

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

OCTOBER 16, 2009

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 52 ISSUE 41

29 Palms infantry Marines, New River Ospreys team up in Yuma for helo raid

GUNNERY SGT. BILL LISBON

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. – Launching from the flight line here, a platoon of infantry Marines specializing in helicopter raids completed its first exercise from an MV-22 Osprey on Oct. 10.

Taking advantage of the helicopter training in Yuma’s current Weapons and Tactics Instructors course, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, is using the robust training opportunities here to sharpen its skills for an upcoming deployment.

“We get a lot of experience working with the pilots in the planning process,” said 2nd Lt. Mitchell B. Steen, Co. E, 1st Platoon’s commander.

After loading onto two Ospreys, the 39-man platoon flew to an urban training range at the Combat Center in order to capture an insurgent leader, simulating a mission they could be asked to perform.

The battalion, based at the Combat Center, is scheduled to deploy with the 31st Marine

See OSPREY, A5



GUNNERY SGT. BILL LISBON

Members of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, run into the back of an MV-22 Osprey outside an urban training range at the Combat Center Oct. 10. The company’s 1st Platoon flew from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., to the Combat Center, to raid a town and capture an insurgent leader, during a simulated mission they could be called to perform during their next deployment. Co. E, 2/7, based out of the Combat Center, specializes in helicopter insertions and raids and is scheduled to deploy with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in early 2010.

Top Marines visit troops



CPL. ERIN A. KIRK-CUOMO

Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, greet Marines and sailors at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 9.

See photo spread on pages A6 and A7

Combat Center breaks ground on new barracks

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Combat Center’s command and the joint venture company Straub—MartinHarris broke ground Wednesday on a \$101 million project to build new bachelor enlisted quarters and a parking facility at the corner of Brown and 8th Street here.

The aim of the new structures

is to make conditions aboard the base better for the service members living there, said Ensign Tung Le, the assistant resident officer in charge of construction aboard the base, and a native of Lincoln, Neb.

“The new BEQs and parking structure should do a lot to greatly improve the quality of life for the Marines on base,” he said. “They will have access to much larger community sports areas. The places

to watch movies and do laundry will be much larger as well.”

In addition to the expansion of communal areas, individual rooms will be more spacious than they are now, said Kevin Harrigan, the bachelor billeting division director here.

“Right now most of the barracks can have up to three [people per] single room for lance corporals

See BARRACKS, A9



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Members of the Combat Center’s command and Straub—MartinHarris joint venture company participate in the traditional ground breaking ceremony Wednesday at the site of the new barracks’ construction. The new project is based on a \$101 million budget.



Circle, circle, dot, dot ~ See A3



Coping for kids~ See B1



Five-alarm chili~ See B1



‘March’ madness~ See B1

Semper Moto

All the bells and whistles come with a cost JOHN FLEMING

In past weeks we’ve talked about cruisers, sport bikes, dual sports and sport-touring motorcycles. Some would say we’ve saved the best for last, but we’ll not get universal agreement on that claim. Nonetheless, for long distance touring, the Honda Goldwing, the BMW LT and the Harley Ultra Classic are the ultimate in comfort and convenience. Just don’t ask them to keep up with the nimbler bikes in the mountains.

All three of these land yachts offer a full assortment of features that you’d find in fine automobiles. Cruise control, heated seats and hand grips, navigation systems, anti-lock brakes, communication systems, adjustable suspension and high-comfort seating are all available. When you want to rack up an easy 500 miles in a day, these are the machines for the job.

But all that luxury comes at a cost, and we’re not just talking about dollars. These behemoths tip the scales at over 800 pounds. That kind of bulk won’t keep up with the sport bikes. And they can be a little cumbersome at parking lot speeds. But don’t let these big boys fool you. They can “get up and go,” and with today’s modern suspensions, they’re still a thrill to ride.

Prepare to shell out at least twenty grand for a new one. But again, you can find some excellent buys on-line if you know what you want. If comfort is your number one requirement, these big machines are the way to go.

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

School Liaison Information

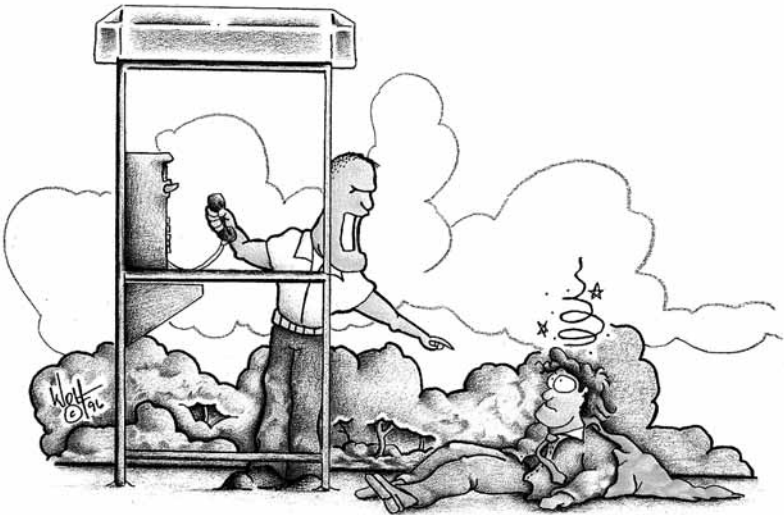


Question: Is there a free on-line source for home-work help?

Answer: Yes, through our MCCS Libraries, there is a program that provides live homework help as well as a live tutoring tool. Please go to this Web site: <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/library/tutor>.

This program has two main features, a resource library and a live tutoring tool. Students can be connected with a certified tutor in any subject area kindergarten through community college. You need to call your base library for a personalized password to this valuable program. Their number is 830-6875.

For more information, please contact
smbplmsmccsschooliaison@usmc.mil or call 830-1574.



“ At ease Superman I, You may be bullet proof.....
.....But there is no way you’re GRUNT PROOF!!! ”

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

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Petty Officer 3rd Class James Carnes

Hometown: Pensacola, Fla.

Job: Religious programs specialist

Duties: Act as the chaplain’s body guard during deployment, and acting as a clerical and administrative assistant in garrison.

What do you like most about your job?

“How it offers me insight and experience for what I hope to be my future job in the Navy.”

Significant achievements: “Took three overseas short-term missionary trips. It gave me time to invest in the lives of others and helped me be grateful for everything I have.”

Hobbies: Volunteer at church, work on computers, camping

Service: Two years

Time aboard the Combat Center: One year, four months



OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy

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Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez

Press Chief/Editor Cpl. Nicole A. LaVine

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Hot Topics

6TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN HAUNT

Theatre 29 and Producer Eric Ross are proud to announce the opening of Theatre 29’s 6th Annual Halloween Haunt: “sixth year of fear” on Oct. 16. This years incarnation will be under the expert (and somewhat twisted) direction of Theatre 29 veteran and favorite Daniel Tabeling and technical wizard Frances Wright. Tickets are only available at the door for \$5, “cash only”. Season ticket holders get their first tour included with their purchase. The Halloween Haunt will run three weekends Oct. 16-17, 23-45, 29, 30 & 31. Friday and Saturday nights from 6-10 p.m., Thursday nights from 6-9 p.m., with tours beginning every 10-15 minutes. Theatre 29’s John Calveri Theatre is located at 73637 Sullivan Rd Twentynine Palms (around the corner from Barr Lumber). Visit <http://www.theatre29.com> for more information.

SUPPORT 29 PALMS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Help Combat Center dependents who participate in 29 Palms High School sports. The school’s athletic department will hold a dinner and auction at Smith’s Ranch on Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. to support the school’s sports program. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. For information contact Rick Buckles at 830-8239, or E-mail richard.buckles@usmc.mil.

MMOA TEAM VISIT

An informational officer PME will be given by the Manpower management Officer Assignments Team Oct. 20 at 1 p.m., for all company and field grade officers in the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group auditorium. Appointment-based interviews will be conducted at the Officers’ Club beginning at 3 p.m. For more information or to register, call 830-7348, 830-7088 or 830-1402.

Marine Corps History

Oct. 16, 1942

Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Col. Harold W. Bauer shoots down four Japanese diver bombers in Guadalcanal.

Centerspeak

What is something every Marine should know?

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



LANCE CPL. DAVID RODRIGUEZ
1ST TANKS, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT,
COMPANY D

“General orders. They are part of the foundations of the Corps and you can’t stand post without knowing them.”



SGT. JIMMIE MYERS
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE
BATTALION, COMPANY H

“Customs and Courtesies. A lot of Marines don’t know them around here.”



LANCE CPL. MILTON COSTA
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT,
COMPANY K

“Depends on one’s MOS. All Marines should know all about their personnel MOS.”

SUDOKU #1597

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2009 HOMETOWN CONTENT

JUST YOU AND I

[puzzle Solutions on A11]

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62					63						64			

ACROSS

1. “Cosmos” host Carl
6. Flashy jewelry, informally
11. Worn-down pencil
14. Treat like dirt
15. Choir’s place
16. Chat room “I believe”
17. Start of the Constitution
19. Mavs’ and Cavs’ org
20. Gorilla expert Fossey
21. Flatt of bluegrass
23. Turned informer
27. Lechers’ looks
28. Schlepped
29. Rowan Atkinson character
32. Not so congenial
33. Lacy item
34. Hammarskjöld of the UN
37. Lens holders
38. Generic parrot name
39. Sponge opening
40. LAX guesstimate
41. Flower part
42. Attach, as a patch

DOWN

43. Bad spot for a bowling ball
45. Sunbather’s recliner
46. Put down
48. Floral chain units
49. Charity event, maybe
51. Honeycomb section
52. Boxer Laila
53. Hawaiian-born LPGA star
59. Kayo count
60. Fix firmly
61. Decathlon part
62. Bard’s before
63. Takes five
64. Cubicle items

DOWN

1. Jug band instrument
2. “The Simpsons” grandpa
3. Beer drinker’s protuberance
4. Bat wood
5. Provoking sort
6. Diner freebie
7. Disney’s Simba or Nala
8. Enabler of WWW access
9. Dickens lass
10. Horace who supposedly said “Go west”
11. Game console that detects motion in 3-D
12. Earthy tone
13. Tusked porkers
18. Like a storied piper
22. Neptune’s realm
23. Talia of Rocky films
24. Quietly understood
25. Hardcore men’s publication
26. Soccer stadium cries

29. Cavity site, often
30. Lunar valley
31. Globe trotting journalist Nellie
33. Inside scoop
35. Sprang up
36. Trait carriers
38. Teacher’s favorite
39. Pot pie spheroids
41. Stanley __ (early auto)
42. Aided the carnival barker
44. World Baseball Classic team
45. Ump’s action
46. Lose intensity
47. Farm bundler
48. Monopoly stack
50. Frosty coat
51. Guitar virtuoso Atkins
54. Network with an eye logo
55. Time to revel
56. Director Craven
57. Publicity, informally
58. Sci-fi visitors

Prevention key to stopping spread of H1N1 virus

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The new H1N1 virus has been a concern for Americans all summer, and with the flu season approaching, Marines, sailors, their families and civilians should do everything they can to prevent catching and transmitting the virus.

To prevent the spread of H1N1 on the Combat Center, the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital is providing the H1N1 nasal mist vaccine to family members of Marines and sailors with children younger than six months living in their homes and children ages two to 10. Military families can go to the Preventive Medicine Department of the Naval Hospital for walk-ins from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Preventive medicine technicians from the Naval

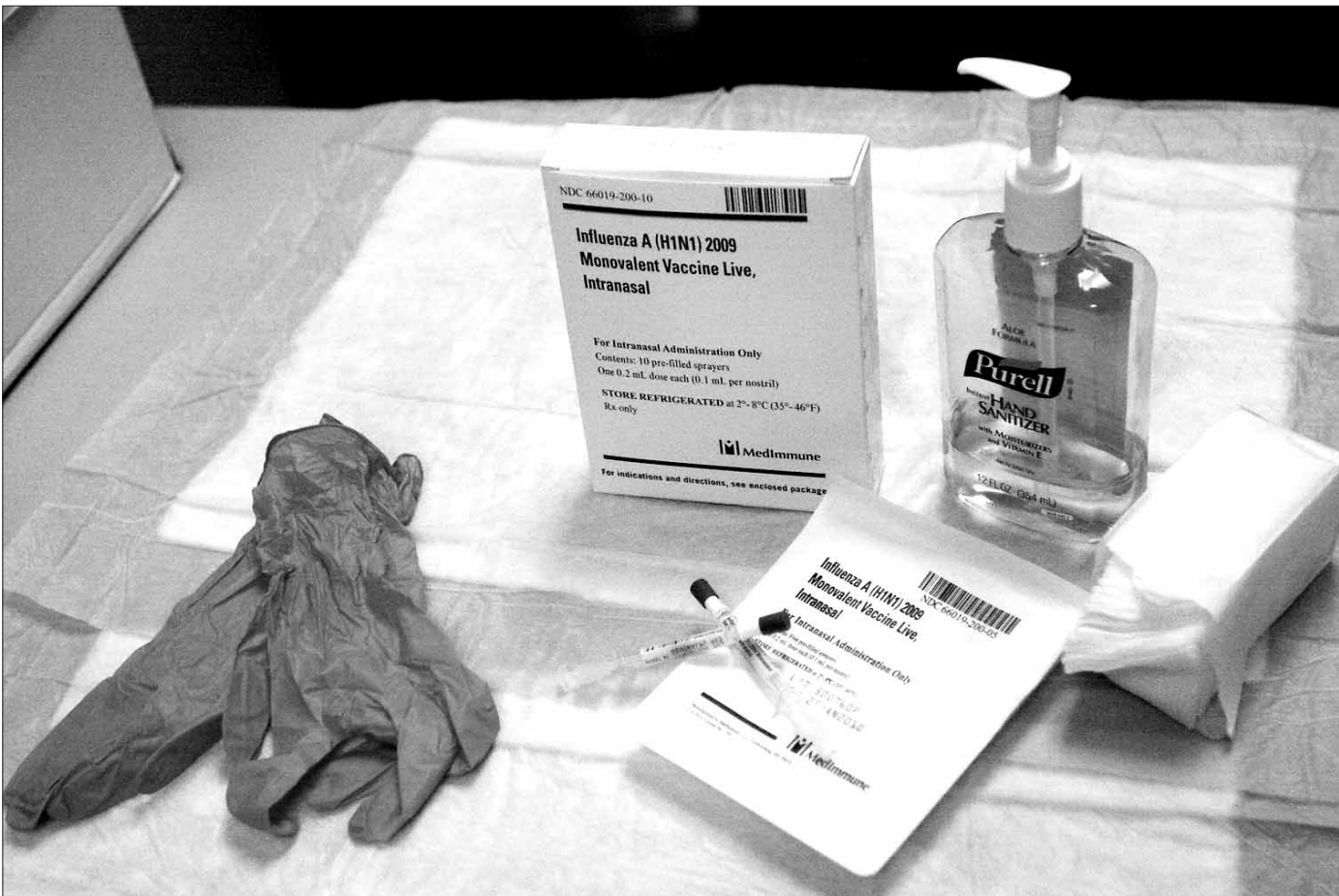
Hospital said 97 percent of the Combat Center's active duty personnel have already been vaccinated for the H1N1 virus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2009 influenza vaccine statement, "Seasonal flu viruses change from year to year, but they are closely related to each other. The 2009 H1N1 flu is a new flu virus. It is very different from seasonal flu viruses."

The CDC says H1N1 will spread to more people because they have not developed any immunities to this new strain of the flu.

According to the CDC Web site, "Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something – such as a surface or object – with flu viruses on it and then touching

See FLU, A8



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Medical equipment such as this sterilizes and helps protects Combat Center personnel against the H1N1 flu virus.

2009 Halloween safety guide

JON BRIEL
TACTICAL SAFETY SPECIALIST

The observance of Halloween, dating back to Celtic rituals thousands of years ago, has long been associated with images of witches, ghosts, devils and hobgoblins. Over the years, Halloween customs and rituals have changed dramatically. Today, many of the young and young at heart take a more light-spirited approach. They don scary disguises or costumes that bring smiles when they go door to door for treats, or attend a Halloween party.

In this fast paced world, we still need to be aware of many things including safety. Most are very conscientious about what is handed out to our ghouls and goblins. But there

are a few out there who would love to bring harm to our children and even adults. This series will bring to light some of the issues we need to be aware of while still having a safe and happy Halloween.

Start with decorations for Halloween. Read warning labels on materials you want to use for decorating. Make sure they are fire resistant. You don't want to be an actual burn victim or have someone else burned from the decorations you use. Watch out for tripping hazards around the home where little monsters could trip and get hurt. When carving pumpkins, don't let smaller children use knives or saws to carve. Instead let them pick out the one they want and let them draw the design. Then let the parent

make the cut outs. Children especially like to remove the insides of the pumpkin. Make sure you put something down on the floor such as newspaper, as the insides can be slippery.

When selecting masks make sure that your child's vision is not impaired. Nobody wants to walk around in a mask they can't see out of causing them to trip and fall. See that the labels on costumes are "Fire Resistant". This way if a goblin gets too close to a lit candle they won't go up in a ball of flame. Give your child a flashlight or glow stick. This will make them visible to cars on the street. Even the use of a reflective belt or wrist band could mean the difference of having a fun time or making a trip to the hospital.

A Night to Remember

Fallen Heroes Memorial Concert

Wednesday, Oct. 28

7-8 p.m. at the

Sunset Cinema

Music by the Combat Center Band

Sponsored by the Religious Ministries Directorate



TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

I had an experience recently that compels me to write this rather brief column. I know that you will appreciate what I am writing and will read between the lines.

When Grace, my wife of almost 40 years, died in 1994 our dear friend Rabbi Bernard Cohen officiated at her memorial services along with a Roman Catholic priest and a Protestant minister. When Patty and I were married in 1995 the same rabbi, priest, and minister officiated.

I believe there is nothing more significant in positive cultural development than people of different philosophies respecting and loving one another.

It is my sincere belief that someday the spirit of ecumenism will dominate the world and "nation will not rise against nation and men will not make war any more."

It almost goes without the need of comment that you and I must be ferocious fighters against prejudice in any form, however subtle.

Marcel Proust wrote, "The universe is true for all of us and different for each of us."

Perhaps that is the way it should be.

An ancient Hebrew prayer puts it very well:

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth,
From the laziness that is content with half-truths,
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,
Oh, God of truth, deliver us."

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Military kids cope with service member suicide



PFC. DANIEL BOOTHE

Nine-year-old Jethro Y. Yazzie from Arizona and Nine-year-old Hannah M. Reed from South Carolina, tour San Diego's USS Midway Museum during the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors event, Oct. 10.

PFC. DANIEL BOOTHE
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP
PENDLETON

SAN DIEGO, – Military children from across the country coping with service member suicide found help from the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors and Camp Pendleton volunteers in San Diego Oct. 10.

More than 40 children

reflected on feelings of grief alongside 50 active-duty volunteers during the three-day event.

“All of the children here have lost someone very important in their lives due to suicide,” said Ami Neiberger-Miller, the TAPS public affairs officer, who lost her brother in Iraq two years ago. “Our goal is to help these kids develop lifelong cop-

ing mechanisms and offer the peer support to overcome this grief.”

Children ages four to 18 found this support from their Pendleton mentors who conducted group discussions and took the kids to San Diego's USS Midway Museum.

“I wish we could say something to take the pain away, but we can't,” said Chad T. Weikel, a group leader and TAPS mentor trainer, who also lost his

brother in Iraq. “Offering them this peer-based support, a caring adult mentor and lifelong coping mechanisms are the biggest things we can do for them.”

In addition to the loss of a loved one, children often lose their connection to the military when the parent left behind doesn't serve, Neiberger-Miller said. When this

See COPE, A11



COURTESY PHOTO

The new nectar garden constructed by National Resources and Environmental Affairs Division was made possible by a grant from the NREA Foundation.

NREA to construct new nectar garden

STEVE SELSER

The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) Division has been awarded a \$6500 grant by the National Environmental Education Foundation. The funds are available through the Department of Defense's Legacy Resource Management Program to support National Public Lands Day and will be used to construct a nectar garden to provide habitat and food for pollinating species, such as hummingbirds and butterflies.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2008, 120,000 volunteers, around the country, built trails and bridges, removed trash and invasive plants, and planted over 1.6 million trees.

The nectar garden will be constructed adjacent to the MCAGCC Archeology and

Paleontology Curation Center. The Curation Center is located next to a wildlife viewing trail surrounding the storm water retention pond, near the softball fields. The garden will consist of four separate raised beds, which will have a variety of plant species that, depending on the species, will be flowering year-round. There will also be a path separating the beds and a few benches within the garden. The garden will provide a year-round food source for resident and transient animal species. This will be a small area of tranquility that will attract bird and butterfly species and visitors will be able to enjoy viewing this resource.

The 16th annual National Public Lands Day was on September 26th, 2009. However, due to funds being received later than anticipated, the construction of the garden will be completed in October and open to the public starting November 2009. If you are interested in volunteering with the construction of the nectar garden, or for more information, please contact Steve Selser, Natural Resources Specialist, at (760) 830-5728.

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October 18th

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Morning Services.....8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Lunch after 11:00 A.M. Service



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Rob D. Watkins
Pastor

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Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

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Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00

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4751 Adobe Rd.
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spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com



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This Week's Spotlight Church

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Worship Service

10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.
7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree
Pastor Abe Casiano
Church (760) 366-9119



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

New Beginning Community Church

Pastor Lynn Gary Thompson
Christ Centered Church
Sunday School - 9:30 am Adult & Youth
Worship Service - 10:30 am
Music & Fun - 6:00 pm
55922 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley
760-910-5261

Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science

Healing Lives & Building Dreams
Reverend Ron Scott
Sunday Celebration & Junior Church 10 AM
7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley
365-2205
yvcrs.org

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms
Service Times
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Nursery provided at 9:00am & 11:00am
367-7812
www.oasiscommunitychurch.com

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church

56750 Mountain View Trail
Yucca Valley • 365-6331
1st Service 9:20 AM w/Sunday School
2nd Service 11:10 AM w/Adult Bible Study
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760-367-0080

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Pastor Joey & Carol Joseph
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call (760)366-7420
Website: JHOPCC.ORG

First Baptist Church of 29 Palms

Childcare Available
Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:15 am, Morning Worship 10:30 am.
Evening Service 6:00 pm.
Wednesday Services
Prayer Bible Study 6:30 pm.
Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm.
www.bbc29.org
6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561

29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST

72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC)
Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM
367-9400

DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Call for free van ride
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship
Sunday School ages 4-10 yrs
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Sunday Concert Series • Call for info
29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086

St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist 10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
We're Here for Everyone
Phone (760) 367-7153
72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms
www.stmartinschurch29.org

United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms

6250 Mesquite Springs Road
Phone: 367-7338
Sunday School: 8:00 a.m. - Worship: 9:00 a.m.
(Child Care Provided)
Reverend Lynn Reece
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OSPREY, from A1

Expeditionary Unit in early 2010, with Co. E, assigned to specialize in helicopter insertions and raids.

With the deployment approaching, the company has incorporated helicopter-related training into much of its preparations, Steen said. Marines have already learned how to fast rope and rappel from helos and how to escape from one if it crashes into water. The squad leaders also completed a raid leaders course.

The platoon used some of the morning before the flights to practice simply boarding and exiting the Osprey. While similar to the Corps' CH-46 helicopter, the MV-22 uses four-point harnesses instead of simple lap seat belts, which can slow down loading times, said Staff Sgt. Nicholas L. McCulloch, crew chief with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261 based in New River, N.C.

For many members of the company's 1st Platoon, the ride in the Corps' tiltrotor aircraft was their first. Some were skeptical until the end of the mission.

"After seeing how they operate and what they can do for us, it's a better tool than what we've had in the past," said Staff Sgt. Harold Young, Co. E platoon sergeant.



GUNNERY SGT. BILL LISBON

Marines with Co. E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, storm out of an MV-22 Osprey into a disorienting cloud of sand kicked up by powerful rotor wash on the outskirts of an urban training range at the Combat Center Oct. 10. The battalion is scheduled to deploy with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in early 2010, with Co. E assigned to specialize in helicopter insertions and raids.



GUNNERY SGT. BILL LISBON

Lance Cpl. Michael R. Gravitt, a rifle team leader with Co. E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, looks out the window of an MV-22 Osprey after taking off from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., on Oct. 10. The company's 1st Platoon flew to an urban training range at the Combat Center during a simulated mission to capture an insurgent leader in preparation for an upcoming deployment.



GUNNERY SGT. BILL LISBON

Lance Cpl. Matt P. Owens, a rifleman and radio operator with Co. E, watches for snipers in an urban training range at the Combat Center Oct. 10. The company's 1st Platoon flew from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., to the Combat Center to raid a town and capture an insurgent leader during a simulated mission they could be called to perform during their next deployment.

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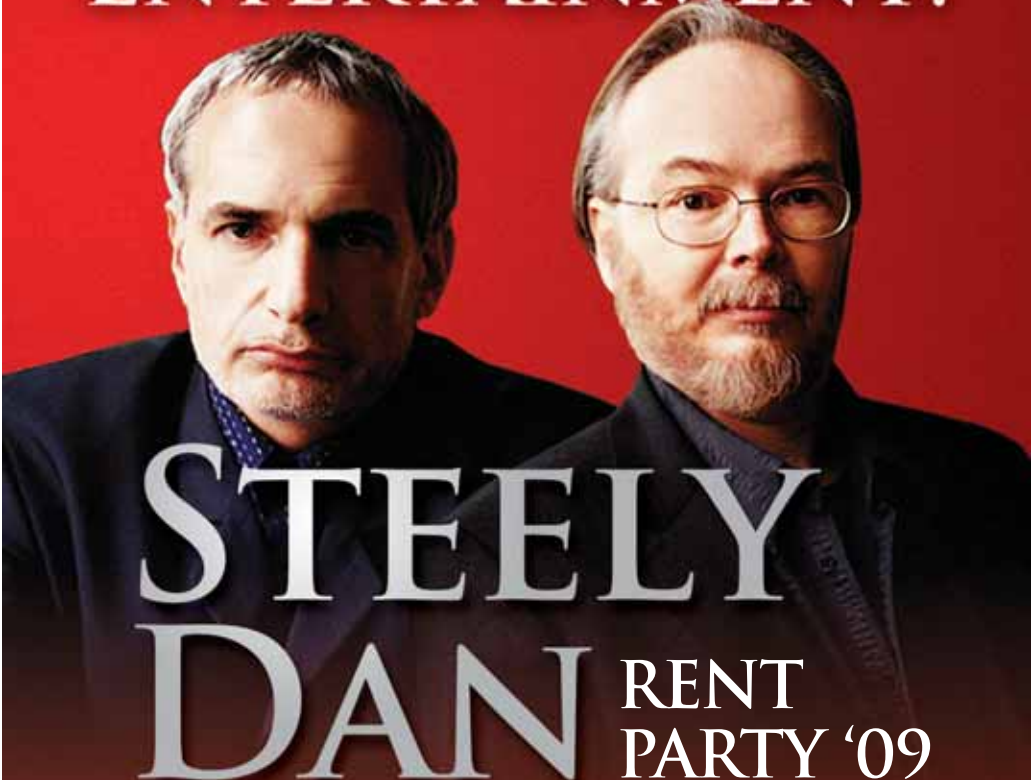
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CPL. ERIN A. KIRK-CUOMO

Hundreds of Combat Center Marines, sailors and family members gathered at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 9 to participate in a town hall meeting hosted by Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, exits a plane at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Air Field during his visit Oct. 9.



CPL. ERIN A. KIRK-CUOMO

Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, speaks to Combat Center Marines and sailors during a town hall meeting at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 9. Conway was joined by the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, to answer Marines' questions about the Corps.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Annette Conway, wife of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway, learns about the Combat Center's Armed Services YMCA while talking with Anita Neu-Fultz, the ASYMCA executive director, during Conway's visit to the Combat Center.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Annette Conway speaks to military spouses and family readiness officers during a town hall meeting at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel Oct. 9.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, shakes hands with Marines at the Combat Center's Expeditionary Air Field during his visit Oct. 9.





CPL. ERIN A. KIRK-CUOMO

Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, shakes hands with Combat Center Marines and sailors after a town hall meeting held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 9. Conway, along with Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, took time to speak with Marines, sailors and family members about deployments, support programs and other issues.

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CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
The commandant of the Marine Corps and his wife, Annette, debark their plane at the EAF Oct. 9.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
Gen. James T. Conway speaks to Combat Center Marines and sailors during a town hall meeting at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 9. Conway, joined by Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, answered questions from service members about the Corps' mission.



LANCE CPL. JEREMIAH HANDELAND
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, meets and greets Marines and sailors aboard the Combat Center after a town hall meeting at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 9.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
Elizabeth Kent, wife of the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, learns about the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital's maternity ward from Navy Capt. Maureen Pennington, the hospital's director of nursing services, during Kent's visit to the Combat Center Oct. 9.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
Elizabeth Kent hosts a spouse and family readiness officer town hall meeting at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel Oct. 9.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE
Alison Clardy (left), wife of the Combat Center's commanding general, Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, and Elizabeth Kent, wife of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, answer questions from spouses and family readiness officers during a town hall meeting at the Combat Center's Protestant Chapel Oct. 9.

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Wounded warriors retrace steps, embark on journey of healing during ‘Operation Proper Exit’



COURTESY PHOTO

Service members like these may find resolution after traumatic experiences while deployed overseas through a program called ‘Operation Proper Exit’ sponsored by the United Services Organization and Troops First Foundation. The program allows them to revisit the countries where their experiences took place.

USO PRESS RELEASE

ARLINGTON, Va. – With the help and support of the United Services Organization, the Troops First Foundation recently re-deployed seven wounded veterans to the Persian Gulf as part of “Operation Proper Exit,” a warrior care initiative designed to help bring closure to those changed mentally and physically by the rigors of war.

On a mission to retrace their steps and show that their service and sacrifice “was worth it,” the group is re-visiting the areas they once patrolled, the forward operating bases they once called home and, in some instances, the locations they were wounded. They are also talking with troops and inspiring those receiving medical care.

Among those touring are:

- Army Cpl. Craig Chavez (Retired) of Temecula, Calif.
- Marine Sgt. John Eubanks of Atlanta
- Army Sgt. John Hyland of Charlotte, N.C.
- Sgt. 1st Class Josh Olson of Spokane, Wash.
- Army Sgt. Eric Payton (Retired) of Milford, N.J.

- National Guard First Lt. Ed Salau (Retired) of Stella, N.C.
- National Guard Staff Sgt. Luke Wilson (Retired) of Hermiston, Ore.

In June, six amputee combat veterans returned to Iraq as part of the first USO Troops First Foundation “Operation Proper Exit.” During the week-long tour, the group visited seven military installations, touched the lives of more than 5,000 troops and met many of the Iraqi people whose freedom they helped secure. The warriors also caught up with old friends, participated in training exercises and took time out for personal reflection. What was most important is that each warrior walked away with a greater sense of peace, understanding and pride in realizing their sacrifice helped bring freedom to the people of Iraq.

“In past wars, service members recovering from severe injuries like amputated limbs were not given the opportunity to re-visit the locations where they were injured until years later,” said Sloan Gibson, the USO president. “That is why

‘Operation Proper Exit’ is so important; it allows wounded warriors the chance to retrace their steps early on which helps bring closure and aids in the healing process. Troops rely on us whether they are receiving medical care, or serving on the front lines, and the USO is there.”

“The idea behind ‘Operation Proper Exit’ came from our nation’s soldiers,” said Rick Kell, founder of Troops First Foundation. “They expressed to me time and time again their desire to go back, to see the work they’ve done and to know that it’s meaningful. This initiative provides them the chance to accomplish many things important to their healing. To be able to provide this opportunity is very rewarding, but to be with them and share the experience is an honor of a lifetime.”

In times of peace and war, the USO consistently delivers its special brand of entertainment and comfort to troops and their families stationed around the world. To learn more about the USO, or to find out how you can support our nation’s troops, visit <http://www.uso.org>

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FLU, from A3

their mouths or noses.”

Preventive medicine technicians and the CDC suggest taking not only the H1N1 vaccine, but also the seasonal flu vaccine to be on the safe side.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicole Gacayan, a preventive medicine technician at the Naval Hospital, said “If you have taken the seasonal flu shots or nasal spray wait 28 days before taking the

vaccine for H1N1.”

Personnel at the Naval Hospital suggest a few simple steps people can take to help prevent the spread of both flu viruses. They include covering your mouth when you cough, not touching your face with your fingers and washing your hands often with soap and water.

Even by taking all these precautions, people still run the risk of becoming infected. For those who do, it is recommended by the CDC

to stay home and avoid human contact until 24 hours after their fever goes away.

“If you get the seasonal flu or H1N1, try to stay away from people and let it run its natural course—that only takes about five to seven days,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ray Martinez, a fellow preventive medicine technician. “That is less time than the common cold.”

The CDC Web site warns those who become infected to be on the look out for symptoms that could lead to serious complications. For children, the symptoms include fast or labored breathing, bluish skin, fatigue and a high fever. Adults need to also beware of difficulty in breathing, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness, confusion and severe or persistent vomiting.

For more information about H1N1 call the CDC at 1-800-232-4636 or go to CDC’s Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>. Base personnel can also contact the Preventive Medicine Department at 830-2002.

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

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

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

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



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Construction workers prepare for the ground breaking ceremony for new bachelor enlisted quarters being constructed aboard the Combat Center Wednesday. The new BEQs are being constructed at the corner of Brown and 8th Street.

BARRACKS, from A1

and below,” the New York City native said. “The new BEQs being built will house only two per room with a shared bathroom. “If you have to be here, it is a nice place to stay,” he said. “The new buildings will be more like apartment complexes than traditional barracks.” The environment around the Combat Center is going to reap the benefits in the future from the construction, said Frank Martin, an execu-

tive commissioner for the joint venture. “We’re going to build a more ‘green’ barracks that will impact the environment significantly less than the current ones do,” said Martin, a native of Las Vegas. “Everything that dispenses water is more efficient. All the parts of the barracks are manufactured as close as possible to decrease the carbon footprint from transportation.” The community outside the gates will benefit along with those staying in the barracks aboard the base, Martin said. “At peak construction we should have nearly 350 laborers on site,” he said. “That’s a lot of local jobs we can fill, and with the parking garage being concluded first, we will be able to effectively accommodate them and their vehicles while they work.” The new barracks and parking structure are only two of many improvements coming to the base. Service members can expect to see expanded and more livable spaces after the final phases of construction are completed.

Combat Center honors Hispanic Americans



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center invited a Mariachi group, traditional Hispanic dancers and guest speakers to the Officers' Club Wednesday in celebration of Hispanic American Heritage Month. Retired Col. Philip Cisneros, the event's guest speaker, said he was proud of his involvement with the event. "I'm here to talk to young Marines about the challenges I faced growing up and how they can achieve their goals too," said the Los Angeles native. "It's all about a good work ethic. It's great to be able to help these young Marines and give them advice." Hispanic American Heritage Month is held in October annually.

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COPE, from A4

happens, families frequently move closer to relatives for support, adding the loss of a home, friends and school to a child's list of grief.

"It's like being part of a bee hive, and then finding out you're not a bee," Neiberger-Miller said. "These mentors are designed to help reestablish that connection."

Volunteer mentors were trained prior to the event by TAPS staff on how to best support the child's needs and provide help in coping with the significant loss.

"There is a misconception that time heals, but time doesn't do anything but go by," Weikel said. "But the more work you put into getting help, going to counseling and sharing with other people makes the days a little bit easier. The grief doesn't go away, we don't miss them any less, but we find different ways to get through the day."

After the 50 needed mentoring spots were filled and news of the event spread, TAPS had to turn away nearly 70 volunteers from the military mentor effort.

"Sometimes we get a mix of enthusiastic volunteers and not so enthused volunteers," Weikel said. "But at Pendleton, every single volunteer enthusiastically participated in this event. I had a dozen mentors come up to me personally and ask what they could do for the children. You just don't see that all the time."

Mentors from nearly every enlisted rank volunteered several hours each day to mentor during the federal holiday weekend.

"This group of mentors has really been special," Weikel said. "We have had great mentors every where we have gone, but these mentors, for whatever reason, seem more committed than others and really want to give up their time to work with the kids."

As the event came to a close, children simultaneously released balloons filled with letters to their recently lost loved ones in the air on San Diego's Mission Beach.

"We felt it was really important to hold this event for these families because they have some unique things they are working out," Neiberger-Miller said. "It really sends a strong message to families coping with service member suicide that they are not alone and are not the only family going through these types of problems."

For additional information or to contribute to the non-profit TAPS organization call 800-959-8277 or log onto <http://www.taps.org>.



PFC. DANIEL BOOTHE

Six-year-old Isabella Norris sits on the shoulders of Sgt. 1st Class Don P. Francisco, a musician with 3rd U.S. Army Infantry Regiment in Fort Meyer, Va., prior to releasing letter-filled balloons at Mission Beach in San Diego, Oct. 10.



PFC. DANIEL BOOTHE

Seven-year-old Jacob Lewis sits on the shoulders of his active-duty Camp Pendleton mentor, Cpl. Mathew A. Mcallister, an avionics technician, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267. Lewis has a pin of his fallen father, Army Capt. Gordon A. Lewis, on his sleeve during a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors event in San Diego, Oct. 10.

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OCTOBER

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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Every October, the international community promotes Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In Canada, one woman in nine will be afflicted with this type of cancer during her lifetime. This is why it is so important to raise awareness of the ways to prevent this disease from developing.

Of course, priority has to be placed on screening, as, the sooner a cancer is detected, the higher the chances of survival are. For women 50 years and older, the simple fact of having a mammogram as well as a breast examination every two years reduces the death rate in 50 to 69 year olds by more than 25%! So it's clear that breast cancer rates would be reduced significantly if all women had regular breast examinations.

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Doctors suggest several ways to reduce the risks of contracting this devastating disease. First and foremost, they recommend a diet rich in fruits and vegetables and, even more importantly, low in fat. Several studies demonstrate that a healthy diet can prevent certain cancers as well as heart disease.

Another component in the fight against cancer is regular exercise. By adding a period of light to moderate physical activity to your daily routine, you can help protect yourself. It doesn't have to be anything complicated, just a walk around the neighbourhood, playing outside with your children or even biking to work. And lastly, it is strongly recommended to reduce alcohol consumption and to stay well away from cigarettes!



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Fire Prevention Week ends with chili cook off

LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center Fire Department capped off Fire Prevention Week with their 12th Annual Chili Lunch at their station here Oct. 9.

The event helped provide knowledge about the station and fire prevention and gave the fire department a chance to showcase their famous chili again, said Chief Darlene Hull, the assistant fire chief for fire prevention with the department, and a native of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

"It's a public education event," Hull said. "It allows Marines, their families and civilians aboard the base to come see the fire department.

"The chili is my own secret recipe too," she said. "It's been adapted to make it more or less spicy. A lot of people come to eat it every year, and we cook plenty for everyone."

Hull explained the most appealing parts of the event are not just the food or the thrill of visiting the fire station.

"A lot of people see it



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Timothy Mayer (left), and his brother Benjamin enjoy the festivities at the Combat Center Fire Department's 12th Annual Chili Lunch Oct. 9. Both boys are children of Navy Lt. Joseph Mayer, the chaplain for 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

'Wolfpack' Marines march in Maine Marathon



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIMBERLY MOSSBARGER

Members of the armed forces, along with families of service members who have been killed in combat, march toward the finish line of the Maine Marathon Tribute March Oct. 4 in Portland, Maine.

CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The journey began early Oct. 4 for a handful of Marines from Company B, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, who set out on a 26-mile hike through the streets of Portland, Maine, to honor fallen service members.

Ten "Wolfpack" warriors volunteered their time and effort to take part in the Maine Marathon Tribute March, a portion of the 18th annual Peak Performance Maine Marathon.

"The event was originally created by the Maine National Guard a few years ago," said Staff Sgt. Chris

Singley, a platoon sergeant from Co. B. "Now, it's a joint effort between all branches of service to honor those who have been killed in combat."

Singley, a native of Sparta, Ga., said this is his third time participating in the March, which is in its fourth year as a fixture in the marathon.

"The first time I participated, I had recently come back from Iraq, where my unit lost 11 Marines," he said. "I did it to honor them. When I came to this battalion, I started talking about it and a lot of guys wanted to sign up."

All in all, nine other Marines completed the Tribute March with Singley. They are:

- 1st Lt. Lucian Mossbarger,

- platoon commander, from Brenham, Texas
- 1st Lt. Nick De Gregorio, platoon commander, from Ridgewood, N.J.
- Sgt. Mike Gripp, vehicle commander, from Lebanon, Ill.
- Cpl. Jeremy Shurtleff, rifleman, from Salt Lake City
- Cpl. William Mauro, light armored vehicle gunner, from Kalamazoo, Mich.
- Cpl. J. Pierre DeForest, LAV crewman, from Denver
- Cpl. Cody May, LAV gunner, from Oviedo, Fla.
- Lance Cpl. Sam Smalley, team leader, from

See WOLFPACK, B3

CFC gets bankroll from Combat Center



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lt. Col. James McArthur (left), the assistant chief of staff for the Operations and Training Branch aboard the Combat Center presents a check on behalf of the branch to Allen Hyde, a Combined Federal Campaign chairman aboard the base, Tuesday at the Combat Center G-3 conference room. The contest raised \$651 for the CFC.

The Eagle has landed



CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

Colton Byers, 15, with the Combat Center's Boy Scout Troop 78, recites the Eagle Oath during an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony at the Catholic Chapel Sunday. After spending about 10 years in the Boy Scouts of America, the Okinawa, Japan, native was promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Service Project, a requirement all Scouts must meet prior to promotion, Byers reorganized and built a new shelf for the chapel's storage shed. At the ceremony, his services as a Scout were praised by his mentors. "His drive and determination to get things done is unprecedented by other young men his age," said Scoutmaster Clint Blaul, one of Byers' mentors during his tenure with Troop 78. "I am honored to have been a part of his growth into manhood."



Local Events

73rd Annual 29 Palms Pioneer Days
Description: Twentynine Palms' biggest festival
When: An all day event, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
See the full schedule insert in today's paper.

The First Inter-Tribal Exhibition Pow Wow
Description: Native American entertainment, village, cuisine, arts and crafts and pony rides
When: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday
Where: Sportsman's Club, 6225 Sunburst, Joshua Tree
For information call Joyce at 408-3944.

Willie Boy "The Last Posse"
Description: A play with a historical perspective
When: 6:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 16
Where: Twentynine Palms Junior High School
5798 Utah Trail, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 367-9183 or visit <http://www.29palmshistorical.com>

Ken O'Malley and the Twilight Lords
Description: Featuring the music of Ireland
When: 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday
Where: The Blak Box Theatre
61231 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree
For more information call 366-3777 or visit <http://www.hidesertplayhouse.com>.

Music: I See Hawks In LA with Susan James
Description: Cosmic cowboy music
When: 8 p.m., Saturday
Where: Pappy & Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 366-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Art Reception: Art Tours Collective Show
Description: The tour art show with entertainment
When: 4:30 to 7 p.m., Sunday
Where: The Hi-Desert Nature Museum in the Yucca Valley Community Center Complex
57116 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
For information call 369-7212 or visit <http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org>.

Open Studio Art Tours West End
Description: Local artists open their studios
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 24 and 25
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Lower Desert

Music: Loggins and Messina
Description: One of the most successful pop duos of the '70s
When: 9 p.m., Friday
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
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For more info call (800) 252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>

Music: Steely Dan
Description: One of the most advanced pop units of the '70s
When: 8 p.m., Saturday
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more info call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>

Music: Alice Cooper
Description: The flamboyant hoodlum who forever altered the face of rock and roll
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 30
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Pkwy. Indio
For more info call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Oct. 16
6 p.m. – 500 Days of Summer, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – District 9, Rate R
Midnight – Halloween 2, Rate R

Saturday, Oct. 17
11 a.m. Free Matinee: Arthur and the Invisibles, Rated PG
2 p.m. – Shorts, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Julie and Julia, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Inglorious Basterds, Rated R
Midnight – Gamer, Rated R

Sunday, Oct. 18
2 p.m. – I Can Do Bad All by Myself, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Sorority Row, Rated R
9 p.m. – Whiteout, Rated R

Monday, Oct. 19
7 p.m. – The Final Destination, Rated R

Tuesday, Oct. 20
7 p.m. – District 9, Rate R

Wednesday, Oct. 21
7 p.m. – Shorts, Rated PG

Thursday, Oct. 22
7 p.m. – Halloween 2, Rated R

'Meatballs' a treat the whole family can savor

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs

Rated PG

Based on a beloved children's book of the same name, this new animated comedy tells the tall tale of a town with the world's most unique weather. In the fabled land of Chewandswallow, precipitation comes down as food.

Of course, the kids love it when the clouds unleash showers of pizza, hot dogs or hamburgers. But children aren't the only beneficiaries of the freakish weather. The entire town is reborn when the skies begin raining edibles, sparking a food-related business boom (bibs, dental floss, roofless restaurants) and attracting curious tourists.

But, as the citizens of Chewandswallow discover, sometimes too much of a good thing can be a bad thing – especially when the food ominously starts getting bigger.

The movie marks the directorial debut of Chris Miller and Phil Lord, two young filmmakers who likely grew up on the 1978 book by Judi Barrett. Their



COURTESY PHOTO

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" is a new animated comedy based on the children's book of the same name. It tells a tale about the fabled land of Chewandswallow where it actually rains food.

big-screen treatment expands the story, originally a quickie bedtime tale, with an explanation of how the strange weather began, and goosing things to feature-length with a couple of feel-good subplots, a dramatic final act and a slew of colorful new characters.

"Saturday Night Live"'s Bill Hader provides the voice of Flint Lockwood, the young inventor who fills the skies with food. Anna Farris ("The House Bunny") is the greenhorn weather reporter, Sam Sparks, dispatched to cover the unusual story.

Flint's man-of-few-words father (James Caan) wants to his son to hang up the lab coat, and former "A-Team"er Mr. T. is hilarious as an overzealous, hyper-athletic policeman. Listen closely and you'll also hear NBC weathercaster Al Roker, Bruce Campbell (Sam Axe from TV's "Burn Notice") and another "Saturday Night Live" star, Andy Samberg.

It's all great fun, and kids will enjoy the sheer, messy spectacle of all sorts of yummies falling from the sky – especially when the food reaches gargantuan proportions. "No school!" gleeful tykes squeal as they watch their classroom building completely disappear underneath an enormous pancake, a downpour of gooey syrup and a pat of butter the size of a basketball court.

Grownups will enjoy the witty dialog and zippy script, especially when it

makes playful nods to big sci-fi popcorn romps like "Twister," "The Day After Tomorrow," "Armageddon" and "Star Wars." There's a scene that plays out the wing of a hybridized airplane-automobile involving a malicious group of Gummi bears that will make fans of "The Twilight Zone" smile – at least the ones who fondly remember the classic episode about gremlins at 20,000 feet.

The animation and special effects are lively and look wonderful. See it in 3D, if you can; it's well worth the couple of extra dollars for a movie that's truly enhanced by the process instead of cluttered by its gimmicky. With an original story, dazzling effects and clever gags (verbal as well as visual) that both kids and grownups will appreciate, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" is a feast for the eyes and a treat the entire family can savor.

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15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)
7:00	7:10	7:15
Stater Bros WallMart	MCAGCC	8:30

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway
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4:00	4:25	4:30
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*4:40	*4:45	*5:00
Stater Bros WallMart	Palm Springs Airport	*5:45


15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)
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*6:00	*6:10	*6:15
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COURTESY PHOTO

Bill Hader provides the voice of Flint Lockwood, the inventor who fills the sky with food. Sam Sparks is the young weather reporter voiced by Anna Farris. They soon discover sometimes too much of a good thing can be a bad thing – especially when the food ominously starts getting bigger.



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CHILI, from B1

as an opportunity to be charitable,” she said. “We give to the Combined Federal Campaign, the Ronald McDonald House and the Shriners’ Hospital for Kids.”

“It’s great to see everybody come together,” Hull said. “The event makes a contribution every year and you can tell people really care if they come back again and again, which they do.”

Patrons of the event said they enjoyed the chili along with the positive impact the event created.

“It’s great getting out of the office and getting some good chili,” said Leslie Hundley, a welder at the Combat Center’s Exercise Support Division and a native of Twentynine Palms. “I’ve been coming to the cookout for five or six years and I look forward to it every year.”

Another person who enjoyed the event, Lance Cpl. Pejhomme Williams, a maintenance management specialist with ESD, said he enjoys the good food, along with the chance to give back to others.

“I’m on [convalescent] leave, but that wasn’t going to stop me from getting some good food on top of donating to charity,” said Williams, who comes from Worthington, Ohio. “It’s a win, win situation. I get to eat some good food and people in need benefit from it.”

Fire Prevention Week, as well as the department’s chili cook off, are scheduled to continue at approximately the same time next year.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Marines, sailors, civilians and family members of the Combat Center enjoy chili provided by the Combat Center Fire Department during their 12th Annual Chili Lunch at the station. The event is held each year to wrap up Fire Prevention Week.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Sam Moore, an assistant chief at the Combat Center Fire Department, pours chili for patrons during their 12th Annual Chili Lunch Oct. 9, at the station. Moore and the others at the fire station end Fire Prevention Week every year with their chili lunch.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

The Combat Center Fire Department held their 12th Annual Chili Lunch Oct. 9 to cap off Fire Prevention Week. The event proceeds are donated to the Combined Federal Campaign.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Firefighter Carl Parmley prepares hot dogs for patrons of the Combat Center Fire Department’s 12th Annual Chili Lunch Oct. 9, at the station. Attendees bought and exchanged tickets for either chili or hot dogs.

WOLFPACK, from B1

Sacramento, Calif.

- Lance Cpl. Daniel Stice, team leader, from Effingham, Ill.

The Marines who participated with Singley said they wanted to complete the marathon to honor their friend Lance Cpl. Drew W. Weaver, a rifleman with Co. B, who was killed in Iraq in February 2008.

During the last several miles of the march, the families of service members who have been killed in combat walked alongside the Marines, cheering them on until they reached the finish line. This gave the Marines a tremendous feeling of accomplishment.

“This is one of my proudest moments in the Marine Corps,” Mauro said. “It’s long, frustrating and tiring; but at the end when you finish, you feel a lot better about yourself for doing it.”

May said he was also proud of himself and the rest of the Marines for finishing the march.

“This is something I’d definitely do again,” May said. “Aside from sleeping on the floor in the National Guard armory the night before, it was a great experience.”

Overall, it took the Co. B Marines about eight hours to complete the entire 26-mile trek. They all agreed the march was exhausting, but rewarding. Singley and the rest of the Marines

who participated said they plan to return to Maine next year to complete the Tribute March again, and hope to motivate more of their fellow Marines to accompany them.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIMBERLY MOSSBARGER

Marines from Company B, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, close in on mile 17 of the Maine Marathon Tribute March Oct. 4 in Portland, Maine.

The Reappearance of Christ

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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

1st Tanks defensive players block a punt from HQBN Wednesday at the Combat Center's Felix Field. 1st Tanks lost to HQBN 36-6 during their game in the Commanding General's Intramural Football League.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Charles Jefferson, the quarterback for HQBN, rolls out of the pocket Wednesday during the team's game against 1st Tanks at the Combat Center's Felix Field.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

HQBN defensive players bury 1st Tanks' Brandon Gray (bottom) Wednesday at the Combat Center's Felix Field during their game in the Commanding General's Intramural Football League. HQBN defeated 1st Tanks 36-6.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Calvin Perkins, an offensive back with 1st Tanks, prepares to break through the HQBN defensive line Wednesday during their game. 1st Tanks lost to HQBN 36-6 when they played at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

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