

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 24, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 16

Combat Center 'sports' new motorcycle course



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center jumped on board with a Department of Defense-wide program designed specifically for sportbike riders in the military April 13.

The Military Sportbike Rider Course, or MSRC, was initially introduced in Jan. 2008 after the Naval Safety Center determined that specific training for sportbike riders was necessary due to the number of fatalities on the rise, according to the NSC Web site <http://safetycenter.navy.mil>.

That May, Navy and Marine Corps installations began running the course. The one-day course puts students through three hours of classroom time and five hours of hands-on driving, said Frank R. Santiago, a motor-

cycle rider coach with the Combat Center Safety Office.

"Our goal here is to make survivors," Santiago said. "Sportbike riders naturally have a more aggressive attitude about riding and are not as casual as the 'cruiser' riders in most cases. MSRC is the next step for sportbike riders after the BRC [Basic Riders Course]."

Students in the course dig deeper into details they learned in BRC, such as learning their limitations and the limitations of the bike itself, Santiago said. The course will aid in giving riders more confidence in their abilities while keeping their egos in check.

Staff Sgt. Chad A. Cagle, the Company A gunnery sergeant for

See BIKE, A8



LANCE CPL. KELSEY J. GREEN

Marines participate in a circuit course during a Military Sportbike Rider's Course, offered by Cape Fox Professional Services, for sportbike riders looking to improve their skills aboard the Combat Center, April 13.

Deployed Marine meets newborn via video call

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A young Combat Center couple, separated by deployment, received a welcomed gift Thursday at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital one day after the birth of their second child.

Sgt. John Henry, a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and his wife Kimberly were reunited through a teleconference provided by the Freedom Calls Foundation, a non-profit organization that connects deployed service members to their loved ones back home.

"I was really surprised because I've never heard of this program before," Kimberly said. "When I found out he organized this, I got really emotional because I knew he was

thinking about the baby."

Henry, who is currently deployed to Camp Baharia, Iraq, was excited to have an opportunity to see his newborn daughter Kelsi.

"It's pretty awesome for me to get to see my daughter and my wife," he said. "I was surprised about this at first. I guess I'm the first one in my battalion to do this."

"I just wish I could be there right now," Henry said. "I want to be there more than anything in the world."

This has been the second teleconference hosted at the Combat Center by the Freedom Calls Foundation, which has been operating for approximately five years.

The first conference occurred April 1 at the Naval Hospital, when Lance Cpl.

See CALL, A8



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sgt. John Henry, a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, sees his newborn daughter Kelsi for the first time via Freedom Calls Foundation teleconference at the hospital Thursday. 1/7 is currently deployed to Camp Baharia, Iraq.

Education center, CMC link up to help military spouses



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Jen Safreed and Heather Marshall, two students who graduated the first Steps to Success program course in January, continued with the program and now help other military spouses receive college educations.

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A new college progression program has been made available to Combat Center military spouses who feel their time is too limited to pursue a college education.

The program, called Steps to Success, held its first session in January. The idea was manifested from a liaison between the Marine Corps Community Services Lifelong Learning Education Center and Copper Mountain College, the only college campus in the local area.

Kelly Nekvinda, the program coordinator, got together with Jeff Fourier, the Lifelong Learning Education Center education service officer, because Nekvinda saw a deep

need in the spousal community.

Many wives who wished to advance academically had obstacles such as jobs, child care, finances and transportation difficulties holding them back, Nekvinda said.

"Being a military spouse doesn't mean you can't be successful in your own right," Nekvinda said. "We want spouses to be successful and for their husbands to support them."

Nekvinda first offered a free, on-base college course last year to spouses, but had only one person attend. It was then she recognized that classroom location was not the biggest hindrance in course enrolment.

"Some of these women may be convinced that they just can't do it," Nekvinda said. "This pro-

gram is like a support group to help wives with any issues that might be holding them back."

The course begins with a four-day initiation period where the students conduct administrative preparations for class, find out which books they'll need, and get to know each other.

"We become a team," Nekvinda said. "We all meet together in the home room once a week, kind of like you did in high school. We as wives tend to understand each other and each other's struggles better than civilians."

The program not only pays for the courses, it can also buy a few books for each student, offers free child care for those

See STEP, A3



A 'note' worthy performance to come ~ See A3



Belief in relief See A4



Shoe throwing and night sky glowing ~ See B1



Best 'ace' scenario ~ See B3

Taking Care of the Dash

SGT. CHRISTOPHER D. PILGRIM
TEIS RESOURCES CHIEF, COMPANY A, MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

As Marines, we have so many blocks of time that can be summed up in a "start date - end date" format. I recently reached the end date of my second tour in Okinawa; this one lasted just a little more than three years. I suppose you could also say that I just had another start date, marking the beginning of my third tour at the Combat Center.

As a noncommissioned officer, one of my "standard" mentoring discussion topics with my young Marines is loosely based on the message of a poem by Linda Ellis. The poem describes a eulogy being read at a funeral, and the "start date - end date" on the gravestone.

What caught my attention was that the most important part of that expression of time was the dash in the middle. Sure, the start date is important; it marks the beginning of something. Likewise, the end date is important; but the most important part of the equation is the dash, since it represents everything that happened, or that you accomplished, or learned, or taught during that period of time.

We take care of our dash on a daily basis with the actions we take to make ourselves, our fellow humans and our community better.

I received a very nice plaque from the Marines in my platoon when I left my previous unit, and they wrote some nice, and some humorous, com-

ments into the inscription. But as nice as the plaque is, it represents so much more to me than what they could have written. Somehow, in that three year dash of time in Okinawa, I managed to finish my Associate of Arts degree, become a Marine Corps Martial Arts instructor and progress to black belt, pursue training in traditional Okinawan karate and become a black belt in that discipline, complete a tour in Iraq, serve as a squad advisor for the Corporals Course, and take my wife and two sons to explore the tropical paradise that is Okinawa.

I say this not to boast about things I have done, but to encourage you to do something to take care of your dash. There are many ways to get involved with the local community here; and giving of your time and talents can bring you far more satisfaction than you will ever get from a hazy blur of bar-hopping every weekend.

Marine Corps Community Services offers a host of resources for Marines, sailors, and family members.

In addition to the colleges who offer classes on base, there are schools who offer distance education via the internet.

Your only limitation to self improvement is yourself.

I will do my best to take care of my dash, and make it really count for something — because I don't know my end date. How will you take care of your dash?

YOU CAN CALL ME AL

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American Profile Hometown Content © MacNamara's Band, Inc. 081207

"Operation Commissary is a GO!!!!..Steady.... UP...Steady.... Good...! NOW,...You there,..."Cargo Transporter"...., proceed to the pantry!!"



SEMPERTOONS: CREATED BY GUNNERY SGT. CHARLES WOLF, USMC/RET.

ACROSS

- Deal from the bottom, e.g.
- "Miracle" team of 1969
- Gullible sorts
- Painter Picasso
- River to the Caspian Sea
- Natural soother
- "An Inconvenient Truth" presenter
- In the buff
- Toupees, slangily
- Gave a heads-up to
- Cowardly sorts
- Tough to resolve
- Curtis of hair care
- County, in Louisiana
- Ill-suited
- Unlike a dirt road
- Chang's twin
- Fork-tailed flier
- King in "The Passion of the Christ"

DOWN

- Tax pro
- Shakespearean prince
- Flow back
- Hoppy brew
- Driving rain
- TV chimp J. Fred
- Lustful god
- La Brea stuff
- Did in
- Buffalo skaters
- First American in space
- Tiny openings
- Run-down
- Correct the pitch of
- At the center of
- Water park feature
- Extend, in a way
- Inventor of dynamite
- Mineral deposit
- Left Bank locale
- Stratford's river

[puzzle Solutions on A6]

Combat Center Spotlight

Employee: Kathleen Hoard
Organization: Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School
Job title: Supervisory Visual Information Specialist
Job Duties: Making instruction charts, help create PowerPoint presentations, photographing equipment, personnel, ceremonies and extra activities.
Hobbies: Horseback riding, photography and the Young Marines Program
What I like most about my job: Photographing all the events
Significant achievements since aboard MCAGCC: Getting the customer support award for helping with the instruction of MCCES personnel.
Any military services: Yes, 25 years in the Marine Corps. Started as private, left as a major.



Hot Topics

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.

MAMMOGRAPHY VAN AT COMBAT CENTER

The Mammography Van is scheduled to be at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital parking lot from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 8 and the Combat Center's Commissary parking lot May 30 to conduct mammography examinations for the convenience of eligible beneficiaries. Appointments are strongly encouraged, but walk-ins will be seen on a first come first serve basis. For more information or to make your appointment, please call Becky Hale at 830-2501.

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.

This Day in Marine Corps History

April 23, 1971

A battalion landing team from Camp Lejeune, N.C., rushes to sea during Operation Exodus Dancer IV as part of a show of force designed to discourage Cuba from taking advantage of the political instability in Haiti following the death of President Francois Duvalier.

SUDOKU #56

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Centerspeak

What do you miss most about being a kid?

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



STAFF SGT. JAMARIO THOMPSON
 COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION, SUPPORT COMPANY

"I miss penny candy and Big League Chew."



PFC. JACK MARINO
 3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT, COMPANY L

"I miss playing sports with my dad when he coached me."



CPL. MARK RICHARDSON
 2ND BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT, HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

"I miss the fact that kids have no responsibilities."

OBSERVATION POST

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'President's Own' visits Combat Center

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Eight members of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band visited the Combat Center band Tuesday to provide mentorship and to prepare for their joint performance at the Sunset Cinema Sunday at 4 p.m.

The second annual Coats of Red and Blue Concert is free and open to the public. The doors will open at 3 p.m. and guests will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The event will treat attendees to a unique musical experience, said Sgt. Steven Hofmann, a percussionist with the Combat Center band.

"The President's Own" is uniquely charged with the duty of providing music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps and often performs for visiting dignitaries and heads of state, according to the President's Own Web site, <http://www.marineband.usmc.mil>.

"The President's Own" band has historic roots as the first Marine Corps band, so they bring a lot of history to the table when they perform, Hofmann added.

The musicians, who came all the way from Washington, D.C., to visit the Combat Center, have a combined total of over 200 years of musical experience and have untold amounts of knowledge to pass on to the Combat Center band, said Lance Cpl. Jacob Drum, a saxophone player with the Combat Center band and native of Charlotte, N.C.

"It's a great opportunity to teach and learn from other talented musicians," said Staff Sgt. Gabriel Gitman, a French horn player with "The President's Own" band. "We can provide them with good and practical advice."

The performance Sunday will be a welcomed relief from the day-to-day life in the desert and will showcase some unusually good music and talent, Drum said.

"I wouldn't want to miss it," he said.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Members of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band have a question and answer period with the Combat Center band before they begin to practice for the concert Sunday afternoon at the Sunset Cinema.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

The trombone players in the Combat Center band practice with Master Sgt. Charles A. Casey, from "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, Tuesday as they prepare to perform at the Sunset Cinema Sunday afternoon.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Bisesi, a percussionist with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, mentors a percussionist in the Combat Center band.

STEP, from A1

with children, and also offers free tutoring sessions.

"These women who come here start to realize that they no longer have a

problem on their own," Nekvinda said. "They can share and confide in each other for everything."

Heather Marshall, a student who graduated the first course, said she has experienced bene-

fits in both her academic future and her friendships since enrolling in the course.

"I tried taking college classes several time before this," Marshall said. "But things kept coming up and I'd never finish them. I honestly think I may not have made it through this time either if it wasn't for the girls."

"When I heard about the program, I thought to myself that I would be stupid if I didn't do this. I have a two-year-old and a five-year-old, but between all the coordination with us girls, the child care and the financial aid, all the work was done for me."

Marshall said she now dedicates her time to helping Nekvinda spread the word to

military spouses about the program in hopes it can change their lives the way it did hers.

Jen Safreed, another student who graduated in Marshall's class, agreed.

"This is such a great support network and resource for Marine wives to go to college," Safreed said. "It was really nice meeting all the people too since I was new to the area. It's helpful to be able to discuss important topics that affect us outside of the classroom. You literally have everything you need right here at your finger tips."

The next courses are scheduled to take place June 1 and Aug. 3. To learn more, e-mail Nekvinda at ksweetman@cmccd.edu.



CPL NICOLE A. LAVINE

The Steps to Success program offered by Copper Mountain College and the Marine Corps Community Services Lifelong Learning Education Center on base aims to give military spouses free college credits and financial aid for books. Free child care is also provided.

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COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE FOUNDATION

EOD technicians train with Remotec robots

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Remotec, the Tennessee based robotics company, sent an instructor to educate and train Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 on EOD robots Tuesday through today at the Combat Center.

The purpose of the training was to help instruct less experienced Marines in the unit on

how to perform standard maintenance on the robots, said Scott Jenkins, a Remotec service technician and instructor, and a native of Clinton, Tenn.

"The Marines here right now are somewhat new to the unit, and that's why I'm here, to train them," Jenkins said. "The Marines have to be qualified to work on the robots before they can do it on their own."

"All the operators must be qualified to do the maintenance for their robots," he

said. "We run the operators through the training on how to do the basic operations with the robots and how to use all the attachments on them."

"They may not use the robots for every part of their job, but it is still crucial they know how to perform these tasks themselves," he said. "It's a big part of their job, and it is good for them to know how to do it."

Staff Sgt. Michael Engstrom, an EOD technician with MWSS-374, spoke highly of the training and how much it helps the Marines.

"It's a great course and it helps us to know all the 'ins and outs' of the robot," said the Tucson, Ariz., native. "It really helps us get to know our equipment better."

Engstrom said the knowledge they get from the class is vital to accomplishing their mission.

"Being more knowledgeable about our equipment really helps with finishing all our operations," he said. "Instead of having to send things away to be fixed we can do it ourselves."

The abilities the Marines gain from doing the training is what makes it worth while, he said.

"The training is great, you know the deficiencies, expectations and limits of the machine when you know how every inch of it is put together," he said.

Having the knowledge and ability to support ourselves will help us in our operations down the road."



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, the Combat Center's base sergeant major, addresses Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society volunteers as the guest speaker of the NMCRS awards luncheon in Yucca Valley, Calif., Wednesday.

Committed to a cause

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

YUCCA VALLEY, Calif. – Members of the Combat Center's Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie while recognizing some of their key volunteers during an awards luncheon Wednesday.

More than 50 volunteers gathered at the Sizzler restaurant in Yucca Valley, Calif., to present awards to 11 members of the society for the number of hours they have contributed to helping the Combat Center's Marines and sailors in need.

"The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society hosts these luncheons twice a year," said

Michele Cutrer, the NMCRS chair of volunteers. "Not only is this week National Volunteer Week, but we really just want to honor our volunteers for the amount of time they put into giving back."

Awards were presented to members who served 100, 300, 500, 600, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, and 9,000 hours of volunteer service. A special award was also given to volunteer Ruth Hanft for her 23 years of service to the organization.

"Volunteering is so rewarding, but I think we're rewarded more because it's such a good feeling to help people," Hanft said. "These kids are away from their parents and grandparents, so for them to receive some help for their labors probably gives them a good feeling too."

Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, the Combat Center's sergeant major, attended the luncheon as the honorary guest speaker.

"I just wanted to take the time to say thank you," Bellis

said. "You're all valuable – each and every one of you – no matter what the need."

"A lot of times, you don't get to meet the families you're helping, but you continue to serve and that's incredible to me."

Since Jan. 1, NMCRS has distributed approximately \$350,000 to Marines, sailors and their families who had financial difficulties. Ray Caldwell, the base's NMCRS director, believes this could not be accomplished without the help of the volunteers.

"They are dedicated, selfless, believe in the Marines and sailors, and they make my job much easier because of their dedication," he said. "They speak for themselves. This is all for them."

NMCRS is known for providing Quick Assist Loans and other interest-free loans, but they also offer care beyond the scope of financial aid. If you would like to contribute to the fund, need help, or simply want to get more information, contact the organization at 830-6323.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The camera on the Remote Ordnance Neutralization System robot made by Remotec stands as Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 perform maintenance on parts of its chassis.

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<p>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</p>	<p>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science Healing Lives & Building Dreams Reverend Ron Scott Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM 7434 Bamock Trail, Yucca Valley 365-2205 yvcrs.org</p>	<p>Desert Hills Presbyterian Church 56750 Mountain View Trail Yucca Valley • 365-6331 1st Service 9:30 AM w/Sunday School 2nd Service 11:00 AM w/Adult Bible Study Bible Studies, Choir A Friendly and Loving Congregation!</p>	<p>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms 6250 Mesquite Springs Road Phone: 367-7338 Sunday School: 8:30 a.m. - Worship: 9:30 a.m. (Child Care Provided) Pastor Beth Glass "open hearts, open minds, open doors"</p>	<p>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Sunday Bible Study 9:00 am We're Here for Everyone Phone (760) 367-7135 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>
<p>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church God Loves You As If You Were His Only Child. Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM LIVING UNDER THE SON 59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p>JESUS HOUSE OF PRAYER Calvary Chapel Fellowship Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph 6415 Outpost Road Joshua Tree Sunday Services 9am, 10:30am & 6:00pm call (760)366-7420 Website: JHOPCC.ORG</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms Childcare Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 am, Morning Worship 10:30 am. Evening Service 6:00 pm. Wednesday Services Prayer Bible Study 6:30 pm. Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm. www.fbc29.org 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am</p>
<p>READY FOR A CHANGE? CHECK OUT ONE EIGHTY Same Jesus, Same Message, Different Attitude Worship with a coffee house atmosphere Sundays 10:30 a.m. 366-8429 / One80@hotmail.com</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>St. James Anglican Mission Invites all to come & study "The History of the Christian Church" For more information call 760-989-0006</p>		

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House hunting just got a whole lot easier

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Several representatives of the Combat Center's military housing organizations came together to learn a new way of getting service members into homes quickly and easily during an Automated Housing Referral Network conference at the Ocotillo Lincoln Military Housing building Tuesday.

Lisa Townsend, an AHRN representative, met with Combat Center military housing staff to enlighten them on the convenience and value of an online listing system that effectively tracks available housing and rental locations for outgoing and incoming military families.

Typical house or apartment shopping normally involves a great deal of disappointments due to the lag in time between a location being advertised, and then being sold or rented out, Townsend said.

"About seven of every 10 listings for housing are outdated," Townsend said. "Our network delivers real-time data to make the process much more efficient so the homes that are evaluated by our military are actually available. They will never see a listing that is unavailable."

The network, which is sponsored by the Department of Defense, first came about in 2004 after statistics showed that an average of 67 percent of military families live in off-base housing and that there was a great need for it. Many of these families, however, would need to stay in temporary lodging upon arrival at a new duty station since house

listings were outdated and difficult to narrow down.

The network functions by keeping a balance between the information flow from property managers and the information made available to shoppers on the Web site.

While house shoppers may waste untold amounts of time and energy pursuing dead-end prospects, AHRN works to reduce the amount of time in listing responses, narrows down listing details to suit the needs of the service member, provides one-on-one advice from an AHRN representative in a time of need, and helps families save money on advertising property.

The network also provides users with the option of having a secondary "shopper" so couples who are separated by deployment or duties can stay on the same page with their house hunting, Townsend said.

Ken Tinquist, the Military Family Housing director here, said the network will greatly assist families who would normally have an average of a 12 to 18-month wait for housing.

"Now that this thing is up and running, it's going to be a great tool for us to use," Tinquist said.

Diana Torres, a Lincoln Military Housing coordinator, agreed.

"This is a one-stop shop for our service members," Torres said. "I'm really excited about all this because I am the one who does the referrals and this is going to be really valuable."

In 2008, 94 percent of military members said they would recommend the network to fellow service mem-



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Military housing staff members held an Automated Housing Referral Network conference at the Ocotillo Lincoln Military Housing building to share information on the new house and rental listing system Tuesday.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Staff members of the Combat Center's Lincoln Military Housing and Military Family Housing gather for an AHRN conference at the Ocotillo Lincoln Military Housing building Tuesday.

bers, while more than 98 percent of military housing offices recommended the same to their working counterparts.

To learn more about AHRN or to start planning ahead for an upcoming move, visit the Web site <http://www.ahrn.com>.

Waste management branch awarded for green processes

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Hazardous Waste Management Branch was awarded by the Secretary of the Navy for excellence in reducing hazardous waste and costs March 12.

The management section earned a pollution prevention team category award, part of the bi-annual Secretary of the Navy Fiscal Year '08 Environmental Award package, said Patrick Mills, the Hazardous Waste Management Branch head.

The award highlights the branch's exceptional use of resources to create low-cost and efficient recycling processes to reduce and eliminate hazardous waste, Mills explained.

Through the use of recycling materials such as lithium and acid batteries, oil, paint, automobile filters, fuel and antifreeze, the HWMB saved this installation more than \$1 million on average each year for the past two years, Mills said.

"One man's trash is another man's treasure," Mills said. "We used to pay to have all these things sent out and disposed of. It's like flushing the tax payer's money down a toilet."

"Our method is to work smarter, not harder," he said. "We're moving toward a much more fiscally responsive process of cost avoidance."

In addition to saving more than \$2 million since 2007, the management branch has also put more than 120 metric tons of recycled material back into use, Mills said.

Dave Budd, the environmental protection specialist with HWMB, is

responsible for the recycling process at the hazardous waste lot. Budd said it is through team work and initiative that his section helps cut down on the entire waste stream.

"We want to find the best way to handle hazardous waste without leaving a footprint on MCAGCC," Budd said. "Lower costs benefit the base by saving all this money, and we're meeting federal and state mandates to reduce hazardous waste at the same time."

Jimmie Risper, the hazardous waste specialist with HWMS, agreed.

"Winning this award means we are running a tight shift here," Risper said. "We work very well as a team and pay attention to details - this award makes the entire base look good."

To learn more about the awards or military installations' obligations to eliminate or reduce amounts hazardous waste, refer to Executive Order 13423.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Jay Jones, a work leader at the Range Sustainment Branch here, throws ammunition cans into a sorting tub to later be shredded and sold to off-base companies.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

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)



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Ammunition cans and other ballistics containers are collected from ranges and sorted by workers at the Range Sustainment Branch here to be recycled and resold to high-bidding companies.

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MCCES paves the way to a safer Marine Corps

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School recently won the Marine Corps Safety Achievement in Safety Award April 15, for their interactive and hands-on approach for teaching MCCES students and personnel about safety.

The Marine Corps Achievement in Safety Award is presented to one Marine Corps command in four different groups that has established the most outstanding safety program. The groups are divided by the number of Marines that are in the battalion throughout the year. MCCES qualified for Group 2 with more than 5,000 Marines training throughout the school every year.

MCCES won the award due to their innovated safety director and staff that promote safety as a way of doing

business vice something that has to be done, said Lt. Col. Charles Carroll, the battalion executive officer for MCCES. "Safety isn't something you do," said Carroll, a Santa Maria, Calif., native. "It is a byproduct of what we do every day."

Dr. Joyce Teters, the safety director for MCCES, said they would have never won the award without the help of her safety representatives, which include MCCES staff and instructors who teach the students about safety directly.

MCCES promotes safety a number of ways, including safety stand-downs twice a year, safety fairs and three mandatory motorcycle safety classes. MCCES also has a motorcycle club that goes on safety rides quarterly. Classes are also held to emphasize the importance of suicide prevention, heat stress, wild animals, earthquakes, hazard communications and drunk driving.

"Throughout the year we

will hold these stand-downs but we don't stop there," Teters said. "We are always out there trying to raise awareness and help keep the Marines' eyes open to their surroundings."

One of the major reasons MCCES won the award was because of their hands-on approach to their safety stand-downs.

Held at Victory Field twice a year, their stand-downs will introduce speakers who have been affected by ignoring safety issues. Last year, MCCES students were introduced to Marine veterans who have lost limbs in motorcycle accidents.

"It is not death by PowerPoint," Carroll said. "The only way they'll understand safety and use it if they see it and can experience it."

Professional motorcycle stunt riders also attend the stand-downs to emphasize the importance of safety while riding a motorcycle. Since introducing motorcycle safety, MCCES has had no motorcycle mishaps since 2008.

Marines can also roam about the field and ride tricycles with beer goggles, experience the 'earthquake room' and learn from Joshua Tree National Park rangers about camping, rock climbing and wild animals.

"The Marines here have a



COURTESY PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HOARD

Marines with the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School ride tricycles while wearing beer goggles to learn what it is like to drive while intoxicated during a MCCES safety stand-down Nov. 15, 2007 at Victory Field.

right to work in a safe environment," said Teters, a Redlands, Calif., native.

"They need to know what precautions they need to take while conducting field opera-

tions, working with lithium batteries and even marching down the street."

MCCES will continue to evolve their safety program to meet the needs of every Marine attending the school, Carroll said.

"We start teaching them about safety when they first get off the bus," Carroll said. "And what they learn here they can carry it out into the fleet."



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

Believe it or not, I had an error of fact in a recent column. Reader Dean Small correctly pointed out that St. Patrick was born in Wales, not England. St. Patrick's mother was a beautiful Welsh maiden and his father was a handsome Roman soldier. The family name was Sucot. St. Patrick was born in 389.

Dean Small is a great guy and despite being long retired and not a young fellow any longer he is a wonderful community volunteer. Among other things, he is a regularly scheduled driver for the Disabled American Veterans. He drives van loads of patriots from the Hi-Desert to the Veteran's Hospital in Loma Linda.

I have another friend, Larry Avner, who also drives Disabled Veterans to Loma Linda. In addition, Larry and his wife Joan, who have been married 59 years, are both extremely active volunteers in the Yucca Valley area.

Ranger Laureen Lentz is responsible for an excellent volunteer program at Joshua Tree National Park and my wife Patty is a volunteer assistant. Anyone interested in this significant volunteer program should telephone Ranger Lentz at 367-5524.

This Saturday a group of volunteers from the LDS Churches is donating a clean-up project at Hidden Valley in Joshua Tree National Park. The opportunities for individuals and groups to unselfishly serve others never end. Every non-profit agency and our hospitals and nursing homes need volunteers.

Become a volunteer, regardless of your age. The rewards are a sense of deep satisfaction and the joy that comes from the giving of yourself to that which is worthy.

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Hi-Desert Publishing Co.'s team "Trailing Stars" will be "Cruising for a Cure" for 24 straight hours in an effort to help raise enough money for the cure of all cancers.

Relay For Life of Yucca Valley Yucca Valley High School April 25, 2009

9:00 am Saturday 'til 9:00 am Sunday
Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back!

For further event information, please contact
Maria Selva, Team Captain at (760) 365-3315 ext 224



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WANTED: COLT 1911 A1 .45 PISTOL. Service issue. Reasonable price or trade. Bill. USMC Ret. 367-6030. 4/3/09

FURNITURE. Large oak entertainment unit. \$100. Oak bookcase \$50. 367-6030. 4/3/09

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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.



In 1981, a group of Morongo Basin Residents had a dream of building a campus. Three years later with funds raised by volunteers, the dream was realized when the permanent campus opened. In 1999 CMC became an independent community college district. Continuing the dream in 2008 the college broke ground for the new Bell Center. Today CMC continues to grow because of the strong desire for education and the dedication of our community. To our students and the community, thank you for the first 25 years.

Copper Mountain College cordially invites you to attend our 25th Anniversary Celebration!

Join us on April 24th
10:00 a.m. at the
Copper Mountain College Campus

In 1981, the Friends of Copper Mountain College (now the CMC Foundation) began to raise money to pay for construction of the first phase of the Copper Mountain Campus, which was at that time part of the College of the Desert. It started with the sale of a quilt and before long, groups such as the local Rotary Clubs came to the rescue with large contributions. Then-President Ronald Reagan was so impressed by this self-help initiative that he awarded the Friends his Volunteer Action Award for 1984.



Copper Mountain College 6162 Rotary Way, Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Foundation: 760-366-3791 ex. 4200 *College: 760-366-3791*

CMC Calender of Events

- * April 23: Earth day Presentation
Frank Helling, John Muir actor
Courtyard III, Noon
- * April 24: Anniversary
Celebration.
Celebrating 25 Years
Phase I, 10:00 a.m.
- * April 24: Art Seminar
Man Ray- Lee Miller
Before and After
Bruce Miller
Room 219, 7:00 p.m.
- * April 29: Roy Greenleaf, Jr.
Education Fund
Scholarship Awards Ceremony
Bruce's Coyote Kitchen, 5:30 p.m.
- * May 1: *Howl* Reading
Location TBA 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
- * May 11: CMC Registration
Summer Registration Begins
- * May 22: College Graduation
6:45 p.m. CMC Campus
- * June 15:
CMC Summer Session Begins

BIKE, from A1

Headquarters Battalion, has been riding motorized bikes for 16 years. He said he understands why the Navy and Marine Corps would "single out" sport-bikes riders.

"I think part of it has to do with the un-proportional amount of fatalities on sport bikes," said Cagle, a North Little Rock, Ark., native. "I think a lot of that goes back not only to us as riders, but to us as Marines, too. We tend to think we're invincible, and that mentality is not always combat related."

Bob Piirainen, the traffic safety program manager here, said the increase in motorcycle fatalities played a large role in the establishment of the program.

"There are more sport-bike riders than there are cruisers," Piirainen said. "The sportbike riders are also getting hurt at a much higher rate than the cruiser riders."

"I like the program because these guys are taking what they learned in BRC and ERC [experience riders course] and building on it," he said. "In the MSRC they increase their speed and lean angles, and

get more confident in what their motorcycles can do for them. We want these guys to know what they can do with their motorcycles so they can stay out of harm's way on the road."

The idea of making another advanced riding

program is being discussed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation; only this one will target cruiser riders, Piirainen said.

"Even though I know the commands are busy, this is not only a new requirement in the Marine

Corps, it's also something the guys will get many benefits from," Piirainen said. "I ask that we get as many commands as possible to make commitments so we can really get this thing rolling."

The next MSRC is

scheduled to take place in May. For more information on MSRC, refer to Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 5100.12H or call the Combat Center Safety Office motor safety vehicles section at 830-6154.

CALL, from A1

Francisco Vazquez, a scout with Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and his wife Giselle were connected after the birth of their daughter Angelina.

In addition to offering video teleconferencing for family events, Freedom Calls also provides 1.5 million telephone minutes per month on their satellite network to military families. All services come at no cost to the service members or their loved ones, according to an April 21 press release from the Naval Hospital.

"The birth of a child is a special occasion and we don't want [service members] to miss the whole event," said Navy Capt. Denise Johnson, the Naval Hospital director of nursing. "For nearly 50 percent of the births here, the support partner is away on deployment, so it's nice to be able to give them the opportunity to see their children when they're away."

"To be fighting for our country and still be able to share in this experience is just amazing," she said.

Kelsi is the couple's second child. They are also the proud parents of 2-year-old Keira.

Henry and the rest of his battalion are currently halfway through their deployment in Iraq. They are expected to return to the Combat Center this fall.



LANCE CPL. KELSEY J. GREEN

Marines wait in line for a circuit course to begin during a Military Sportbike Rider's Course offered by Cape Fox Professional Services for riders looking to improve their skills aboard the Combat Center April. 13.

760-367-1919 **760-367-1919**

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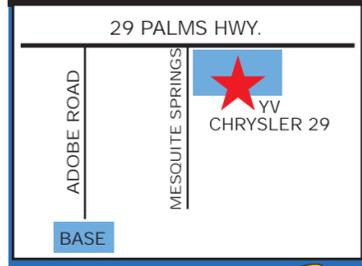
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B1

Aaron's exploits; street light to starry night



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE, Calif. — Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik, a paralegal clerk with the Combat Center's Staff Judge Advocate and a native of New Britain, Conn., followed up his disappointing trip to Old Dale last week with an expedition to the desert in search of scenery and solitude.

Kristopik said he felt it would be great for him mentally to get away from the stresses of everyday life and be at one with nature.

"I just wanted to get away from it all," Kristopik said. "There's always so much going on around me. I figured going camping and being in real, unspoiled nature would be relaxing."

Kristopik traveled to a remote campground tucked away off of Historic Route 66 in the Mojave National

Preserve.

"I had a friend who said he knew the way," Kristopik said. "I planned on going to Joshua Tree National Park, but that wasn't isolated enough for me. I wanted to get in serious, a place where not even my phone works."

Kristopik said it was a lot of fun to have a few close friends tag along on one of his journeys.

"It was me and eight of my good friends," he said. "We made our campsite and sat around the fire playing guitar, singing and we tried making sausages, but I'm not much of a cook."

Kristopik said after the long journey, the scenery was what made the driving worth it.

"It was about an hour and a half until we got there," he said. "The long drive was all worth it. Crystal clear skies. I've

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., soaks in the night sky Friday night in the Mojave National Preserve as his friends cook over a campfire in the background.

Hashmarks hosts hold'em tournament

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 25 Combat Center Marines and sailors took to the cards at the Combat Center's staff non-commissioned officer club, Hashmarks, as they outwitted each other to see who would claim first place during the Texas Hold'em tournament Saturday.

The players had to be an NCO or above and paid \$25 to play. The winner went home with a \$300 gift card to the Marine Corps Exchange.

The tournaments are held almost every month and have been going on for nearly five years, said Vernon Cook, the tournament director and El Reno, Okla., native.

Texas Hold'em has become more popular since people have started watching the various tournaments on television, he added. The tournaments on base are a great place for beginners to learn and veterans to get better.

"I've been playing since the tournaments started," said Clint Baul, who finished fourth in the tournament and won a \$100 gift card. "There's a lot of good camaraderie, and it's a good place to learn, practice and get better."

Each time he's won, he said the gift cards go to his wife and have helped pay for a washing machine, a refrigerator and a television.

During the six hour session, players slowly lost all their chips and were knocked out of the tournament until the play was down to just two competitors; Cpl. Isaac Pacheco and Sgt. Jonathon Huckaba, both motor transport operators with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group.

After playing head-to-head for roughly 15 minutes, Pacheco went all-in with a hand that just wasn't enough to win the tournament, and Huckaba took the first place prize as Pacheco threw his hands in the air in exasperation.

"I told my wife that if I won I'd get a Nintendo Wii," said Huckaba. "I guess now I need to stop by the PX."

The next Texas Hold'em tournament is scheduled for June 20.

For more information contact 830-1402.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Cpl. Isaac Pacheco, a motor transport operator with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group and second place winner in Saturday's Texas Hold'em tournament at the Combat Center's staff noncommissioned officer club, Hashmarks, awaits the 'river,' or last card placed for all players to see.

San Bernardino smackdown!



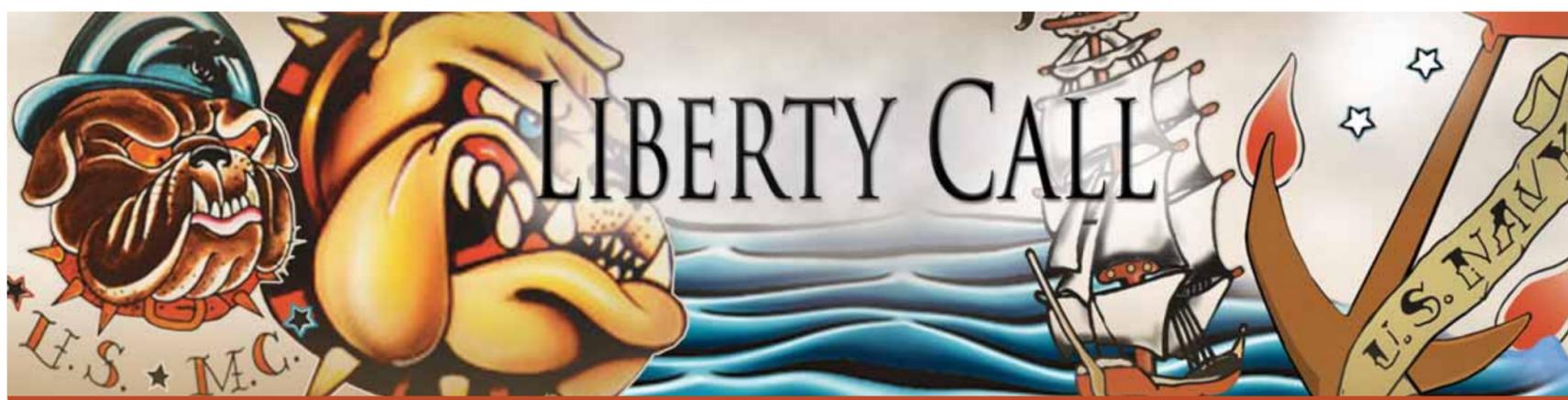
LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Fight Club 29 warriors Hunter Pulliam (left) and Allen McBroom proudly display their medals from the Grapplers' Experience tournament in San Bernardino, Calif., Saturday. McBroom, who took home a gold medal, won the 195-pound class for the pankration mixed martial arts competition. Pulliam received the bronze medal in the 195-weight class grappling competition. A third fighter, Jarrett Edwards, also earned a gold medal for his performance in the tournament. Edwards took home the top prize for the middleweight grappling competition. Fight Club 29 is currently preparing for the Battle at the Armory grappling tournament at the Millennia Dojo in Ontario, Calif., May 2.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Sgt. Jonathon Huckaba, a motor transport operator with the TTECG and winner of Saturday night's Texas Hold'em tournament, ponders his next bet at the Combat Center's SNCO club, Hashmarks.



FRI. 4/24 Opening Night Gala for "A Bad Year for Tomatoes" Time: 6 p.m. Where: Theatre 29 73637 Sullivan Rd. Twentynine Palms For more info call 361-4151 or visit http://www.theatre29.com	FRI. 4/24 Copper Mountain College Spring Art Lectures. Bruce Miller: Before and After Time: 7 p.m. Where: Copper Mountain College 6162 Rotary Way, Joshua Tree Room 119. Admission free	FRI. 4/24 & SAT. 4/25 "Ying-Yang, Minnie-Me" Collage Painting by Gretchen Grunt Time: All day event Where: 29 Palms Creative Center & Gallery 6847 Adobe Rd., Twentynine Palms For info call 361-1805 or visit http://www.29palmscreativecenter.com	SAT. 4/25 Pulp Country Party! Time: 6 p.m. Where: Art Queen 61855 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree For more info call 366-2700 or visit http://www.thesunrunner.com	SAT. 4/25 & SUN. 4/26 Hi-Desert Chorus-Spring Concert Time: 2:30 p.m. Where: Yucca Valley Community Center 57090 29 Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley For more info call 369-7211
SAT. 5/5 Cinco de Mayo at Spotlight 29 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	SAT. 5/9 The comedy of Bill Cosby Time: 1st show at 7:30 p.m. 2nd show at 10 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. 5/16 Thunder Down Under 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	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

See 'bromantic' comedy 'I Love You, Man'

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

I Love You, Man - Rated R
Starring Paul Rudd and Jason Segel

In "I Love You, Man," a comedy about one man trying to connect with his kind, Paul Rudd plays Peter Klaven, a Los Angeles real estate agent who's just become engaged. Peter's a good guy, a nice guy, a doting fiancé. But as wedding plans begin to take shape, he realizes he doesn't have a best man.

More specifically, he doesn't have ANY close male friends. Sure, Peter knows other guys, but he's not really part of their worlds. He's an outsider who doesn't know how to do any of the guy things that guys do and say, seemingly so

effortlessly, around other guys.

And when he tries to do those things, the results of his ineptitude are hilarious.

After a couple of unsuccessful male-bonding experiences, Peter crosses paths with Sydney Fife (Jason Segel), a slacker-ish "dude's dude" who happens to be everything but toned-up Peter isn't.

The term for Peter and Sydney's relationship, "bromance," entered the lexicon in the 1990s to describe a strong non-physical attraction between two straight males, a close emotional connection shared by two guys who just dig hanging out with each other.

This could have been tricky ground to traverse, and another movie might not have handled it so deftly, with so much sharp, spot-on cleverness about the dynamics of rela-

tionships and how they differ between men and women, men and men, and women and women. And although it's about guys, it's not necessarily targeted at them. Females will find it quite funny.

It's R-rated for some rather graphic dialogue, but this engine runs on more smarts than smut. Both Rudd and Segel are immensely likeable as actors, and their characters here are so much fun to watch. They make the laughs come easy.

Even "Incredible Hulk" TV actor Lou Ferrigno gets into the act, playing himself in an unexpectedly uproarious cameo—and providing a metaphor about how every man, no matter how refined on the surface, can also have a roaring "Hulk" side that sometimes just needs to come bustin' out.

Everything builds to



COURTESY PHOTO

"I Love You, Man" is a comedy about friendship and male bonding with hysterical movie gags. It's a witty, well made movie celebrating the friendship of two very different guys.

Peter's wedding, with a final comedic twist you probably won't see coming. And be sure to stick around for the

credits, when a couple of the movie's gags come full circle. It all makes for a witty, well-made celebration of friend-

ship in which two very different guys come to know and appreciate each other. It's hard not to like "I Love You, Man."

EXPLOITS, from B1

never seen so many stars in real life before."

Other than the skies, Kristopik said the clean,

unspoiled surroundings made the experience great.

"It was awesome, the air was so clean," he said. "With a giant mass like Lake Bandini sitting in your back

yard, you forget how nice it can be outside in the desert."

The rules at the site make it so easy for someone to just pack up and go enjoy without planning, he said.

Kristopik admitted he doesn't always plan things before heading out.

"It's great, all you have to do is not litter or vandalize the place, he said. "It's totally

free to go there."

Kristopik did do some of his homework, however, thanks to <http://www.nps.gov>, he was able to learn the rules about the campground and its location, along with others in the preserve.

"I looked up stuff online," he said. "A little web surfing and I was able to find everything I needed to know, which turns out is very little."

Kristopik said aside from the roadside camping areas there were many other places for someone to go to.

"Versatility, flexibility, just pure awesome; that's how I would describe the array of camp sites," he said.

"Roadside camping, camping in the mountains, there's places you have to hike for miles to get to.

"My favorite part was reading that you have to be within a certain distance of water sources," he said.

"That's hardcore camping," Kristopik said he wouldn't be able to make it without a little help.

"I did a little reading, but since I don't have a car I had to rely more or less on friend or two, or three to get me there," he said.

Kristopik said there were other people there, and they added to the overall pleasant experience.

"Me and some buddies were just hanging around by our fire when a few students from UCLA [University of California, Los Angeles] showed up," he said. "Who's not going to talk to a good looking girl in the middle of nowhere?"

Kristopik said although isolated, there were several people camping in the area who added to the overall pleasant experience.

"I'm a city guy, so it means more to me to be able to go out into the boonocks and have a good time away from the busy life I have," he said. "It's some good stuff out there. If anyone has the chance I would totally recommend they to head out there."

The strange roadside attractions on the way to the camp ground added to the experience one has on the way out there, he said.

"Every time that I'm out this way I have to stop at the 'shoe tree,' and I actually threw some shoes in there this time," he said. "It's a strange phenomenon, you never know what you're going to find out here in the desert."

To get to the preserve from the Combat Center, take Amboy Road until it hits National Trails Highway, also known as Route 66. Take a right on Route 66 for 6 1/2 miles and make a left onto Kelbaker Road. Kelbaker will take you directly into the preserve.

The shoe tree can be found shortly after passing through the small town of Amboy, Calif., on Historic Route 66.



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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 WallMart	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 WallMart	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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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik, a paralegal clerk with the Combat Center's Staff Judge Advocate, relaxes by the fire as friends play the guitar and sing in the middle of the Mojave National Preserve Friday night.

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Obsessed (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00	Fighting (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 4:45, 7:00
State Of Play (PG13) Fri-Sun: 2:15, 6:00, 9:00 Mon-Thur: 2:30, 7:00	17 Again (PG13) 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



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Brant Dowd, an outfielder with the Scrappers, winds up and prepares to crack a pitch over the fence Tuesday in their game with Tanks at the Combat Center's Felix Field in the Commanding General's Intramural Softball league.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Glenn Schott, a player with the Scrappers, makes contact with a ball during their game with Tanks Tuesday during the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Stephen McCall, a pitcher for Tanks, slides into home plate to score one of the first runs for his team against the Scrappers Tuesday at the Combat Center's Felix field during the beginning week of the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

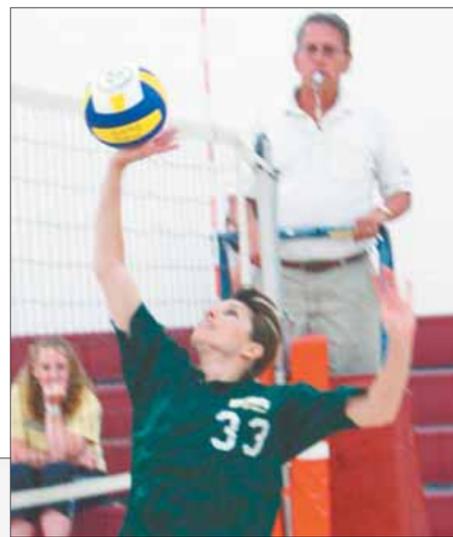
Cristina Warnest (right) and Renato Batallones go head to head at the end of their game on Wednesday night during the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball league.

Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League

Team	Wins	Losses
HQBN 1	6	0
Hospital 1	4	2
MCCES	4	3
HQBN 2	2	4
Hospital 2	0	7

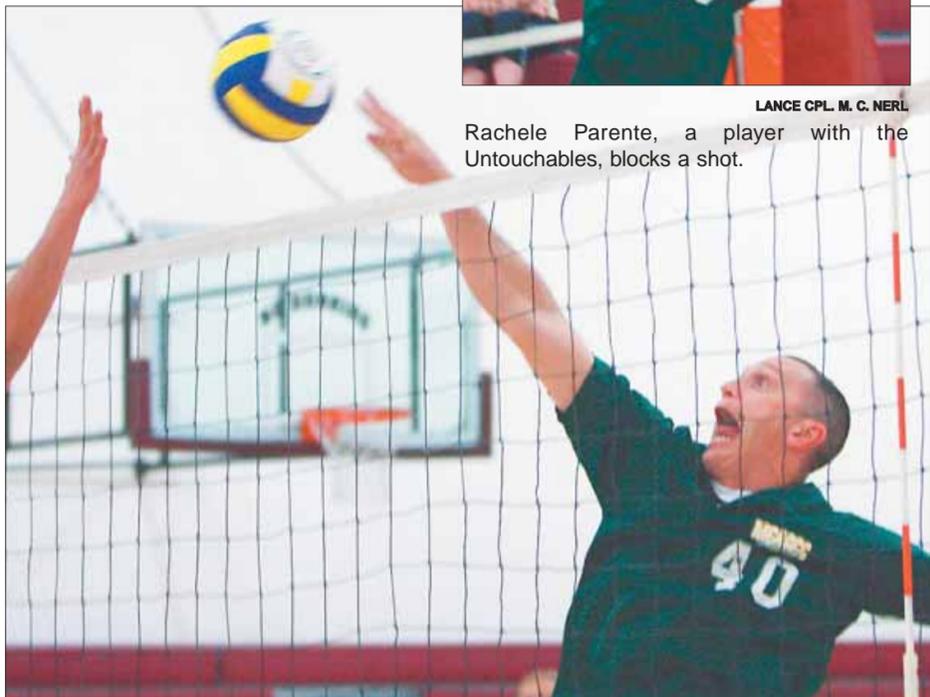
Wednesday's games

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



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Rachele Parente, a player with the Untouchables, blocks a shot.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Daryck Fickel, a player with the Untouchables, spikes the ball against the Hospital team during their game on Wednesday night for the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball league.

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