

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

OCTOBER 30, 2009      SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957      VOL. 52 ISSUE 43

## Memorial for fallen Combat Center heroes

**PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Gen. George S. Patton Jr., an American General in World War II, once said, “It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died, rather we should thank God that such men lived.”

In their struggles against America’s enemies – as the famous quote states – some gave all; all gave some and the Combat Center recognized their sacrifices with a memorial service concert Wednesday evening at the Sunset Cinema.

In the years since the Sept. 11 attacks eight years ago, tens of thousands of Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to fight those who wish to do Americans harm and destroy this country’s

way of life. Navy Capt. Conrad A. Targonski, the Combat Center chaplain, said he began the memorial service in 2005 as a Catholic memorial to honor the fallen heroes of the Combat Center who have given the ultimate sacrifice since 2002 up to the most recent death of Lance Cpl. Cody R. Stanley, 21, of Rosanky, Texas Wednesday. Targonski said he has spent the last four years working to broaden the service and improve upon the original service.

“I got the idea after watching the 4th of July ceremony at the National Mall [Washington, D.C.], and seeing it was mainly a display of music and patriotism, it inspired me to do something here,” said the Chicago native. “That kind of display is what the guys we’re honoring

**See FALLEN, A4**



LANCE CPL. JEREMIAH HANDELAND

Marines with the Combat Center Band plant the American flag in a recreation of the famous Iwo Jima flag raising during the Fallen Hero Memorial Ceremony at the Combat Center’s Sunset Cinema Wednesday evening.

## 1st Tanks rolls through largest Steel Knight



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

A tank with Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, called the “Catalina Wine Mixer,” sits watch Saturday night during Steel Knight, a combined arms exercise held at the Combat Center that had over 7,000 participants this year.

**LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

First Tank Battalion, along with other units from 1st Marine Division, completed Steel Knight, a Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force level exercise, at the Combat Center Nov. 26.

The combined arms exercise was the biggest yet, said Lt. Col. Tom Gordon, the commanding officer of 1st Tanks and native of Boston.

“We had more than 7,000 personnel on the ground supporting the exercise this year,” Gordon said. “We also fielded more tanks at once than we ever have before.

“First Tanks in particular fielded five companies of tanks,” he said. “We had our four plus the Australian Defense Forces attached to us as another company.”

Gordon listed the array of units in support of the exercise as well as 1st Tanks.

“We had [Regimental Combat Team] 1; 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment; 11th Marine Regiment; with 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines; 1st Battalion, 11th Marines; 5th Battalion, 11th Marines. There was 1st [Light Armored Reconnaissance] Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1 and Combat Logistics Battalions 5 and 7.”

Gordon said the focus of the exercise was on the physical aspect and running through the training.

“The exercise has a kinetic focus,” he said. “It’s to demonstrate and train in the full spectrum of capabilities of a MAGTF.”

Gordon said the exercise has evolved steadily since its

**See STEEL, A3**

## Save a Life Tour educates Marines, sailors about drunk driving

**CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

When browsing through <http://www.savealifetour.com>, facts are given regarding alcohol related vehicle accidents, such as the fact that more than 500,000 people are killed or injured every year due to an alcohol related crash. Those numbers equate to someone being killed or injured every sixty seconds.

The Save a Life Tour visited the Combat Center this week, holding two presentations at Sunset Cinema each day to ensure most of the Marines and sailors aboard the installation had the opportunity to attend their seminar.

The tour is an alcohol awareness program that sends personnel traveling throughout the United States, and sometimes overseas, to hold presentations and seminars about the causes and effects of drunk driving.

The presentations start with a ten-minute video showing gruesome images of drivers who did not survive crashes after drinking and driving. As the video became more grisly, some Marines had to stand up and leave the room.

“The best part of the show were the movies,” said Cpl. Jesse Williams, a mortarman with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. “When you see those body parts it

helps get it in their minds that they can end up like that. Especially for me—I hate seeing bodies laying like that.”

After the movie, Chris Geysbeek, a manager with Save a Life Tour, stood up and spoke to the Marines and sailors attending the event. He told his personal story and why he was there to stop service members from drinking then driving.

The noise in the theater died down as Geysbeek recounted his best friend being killed by a drunk driver, throwing him off his motorcycle sending him flying 400 feet before he finally landed. Geysbeek performed CPR in hopes he could save

**See DRIVING, A8**



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Cpl. Steven Jorgensen, a squad leader for Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, turns onto a cross road as he drives in snow on the vehicle simulator the Save a Life Tour takes with them to show participants why drinking then driving is a bad idea at the Sunset Cinema Tuesday.



**Burn out DUIs ~ See A3**



**Earnin’ and burnin’ ~ See A4**



**Ground and pound ~ See B1**



**Halloweekend ~ See B1**



# Semper Moto

## Long Mileage and Good Grip

JOHN FLEMING

Your typical automotive tire design is pretty rudimentary. Go, stop, end of story. Motorcycle tires are much more complex in their requirements. For one thing, motorcycle tires are designed for leaning in the corners. Automotive tires remain vertical at all times.

Motorcycle tires have a rounded or convex profile, which enables them to maintain a good grip on the road, even when they are leaning in the direction of the curve.

More extreme lean angles – necessary at higher rates of speed through turns – result in significant lateral forces in motorcycling. In plain English, motorcycle tires must be sticky in order to “grip the road.” But sticky tires require soft rubber compounds, which wear out quickly, especially in more aggressive riding.

Up until recently, choosing motorcycle tires involved a compromise. If you wanted good grip, you'd have to live with reduced tire mileage. On the other hand, if you wanted a long-wearing tire, you'd have to live with reduced traction.

Recently, some motorcycle tire manufacturers have begun producing dual or triple-compound formulations. With these tires, the center of the tread is a longer-wearing and durable compound. The shoulders of the tread are made of rubber that is formulated for greater traction. These designs combine long wear and superior cornering traction in one versatile package.

If you'd like to know all about the advantages of dual compound tires for your motorcycle, consult you favorite accessory supplier to learn more.

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 website I can utilize to learn about school stats? Which are the better performing schools?

**Answer:** Yes, there are several websites that can help you. Both of these sites are school comparison web sites and are great resources for finding the best match for your students.  
<http://www.greatschools.net/>  
<http://www.schoolmatters.com/>

For more information, please contact  
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## Combat Center Spotlight

**Name:** Cpl. Jonathan Garland  
**Unit:** 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Headquarters Battery  
**Job Title:** Battery Clerk  
**Job Description:** Gathering information on Marines, filling out rosters, putting in for orders  
**What do you like most about your job?** Being inside when it's hot or cold outside.  
**Significant Achievements:** “Being in the Marine Corps, deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan, and staying positive.”  
**Hobbies:** Traveling and working out  
**Military Service:** Three years  
**Time at Combat Center:** Two years and two months



## OBSERVATION POST

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Public Affairs Officer Jennie E. Haskamp  
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Public Affairs Chief Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez  
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## Hot Topics

### 2010 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN PROGRAM

Scholarship applications will be available Nov. 3 in commissaries worldwide and online through a link at <https://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Since the program began in 2000, it has awarded \$7.3 million in scholarships to almost 5,000 children of service members. See A7 for more details.

### SMP HAUNTED HOUSE

The Single Marine Program Haunted House will be open at 7 p.m., Oct. 30 and 31 to the Combat Center public. It will be held at the east gym and is for ages 13 and up.

### AREA CODE OVERLAY

In light of California's new area code overlay, Combat Center personnel can expect only small changes in phone operations. Beginning Saturday, local phone numbers dialed aboard the installation will require callers to dial 9-9-1 and the area code (760) followed by the phone number. All numbers within the installation may still be reached by dialing 830-xxxx. For more information about the area code overlay, call the G-6 telephone division at 830-7141.

### THE ZONE CLOSURE

The Zone is scheduled to be closed Nov. 1 – Jan. 31. The temporary new home of The Zone will be next to Subway. Trip schedules will remain the same. For more information call the Single Marine Program at 830-4767.

## Marine Corps History

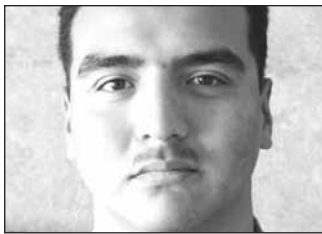
Oct. 30, 1945

Two companies of the 2nd Parachute Battalion attack and destroy a Japanese barge staging point on the island of Choiseul.

## Centerspeak

### What is the best Halloween costume you have ever worn?

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



PETTY OFFICER  
3RD CLASS DAVID VIEYRA  
3RD BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT,  
BATTERY L

“Clown outfit, only one I ever wore.”



PETTY OFFICER  
3RD CLASS CODY DOWNS  
3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE  
BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS AND  
SERVICE COMPANY

“Ghost from the Scream films. Scared a girl speechless with it.”



SGT. CHRISTOPHER TURNER  
1ST TANK BATTALION, SUPPLY COMPANY

“Freddy Kruger, the sweater rocked.”

SUDOKU #1611

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2009 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## SIGN HERE

[puzzle Solutions on A8]

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### ACROSS

- Fifth Avenue retailer
- Get bent out of shape
- Co-conspirator of Brutus
- Pavlova of ballet
- Get well
- Popular theater name
- Personalized-letter-generation function in word processors
- Working mom's helper
- Short-tempered
- “ER” and “CSI,” for two
- Suddenly bright stars
- Control on a church instrument
- Happy hour order
- Like dessert wines
- \_\_\_ Lilly of pharmaceuticals
- Legendary name in baseball announcing
- Stock or bond
- Raised area of the skin,

### DOWN

- Wanders about
- Face decoration for a brave
- Docs’ org
- “I \_\_\_ return!”
- “This instant!”
- Like a junk bond
- Spain’s \_\_\_ del Sol
- Make from scratch
- Make a surprise visit
- Face on a fifty
- Get two government paychecks, say
- Explorer \_\_\_ de Leon
- Supermodel Benitez
- Domino shape: Abbr.
- Feeds the kitty
- Cub scout groups
- \_\_\_ 51 (rumored UFO site)
- caused by cold or fear

### DOWN

- Walton who founded Wal-Mart
- 1921 Literature Nobel
- Daredevil Evel
- Zesty dip
- Part of Miss Muffet’s meal
- \_\_\_ Lingus
- Scott Joplin tune
- Fraternity brother-to-be
- TV host O’Brien
- Name of two presidents
- Legislative bodies
- Give solace to
- “\_\_\_ takers?”
- Everest and Rainier: Abbr.
- Lab maze runner
- Where many vets served
- Is in the hole
- Subscriber’s option
- Indy 500 locale

- \_\_\_-Blo fuse
- Carnival worker’s guess
- \_\_\_ Cabos, Mexico
- Fuse unit
- Mud bath spot
- Like badly worn tires
- WWW address
- Cheerleader’s shout
- Letter after Xi
- Tramp
- Illegal trader
- On the nasty side
- Former rival of Pan Am
- Mind junior
- Paid attention to
- “Therefore ...”
- Director David of Harry Potter movies
- Potter’s TV rank: Abbr.
- La Scala offering
- Cops’ unions
- Transcript fig
- Grand \_\_\_ Opry
- SEAL’s mil. branch
- School org



# MCCES 3rd annual Safety Fair makes power points eat its dust



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Eric Whitcomb (right), a stunt rider for the Speed Channel, and Kyle Rappaport, a stunt rider at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Safety Fair, perform circles on Bourke Street during the MCCES Safety Fair Oct. 23. The riders spoke to the audience of MCCES students and instructors about safe driving.

**LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Engines roared and tires screeched as stunt riders performed for the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School students during the third annual Safety Fair at Victory Field Oct. 23. MCCES students and instructors spent the afternoon browsing vendor booths, participating in canine take downs, wandering through an earthquake house, watching sport bike shows



Lance Cpl. Andrew Singer, a student with Co. A, MCCES, runs at full speed in a bite suit as a Provost Marshals Office dog handler releases a dog to take him down at Victory Field during the annual MCCES Safety Fair Oct. 23.

and riding bicycles while wearing “drunk goggles.” “We are giving them something to remember rather than kill them with power point presentations,” said Dr. Joyce Teters, the safety director for MCCES, about the unique training approach. “This is their [students] first exposure to safety in the military and I want them to remember it throughout their career in the Marine Corps.” As the students and instructors explored the venues at the field, the canine unit with the Provost Marshals Office seemed to draw one of the larger crowds. PMO suited up any willing Marine in protective bite suits and sent them running across the field. Meanwhile, a PMO dog handler held fast to the dog’s leash as it struggled to take down his notional foe. When finally released, the canine shot after the Marine and was on him in a matter of seconds. “The suit was hard to run

in and the dog was very fast,” said Pfc. Kimberly Mihevic, a student with Company A, MCCES. The canine took down went on until PMO decided the dogs had done enough. As the Marines headed back to the vendor booths, many noticed the earthquake house. The simulator put Marines in a small room filled with smoke while the house shook, simulating an earth quake. Some of vendors gave out free merchandise like key chains, bottle openers, information pamphlets and cold drinks. Other vendors sold shirts, motorcycle tires and biking equipment at inexpensive prices. One of the vendors played a short safety video highlighting basic driving safety. At one end of the field, a line of Marines waited to ride a tricycle while wearing goggles designed to simulate intoxicated driving and

See SAFETY, A5

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<p><b>TAVARES</b> “It Only Takes A Minute” “Heaven Must Be Missing An Angel”</p>	<p><b>JOELY FISHER</b> Film and Television Actress</p>	<p><b>STARSHIP FEATURING MICKEY THOMAS</b> “We Built This City” “Sara”</p>	<p><b>TRICIA LEIGH FISHER</b> Film and Television Actress and Singer</p>

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LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Tankers with Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, wait to move out Saturday before embarking on their next mission in the combined arms exercise known as Steel Knight. This year’s exercise was the largest it has been with approximately 7,000 troops.

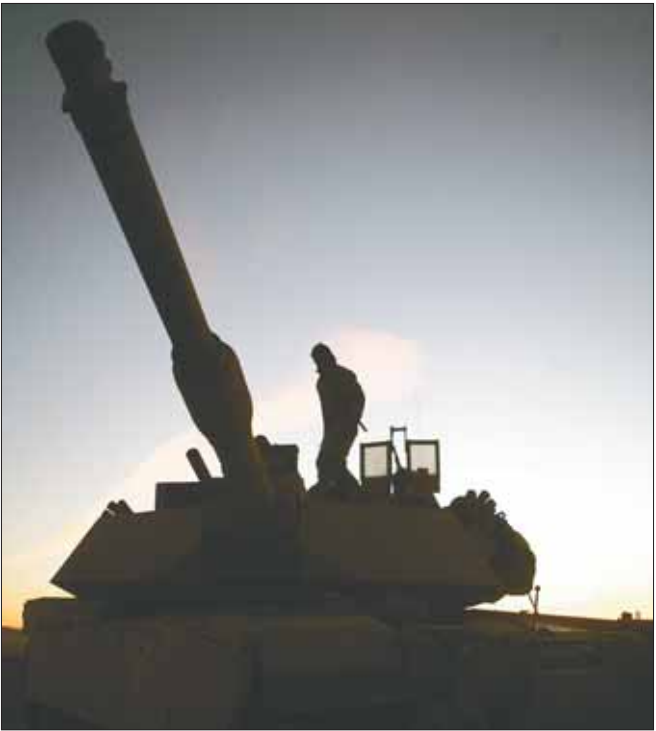
**STEEL, from A1**

inception in the early 1990s. “Steel Knight started out as an exercise with just tankers,” he said. “It’s grown immensely to now being a division exercise and we have parts of the air wing involved as well.”

Marines who have participated in the exercise in the past still see the value in their training. “It’s a good exercise every year to get some time tanking,” said Lance Cpl. Henry Gray, a tanker with Company D, 1st Tanks, from Waldorf, Ind. “It’s our job after all.

Besides, we get to put a lot of steel on target doing this.” Lance Cpl. Devin Burleson, a tanker with Co. D from San Angelo, Texas, got his first taste of the exercise this year and said it was one of the most impressive things he has ever seen. “Hearing the artillery overhead, the [Mine Clearing Line Charges], its all pretty badass,” Burleson said. “It’s my first Steel Knight. I sure hope the rest of them are this good.” Gordon said the exercise went better than expected this year, given the challenges they faced, in terms of logistics and vehicles breaking down. “The Marines did outstanding this year,” he said. “They kept more tanks moving than we ever have at once. We only had two of them go down, which is outstanding. The Marines from the logistics and support elements of the exercise really pulled through and did a great job to keep everything we had in the fight.”

The exercise is scheduled to take place again during winter next year. With changes still yet to be made, this year has certainly been the most impressive yet.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Lance Cpl. Devin Burleson, a tanker with Co. D, 1st Tank Battalion, inspects his tank “Iron Mike,” Sunday. The Steel Knight combined arms exercise began in the 1990s with the Tank Battalion and was the largest ever this year with five tank companies employed.

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# ESD artillery mechanics help keep EMV's guns firing

**PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

As classic rock music blasted from a stereo in the Exercise Support Division's artillery mechanic shop, three Marines and two retired Marine contractors spent endless hours toiling away on the eight artillery pieces they are tasked with keeping mission ready.

Cpl. Cole Shepherd, Lance Cpl. Sam Engebose, Lance Cpl. Mark Holinsworth, Paul Gegenfurtner and Bob Bowman spend their workdays maintaining and preparing their eight M77-A2 Howitzer artillery pieces to keep them ready to check out to various training units

which come to the Combat Center to participate in Enhanced Mojave Viper pre-deployment training, nearly 10 times a year.

In addition, if any of the guns break down during training, ESD's artillery mechanics repair them, sometimes working late into the night to get the guns back into the field to put rounds downrange.

"Units coming to the Combat Center for training can come to our shop, check out our guns and beat the hell out of them to complete their training," said Cpl. Cole Shepherd, the artillery mechanic section leader. "It's our job to make sure the guns are

ready for them at any time."

Having the guns ready saves the Marine Corps money and time by allowing units to tow the guns versus shipping them from their home bases, said Capt. Michael A. Nolan, the ordnance and communications officer of ESD.

With only five people in the artillery mechanic section, it is quite a chore to keep all eight guns in perfect working condition, said Holinsworth.

However, Nolan said the mechanics do a great job keeping the guns prepared and mission ready.

"It's pretty amazing they

See ESD, A6



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Lance Cpl. Sam Engebose, an artillery mechanic with the Combat Center's Exercise Support Division, loosens bolts from the wheel hub of one of the eight M777-A2 Howitzer artillery pieces his shop is tasked with maintaining.

## FALLEN, from A1

fought and died for – I think it's an awesome idea to honor their sacrifices."

During the memorial ceremony, the sacrifices of the men and women in uniform and their families were honored by the Combat Center band who played a medley of patriotic Marine Corps marches and songs by a variety of composers and musicians, including the Semper

Fidelis March composed by John Philip Sousa in 1889.

Lt. Col. John M. Reed, the commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, and Lt. Col. Brent R. Norquist, the director of logistics division, spoke on the importance of reflecting on the sacrifices the men and women of the armed services make and the sacrifices their families make to support them.

"We look in history at the



LANCE CPL. JEREMIAH HANDELAND

The Combat Center command staff bow their heads for a moment of silence to honor fallen Combat Center heroes at the Sunset Cinema Wednesday.

heroes who have come before us and I think about our own generation of heroes with names like Dunham, Peralta and countless others," Norquist said. "The Marines who have fought in Iraq have fought with the same honor, courage and commitment that is the hallmark of our Corps, and their valor will never be forgotten."

Looking across the faces of the crowd, one could see the somber mood of the evening in the faces of each individual. The attendees' faces showed reflection; reflection on the lives of the men and women who have sacrificed so much, sometimes all, in the defense of America.

In the middle of the ceremony, a video played, highlighting different aspects of a deployment from the eyes of Marines and sailors who have experienced combat firsthand.

The video spoke of the loneliness of leaving behind families, the joy of receiving mail and care packages, the family forged by combat, and the loss of those brothers and sisters while photos flashed across the screen and music filled the cinema.

The ceremony ended with Lance Cpl. Cynthia Rivera, a trumpeter with the Combat Center Band, backed by the rest of the band, playing the slow, somber "Taps" in honor of the heroes of the Combat Center with a grand finale rendition of the "Marines Hymn".

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# 3/11 accomplishes many firsts, concludes historic deployment

## REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 3

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The most significant Marine Corps operation since the Battle of Fallujah in 2004 and the largest helicopter insertion since the Vietnam War took place July 2 as Marines spread out into the Helmand River valley to secure what was called one of the most violent provinces in all of Afghanistan at the time.

Regimental Combat Team 3 spearheaded Operation Khanjar – designed to deliver a swift and lethal blow to the insurgency as the name of the operation, “Strike of the Sword,” suggests – marking the highly-anticipated unleashing of a strengthened Marine Corps force here.

Third Marine Regiment deployed in November 2008 as the command element of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force –

Afghanistan, which encompassed just more than 2,000 Marines and sailors who served as a bridging force for the larger Marine Expeditionary Brigade that took control in May. After turning over authority to the MEB, 3rd Marines became the headquarters of RCT-3, the MEB’s ground combat element.

Although Operation Khanjar was extremely successful, a great deal of work still needed to be accomplished. Several follow-on clearing operations ensued in some areas to weed out Taliban militants and give Afghan civilians the security and freedom of movement required to participate in the Aug. 20 national and provincial elections. In several areas, Marines were able to immediately transition from offensive operations to a more humanitarian mission by establishing positive relationships with

See RCT, A7



SGT. CHRISTOPHER R. RYE

Marines from India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, fire an M777-A2 lightweight howitzer during a field fire at the training ranges near Camp Leatherneck in southern Afghanistan's Helmand Province June 4. Third Bn., 11th Marines is an element of Regimental Combat Team 3 whose mission is to conduct counterinsurgency operations in southern Afghanistan with a focus on training and mentoring the Afghan National Police.

## SAFETY, from A3

required Marines to maneuver around sharp turns. Before the Marines started the course they were told “don’t break the bike, goggles or yourself” by the instructor in charge of the station.

“The goggles really mess you up,” said Pfc. Alfonso Urrutia, a student with Co. A. “I thought I was in the middle of the track the whole time. If you do well on this course with the goggles, then we know who to send to the SACO [Substance Abuse Counseling Officer],” he said jokingly.

After completing the course the Marines were given more items such as a water bottles, pencils, stickers and key chains.

Later that afternoon MCCES hosted two safety bike shows on Bourke Street in front of the field. As the bikers started their engines every Marine on the field gathered in the bleachers and along the fence to see the show.

The bikers performed various stunts such as seat stander, watch tower, which is the bike standing straight up with hands in the air, high chair, which includes sitting on the handle bars, and many more during the shows.

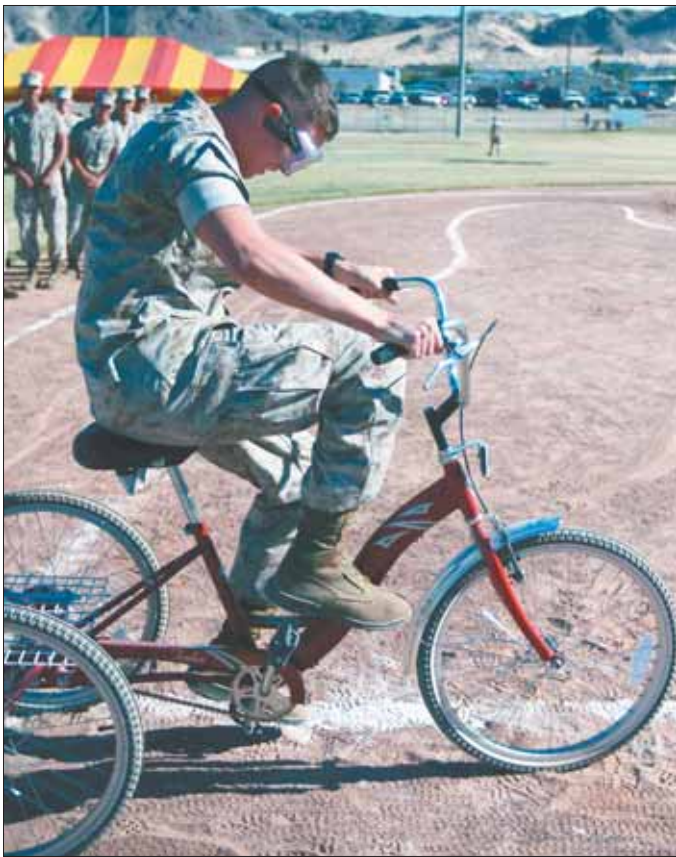
At the end of each 20 minutes show riders took

time to talk to Marines about riding safety on the road.

“The stunt riders and their words on safety will stick out the most in their minds,” said Sgt. Kyle Neubecker, a MCCES instructor for Co. C. “Everything is very informative and will help a lot with

the junior Marines along the road. The Marine Corps needs this because of its high rate of road fatalities.”

As the smell of burning rubber lingered in the air, Marines went their separate ways with the lessons they learned fresh in their minds.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Lance Cpl. Timothy Fowler, a student with Company A, Marine Corps Communications-Electronic School, rides the drunk goggle course at Victory Field during the MCCES Safety Fair Oct. 23.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Kyle Rappaport, a stunt rider at the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Safety Fair, shows off a flamingo on Bourke Street Oct. 23. The stunt bike performers are from different professional riding groups, and came together to give MCCES their demonstration and words on safety.

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# Domestic violence a potential career-ender

**CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month, and for service members and their families aboard the installation, it is a time to refresh their memory about the consequences and resources available if they are ever involved in domestic violence incidents.

Tanya Stuckey, the prevention and education manager with the Family Advocacy Counseling Center, said domestic violence has been observed in October for nearly 30 years.

“On October 17, 1981, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence declared a national day of unity on behalf of battered women across the country, and in 1989 Congress officially named October as Domestic Violence Awareness month,” said the native of Newport, N.C.

Domestic violence can be broadly classified as any intentional physical or psychological harm caused by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as a marriage, friendship or cohabitation. According to <http://www.dvrc-or.org>, the Domestic Violence Resource Center Web site, one in four women have been victims of domestic violence at one point in their lives. Women account for 85 percent of intimate partner violence, men for nearly 15 percent.

Stuckey said there are several things that can lead to



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month, and the installation provides several services victims of domestic violence can take advantage of. Domestic violence is classified as any physical or emotional harm to a loved one.

domestic violence.

“Stress is a contributing factor,” she said. “Whether it is work-related, family, financial, legal or alcohol-related issues, there is no excuse for abuse. Oftentimes perpetrators of violence are raised in an environment where violence is used to get needs met. Violence is a learned behavior and without education of more appropriate coping skills, some turn to violence as a means of getting their way or when they do not know how else to communicate that their needs are not being met.”

Peter Morris, the Family Advocacy Program branch manager, said the consequences service members face for being convicted of a domestic violence incident can be harsh.

“A domestic violence charge can affect reenlistment, depending on a number of things, most significantly how serious the violence was,” said the Los

Angeles native. “However, it is ultimately up to the service member’s commanding officer to decide what the full implications of a domestic violence charge will be.”

A domestic violence charge can cause bigger problems than the ability to reenlist, like being discharged, fined and even jailed.

Stuckey said a person has to be brave to come forward about being abused physically or emotionally by a loved one, and there are several resources available to victims.

“All Marines, sailors and their family members have access to victim advocates, chaplains, domestic violence shelters and hotlines,” she said. “Military OneSource is also a resource that will assist in finding additional services.”

The Family Advocacy Center offers a Couples Communication Workshop

the first and third Tuesday each month at the Family Advocacy Center to provide couples with tools to build and maintain healthy relationships.

Morris said the class is a great way for couples to find healthy ways to work through their problems and ultimately strengthen their relationships.

“The communication workshop is an opportunity for individuals who have noticed that they aren’t always communicating as well as they’d like to get

some outside, unbiased feedback and pointers on how to improve their communication style,” he said.

For more information about the class, or to set up an appointment, call 830-4950.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence and need help, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-SAFE.

## ESD, from A4

can keep eight guns going given they support so many training evolutions a year,” said the native of Kennewick, Wash.

He attributed part of their success to the mentorship of the two retired Marine contractors, who pass on their intricate knowledge of the weapons systems.

“They have more years of experience on these guns than some of the Marines have alive,” he said. “They

provide a wealth of knowledge and skills which really helps my Marines.”

He said the rest of their success is due to the hard work and long hours the Marines spend making sure their guns are always mission ready.

“I take a lot of pride in what we do,” said Holinsworth, a native of Fort Gibson, Okla. “We work hard, but it’s nice to know we help support the Marine Corps mission — it gives me a feeling of accomplishment.”



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Lance Cpl. Sam Engebose, an artillery mechanic with the Combat Center’s Exercise Support Division, loosens bolts from the wheel of one of the eight M777-A2 Howitzer artillery pieces Monday.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Lance Cpls. Mark Holinsworth and Sam Engebose, both artillery mechanics with the Combat Center’s Exercise Support Division, work on the barrel of one of the eight M777-A2 Howitzer artillery pieces they have to maintain for mission readiness Monday.

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# Hospital faces challenge when 1,076 don't show for appointments

**DAN BARBER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

ROBERT E. BUSH NAVAL HOSPITAL

Showing up late or not showing up at all for medical appointments is an ongoing challenge for the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital in trying to manage a productive clinic schedule and serve our population.

The hospital is not a walk-in clinic. The clinics are run on an appointment basis, and they try to stay on schedule. According to the hospital's latest figures, last month there were 1,076 'no shows' for appointments at the hospital.

These 1,076 appointment slots were productively used, however it could keep 1,076 potential beneficiaries from receiving treatment in a timely manner. Maybe more importantly, these missed appoint-

ments could mean that some Marines or sailors may not be 100 percent ready for deployment because they need glasses or have an undiagnosed medical issue, leading to a serious problem for the service member and their command.

Occasional emergencies arise, or a procedure takes longer than anticipated which delays appointments. However, over the years, it has been shown that when patients are kept waiting beyond their appointed time, it is usually because a previous patient showed up late. If this happens the clinics can see the late patient and keep everyone after them waiting, rush through the appointment (which we will not do), or reschedule the appointment for another time.

If late for an appointment, the hospital clinics will see you

if the schedule permits and it does not inconvenience other patients.

If the providers feel that seeing you late will cause an inconvenience for other patients, then you will be asked to reschedule.

If unable to keep an appointment, please give the hospital as much notice as possible. This is in consideration of the hospital staff that will attempt to fill the appointment slot with another patient.

Here are some tips that will help you become more punctual; Give yourself extra time, just in case you are delayed by weather, traffic or other circumstances. Keep only one planner; carry it between your home, workplace, or daily appointments. Use a watch, or an electronic organizer with a beeper to provide you with reminders.

## H1N1 FluMist Available at Naval Hospital

Preventive Medicine is now offering the H1N1 flu vaccine to all persons in direct patient care and children two to 18 years who can have FluMist.

All members of households that have a newborn to six-months old are also urged to come in and receive their H1N1 vaccine for the protection of your baby.

To receive the H1N1

FluMist, visit the Preventive Medicine Department on the lower floor of the hospital between the hours of 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The hospital still does not have the injectable form available. Once that becomes available the Preventive Medicine Department will add in additional groups.

FluMist is for those persons with no lung related problems (asthma) and no other disqualifiers such as Guillaine Barre Syndrome, egg allergies, pregnancy, etc. If you were able to receive the seasonal FluMist you should be able to receive the H1N1 FluMist.

For more information call 1-760-830-2002.

# 2010 scholarships for Military Children Program opens Nov. 3

TAMMY L. MOODY

DeCA MARKETING AND MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

FORT LEE, Va. – The holidays are fast approaching, and they can be a fun family time as children at college come home, and other students get their holiday break. It's also a time for students and parents to apply for the 2010 Scholarships for Military Children Program which opens in November.

Scholarship applications will be available Nov. 3 in commissaries worldwide and online through a link at <https://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. Since the program began in 2000, it has awarded \$7.3 million in scholarships to almost 5,000 children of service members.

The Nov. 3 scholarship kickoff coincides with National Military Family Month, and is an example of commissaries supporting their local communities by improving the quality of life for military families, said Defense Commissary Agency Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr.

"Being part of something which makes higher education more affordable for military families is thrilling, as we feel it makes a better future possible for their children," he said. "The program awards \$1,500 scholarships to well-rounded, accomplished service members' children, enabling these families to save some on their children's tuition."

Only dependent, unmarried children, younger than age 21 (age 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military members, survivors of service members who died while on active duty, or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship. Eligibility is determined using DEERS, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already be attending an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2010, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants should prepare to submit an essay on the following topic: "You can travel back in time; however, you cannot change events. What point in history would you visit and why?" Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 17. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarships program is administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to service members and their families. Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship management services organization, manages and awards the scholarships. Commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public donate money to the program, and every dollar donated goes directly to funding the scholarships.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW KENNA

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 3, are guided onto a CH-53 Helicopter July 2, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, by the landing support specialist at the Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group who are part of Combat Logistics Battalion 8.

## RCT, from A5

local elders and setting conditions for development.

The Marines understood progress in a counterinsurgency struggle takes place in three phases – clearing, holding and building. Some steps would occur more rapidly in certain regions, and each population center would provide unique challenges. The one thing that remained constant through all areas is the Marines' focus on protecting the civilian population. All RCT-3 subordinate commands experienced a unique environment but adapted to their specific situations and took the initiative from the insurgency. The first ever Marine Corps artillery unit to deploy in battalion strength to Afghanistan, 3/11 left Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., in June to take over the indirect fire mission for the Marines in Helmand province, with

one organic firing battery and one reserve cannon battery. They also assumed control of a rocket battery – Battery R, 5th Bn., 11th Marines, who fire High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems – and a target acquisition platoon to enhance their fire-support capabilities in theater.

"I simply cannot say enough about the performance of these Marines and sailors, said Lt. Col. James Lewis, 3/11's commanding officer. "Our focus has always been on good gunnery which is made up of two elements – one, accuracy; and two, timeliness. On both accounts, the Marines of 3/11 (reinforced) acquitted themselves well and ably supported maneuver forces in the accomplishment of their counterinsurgency mission."

3/11, designated "Task Force Thunder," charged into the battle space and established what would become Firebase Fiddler's

Green – a wide open patch of desert at the time. Nowadays it is a secure forward operating area for the battalion's gunline, motor pool and headquarters.

While in Afghanistan, 3/11 accomplished many Marine Corps firsts. They were the first composite Marine artillery battalion to ever deploy with rockets, cannons

and counterbattery radars; the first Marine Corps artillery battalion to participate in a helicopter lift of the M777A2 howitzer to support combat operations; and the first Marine Corps artillery unit to fire the "Excalibur" round in combat. The Excalibur is a GPS guided artillery round – one of the newest additions to artillery technology.

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SGT. SCOTT WHITTINGTON

Marines from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines and soldiers from the Afghan National Army rush back to their vehicles to pick up supplies from an air drop July 5 outside Fire Base Fiddler Green. A KC-130 dropped 12 pallets of fuel, food and water to support the personnel at the fire base.



## TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

Did you know that 6.2% of all citizens of Yucca Valley are receiving cash aid? Did you know that 3.1% of all citizens in Twentynine Palms are in the same fix? Did you know that the number of citizens in our county who are on food stamps has increased 54.2% in the last year?

It is with full knowledge of that steadily worsening situation that I introduce you to a tough minded optimist by the name of Eli Marshall, owner of Marshall Networking of Twentynine Palms.

When I learned that Eli was donating 500 turkeys for a food give away on November 21 in Twentynine Palms, I asked him why he was making such a large contribution. He answered without hesitation, "Last year I gave 250 turkeys and now that many more people are hurting I decided to donate 500 turkeys."

Eli is my kind of tough minded optimist. He understands the seriousness of the situation but he believes that if we all work together with a generous spirit and a positive attitude we can alleviate a bad situation.

Eli is a computer brain. He knows all about them. He also knows all about computer networking, phone systems, graphic design and other pragmatic matters.

On the other hand, Eli is a family man with deep love and concern for all people everywhere, especially right here in the high desert.

Eli is the president of the board of his local Youth Club and a leader in one of Southern California's finest non-profits, Dare 2 Care.

Eli is the kind of person who makes it a joy to live in the High Desert.

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Friday, Oct. 30

5-8 p.m.

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(on 10th Street above Griffin Road)

This fall-festival event with carnival-like atmosphere will have delicious food, prizes and games. This event is being hosted by VMU-1, VMU-3 and MWSS-374. Cost is \$2.00. For more information, call 830-6788.

The kid-friendly haunted house will open at 5 p.m.

Costume contest at 6 p.m.

Cake walk at 7 p.m.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Marines and sailors with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, listen to Chris Geysbeek, a manager with the Save a Life Tour, as Geysbeek talks about losing his best friend to a drunk driver during a DUI brief at the Sunset Cinema Tuesday.

DRIVING, from A1

his friend until the ambulance arrived.

“My hope is that every day one person might take something away from this presentation,” said Geysbeek, a Grand Rapids, Mich., native. “I want them to be able to step up and take keys from their friends. I want them to be smart and think about what they are doing.”

At the end of the presentation, Geysbeek opened the floor to service members who wished to try the simulator, which gives people the illusion of driving drunk while sober.

The simulator is made up of three big screens and the driver's side of a car that includes a seat, speedometer, emergency brake, ignition, steering wheel, turn signal and air bag.

“We are putting the alcohol delay people normally experience while drunk inside the car instead of the human,” Geysbeek said. “So the commands between the brake, gas and steering wheel are going to be delayed as the simulation continues.”

As the Marines took the seat and began ‘driving’ they realized the higher the level, the harder it was to steer, especially with Chris behind them screaming “Turn left! Turn left!” down a one-way street.

Marines had to restart the simulation many times before they reached level 11, the highest level there was—and then they would unintentionally crash into a bus or a building.

“We wanted to bring the message of drunk driving in a different venue than we normally do,” said Beth Ayash, the Drug Demand Reduction Coordinator for Marine Corps Community Services, who helped coordinate the Save a Life Tour visiting the Combat Center. “We are trying to educate these Marines about the fact that drunk driving kills and destroys lives.”

Looking for local entertainment?

See page B2 for our NEW LIBERTY CALL SECTION

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

S	A	K	S	W	A	R	P	C	A	S	C	A
A	N	N	A	H	E	A	L	O	D	E	O	N
M	A	I	L	M	E	R	G	E	N	A	N	N
T	E	S	T	Y	D	R	A	M	A	S		
N	O	V	A	S	O	R	G	A	N	S	T	O
A	L	E	S	W	E	E	T	E	L	I		
M	E	L	A	L	L	E	N	A	S	S	E	T
				G	O	O	S	E	B	U	M	P
R	O	V	E	S	W	A	R	P	A	I	N	T
A	M	A	S	H	A	L	L	N	O	W		
H	I	G	H	I	E	L	D	C	O	S	T	A
C	R	E	A	T	E	P	O	P	I	N		
G	R	A	N	T	D	O	U	B	L	E	D	I
P	O	N	C	E	E	L	S	A	R	E	C	T
A	N	T	E	S	D	E	N	S	A	R	E	A

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

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Combat Center Trader Ads

AUTOMOTIVE

**1995 SUZUKI SAVAGE CRUISER MOTORCYCLE.** \$2,000. If interested call Heather at 490-2687. 10/2/09

**1990 FORD F350 TRUCK.** Diesel, 90,000 on re-built engine, new turbo and clutch, stretch with 60" sleeper, 5 speed. Drives but needs tranny work. \$4,000. Call 447-0499. 10/2/09

**1987 FORD F250 TRUCK.** Extra cab, diesel, four speed with overdrive. Set up for gooseneck or fifth wheel. \$2,850 OBO. Call 447-0499. 10/2/09

**2005 KAZUMA 110CC ATV.** Runs good, new battery. \$600 OBO. Call Chris 362-5293. 9/25/09

**1916 BUICK D-45.** Needs complete restoration. Many additional hard-to-find parts to help with the project. Call 367-3326 for more info. \$6,700. 9/11/09

**1989 JEEP WRANGLER.** New rebuilt engine, new head, new fuel pump, new seats, new tires. Call 367-3326 for more info. \$5,500 OBO. 9/11/09

**2002 32-FOOT FIFTH WHEEL.** \$10,500. one superslide and one bedroom slide. Immaculate shape, sleeps four, two TV's, stereo, microwave, oven, dining table and chairs. Two rockers. Located on lemon lot on base, call Bo 819-1677. 8/14/09

MISC.

**BREAKFRONT CHINA CABINET.** Oak finish. Four glass doors, silverware drawer. Lower storage cabinet. \$300. Leave message 567-7921. 10/30/09

**TOY POODLE PUPPIES.** Also a young adult female. White or apricot. Healthy, shots. \$100 and up. 364-1133. 10/30/09

**TREADMILL WITH T.V.** \$1000, weight bench w/ weights \$300, exercise bike \$ 175. Call 910-9052. 10/23/09

**PURE SILVER MARINE CORPS COIN SET.** 35 years old. Asking only \$1,000. Marine Corps challenge coins, different prices. Olympic coins. Large entertainment center. Oak. Must sell. \$100. 367-6030. 10/2/09

**WANTED-PISTOL.** 45 Caliber, military. 367-6030. 10/2/09

**FRENCH POODLE.** Active medium-sized (18 pounds). Looking for permanent adoption/placement at no cost. All shots are current, good health, very active, obeys commands/orders. Please call Norbert between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., 7 days a week at 322-9277. 9/25/09

**SNCO EVENING MESS DRESS WITH GUNNERY SGT. CHEVRONS 42R.** Trousers 34, all accessories included. Like new; worn only twice, half-price \$400 OBO. Blues jacket 41R anodized buttons. Two trousers one 33R/30L. \$50 for all three. Call 208-899-3021. 9/4/09

**SEARS KENMORE REFRIGERATOR.** 2001 white. \$300. 369-7306. 9/4/09

**FOOTBALL CARD COLLECTION.** Many heroes, many teams. Will sell individual cards or sets or entire collection. Call at 567-7921. 8/14/09

The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's paper. Trader Ad Forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417.

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

Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad. The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only for

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

**Ads for housing rentals will not be considered for the Combat Center Trader.** To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad

approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors. Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-3762.



# Combat Center Halloween safety guide

**JON BRIEL**  
*Tactical Safety Specialist*

This year, the Combat Center trick or treating hours for Saturday, Oct. 31, are from 5:30-8 p.m.

The Combat Center Safety Office would like to extend a reminder to all vehicle operators that children will be out in the neighborhoods and to please slow down and be aware of your surroundings. Children could appear from between parked cars without warning. This caution should remain in effect for the remainder of the evening for party goers returning from their haunts.

Parents need to ensure children have flashlights, reflective garments, wristbands or belts, identification and communication in the event of an emergency. Also, make sure your children know emergency numbers and contact information for parents or guardians. Each child should have the following emergency telephone

numbers on hand when trick-or-treating.

Fire, Ambulance and Police are reached by dialing 911 or the Combat Center Fire Department at 830-3333/3334. The Military Police can be reached at 830-6800.

Parents also need to know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them. The best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them. If you can't take them, see if another parent or teen aged sibling can go along.

Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions. Make sure you set a time that they should be home and explain how important it is for them to be home on time.

Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem like fun, but they need to know the other side of the coin. Clean up and damages can ruin Halloween.

Explain to your kids that animal cruelty is not acceptable. Kids may already know this, but peer pressure can be a powerful thing. Make sure they know that harming animals is not only morally wrong, but punishable by law and will not be tolerated.

Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you. Tell your children not to go into the home of a stranger or get into their cars.

**Halloween and pet safety**

Dogs can have lethal tails. Don't leave candles or jack o' lanterns where they can be knocked over by a dog or curious cat. Not only can they start a fire, but your pet may be severely burned in the process.

Some pets can be easily frightened by masks and costumes. It is best to leave them in a room with food and water so they don't dart out the door while handing out candy. Check on them once in a while to let them know

everything is okay.

As much as your dog or cat begs for your candy, remember that chocolate is deadly to pets, even in small amounts.

Wrappers such as foil can get stuck in your pets' digestive tract, making them ill or cause death. Make sure your child throws away any wrappers after consuming treats.

**Halloween decoration safety**

If you set jack o' lanterns on your porch with candles,

make sure they are far enough away from trick or treaters so they don't catch costumes on fire.

Although kids want to help with carving the pumpkin, don't let small children handle knives or other tools for carving. Allow them to remove the insides and draw the face.

Ensure props such as scythes, pitchforks, knives etc., do not have sharp or pointed tips in case someone falls on them.

Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into strangers cars, looking both ways before crossing a street and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help keep them safer during Halloween.

Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your children and they'll carry on the tradition you taught them to their own families some day! For more Halloween safety tips, contact Jon Briel at 830-7262.



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Room rates based on availability over these dates:  
November 9–10, 15–25, 29 and December 2, 6–9, 13–23.

**Call 800-998-6937**  
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Room rates are based on single or double occupancy. Please add 12% room tax. Rates do not include \$7.50 per room, per night resort fee. Government-issued military ID required at check-in.

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# MCX offers multiple ways for you to save

## HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS PRESS RELEASE

HQMC (MR), QUANTICO, VA – The Marine Corps Exchange continues to find new ways for you to save with the “Our Cost is Your Cost” program where we have 227 best selling items such as milk, bread, diapers, baby food, and formula, at our cost and do not mark up the retail price. The intent of the program is to provide essential items a family needs at our cost price from the supplier.

The items can be found in almost all MCX stores and Marine Marts, and are identified by the prominent “Our Cost is Your Cost” logo. The brands vary by location based on vendor availability.

According to Cindy

Whitman Lacy, the Head of MCX Retail Operations, “The MCX already offers an average of 27 percent savings on a market basket of goods. This new program is one more way we are trying to help Marines and their families.”

She added that MCX customers have recognized the value and savings associated with this program and we have seen a six percent increase in sales of these items.

Over the past several years, the MCX has undergone a transformation. Most of the MCX main stores been renovated or are planned for renovations. Along with this new look and feel, they have developed a unique three-tiered value program that offers ways to save regardless of

where Marines and their families are in their life stages. These include:

1775 – Our private label clothing developed specifically for the MCX that is high quality, fashion forward, and priced for a family to afford. No men's or ladies' items are over \$24.99 and no children's items are over \$12.99. This line is designed for families who want style but do not care to pay for brand names.

Another corps value – brand name household items such as dinnerware, glassware, small electronics, and household electronics priced at a great value. For example, a 16-piece porcelain dinnerware set sells for \$14.99.

Exchange Select – Our generic offering of over 100 health & beauty and cleaning items that are ingredient

equivalent to their brand name counterpart at a great savings! For example, our Exchange Select dandruff shampoo is \$2.19 compared to Head and Shoulders at \$4.99, a 56 percent savings.

The MCX also has savings programs for key life events. The Baby and Me program offers a free gift for our newest family members and the Super Star Student Program rewards excellence of our young scholars. MCX also supports motorcycle safety and has begun offering Marines the opportunity to buy their initial gear at cost after the completion of their motorcycle safety course. For families and retirees that want brand names in clothing at a value, we just added new lines only available at Macy's, Style and Co. and

Karen Scott for ladies, and GreenDog for kids. Both lines are on average 20 percent below the Macy's retail price. For the home, we have added the Macy's Martha Stewart home line. We also offer a price match guarantee program that will match the price of any item advertised or purchased for less.

“We know it's impossible to be the lowest on every single item every single day,” Whitman Lacy said. “At the Marine Corps Exchange, we strive to provide our shoppers the best overall value and quality. Our new exchange is designed specifically for the way our young Marines and families shop.”

For more information about the “Our Cost is Your Cost” program contact your local MCX Store Manager.

# Desert Hot Springs High School Seeks MCJROTC Instructor

The Marine Corps is seeking a recently retired, or soon to be retired, Marine staff non-commissioned officer to teach Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Corps students at Desert Hot Springs High School, Desert Hot Springs, California. The billet is vacant and applications are being accepted.

Applicants for this full-time position must enjoy working with teens and have a desire to develop the leadership potential of his or her Marine cadets. Among other duties, the Marine Instructor at Desert Hot Springs High School leads cadets in physical training and teaches drill.

Basic qualifications for the position included: the SNCO must have retired within the last three years, possess at least 20 years of active duty service, have a high school diploma, have earned a minimum GT score of 100 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, possess a competitive military record, and be physically qualified in accordance with Marine Corps height and weight standards. A complete list of requirements, application forms, application procedures, and background information concerning the MCJROTC Program can be found at: <http://www.mcjrotc.org>

Interested Marine veterans should contact LtCol Lewke, Senior Marine Instructor at Desert Hot Springs High School, at 288-7088 or [clewke@psud.us](mailto:clewke@psud.us) to schedule an interview.



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<h3>2009 FORD FOCUS SE</h3>  <p>4-Cyl. 2.0L., Auto, AC, PS, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, MP3/CD, Alloys. VIN 101099 / STK P1785</p> <p><b>\$14,995</b></p>		<h3>2003 JEEP WRANGLER</h3>  <p><b>Won't Last</b></p> <p>6-Cyl. 4.0L., Auto, 4WD, Hard Top, Rear Seat, AC, CD, Tow Pkg., Alloys. #VIN 344067 / STK 9T104C</p> <p><b>\$14,995</b></p>
<h3>2006 FORD RANGER XLT SUPER CAB</h3>  <p><b>4X4 ONLY 24K MILES</b></p> <p>V6 4.0L., Auto, 4WD, AC, PS, Tilt, CD, Tow Pkg., Custom Bumper, Oversize Off-Rd Tires. VIN A81001 STK P1761</p> <p><b>\$16,995</b></p>	<h3>2007 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S</h3>  <p>4-Cyl. 2.5L. CVT Automatic Trans, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, CD, P/Seat. VIN 464983 / STK P1770</p> <p><b>\$16,995</b></p>	<h3>2008 FORD FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE</h3>  <p>V6 4.0L., Auto, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, MP3/CD, R/Spoiler, Alloys. VIN 134626 / STK P1766</p> <p><b>\$17,995</b></p>
<h3>2006 GMC YUKON SLT</h3>  <p><b>4X4 Fully Loaded</b></p> <p>V8 5.3L. Auto, 4WD, Rear Air, Full Power, Multi-CD, Leather, Autoride Suspension. VIN 102329 / STK 9T142A</p> <p><b>\$17,995</b></p>		
<h3>2007 MAZDA RX-8 ROTARY SPORT COUPE</h3>  <p><b>Wow! ONLY 8K MILES</b></p> <p>1.3L ROTARY, AC, PW, PDL, Tilt, CC, CD, Rear Spoiler, Alloys. ONLY 8K Miles. #VIN 209666 / STK P1778</p> <p><b>\$17,995</b></p>	<h3>2008 FORD EDGE SE</h3>  <p>V6 3.5L., Auto, 2WD, AC, Rear Air, MP3/CD, Traction Control, P/Glass, Alloys. VIN A09318 / STK P1720</p> <p><b>\$18,995</b></p>	<h3>2009 FORD EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER</h3>  <p><b>4X4 Fully Loaded</b></p> <p>V8 5.4L., Auto, 4WD, Fully Loaded, Leather, Moon Roof, Towing, 3rd Seat, Alloys. VIN A11330 / STK P1810</p> <p><b>CALL NOW</b></p>
		<h3>2007 LINCOLN MARK LT SUPER CREW 5 1/2'</h3>  <p><b>4X4 Hard to Find</b></p> <p>V8 5.4L., Auto, 4WD, Fully Loaded, Leather, Moon Roof, Towing, Oversize Wheels 20"+. VIN J11766 / STK P1797</p> <p><b>CALL NOW</b></p>



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7 - 11 P.M.  
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Prizes for Ugliest Gown, Ugliest Unit,  
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Event Information 830.5086



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# SPORTS AND LEISURE

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## Fight Club takes silver at nationals

**CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Combat Center's mixed martial arts team took a second-place team award at a California Pankration tournament Sunday, making this their second silver this year.

Fight Club 29, which also claimed a gold team award this year in a Grapplers X tournament, fought its way to the finals through many other southern California MMA teams with eight fighters at the U.S. National Pankration Championships at the Santa Ana High School in Santa Ana, Calif.

"This is the toughest Pankration tournament this year," said Mark M. Geletko, the Fight Club 29 head coach.

Pankration tournaments are those which involve ground fighting, take-downs, and body strikes.

Geletko explained that in other Pankration tourna-

ments, fighters are designated into novice, beginner and intermediate brackets to keep the competition consistent across the board. But for national tournaments like the one on Sunday, no brackets were used to divide well-seasoned fighters from the ones stepping onto the mats for their first tournament.

Kris Nekvinda, the team's 190-pound fighter, was one of those fighters going his first round that night. During his lengthy first bout, Nekvinda suffered a broken nose and only ceased fighting by the call of the referee. He continued on through the tournament and earned a score of 2-1 before getting disqualified for his perpetually bloody nose.

Welterweight Fight Club 29 fighter James Clark has bled and sweat for the team since 2007 and took advantage of his last

**See FIGHT, B4**



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Kris Nekvinda (left), a 190-pound Fight Club 29 member, delivers a powerful body kick during the U.S. National Pankration Championships in Santa Ana, Calif., Sunday.



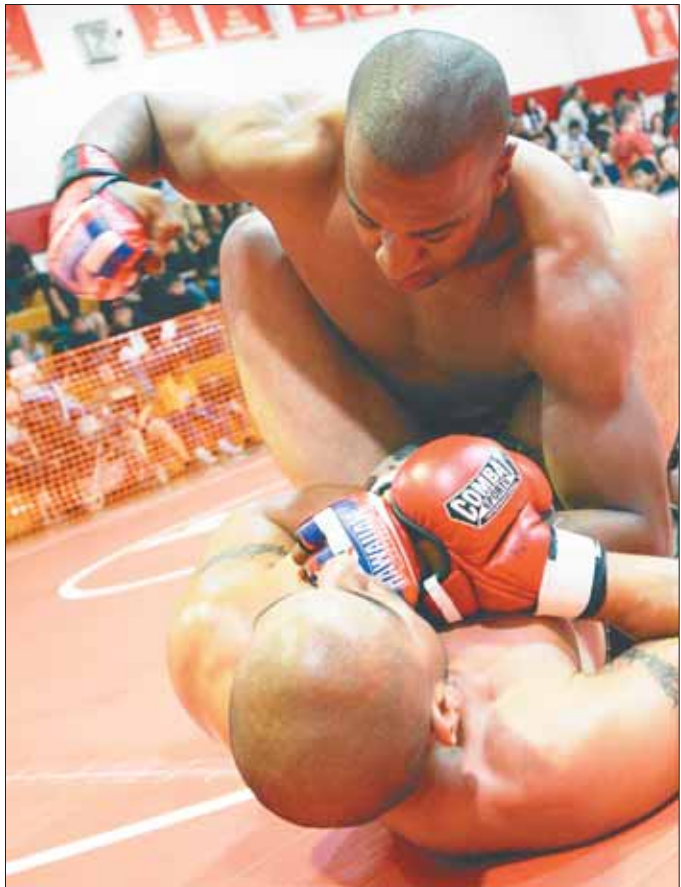
CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Welterweight Fight Club 29 member James Clark (right) has his hand raised by his opponent after their bout during the championships Sunday. Clark ended up with the gold award, a Pankration belt, for his weight class.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Middle heavyweight Fight Club 29 member Omar Askew puts his opponent, Chris Hurrera, in a front choke during their weight class final match in Santa Ana, Calif., Sunday.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Darnell Mason (top), a middleweight Fight Club 29 member, punishes his opponent with a barrage of body strikes during the championships Sunday. Mason claimed the bronze for his weight class.

## SMP Haunted House building up to a big fright



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

An evil scary clown sits outside the 'evil scary clown tent' as Marines setup for the Single Marine Program's Haunted House at the East Gym and Fitness Center Thursday. The Haunted House will open tonight at 7 p.m.

**CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

The Single Marine Program is hosting their fifth annual haunted house at the East Gym and Fitness Center Today and Saturday.

The haunted house is made up of thirty tents that provide a pitch-black environment, giving volunteers complete access to decorate however they want.

Today, the haunting begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 10. Saturday, the doors open at 7 p.m., but won't close until the last person experiences the frightening maze.

"I really hope there's blood and guts—maybe someone getting a limb detached like in a Rob Zombie film," said Pfc. Taylor Britten, a student with Company A, Marine

**See HAUNT, B3**



CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

The Combat Center's Information, Tickets and Tours office offers discounted admission to attractions throughout the local area like the Aerial Tramway in Palm Springs, Calif.

## Installation services help troops enjoy holiday season

**CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE**  
*COMBAT CORRESPONDENT*

Winter is just around the corner, and the Combat Center is in superb geographical location to enjoy all kinds of classic holiday season activities.

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services designed to help service members and their families enjoy the surrounding area as much as possible without putting a dent in their bank accounts.

The Information, Tickets and Tours office, located in the back of the main exchange, gets discounted

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**See WINTER, B3**





Local Events

**Haunted house returns to Theatre 29**  
Tours every 15 minutes, for the 6th Year of Fear  
When: Friday and Saturday from 6 to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m.  
Where: Theatre 29  
73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms  
For more information visit <http://www.theatre29.com>.

**Hi-Desert Nature Museum Halloween Spooktacular**  
Description: A full day of Halloween themed activities  
When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday  
Where: The Hi-Desert Nature Museum, 57116 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley  
For more information call 360-7212 or visit <http://www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org>.

**Theatre: "Reflections"**  
Description: Successive comedic and dramatic scenes  
When: Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and Sunday shows at 2:30 p.m. through Nov. 22.  
Where: Groves Cabin Theatre  
8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley  
For more information call 365-4523.

**Open Studio Art Tours East End:** Includes the towns of Joshua Tree, 29 Palms and Wonder Valley  
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57564 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley in the Von's Shopping Center  
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Lower Desert

**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 Parkway, Indio  
For more info call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

**Comedy: Margaret Cho**  
When: 9 p.m., Oct. 30  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage  
For more info call (888) 999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

**Comedy: Lewis Black**  
When: 8 p.m., Nov. 13  
Where: Agua Caliente  
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage  
For more info call (888) 999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

**Joe Perry**  
Description: Co-songwriter and lead guitarist of Aerosmith  
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: Willie Nelson**  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4  
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. 30**  
6 p.m. – Julie and Julia, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – Inglorious Bastards, Rated R  
Midnight – Gamer, Rated R

**Saturday, Oct. 31**  
11 a.m. Free Matinee: Ratatouille, Rated G  
2 p.m. – Julie and Julia, Rated PG-13  
6 p.m. – Love Happens, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – The Informant, Rated R  
Midnight – Whiteout, Rated R

**Sunday, Nov. 1**  
2 p.m. – Fame, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – Jennifer's Body, Rated R  
9 p.m. – Gamer, Rated R

**Monday, Nov. 2**  
7 p.m. – I Can Do Bad All By Myself, Rated R

**Tuesday, Nov. 3**  
7 p.m. - Julie and Julia, Rated PG-13

**Wednesday, Nov. 4**  
7 p.m. – Inglorious Bastards, Rated R

**Thursday, Nov. 5**  
7 p.m. – Gamer, Rated R

# 'Wild Things' a rip roaring fantasy

**NEIL POND**  
*AMERICAN PROFILE*

**Where The Wild Things Are**  
Rated PG

How do you make a full-length movie about a children's story that consists of a mere nine sentences? Director Spike Jonze tackles that task in "Where The Wild Things Are," which stretches to spectacular, big-screen proportions the soaring, roaring fancy of Maurice Sendak's classic 1963 bedtime tale. Fresh-faced Max Records plays Max, a precocious 12-year-old with a "wild" imagination. After a spat with his mom one evening, he runs away and ends up on an island populated by large, fantastical beasts. Max brazenly declares himself the king and leads the wild things in a "royal rumpus," which includes an epic play battle with dirt clods and the construction of an enormous, sprawling fortress out of tree trunks and rocks. Like Dorothy's trip to Oz, Max's journey is all in his head – isn't it? Jonze brings the story's characters vividly to life with a marvelous combination of looming, lum-



COURTESY PHOTO

Max Records plays another Max, a precocious 12-year-old with a "wild" imagination. After a spat with his mom he runs away and ends up on an island populated by fantastical beasts.

bering, foam-rubber-suit puppets (with operators inside) and computer-generated wizardry, melding both seamlessly. You really believe, as Max does, in these giant, hairy, feathered and horned beasts, which have distinct personalities, talk in human voices (provided by James Gandolfini, Catherine O'Hara and Forrest Whitaker, among others) and feel real emotions with which Max can relate. Jonze, who made his mark directing edgy music videos for the Beastie Boys

before transitioning into quirky mainstream movies like "Being John Malkovich" and "Adaptation," has sculpted a splendidly textured visual masterpiece, with poignant, sometimes heavy emotional overtones. The fact that it's based on a children's book might lead you to think it's a kiddie flick, but it's not. It seems intended more for a grownup audience that fondly remembers the story from childhood, not today's generation of multiplex moppets cinematically conditioned to farting hamsters, crime-fighting cartoon canines and other zippy, colorful, quip-firing critters. In fleshing out the bare bones of the book's sparse narrative, Jonze takes the movie into areas of deep,

moody melancholy that will likely not hold the attention of younger viewers. And little eyes may not know how to process the disturbing scenes where one of the wild things brings down two birds by hitting them with stones, or when one wild thing rips off another's appendage in an outburst of temper. Sendak's book has been beloved for generations because so many kids can relate to Max and his yearning to find a place, real or imaginary, where he can run, scream, make things, break things and belong. Jonze's movie takes that simple idea and pumps it up to something strange, wonderful and weirdly fascinating for anyone who knows – or remembers – what those "wild" longings are like.



COURTESY PHOTO

Max brazenly declares himself the king and leads the wild things in a "royal rumpus."

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Cirque Du Freak: The Vampires Assistant (PG13)

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15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Friday		
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7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*					
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WalMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45

15	MCAGCC-Palm Springs	Saturday/Sunday*		
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	MCAGCC
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35

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CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lance Cpl. Tel Ubben, a Light Armored Vehicle crewman with Co. E, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, sets up a strobe light in the corner of their bloodbath tent during the set up for the Single Marine Program's Haunted House at the East Gym and Fitness Center Thursday.

HAUNT, from B1

Corps Communications-Electronics School. "I know I am going to have a good time going through this haunted house." LaVonne Lessard, the SMP coordinator, has collected various items throughout the years, such as scary dolls and clowns, strobe lights, giant spiders, tombstones and skeletons to decorate the haunted house. SMP also provided the makeup and fake blood for the costumes the volunteers will wear throughout the

fright night. "Besides the tents, we provide everything for them to set up," said Lora Cowan, the assistant coordinator for SMP. "All they need to bring is their imagination." This year's theme for the haunted house will be frightening scenes from horror movies made in the 1980's. The maze begins at the entrance of the basketball courts and loops throughout the entire gym, and even travels outside. "I really think everyone who comes will enjoy this event," said Cowan, a

Seymour, Mo., native. "This is also a great way to get the single Marines out of the barracks and involved with the Single Marine Program." It costs \$7 to enter the haunted house, and a guide with a glow stick will walk each group throughout the maze to ensure the safety of each patron. "There is a reason this haunted house is 13 years and up," Cowan said. "These Marines are very imaginative and the last few years the haunted house has been considered exceptionally scary. We have to have a

no-touching rule because our volunteers have been punched before because they scared someone badly enough." Pfc. Howard Gidden, a student with Co. A, MCCES, hopes Cowan is right about how scary the night is going to be. "I expect the haunted house to be pretty good," said Gidden, a Houston native. "Events like these give us something fun to do over the weekend." For more information regarding the haunted house, contact the Single Marine Program at 830-4767.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lance Cpl. Evan Blackburn, an LAV crewman with Co. E, 3rd LAR, tries on a Pinhead mask during the setup for the SMP's Haunted House at the East Gym and Fitness Center Thursday. Several other 3rd LAR Marines and sailors assisted with the setup. The haunts begin at 7 p.m. tonight.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lance Cpl. Jason Whitehead, an LAV crewman with Co. E, 3rd LAR, stands next to his handiwork after spraying "help" in fake blood on a white sheet as he decorates a tent for the SMP's Haunted House.

WINTER, from B1

cheap deals for cruises, as well as trips to some of the most historic and beautiful countries in the world like Italy, Spain and France. Carol Rooney, a supervisor at ITT, said the office mainly points Marines and sailors in the right direction for activities and events away from the installation. "Fifty percent of the time, guys come in who have only been here for a few weeks," said Rooney, a native of Hamden, Conn. "We let them know what's available and if they're planning a weekend, or even a day trip, we're here to help." Lance Cpl. Stephen Cooke, a crewman with Company A, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, said he has never even heard of ITT. "I've been in the [main exchange] a thousand times and have never seen it," said the Laconia, Ind., native. "It's definitely something I'm interested in and plan on checking out." Some events in the local area, like skiing and snowboarding, require expensive gear that most service members don't have the money to rent – that's where Outdoor Adventures comes into play.



CPL. NICHOLAS M. DUNN

A panoramic view of the mountains from the Desert View Trail at Mount San Jacinto State Park.

Outdoor Adventures provides anything from camping equipment to skis and snowboards for low prices. John Murdock Jr., the manager of Outdoor Adventures, said winter is always the busiest time of year for his office, and he is ready for it. "We just bought five new snowboards for this year's season," said Murdock, a native of Washington, D.C. Equipment rental is not the only service provided by

Outdoor Adventures. "We have a book full of brochures Marines can flip through to decide where they want to go," Murdock said. "Last year we had four guys headed for Big Bear come in and rent snowboards, so I called up there and let them know we had Marines fresh off a deployment coming up. They gave them free ski lift passes for the whole weekend." Murdock said he encourages Marines and sailors to

take advantage of the services Outdoor Adventure and ITT provide. "We just try to give them something to do to get out of the barracks and have fun," he said. For more information about attractions throughout Southern California and even the world, call the ITT office at 830-6163 ext. 252. To get more information about renting equipment, call Outdoor Adventures at 830-7235.

Athlete of the Week



**Name:** Katherine Smith  
**Hometown:** Modesto, Calif.  
**Unit:** Installation Personnel Administration Center, Headquarters Battalion  
**Job Title:** Section leader of deployments  
**Recognition:** Only female from Twentynine Palms selected for All Marine Women's Softball Team  
**Major sports accomplishments:** Played for high school and college, then for All Marine Women's Softball Team in 2007 and 2009.  
**Favorite aspect of the sport:** "In softball you win or lose as a team."  
**Advice for aspiring players:** "Never give up. You can't fail if you keep on practicing because practice makes perfect."



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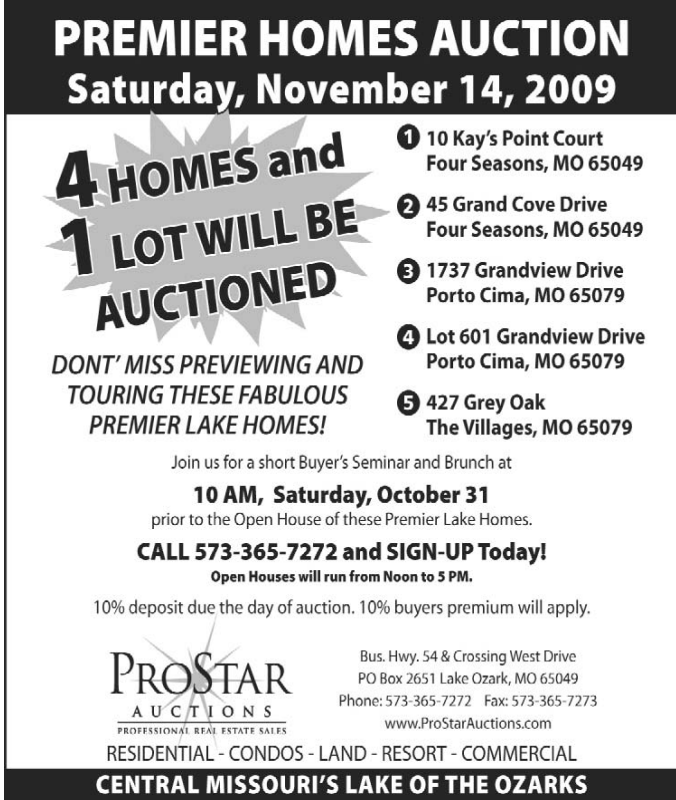
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FIGHT, from B1

fight before his deployment to Afghanistan with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, early next year.

Clark, who has a 20-0 record, has taken competitions at state Pankration tournaments, armed forces Pankration nationals and now U.S. National Pankration Championships.

Like the rest of his teammates, Clark gives credit of his victories to tireless training.

"I trained very hard for this one," said the native of Spokane, Wash. "I focused on all aspects but paid a lot of attention to my stand-up. I also cut a lot of weight for this tournament, and that required great physical conditioning as well as discipline."

Clark made his claim to the gold belt a no-brainer for judges by controlling each of his opponents' movement both on the ground and standing up.

Middle heavyweight Omar Askew, who has spent more than two years with the team, wore the silver medal for his weight class on his way out of the stadium that night.

"Every time before a fight, you have a strategy or a plan of execution," said Askew, a native of Atlanta. "Sometimes, it does not go as planned. My performance was on the right track, but when you have a competitor with

the same amount of drive and ambition as you, it comes down to heart."

With the exception of Clark, Askew and light heavyweight Klaus Springer, each fighter on the team had joined less than four months prior to the big tournament.

Despite being beginner-heavy, the team held its own, typically taking on teams ten to 20 strong. Geletko attributes the team's tenacious endurance to its challenging and consistent training.

The team members push each other through their two-hour sessions during lunch, as well as evening and weekend sessions added onto their load in lieu of tournaments, Geletko said.

"We stepped up our conditioning with cross fit and strength training using free weights," said the Pittsburgh native about preparing for the tournament.

"We also have a new ground coach who works with the guys to increase their endurance on the ground."

Marcos Estrada, the ground coach, joined the team roughly three months ago and brought his experience in freestyle wrestling and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu to the table.

Estrada, who competed in grappling and Pankration tournaments while on recruiting duty in Chicago, said he feels excited to beef up the team's ground work.

"I want them to learn the art of the sport," said Estrada, a native of Chicago. "I want to create a hunger in them so they want to go find places to continue their training after they leave here. I think most of them have that already."

Estrada said he plans on prepping his team for the Nov. 7 grappling tournament by using what he calls "situations goes" or putting the fighters in bad situations and teaching techniques to "transition from being in a bad spot, to being in a neutral spot, then moving to an advantageous position."

Estrada has studied the traditional gi Jiu Jitsu style and said he hopes to train the fighters in a similar fashion in the near future. A gi is an outfit worn by martial artists in styles such as Judo and Jiu Jitsu and consists of pants, a jacket, and a cloth belt that reflects the martial art skill level of the one wearing it.

"The Brazilian Jiu Jitsu philosophy is that if you can do it with a gi on, you can do it without the gi," he said. "I want to do everything we can to improve their techniques. If that is one of the ways, so be it."

Estrada and Geletko said they feel optimistic about the November competitions, especially considering all the team's fighters already qualify for the national U.S. team slated to compete in Europe next year.

The Nov. 7 grappling competition will be held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in Del Mar, Calif.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Middle heavyweight Fight Club 29 member Omar Askew (top) pounds his challenger's ribs from the mount position during the championships Sunday.



CPL. NICOLE A. LAVINE

Klaus Springer (right), Fight Club 29, delivers his opponent a textbook round-house kick during the championships Sunday.

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