

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

JUNE 12, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 23

On the road again; 4th MLG MPs ride through IED alley



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

HAWTHORNE ARMY AMMUNITION DEPOT, Nev. —The military police of Company B, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Logistic Group, stepped out from behind the front gate and took on the challenge of convoy training Tuesday.

The exercise was one part of a training evolution known as Javelin Thrust, a large mountain warfare scenario, which involves Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., as well as Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., said Michael Labarge, an instructor for their improvised explosive device training and a native of Plattsburgh, N.Y.

The training focused on combating improvised explosive devices — how to defeat them and what to do after an attack.

“I’m just teaching them the basics of IEDs in my class,” Labarge said. “What they’re made of, how they’re concealed, but how to react to them is the most important.”

Labarge’s training covered the different methods of detonation for the devices, and how to spot them as well.

“If you know what to look for, it will make your life a whole lot easier,” he said. “The explosives can be triggered in one of three ways, timed explosions, command, which is having them set off by the person who planted it. The victim can also be the one who sets them off, through

See CONVOY, A10

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The military police with Company B, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, set out on a patrol Wednesday during their convoy training at Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, during which they countered ambushes and improvised explosive devices.

New GI Bill benefits to take effect August 1st

LANCE CPL. BRYAN G. CARFREY
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

ARLINGTON, Va. — Former Secretary of the Navy Jim Webb believes today’s military deserves a GI Bill rivaling that of the World War II era where full tuition, housing allowance and books are covered. So, on his first day in office as senator for Virginia in January 2007, he introduced the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

“This is a great day for our veterans,” Webb said during a statement made the day the bill was signed into law June 30, 2008, by President George W. Bush. “This bill properly provides a modern and fair

educational benefit to address the needs of those who answered the call of duty to our country--those who moved toward the sound of the guns--often at great sacrifice.”

The senator believed the current Montgomery GI Bill was proper for a peacetime military, but a new and improved program was needed during wartime, said Bob Clark, assistant director of accession policy for the office of the Secretary of Defense.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 was passed by an overwhelmingly lopsided vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House voted 416-12, while the

Senate voted 92-6.

The new law expanded education benefits to service members who served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The changes are scheduled to go into effect Aug. 1.

“I would like to emphasize that this is not simply an expansion of veterans’ educational benefits,” Webb said. “This is a new program, a deserved program.”

According to Maj. Gary A. Bourland, manpower and reserve affairs, military policy, Training and Education Command, service members eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill need to enroll on the www.gibill.va.gov Web site to initiate the pro-

| Active Duty Completed After Sept. 10, 2001 | Percentage of Maximum Amount Payable |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| • At least 36 months | 100 percent |
| • At least 30 continuous days on active duty and discharged due to service-connected disability | 100 percent |
| • 30 months to 36 months | 90 percent |
| • 24 months to 30 months | 80 percent |
| • 18 months to 24 months | 70 percent |
| • 12 months to 18 months | 60 percent |
| • 6 months to 12 months | 50 percent |

gram’s benefits.

The post 9/11 GI Bill offers an improved basic allowance for housing, pays full tuition for a public college, a \$1,000 stipend for books, 15 years to use

benefits after separating from the military as opposed to 10 years with the MGIB and a new transferability of all benefits to a dependent.

Members will not be

able to begin to elect to transfer educational benefits until after June 15. No benefits will be paid by the Veterans Affairs until Aug. 1

See BILL, A9



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus and his wife, Janet, wave at passing veterans during the 2008 Veterans Day parade in Palm Springs. The county of San Bernardino, whose boundary lies just outside of Palm Springs, was named the most military friendly county in California by the Yellow Ribbon America Campaign and the California State Legislature May 19.

San Bernardino County named most military friendly in California

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

San Bernardino was named the most military friendly county in California by the Yellow Ribbon America Campaign and the California State Legislature May 19.

Chairman of the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors Gary Ovitt was selected to receive the award on behalf of San Bernardino County in a ceremony Wednesday, said Bill Moseley, director of San Bernardino County Veteran Affairs.

According to a San Bernardino

County press release sent out June 1, the county received the award due to its involvement in military support programs which include providing full benefits and pay to county employees who also serve as active duty service members.

The county also provides special health care services to active-duty members and veterans, and has organized several food and supply drives for overseas service members, according to the press release.

Ovitt expressed his personal gratitude for military members and his pleasure in supporting them in the press release.

“San Bernardino County is proud of all we do for our military members and their families because they do so much for us and our country,” said the Huntsville, Ala., native. “We are especially proud to be singled out as the best among the state’s 58 counties for the work we do for our military community.”

The county hosted a high school diploma ceremony for veterans at the Goldy S. Lewis Community Center in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., June 5. The ceremony recognized veterans whose educations were interrupted

See FRIENDLY, A3



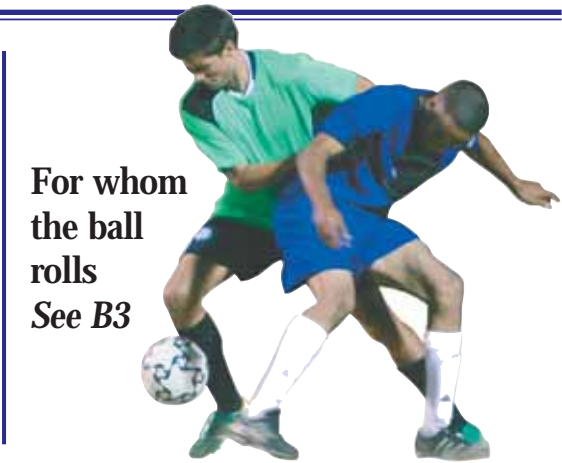
Combat Center horseplay
See A3



We can drive it home...
See A5



Derby keeps on rollin’
See B1



For whom the ball rolls
See B3

When bigger is not better

JOHN FLEMING
MCAGTFTC MOTORCYCLE SAFETY OFFICE

Every week, Frank Santiago and I conduct motorcycle safety training courses for Marines and sailors at the Combat Center. Without fail, we have riders show up with brand new motorcycles, usually sportbikes, that have already crashed. Broken mirrors, caved-in fiberglass, scraped-up bar ends — you name it. They may be new bikes, but they don't look new.

The problem is that inexperienced riders are purchasing high performance machinery; motorcycles that they are totally ill-prepared to ride. Now don't get me wrong. This is America, and a young Marine or sailor should be able to buy any bike he or she wants.

But let's get real. There is absolutely no way that today's sport-bikes can be maximized on the street. Even a 600 cc engine model is frighteningly fast, accelerates like a carrier cat shot and can stop on a dime — if in capable hands. Anything bigger, 750 or 1000 cc for example, is absolute overkill for anything other than the track, and unmanageable for novice riders.

If you're thinking of purchasing a new sportbike, do yourself a favor and limit yourself to 600 cc or smaller. Better yet, buy a used bike first, and get some miles under your belt before you buy a new machine. After all, new bikes should look new, don't you think?

John Fleming is a RiderCoach with Cape Fox Professional Services, providing motorcycle safety training for Marines and sailors aboard MACTFTC. To submit your comments or contributions about motorcycling, his email is michael.j.fleming@usmc.mil



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

Hot Topics

DINOSAUR/TODDLER PARK RENOVATIONS

The Dinosaur/Toddler Park will be closed for renovations starting June 11 - 29. We will be upgrading the park to expand the current size, add new fencing, sod and playground equipment. Note: New playground equipment is tentatively set to be installed mid July. The park will reopen once the new fencing and sod is in place until the new playground equipment arrives for installation. The current playground equipment will stay in place.

5K COYOTE DESERT FUN RUN

The Combat Center's Installation Personnel Administration Center will be hosting the 5K Coyote Desert Fun Run July 2. The cost of entry is \$15. All entries will receive a free T-shirt, additional shirts can be purchased for \$7.50. Registration forms are to be completed and returned to IPAC by July 1. To receive a registration form or for more information, contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Welty at 830-1818.

This Day in Marine Corps History

June 12, 1991

Following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, Marines from III MEF and the barracks at Subic Bay begin assisting in relief work called Operation Fiery Vigil.

Centerspeak

Is living in the desert what you expected?

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



MASTER GUNNERY
SGT. DOUGLAS WEBSTER
BATTLE SIMULATION CENTER,
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

“Yes, but I am from Las Vegas so I have lived in a desert that is very geographically similar. I have also been stationed here on and off for about 29 years.”



SGT. GERALD PLAYLE
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT,
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO.

“No, this is not what I have expected, but the secret of Twentynine Palms is getting out of Twentynine Palms, knowing where to go and how to have fun.”



PVT. JED ADAMS
MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATIONS-
ELECTRONICS SCHOOL, Co. B

“No, I didn't think there was actually 'nothing' here.”

SUDOKU #11

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POST IT

[puzzle Solutions on A7]

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| 66 | | | | | | | 67 | | | | | 68 | | |

American Profile Hometown Content

05/10/2009

ACROSS

- Errand-list heading
- Squalid area
- Jack of nursery rhyme
- Tehran's land
- Prefix with port or pad
- Positive thinker
- Norman Vincent ___
- Not generic
- "As You Like It" forest
- Shakers founder in America
- Battery size
- Urges to attack
- Contacts database
- Some takeout
- Nikkei currency
- Word before car or card
- Piano student's exercise
- The whole ball of wax
- "___ had it!"
- Manhattan tourist's buy
- Stocking's end
- Ocean's bottom
- Very, in music
- Was decked out in
- Where Fey played Palin, for short
- Kind of bass
- Non-private institution
- "After that ..."
- Up to, informally
- "Ripe" life stage
- "Amazing" magician
- Leftovers holder
- Map within a map
- Grandmother in the comic strip "Stone Soup"
- Choir voice
- Jury members, supposedly
- Tear apart
- Concert souvenirs

DOWN

- Turner or Sinatra
- North African port
- Send to blazes
- Narrow, as a bridge
- Turns to confetti
- Rustic setting
- Radii neighbors
- Greedy monarch of fiction
- Hydrotherapy site
- Politically correct suffix
- Marconi's field
- Smart ___ (wise guy)
- Till stack
- George Eliot's "Adam ___"
- Safe havens
- Marks on scores
- Roadrunner's cry
- Corn bin
- Be afflicted with
- Clinched
- "Bye for now," in chat rooms
- Buggy drivers
- At the summit of
- Oral tradition
- Glance from Groucho
- Pessimist's word
- Any of the Keys
- Villanova athlete
- Post-snowfall vehicle
- Decorated, as leather
- Caramel candy brand
- 1953 Alan Lad doater
- All keyed up
- Sorting device
- Owen of "Children of Men"
- Go sprawling
- Up to the task
- Scandal suffix
- Swelled heads
- "___ alive!"
- Links or alley target

Combat Center Spotlight



Name: Petty Officer 1st Class John Tennis
Job title: Independent duty corpsman and healthcare provider
Job duties: I do everything a doctor does except I'm not a doctor.
Hobbies: Snowboarding, working on my car, hiking.
Most significant achievement: Becoming a healthcare provider
Time in military: Almost 10 years
Time aboard MCAGCC: Two years.
Deployments: Three deployments.

OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus

Public Affairs Officer Jennie E. Haskamp

Deputy Public Affairs Officer 1st Lt. Doy Demsick

Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

Press Chief/Editor Cpl. Corey A. Blodgett

Layout, Design Leslie Shaw

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Horses stampede into the Combat Center’s Self-Care Boarding Facility



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Patrick Alan Merritt, 9, rides Tessa while he talks to his mother, Devon Merritt, a Marine wife who keeps her horses at the facility, June 9 at the Combat Center's Self-Care Boarding Facility. The facility provides many amenities to include large stalls, tack lockers, a round pen, a mini arena, a pasture with pond, wash racks and miles of trails.

CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Self-Care Boarding Facility provides a convenient way to keep base personnel close to their horses.

Not only does the facility provide an area aboard the Combat Center for horses to call home, but it offers its patrons many amenities, including large stalls, tack lockers, a round pen, a mini arena, a pasture with pond, wash racks and miles of trails.

"There is almost an endless amount of places to ride on base," said John Murdock, the manager for Outdoor Adventures and the boarding facility. "You can ride anywhere on base that is not training areas."

Although the facility provides many amenities, there

are many stipulations for the horse owners to follow that are associated with a self-care facility that help maintain the health and well-being of the animals:

- Horses must be fed twice a day; owners must provide their own feed.
- Stalls must be cleaned once a day during winter months and twice during summer months.
- Owners must provide all care to keep their horses healthy.
- Horses must be turned to the pasture daily.
- The horse must be exercised three times a week.
- Owners provide regular worming and stay up-to-date on vaccinations.

For those that agree to the contract of boarding their horses here, the price to have an assigned stall is \$100 a month for each horse, said Devon Merritt, a Marine wife

who keeps her horses at the facility.

For inbound personnel and their horses, there are requirements before they are allowed to board at the facility. Most importantly vaccines must be up-to-date, Murdock said. The horses are required to have five vaccinations; Rabies, West Nile Virus, Flu, Rhino, and Eastern and Western Encephalitis and Tetanus, a combined 3-way vaccination.

Horses must also spend a minimum of 10 days in a quarantined stall when they first arrive, which they may not leave until the resident veterinarian deems the horse to have a clean bill of health, Murdock said. Once the veterinarian gives the 'okay', the horse is relocated to a permanent stall and has access to the entire facility.

The facility can accommodate 18 horses. Currently it is the home to 10 horses with five more coming within the next few months, Murdock said.

At this time, the facility does not offer any lessons, though some horse owners are hoping that will change.

"Camp Pendleton has a beautiful facility," Merritt said. "They provide lessons and trail rides. We would love to be able to do that here. I have families ask me all the time if that is something the base provides. Hopefully we can get those programs here."

Merritt and other horse owners boarding at the facility are surveying approximately how many people would be interested in utilizing it if lessons and other activities were provided.

If you are interested in boarding at the facility or for more information, call Outdoor Adventures at 830-7235. At this time, only mares and geldings are accepted to board at the facility, stallions are not permitted.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Devon Merritt, who houses her horses at the facility gallops with her horse, Tessa, in the round pen June 9 at the Combat Center's Self-Care Boarding Facility. The price to board at the facility is \$100 a month for each horse.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Color Guard units regularly participate in community events and activities as representatives of their units and the Combat Center. San Bernardino County was recognized as the most military friendly county in the state by the Yellow Ribbon America Campaign and the California State Legislature May 19 due to its involvement with shared military and community events.

FRIENDLY, from A1

due to their involvement in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War or the Japanese-American relocation during WWII, according to the press release.

Retired Col. Philip C. Cisneros, a long-time Twentynine Palms resident who retired as the Combat Center's chief of staff in 1993, said he recalls numerous circumstances where the county and local agencies have stepped forward to assist Marines, sailors and their families.

Cisneros said he remembered how limited on-base housing was in the early 90's due to the 7th Marine Regiment moving in. When a young corporal and his wife were refused housing from an off-base real estate agency based on the Marine's non-officer status, the county took action.

Within 72 hours, the San Bernardino County equal opportunity director at the time, threatened to seize and suspend the licenses of real estate agencies who continued to pull similar stunts on enlisted Marines and sailors, Cisneros said.

He then recalled how, six months away from his retirement from 43 years in the Corps, his wife asked him to remain in the desert community she had come to love.

Staff Sgt. Jason Merritt, an instructor with Company B, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, and his wife Devon rented a place out in town upon their arrival at the Combat Center from

Marine Corps Base Hawaii in July 2008.

While living there, Devon said she noticed how much friendlier the Morongo Basin community is compared to the one in Hawaii.

"When we got here about this time last year, we saw banners and signs hanging up out in town welcoming home the Marines from deployment," said Devon, a Colfax, Calif., native. "Marines and their families have to move all the time, and it's nice when you get somewhere that feels more like home instead of just some place you'll spend a short amount of your time."

"I think being out here makes it easier for deployments, too," she said. "The Marines know their families are better taken care of here."

Sgt. Roderick R. Beachum, the noncommissioned officer in charge of passenger travel at the Traffic Management Office, Company B, Headquarters Battalion, said it is a relief to live in such a pro-military community.

"I think if you live in a county that is more involved with the military, it makes it easier to live in that community," he said. "The people out here are more grateful for things that other Americans may take for granted."

As Marines and sailors move from state-side training areas to overseas deployments, San Bernardino County residents have shown they will continue to support military members through services, programs, and a simple 'welcome home.'

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FAA shares air with Combat Center warriors

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Four representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration visited the Combat Center Wednesday and Thursday to meet and coordinate with base operations and training representatives about the limits of air space and discuss expanding them.

Lt Col. Thomas E. Frederick, deputy of operations and training here, and Lt. Col. Aaron Potter, the Marine regional airspace coordinator for Marine Corps Installations West, guided the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center FAA representatives through various Combat Center training areas to give them a better idea of what the Combat Center mission entails, and why airspace is so vital.

First, the group boarded a Mercy Air Bell 412 Helicopter and made their way to the Combined Arms Military Operations Urban Training area, a seven-district mock city near the Quackenbush training area consisting of more than 1,500 buildings.

Bryan Robertson, the CAMOUT development officer, explained to the FAA representatives how Marines train as they fight and operate in urban terrain.

From there, the representatives met with Maj. Richard

Patteson, the Battalion Team West Tactical Air Control Party lead with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group.

Patteson brought the group to the outskirts of the Clear, Hold and Build 2 training area, or CHUB 2, to demonstrate how ground and aviation elements join forces to bring down targets.

“There are only two places where this kind of thing takes place,” Patteson said as F/A-18 Hornets and M777 howitzers engaged the same target. “Here, and in combat.”

Mark Kuck, a support manager for the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center, sympathized with the Combat Center on behalf of the FAA in assisting the training missions through the gift of additional air space.

“We want to understand your mission and really work together for joint use,” he said. “When we’re not using the air space, we want you to be able to. The sky is an infinite amount of space to share.”

The Los Angeles FAA delegates the limitations of air space for the busiest air traffic area in the world, said Frederick, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa native.

The Los Angeles FAA monitors commercial flights from Ontario, LAX, San Diego and John Wayne Airport in Orange County, Calif., as well as military air



Maj. Richard Patteson, the Battalion Team West Tactical Air Control Party lead with the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group, explains to Federal Aviation Administration representatives how ground artillery units join forces with aviation units to engage targets at the Quackenbush training area Wednesday. The four FAA reps present learned how important airspace is to combined arms exercises at the Combat Center.

activity from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., and MCAS Miramar, Calif.

Due to the high volume of air space use, the Combat Center is forced to keep a tight leash on its aircrafts' traveling distances, Potter said.

“This is an important and national training center,” Potter said. “We’re trying to educate these FAA guys on what’s going on here. They’re seeing things here they can’t

see through a radar scope.”

Potter continued, saying in addition to educating FAA civilian employees about training, the air space is vital to training warriors properly.

“Our Marines need to be proficient at this before they deploy,” Potter said. “All our TTPs [tactics, techniques and procedures] need to be exercised and integrated. Maj. Patteson hit it on the head when he said this only happens here and in war.”

Frederick said not only

will the FAA representatives learn about the aviation aspect of training, but also about numerous other aspects that prepare Marines and sailors for deployments.

“The FAA is partnered with the base to maintain the way it is,” Frederick said. “This is a good will trip to show these guys what we do here.”

After knocking the dust from their boots, the FAA representatives remounted the helicopter enroute to mainside for a tour and brief with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

They learned how anti-

coalition forces target American troops with improvised explosive devices and what the Marine Corps is doing to counteract the attacks. They learned how insurgents build IEDs, how to spot potential IED placements and how to operate the EOD robots that find, identify and disarm IEDs.

“I have a son who has deployed to Iraq twice and it’s very possible that these EOD technicians picked up a bomb my son may have stepped on,” said Kuck. “This helps give us a better picture of what your mission is out here. We appreciate that mission and we’re excited to start communicating on how we can help each other out.”

The group then made their way to the Marksmanship

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Combat Center, local personnel show off their rides

CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – The Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce hosted its ninth annual Street Fair and Car Show at the intersection of Adobe Road and Twentynine Palms Highway June 5.

Combat Center Marines, sailors, employees, and families joined local Morongo Basin car enthusiasts to admire and showcase classic and modern vehicles, and recognize three winning cars in categories ranging from classic and modern to mayor's choice and general's choice at the end of the show.

The fair included merchandise and concession stands, local radio disk jockeys, a static display by the Morongo Basin Fire Department and paramedics, and a chance to pay a small fee for taking a hammer to a scrapped car staged in the middle of the street.

Staff Sgt. Tim Warren, a Special Reaction Team military police officer with the Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office, showcased his pride and joy, a 1947 Chevrolet Fleetmaster Coupe, at the fair.

Warren, who volunteered to help with the Armed Services YMCA soapbox derby race before the show, said getting grease under his fingernails is a long-loved hobby.

"I've put about three to four thousand hours into this," Warren said about his car. "I work on it whenever I can."

Mitch Arnzen, director of Marines Air Ground Task Force integrated systems training center also showcased his personal car, 1974 General Motors Corp. Jimmy.

"It's fun getting compliments and just being able to

show off your car," said Arnzen. "It's very gratifying. I don't need a trophy at the end of the night; that doesn't mean anything. I'm just out here to have fun."

Arnzen's godson, Cpl. Jim Moorman, a tank commander with 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, also put in quite a number of man hours to get the Jimmy ready for the show.

"It kind of feels like my baby, too," said Moorman, a Batesville, Ind., native. "I love the old school craftsmanship in the older vehicles. Their styles are so unique and I think some of these older guys here can really appreciate that kind of stuff."

Pfc. Jordan Shell, a tropospheric scatter radio multi-channel equipment operator with Company B, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, said he felt just as intrigued by mechanics and cars.

"I love that you can do so much to a car to make it your own," said the Detroit native. "You can fix the interior and exterior however you want. It describes it owner."

The winners and their vehicles were announced in part by Brig. Gen. Charles M. Gurganus, the Combat Center commanding general, and were also featured in a Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce press release Monday.

The first-place winner for the best classic car was a 1963 Volkswagen Microbus owned by Joe Ingram. The first-place winner for the best modern car, a 2005 Ford Mustang, was Jim Harris. Winners were also announced for the mayor's choice, a 1941 GMC COE owned by Bob Tenbrook, and the general's



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Local citizens joined Combat Center Marines, sailors and family members to admire cars at the ninth annual Twentynine Palms Street Fair and Car Show at the intersection of Adobe Road and Twentynine Palms Highway June 5.

choice, a 1950 Chevy Coupe owned by Mark Hartl.

Other first, second and third-place winners were recognized in categories such as the best truck, best sports bike, best street bike and under-con-

struction category.

The annual car show is scheduled to take place again this time next year. To learn more, contact the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce at 367-3445.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Bobby Maes, a fourth-grade student at Friendly Hills Elementary School in Joshua Tree, Calif., takes a swing at a run-down car staged in middle of the road.

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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

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

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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)

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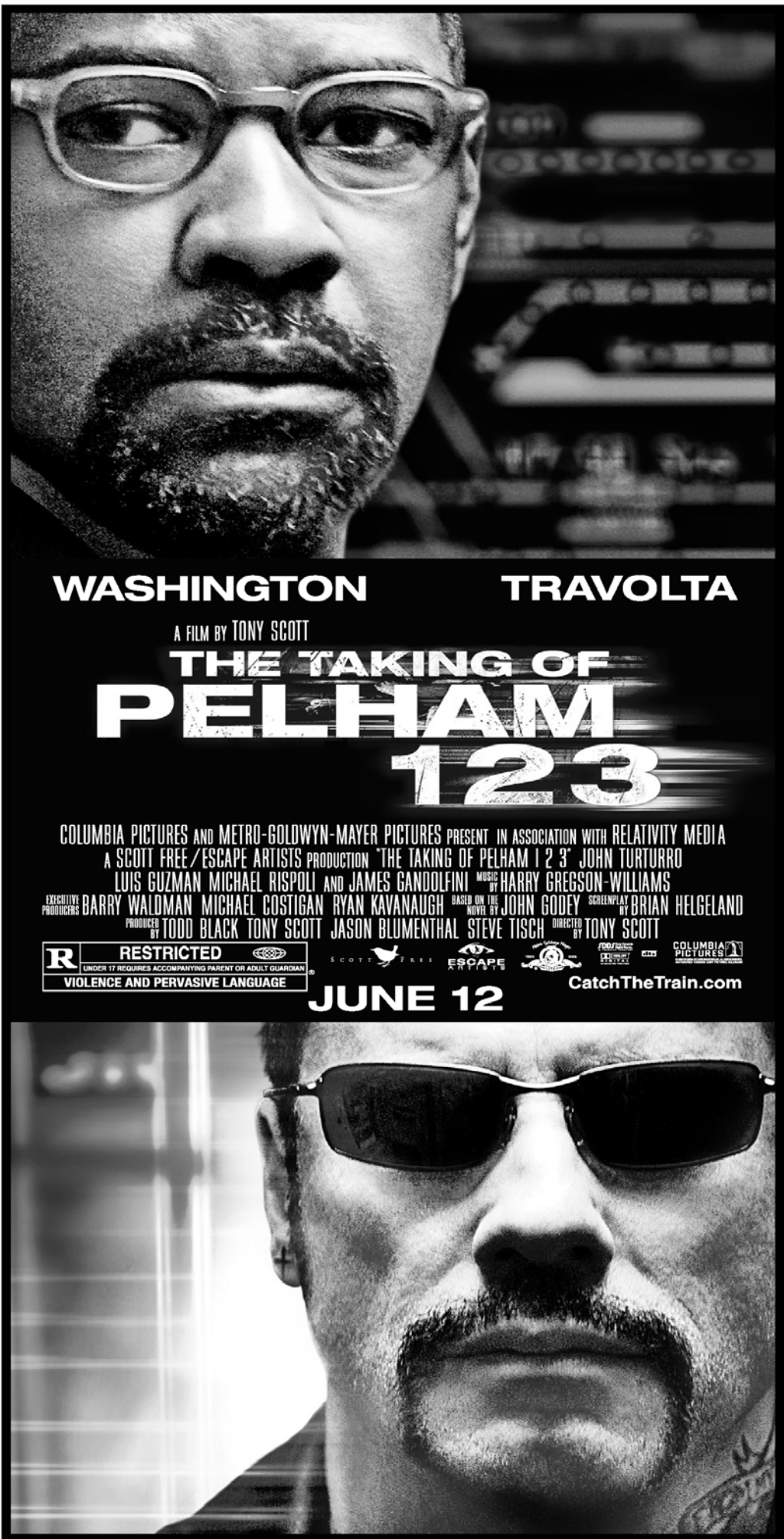
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Marines pack animals; take training in stride



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Marines attending Animal Packers Course aboard Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., make their way up the first of many hills at MWTC June 4. The students learned how to operate with and care for pack animals in complex, mountainous terrain during the course.

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif., - Marines attending the Animal Packers Course learned how to care for and work with pack animals, and how to transport casualties and supplies using mules and donkeys June 3 through 5 at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif.

The students became familiar with the animals beforehand, then set off on one of their first hikes to training area Penguin June 4, said Sgt. Jerry Meece, an instructor with the course, and a native of Lufkin, Texas.

"The beginning of the training is slow to start off to get the students acclimated," Meece said. "They learn after that, how to care for and operate using the animals in an environment similar to the complex terrain they'll be facing over in Afghanistan."

"Aside from basic care and living with the animal, they learn additional basic techniques to survive in the mountainous terrain," he said. "They learn all the ways to attach a load to the animal, and how to secure it. The students will practice tactical movements with the animals, along with basic military skills with an adaptation to the mountainous terrain."

Meece said the training is very beneficial to the Marines, but he would like to see the two-week course be extended to give the Marines more time to learn with the animals.

"They're going to encounter tough terrain, which is going to make their job even tougher," he said. "We give them as much hands-on experience as possible with the animals, but if we had another week it would help a lot. It's just not enough time for the students to become proficient with the animals the way I'd like to see it."

Meece said when using both mules and donkeys students have to take into consideration that the principals are the same, but different sized loads require different sized animals.

"The mules are larger, they can carry a bigger load," he

said. "But they will probably use donkeys in theater, so we train with them too. Mules are preferred because of their ability to carry more weight over the complex terrain."

Some students of the course handled the animals with ease, while others who had never worked with animals before got off to a rocky start.

"I can tell some of these guys are scared of, or aren't used to the animals," said Pfc. John Holland, and assault man with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, and a student in the course. "I've been around horses because of family, so this isn't too new to me. You just have to be confident with what you do when you're dealing with these guys [the animals]."

After the completion of the course, the Marines will return to their parent units with a better understanding of how to conduct mountain warfare with some of the Marine Corps four-legged friends.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL


Marines and their livestock make their way to Training Area Penguin June 4.

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Lt. Keith Castleton, an optometrist at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's optometry clinic, checks Sgt. Emmanuel Cartier, the ground safety manager for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, for infections or abnormalities in his eyes during a routine eye exam Tuesday.

Eye care if you care

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Although routine eye exams may seem like a bore, there are a few sailors aboard the Combat Center who have a vision of eye care that is a cut above the rest.

The optometry clinic at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital here provides active duty service members with the means to see the world through better eyes.

"The main thing we try to do here is get Marines and sailors ready for deployment," said Lt. Keith Castleton, the optometry

clinic department head. "We also make sure they have the eyewear to do their everyday jobs as well."

One primary function of the optometry clinic is to conduct routine eye exams for all active duty service members. During the exams, an optometrist is mostly looking at eye health and determining proper prescriptions for patients. Optometrists also have the ability to spot and treat allergies and eye infections.

"Another thing we also tend to see here is patients with eye trauma, whether it's combat-related or just from an accident," said Castleton, a

Butte, Mont., native. In the event of a patient with eye trauma, opticians will triage the patient and figure out how the injury happened, determine the current level of eye health and pain, and figure out how best to treat the patient, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Rachel Prince, an optician and the lead petty officer at the hospital's optometry clinic.

The clinic staff can also fit special contact lenses for patients with specific eye problems.

"For some people, it's medically necessary for them to wear contacts," said the Chesapeake, Va., native. "We try to facilitate their needs by getting as close to their prescription as possible and making those contacts as comfortable as possible."

"We can also cut glasses if need be to reduce wait time for prescriptions and ensure we get as close to special prescriptions as we can," Prince said.

The optometry clinic has also been provided with new equipment in the past several years, which helps with opticians and optometrists test for additional problems not normally checked in a standard optometry clinic.

"I think our patients are treated very well here," Castleton said. "Our skilled staff and new equipment increase our capability to keep patients here for treatment. Plus, in the event we have to refer patients to ophthalmology at [Marine Corps Base] Camp Pendleton, we can provide the staff there with the most accurate medical information possible."

The optometry clinic is only seeing active duty service members at this time, but retirees and family members can still visit optometrists within the TRICARE network and still receive full coverage. Reservists can be seen for specific eye issues, but are expected to visit an optometrist regularly while they are not on active reserve status.

For more information about the optometry clinic or to schedule an appointment for an eye exam, call 830-2458.



Lt. Keith Castleton scans the eyes of Cpl. Roland Ramirez, a rifleman with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, after dilating Ramirez' pupils during a routine eye exam Tuesday.

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BILL, from A1

when the new educational bill is initiated.

Only active or reserve duty service members who amassed at least 90 days on active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001, will be considered for determining the individual's eligibility for the new benefits. However, individuals honorably discharged for a service-connected disability who served 30 consecutive days after Sept. 10, 2001, may also establish eligibility.

"The Montgomery GI Bill was a commitment-based program which required service members to enroll and pay \$1,200 out of their pocket and complete their contract with honorable service," Clark said.

The new bill's benefits and eligibility are no longer based on enrollment or requiring the service member to "buy in" to the program.

"You're eligible after 90 days of service," Clark said. "Your benefit package is based on service time like a sliding scale and with no enrollment."

Also, for veterans attending classes after Aug. 1, the benefits automatically rollover to the Post 9/11 GI Bill, if the veteran is enrolled in the MGIB and currently eligible for the new bill, Clark said.

If the service member took part in the \$600 buy up program and attends an institute of higher learning those benefits will be lost with the post 9/11 GI Bill. But if the individual attends education outside of college the buy up benefits will apply with the MGIB.

He said those service members who have paid the initial \$1,200 to enter the MGIB program will receive the money back on the last stipend payment of the 36 month GI Bill benefits. If

the service member had used any of the MGIB the money paid back will be proportionate and not the full \$1,200.

However, Clark also said the individual would have to specifically ask to use the MGIB at that point.

"For individuals with little service Post-9/11 the old GI Bill may be more beneficial to them," Clark said.

The new program covers the tuition and fees for the individual, but not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition for a public institute for higher learning. The program also pays the school directly, where as the MGIB paid the individual.

One of the most noticeable changes to the educational program is how service members will now receive a basic allowance for housing. The BAH will be the equivalent of an E-5 with dependants and is based on the school's zip code.

"The basic allowance for housing is easily the biggest part, it's huge," said Alex Ellis, 24, who served in the Marine Corps from 2002-2007 and is currently paying for school with the old GI Bill. "Having that extra money to live off campus and away from the 18-year-olds is nice."

Ellis said the changes to the current program are long overdue.

When the GI Bill started in WWII, the program provided service members with the opportunity to go to

school full-time with not necessarily having to work while doing it.

In addition to BAH, service members will also receive a \$1,000 stipend for books.

"The \$1,000 for books is huge," Ellis said. "It's absurd how expensive text books are, last semester I spent between \$450 and \$500 dollars on books out of my pocket."

Originally, members of the Department of Defense were concerned about the changes to the GI Bill.

"While helping recruiting this could bring down the retention of service members," Clark said. "So a transferability option was inserted into the bill which allows service members to transfer benefits to their dependents."

The entire benefit package is transferable to a dependent.

In order to transfer benefits, service members must be eligible for the new GI Bill and be in the military on Aug. 1, with at least six years of active or reserve service and enlist for another four years.

"The main thing for Marines to know is that this is a wonderful program," Clark said. "Whether you're using it during or after active duty or sharing it with the ones you love."

For questions regarding the new educational benefits, visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.



TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt

Thoughtful Reader Jay Bern recently observed that a sense of humor is a good thing for a column such as mine. Therefore, I hope that he and all my readers enjoy this story out of Texas.

The two sons of a Fort Worth woman of 90 were worried about her safety. "We are going to get you a pistol, mother, so you can take care of yourself. We're going to teach you how to use it too. There is too much violence out there."

So they bought their mother a pistol, which she dutifully packed in her purse. One day, when she left Ridgmar Shopping Center to get into her car, she found two young men sitting in the car. She took out the pistol, pointed it at them and said, "Get out of my car or I'll shoot." They jumped out and ran off. She got into the car, put the key in the ignition—and it did not fit. Then she realized that it was not her car. She went over and found her car. She said she would have apologized to the two young men, but she could not find them.

The Fort Worth newspaper that reported this story titled it "The Peril of Fierce Certainty." This humorous story is a good reminder that a fervent advocacy of our point of view should always be tempered by the knowledge that we rarely know everything about anything.

This message sponsored by:

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FAA, from A4

Training Unit rifle range to try their hands at marksmanship with 9mm pistols. About 400 brass casings later, the group took their final trip to the Exercise Support Division for a group photo standing among M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks.

The group got to business the following day to discuss expansions of the Combat Center airspace limitations and fill out letters of agreement, Potter said.



John Schuster, a support specialist for airspace and procedures with the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center, looks on from a Mercy Air Bell 412 Helicopter during a tour of the Combat Center Wednesday.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Marines with Company B, Headquarters Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, roll down one of many narrow passages at Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot, Nev., as the company conducts its convoy training.

CONVOY, from A1

any number of methods.”

The Marines training at Hawthorne, took a step away from their normal role as military police, and mounted up into humvees to conduct their training.

“Every Marine should have a core understanding of how to conduct convoy operations,” said Pfc. Tommy Howard, a military policeman with the company, and a native of Pittsburgh.

Howard said training in the high altitude and the complex, compartmentalized terrain gave him a better understanding of what to expect in Afghanistan.

“It’s great that we’re doing training like this in the mountains and the hills,” Howard said. “Convoy operations are important. Learning how to operate at a higher altitude that we’re all not used to, and move through the mountains, that’s what is really going to help us.”

With the entire 4th MLG currently activated, they will continue to train to build up their mountain warfare skills in every area before they become deploy later this year.

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ASYMCA lets children get down and Derby

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif., — On your mark... Get set... Go!

At the sound of the air gun, children raced down the Oasis Avenue hill in their wooden vehicles, competing for the best time during the sixth annual Soapbox Derby June 5.

The Armed Services YMCA and the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce teamed together to host the derby, and ensuring each participant received sponsorship from various companies in the local communities. The sponsorships helped lower the cost of entry for each rider.

"The main reason for the derby was to build a

See DERBY, B4

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Wyatt Green, sponsored by Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, flips his soapbox car over as he hits the dirt during the soapbox derby during the Armed Services YMCA Soapbox Derby, June 5 on the hill at Oasis Avenue. Wyatt was the only participant to flip his car, but he jumped right up and walked it off.



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

The giant red arrow points patrons in the direction of the Highway 62 Cinema, which screens rare art films, cult classics and music documentaries Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the Red Arrow Art Gallery in Joshua Tree.

Highway 62 Cinema features rare films, documentaries

LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

JOSHUA TREE, Calif. – Looking for a unique movie-going experience, but tired of the romantic comedies in the mainstream cinema?

Every Wednesday at 8 p.m., the Red Arrow Art Gallery in Joshua Tree is

hosting the Highway 62 Cinema, a new film venue featuring rare art films, music documentaries and cult classics for those with more complex, abstract movie tastes.

Sandra Hale Schulman, the founder of the Highway 62 Cinema said she has been screening her own music documentaries for nearly two years. After moving to the

Hi-Desert in January, she entered one of her own films, "The Ballad of Peter LaFarge," in the Native Film Festival in Palms Springs. Afterward, she decided to bring her own unique venue to the Morongo Basin.

"I noticed all this local art and music being featured in the area, but I couldn't really find any venues for rare films," said the Westchester, N.Y., native. "I came up with the idea in February and approached Katie Shaw, the owner of the Red Arrow, who immediately loved the idea."

Shaw, who took over ownership of the Red Arrow in February 2007, said she has been trying to start up a film night at the gallery for a long time, but could never find the time.

"Once Sandra approached me, everything seemed to just fall right into place and work the way the world works," said Shaw, a Joshua Tree resident. "I'm really excited to

See CINEMA, B4



LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Sandra Hale Schulman, founder of the Highway 62 Cinema, socializes with Margo Kwee, owner of the Joshua Tree Inn, in the empty screening area before the feature film Wednesday at the Red Arrow Art Gallery in Joshua Tree. Highway 62 Cinema received an excellent turnout that evening – every seat in the house was filled.

Special needs boy learns joy through 'ball-ball'

LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

When Brett Hargrove is at home he is a 6-year-old boy suffering from Tourette's syndrome, epilepsy, severe developmental delays and Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, but when the evening comes and he turns to his mom and says one of the few words he knows, 'ball-ball,' short for baseball, Karalee and Curtis Hargrove know they are about to see a miracle.

When Brett turned six, his parents started to notice a low self-esteem in him as he realized he was different from other children he would meet.

"I have four boys at home," said Karalee Hargrove, a Twentynine Palms native. "Brett knew something was off because he was always sitting on the sidelines watching his brothers play and he wasn't allowed too."

After watching their son become depressed, the Hargroves decided to try to place Brett on a team sport.

"We wanted to make him feel part of a team," said Curtis Hargrove, who works aboard the Combat Center as a Marine

See BRETT, B2



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Layton Matthews, Brett's baseball coach and a retired gunnery sergeant working as a contract specialist for Purchasing and Contracting aboard the Combat Center, helps Brett Hargrove, 6, hit the baseball during the last game of the season, June 5 at Felix Field.

Athlete of the Week

Name: John P. Humbertson

Age: 42

Job Title: Provost Sergeant, Combat Center's Provost Marshall's Office

Recognition: Golfer for Commanding General's Intramural Golf League

Major Sports accomplishments: Earned a hole-in-one award from the Desert Winds Golf Course last year

Favorite aspect: "It's very competitive and is probably the hardest sport I've ever played. I enjoy the camaraderie and being outside."

Advice for other aspiring athletes:

"If you want to be good at what you do, you need to apply yourself. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work, but make sure you're having fun, too."





| FRI. 6/12 | FRI. 6/12 | FRI. 6/12 | SAT. 6/13 | SAT. 6/13 |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Scorpions Exhibit Time: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum 57090 29 Palms Highway Yucca Valley. For more information call 369-7212 or visit http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org | Mark & Brian Bongo at Morongo feat. Dave Mason Time: 8:00 P.M. Tickets: \$25 Where: Morongo Casino 49500 Seminole Dr., Cabazon For more information call (888) MORONGO | General Patton and the Desert Time: 7 p.m. Where: Old Schoolhouse Museum 6760 National Park Drive Twentynine Palms. For more information call 367-2366 | Joshua Tree Arts Open Air Art Fair Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Where: Lobbie Lou's and Joshua Tree Arts 61871 29 Palms Highway Joshua Tree. For more information call 366-9820 | War Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort 46-200 Harrison Place Coachella. For more info call 866-377-6829 or visit http://www.spotlight29.com |
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| Palm Springs Power Baseball Most games begin at 7:05 p.m. Where: Palm Springs Stadium 1901 E. Baristo Road Palm Springs. For more information call 778-4487 or visit http://www.palmspringspowerbaseball.com - Military are free | Scorpions Exhibit Time: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Where: Hi-Desert Nature Museum, 57090 29 Palms Highway Yucca Valley For more information call 369-7212 | Free summer movies at Luckie Park: "Kung Fu Panda" Time: 8 p.m. or when it gets dark Where: Luckie Park soccer field at Two Mile Road and Utah Trail Twentynine Palms For more information call 367-3445 | Yes, with special guest Asia Time: 8 p.m. Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway Indio. For more info call (800) 827-2946 or visit http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com | The comedy of Mike Epps Time: 9 p.m. Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit http://www.morongoresort.com |

'Night at the Museum' sequel brings history to hilarious life

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian
Starring Ben Stiller & Amy Adams
Rated PG

In Hollywood, success doesn't stop at imitation. It usually breeds a sequel, which explains why the characters from the successful 2006 comedy "Night at the Museum" are back for another round of nocturnal mayhem this summer.

In this installment, exhibits of all sorts in a new setting, the Smithsonian Institution, are roused to life and former night watchman Larry Daily (Ben Stiller) is pressed into service to put everyone—and everything—back into inanimate order.

The plot revolves—very loosely—around a magical Egyptian slab and its power to unlock a door to the

underworld. But that's really only an excuse for an ensemble of gifted comedic talent to riff, rattle and roll by playing various museum figures from history who've suddenly come to life.

The original "Museum" all-stars—Owen Wilson's frisky miniature cowboy, Steve Coogan's teensy Roman emperor, Robin Williams' horse-riding Teddy Roosevelt—were joined this time around by a new cast of freshly animated display figures. "Simpsons" voice-meister Hank Azaria steals the spotlight as Kahmunrah, an Egyptian king who forms an alliance of inept evil with French emperor Napoleon, Old World conqueror Alexander the Great and Chicago gangster Al Capone.

An uncredited Jonah Hill has an early, hilarious scene as an overzealous Smithsonian guard trying to enforce a strict "do not touch" rule.

"Saturday Night Live's" Bill Hader plays Gen. George Custer, and Amy Adams is aviator Emila Earhart, whose perky nose for adventure—and ability to fly an airplane—becomes an asset when things spin comically out of control in the Smithsonian complex in Washington D.C. The romantic chemistry between her character and Stiller's makes you—and him—wish she didn't have to go back to being a wax display figure after the sun comes up.

Like a lot of movies these days, this one relies heavily on state-of-the-art computer effects. In the first movie, a dinosaur skeleton took center stage. This time, it's a gigantic Abe Lincoln, who gets up from his marble seat inside the Lincoln Memorial to stretch his legs—and flick away a pesky pigeon.

Blink—or take a popcorn break—and you'll miss something. The jokes—and



COURTESY PHOTO
Amelia Earhart, played by Amy Adams, and Larry Daley, played by Ben Stiller, behold the wonders of exhibits that have come to life inside the Smithsonian.

visual treats—fly fast, and everyone seems to be having a merry ol' time. You just know that the DVD release, in a few months, will include a gag reel of outtakes, with everyone cracking up at each other's lines.

For all its moments of far-fetched, laugh-out-loud

fun, this "Museum" isn't by any stretch a comic masterpiece. The silliness meanders wildly, and Stiller looks like he's more than happy to let everyone else do most of the work. And it's puzzling that all the riotous ruckus, both inside and outside the Smithsonian, never

attracts a single D.C. policeman, building custodian or curious pedestrian.

But hey, just go with it. "Battle of the Smithsonian" is a night of clean, clever laughs for the whole family. And if history were this much fun in high school, no one would ever flunk.

BRETT, from B1
Corps Community Services janitorial manager.

"We hoped if we make him part of a society he will feel included and important." As the Hargroves looked

for a team sport, they were turned down from various leagues throughout the community because of Brett's disorder. But in one last attempt, they called the Combat Center's Youth Sports program, where Brett was quickly placed on a baseball team.

"We don't turn anybody

away," said Joe Rosselli, the manager for Youth Sports. "We will adapt our rules so the special needs child can participate in the sport without difficulty."

To place a special needs child on a team, Youth Sports will give the information to the Child Youth and Teen

Program who will create a board of doctors, teachers and supervisors. They will evaluate the special needs child to ensure it is safe for them to participate on the team. Once they have evaluated the child, he or she will then be placed on a team with a coach who understands the needs of the child.

"The entire program, including the coaches, has been absolutely wonderful," Karalee Hargrove said. "We've noticed a huge improvement since he joined this team. We've seen an improvement in his self-esteem and he is proud of himself."

Throughout the entire season, Brett's baseball coach, Layton Matthews, a retired gunnery sergeant working as a contract specialist for Purchasing and Contracting, has kept an eye on Brett, yet refused to treat him any differ-

ent from the other children.


"My goal this season was to make sure every child on my team knew how to hit the ball and run the bases," said Matthews, a Pittsburgh, native. "I reached that goal. Brett may have needed to be reminded to stay on focus, but that was just like every other player on my team."

Matthews said that Brett was scared in the beginning of the season, not wanting to put on a helmet, and would shy away from the coaches and other players, but as the season progressed his fear dissipated and he was hitting the ball with the skill of a learning player.

"The only thing we did differently with Brett was help him bat when he needed it and we ran with him as he went through the bases," Matthews said. "Parents and even the kids on our team probably didn't know he was a special needs kid because we refused to treat him any different."

As Brett stepped up to bat during the last game of the season, Matthews assisted Brett to a direct hit by showing him where to hit the ball. As the baseball flew off the tee, Matthews and Justin Vecere, the assistant coach for Brett's baseball team, cheered as Brett ran to first base, needing little help to stay focused. Vecere ran next to Brett until he took it to home plate, scoring a point for his team.

Because of Brett's experience with the Youth Sports baseball league, Karalee and Curtis Hargrove said he has fewer outbreaks at home, it is easier to keep him focused and he interacts better with his peers.



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| 15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday* | | | | | | | |
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| 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* | | | | |
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| 12:00 | 12:10 | 12:15 | 12:50 | 1:35 |
| *6:00 | *6:10 | *6:15 | *6:50 | *7:35 |

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Combat Center sports



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Horacio Ayala, (right) drives the ball toward the left bottom corner of the goal as Joseph Geletko, the goalie for Headquarters Battalion, dives to stop the ball from entering his net during a shootout for the Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game Tuesday.



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jose Hernandez, the coach and a defenseman for Headquarters Battalion, winds up to kick the soccer ball upfield and out of the danger zone during a Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League game Tuesday.

| Commanding General's Intramural Soccer League | | |
|---|------|--------|
| Team | Wins | Losses |
| HQBN | 4 | 0 |
| 3rd CEB | 3 | 0 |
| MWSS-374 | 2 | 2 |
| MCCES | 1 | 2 |
| NHTP | 0 | 3 |
| 1st Tanks | 0 | 3 |



LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Timothy Smith, (left) a forward with Headquarters Battalion, tries to get a clear shot on goal as Howard Slanec, MWSS-374's goalie, stands at the ready.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Tanks shortstop Rickey Goode makes a quick slide into home as 3rd CEB catcher Shad Harper attempts to catch the ball to tag Goode out during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game Wednesday night at Felix Field. The game was neck and neck until the last inning, where Tanks pulled ahead and won the game, 18-13.

| Intramural Softball League | | |
|----------------------------|------|--------|
| Standings as of Thursday | | |
| Team | Wins | Losses |
| Scrappers | 11 | 0 |
| MWSS-374 | 9 | 2 |
| Tanks | 10 | 3 |
| ESD Warriors | 9 | 4 |
| CLB-7 | 9 | 4 |
| 3rd CEB | 9 | 5 |
| VMU-3 | 9 | 5 |
| 3/11 | 7 | 4 |
| NAV PERS | 7 | 5 |
| Rippers | 7 | 5 |
| PMO | 6 | 5 |
| MCCES HQBN | 6 | 7 |
| Hospital | 6 | 7 |
| IPAC | 5 | 6 |
| CMA | 5 | 8 |
| G-6 | 4 | 8 |
| ESD | 4 | 9 |
| Dirty Dozen | 2 | 11 |
| 2/7 | 2 | 12 |
| Dental | 0 | 12 |



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

Tanks left outfielder Greg Westenbarger slides into the dirt at third base as 3rd CEB third baseman Colby Herring prepares to catch the ball to get the out during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game Wednesday night at Felix Field.



CPL. MARGARET CLARK HUGHES

3rd CEB shortstop Sean Tiberio fields the ball and makes a diving throw to first base before the runner touches the bag during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game Wednesday night at Felix Field. 3rd CEB had the lead before the last inning where they lost it when Tanks took the offensive advantage.

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LANCE CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Sydney LaBlanc, (left) who won first place for the 5 to 8-year-old stock division, competes against Rex Crowe, during the ASYMCA Soapbox Derby, June 5 on the hill at Oasis Avenue. Sgt. Maj. Susan M. Bellis, the Combat Center sergeant major, signaled the start of every race with an air gun.

DERBY, from B1

stronger relationship between the base and the community,” said Chris Alvarado, the events coordinator and office assistant for the ASYMCA. “It also gives children quality time with their parents. Even if the children lost the race, that time they spent with their parents is something they will never forget.” Each racer was given a starter kit and a receipt for Barr Lumber, which provided plywood for the vehicles. Children enlisted the help of their parents and guardians to help build the soapbox car. “Me and my dad built my car together,” said Justin LaBlanc, a 10-year-old competitor. “It was fun because I’ve wanted to build something and there’s been nothing to build lately.” Many of the vehicles were decorated and painted

with everything from flames to flowers. Some cars were designed to look like sharks, while others were sporting the race car look. The pre-race began at 3 p.m. as Sgt. Maj. Susan Bellis, the Combat Center’s sergeant major, inspected each vehicle to ensure no vehicle was over its weight limit or out of regulations. During the inspection period, special guests were introduced. The special guests included Genevieve Salisbury, the chairperson of the ASYMCA board, John and Sarah Potter, board members of the ASYMCA, ASYMCA national executive director Rear Admiral Frank Gallo and Twentynine Palms Mayor Joel Klink. As the first two riders approached the start line, the participants were split into three different stock divisions separating them by age and experience. The different stock divisions included stock division for 5 to 8-year-olds, with no experience in boxcar racing, stock division for 9 to 14-year-olds for children with no experience in boxcar racing, and super stock division, for all the children who have participated in a boxcar race before. The 33 riders competed within their division, trying for the best time down the hill. “The hill was kind of scary, but I had a lot of fun,” said Justin, who won first place in the 9 to 14-year-old stock division. This year’s Soapbox Derby received high praises from the children, parents and sponsors. “We’ve had nothing but positive feedback since the derby,” said Alvarado, an Oceanside, Calif., native. “I’m proud of those children and what they did. They have a lot of bravery for facing that hill. If I’d seen that hill at their age I’d have said ‘no way.’” For more information about the derby, or to submit idea’s for next year’s derby, contact the ASYMCA at 830-7481.

An Open Letter from Yucca Valley Ford Center
Your Family-Owned and Operated Ford Dealer

OUR FUTURE
IS BASED ON
POWERFUL
FACTS.

During these uncertain times the news media continues to harp on the dire state of our economy; unemployment rates have reached a 25-year high, millions’ face home foreclosures and of course, the much publicized auto bailout. While these are legitimate concerns, I know that our Nation can overcome these hurdles. This country knows the struggles of the past and with determination and perseverance, we will stand with stability and face the future. We know that many of our own neighbors have already been directly affected by these tough economic times; windows are boarded and lots have been cleared of inventory and we sympathize with their struggles. I am proud to be part of the automotive company that’s driving a brighter future; not only for our community but for our country at large.

Yucca Valley Ford Center has been your local family-owned and operated Ford dealership for over 25 years. During this time, we have created partnerships with a variety of Organizations in our area. I believe in giving back to the community and I am proud of our affiliation with all local high schools and the 29 Palms Marine Corps Base, just to name a few. I am proud to provide good-paying jobs and benefits to so many people right here in our area. As the unemployment rate begins to soar, I am proud of our ability to retain people of the highest caliber. Many of our employees have been a part of the Yucca Valley Ford Center Family for decades and they share my passion for success.

FACT:
We’ve introduced the all-new 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid. At 41 city mpg., it’s the most fuel-efficient midsize sedan in America. * It joins the Ford Escape Hybrid, the most fuel-efficient SUV on the planet.** And we’re bringing to market by 2012, a family of hybrids, plug-in hybrids and battery electric vehicles.

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I am proud to offer the new Built Ford Tough ’09 F-150. It’s smarter, more productive and tougher than ever, with best-in-class towing and payload—more reasons why F-Series pickups are America’s best-selling trucks for 32 straight years. And, just around the corner, the new 2010 Mustang; designed by enthusiasts for enthusiasts. It will be here this summer.

Our Parts and Service Departments consistently rank among the top dealers in terms of Customer Satisfaction and each offers extended hours for your convenience. I am proud of the team that we have created to ensure your vehicle is operating at its’ peak performance. Should the unfortunate occur and you find yourself in need of an experienced repair facility offering quality restoration, you’ll find our Body Shop to be the best in the area.

Today, there is new momentum at Ford. I invite you to drive with us into the future. **Drive green. Drive safe. Drive smart. Drive quality you can believe in.** For more information, visit **TheFordStory.com**. I hope to see you soon and I hope to see you drive one.

Sincerely,
Mark Soto, General Manager

I am proud to sell and service the full line of Ford cars, trucks, SUVs and crossover vehicles. These are some of the finest vehicles on the road today. And today, the future of Ford Motor Company and Yucca Valley Ford Center is brighter than ever.

This summer, for example, we’ll debut the all-new 2010 41mpg Ford Fusion Hybrid in our showroom. It will be the most fuel-efficient midsize sedan out there, with eight more miles per gallon in the city than the Toyota Camry Hybrid. I am proud that the 2009 Ford Escape Hybrid is the most fuel-efficient SUV on the planet and that

FACT:
We’ve achieved levels of vehicle quality unsurpassed by Honda or Toyota^{††} that are consistently being recognized by the automotive press. and by important third parties.

CINEMA, from B1

have it in the gallery because it brings more people to the gallery who wouldn’t normally go to an art opening. “I really hope to build on it more so people will look forward to it and get excited about movie night,” Shaw said. The screenings officially began May 27, when Schulman debuted “The Ballad of Peter LaFarge,” as well as a six-minute music video called “Drums,” which featured the final performance of late musician and actor Floyd “Red Crow” Westerman, and a percussion and rare vocal from John Densmore, drummer for The Doors. The following week, Schulman showed the 1971 cult film “Vanishing Point,” which depicts a Joshua Tree concert scene. On Wednesday, the cinema screened a Gram Parsons “rare film night,” including a rare music video tribute to Parsons filmed in Joshua Tree, a short documentary about Manuel Cuevas, a famous wardrobe designer who tailored Parsons’ stage clothes, and a full-length feature documentary about Parsons’ life. For her next screening, Schulman will feature the biographical drama “Pollock,” directed by and starring Ed Harris as Jackson Pollock, a famous Arizona-born artist from the 1950s who was heavily influenced by Navajo sand painting. Highway 62 Cinema screenings will continue throughout June and July, hiatus in August, and return in the fall. For more information about the Highway 62 Cinema, log on to <http://www.hwy62cinema.com>.

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*EPA-estimated 41 city/36 hwy mpg. Actual mileage will vary. Midsize class per D. L. Poole. **Based on unadjusted city fuel economy from EPA (10/08) and VCA (5/08). EPA-estimated 34 city/31 hwy mpg, front-wheel drive. Actual mileage will vary. Excluding vehicles built for Mazda. †Based on Ford preliminary 16 city/25 hwy mpg Lincoln MKS and Ford Taurus with V6 EcoBoost™ engine. ††Based on cumulative survey data of 2008 MY Ford and competitive owners at three months of service in three surveys conducted 9/07 – 5/08.