

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 2, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 13

Commandant, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps visit Combat Center



CPL. ERIN KIRK-CUOMO

Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, speak with Afghan role players while visiting the Combat Center Sunday.

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marine Corps' top officer and senior enlisted leader visited the Combat Center from Saturday to Monday, meeting with Marines and sailors, and viewing the most up-to-date training to ensure deploying units have the most recent instructions before going to Afghanistan.

The visit was to learn and observe the most current training being conducted before Marines and sailors deploy to Afghanistan.

On Sunday, Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, toured Combat Center Range 215 and observed Enhanced Mojave Viper training. They were able to sit down with Afghan role players, and the visit gave Marines a chance to meet them and ask questions.

"We want to get ahead and stay ahead with what is going on throughout the world," said Conway, a Walnut Ridge, Ark., native. "We want to make sure our Marines are armed with the proper knowledge."

After their trip to the training area, they went to the Recycling Center, and discussed energy initiatives and construction

See VISIT, A5

PMO Marine awarded for excellence in 2009

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

A Combat Center military police officer was awarded the 2009 Twentynine Palms Provost Marshal's Office Officer of the Year Award outside PMO's headquarters here Tuesday.

Lance Cpl. Michael A. Bradley received the award, sponsored by the International Footprint Association, from Capt. Donnie Miller, a police officer with the San Bernardino

County Sheriffs Department, for his proficiency and effort displayed in the performance of duties.

"I take pride in my work and try to be the best at what I do," said Bradley, who conceded he was initially surprised he was selected for the award.

During 2009, the 20-year-old Temecula, Calif., native, worked security for special installation events,

See PMO, A8



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL A. BRADLEY

31st MEU conducts tactical offload



CPL. MICHAEL A. BIANCO

Marines with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, take cover in the tall grass during a simulated helicopter raid at Landing Zone Dodo on Okinawa, Japan, March 24. The MEU conducted a tactical offload consisting of mechanized, boat and helicopter raids, and a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise. This is the first time the MEU has conducted a tactical offload on the island.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

First Sgt. Billy Davidson, a former member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, received the Sheriff's Medal for Valor during the 2010 San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Exceptional Service Awards ceremony at the California Theatre of the Performing Arts Wednesday.

Former 'First Team' Marine recognized for civil service

CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – First Sgt. Billy Davidson, a former member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, received the Sheriff's Medal for Valor during the 2010 San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Exceptional Service Awards ceremony at the California Theatre of the Performing Arts Wednesday.

On Jan. 8, 2009, while on predeployment leave, Davidson came upon a two-car collision on Highway 62 near Interstate 10. The scene he arrived upon was a twist-

Immediately assessing the situation, Davidson began to extract the trapped passengers from the burning vehicles. He pulled one passenger, engulfed in flames, out of the burning sport utility vehicle and removed his own shirt to extinguish the flames. After the immediate fire was put out, Davidson cut the victim's charred clothing from his body to prevent further injury.

Davidson helped other first responders separate the vehicles and attempted to extract the driver of the second car. Unfortunately, the team could not pull the burning driver from the vehicle in time to save his life.

During the presentation ceremony, Rod Hoops, the San Bernardino County Sheriff, said heroes like Davidson sometimes fly under the radar.

"All the folks who received awards here tonight exemplify public service," said Hoops, a native of Highland, Calif. "You always hear about bad things happening in the news, and it's important for us to recognize the heroes who sometimes go unnoticed. It's heroes like these who make our job worthwhile."

Davidson's wife, Kendra, who also travelled from Fort

See SERVICE, A8



Jane Wayne ~ See A3



Marine Corps L.I.N.K.S. ~ See A4



Champs at camp ~ See B1



NMCRS Fund 'Drive' ~ See B1

Tax Tips

Ten facts about capital gains and losses

IRS TAX TIP 2010, #35

Have you heard of capital gains and losses? If not, you may want to read up on them because they might have an impact on your tax return. The IRS wants you to know these ten facts about gains and losses and how they could affect your tax situation.

- 1. Almost everything you own and use for personal purposes, pleasure or investment is a capital asset.
 - 2. When you sell a capital asset, the difference between the amount you sell it for and your basis – which is usually what you paid for it – is a capital gain or a capital loss.
 - 3. You must report all capital gains.
 - 4. You may deduct capital losses only on investment property, not on property held for personal use.
 - 5. Capital gains and losses are classified as long-term or short-term, depending on how long you hold the property before you sell it. If you hold it more than one year, your capital gain or loss is long-term. If you hold it one year or less, your capital gain or loss is short-term.
 - 6. If you have long-term gains in excess of your long-term losses, you have a net capital gain to the extent your net long-term capital gain is more than your net short-term capital loss, if any.
 - 7. The tax rates that apply to net capital gain are generally lower than the tax rates that apply to other income. For 2009, the maximum capital gains rate for most people is 15 percent. For lower-income individuals, the rate may be 0 percent on some or all of the net capital gain. Special types of net capital gain can be taxed at 25 percent or 28 percent.
 - 8. If your capital losses exceed your capital gains, the excess can be deducted on your tax return and used to reduce other income, such as wages, up to an annual limit of \$3,000, or \$1,500 if you are married filing separately.
 - 9. If your total net capital loss is more than the yearly limit on capital loss deductions, you can carry over the unused part to the next year and treat it as if you incurred it in that next year.
 - 10. Capital gains and losses are reported on Schedule D, Capital Gains and Losses, and then transferred to line 13 of Form 1040.
- For more information about reporting capital gains and losses, see the Schedule D instructions, Publication 550, Investment Income and Expenses or Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax. All forms and publications are available at IRS.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM.

Centerspeak

What’s your favorite thing about Easter and why?

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



LANCE CPL. DILLON DAINS
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY,
3RD COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION

“Getting together with my family, because I’ve always been a family-oriented person.”



SGT. JAMES BEASLEY
COMPANY V, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT

“The religious purpose behind the holiday, because it’s when Jesus rose from death.”



CAPT. TRAVIS CARLSON
CO. B, 1ST TANK BATTALION

“Taking my kids to hunt Easter eggs just to see the smiles on their faces when they find gobs of candy.”

Hot Topics

SEXUAL ASSAULT SEMINAR

The Combat Center’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program will host a seminar April 13 at the Sunset Cinema from 1-3:30 p.m. This multidisciplinary training event will help participants develop a greater understanding of various aspects of sexual assault. This event is geared toward medical, law enforcement and legal personnel, as well as victim advocates and counselors. For more information, contact Jennifer Husung at 830-4997 or jennifer.husung@usmc.mil

NEW COMBAT CENTER TRAFFIC RULE

Due to the high volume of traffic at Ocotillo and Condor gates during the Adobe Road construction project, all non-Department of Defense decal vehicles are required to access the Combat Center via the main gate Monday through Friday between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m.

HI DESERT PONY LEAGUE

The High Desert Pony League has started practices, but it is not too late to register! It is not too late to register, and the league is always looking for managers, coaches, umpires and volunteers. The Opening Day Ceremony will be held April 17 at Knott Sky Park. For further information go to <http://www.pony29palms.com>, or call 910-546-6475 or 910-787-2175.

Marine Corps History

March 31, 1801

The site for Marine Barracks 8th and I in Washington, D.C., is selected.



Eagle Eyes

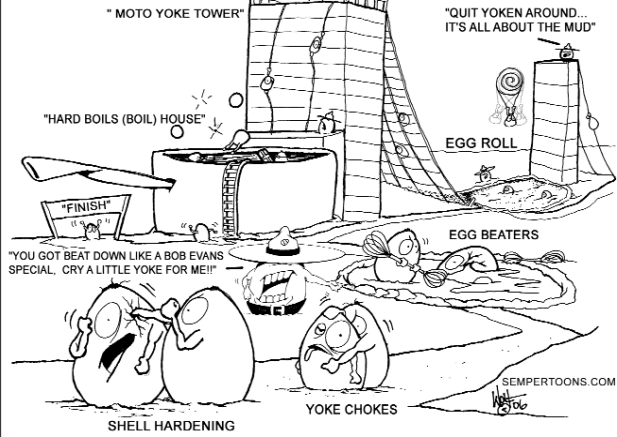
Report any suspicious activity immediately which may be a sign of terrorism, including:

- 1. Surveillance
- 2. Suspicious questioning
- 3. Tests of security
- 4. Acquiring supplies
- 5. Suspicious persons
- 6. Trial runs
- 7. Deploying assets

830-3937

The final test before becoming true Hard Boiled Eggs is the "CRACKABLE" This 2 minute event will push a YOKE to their very limit. Not all yokes make it through each of the grueling events, but those that do find an Easter pride most eggs only talk about while on the shelf at FOOD LION.

"Its tuff to be Hard, but, tougher to be HARD Boiled" LETS GO EGGIES...MOVE IT, MOVE IT, ALMOST THERE!!



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

SUDOKU #1767

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT



School Liaison Information

Question: What are standardized tests and why do schools use them?
Answer: Standardized tests are designed to give a common measure of students’ performance. Because large numbers of students throughout the country take the same test, they give educators a common yardstick, or “standard,” of measure. Educators use these standardized tests to tell how well school programs are succeeding, or to give themselves a picture of the skills and abilities of today’s students. Standardized tests can help teachers and administrators make decisions regarding the instructional program. They help schools measure how students in a given class, school, or school system perform in relation to other students who take the same test. Using the results from these tests, teachers and administrators can evaluate the school system, a school program, or a particular student.

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

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Lance Manthey
Hometown: Yucca Valley, Calif.
Job title: Senior law enforcement professional
Unit: Tactical Training Exercise Control Group
Job duties: Cover down on all areas pertaining to nations’ security forces, conduct training for host nations’ security forces integration, train Marines to embed with local populace and create partnership with security forces, assess battalion’s understanding of law enforcement structure, show units why building trust and a relationship with the local population is important and why it is important to show security forces how to build that trust themselves.
What do you like most about your job: “I have the opportunity to teach, coach and mentor infantry Marines from the ground up, and battalion commanders on down, on a daily basis. I also like the fact it is not a desk job, and it appeals to my personality.”
Hobbies: “Very extreme mountain biking, golf, tennis, snow skiing, water skiing. I am an adrenaline junkie.”
Military service: Marine Corps from 1981-1992
Time aboard MCAGCC: In 1981 for six months, and came back in May 2008.



OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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SALAD DAYS

[Puzzle solutions on A8]

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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58					59					60				
61					62					63				

ACROSS

- 1. Pie-in-the-face sound
- 6. Smelter waste
- 10. One of the Smurfs
- 14. Mount the soapbox
- 15. Sighter of pink elephants
- 16. Base no-show
- 17. Russian art treasure
- 19. Timer filler
- 20. Pro-__ (some tournaments)
- 21. Seance sounds
- 22. Try to take in
- 24. Playbill listing
- 25. Pitcher in the rotation
- 26. Kiss
- 29. Tetched in the head
- 30. Lash of old oaters
- 31. Donut feature
- 32. Rugged rock
- 36. Guinness or Waugh
- 37. Sound engineer’s control
- 38. One of a Triceratops’ three
- 39. Go well together
- 40. Hunchbacked lab assistant
- 41. 1965 march setting
- 42. Barrens trees
- 44. Overrun, as with pests
- 45. Finish with Crayolas
- 48. Tuneful Tori
- 49. Tapers off
- 50. “__ me five!”
- 51. EIK’s place
- 54. Pro __ (in proportion)
- 55. Cheer for Julius
- 58. Leave unsaid
- 59. “Legally Blonde” girl
- 60. Kevin of “Dave”
- 61. iPod model
- 62. Belmonts’ frontman
- 63. Auto produced until 1932

DOWN

- 1. Place for a 24-Down
- 2. Brit’s buggy
- 3. Black or chocolate dogs
- 4. Broke bread
- 5. Apartment balcony
- 6. Used a broom
- 7. Bunches of bull
- 8. “Hulk” director Lee
- 9. Enterprising one
- 10. Napoleon experts?
- 11. Hang out for
- 12. Explorer __ de Leon
- 13. Tree with catkins
- 18. Nasty cut
- 23. DC ball player
- 24. Tube addict
- 25. Cobbler, at times
- 26. Shut hard
- 27. Bull, cob, or tom
- 28. Assayed materials
- 29. Birds clubbed to extinction
- 31. Uta of stage and screen
- 33. Gipp, to Reagan
- 34. Locales of ulnae and humeri
- 35. Pesky swarmer
- 37. Consumed totally
- 41. Correction fluid brand
- 43. Ill temper
- 44. Apple debut of 1998
- 45. Star of “Gigi” and “Lili”
- 46. Bo’s master
- 47. Word after pig or vulgar
- 48. __ wrench (L-shaped tool)
- 50. Fodder’s place
- 51. “No guarantees” square
- 53. Bipedal dino
- 56. Baron Cohen’s “Da __ G Show”
- 57. Some urban rails

Wives roll to Range 500 for 'Jane Wayne Day'

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marine wives do not always have the chance to experience firsthand what their husbands actually do in the Corps, but the wives of Marines with 1st Tank Battalion strapped on some boots and headed to the field during a "Jane Wayne Day" at Combat Center Range 500 Tuesday.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ryan Cleveland, the executive officer of Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tanks, said this was the first time the battalion held the event on a Combat Center range.

"We hold this event so the spouses can see what their husbands do on a daily basis and also to build camaraderie within the battalion," said the Albany, La., native. "We hold these once or twice a year, but it's normally held at the battalion's ramp."

The wives were treated to humvee, tank and amphibious assault vehicle rides and were given the chance to fire the M16-A4 service rifle. Static displays of other weapons systems and vehicles like the M240-G medium machine gun and the Mine

Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle were also set up.

Candace Gordon, the wife of Lt. Col. Thomas J. Gordon, the battalion's commanding officer, said this was the first "Jane Wayne Day" she has participated in for a long time.

"It's all fun," said Gordon, a Spartanburg, S.C., native. "I just don't like getting dirty."

For some of the wives the day made it a little harder to cope with their husbands' current deployment to Afghanistan.

"I've never really experienced anything my husband does," said Heather Taylor, the wife of Cpl. Luke Taylor, a communications technician with Co. C, 1st Tanks, and a Federal Way, Wash., native. "I loved coming out here and seeing what my husband really does, but it's just really tough trying not to worry about him."

Before heading back to the Combat Center's main side area, the ladies were treated to a live-fire demonstration by Marines with H and S Co., who fired the main gun of the M1-A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank and two Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missiles from the battalion's TOW platoon.



Cpl. Francisco Guzman, a tank commander with Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, retrieves his Kevlar helmet from Jessica Plummer, the wife of Lance Cpl. Chad Plummer, a crewman with Co. B, after a ride in an M1-A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank during the battalion's "Jane Wayne Day" at Combat Center Range 500 Tuesday.

The companies within 1st Tanks are slated to deploy to Eastern Europe next month, as well as to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom later this year.



Marines with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Tank Battalion, fire a Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided missile during a demonstration for the battalion's "Jane Wayne Day" participants at Combat Center Range 500 Tuesday.

The Combat Center Officers' Club

Cordially Invites All Ranks & Their Families to...

Champagne Easterbrunch

The Officers' Club is happy to announce the return of BRUNCH for Easter Sunday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring your family & friends to The Veranda for a large breakfast buffet that includes an omelet station, waffle station, meat carving station, a variety of bakery breads, fresh fruit and dessert.

The Officers' Pub will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reservations highly suggested, call 830.6610
www.mccs29palms.com

Adults - \$15⁹⁵ • Children (10 & under) - \$10⁹⁵

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS **MARSOC** SCREENING TEAM VISIT

DID YOU MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY?

If you were unable to attend the screening team visit to your base get details at www.marsoc.marines.mil

Copper Mountain College FOUNDATION

Register by April 9th
call 366-3791 Ext. 5012

26th Annual Golf SCRAMBLE

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L.I.N.K.S. puts children in parents’ boots for a day

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

More than 30 children of parents from various Combat Center commands learned about Marine Corps life at a Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Combined Armed Exercise Wednesday at Felix Field here.

Children ages 6-12 participated in a number of classes and activities, giving insight to Marine Corps traditions, jobs and the mindset.

“It’s a fun way to teach kids about the Marine Corps and get them acquainted with what dad might go through on a more fun level,” said Suzanne Benson, a mentor in the L.I.N.K.S. program, and Kingman, Az., native.

The children learned about military heritage. The Marine Corps birthday, motto, colors and various other Marine Corps facts and lessons were given to the youngsters.

Amber Bilderein, a L.I.N.K.S. trainer and Albuquerque, NM., native, held out a Marine Corps noncommissioned officer sword, during one class and asked the children. “Can any of you tell me what this is?”

“Is that a ninja sword?” a boy blurted out from the stands.

“No,” Bilderein said with a smile, “This is an NCO sword.”

“Is that used in combat?”

asked another anxious young one.

“No,” she said again, this time broken up with laughter. She then went on to explain the tradition and ceremonial uses for the sword.

Different military topics were also discussed, including one common hardship that families face in the military – deployment.

L.I.N.K.S. mentors talked about coping methods such as keeping a journal and encouraging children to stay connected with their deployed parents, outlining care packages, letters, e-mail and Skype as a few of many ways to bridge the gap.

The children also participated in relay races and other team building activities, one of which involved a team packing and carrying Marine gear from one end of the field to the other.

Marine volunteers with different units here also participated in the event, sharing with the children their different jobs, as well as different Marine uniforms.

“It’s great to educate children about the Marine Corps tradition, and to teach them what it’s like to look like and be a Marine,” said one of the volunteers, Lance Cpl. Nick Risdale, a motor transport operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, and a Des Moines, Iowa native.

During lunch, Marines showed the young partici-

pants how to prepare Meals Ready-to-Eat rations, which some took kindly to more than others.

At the end of the day, 11-year-old Christian Ramirez reflected on his new knowledge and experience.

“I thought it was pretty cool, because we have to learn about deployment and teamwork and eating MREs,” said the San Diego native.

L.I.N.K.S. hosts a CAX twice a year for children to help them better understand the roles their parents play in the Marine Corps. More information on L.I.N.K.S. and sponsored events can be found on <http://mcsc29palms.com>.



Sgt. Charles O. Brown, an unmanned aerial vehicle technician with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, and Jamestown N.Y., native, points out the camera fixed to the bottom of a UAV, to youngsters, Wednesday at a Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills-sponsored Combined Armed Exercise at Felix Field. The purpose of the event was to educate children about different aspects of the Marine Corps.



Pvt. Mathew Miscione, a motor transport operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 20, from Lancaster Calif., high fives children after completing an obstacle course Wednesday.



Nolan Downey runs during a relay in a flak jacket and helmet, Wednesday, at a Lifestyle, Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Combined Armed Exercise at Felix Field. The purpose of the event was to educate children about different aspects of the Marine Corps.

NMCRS Fund Drive tracker

Unit	Percent of personnel contacted
MCAGCC HQBN	71%
MCCES	97%
MWSS-374	70%
TTECG	78%
NAVAL HOSPITAL	56%
23RD DENTAL	92%
MWTC BRIDGEPORT	38%
VMU-1	61%
VMU-3	75%
SERGEANTS COURSE	100%
MVSD	38%
7TH MARINE REGIMENT	0%
1ST BN., 7TH MARINES	72%
2ND BN., 7TH MARINES	0%
3RD BN., 7TH MARINES	100%
3RD BN., 4TH MARINES	0%
3RD BN., 11TH MARINES	0%
3RD AAB	0%
3RD LAR	80%
3RD CEB	0%
1ST TANKS	61%
CLB-7	100%
MCTOG	58%
ATG	100%
4TH TANKS	100%

Active Duty Fund Drive has been extended until April 16
Overall contact 69%
Total funds collected \$146,666.91

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Christian Center Church
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Begin Your Week With Pastor T. K. & Gerri Washington

- Sunday School - 10 A.M.
- Sunday Morning Worship - 11:30 A.M.
- Wednesday Night Church in Action - 7 P.M.
- Friday Night Intercessory Prayer - 7 P.M.

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Wednesdays 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Saturdays 6:00 PM

Servicio en Espanol: Sun 10:40 AM & Wed 7:00 PM

Loving God Loving People

Spirit and Truth Worship Center
Perry L. Ford, Senior Pastor

Service Times:
Sunday Morning Worship 9:45
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00
(760) 361-2450
4751 Adobe Rd.
29 Palms, Ca. 92277
spirit_truthworshipcenter@yahoo.com

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www.lutheransonline.com/popuyuc

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Onaga at Church St., Y.V.
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Service Times
Sunday 9:00 am
Nursery provided at 9:00am
367-7812
www.oasiscommunitychurch.com

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74301 Two Mile Rd., 29 Palms
(Next to Lucky Park)
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Sundays 10:00 am 6:00 pm
Wednesdays 7:30 pm
Website: TwoMileApostolic.com
760-367-0080

United Methodist Church
Joy in Worship-Fun in Fellowship
Sunday Worship-10:30 AM
57273 Onaga Trail at Joshua Lane
Yucca Valley CA-760-365-3671
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

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

New Beginning Community Church
Christ Centered Church
Pastor Lynn G. Thompson
Sunday: 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 6:00 PM
Wed: 6:00 PM
55922 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley
760-910-5261

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

First Baptist Church of 29 Palms
Childcare Available
Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Services
Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Young Married Couples Ministry 6:30 p.m.
www.fbc29.org
6414 Split Rock Ave., 29 Palms, CA 760-367-7561

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Sat. Mass 4:30 pm
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Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 PM
Acts 2:38
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29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Come Pray With Us



Maj. Michael D. Glass, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer in charge, explains to Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, what his Marines are doing while creating homemade explosives to help keep the Marines up to date on new IEDs being made in Afghanistan during the Commandant and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps' visit to the Combat Center Monday.

VISIT, from A1

overviews with the Combat Center's commanding general and top leaders with the Installation and Logistics command.

Monday morning, Conway spoke to the officers aboard the installation while Kent spoke to the staff noncommissioned officers regarding the future of the Marine Corps, and gave the Marines a chance to ask questions.

The commandant and sergeant major then made their way to Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group and toured their facilities while receiving a status update regarding the most recent training MCTOG conducts.

The last stop for the leaders was Range 051, where Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians create and use improvised explosive devices found in Iraq

and Afghanistan to find the best way to properly disarm and remove the explosives before service members become casualties.

Maj. Michael D. Glass, the EOD officer in charge, explained all the different IEDs his technicians find while deployed, and how fast the turn-around is when a new IED is found.

Conway and Kent then spoke to the EOD Marines and members of the Federal

Bureau of Investigation, thanking them for their hard work to keep deploying Marines alive.

"Having these hard working Marines is what makes our Corps stronger every day," said Kent, a Memphis, Tenn., native. "I am proud of these Marines."

To view photos of their visit to the Combat Center, log on to http://www.marines.mil/units/hqmc/cmc/cmc_photogallery.



Gen. James T. Conway, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, shakes hands with Sgt. James Ratliff, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician for the Combat Center.

TOUGH MINDED
OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt



I was a child during the Great Depression and lived on a farm without running water or electricity. However, our loving family had some great moments together. One was coloring eggs at Easter.

What I remember best is the faintly vinegary smell of the cups of dye I dipped the eggs in, and the way each egg was transformed as I lowered it into the colored liquid.

There was something magical about the whole process. Then there were those little tissue paper press-ons that left colored chicks or rabbits on the eggs, completing the job.

I especially liked little yellow chicks on blue eggs; but green bunnies on yellow eggs weren't bad either! In addition, my mother always boiled at least one dozen eggs in a kettle containing a larger number of onion skins. When the eggs were taken from the boiling water, the eggs had become golden brown and seemed especially attractive.

Now I am a man and I still enjoy doing things with family and friends at Easter.

Following Sunday worship this Easter I'm heading for Rattlesnake Jake's in Morongo Valley. The wonderful, and devout, Albert family is offering a special Easter Brunch from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. in their spacious restaurant. They provide great food and they have superior service.

They offer prime rib, ham, fish, chicken rolls, gravy, potatoes and vegetables, of course. And get this, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. they have eggs, bacon, sausage, French toast, biscuits and gravy, and muffins.

In addition they include all kinds of salads and desserts. Wow! Come and join us.

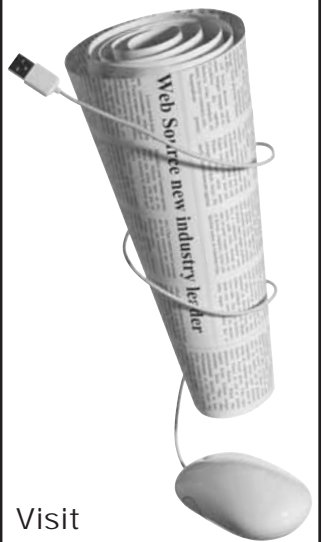
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Hundreds of People Cash In at the Twentynine Palms Roadshow Yesterday

CA License # 36001149
By Jason Delong
Treasure Hunters Roadshow
STAFF WRITER

Yesterday at the **Headquarters**, hundreds lined up to cash antiques, collectibles, gold and jewelry in at the Roadshow. The free event is in **Twentynine Palms** all week buying gold, silver antiques and collectibles. One visitor I spoke with yesterday

“It is unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in a little cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces and in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$712.37.”

said “It’s unbelievable, I brought in some old coins that had been in a little cigar box for years and some old herringbone necklaces and in less than fifteen minutes I left with a check for \$712.37. That stuff has been in my jewelry box and dresser for at least 20 years.” Another gentlemen brought an old Fender guitar his father bought years ago. “Dad had less than fifty bucks in that guitar.” The Roadshow expert that assisted him, made a few phone calls and a Veterinarian in Seattle, Washington bought the guitar for \$5700.00. The seller continued, “I got another \$150.00 for a broken necklace and an old class ring, it’s not everyday someone brings six thousand

Gold and Silver pour into yesterdays Roadshow due to highest prices in 40 years.



Above • A couple waits with anticipation while Roadshow expert examines their antiques and gold items. The Roadshow is at the **Headquarters** this week.

dollars to town with your name on it.” Jeff Parsons, President of the Treasure Hunters Roadshow commented, “Lots of people have items that they know are valuable but just don’t know where to sell them. Old toys, trains, swords, guitars, pocket watches or just about anything

old is valuable to collectors. These collectors are willing to pay big money for those items they are looking for.” This week’s Roadshow is the place to get connected with those collectors. The process is free and anyone can brings items down to the event. If the Roadshow experts find items their

collectors are interested in, offers will be made to purchase those items. About 80% of the guests that attend the show end up selling one or more items at the event. Antiques and collectibles are not the only items the Roadshow is buying. “Gold and silver markets

are soaring.” says Archie Davis, a Roadshow representative. “Broken jewelry and gold or silver coins add up very quickly. I just finished working with a gentleman that had an old class ring, two bracelets, and handful of silver dollars,... his check was for over

“If you go to the Roadshow, you can cash-in your items for top dollar. Roadshow representatives will be available to assess and purchase your items at the Headquarters through Saturday in Twentynine Palms.”

\$650.00. I would say that there were well over 100 people in here yesterday that sold their scrap gold.” One gentleman holding his check for over \$1250.00 in the lobby of the event yesterday had this comment, “I am so happy I decided to come to the Roadshow. I saw the newspaper ad for the event and brought in an old German sword I brought back from World War II and some old coins and here is my check. What a great thing for our community. I am heading home now to see what else I have they might be interested in.” The Roadshow continues today starting at 9am. The event is free and no appointment is needed.

Collectors desire vintage military items, Items from both U.S. and foreign origins from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Spanish-American War, Revolutionary War and Calvary times have great value. Items such as swords, daggers, medals, hardware bayonets, etc.

Gold Prices High, Cash In Now
“It’s a modern day gold rush,” said Jeff Parsons. Gold is now trading at 40 year highs, and you can cash in by bringing your items to the Treasure Hunters Roadshow.”
All types of gold are wanted, including gold coins, Krugerrands, Maple Leafs, and other gold bars, etc. All gold jewelry, including broken jewelry is accepted. Anything gold is wanted.
All silver items, including silver coins, bars and American Eagles are accepted. Sterling silver items like flatware, tea sets, etc. are welcome.



Roadshow Coin and gold expert Paul Dichraff examines a large presentation of coins, gold and collectibles.

Here is how it works:

- Gather items of interest from your attic, garage, basement, etc There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring
- No appointment necessary
- If interested in selling, we will consult our collector’s database to see if a buyer exists. 90% of all items have offers in our database
- The offer is made on the spot on behalf of our collectors making the offer
- If you decide to accept the offer, we will pay you on the spot and ship the item to the collector. The collector pays all shipping and handling charges
- You get 100% of the offer with no hidden fees

The entire process only takes a few minutes

The Treasure Hunter’s Roadshow event continues through Saturday in Twentynine Palms.

www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com

The Roadshow is featured this week:

March 30th-April 3rd

Tuesday - Friday 9 AM - 6 PM and Saturday 9AM - 4PM

FREE ADMISSION

Headquarters

5864 Adobe Rd., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Directions (760) 367-2100 Show Info (866) 306-6655

Cash in with the power of the International Collectors Association
Treasure Hunters Roadshow represents over 5000 members worldwide who are paying **TOP DOLLAR** the following types of items.

• **COINS** - Any and all coins made before 1964. This includes all silver and gold coins, dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. All conditions wanted!

• **GOLD & SILVER** - PRICES AT 40 YEAR HIGH! for platinum, gold and silver during this event. Broken jewelry, dental gold, old coins, pocket watches, Kruggerands, Gold bars Canadian Maple Leafs, etc.

• **JEWELRY** - Gold, Silver, Platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires and all types of stones, metals, etc. Rings, bracelets, necklaces, all others including broken jewelry. Early costume jewelry wanted.

• **WATCHES & POCKET WATCHES** - Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, Chopard, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Illinois, Hamilton, all others.

• **TOYS, TRAINS & DOLLS** - All types of toys made before 1965 including: Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, battery toys, Mickey Mouse, train sets, all gauges, accessories, individual cars, Marklin, American Flyer, Lionel, Hafner, all other trains, Barbie Dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple, Characters, German, all makers accepted.

• **MILITARY ITEMS, SWORDS** - Civil War, Revolutionary War, WWI, WWII, etc. Items of interest include swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear, letters, The older the swords, the better. All types wanted.

• **ADVERTISING ITEMS** - Metal and Porcelain signs, gas companies, beer and liquor makers, automobile, implements, etc.



Silver and Gold Coin Prices Up During Poor Economy.
Collectors and Enthusiasts in Twentynine Palms with \$200,000 to Purchase Yours!
Got Coin? It might be just the time to cash in. This week starting Tuesday and continuing through Saturday, the International Collectors Association in conjunction with Treasure Hunters Roadshow will be purchasing all types of silver and gold coins direct from the public. All are welcome and the event is free.

We represent many of the world’s top numismatic coin collectors

We have been directly involved in millions of dollars worth of rare cash and coin sales over the past 15 years.
Our private collectors are seeking all types of rare coins and currency.
We have the resources available to pay you top prices for all types of rare coins or entire collections. We can arrange a private discreet meeting with you at your bank or in one of our private suites. Whether you are ready to sell your life long collection or you are settling an estate we are at your service. We are professional, honest and discreet.



From a single item to complete collections, the most sought after types of coins are:
• Any coins dated prior to 1820, especially those dated 1700’s • High Grade Early Coins • Graded Coins • Proof Coins • Gold Coins with C, D,O and CC mint marks • Rare Dates • Complete Coin Type sets • Rare Paper Currency

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Save money with TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy

TYLER PATTERSON
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Some say stress can make you sick, and having too much to do certainly contributes to stress. If your to-do list overflows, consider saving yourself some time and hard-earned cash by filling your prescriptions through TMOP, the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy.

Using the TMOP is easy, but how to get started depends on whether you're

submitting a new or a refill prescription.

To order a new prescription through TMOP, do one of the following:

- Have your doctor call Express Scripts toll-free at 877-283-3858.
- Have your doctor fax your order form and your written prescription to Express Scripts at 877-895-1900.
- Complete an Order Form (print a blank Order Form at <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRI-CARE/>) and mail the completed form and your written prescription to:

Express Scripts, Inc.
PO Box 52150
Phoenix, AZ 85072

To refill a prescription you already receive through TMOP, do one of the following:

- Order your refill online at <http://www.express-scripts.com/members/TRI-CARE/>

- Order your refill by calling the toll-free number on your prescription bottle.
- Complete and mail back the refill form that came with your current prescription.

TMOP can fill and deliver prescriptions anywhere in the United States and its territories, including APO/FPO addresses. The prescription is sent to the address of your choice. It could be your office, your home or anywhere. Not only is the service

convenient, it will save you money. Using TMOP, you can order a 90-day supply of your medication and save up to 66 percent.

Although the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy is a cost-savings over retail, remember that filling prescriptions at a local military clinic pharmacy remains the least expensive option

for TRICARE beneficiaries. Additionally, refrigerated medications cannot be ordered through TMOP.

TriWest does not administer the TMOP program. It is administered by Express Scripts, Inc. For more information, contact Express Scripts, Inc., at 1-877-363-1303 or visit <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRI-CARE/>.

USA Cares offers new military lender education program

JOHN F. REVELL
USA Cares

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. – USA Cares has launched a new education course designed to provide loan officers with a clear understanding of how to work with military clients.

Kentucky Neighborhood Bank is pleased to have the first graduates of this new program and is among the first banks to offer this level of expert customer service to military men and women.

Through the USA Cares Military Family Housing Lender Education Program – accessed online at <http://www.usacares.org> – the Participating Lender Course provides the tools and knowledge needed to effectively work with military borrowers, especially in a fast-paced and competitive market. It also includes timely advice for lenders regarding foreclosure prevention.

“This course aims to put greater numbers of military families into affordable homes through knowledgeable lenders who understand

the unique circumstances brought about by military service” said USA Cares executive director Bill Nelson.

The course helps lenders makes sense of the military language, rank and pay system. It even outlines what happens when a service member is injured, and explains how their pay will continue during hospitalization and treatment. Earning the Certificate of Completion for the Participating Lender Course indicates a significant knowledge base that active duty service members and veterans can rely on for prompt and accurate service of their housing needs.

Certified Participating Lenders will adhere to specific standards of practice, representing a commitment to provide quality service to military borrowers.

USA Cares is no stranger to supporting the homeownership goals of military families.

“We’ve paid out over one million dollars to save military family homes from foreclosure in the past three years,” said Jennifer

Robinson, the USA Cares director of assistance. “This new effort will help reduce the need for such assistance by supporting military borrowers and their lenders as they work together to make affordable and sustainable housing decisions.”

USA Cares is a nonprofit organization that helps post 9/11 military families bear the burdens of service with financial and advocacy support. Its mission is to help with basic needs during financial crisis, to assist combat wounded veterans and their families, and to prevent private military home foreclosures and evictions. In six years, USA Cares has received more than 21,000 requests and responded with more than \$6.7 million in grants. Military families anywhere in America can apply for assistance through the USA Cares Web site, <http://www.usacares.org>, or by calling 1-800-773-0387. For more information on USA Cares, call 270-352-5451, extension 101, or visit the organization's Web site.

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- 1 day special collection for above electronics**

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- Radioactive Wastes
- Medical Wastes/Non-Sharp Medical Wastes
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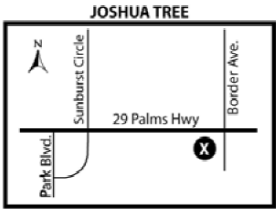
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San Bernardino County Fire Department, Household Hazardous Waste Program
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9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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YOUR AD HERE!

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 830-6213.



CPL. R. LOGAN KYLE

Sheriff Rod Hoops, the San Bernardino County sheriff, presents 1st Sgt. Billy Davidson, a former member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, with the Sheriff's Medal for Valor during the 2010 San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Exceptional Service Awards ceremony at the California Theatre of the Performing Arts Wednesday.

SERVICE, from A1

Knox, Ky., where they're currently stationed to attend the ceremony, said when she heard what her husband did she was not surprised. "He usually downplays all the great things he does, and when he called me, he just said he helped out in a car crash," said Kendra, a native of Birmingham, Mich. "When I got home, I saw he had burns on his hands. That's just the kind of person he is - he always does the right thing." In true form, Davidson said he was only doing what he thought anyone else in his situation would do. "I feel pretty good about what I did," he said. "To be honest, I don't want to sound corny or anything, I just did what I thought any other Marine who found himself in that situation would do."

Davidson said he plans to visit with friends and family before heading back to his current duty station, where he is currently serving as the first sergeant for Marine Detachment Fort Knox, Ky.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Lance Cpl. Michael A. Bradley accepts a certificate of recognition from Maj. David L. Jones, the provost marshal, after receiving the 2009 Twentynine Palms Provost Marshal's Office Officer of the Year Award outside PMO's headquarters Tuesday.

PMO, from A1

and conducted security checks and community patrols among a slew of other duties. Bradley also worked with the San Bernardino Police Department on numerous occasions, helping to process installation and state suspensions. He also responded to two calls for service from the local police department, one of which included a barricaded suspect. "He has a go-getter attitude, and he's not afraid to do his job," said Staff Sgt. Kelly Guinther, Bradley's watch commander. "He's professional, level-headed and is never afraid to ask questions." Ultimately, Bradley was selected for the award because he was the one who progressed the most out of all the military police, Guinther added. During his time off, Bradley volunteered with the Provost Marshal's Criminal Investigation Division, working narcotics checkpoints. "I love what I do," Bradley said. "I try to stay involved and keep learning because this field of work is constantly changing." Bradley desires to stay in law enforcement and has thoughts of joining a local police department or the Nevada Highway Patrol upon his end of active service.

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4	8	2	7	3	1	6	9	5
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NFL players, cheerleaders visit Combat Center, help teach youth camps



Bonnie-Jill Laflin, a cheerleader for the Los Angeles Lakers, a former NFL cheerleader, and a member of Sweethearts for Soldiers, instructs Combat Center children on different dance routines Wednesday.

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Two former NFL players and two professional cheerleaders, who are members of Sweethearts for Soldiers, visited the Combat Center this week to tour the installation to thank

Marines and sailors for their service, and help children during a youth football and cheerleading camp. Wednesday, before the camp started, the group visited with various units aboard the Combat Center, and traveled to Range 500 with Marines from 1st Tank

Battalion where they observed an M1-A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank firing downrange, and watched an M2 50 caliber machine gun shred a target apart. "It was just absolutely amazing watching those tanks firing today," said Chris Hayes, a former Green

Bay Packers defensive back and Super Bowl XXXI champion, as he showed everybody around him the video of the action he shot on his phone. "I was just blown away by the power behind these machines. I was completely speechless when it fired. It was just —

wow!" The players and cheerleaders also visited the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, where they thanked the service members for protecting the
See NFL, B4



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Col. Wes Weston, the assistant chief of staff for Installation and Logistics, drives his golf ball down the green during a golf tournament which was held to help raise money and awareness for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive March 26 at the Combat Center's Desert Winds Golf Course.

NMCRS hosts golf tournament, raises money for Fund Drive

CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Combat Center's Navy Marine Corps Relief Society hosted a golf tournament at the Desert Winds Golf Course March 26 to help raise money and awareness for the NMCRS Active Duty Fund Drive. More than \$500 was raised during the tournament. Participants paid \$50; \$5 from each payment was donated to the Fund Drive. More than 70 Combat Center personnel attended the event. The tournament kicked off at 8 a.m., after splitting the participants into four-man teams. Players were also able to purchase raffle tickets and participate in a hole-in-one competition.

"When I was a young lance corporal, the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society helped me out a lot," said Carl Levering, a Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School tactical training data systems instructor, and a player in the golf tournament. "I see them helping the Marines out at the schoolhouse all the time. It is a wonderful thing to see Marines and sailors helping Marines and sailors." Ray Caldwell, the Combat Center's director of NMCRS and a Xena, Ohio native, said this year's golf tournament was a success, especially since Cheri Nylen, the director of the NMCRS Headquarters in Arlington, Va., was able to attend the tournament during her tour of the NMCRS' offices through-

out the West Coast. "[The Combat Center] has a very high success rate for the Fund Drive," said Nylen, a Springfield, Va., native. "Twentynine Palms sets an amazing example of volunteers for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society." The NMCRS Fund Drive is an annual fundraiser that is run by active duty Marines and sailors. The goal of this year's Fund Drive is to reach 100 percent contact to all the service members aboard the installation and surpass the amount of donations reached last year at \$238,526. So far, the Fund Drive has reached more than 69 percent contact, has raised \$146,759.96, and will end April 16.

Motorcycle club to host 100-mile pledge ride

PRESS RELEASE
BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE

TWENTYNINE PALMS – The Inland Empire chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse announces the newest must-do event for April 2010 – a 100-mile pledge ride to help victims of child abuse. The event will start at Buckles and Belts motorcycle parts and accessories shop in Calimesa, Calif., at 8 a.m., with a ride through the Inland Empire, and will end at Pappy & Harriet's in Pioneertown. Tickets are \$25 per person and may be purchased the morning of the event during registration at Buckles & Belts. Tickets will also be available at the door at Pappy and Harriet's after 1 p.m. The \$25 donation will include a meal, entry in the raffle and two live bands for entertainment. All proceeds from the event will go to provide therapy funding for children needing assistance, and funding for provisions to provide support and empowerment. Bikers Against Child Abuse exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children by empowering them so they do not feel

afraid of the world in which they live. The BACA IE area includes and has members from Riverside, San Bernardino, Palm Springs, and the Morongo Basin. BACA members are subject to an extensive background check, have ridden with the chapter for at least a year, and when selected as a child contact, receive special care instructions from a licensed mental health professional. How BACA works is the child is given the names and phone numbers of two BACA members residing geographically closest to them, who then become the child's primary contact person(s). Anytime the child feels scared and feels the need for the presence of his new BACA family, the child may call upon these bikers to go to the child's house, and provide the necessary reassurance to feel safe and protected. A recognized, authorized agency with which an abused child has had contact determines if child is still frightened by his or her environment. The agency contacts BACA, or refers the individual to contact our BACA child

liaison. The liaison validates that authorities have been contacted, and the case is being processed within the system. The liaison contacts the family and the entire BACA chapter rides to meet the child. These initial visits generally last about a half an hour, and the child is given a BACA vest, bumper stickers, and other gifts that are generally donated by the public. The vest is meant to be a symbol to the children that they are not alone. BACA members and supporters also support the children by providing escorts for them if they feel scared in their neighborhoods, riding by their homes on a regular basis, supporting the children at court and parole hearings, attending their interviews, and staying with the children if they are alone and frightened. The BACA members never go to the child's house alone, and never without the knowledge or permission of the parents. For more information on the event or the organization, or for anyone who wishes to contribute a pledge, call 951-333-0282 or send an e-mail to baca_ie@yahoo.com.

Easter weekend services

Catholic Chapel
12 p.m. Good Friday – "Passion of Christ" screening in the St. Francis Room
3 p.m. – Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
8 p.m., Saturday – Easter Vigil at Catholic Chapel
9:30 a.m. – Easter Sunday Mass
4 p.m. – Sunday Vespers

Protestant Chapel
12 p.m., Good Friday – "The Real Meaning of Easter" screening in the East Wing
12-3 p.m. – Prayer and meditation
9 a.m. Easter Sunday – Contemporary Calvary service
10:30 a.m. – Traditional Good Shepherd service
12:15 p.m. – Gospel

Additionally, there will be an installation wide Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field for all who wish to attend.





Local Events

Stormin' Norman and the Thunder
Description: Country music by this Nashville band
When: 7:30 p.m., Friday
Kingsizemaybe
Description: A mix of rock, soul and country
When: 8 p.m., Saturday
Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information call 365-5956 or visit
<http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Theatre: "Walmartopia"
Description: Play lampoons retail giant
When: 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays through April 10
Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 361-4151 or visit
<http://www.theatre29.com>.

Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival
When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Where: Joshua Tree National Park Oasis Visitor Center
74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms
For information call 367-5537 or visit
<http://www.joshuatree.org/artfestival.html>.

"April" at Groves Cabin Theatre
Description: An original work by Kurt Schauppner
When: 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays through May 2.
Where: Groves Cabin Theatre
8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley
For more information call 365-4523.

The Elixir Piano Trio performing classical works
Description: The trio is back by popular demand
When: 8 p.m., Friday, April 9
Where: The Blak Box Theatre
61231 Twentynine Palms Highway, Joshua Tree
For more information call 366-3777 or visit
<http://www.hidesertplayhouse.com>.

Lower Desert

WBC Welterweight Championship Boxing
Description: Orlando Lora vs David Estrada
When: 4 p.m., Saturday, April 10
Where: Agua Caliente
32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

The Boys in Concert
Description: Alternative rock concert
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, April 17
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit
<http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

May Day! Country Western and Classic Rock Concert and Dance
Description: Iron Horse Marines Inaugural Fund-raiser featuring Billy Erickson and the Bandits.
When: 6 p.m., Saturday, May 1
Where: Palm Springs American Legion
400 North Belardo, Palm Springs
For more information call 325-6229.

The music of Snoop Dog and the Comedy of Mike Epps in one show
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 1
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Earth, Wind and Fire
Description: Music Hall of Fame band plays jazz and rhythm and blues hits
When: 8 p.m., Friday, May 14
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, April 2
6 p.m. – Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Extraordinary Measures, Rated PG
Midnight – The Wolfman, Rated R

Saturday, April 3
11 a.m. – Avatar, Rated PG-13
2 p.m. – Dear John, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Valentine's Day, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The Crazies, Rated R

Sunday, April 4
2 p.m. – Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Shutter Island, Rated R
9 p.m. – Cop Out, Rated R

Monday, April 5
7 p.m. – The Wolfman, Rated R

Tuesday, April 6
7 p.m. – Extraordinary Measures, Rated PG

Wednesday, April 7
7 p.m. – Dear John, Rated PG-13

Thursday, April 8
7 p.m. – From Paris with Love, Rated R

Matt Damon hunts WMDs in 'Green Zone'

NEIL POND
AMERICAN PROFILE

"Green Zone"
Rated R

A U.S. Army soldier in Baghdad puts his life on the line every day looking for explosives. No, it's not "The Hurt Locker." But it's set on the same dangerous playing field: post-invasion Iraq in 2003.

In this case, Matt Damon plays a U.S. Army chief warrant officer charged with finding hidden weapons of mass destruction as American-led coalition forces work to set up a democratic government in the turbulent region, dispel terrorism and liberate the Iraqi people from tyranny.

The only problem, as everyone now knows, there were no weapons of mass destruction. Damon's character, Roy Miller, suspects as much, and he starts looking for the real reason for his high-stakes hunt.

The title refers to the area in central Baghdad that became the fortified, safe-zone operations center of the international coalition forces. As Miller digs around deeper in

the Green Zone, he connects the deadly dots with the help of a rumpled CIA veteran (Brendan Gleeson) and a helpful Iraqi citizen (Kahid Abdalla). Greg Kinnear plays a weaselly Pentagon official who clearly knows more than he's willing to divulge, and Amy Ryan is an embedded "Wall Street Journal" reporter duped by bogus intel.

The characters are all loosely based on real people, as detailed in the book "Life in the Emerald City" by Rajiv Chandrasekaran. In his nonfiction account of the early post-war occupation of Baghdad, the "Washington Post" editor

depicted a tragicomic tangle of bureaucratic, diplomatic and cultural missteps that impeded the coalition's mission of bringing peace and stability to the country.

British director Paul Greengrass keeps his marquee star, Damon, front and center for most of the movie – and usually in front of a jerky, hand-held camera that creates an edgy, breathless, you-are-there, in-the-trenches feel. This works well for action sequences, but seems like a bit of overkill for more pedestrian moments.

As Damon's character races to find a hiding Iraqi

general before American forces can eliminate him, he's also trying to find the truth he knows the Republican Guard officer can provide.

That truth hardly comes across as the bombshell the movie makes it out to be, now more than seven years down the line.

"Green Zone" may ruffle a few hawkish feathers in its depiction of an American military mission based on falsehood and deception, but it's difficult to imagine anyone being shocked – or awed – by its climactic "revelation," no matter which direction your patriotic plumage points.

COURTESY PHOTO

Cinema 6

MOVIE TIMES 365-9633

Clash Of The Titans (PG13)
Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

Diary Of A Wimpy Kid (PG)
Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

How To Train Your Dragon (PG)
Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

Hot Tub Time Machine (R)
Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

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5:00	5:25	5:30	5:40	5:45	6:00	6:10	7:00

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday

Palm Springs Airport	Indian Canyon & Andreas (Casino)	Indian Canyon & Tacheva (Hospital)	Stater Bros WalMart	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 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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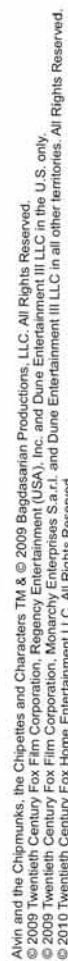
Athlete of the Week



Name: Christopher Apodaca
Hometown: Garden Grove, Calif.
Job title: Radar repairman
Unit: Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School
Recognition: Trying out for the All-Marine Volleyball Team.
Favorite aspect of the sport: "Without a good team you know and trust everything falls apart. You need a strong team to play a strong game."
Advice for aspiring athletes: "Whatever you are striving for, and no matter your set backs, just keep trying and eventually everything will become second nature to you."



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Intramural Basketball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
HQB N A	11	0
MCCES Allstars	10	1
Ole School	10	1
1st Tanks	7	3
3rd CEB	9	4
CLB-7	6	4
MCCES A	7	5
IPAC	6	5
MWSS-374	4	7
MCCES B	3	7
NHTP	2	8
3/4	2	9
VMU-1	1	11
CLD	0	13

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NFL, from B1

freedom of America.

After an hour of free time at the hotel, they made their way to Felix Field, where they met up with John “Tex” Williams, a coach with Coaches Solution Innovations, who was running the football camp.

Williams, along with Hayes’ assistance, set up the field and began running the children through drills to help children improve the basics, such as throwing and tackling while using drills which simulated game-like conditions.

“I want to make sure these kids know they have the same opportunities that civilian children do,” said Hayes, a San Bernardino, Calif., native. “I want them to pursue their dreams and just be kids. I want them to be interested in running around and playing organized sports– and maybe one day, some of these kids can make their way to professional football.”

According to the CSI Web site, <http://www.csi-football.com>, the camp is designed to instill a sense of discipline, strong work ethic, loyalty, respect and teamwork, and the coach-



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

John “Tex” Williams, a coach with Coaches Solution Innovations, teaches children the proper way to tackle using blocking pads Wednesday during a three-day Youth Sports cheerleading and football camp at Felix Field.

es work to encourage those characteristics with in their players.

“Twentynine Palms has a lot of talent out here,” said Williams, a Barstow, Calif., native. “When we have a program that starts

the kids off young, it really gives them a head start to their future.”

More than 70 children attended the football camp, and 30 participated in the cheerleading camp.

While the boys, with a

small handful of girls, tackled blocking pads, Tonya Helman, a former cheerleader for the San Diego Chargers, and founder of Sweethearts for Soldiers, and Bonnie-Jill Laflin, a cheerleader for the Los

Angeles Lakers and a former NFL cheerleader, led their dancers through a handful of dance routines and answered all the questions the children had about professional choreography.

“The children were so

well behaved and extremely eager to learn and ask questions; I was surprised,” said Helman, a Peoria, Ariz., native. “After showing them a dance routine, they really caught on fast. I was very pleasantly surprised.”

The NFL players and cheerleaders’ last day aboard the installation started with a static display of military vehicles with 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, and a cake cutting ceremony with Navy personnel.

After a few more trips to various units aboard the Combat Center, they spent another hour with the children in the camp. The children, parents, coaches, and NFL players and cheerleaders then went to a barbeque at the Desert Winds Golf Course Thursday night.

Joe Rosselli, the youth and community recreational manager, said the entire event went above and beyond the Youth Sports programs’ expectations.

“It is great to see NFL players come to our [installation] and see what Marines do,” said Rosselli, a Shenandoah, Penn., native. “Parents have also been really receptive to having positive role models come out and teach their kids.”

Happy Easter!

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