

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

DECEMBER 18, 2009 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 52 ISSUE 50

Contract awarded for portable armored wall

MARLTON, N.J. - Dynamic Defense Materials, LLC announced on Dec. 8, they have received a contract award in the amount of \$797,400 to supply its patent-pending portable armored wall system, McCurdy's Armor, to the Marine Corps. McCurdy's Armor is a fully-fortified guard post which can be set up by three Marines using no hand tools or heavy equipment in about ten minutes.

The Marines will use the gear as rapidly deployed guard posts in their missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. These posts are to be delivered in DDM-M105 trailers and once fielded can be used for vehicle checkpoints, entry control points and observation posts.

"DDM is very proud to be given this opportunity to help protect those who are in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq", said Joe Dimond, DDM's product specialist, and 10-year Marine veteran. "We are glad that we can take some of the combat lessons learned in the past and use them to save lives of Marines and soldiers in the future. We know that operations really intensify in the spring as the enemy leaves their winter hideouts to

See **CONTRACT, A8**

Marines clear Taliban stronghold during Operation Cobra's Anger



CPL. ZACHARY J. NOLA

Lance Cpl. David D. Gressley, 22, a team leader with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, kicks in a wall while searching a compound in the area of Now Zad, Afghanistan, known as "The Greens," Dec. 8. The Marines cleared the area as part of Operation Cobra's Anger to wrest control of the area away from Taliban fighters in Now Zad. Gressley is a 21-year-old from Pickrell, Neb.

CPL. ZACHARY NOLA
REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

NOW ZAD, Afghanistan - Once an urban district and home to thousands, "The Greens," an area within the Now Zad region of Afghanistan quickly became a ghost town when Taliban fighters procured the area from which to launch combat operations.

With the Taliban in control and the civilian population gone, the area's alleyways were quickly laced with improvised explosive devices, its orchards filled with bunkers and fortified fighting positions, and its adobe homes stocked with weapons caches and enemy fighters.

While few coalition units have dared to enter The Greens, the Marines and sailors of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, did exactly that Dec. 8-9 as part of Operation Cobra's Anger.

The Marines of Co. L moved swiftly to clear compounds, homes, alleyways and orchards, and it quickly became clear the Taliban had become complacent in the safety they believed The Greens provided them and were unprepared to deal with such an assault.

"We went in there for our first time and there wasn't anybody occupying the area, but we did find a lot IED making facilities, [home-made explosives], pressure plates and stuff like that," said Lance Cpl. Stewart Heim, 20, a rifleman with Co. L. "It definitely showed us the

Taliban were occupying The Greens, and using it as a centralized place between towns."

Co. L also confiscated illegal drugs, Taliban propaganda and uncovered tunnel systems used by enemy fighters.

"We found their tunnel systems which pretty much run throughout the whole Greens," said Heim, a native of Staunton, Ill. "So we've definitely seen they have the capability to survive us dropping bombs on them."

Co. L came to the area expecting their Taliban rivals to defend the ground they've controlled for many months. With the Marines rapidly chipping away at Taliban caches and exposing fighting positions, an attack by Taliban forces to save what supplies remained, seemed even more imminent.

"Walking through The Greens was kind of iffy. You didn't know where you wanted to step, where to step, where not to step. You never knew what to expect around a corner," said Lance Cpl. Michael R. Evans, 19, a combat engineer attached to Co. L. "You'd open up a door and might see a chicken or a dog and it would surprise you since you knew there was nothing out there."

Enemy fighters chose not to engage the Marines and instead left the dirty work for the many IEDs positioned throughout the area.

While the IEDs were numerous, the Marines' sharp eyes, training

See **ANGER, A3**

Co. D, 3rd AAB, on the right track

PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors with Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion refamiliarized themselves with their Amphibious Assault Vehicles at the Combat Center's Acorn Training Area Dec. 7-11.

The company has been utilized as provisional infantry during their past several deployments, so they needed to reacquaint themselves with their vehicles and refresh their maneuvering skills, said 1st Sgt. Johnny Rositas, the company first sergeant for Co. D, 3rd AAB.

While in the field, the company acted as the forward-deployed element

See **TRACK, A8**



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

An Amphibious Assault Vehicle crewman with Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, scopes out his vehicles' next position during an assault Dec. 11 at the Combat Center's Acorn Training Area.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Col. James C. Lewis passes 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment's organizational colors to Lt. Col. Eduard A. Abisellan during a change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Dec. 11 where Lewis relinquished command of the battalion to Abisellan.

3/11 welcomes new commanding officer

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, welcomed their new commanding officer, Lt. Col. Eduard A. Abisellan, and said goodbye to Lt. Col. James C. Lewis during a change of command ceremony at Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Dec. 11.

Lewis, a Huntsville, Ala., native, served as the com-

manding officer of 3rd Bn., 11th Marines, for more than two years, and led his Marines and sailors through deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I've been with this battalion for a while and I have seen these men through the good times and the bad," Lewis said. "Being here, part of 3/11, has been a great benefit to me, and I really do believe these Marines have taught me

See **3/11, A4**

First-time homebuyer credit for members of the military and select federal employees

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

The Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009, which was signed into law on Nov. 6, 2009, extends and expands the first-time homebuyer credit allowed by previous Acts. The new law:

- Extends deadlines for purchasing and closing on a home.
- Authorizes the credit for long-time homeowners buying a replacement principal residence.
- Raises the income limitations for homeowners claiming the credit.

Under the new law, an eligible taxpayer must buy, or enter into a binding contract to buy, a principal residence on or before April 30, and close on the home by June 30. For qualifying purchases in 2010, taxpayers have the option of claiming the credit on either their 2009 or 2010 return.

For the first time, long-time homeowners who buy a replacement principal residence may also claim a homebuyer credit of up to \$6,500

(up to \$3,250 for a married individual filing separately). They must have lived in the same principal residence for any five-consecutive year period during the eight-year period which ended on the date the replacement home is purchased.

People with higher incomes can now qualify for the credit. The new law raises the income limits for homes purchased after Nov. 6. The credit phases out for individual taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income between \$125,000 and \$145,000, or between \$225,000 and \$245,000 for joint filers. The existing MAGI phase-outs of \$75,000 to \$95,000 or \$150,000 to \$170,000 for joint filers still apply to purchases on or before Nov. 6.

Several new restrictions apply to homes purchased after Nov. 6.

Purchasers must attach a properly executed settlement statement to their return.

No credit is available if the purchase price of the home exceeds \$800,000.

The purchaser must

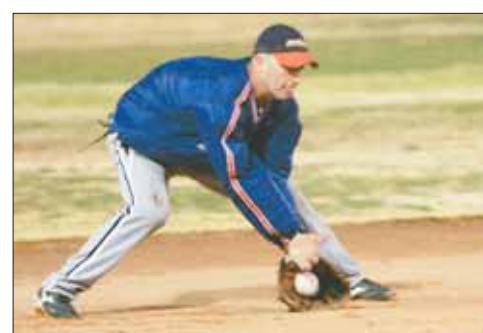
See **CREDIT, A10**



Food for thought ~ See **A6**



Grounded beef~ See **B1**



Catch 29 ~ See **B1**



Nativity time again ~ See **B1**

Semper Moto

Get the stuff you want

JOHN FLEMING

You've heard the saying, "The man that fails to plan, plans to fail." This time-tested proverb should be heeded to avoid holiday disaster. Here's what I'm talking about.

Right now, as you read this, your spouse or significant other is pondering what to get you for Christmas. If you don't take appropriate action, you're liable to get something that you don't want or need. Like a pair of argyle socks, or heaven forbid, a piano tie.

The thing to do right now is figure out what you simply must have - we're talking motorcycle gear here - and begin to drop not-so-subtle hints. For example, if you need some new riding gloves, go for the sympathy angle. As you step into your home after riding from the base, exclaim with a Napolean Dynamite inflection, "Gahhh, I think my fingers are frozen!"

Or better yet, leave a motorcycle magazine lying open to an appropriate page, and circle the gear you want with a bold sharpie. Be sure to highlight the size, color and style.

You might want to prime the pump with what I call "pre-holiday giftettes." You know, little boxes of See's chocolates, or a date night, which includes dinner and a movie of your partner's choice - even if it's the dreaded chick flick.

Taking appropriate action now, will prevent an unfortunate New Year's event, where you're expected to wear those new socks, or worse, the piano tie.

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 e-mail is michael.j.fleming@usmc.mil.

School Liaison Information



Question: We are moving to Twentynine Palms during the winter break. Currently, our fifth grader is participating in the band program at her elementary school in Arizona. Will she be able to continue with that program?

Answer: In the Morongo Unified School District schools, band, either beginner or advanced, is offered starting in the seventh grade. There is no current band program for elementary schools.

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



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

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Sgt. Steven Rossa
Hometown: McLean, Va.
Unit: Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.
Job Title: Chief scout, squad leader and intelligence chief.
Job duties: Security of vehicles and patrol areas designated unsafe for the vehicles.
What do you like most about your job? "Working outside, staying in shape and being one of the guys you see in the news making a difference in the war."
Significant achievements: "On my last deployment, I helped my company commander with the intelligence briefs to the battalion commanding officer and started the intelligence cell for the company."
Hobbies: Going to concerts and practicing marksmanship.
Military service: Six-and-a-half years.
Time at Combat Center: Three-and-a-half years.



OBSERVATION POST

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Hot Topics

HI DESERT PONY LEAGUE

Signups for the Hi Desert Pony League for baseball and softball are set to begin Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Luckie Park in Twentynine Palms. Additional signups will occur Dec. 19, Jan. 9, 16 and 23, and Feb. 6 and 13 at the same time and location. Call 424-6329 or 910-787-2175 for more information.

MMEA, MONITORS VISIT

Headquarters Marine Corps Marine Manpower Enlisted Assignments will be aboard the Combat Center Jan. 5-6 to afford enlisted Marines the opportunity to have direct personal communication with their respective occupational field monitors for potential future assignments. Opportunities for first-term 2010 and career 2010 Marines to receive on-the-spot assignments and reenlistment authority will also be provided by the MMEA visit. See your unit Career Planner for times and location. For more information call 830-6171.

RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES' SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES

There will be an all-faith Advent tree-lighting ceremony Sunday at 6 p.m. during the Immaculate Heart of Mary service at the Catholic Chapel, followed by a time of refreshments and caroling. On Christmas Eve, there will be a Christ Chapel service at the Protestant Chapel at 6 p.m., and an Immaculate Heart of Mary service at the Catholic Chapel at 7 p.m. and midnight. Christmas Day mass will be held at the Catholic Chapel at 9 a.m. For more information, contact the Protestant Chapel at 830-6464 or the Catholic Chapel at 830-6482.

H1N1 VACCINE STILL AVAILABLE AT HOSPITAL

The Naval Hospital is now providing H1N1 vaccination to all who are 6 months to 49 years old who are dependents or work on base. Individuals over 49 years old with chronic health conditions can also receive an inactive vaccine. Contract workers can receive the vaccination at the commissary later this month. For more information call 830-2626 or 830-2002.

Marine Corps History

Dec. 20, 1989

Marines participate in an offensive operation aimed at capturing Panama's dictator, Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Centerspeak

What is your favorite aspect of the holiday season?

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



CPL. ERIC CADENA
MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 137

"Nice old family gatherings"



CHIEF PETTY OFFICER PAUL ENA
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Giving to family, friends and families who don't have much."



CPL. NATHAN DOBIE
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"Going home to have fun."

SUDOKU #1662

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2009 HOMETOWN CONTENT

TAKE A BOW

[puzzle Solutions on A8]

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56						57					58	59		
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

ACROSS

1. Bowler's pickup
6. Deposed Iranian leader
10. "That was close!"
14. Rap sheet name
15. Sunscreen letters
16. Post-peseta currency
17. Bow tie-sporting movie critic
19. Jason's ship
20. Was in session
21. Vouches for
23. Golf benchmark
25. Bath water tester
26. Pundit once known for
33. Whacked, archaically
35. Lost in reverie
36. Cops' org.
37. Washington newspaper
38. Allied oneself
39. One in a will
40. Upper-left key
41. ___ out (declined)
42. Hot tea add-in
43. Bow tie-sporting commentator
46. Toothpaste tube letters
47. "Hogwash!"
48. Nixon's undoing
53. LAPD part
56. Pinup's legs
57. Bow tie-sporting game
60. Admiral Zumwalt
61. ___ no good
62. Postal scale unit
63. School on the Thames
64. Have to have
65. Great fear

DOWN

1. Becomes baggy
2. "Not guilty," e.g.
3. "... and that ___hay!"
4. Comic Charlotte
5. Snake shape
6. Domestic squabble
7. Guard's cry
8. Irish Rose's love
9. Hall rack
10. Sneaky sort
11. On the DL
12. "Cogito, ___ sum"
13. Syllable from Curly
18. "Listen up!" of old
22. British conservative
23. Mini golf shot
24. Duffer's dream
26. Puccini opera
27. Sends out
28. Calf-roping event
29. Panty raid victims
30. Go shopping
31. Big Apple theater award
32. ___ a soul (noone)
33. On ___ (as a gamble)
34. Slam-dance
38. Diver's weapon
39. Heckler's call
41. Word after "ye"
42. Sobbing syllable
44. Points a finger at
45. Earl ___ tea
48. "Pogo" creator Kelly
49. Pies, in slapstick
50. Stare slack-jawed
51. Johnson of "Laugh-In"
52. Trampled
53. By oneself
54. Shamu of Sea World, e.g.
55. Sunflower edible
56. "Golly!"
58. Stylish, in the '60s
59. Wilder's "___ Town"



LANCE CPL. WALTER MARINO

A Marine with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, waits for the smoke from an explosion to clear before raiding an enemy compound in Now Zad, Afghanistan, during Operation Cobra's Anger Dec. 4. Operation Cobra's Anger disrupted enemy supply lines and communication in Now Zad, which was once a safe haven for Taliban forces.



LANCE CPL. WALTER MARINO

Marines with 3rd Bn., 4th Marines, help clear an enemy stronghold in Now Zad, Afghanistan, during Operation Cobra's Anger Dec. 4.

ANGER, from A1

and metal detectors were able to locate all devices encountered before they could inflict casualties.

"We found them the way we should find them, instead of having someone stepping on them and having to be [medically evacuated]," said Evans, from McKenzie, Tenn.

The Marines continued to push farther into the area, destroying IEDs along the way, gathering information and slowly but surely,

breaking the Taliban's reign over the area.

After two days of defying Taliban threats and venturing farther and farther into the area, the Marines returned to friendly lines to refit and resupply.

While many alleyways in the area remain to be negotiated, the Marines set an example for Afghan national security forces and coalition forces to follow, and energized the mission to rid Now Zad of Taliban influence and return it to the Afghan people.

Boy Scout troop 78 welcomes new eagle scout to their ranks



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAVY LT. RUSSELL HALE

Taylor Hale, a 16-year-old Eagle Scout from the Combat Center's Boy Scout Troop 78, is sworn in to his current rank at the Protestant Chapel Nov. 14. After 10 years of dedication to Boy Scouts of America, Hale, the son of Navy Lt. Russell Hale, the chaplain for 1st Tank Battalion, became an Eagle Scout by holding a position of responsibility for six months, earning 21 merit badges and leading other scouts in a community service project. For Hale's project, he made and set up 49 reflective signs for the elderly and those with medical problems so emergency services can find the houses easier. Hale traveled more than 600 miles to post all the signs at their homes. Since the first Eagle Scout gave his oath in 1912, many have strived to achieve it with only a five percent success rate. This year is historic with the two millionth Eagle Scout to be sworn in according to <http://www.scouting.org>. They will join a group which includes Gerald R. Ford, 38th president of the United States, Mike Rowe, host of "Dirty Jobs" television program, Donald Rumsfeld, former U.S. secretary of defense and James A. Lovell Jr., former U.S. naval officer and Apollo 13 commander.

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3/11, from A1

more than I have taught them."

Lewis will continue his career in the Marine Corps, and will attend the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Abisellan joined the Marine Corps in 1991, and began his career with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. He deployed to the

Mediterranean as part of the Landing Force Sixth Fleet with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. In 1996, he served as the executive officer of the Combat Service Support Detachment 21, then as the operations officer for the 22nd MEU Service Support Group.

After he was promoted to his current rank, Abisellan served with 12th Marine Regiment in Okinawa, Japan and deployed to Afghanistan as the officer in charge of Embedded

Training Team 1-10, where he helped train the Afghan National Army in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the change of command, Abisellan spoke a few words of thanks to his family for all the support they provided. He then addressed his new battalion.

"It is a real honor to be here with this battalion," he said. "I am really looking forward to serving with all of you."



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Lt. Cols. James C. Lewis (left) and Eduard A. Abisellan salute the Marines from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, during the pass and review at the battalion's change of command at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Dec. 11 where Lewis relinquished command of the battalion to Abisellan.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

The Colors are presented during the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, change of command ceremony at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Dec. 11 where Lt. Col. James C. Lewis relinquished command to Lt. Col. Eduard A. Abisellan.

Tender Loving Christmas

There are many of us who spend holidays with four walls and boxes of tissues for one reason or another. If you can't afford to celebrate, if you are a shut in, know of someone who is, or just don't want to be alone... We invite you to join us!

Christmas Day

12:30 to 6 p.m.

at the Yucca Valley Community Center
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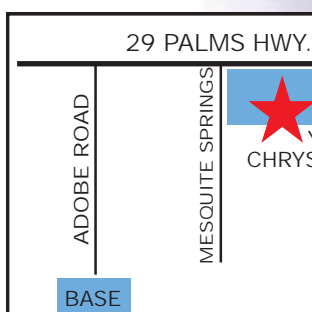
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Questions regarding this myPay change may be directed to the Centralized Customer Support Unit toll free at 888-332-7411, commercial 216-522-5096, or Defense Switching Network 580-5096 from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

State tax exemptions for tax year 2010

The states of Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, West Virginia, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey do not tax service members claiming legal residence in those states if they meet certain conditions specific to each state. Log on to <https://www.missa.manpower.usmc.mil> for the conditions.

Marines who are currently state tax exempted for Calendar Year 2009 must come to the Installation Personnel Administration Center's Customer Service Section as soon as possible to update their state tax exemption forms. This must be done no later than Dec. 28 in order to maintain a state tax exempt status through Calendar Year 2010.

Note: IPAC is required to remove all state tax exemptions for members who do not have the required documentation. Retroactive adjustments cannot be made.

For any questions or concerns regarding state tax exemptions, contact Staff Sgt. David Walker, the staff noncommissioned officer of IPAC's Customer Service Section, at 830-1818 extension 160.

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Receive notification of orders	Orders Office	immediately upon notification
Add or lose a dependent	Customer Service Office	within 5 days of change
Transfer units on base	New Joins Office	within 5 days of reporting
Transfer units from off base	New Joins Office	within 5 days of reporting
Are a MCCES student with an admin issue	OMB (with pass)	within 5 days

... in order to complete and update your information and receive your entitlements.

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**TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM**
by Lou Gerhardt

Last week I wrote about a little gift shop I visited in Ketchikan, Alaska that had a sign mounted above the entrance that read "Christmas Spoken Here." I then mentioned that the small shop was filled to overflowing with a genuine spirit of love and good will.

Well, several of you informed me of similar establishments right here in our High Desert that are also bastions of love in the midst of this hectic season. I want to describe one of these places for you in this column. It is DeMorrow's Jewelry and Repair in Twentynine Palms.

I know the proprietor Dean DeMorrow extremely well. Patty and I have been loyal and satisfied customers since moving to Twentynine Palms.

Dean really means it when he declares to all who will listen: "The people who enter my shop are friends first and customers second."

Dean is always extremely patient in helping people make a choice while looking over the store's huge variety of every kind of colorful gem and precious metal. If he doesn't have exactly what you want in stock (which is rare) he will get it for you immediately.

Dean is a man of compassion and understanding and is generous in every way. He is happy to work with his customers to develop payment plans that fit individual needs. In fact, during these last few days before Christmas he has lowered all prices 30% - 40% to accommodate his customers during these tough economic times.

Dean is a retired Gunnery Sergeant who loves God, Country and all Mankind.

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Phelps Hall competes for top honors

PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps Mess Hall was inspected Wednesday by a two-man team to determine if it was the best mess hall in the Marine Corps.

The team, comprised of one Marine and one civilian, inspected the facility for the Fiscal Year 2010 Maj. Gen. W. P. T. Hill Food Service Excellence Award, which determines the best mess hall in three categories – civilian-run, mixed and field mess halls.

Phelps Hall is a mixed facility, with Marines preparing the food and civilians interacting with the costumers. It won the Best of the West in September to qualify for the W. P. T. Hill Award.

The prestigious award goes to the dining facility which exhibits the best cleanliness, food quality, training,

sanitation and overall quality, said Bob Rice, the civilian evaluator with the National Restaurant Association.

“We check for everything,” he said. “From the appearance of the exterior to the cleanliness of prep surfaces – it truly is a comprehensive evaluation.”

The evaluators came during the Phelps Hall's holiday meal in which roast beef, baked turkey and glazed ham was featured, said Gunnery Sgt. Mark Clontz, the operations chief of the food service branch.

“It's a tough meal with a lot of moving parts,” said the London, Ky., native. “I think we're looking good to win this. We've got a fine group of Marines here and I think it's showing.”

Clontz said the award would be important to win because it is a mark of distinction and is something the Marines can take personal pride in.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Bob Rice, the National Restaurant Association's civilian evaluator for the Maj. Gen. W. P. T. Hill Food Service Excellence Award, examines the appearance of the dining area in the Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps Mess Hall Wednesday.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Bob Rice, the National Restaurant Association's civilian evaluator with the Maj. Gen. W. P. T. Hill Food Service Excellence Award, walks the grounds around the Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps Mess Hall Wednesday to evaluate the cleanliness and appearance of the facility.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

The W. P. T. Hill award is partly based on the appearance and preparation of the food served at Phelps Hall.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

The Combat Center's Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps Mess Hall was evaluated Wednesday for the Fiscal Year 2010 Maj. Gen. W. P. T. Hill Food Service Excellence Award.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Bob Rice (in white), the National Restaurant Association's civilian evaluator for the Maj. Gen. W. P. T. Hill Food Service Excellence Award, listens to a brief on the snack line in the Lance Cpl. Chance R. Phelps Mess Hall Wednesday to rate the quality and appearance of the facility's food.

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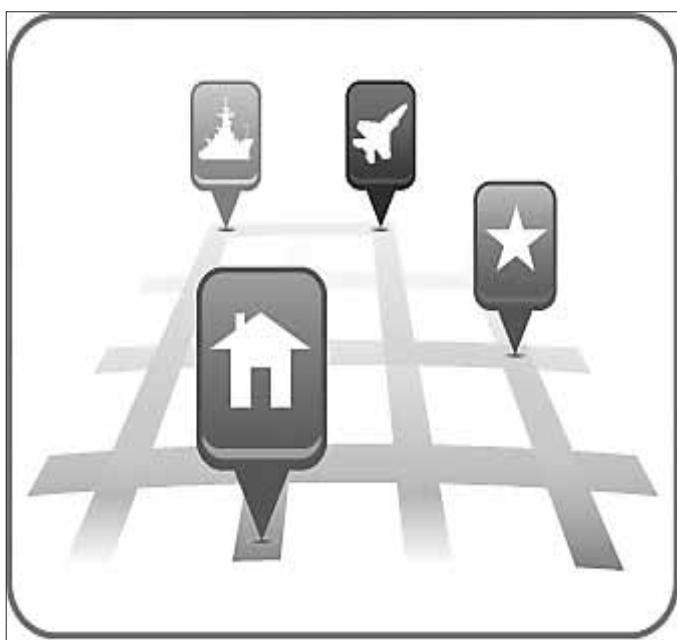
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<p>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church God Loves You As If You Were His Only Child. Holy Eucharist 10:00 A.M. Onaga at Church St., Y.V. 365-7133</p>	<p>New Beginning Community Church Pastor Lynn Gary Thompson Christ Centered Church Sunday School - 9:30 am Adult & Youth Worship Service - 10:30 am Music & Fun - 6:30 pm 55922 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley 760-910-5261</p>		<p>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 "open hearts, open minds, open doors"</p>	<p>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH Sunday School 10:00 am • Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Sunday Bible Study 9:00 am We're Here for Everyone Phone (760) 367-7133 72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks up from KFC), 29 Palms www.stmartinchurch29.org</p>		
<p>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH 6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms Service Times Sunday 9:00 am Nursery provided at 9:00am 367-7812 www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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 Bible Studies, Choir A Friendly and Loving Congregation!</p>	<p>Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church 73493 29 Palms Hwy., 29 Palms, Ca 367-4185 Pastor Titus R. Burns Sunday Service: 10:00 AM Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 PM Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."</p>	<p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014 SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am Worship.....10:45am</p>		
<p>Two Mile Apostolic Tabernacle 74301 Two Mile Rd., 29 Palms (Next to Lucky Park) "Where Jesus Embraces You" Sundays 10:00 am 6:00 pm Wednesdays 7:30 pm Website: TwoMileApostolic.com 760-367-0080</p>					<p>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms Childcare Available Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 am. Morning Worship 10:30 am. Evening Service 6:00 pm. Wednesday Services Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm. Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 pm. www.fbc29.org 6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561</p>	

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New Web tool makes finding doctors easy

TYLER PATTERSON

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Just enrolled into TRICARE Prime and want to know your options for doctors? Moved to a new location and need to find a doctor? Not sure if the nearest military clinic is accepting new patients?

It used to take a phone call or car trip to answer these questions. Now you can save the trip and the call, and answer all these questions online using TriWest's Prime Enrollment Eligibility tool at <http://www.triwest.com/eligibility>. All you need is your address and an Internet connection. Within sec-

onds, you'll have a color-coded map of the options in your area.

Not only will the Prime Enrollment Eligibility tool show your options, but it will walk you through your next steps. For example, if the nearest available clinic is more than a 30-minute drive, it will remind you to complete the Access to Care Waiver on your Prime application. If you're not eligible for TRICARE Prime, the Prime Enrollment Eligibility tool will inform you of other TRICARE plan options and direct you how to complete enrollment.

If the tool determines you are eligible for Prime and suggests you enroll

at a particular clinic, it will present that clinic's contact information. Don't forget you can use the Beneficiary Web Enrollment site to enroll in TRICARE Prime, make your initial payment and select a primary care manager. If you're already enrolled in TRICARE Prime, you can use BWE to manage your family members' enrollment and order new ID cards. Learn more about BWE at <http://www.triwest.com/bwe>.

While you're online, you can also choose to "Go Green" and receive paperless Explanation of Benefits statements at <http://www.triwest.com/gogreen>.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Sundays

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

Roman Catholic Services

8:45 a.m.-Confessions+
9 a.m.-Rosary
9:30 a.m.-Catholic Mass*
9:30 a.m.-Children's Liturgy of the Word
4:15 p.m.-Confessions+
4 p.m.-Choir Practice
4:30 p.m.-Rosary
5 p.m.-Catholic Mass

Christ Chapel

Lay-led independent Baptist breakfast

8:30 a.m.-West Wing

Non-denominational: Calvary Chapel-AGC

9 a.m.-Contemporary Worship*
9 a.m.-Children's Church

10:30 a.m.-Sunday School, building 1551*

Interdenominational: Good Shepherd

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship*
10:45 a.m. Children's Church

Lay-led Gospel Service

12:15 p.m. Worship

"Selah" Youth Group

6 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High School Youth

Legend

* Indicates Child Care Provided
+ Appointments can be made for Confessions by calling 830-6456/6482

Weekday Events

Monday-Friday

Immaculate Heart of Mary

11:45 a.m.-Catholic Mass (except holidays)

Tuesday

Christ Chapel

9 a.m.-Christian Women's Fellowship* (September through May)

6 p.m. "EKKLESIA" Assemblies of God Fellowship

Immaculate Heart of Mary

3:30-5:30 p.m. Military Council of Catholic Women

4-5:30 p.m.-Children's RCIA

5-8 p.m.-Catechist Meeting (Second Tuesday each month)

6-7:30 p.m.-Baptism Class (First Tuesday each month)

Wednesday

Christ Chapel

7 p.m.-Lay-led Gospel Bible Study

Immaculate Heart of Mary

6-7:30 p.m.-RCIA (Resumes Sept. 16)

7 p.m.-Knights of Columbus (First Wednesday each month)

Thursday

Christ Chapel

6 p.m.-Praise Band Rehearsal

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bible Study in building 1651

Chaplain Moran 830-6187

Friday

Christ Chapel

5 p.m.-Gospel Rehearsal

Immaculate Heart of Mary

12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. Exposition/Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament (First Friday each month)

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TRACKS, from A1

in a battalion-wide training evolution, said 1st Lt. Michael Arthur,

the company logistics officer.

According to Arthur, the battalion is split up with Co. D stationed

here at the Combat Center and the rest of the battalion stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

When it came time to go to the field, each section went to their perspective location and relied on a good communication system to help them remain effective, despite the distance which separated Co. D from its parent battalion.

"We're training how we fight and when we are in combat, we might be split up from our parent battalion," Arthur said. "Training away from the battalion gives us the know-how to operate away from them in country."

When not conducting operations within the battalion, Co. D's platoons broke into sections to practice maneuvering under fire, movement to and from contact, patrol techniques and responding

to enemy improvised explosive device attacks and ambushes.

They also practiced relaying casualty information from the AAVs, to the combat operations center and to the battalion at Camp Pendleton.

On Dec. 10, the entire company applied their training by conducting a variety of mock missions.

According to Rositas, the company did well on their evaluations.

"It's always nice to get some good training out here," said Master Sgt. Jerry P. Moss, the logistics chief for Co. D, 3rd AAB. "Our Marines are smart, quick-thinking, adaptable and determined to get any mission done. I'm proud of them and proud to serve with them."



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Amphibious Assault Vehicles with Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion maneuver throughout the Acorn Training Area Dec. 9. The company refamiliarized themselves on AAVs after deploying several times as provisional infantry units.



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

Cpl. Zachary Endsley, an AAV crew chief and driver with Co. D, 3rd AAB, hurries into position during an assault Dec. 10 at the Combat Center's Acorn Training Area.

CONTRACT, from A1

ramp up attacks, so DDM is putting all our resources in place to make certain that McCurdy's Armor is delivered well before the scheduled March 12 request date in the hopes of getting the gear in place to ward off these threats."

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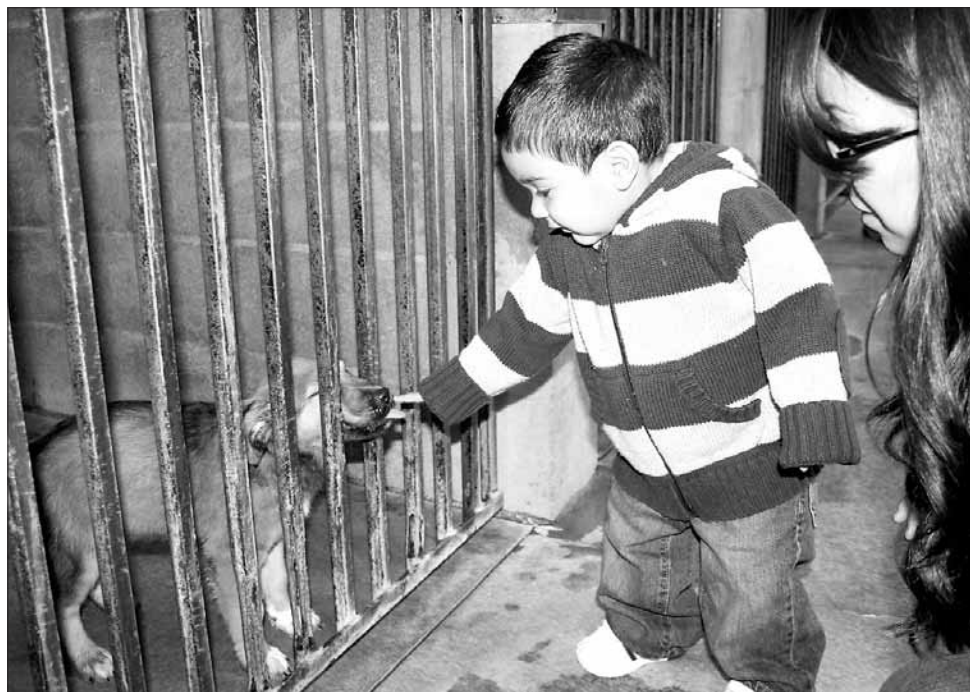
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Pups receive a lick of love



KELLY O'SULLIVAN The Desert Trail

Armed Services YMCA student Sergio Cuevas, 18 months, makes friends with a puppy at Palms-N-Paws Animal Shelter on Tuesday. Cuevas and his mother, Susana, were among more than 30 families who donated food and other items for the animals' comfort during a tour arranged by ASYMCA teachers Lisa Leonard, Marisa Reeder and Melissa Young.

Combat Center Trader Ads

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The deadline for submitting Trader ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's newspaper.

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.

Common courtesy not so common

JENNIE E. HASKAMP

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

I rolled down the window as I approached the Combat Center's main gate Monday morning and prepared to greet the military policeman posted there.

As I did so, I told my girlfriend on the phone (yes, I was using a hands free device) to hold on. Her response was, "Oh, you're at the gate."

Even from her home in Dallas, she's accustomed to hearing me greet the MP each morning as I drive to work. She's a civilian and enjoys the days I receive a motivated Marine Corps response to my salutation.

This particular morning she noticed something different.

As I rolled down the window and drove through the right lane she was treated to the young Marine in the left lane sounding off near the top of his lungs as he yelled, "Good morning, Marine!" as yet another car drove past with the window up.

"Wow," she said, "they're motivated today!"

After I said good morning to the young military policeman in my own lane I rolled my window back up, laughed at her and said, "That's not motivation you hear, Piper. I'd call it thinly veiled frustration."

She asked why they're frustrated.

I tried to explain it's 6 a.m., 42 degrees outside, and these MPs have been on post since 11 p.m. last night... and the majority of the people driving through the gate don't make eye contact with them, let alone roll down the window and say anything.

I told her some of us somehow take for granted the Combat Center is safe and we're free to come and go as we please - without, it appears, any sort of appreciation for the men and women who work around the clock to ensure our safety.

Her response? "Well that's just rude. Can't they make it rule, you have to say hello to the guard?"

I laughed again and said the Corps teaches us a lot of things and we follow a lot of orders, but this isn't about lessons or commands, it's about common courtesy.

The uniformed officers at the gates, be they military or civilian, deal with more complexity in a shift than most of us deal with in a month of Sundays.

Perhaps I have a different take on it because my job affords me access to the military police reports on a continuous basis, but it amazes me what these young men and women deal with - and yet we're too busy to roll down the window and provide a brief salutation.

I've read reports of routine identification checks leading to the discovery of undocumented immigrants, outstanding warrants for arrest and, in some cases, stolen vehicles.

A recent e-mail detailed a loaded .22 caliber found in the passenger compartment of a vehicle - I'm cringing as I write this and a "what if" comes to mind. As in, what if the driver had malice in his heart and the weapon hadn't been discovered?

While the Combat Center community prepares to leave town for Christmas and the New Year, these men and women are planning their holidays around their work schedules, which include eight-hour shifts outdoors - 10 hours if you count showing up early to draw a weapon and staying after post to return gear to the armory.

We spend a lot of time acknowledging the deployed members of our community and seem to overlook those who keep watch at home.

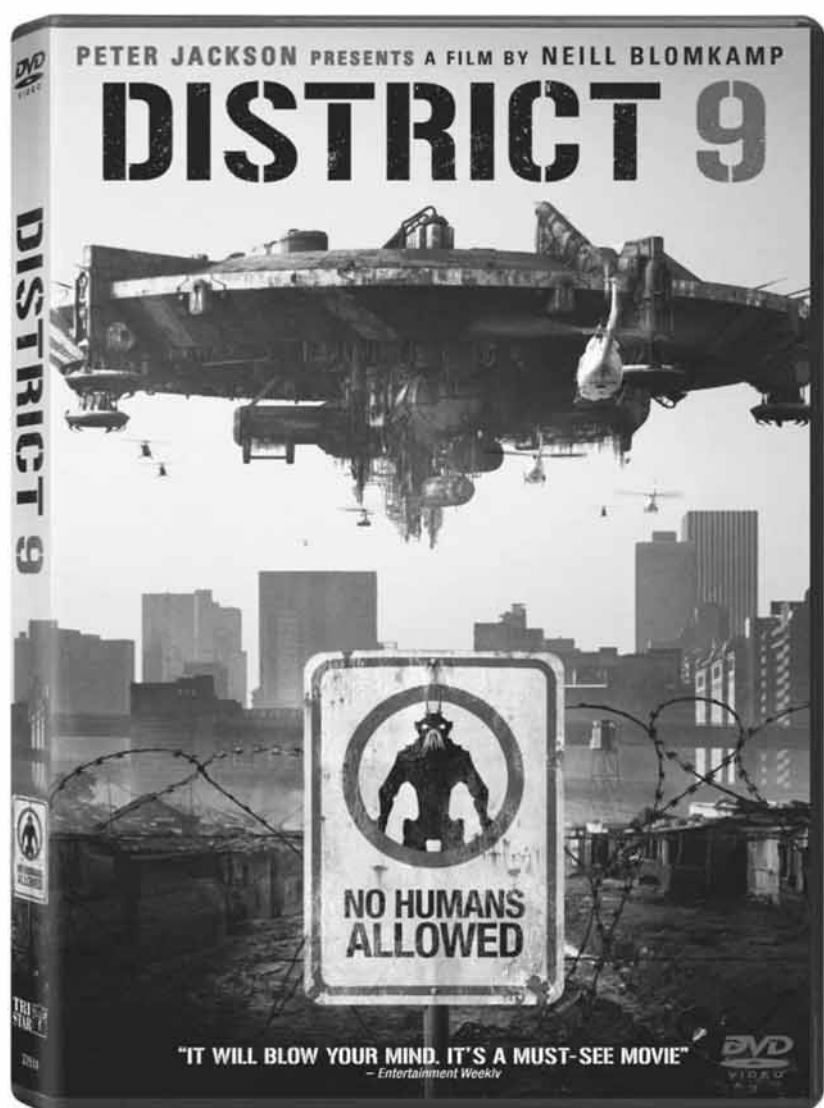
They'll be there 'round the clock on Christmas Eve and we'll be snug in our beds, visions of, well, you get the point. We'll be safe and warm and they'll be standing guard.

Considering all they do for us, day in and day out, I'd say it's not too much to ask to treat them like human beings.

It takes less than four seconds to roll the window down - I know because I timed it today. With that in mind, are we really in too much of a rush to say good morning?

OWN IT DEC. 22

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Reaching for knowledge



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Bryan Robertson, the Combined Arms Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility construction manager for the Combat Center Future Plans section, explains to Brig. Gen. Haeseung Lee, the commanding general of the Education and Training Group for the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, how Combat Center Range 220 will positively effect training during the ROK Marines' visit to the Combat Center Dec. 10. The tour of the CAMOUT facility helped the visiting ROK Marines gain new insight into the Marine Corps training and education program.

CREDIT, from A1

be at least 18 years old on the date of purchase. For a married couple, only one spouse must meet this age requirement.

A dependent is not eligible for the credit.

The new law gives the IRS broader authority to deny first-time homebuyer credit claims without having to first audit a taxpayer's return. Known as math error authority, this authority applies, retroactively, to credits claimed on original and amended 2008 returns, as well as to claims yet to be filed.

Additionally, there are new benefits for members of the military and certain other federal employees:

Members of the military and certain other federal employees serving outside the U.S. have an extra year to buy

a principal residence in the U.S. and qualify for the credit. Thus, an eligible taxpayer must buy, or enter into a binding contract to buy, a principal residence on or before April 30, 2011. If a binding contract is entered into by that date, the taxpayer has until June 30, 2011, to close on the purchase. Members of the uniformed services, members of the Foreign Service and employees of the intelligence community are eligible for this special rule. It applies to any individual and, if married, the individual's spouse, who serves on qualified official extended duty service outside of the United States for at least 90 days during the period beginning after Dec. 31, 2008, and ending before May 1.

In many cases, the credit repayment requirement is waived for members of the uniformed services, members

of the Foreign Service and employees of the intelligence community. This relief applies where a home is sold or stops being the taxpayer's principal residence after Dec. 31, 2008, in connection with government orders received by the individual (or the individual's spouse) for qualified official extended duty service. The credit is still allowable even if this happens during the year of purchase. Qualified official extended duty is any period of extended duty while serving at a place of duty at least 50 miles away from the taxpayer's principal residence, whether inside or outside the U.S., or while residing under government orders in government quarters. Extended duty is defined as any period of duty pursuant to a call or order to such duty for a period in excess of 90 days or for an indefinite period.

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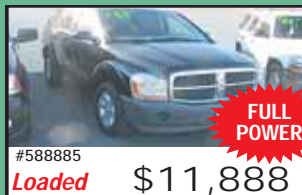
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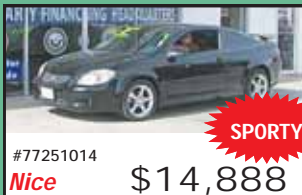
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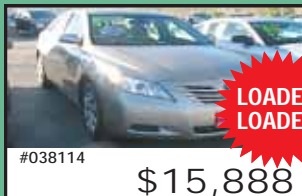
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B1

MCCES Mustangs trample Miramar Falcons in Best of the West tournament



LANCE CPL. ALEXANDRA M. HARRIS

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons player Ernest Diaz tries to stop a pass by Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School Mustangs during the Best of the West game at the Combat Center's Felix Field Saturday. After a long, intense battle, the Mustangs came out on top with a 21-14 victory.

LANCE CPL. ALEXANDRA M. HARRIS
MCAS MIRAMAR

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's football team, the "Falcons," fell short during the Best of the West game against Marine Corps

Communications-Electronics School's "Mustangs" timely offense with a score of 21-14 Saturday at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

The Falcons' loss ended their season with a record of 6-1-1 during the regular season, and 3-0-0 during the

Camp Pendleton Football League playoffs.

The Falcons came into the game pumped up and showed it early on with sharp offensive and defensive play. The quick-strike offense took the ball down the field, ending in a 35-

yard touchdown pass to Paris Rabidou.

After their strong start, the Falcons committed a key fumble that led to a Mustang score tying the game at 7-7.

The Mustangs drove the ball down the field to score their second touchdown of

the game, but the Falcons blocked their extra point attempt. The Falcons tried to respond with a drive of their own, but missed their field goal attempt keeping the score 13-7.

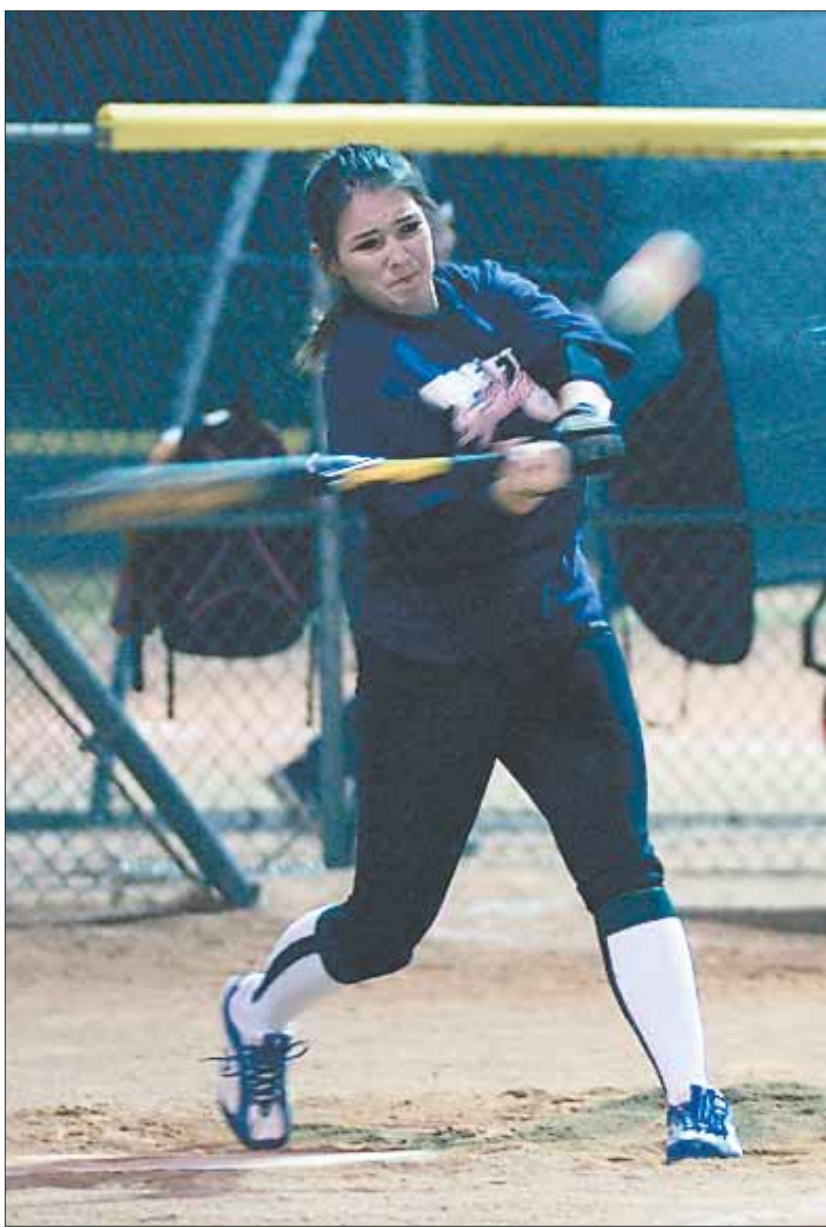
Although their play was promising early on, penalties

and turnovers hindered the Falcons' momentum in the first half.

"We gave away one," said head coach Bennis Branch about the team's spotty first-half play. "Now's the time to

See FOOTBALL, B3

Drama Killers win Coed Softball championship



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Steph Sullivan, a second baseman for the Drama Killers leans into her swing during the Commanding General's Intramural Coed Softball League championship game against the Outcasts at Felix Field Dec. 10.

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Commanding General's Intramural Coed Softball championship game was a battle to the last inning at Felix Field Dec. 10 with Drama Killers coming out on top against the Outcasts 22-18.

As the temperature plummeted, players from both teams shook off the cold and continued to play to their best despite some frozen fingers and toes.

"The game was really competitive with two solid teams," said Randy Husted, a sports specialist for the Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services. "We had the top two teams battling for the championship - we can't ask for anything better."

Rick Jenkins, the pitcher for the Outcasts, said his team gave it their best shot, but couldn't manage to

See CHAMPS, B3



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

(from left to right) The Shepherds, played by Jack Storer, Christian Hester, and Kanae Harper, sheep, played by Rebecca Hester, Angels, played by Sarah Hester and Sarah Funkhouser, Mary and Joseph, played by Samantha Hale and Isaiah Garcia, gather around the manger to recreate the famous nativity scene while they sing The First Noel during the Children's Nativity 2009 Pageant at the Protestant Chapel Sunday.

Children perform musical version of nativity scene at Protestant Chapel

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Protestant Chapel hosted "Children's Nativity 2009," a Christmas pageant put on by children from the Protestant ministries Sunday at 10 a.m. at the chapel.

The children prac-

ticed for four weeks before putting on the pageant, which tells the story of Christ's birth through Christmas carols, said Bekki Jones, the Protestant Chapel program coordinator.

The songs for the Nativity included O' Little Town of Bethlehem, Away in a Manger, Hark the Herald

Angels Sing, The First Noel, We Three Kings and Silent Night. The cast did not speak a word of script but moved to designated places and sang at the cues of the two narrators, Savannah Kern and Ashley Hawkins.

After the musical was

See PAGEANT, B4



Liberty Call

Local Events

Rockabilly Swing with The Big Fat Steve Band

Description: Like Johnny Cash meets the "Clash"
When: 7:30 p.m., Friday and 8 p.m., Saturday
Where: Pappy and Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit
<http://www.pappyandharriets.com>

A White Christmas In The Blak Box

Description: A holiday musical revue
When: 8 p.m., Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m., Sunday
Where: The Blak Box Theatre
61231 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree
For more information call 366-3777 or visit
<http://www.hidesertplayhouse.com>

Old Town Light Parade - Yucca Valley

Followed by an "after-parade party" at the Elks Lodge
When: 5:50 p.m., Saturday
Where: The parade route starts at Geronimo Trail and the Twentynine Palms Highway, heads east to Acoma Trail, then turns around and goes to Pioneertown Road.
The after-parade party is at the Elks Lodge at 55946 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley
For more information call 365-0044.

Live music performed by John Whytock

When: 6 to 9 p.m., Monday
Where: The 29 Palms Inn
73950 Inn Avenue, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 367-3505 or visit
<http://www.29palmsinn.com>

Sound Check at the Joshua Tree Celebration Center

Description: A concert performed by several local musicians
When: 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday
Where: Joshua Tree Celebration Center
6393 Sunset Road, Joshua Tree
For more information call Steve Bear at 902-9366 or visit
<http://www.jtcelebrations.com/Events.html>

Music Rojer Arnold and Summerland

Description: Local Joshua Tree performer
When: 7 p.m., Thursday, Christmas Eve
Where: Pappy and Harriet's
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit
<http://www.pappyandharriets.com>

Lower Desert

The Brian Setzer Orchestra

Description: A Christmas rocks extravaganza
When: 8 p.m., Dec. 16
Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort
46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella
For more info call 866-377-6829 or visit
<http://www.spotlight29.com>

Music: Montgomery Gentry

Description: Country western music with a midnight balloon drop
When: 11 p.m., Dec. 13
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more info call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>

Ventriloquist: Jeff Dunham

Description: The puppet master brings all his characters
When: 8 p.m., Jan. 9
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more info call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Dec. 18

6 p.m. - Michael Jackson's This is it, Rated PG
9 p.m. - Amelia, Rated PG
Midnight - Cirque Du Freak, Rated PG-13

Saturday, Dec. 19

11 a.m. - Fred Claus, Rated PG
2 p.m. - Disney's, A Christmas Carol, Rated PG
6 p.m. - Astroy Boy, Rated PG
9 p.m. - The Fourth Kind, Rated PG-13
Midnight - Pirate Radio, Rated R

Sunday, Dec. 20

2 p.m. - Planet 51, Rated PG
6 p.m. - SNEAK PREVIEW, Sherlock Holmes, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. - 2012, Rated PG-13

Monday, Dec. 21

7 p.m. - The Box, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, Dec. 22

7 p.m. - Amelia, Rated PG

Wednesday, Dec. 23

7 p.m. - Astro Boy, Rated PG

Thursday, Dec. 24

2 p.m. - FREE, Four Christmases, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. - A Christmas Carol, Rated PG
9 p.m. - Pirate Radio, Rated R
Midnight - Paranormal Activity, Rated R

Whimsical delights abound in 'Fantastic Mr. Fox'

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

Fantastic Mr. Fox

Rated PG

Using old-school, stop-motion animation, director Wes Anderson brings to "Fantastic Mr. Fox" the cool hipster wit that became his trademark in live-action indie favorites like "Rushmore," "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "The Life Aquatic." He takes Roald Dahl's 1970 storybook tale, about a chicken-stealing fox, and expands it with eccentric miniature sets and superstar Hollywood voices.

Sly, suave Mr. Fox (George Clooney) vows to give up his risky, thieving ways when he finds out Mrs. Fox (Meryl Streep) is pregnant. But a move into a new above-ground home, with its enticing vista of three farms ripe for plunder, triggers his return to a life of crime.

When his operation hits a snag, it imperils his family and the entire animal community. Can the smooth-talking, quick-thinking Mr. Fox figure a way out for everyone before the vigilante farmers blast them all to king-



COURTESY PHOTO

"Fantastic Mr. Fox" is a mix of mischief and merriment for both kids and grownups. Sly, suave Mr. Fox is voiced by George Clooney. Other vocal actors include Bill Murray as a lawyerly badger, Jason Schwartzman as Mr. Fox's mopey son and Willem Dafoe as a switchblade-swishing rat.

dom come?

As Mr. Fox and his woodland neighbors hatch their daring counter scheme, you'll probably be reminded of another George Clooney "caper" movie, "Ocean's 11," as it might look played out with poseable-puppet animals. Just substitute a hen house for the Las Vegas hotel.

The world of Mr. Fox teems with color and detail. Don't take your eyes off the screen, or you might miss something small, subtle and sensational. The witty script spins off many

delightful surprises.

The vocal actors, which also include Bill Murray as a lawyerly badger, Jason Schwartzman as Mr. Fox's mopey son and Willem Dafoe as a switchblade-swishing rat, make their characters seem more like real people who happen to look like animals than animals who talk like people. Several of them, including Murray, Schwartzman and Owen Wilson, are part of the director's stock pool of go-to actors, and they sync perfectly with Anderson's moseying rhythm and off-beat style.

Whimsical touches abound, from an interlude featuring a zany game called Whack Bat to a recurring sight gag about a mole who repeatedly zones out when listening to Mr. Fox and his detailed plans. When the gentlemanly Mr. Fox swears, he uses the all-purpose sub-

stitute word "cuss," as in "What the cuss?" or "Don't cuss with me!"

The vibrant, wildly eclectic soundtrack includes the theme from TV's "Davy Crockett" alongside tunes from the Beach Boys, the Rolling Stones and Burl Ives. Jarvis Cocker, lead singer of the rock band Pulp, also "appears" in a cameo as a folk singer improvising a ditty about Mr. Fox and his exploits.

It all adds up to a movie mix of mischief and merriment for both kids and grownups. As Mr. Fox makes a toast and breaks into a joyous dance at the end, you'll want to raise an imaginary goblet and kick up your heels too. Everything about this sly fox, his friends and this funky, far-out, farm-raiding adventure is simply fantastic.

Cinema 6		
MOVIE TIMES 365-9633		
Avatar (PG13) Everyday: 1:30, 6:00, 9:00	Princess & The Frog (G) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Blind Side (PG) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Armored (PG13) Fri.-Tues.: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Alvin & the Chipmunks (PG) Starts Wed. 12/23 Sherlock Holmes (PG13) Starts Fri. 12/25	ADULTS \$8.00 SENIORS \$6.00 CHILDREN \$6.00
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Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WallMart	MCAGCC			
7:00	7:10	7:15	7:50	8:30			
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WallMart	Palm Springs Airport
10:00	10:25	10:30	10:40	10:45	11:00	11:10	11:45
4:00	4:25	4:30	*4:40	*4:45	*5:00	*5:10	*5:45
15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Saturday/Sunday*							
Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WallMart	MCAGCC			
12:00	12:10	12:15	12:50	1:35			
*6:00	*6:10	*6:15	*6:50	*7:35			

*SUNDAY SERVICE BEGINS AT 29 PALMS COMMUNITY CENTER. All weekend service is for Saturday only except for the final return trip which includes both Saturday and Sunday service.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Though Mr. Fox tries to "go straight," he is eventually enticed back into a life of crime.

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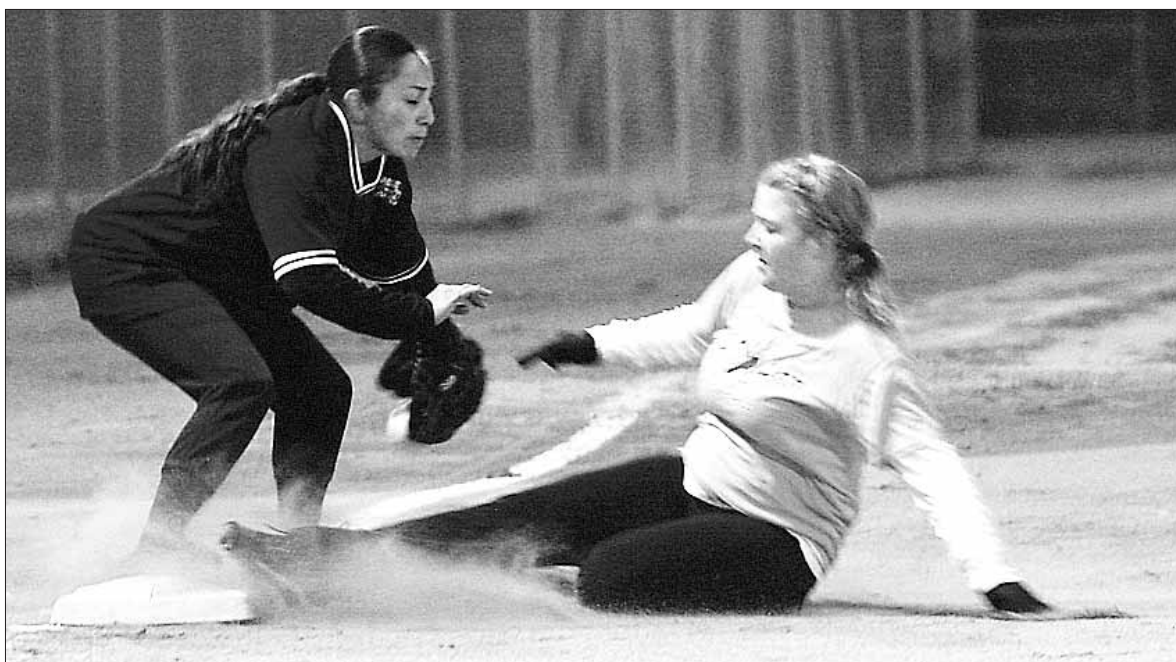
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ATLAS SELF STORAGE



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Brenda Edmonds and fellow Outkast player Rick Jenkins communicate as Edmonds ducks under Jenkins so he can catch a pop up during the Coed Softball League championship game.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Teresa Villalobos, a third baseman for the Drama Killers, tries to stop Sidney Buck from sliding into safety during the Commanding General's Intramural Coed Softball League championship game against the Outkasts at Felix Field Dec. 10.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Drama Killers pitcher Ray Wren puts a spin on his underhand pitch during the Commanding General's Intramural Coed Softball League championship game against the Outkasts at Felix Field Dec. 10.

CHAMPS, from B1

jump in the lead. "We didn't execute the game plan and it all came down to the fact that they were hungrier than us," Jenkins said. Jeannine Ziegenhirt, a player for the Drama Killers, had a voracious appetite for victory throughout the game, especially after hitting her first infield home run. "I have been playing softball for over eight years, and I have never had an infield home run before," she said. During the last inning, both teams were able to continuously bat and score points until

reaching three outs. The Drama Killers quickly took advantage of this inning and began rounding up the points. At the end of the game, Husted, who was also acting as an umpire, handed out a second place trophy to the Outkasts and each player received a sweatshirt, before moving on to the Drama Killers. Throughout the season and playoffs, the Drama Killers and the Outkasts dominated the top two slots of the league. The Drama Killers went through the entire season undefeated. The Outkasts lost one game.

FOOTBALL, from B1

pick up the pace. It's our time." The game turned into a chess match of field position as each team gave up no

ground. The fighting Falcons finally broke away midway through the fourth quarter when wide-receiver Cameron Harris scored the go-ahead touchdown. The extra point by Brian Greco was good

bringing the score to 14-13. "Let's bump up the intensity and have fun," said Rabadoux to the team. "Let's crush them with the play." With less than three minutes left in the game the

Mustangs scored on a 30-yard deep-out route. The Mustangs then followed the play with a two-point conversion giving them a touchdown lead of 21-14.

The Falcons' last attempt to tie the game came up short as the Mustangs intercepted the ball and came away with the victory. The teams came together for a group prayer showing their respect and camaraderie for each other. After the prayer the teams each received trophies for their hard-fought game. "The victory was a huge relief and a cause for celebration for all the hard work the players have done since we started practicing in June," said Tu Tran, the Mustangs' head coach.



LANCE CPL. ALEXANDRA M. HARRIS

A horde of Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School defenders rush to tackle Miramar Falcons player Paris Rabadoux during the Best of the West game at Felix Field Saturday. Ultimately, the MCCES Mustangs defeated the visiting Falcons 21-14.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Jeannine Ziegenhirt
Hometown: Miami
Unit: Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School
Job Title: Marine Corps integrated maintenance management specialist
Recognition: Hit a home run and scored a triple in the Coed Softball League championship game.
Major sports accomplishments: "Joining the All Marine softball team and using that experience to play better and see my improvement grow."
Favorite aspect of the sport: "The team camaraderie."
Advice for aspiring players: "Don't let a bad play keep you down. Just make up for it later."

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Fight Club 29 comes out on top in Grappler X



PVT. MICHAEL T. GAMS

(from left to right) Andrew Tesnow, Felipe Melendez and Josh Olinger, all members of the Combat Center's Fight Club 29 mixed martial arts team, show the medals they won Saturday at the Grapplers X tournament in Temecula, Calif. Tesnow, 22, won gold in the beginner heavyweight class; Melendez, 23, won gold by beating Olinger, 22, in the final match of the novice lightweight class. Not pictured is Eddie Gonzalez, who won gold in the intermediate welterweight class. Fight Club 29's showing over the weekend only added to the large number of medals, trophies and ribbons the team has won, including two team gold medals in Grapplers Experience Tournaments, two sliver team medals in Pankration nationals, and state and armed forces championships. Individual team members have earned three national champions, five state champions, three armed forces champions, and seven members of the team have qualified for the World Pankration team slated to compete in Poland in September 2010.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Angels, performed by Sarah Hester and Sarah Funkhouser, sing Hark the Herald Angels Sing with the congregation during the Children's Nativity 2009 at the Protestant Chapel Sunday. The pageant took place between the two Sunday morning services so all could come regardless of the service they attended.

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PAGEANT, from B1

over, all the children lined up on the pulpit and sang We Wish You a Merry Christmas for the entire audience. "This shows the cooperation between the two congregations and demonstrates a sense of unity within the body of the church," said Navy Lt. Russell Hale, the chaplain for 1st Tank Battalion. When the pageant ended, a group photo was taken, then children ran to their families in the audience. "The kids seemed to have a great time performing the pageant," said Maj. Ron Storer, the executive officer of 1st Tank Battalion. "This was a great opportunity for fellowship on base and even with it being an old story, it is still great to hear." Jones said although this is the first year the chapel has put on the pageant, they plan to hold one again next year.

Tender Loving Christmas

There are many of us who spend holidays with four walls and boxes of tissues for one reason or another. If you can't afford to celebrate, if you are a shut in, know of someone who is, or just don't want to be alone... We invite you to join us!

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