-place team, down to the fourth-place team, who received a \$100 prize. Other winners received prizes for the longest drive and the four golfers closest to the pin, or flag, or a hole-in-one.

The next golf event scheduled to take place at the Desert Winds Golf Course is the Spring Fling tournament beginning Friday. For more information, call 830-6163.



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15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30			
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC			
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35			
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35			

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EXPLOITS, from B1

said. "When you think of the West Coast you think of beautiful tropical weather and sunshine. You get plenty of both of those in SeaWorld."

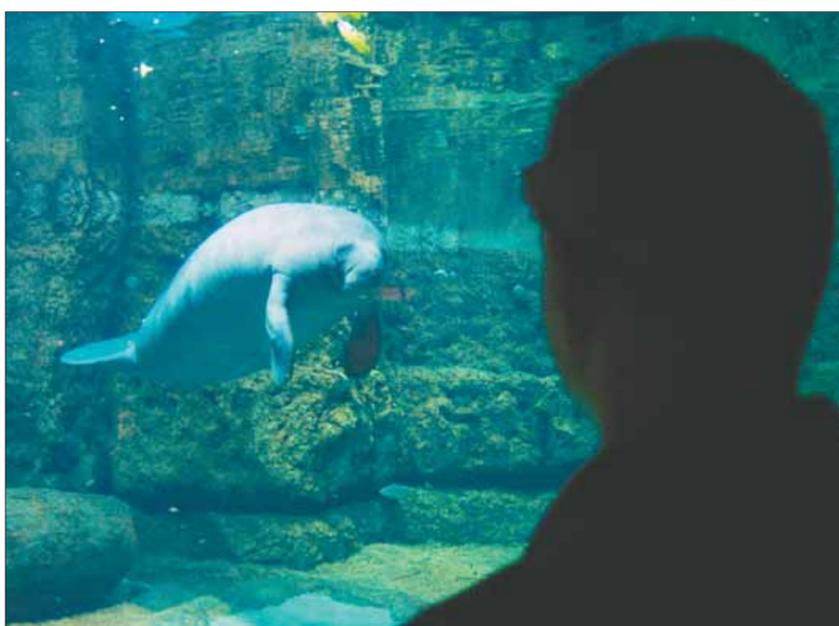
Shamu, the biggest attraction at SeaWorld, was one of the primary reasons Kristopik said he wanted to take the long drive toward the coastline.

"I mean come on, it's Shamu," he said. "Ever since I saw Free Willy when I was a kid I knew I had to see him in real life."

"A lot of people don't like Twentynine Palms," he added. "You know what I would say to them? Being stuck here helped me realize a lifelong dream. Thank you 'Stumps,' thank you."

Another discovery Kristopik made during his SeaWorld visit was just how well the animals and their trainers interact and perform.

"I thought I liked my job, but seeing these people and the animals - they all seem so happy," he said. "I was



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik, a paralegal clerk with the Combat Center's Staff Judge Advocate and a native of New Britain, Conn., watches a manatee at SeaWorld San Diego.

watching one of the performances wondering why I can't be that happy all the time. But then I saw people just riding dolphins; they get paid to do that. I know I'd

be smiling 24/7 if all I did was swim with a dolphin."

Kristopik said the training progression the animals go through must be the one of the most interesting processes out there.

"These people take wild animals and train them to the point that, I think, they're smarter than most people I know," he said. "I remember one of the performers saying they get their animals from rescues and animal shelters. That's like getting a kid from an orphanage and making him into a rocket scientist."

The possibility of being an animal trainer seems like a real tangible idea, he said.

"After seeing what those handlers were doing, it really opened my eyes," he said. "I'm going to have to do my homework on it. Let's just say I have a whole new outlook on life now."

With Kristopik's second expedition out of the way, he plans on traveling to a more out-of-the-way attraction for his next adventure.

"I'm going to do some reading," he said. "I just know there's some weird stuff out there waiting for me."

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Fast & Furious 4 (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Hannah Montana (G) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00
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Combat Center sports standings



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Paul Martinez, a player for MCCES A, shoots as James Shanks, a player for MCCES Party, attempts a block during Monday's game at the East Gym. MCCES Party won 55-52.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Paul Barraza, a player on team MCCES A, maneuvers through the defense during their game against MCCES Party Monday night at the East Gym. They lost 55-52.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Rochand Scoby, a player for the MCCES Party team, jumps to block a shot during their game against MCCES A Monday night at the East Gym. MCCES Party won 55-52.

Basketball final-eight tournament

Wednesday, April 8

Game 1 - MCCES All-Stars	77	MWSS-374 B	40
Game 2 - MCCES Party	55	MCCES A	52
Game 3 - Ole School Plus	58	1st Tanks	45
Game 4 - NHTP	67	IPAC	56

Tuesday, April 7

Game 5 - MCCES A	58	MWSS-374 B	52
Game 6 - IPAC	47	1st Tanks	46
Game 7 - MCCES All-Stars	62	MCCES Party	49
Game 8 - Ole School Plus	62	NHTP	49

Wednesday, April 8

Game 9 - MCCES Party	77	IPAC	46
Game 10 - NHTP	74	MCCES A	66
Game 11 - All-Stars	75	Ole School	67
Game 12 - NHTP	45	MCCES Party	43

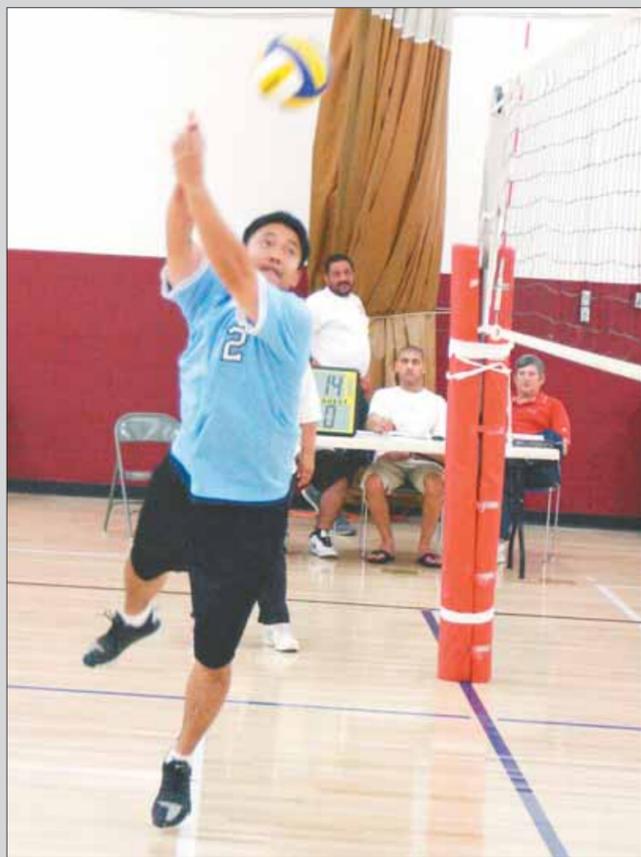
Thursday, April 9

Game 13 - Ole School vs NHTP			
Game 14 - MCCES All-Stars vs Game 13 winner			



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

A player on team MCCES A jumps for a lay-up during their game against MCCES Party Monday night at the East Gym. MCCES Party won 55-52.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

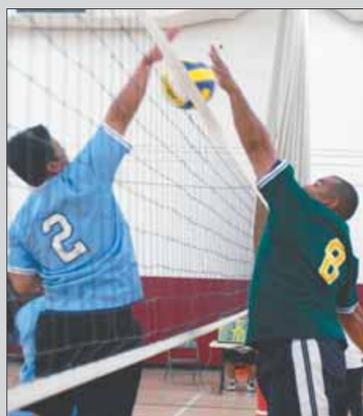
Alex Escobcol, a player from Hospital 1, dives to return a volley during their game Wednesday night at the West Gym. Their opponents, HQBN 1 beat them both matches.

Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League

Team	Wins	Losses
HQBN 1	4	0
Hospital 1	2	2
HQBN 2	2	2
MCCES	1	3
Hospital 2	0	2

Wednesday's games

HQBN 2	defeats	Hospital 2
HQBN 1	defeats	Hospital 1
HQBN 1	defeats	MCCES



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Steve Santana (right), a player on the HQBN 1 team, slides the ball past the defense during their game Wednesday night at the West Gym.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Cindiemarie Blair, a player on the HQBN 1 team, jumps to slam the ball across the net during their game against Hospital 1 Wednesday night at the West gym. HQBN 1 beat Hospital 1 both matches.

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MC CS MARINE CORPS



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

(From left to right) Fight Club 29 members Allen McBroom, Omar Askew, Mark Geletko, James Clark and Nate Wolf pose after the team claimed second place in the California State Pankration Championships in Santa Ana, Calif., Sunday.

FIGHT, from B1

be his last with the team. Wolf said he plans on continuing his MMA training after he returns home to Jefferson, Wis., and is very grateful for the skills he attained from his current teammates. "I'm really excited I had the opportunity to fight with the team," Wolf said. "Everyone welcomed me from the beginning." Although Wolf claimed the bronze medal for his weight class, he said he was disappointed he couldn't earn the team more points in his first two matches.

However, Wolf had a chance to bring the team more points during his final bout with opponent Billy Cotton in an overtime match. At the end of the five-minute match, Wolf held a commanding two point lead on Cotton. Attendees of the event pressed their way forward to the stadium railings to watch two of the biggest fighters in the arena duke it out. Wolf won by submission when Cotton tapped to a rear choke. As the timer chimed its tune and the referee threw the towel onto the mat, the two exhausted men helped

each other up and congratulated one another before Wolf's hand was raised. "It's going to be hard leaving this," Wolf said after the match. "The competition is top-notch out here. I've learned a plethora of new things that can help me along the way." Geletko said he felt very proud of his fighters earning the silver medal, especially considering the size of their competition. The next major event the fighters expect to compete in is the Armed Forces Pankration Championships at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 16.

Stay Proud

Stay Marine

THEATRE, from B2

greet playgoers with a variety of complementary heavy hors d'oeuvres and serve Bloody and Virgin Mary drinks. Homemade desserts will also be served during intermission. Tickets for the gala are \$25 each, and are available now at the Hi-Desert Publishing Company in

Yucca Valley, the Flower Garden in Twentynine Palms, and local Napa Auto Parts stores. The ticket price includes admission, food and drinks. Proceeds for the event will go toward the SI-Twentynine Palms scholarship and service projects. For more information, call Mrs. Irene Cruse at 668-4594.

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X-TREME

APRIL 25
AT VICTORY FIELD
11AM - 5PM

Featured stunt bikers include:
JASON BRITTON and TONY CARBAJAL from Speed Channel's Superbikes.
ERIC "E-DUB" WHITCOMB, JEF GROFF and ALEX FLORES will also be featured FMX and BMX stunters.

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