

OBSERVATION POST

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

MAY 8, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 18

ATG helps Marines, Iraqis bite through cultural differences



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERI
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors training at the Combat Center's Advisor Training Group finished their 16-day period with their Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Combat Center's Gypsum Ridge April 28 through May 2.

The MRX was the culmination of the training all transition teams must complete before they deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism, said Gunnery Sgt. Arthur Drynan, a lead assessor with ATG and a native of Great Falls, Mont.

"The training going on now is a great exercise for them to put together everything they have learned here with their skills in a realistic way," he said. "When they're done, the teams will be going back to their parent units to finish preparing for their different deployments."

Many factors play a role in the full scenario ATG has prepared for their teams, but some aspects play a significantly different role than others, Drynan said.

"The most important part, I think, is the staff time at each team's individual combat outposts, where they can socialize and interact with the role players," he said. "They are given time to get to know the Iraqi people and their society. These people are real Iraqis."

The training does won-

See ATG, A7

Changes made to new education bill

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A new education bill for service members, which has been in the works by the government and Veterans Affairs, is now set to begin payouts this year. However, changes are still being made and questions are still going unanswered as to what the bill entails.

One change made to the new education bill will take away granted living stipends to service members who elect to take solely online or distance learning courses, he said.

"To qualify for BAH [Basic Allowance for Housing] benefits, students have to take at least one class at the desired institution," Fourier said. "Students obtaining a strictly online degree will forfeit the BAH."

Another addition the VA made to the bill is the ability for service members with six years of active duty time who reenlist after Aug. 1 to be able to give their G.I. Bill to their spouses, said Jeff Fourier, the Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services education services officer. Those who have completed 10 years and reenlist after Aug. 1 will be allowed to transfer their benefits to their children as well.

Another new feature if the bill is the Yellow Ribbon Program, which allows for a reduced tuition at private institutions, according to an April 27 Marine Corps Times article. The VA will match the reduced tuition dollar-for-dollar. Although there is no current list of Yellow Ribbon schools, the VA hopes to have one available later this year.

According to the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Web site, <http://www.gibill.va.gov>, the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill will take effect Aug. 1 for all service members who have completed at least 90 days of active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001.

For those who served more than 90 days, but less than six months after Sept. 10, 2001, they are only eligible for 40 percent of total payout. To qualify for a full payout, service members must have served at least 36 months after that date, or served at least 30 continuous days and were discharged due to service-related disability.

The VA began accepting applications for the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill today. Those who are eligible for the bill will be covered for 15 years after their EAS or service-related separation date. Applications and additional information are available online at the VA Web site dedicated to the new G.I. Bill.

2/7, friends, family say goodbye to leader, friend

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines, sailors, family and loved ones of a deceased Combat Center Marine gathered at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field to honor his memory May 1.

Maj. Lee G. Helton, the executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, was killed in a motorcycle accident April 28.

The memorial attendees gathered under the shade of the field's bleacher canopy to pay respects, exchange memories,

and honor the Tulsa, Okla., native who was described by Lt. Col. John M. Reed, the battalion commanding officer, as genuine, innocent, and peace making.

"Maj. Lee Helton pursued peace," said Reed in his speech during the ceremony. "He sacrificed to better others. He took up arms with just cause."

"Maj. Lee Helton was a leader and through his innate humility; he could lead and succeed with the ultimate confidence of subordinates, peers, and seniors," he said. "He was genuine and inno-

cent. He looked at others through a lens without judgment."

Helton was commissioned into the Marine Corps May 8, 1993. He served his first duty as a rifle platoon commander and Weapons Company executive officer of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment out of Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Helton then completed two deployments, served as the recruiting state executive officer at Recruiting Station Kansas

See MEMORIAL, A7



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Friends and family members of Maj. Lee G. Helton, the executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, gather in front of his memorial to pay respects during his memorial ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 1.



Okinawa's loss, Combat Center's gain ~ See A3

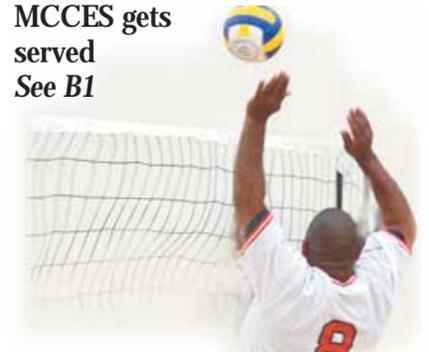


Coloring a 'green' future See A4



Back on the building-block See B1

MCCES gets served See B1



BUS SCHEDULE

Morning Route	1st Run	2nd Run
Two Mile Rd. - Two Mile Rd.	5:15 a.m.	6:30 a.m.
Two Mile Rd. - Desert Knoll Ave.	5:17 a.m.	6:32 a.m.
Desert Knoll Ave. - Joe Davis Dr.	5:20 a.m.	6:35 a.m.
Joe Davis Dr. - Luckie Ave.	5:25 a.m.	6:40 a.m.
Condor Rd. - Argos Rd.	5:30 a.m.	6:45 a.m.
Condor Rd. - Rainbow Canyon	5:32 a.m.	6:47 a.m.
Condor Rd. - Saddleback	5:35 a.m.	6:50 a.m.
Agate Rd. - Desert Ave.	5:38 a.m.	6:53 a.m.
Plant St. - Cactus Dr.	5:40 a.m.	6:55 a.m.
De Valle - 3rd St.	5:45 a.m.	7 a.m.
De Valle - 12th St.	5:50 a.m.	7:05 a.m.
De Valle - 11th St.	5:55 a.m.	7:10 a.m.
Griffin Rd. - 10th St.	6 a.m.	7:15 a.m.
Brown Rd. - 7th St.	6:05 a.m.	7:20 a.m.
Brown Rd. - 5th St.	6:07 a.m.	7:22 a.m.
Brown Rd. - 3rd St.	6:08 a.m.	7:23 a.m.
Brown Rd. - 1st St.	6:10 a.m.	7:25 a.m.

Afternoon Route	1st Run	2nd Run	3rd Run
De Valle - 3rd St.	3:15 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:45 p.m.
De Valle - 12th St.	3:17 p.m.	4:32 p.m.	5:47 p.m.
De Valle - 11th St.	3:20 p.m.	4:35 p.m.	5:50 p.m.
Griffin Rd. - 10th St.	3:25 p.m.	4:40 p.m.	5:55 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 7th St.	3:30 p.m.	4:45 p.m.	6 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 5th St.	3:32 p.m.	4:47 p.m.	6:02 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 3rd St.	3:35 p.m.	4:50 p.m.	6:05 p.m.
Brown Rd. - 1st St.	3:38 p.m.	4:53 p.m.	6:08 p.m.
Two Mile Rd. - Two Mile Rd.	3:40 p.m.	4:55 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
Two Mile - Desert Knoll Ave.	3:45 p.m.	5 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
Desert Knoll - Joe Davis Dr.	3:50 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	6:20 p.m.
Joe Davis Dr. - Luckie Ave.	3:55 p.m.	5:10 p.m.	6:25 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Argos Rd.	4 p.m.	5:15 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Rainbow Cny.	4:05 p.m.	5:20 p.m.	6:35 p.m.
Condor Rd. - Saddleback	4:07 p.m.	5:22 p.m.	6:37 p.m.
Agate Rd. - Desert Ave.	4:08 p.m.	5:23 p.m.	6:38 p.m.
Plant St. - Cactus Dr.	4:10 p.m.	5:25 p.m.	6:40 p.m.

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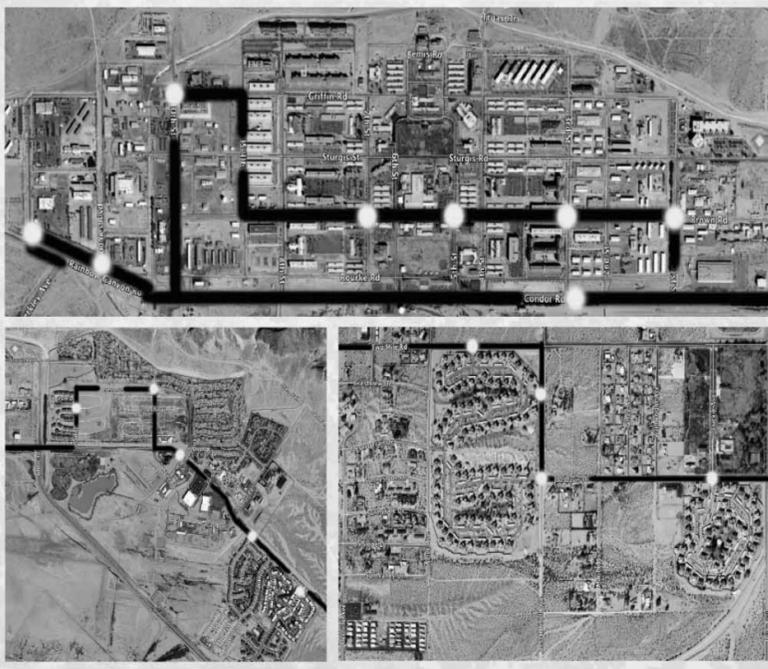
American Profile Hometown Content 04/05/2009

- ACROSS**
1. Heaven-sent sustenance
 6. Any of twelve popes
 10. Piece of aerobics gear
 14. Arnold ___ Schwarzenegger
 15. Hideous sort
 16. Word with see or drive
 17. Not this or that
 19. Equestrian's control
 20. Splashy headline
 21. Sounds from the sack
 23. Not pre- or post-
 24. It may be about nothing
 25. Daffy Duck or Sylvester of cartoons
 29. Hitches up
 34. Not hitched
 35. Tennis star
 36. Word with mess or press
- DOWN**
1. Dead-___ float
 2. One of the Baldwin brothers
 3. Pinot ___ wine
 4. Nick's time
 5. Red-faced
 6. ___ over (studied)
 7. Fictional lab assistant
 8. Starbucks vessel
 9. Gets a gander of
 10. Walked briskly
 11. Mount Elbert's range
 12. Niagara River source
 13. Wordplay from Bennett Cerf
 18. Eastern bigwig
 22. Dog in "Peter Pan"
 25. Roped in
 26. Sign on a locked lavatory
 27. Sudden reversal
 28. Part of a desk set
 29. Punished with a stick
 30. Assayers' substances
 31. Annual b-ball tourney
 32. Trace of color
 33. Tilter's mount
 35. Daybreak, inverse
 38. Ovine call
 39. Bad start?
 41. Sonny's ex-partner
 42. Can't stomach
 44. "On the Road" newsman Charles
 45. Cereal-pitching tiger
 47. Old radio's Major ___
 48. Redden and crack
 49. Laugh out loud
 50. River of Belgium
 51. Shoreline shelter
 52. Move, to a Realtor
 53. An "Axis of Evil" land
 54. China town gang
 55. Pulls the plug on
 58. Thumbs-down vote

[puzzle Solutions on A7]

BUS ROUTES

The purpose of this program is to provide no cost transportation to and from work for Marines and sailors residing in 801, Adobe Flats, Shadow Mountain, and Palm Vista housing areas. The shuttle will run Monday through Friday during scheduled morning and evening hours. Schedule of pick up and drop of times are listed above.



Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Jenny Whitten
Job Title: Administrative Assistant
Unit: Substance Abuse Counseling Center
Job Duties: Schedule appointments, daily screening and treatment, and a liaison between SACC and unit SACC officers.
What do you like most about your job?: Watching someone come in the office with issues and unhappy, and watching them return to the fleet happy and ready for the mission.
Significant Achievements: I went back to college. I also assisted in the development of the SACC staff.
Hobbies: running, softball, riding my quad, dancing and hanging out with my family and friends.
Military service: My dad was a Marine Corps Master Sgt.
Time at Combat Center: Four years.



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 information and to schedule an appointment please call 830-6111.

GSA SERVMART STORE CLOSURE MAY 11 - 15:

The GSA ServMart store in building 1102 will be closed for annual inventory May 11 - 15. Ensure to get enough supplies to last until May 18 when the store reopens. For more information, contact Sai Sturms or Sal Martinez at 830-1932.

MSG SCREENING MAY 11:

The Marine Security Guard and Recruiting Advertising Screening Team will be aboard the Combat Center on May 11 to screen unmarried staff noncommissioned officers and below for potential assignment to embassy duty. See your unit Career Retention Specialist for screening requirements, times and location. Point of contact for this event is Staff Sgt. Gayden, the Headquarters Battalion CRS at 830-7242.

This Day in Marine Corps History

May 6 - 8, 1937

Marines join civil forces in performing rescue and security following the fiery crash of the German airship Hindenburg at Lakehurst, N.J.

SUDOKU #1426

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Centerspeak

Where are you from and do you say Coke, soda or pop?

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



SEAMAN RUDY DUERO
HOSPITAL CORPSMAN WITH 3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINE REGIMENT

"San Diego, and I say Coke."



STAFF SGT. ABRAHAM THOMPSON
INSTRUCTOR AT THE MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"I'm from Jamaica and we say soda."



PFC. CHRIS LEAR
FIELD WIREMAN WITH HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

"I'm from Colorado and I say soda."

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

- Public Affairs Officer Jennie E. Haskamp
- Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez
- Press Chief/Editor Cpl. Corey A. Blodgett
- Layout, Design Leslie Shaw

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Quality of life projects improve base aesthetics

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

In an effort to improve the aesthetics of the Combat Center and the quality of life for the installation's residents, the Public Works Division has been building new parks and memorials since August.

Another milestone was crossed Tuesday when the ribbon was cut at the new Amphitheater Park, which is located on Bourke Street across from Victory Field.

"There have been a lot of new plans to help improve the quality of life aboard the base," said Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, at the ribbon cutting ceremony. "The teams at Public Works and G-4 have done a lot to make this a special place - to make the Combat Center a better place to live."

Amphitheater Park can be used for picnics, parties, mini concerts, family gatherings, and movies - there is a power outlet so a projector can be plugged in, said Ensign Benjamin Queener, the construction manager of the project from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest in San Diego. There is also a dog run, so dogs can have a chance to

socialize with their canine brethren.

Construction of Amphitheater Park began in January, but the new park is only part of an overall plan to beautify the base along the

same stretch of road.

"Each of these is an individual project, but there is a strategic vision to turn Del Valle Road into a quality of life corridor," Queener said. "The first project in that

plan was the Heritage Memorial Park which was awarded to a contractor on Sept. 25, 2007."

Queener said the overall project has taken nine months to complete so far,

but there are still several more projects in the works.

"We are in the construction phase of a children's water park and skateboard park in the quality of life corridor," he said. "The water

park will be attached to the training tank swimming pool. It will have misting stations, water fountains and water cannons. The skate park will have a variety of skate equipment such as launching ramps, a quarter-pipe and grinding rails.

"Both parks feature modular design to allow feature expansion," Queener said. "In the future the skate park could add a half-pipe, or the water park could add new water cannons. The design of the parks does not have to be static after the completion of construction."

Queener is also tackling an issue Combat Center residents have been concerned about for years.

"We are about to address an issue regarded by some as perhaps the most important quality of life issue on Twentynine Palms and is directly related to the usage of all our new parks," he said. "A construction project is in the works to dramatically reduce the stink coming from the wastewater treatment facility directly across the road from the parks."

All the new parks are expected to be completed and ready for use by July, and will provide Combat Center residents with both beauty and entertainment.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Janet Gurganus, wife of Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center's commanding general, and Lt. Cmdr. Allen Sullivan, the resident officer in charge of construction from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest in San Diego, cut the ribbon to signify the opening of the Amphitheater Park on Bourke Street, Tuesday.

Religious Ministries Directorate's new leadership

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Navy Capt. Conrad Targonski, a Chicago native, received a Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star in lieu of a third award Tuesday during the monthly commanding general's awards ceremony at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.

Targonski began his tour as the assistant chief of staff for religious ministries back in February, and recently received the award from his former command, 3rd Marine Division, based in Okinawa, Japan.

Targonski received the award for developing a more sophisticated and effective system of involving the entire family aside from service members in transition between deployments.

Targonski said he plans to use his new job to help promote the template he had set up before, which he said will be successful as well.

Targonski said he is not an award hunter, but was glad to receive the medal and thanked his subordinates for their help.

"I worked with many people to set up the good relations and sophistication in our program we had," Targonski said. "I owe it to them to work with me and help me with all we did to set up the system. It's all about combat readiness and warrior transition."

More importantly than being awarded the medal, Targonski said he is looking forward to establishing as good of a rapport and a solid system here as he did

back in Okinawa.

"I had good relations, and worked a lot with the family readiness officers and multiple other organi-

zations over the base," he said. "We had a good system going to where we could track who was deploying and who was

coming back. That way we could prepare for the stresses and transitions that were going to happen."

Targonski thanked the family readiness programs and the others for helping him with the contribution to the war effort.

"The FROs and I came up with the idea to work with all the warriors and their spouses to readjust

with changes coming and going with deployments," he said. "It's not just about the Marines, the spouses have part of their lives deployed as well."

Targonski's fellow sailors said they have gotten word of his work and look forward to working alongside him.

Petty Officer 1st Class Edgar Mercadal, a religious

protectorate working with Targonski, said he had heard good things and is expecting to have a good experience working with Targonski.

"I've heard of how well he ran all of his programs, and I bet he's going to do a great job here," he said. "I'm looking forward to him being a part of our team here."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Navy Capt. Conrad Targonski, the new the assistant chief of staff for religious ministries and a native of Chicago, stands at attention during an awards ceremony Tuesday at the Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, where he received a Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star in lieu of a third award for the program he ran with 3rd Marine Division, based in Okinawa, Japan.

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Stay Proud

Stay Marine

Sobering experience of drinking and driving

CPL. MARGARET HUGHES
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Flashing across the screen, pictures so gory they could make even the most seasoned combat veterans flinch – that was the goal.

The Combat Center hosted the National Save A Life Tour for Marines and sailors at the Sunset Cinema Wednesday through today to help educate them on the effects and repercussions of drinking and driving.

According to their Web site, the tour is the nation's most advanced high-impact

alcohol awareness program that uses multi-million dollar drinking-and-driving simulators that provide participants a realistic, but sober perspective on the effects of driving while intoxicated.

Each of the six sessions over the course of the three-day event starts off with charismatic speaker Brian Beldyga, the senior manager for the tour, talking to the audience about his personal experiences with driving while intoxicated and his horrific accident years ago.

Beldyga set the tone for the event before playing two videos on alcohol related motor vehicle accidents. The videos provide a graphic message of what can happen when someone is in an accident under the influence.

“Over two million people have died in the past 39 years due to drunk driving,” Beldyga said. “It’s hard to rewrite the mind. We want to educate smart people so they can stand up to the ignorant ones and

See DRIVING, A7



CPL. MARGARET HUGHES

Cpl. Pablo Evora, a Traffic Management Office freight clerk with Company B, Headquarters Battalion, tests out the vehicle simulator while driving “under the influence” during the National Save A Life Tour held for Marines and sailors at the Sunset Cinema Wednesday through Friday.

Kids learn ‘green’ is more than just a color



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

The six first and second-place youth members of the Combat Center Child Development Center stand with their Earth Day posters they made in honor of the holiday. Winners were announced April 22.

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center children did their part in celebrating Earth Day this year by educating their peers about environmental friendliness through artwork.

Marine Corps Community Services sponsored a poster contest for children to celebrate Earth Day while service members and contractors spent the week gathering trash and recyclables.

Participating youth of the Child Development Center were divided into three categories; first through third-grade, fourth through sixth-grade and seventh through 12th-grade. They were then instructed to create posters depicting Earth Day mes-

sages, and had their artwork judged and awarded by installation and logistics base officials April 22.

First and second-place students of each category were awarded after the contest; the first winning an iPod Nano and second receiving a Nintendo DS.

As excited as some of the children were about the prizes, many claimed Earth Day means more to them than getting new toys.

“If there are no trees, then there’s no paper we can draw on,” said Shelby Lee, a sixth-grade student and second place winner for the fourth through sixth-grade category. “Earth Day to me means people need to pick up trash, not litter, and save more energy. I like doing stuff like that and I like what it does for the Earth.”

During this year’s Earth

Week April 20-24, students were taught facts in the classroom, such as what type of small steps save natural resources and energy, how many trees are cut down a year to make paper, how many gallons of water are wasted when faucets are left on too long, and more.

“I learned that 17 trees makes one load of paper,” Lee said. “And I learned that even if something like your T.V. is turned off but is still plugged in, it still wastes energy.”

Hunter Sprung, the first-place winner for the first through third-grade category, said he was as equally fond of Earth Day.

“If I could do something different, I would plant more trees,” Hunter said about Earth Day. “Trees make the environment better. If trees weren’t here, there would be no trees to make oxygen.”

Taylor Borgemenke-Getz, the first-place winner of the fourth through sixth-grade

See GREEN, A7

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E-mail: creyente-y-siervo@verizon.net

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<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>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>
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CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Cpl. Robert C. Nishnic, the 3rd Squad leader, 2nd Platoon, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, takes a practice swing on the ninth fairway during the Commanding General's Golf Tournament at the Desert Winds Golf Course May 1.

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Base personnel, Morongo Basin residents and desert company sponsors teed off for the 2009 Commanding General's Golf Tournament at the Desert Winds Golf Course here May 1.

Five sponsors from desert-area businesses donated prizes and organized teams to join more than 120 other golfers on base during the annual golf competition.

"This is a traditional event," said Todd Wade, the manager of the course and a member of the Professional Golfers Association. "It's one of the biggest events of the year in terms of the number of attendees we get. It's also a great way to support the course."

Door prizes of polo shirts, hats, mugs, mug holders and more were presented to participants, while additional prizes like hotel stays, dinner certificates and golf gear were awarded to the first through sixth place finishers at the end of the tournament. A raffle and free dinner were also provided to the golfers to wrap up the mild Friday afternoon.

Janet New, the service operations division head of the Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services, said new additions to the course and competition played a role in attracting as many participants as it did.

"The gift bags were new this year and everyone who played got one," New said. "We also have the new outdoor patio, nice greens, music playing over the radio - stuff like that. We put a lot of energy into improving the aesthetics this year."

Cpl. David Parker, a squad leader with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, said he golfs about twice a week at the Desert Winds course, but

has not had the pleasure of taking part in a tournament before.

"This is my first tournament ever," Parker said. "I really like this so far. It's a lot of fun and I like the competition. All it takes is one really good shot in the whole day. It makes it all worth it."

Parker said in addition to the recreation, the tournament can bring Marines together and give them a chance to reach beyond their normal day-to-day activities.

"It's nice to show people that even grunts can have a little finesse and

class," Parker said.

Cpl. Matt Latuff, the 2nd Squad leader, 2nd Platoon, Company K, 3/4, also experienced his first tournament that day.

"This helps relieve stress from work and takes you away for a little of the day," Latuff said. "It sort of reenergizes you for whatever else you need to do."

Desert Winds course staff members expect to host the tournament around the same time next year. For information about other tournaments call 830-6132.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Bill Peters, a training instructor with Company A, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, sinks a putt during the annual Commanding General's Golf Tournament at the Desert Winds Golf Course May 1.

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*

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)

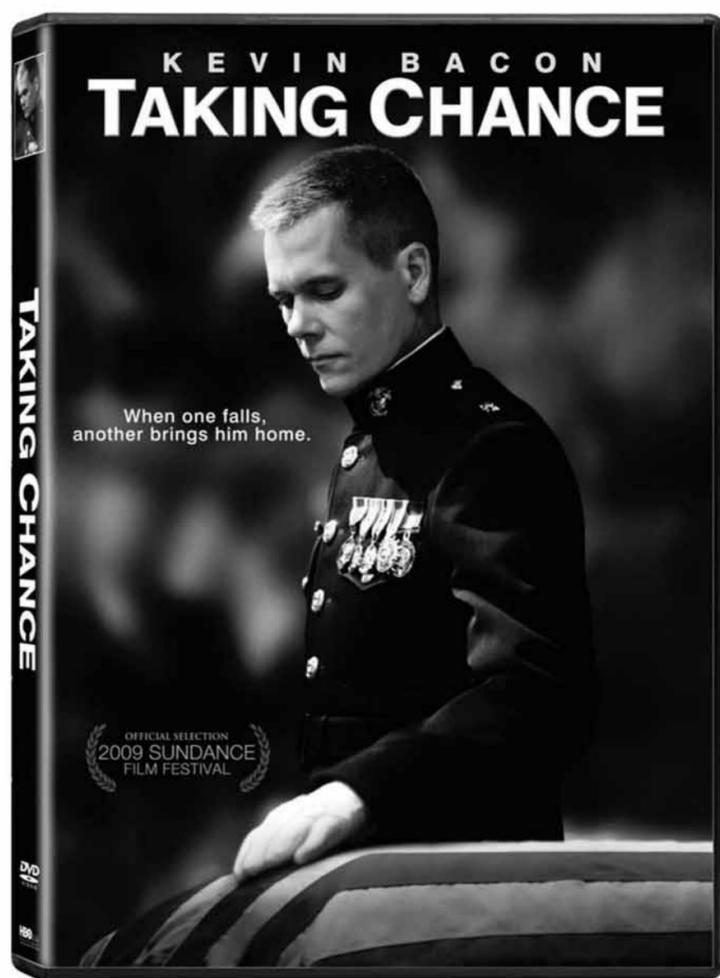
Thursday

Christ Chapel
6 p.m.-Praise Band Rehearsal
Immaculate Heart of Mary
6-7:30 p.m.-RCIA Resumes Sept. 11
C&E Barracks building 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)

OWN IT MAY 12



Not Rated

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MEMORIAL, from A1

City, stood as the commanding officer of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., and served as the training officer in charge for the Georgia Train and Equip Program out of the Republic of Georgia.

Helton then transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., as the operations officer of Weapons and Field Training Battalion.

In 2006, Helton reported to the Combat Center as the executive officer of 2/7.

While here, he was assigned as a military transition team chief for an Iraqi Army battalion in Fallujah, Iraq, until July 2007. He was then returned to his position as the executive officer and deployed with the battalion to Afghanistan, returning in November 2008.

"Maj. Helton was an outstanding Marine officer who always took the time to listen to and mentor all Marines in the battalion," said Sgt. Maj. Matthew B. Brookshire, the 2/7 battalion sergeant major. "He was never too busy to help those in need or those seeking advice.

"I will always remember

Maj. Helton as a leader who cared about the Marines, the unit and the Corps," he said. "He always ensured the mission was accomplished and that the battalion was taken care of. He was a dedicated Marine who cherished his wife, Deb, and family. He will be missed by all that had the honor to serve with him."

A vigil service was provided at the Catholic Chapel May 2, followed by a memorial mass at the chapel May 3. Family members of Helton opened the doors to anyone who wished to pay their last respects to a fallen brother in arms.

GREEN, from A4

category, agreed.

"If the Earth gets too dirty and there is too much pollution, we're going to use all of our energy and it will be hard to breathe," she said.

Caprice James, the Comprehensive Environment

Training and Education Program assistance manager with the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, said it was the first time a contest of this sort has taken place here.

"We wanted to make sure our youth got involved this year and were aware of what

they can do to protect the environment," James said. "This is a great way for the kids to express themselves, have fun and interact through drawing."

MCCS and NREA plan to continue this event in honor of Earth Day next year.

DRIVING, from A4

take their keys."

After a recap of the impact from the videos, Beldyga presents and explains the vehicle simulator to the audience and pulls a demonstrator to the hot seat while the simulator is displayed on a big screen.

Once the first Marine underwent the simulator, the remaining Marines and sailors had an opportunity to turn the key and test their driving skills while "under the influence."

"It was a lot harder than I thought it would be, especially the stopping and turning," said Cpl. Kyle Parker, an ammo technician with the Central Magazine Area, after ending his simulator experience with a mock driving under the influence ticket.

As the line for the

simulator dwindled, it became apparent that it was not an easy task to drive under the influence while sober. The message got across.

"Don't drink and drive and don't let anyone else drink and drive," said Parker, a Winston-Salem, N.C. native.

With the Marines and sailors filed out of the theatre and the tour employees preparing for the next day, Beldyga wanted to express the overall message of the whole event, "Just take the keys."

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7	3	4	5	1	9	2	8	6
6	1	5	2	8	3	7	9	4
9	8	2	4	7	6	5	3	1



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Marines of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, stand in formation during the memorial ceremony of Maj. Lee G. Helton, the executive officer of 2/7, at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field May 1.

ATG, from A1

ders to help the Marines toward learning and accomplishing their mission, he said.

"It does a great deal for the training to have Marines getting the most accurate

taste of Iraqi country and culture," he said. They learn the language, but again, more importantly they learn about the people."

Drynan said aside from learning about the culture, the Marines take a lot away

from what they learn to make them better advisors, not just war fighters.

"Every Marine is a killer," he said. "It's what we were all trained to do in boot camp. The purpose of the transition teams is to fight the war by mentoring the local military forces and making them better. ATG trains Marines to be more than just warriors."

The Marines brought their normal job proficiency into the training and learned how to teach and be part of a team of advisors, said Maj. John Frank D'astoli, a Military in Transition Team leader and a native of Agoura Hills, Calif.

"I believe all the Marines on this team have significantly improved on their abilities to pass on their knowledge,"

D'astoli said during the second day of the MRX. "We learned from the training and accomplished our mission."

D'astoli said the teams will succeed because of the personal drive in every service member on his team.

"All these people here volunteered to be part of what is going on," he said. "They have the willpower and the determination to take what we've learned, and use it to bring the fight to the enemy and win."

With their training complete, the teams will return to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and II MEF, based at MCB Camp Lejeune, N. C., and prepare for their upcoming deployments.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

1st Lt. Scott Dibello, a Marine training at the Advisor Training Group, attends to a mock casualty May 1 at the Combat Center during a mission rehearsal exercise where they interacted with Iraqi role players.

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**TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM**

by Lou Gerhardt

Legendary pro-football analyst John Maden has retired from television after many years of tremendous popularity. However, he will continue his daily radio show. Why? Because of his 92 year old mother. He put it this way: "My mom listens every morning. I'm in my 70s and she still worries I'm a kid. When she hears me in the morning, she hears where I am, knows I'm OK, knows what I'm doing."

My mother was a tiny Irish lass who rarely expressed tender, loving, compassionate feelings toward her children and other family members. I mean that she often concealed her genuine interest and heartfelt concern.

I recall, for example, when I was picked up by the police for drinking at a school function. My mother told the authorities to keep me in jail overnight, saying, "Maybe it will do him some good." Some years later, my father told me that my mother cried all that night.

Only once did my mother really let down her guard and put some of her private thoughts and feelings on paper. On Sept. 27, 1956, my mother wrote me a letter that I often read. A few sentences read:

"I believe that a happy family is the greatest success in life. Love in the home makes the person. It is the builder of all great things. You have heard me say many times, 'God is Love.' To me that is the answer to all problems.

I imagine that even as you read this column, your thoughts are on your own mother. I pray that your thoughts are sweet.

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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 run a "House For Sale" ad 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.

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B1

Volleyball champions crowned

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

During the final game of the Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball's three-day double-elimination tournament, the undefeated HQBN #1 emerged victorious from the long, close battle against MCCES, who has won the championship since 2007.

The final game started with a bang as MCCES ran up the score 5-0 in the opening few minutes.

After playing so well, MCCES slipped, as a player Fickel fouled by crossing the net, giving HQBN #1 a point and the ball.

That was all HQBN #1 needed to shift the momentum of the match in their favor, as they quickly regained their composure and worked as a team to rise above MCCES with an 8-7 lead.

The two teams battled back and forth keeping the score neck-and-neck at 11-11.

Both teams found a rhythm with each volley lasting approximately three minutes and MCCES managing to stay in the lead for most of the match.

This trend continued until HQBN #1 finally took the

See CROWNED, B4



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Dennis Lebreton, a player for HQBN #1, tries to get the ball past two MCCES defenders during Wednesday's championship game at the East Gym. HQBN #1 won both matches of the game.



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., reaches up to touch the glass in the Legoland Sea Life exhibit Saturday.

Aaron's Exploits; Legoland, Sea Life, what?

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CARLSBAD, Calif. – In an effort to get back in touch with his inner child during his exploration of Southern California, Lance Cpl. Aaron Kristopik, a paralegal clerk with the Combat Center's Staff Judge Advocate and a native of New Britain, Conn., traveled, Saturday, to a place every child dreams of – Legoland.

Kristopik said he had always wanted to see the park, and being a little too old for some of it would not dismay him from following through with it.

"This is it. I'm going to do it," he said. "Legoland, I can't even contain myself. The minute I built my own small town of Legos as a child, I knew I had to travel to the mecca, the place where it all came to a

point, and this is it."

Kristopik said just taking in the ambience of the park made him feel as if he were a kid playing in his basement again.

"Dude, it's like back when 'Dragon Ball Z' was still cool," he said. "I haven't felt this way in years. I hope I'm not too big for everything here. I'm going to build a monument to me in the park, and just leave it so they think it's another statue."

Kristopik said the array of fun stuff to do at the park is worth the price for admission.

"An Egyptian adventure, The Lost City of Atlantis, Star Wars Legos – there is just so much to do here," he said. "I couldn't wait to get into the pool where they let you build your own dragster."

Kristopik made discoveries about how the world of Legos has changed since his youth.

"Back in my day, we didn't have no fancy robot Legos," he said. "There's stuff now that you can program coordinates into and it does what you say. It's good to see how they still have the good old timey Legos too. When those new ones get fried, the old ones will still stack up."

Kristopik found an attraction at the park, which was unlike anything he even expected to be at a place like Legoland.

"They have a Sea Life attraction? Wow, I'm blown away," he said. "Legoland delivered. My expectations were met and then some. They even had a setup with underwater Lego statues diving with real sharks."

Kristopik got to ride a roller coaster, experience Miniland, among many other things.

"I saw Darth Vader, well it

Combat Center to be graced by Gretchen Wilson

PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The usually calm Victory Field will be transformed into a bustling celebration as Marine Corps Community Services hosts the fourth annual We Salute You celebration featuring country music star Gretchen Wilson and Marine Band San Diego May 16 from 4-10 p.m.

The celebration is completely free for base personnel and their families and will provide all who attend

with free food, games and shuttles to and from base housing areas.

The idea originally started as a homecoming event for Marines and sailors returning from deployments and later became a way of honoring service members and their families' sacrifices, said Kelley Coe, the special events program manager for MCCS and Brooks, Ga. native.

The celebration will start by honoring the colors, followed by a moment of

silence for the fallen service members throughout history.

Next, Marine Band San Diego will perform, since the Commandant of the Marine Corps has chosen the Marine Air Ground Combat Center Band to perform at Marine Week in Chicago May 11-17.

For the 1 1/2 hours in between the San Diego band and Gretchen Wilson's performance, attendees will be able to eat free food and play free games.

In previous years, the musicians who have performed at the Combat Center have had a great time due mostly to the enthusiasm of the crowd, Coe said.

Coe said that two years ago, the country music band Big & Rich performed at the celebration and said it was the most fun show they've ever put on, so they personally recommended that Gretchen Wilson take the opportunity to perform here.

Coe said due to their recommendation, and because she wants to give back to the military, Wilson is very enthusiastic about her upcoming performance.

Base personnel are also excited for the opportunity to see Wilson perform.

"I can't wait to go," said Lance Cpl. Shiloh Gaines, communications clerk with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1. "It's awesome that we have something free and fun to do on base; it's a nice break from desert life."

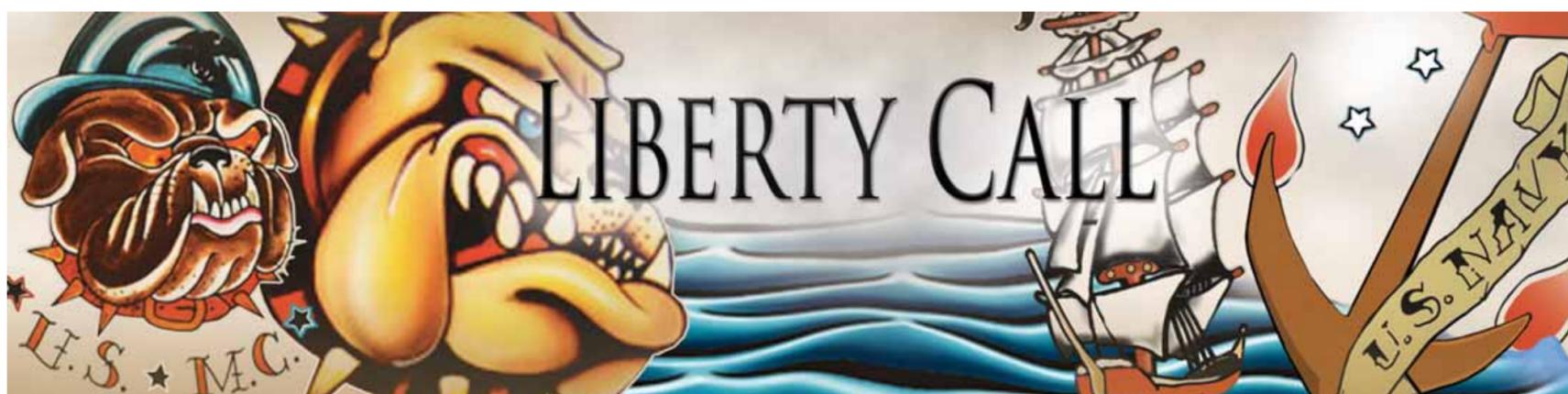
"If you plan on coming, you can bring lawn chairs and blankets, but please leave pets and alcohol at home," Coe said.

For more information about the event contact Coe at 830-5086.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Combat Center will be treated to a concert by country music star Gretchen Wilson and the Marine Band San Diego.



<p>SAT. 5/9</p> <p>I Spy a Reptile Time: 9 – 11 a.m. Where: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto National Monument Visitor Center 51500 Hwy. 74 Palm Desert For more info call 862-9984</p>	<p>SAT. 5/9</p> <p>The comedy of Bill Cosby Time: 1st show at 7:30 p.m. 2nd show at 10 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more info call 800-252-4499 or visit http://www.morongocasinoresort.com</p>	<p>SUN. 5/10</p> <p>The Thriftstore All Stars Time: 7 p.m. Where: Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace 53688 Pioneertown Rd. Pioneertown For more info call 365-5956 or visit http://www.pappyandharriets.com</p>	<p>WED. 5/13</p> <p>Open Mic Karaoke Time: 7 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino 46200 Harrison St. Coachella For more info call 800-585-3737 or visit http://www.spotlight29casino.com</p>	<p>THURS. 5/14</p> <p>Native American Performers at Villagefest Time: 6 – 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente Cultural Museum 219 S. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs For more info call 778-1079 x116 or visit http://www.accmuseum.org</p>
<p>FRI. 5/15 – SUN. 5/17</p> <p>7th Annual Joshua Tree Music Festival Time: All weekend Where: Joshua Tree Lake Campground 2601 Sunfair Rd., Joshua Tree For more info visit http://www.joshuatreemusicfestival.com</p>	<p>FRI. 5/15 – SAT. 5/16</p> <p>15th Pioneertown Pony Express Reenactment Time: All day event Where: Mane Street at Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown For more info visit http://www.mbha.us/ponyexpress.htm</p>	<p>FRI. 5/15</p> <p>The comedy of Lisa Lampanelli Time: 9 p.m. Where: Agua Caliente 32250 Bob Hope Dr. Rancho Mirage For more info call 888-999-1995</p>	<p>SAT. 5/16</p> <p>Thunder Down Under Time: 8 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort 46200 Harrison Pl. Coachella. For more info call 866-377-6829 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com</p>	<p>SAT. 5/23</p> <p>Allman Brothers Band & Doobie Brothers Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Casino 84245 Indio Springs Pkwy., Indio For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com</p>

Documentary takes us outside our civilized comfort zones

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

Earth - Rated G

Prepare to be wowed. This dazzling nature documentary—a three-way collaboration between Disney, the Discovery Channel and the BBC—tweaks your senses with an explosion of breathtaking scenery, spectacular photography and a cast of animals whose lives are almost too amazing to comprehend.

Basically a movie version of the critically acclaimed Discovery Channel series “Planet Earth,” it recycles some of the jaw-dropping film footage from that ambitious project. But don’t dismiss it as a rerun. This “Earth,” edited into a fresh context and newly framed by a year-in-the-life storyline, is a sight to behold on the big screen—and a story that warrants re-telling.

The movie is anchored by three geographically diverse animal families: a mama polar bear and her cubs in the Arctic Circle, a mother ele-

phant and baby in Africa, and a humpback whale and her calf on a 6,000-mile swim to feed off the coast of Antarctica. In between are numerous other examples of the planet’s dazzling diversity of life on land, in the sea and in the air, all responding to ancient calls for instinctive action due to the Earth’s seasonal changes.

Time and time again, we’re reminded of the awesome power and spectacle of animals doing, well, the things they do. A great white shark the size of a small submarine leaps completely out of the water to snap up a hapless seal in one gulp. Mongolian cranes struggle valiantly against the thin, icy air to migrate over the towering top of Mt. Everest. Monkeys more familiar with dry land gingerly—and hilariously—navigate a freshly flooded plain.

(Stick around during the credits for a tantalizing glimpse into the making of the movie, what must have been an extraordinary feat in itself.)

And although not denying



COURTESY PHOTO

Although “Earth” is never preachy, there’s an underlying concern throughout for the delicate balance of nature and the importance of maintaining it.

the harshness that’s a part of everyday life in the animal kingdom, “Earth” spares the messy details—but not necessarily the heartbreak. A young elephant loses its way in a dust storm, stumbling off to certain death alone in the parched wasteland. A famished polar bear, exhausted and injured, faces the

inevitable fate of any predator unable to hunt.

Although “Earth” is never preachy, there’s an underlying concern throughout for the delicate balance of nature and the importance of maintaining it. Though the term “global warming” isn’t used, when the narration (by James Earl Jones) notes it’s getting

harder and harder for polar bears to find solid ice platforms from which to hunt during the summer, you get the idea. After hearing about the planet’s shrinking woodland due to the march of civilization, you better understand why it’s not uncommon to see deer, coyotes and other “wild” animals wandering

though the backyards of suburbia.

See “Earth” for an eye-popping, entertaining and enlightening tour of the majesty that exists outside our civilized comfort zones. It’s impossible to not come away with a renewed respect, appreciation and awe for this place we all call home.



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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
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45
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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COURTESY PHOTO

The term “global warming” isn’t used, but the film shows it’s getting harder and harder for polar bears to find solid ice platforms from which to hunt during the summer.



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COURTESY PHOTO

“Earth” spares the messy details—but not necessarily the heartbreak. A dust storm spells trouble for a baby elephant.

Cinema 6

Showtimes Effective 5/8/09 - 5/14/09

<p>Star Trek (PG13) Fri-Sun: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 Mon-Thu: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00</p>	<p>Soloist (PG13) Fri-Sun: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 Mon-Thu: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00</p>	<p>X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG13) Fri-Sun: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 Mon-Thu: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00</p>
<p>Ghosts Of Girlfriends Past (PG13) Fri-Sun: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 Mon-Thu: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coming Soon</p> <p>Angels And Demons Opens May 15th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADULTS \$8.00 • SENIORS \$6.00 • CHILDREN \$6.00 <p style="font-size: 0.7em; text-align: right;">www.cinema6theatre.com</p>

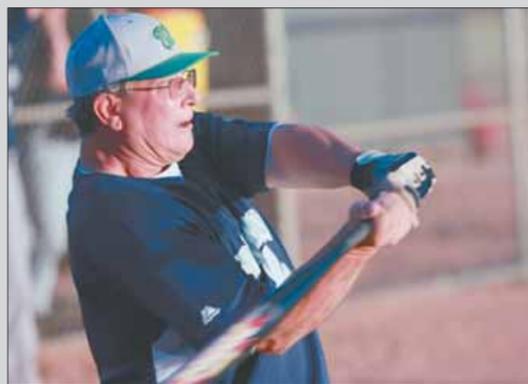
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Combat Center sports



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Frank Jenkins, a pitcher with MWSS-374, barely beats the ball to the home plate Wednesday night to score against MCCES HQBN in the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Dave Horn, a first baseman with MWSS-374, strains to make a hit to get his teammates in for the score.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Martin Hood, a player with MCCES HQBN, takes off toward second base Wednesday night during their game with MWSS-374.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

A ball hit by Derrick Graves, a right fielder with MWSS-374, sails toward the outfield Wednesday against MCCES HQBN in the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League.

Intramural Softball League

Standings as of April 29

Team	Wins	Losses
MWSS-374	5	0
CLB-7	5	0
Scrappers	4	0
7th Marines	2	0
CMA	3	1
IPAC	3	2
Hospital	3	2
Tanks	3	2
ESD Warriors	3	2
3/11	2	1
VMU-3	2	1
PMO	2	2
3rd CEB	2	2
MCCES HQBN	2	4
PMO K-9	1	3
ESD	1	3
G-6	1	3
2/7	1	4
NAVPERs	1	4
Dirty Dozen	1	4
Dental	0	5



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Chris Apodaca, the coach and a player for MCCES, slams the ball at the opposition, HQBN #1 during the last game of the season Wednesday night at the East Gym.

Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League

Team	Wins	Losses
HQBN 1	10	0
MCCES	7	4
Hospital 1	4	6
HQBN 2	3	7
Hospital 2	0	10

Wednesday's games

HQBN 1 defeats MCCES
MCCES defeats HQBN 2

Championship match

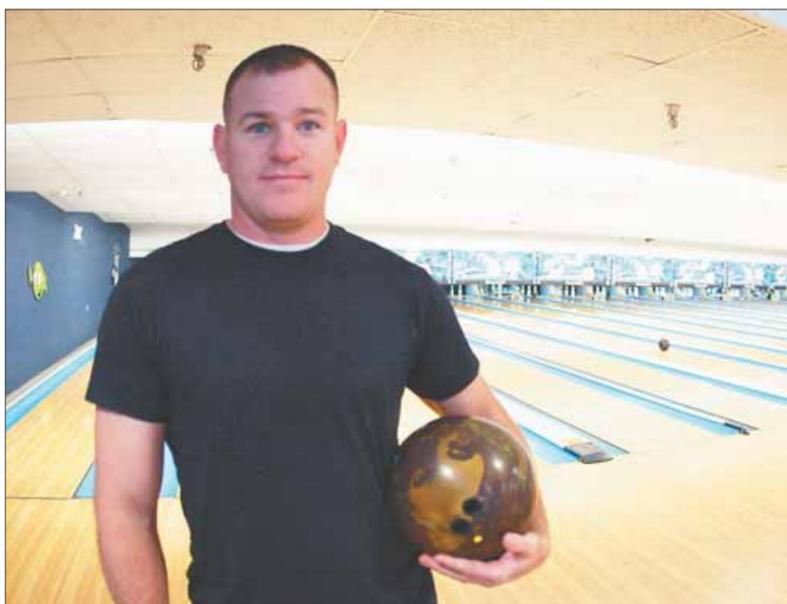
HQBN 1 defeats MCCES



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

HQBN #1 proudly shows off their trophy after beating MCCES in the championship game Wednesday night at the East Gym. HQBN #1 won both matches of the game.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Staff Sgt. Brant Dowd

Age: 32

Job Title: Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Alpha Company instructor

Recognition: He bowled a 299 during an intramural bowling league night April 15 at the Sandy Hill Lanes bowling alley.

Major sport accomplishments: He started bowling in the base intramural league three years ago and has since bowled a 300 and won the base's 'No Tap' tournament in 2008.

Favorite sport aspect: "It's slower than all the other sports. It's nice to sit down with buddies, talk, relax and enjoy the game."

Advice for aspiring athletes: "Stick with it and take advice from people who know the game."

Silver medal in San Bernardino



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Fight Club 29 combatant Allen McBroom took home a silver medal Saturday in 185-pound-class submission grappling during the Battle at the Armory tournament at the Millenia Mixed Martial Arts dojo in San Bernardino, Calif. McBroom submitted his first two opponents, but lost to his third. Despite Saturday's success, however, he said he will be regrettably leaving his teammates. "This was my last fight with Fight Club 29," McBroom said. "I'm heading to go to the Martial Arts Center of Excellence to get my black belt in [the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program]." McBroom left today for Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to participate in the seven-week Martial Arts Instructor Training Course to earn the belt. Although he was excited, he said he also had some qualms about leaving Fight Club 29 behind. "I'm actually going to miss it; I'm going to miss the training and working with these guys," McBroom said. "This is a strong organization full of Marines who want to train to fight. I'm definitely going to miss the training and the camaraderie here."

EXPLOITS, from B1

was only a Lego statue, but it was pretty sweet," he said. "I loved the roller-coaster, they even let me ride it twice."

"I couldn't believe it when I saw how intricate all the works around the park were," he said. "There was a Volvo made of Legos, plus all kinds of stuff from movies."

Kristopik reflected on the best part of his trip, Miniland, an entire world made of Legos.

"I saw it, everything in the world in its true, Lego brand of beauty," he said. "I saw busses, boats, a miniature New Orleans, everything. You haven't seen Mardi Gras until you see it made from Legos."

To get to LegoLand take Highway 62 onto Interstate 10 west. Exit left onto the Moreno Valley Freeway toward Riverside, then take Exit 58 to merge onto Interstate 215 south toward San Diego. After merging onto Interstate 15 south take Exit 46 toward Oceanside. Merge left onto Interstate 5 south, and after taking Exit 48 turn left on Cannon Road. One more right turn will lead to the entrance of LegoLand.



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., looks at a torch made entirely of Legos at LegoLand in Carlsbad, Calif., Saturday.

CROWNED, from B1

lead for the first time in the match with a score of 17-16 when Cindie Blair spiked the ball past MCCES' defense.

The momentum kept building for HQBN #1 as they continued to dominate MCCES and worked themselves into a well-rehearsed rhythm to finally win the first match of the game.

After their victory, HQBN #1 served first and continued with their rhythm, easily scoring four back-to-back points.

But MCCES wasn't going to roll over and let them have the championship and rallied to take the lead with five quick points, bringing the score to 5-4.

The two teams stayed close in score, one never getting more than a point ahead of the other.

After the game was tied 8-8 for a long while, Steve Santana, a player for HQBN #1, dove to keep a volley alive and landed on his right hand and wrist, injuring both.

Despite worries that he may not be able to hit the ball, he opted to continue playing and even with an injured player, HQBN #1 still played strong and managed to pull the score to 22-18 in their favor.

Both teams scored a quick two points bringing the score to 24-20 with HQBN #1 only needing one point to win.

Soon after, they delivered, winning the game and the championship.

Randy Husted, the sports coordinator with Marine Corps Community Services, said it was a close game, but someone had to come out on top.

"We played an awesome season," said Cindie Blair, the coach and a player for HQBN #1. "We worked as a team, played as a team and had fun as a team — and it

paid off in the end."

Stephanie Dovvas, the most valuable player for HQBN #1, agreed, saying that she was very excited to find out about the league because she is a military spouse and it gave her something fun to do with great people.

The volleyball league will start again next spring. Call 830-6857 for more information on joining the league.



PFC. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Eric Ariaga, a player for HQBN #1, serves the ball to MCCES during the final game of the season Wednesday night. HQBN #1 won both matches of the game.

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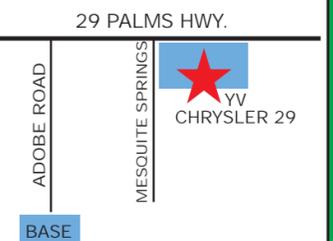


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