

# OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 30, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

VOL. 53 ISSUE 17

## Week-long Earth Day celebration shows Combat Center on track

**Seminar to offer unique education opportunity**

**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

An upcoming visit to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., from representatives of various Michigan universities could result in added educational opportunities for Combat Center service members, particularly those considering college education after they end their active duty service obligations.

The overall visit, which will include several tours and briefings for the representatives, a luncheon with select Marines and sailors and an evening social, will serve as an opportunity for the universities to screen and recruit potential students for admission, educate interested service members of opportunities presented by Michigan universities and expose the representatives to the extent of Department of Defense and Marine Corps education programs and initiatives.

An information briefing on Michigan universities, to be hosted by Marine Corps Installations West at the MCAS Miramar education center, is scheduled for 1:10 p.m. and is open to all interested service members from the MCI West area. Individual student interviews with the representatives are scheduled to take place immediately

See SEMINAR, A7



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Combat Center employees show enthusiasm at the start of the 5k Earth Day Challenge Run in support of Earth Day April 22 at the Del Valle track.

**CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Earth Day 2010 and the Combat Center's Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division brought an

added spark of green to the installation with a week of environmentally-savvy activities April 17 to 23.

Chris Ward, the Comprehensive Environmental Training Education Program manager for the Combat

Center's NREA, said the Combat Center is already on its way to making every day "Earth Day," but this year, his office focused heavily on awareness.

Combat Center personnel participated in and host-

ed a variety of events throughout the week to clean up the desert, raise awareness about environmental impact and educate the local community about what the Marine Corps does year-round to preserve the

natural environment.

Earth Week began April 17 with a conservation fair in Yucca Valley, Calif., where emphasis was placed on the Combat Center's stewardship

See EARTH, A6

## New comm technology to help Marines, families ride high-tech wave

**CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Whether it be communications between infantrymen and artillery posts, commanders and their platoons or Marines and their families back home, all lines of communication in a combat environment rely on Digital Technical Control facilities to reach their intended destinations.

The DTC facility, a mobile communications hub serving forward deployed operational forces, first became operational in 2002. Although the system has served the Marine Corps well, a newer version is being readied for 2011, said Master Sgt. Christopher George, the Chief Instructor for the Technical Control Courses for Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School.

However, as with any new equipment, new training and a validation of the gear and training curriculum is needed.

Recently, instructors were able to do both while also learning how to maintain and operate the new DTC facility during Instructor and Key Personnel training at MCCES throughout February.

"Our networks are demanding more data at higher

speeds. This new technology does exactly that," explained the Vidor, Texas, native.

Some of the new vans' equipment includes various multiplexers, switchboards, better encryption devices, improved patch panels and network monitoring capabilities.

The new DTC facility will allow users to ride a new technological wave, George said.

"In comparison to civilian Internet, we have gone from dial-up to roadrunner-type speeds, so we can pass more information quicker to the warriors and commanders who need it," he explained.

The new equipment could not have come at a better time, because the technology the Corps uses is ever-changing, said Staff Sgt. Enrique Laguna, an MCCES instructor.

"Formations are a thing of the past," said the Los Angeles native. "Rarely are things passed by spoken word."

Although many Marines may disagree with Laguna, few would argue against his claim that "things are now passed by Microsoft Outlook e-mails, phones and recently, telecommunication conferences

See DIGITAL, A3



CPL. J. J. BUTLER

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Danley, a corpsman with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, along with his wife, Christina, is introduced to his newborn son, Caleb, after returning from a deployment to Afghanistan Wednesday.

## Thundering Third returns home from Afghanistan

**CPL. J. J. BUTLER**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors of Headquarters and Services, India, Lima and Weapons Companies, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, returned from their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom this week.

The Thundering Third began their tour of duty in October, as part of

Regimental Combat Team 7. Their mission was to support Afghan National Security Forces throughout southern Afghanistan and counterinsurgency operations in Helmand, Farah and Nimruz Provinces.

"Initially, it was very challenging, working with the Afghan leaders from three different provinces," said 1st Lt. Patrick Kelly, the weapons platoon commander, Company I. "Throughout our deployment, we vastly improved

community relations between Coalition Forces and local governments."

Whether it was providing school supplies for children or medical care for people in need, the humanitarian actions of the Marines and sailors helped gain the trust of the local population, said Lance Cpl. Eric Collins, a rifleman with weapons platoon, Co. I.

"People didn't want to talk to us at

See THIRD, A6



Aerial roller coaster ~ See A4



Signs of progress ~ See A5



B-ball battle ~ See B1



Feet 'bare' all ~ See B1



# Dump clutter, stay green, go paperless

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# Survey seeks to improve transition to civilian life

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES PRESS RELEASE

QUANTICO, Va. – Headquarters Marine Corps is seeking feedback from Marines who have left the service during the past four years regarding their transition from military to civilian life via an online survey which will run May 3-10.

This study will help Corps leadership better understand and assess the needs of separated Marines and the challenges they face in civilian life. Respondents to the survey will help identify what assistance is needed and help shape services provided to transitioning Marines.

To participate in this Web-based survey go to <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/survey>. For more information about the survey, please contact the research team at 703-784-9517 or [futureoperations@usmc.mil](mailto:futureoperations@usmc.mil).

## Centerspeak

What is your favorite way to stay in shape during summer?

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



LT. COL. MICHAEL ALLEN  
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“I like a good game of [basketball], getting on the court and letting the young Marines run me around.”



STAFF SGT. STEVEN ESTRADA  
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY, 3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

“I go to the gym and utilize all the programs and trainers they have there.”



SGT. NATHAN HAMILTON  
BATTERY R, 5TH BATTALION, 11TH MARINE REGIMENT

“I like to run and hit the gym.”

## Hot Topics

### MIDNIGHT MADNESS CASE LOT SALE

The Commissary is hosting a Midnight Madness case lot sale in its parking lot May 14 and 15 from 6 p.m. to midnight. The event will also include barbeque from 8 to 10 p.m. and music throughout the night.

### COMMANDING GENERAL'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Desert Winds Golf Course will hold the annual Commanding General's Golf Tournament May 7th. The format will be a 4-person scramble. Cost is \$80 and includes golf, continental breakfast, steak lunch and prizes. To sign up and for more details, call 830-6132.

### 23RD ANNUAL RIDGE RUN

The Naval Hospital's annual Ridge Run is scheduled for May 7. There will be 5k and 8k courses. The event is open to the Combat Center community. Individual and squad entries are welcome. Registration begins race day at 6 a.m., and is \$10 to \$15 depending on category. For more information, contact Petty Officer 3rd Class Sandlin at 830-2135. Registration forms are available at <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.



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## SUDOKU #1795

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## Marine Corps History

May 2, 1946

Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, aided in suppressing a three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay.

Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.



## School Liaison Information

**Question:** What can I do if my child is showing signs they are advanced in school and bored?

**Answer:** There are several ways you can make sure your bright student is challenged and engaged at school.

- **Consider having them tested for gifted and talented programs.** Most schools offer classes and programs for gifted children. Talk to school personnel about the options at your school.
- **Check into acceleration.** This could mean skipping a grade or having your child study one or more subjects on a level more advanced than their present grade. For example, they could take third grade math while in the first grade. Talk to your child's teacher about how to advance his or her studies. Additional reading or projects can help keep your child busy, engaged and learning.
- **Offer supplemental learning at home.** This may be especially appealing way for mobile military families to add to their bright child's education. Consider school to be the start of their education. Broaden that base at home with encyclopedias, online resources, books, trips to the library or museums, conversations and family projects. You've been teaching the child since they were born. Just make the efforts more formal and really boost their education.

For more information, please contact [smbplmsmccsschoolliaison@usmc.mil](mailto:smbplmsmccsschoolliaison@usmc.mil) or call 830-1574.

## Combat Center Spotlight

**Name:** Angel Rios

**Hometown:** Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico

**Job title:** the respiratory protection manager, occupational health specialist, instructor for Alive at 25.

**Job duties:** Making sure the programs are up and running smoothly.

**What do you like most about your job?:** Teaching Marines.

**Significant achievement:** He helped implement the new drivers improvement course, Alive at 25. The Combat Center's Alive at 25 program placed first throughout the Marine Corps. Rios is the only trainer throughout the Alive at 25 program who can train new instructors.

**Hobbies:** Softball and baseball. I also umpire high school ball and dedicate some of my time to umpiring little league games.

**Service:** Retired first sergeant after 21 years of service.

**Time at Combat Center:** I've been in and out of the base since 1986.



## OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

Public Affairs Officer - Jennie E. Haskamp  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer - 1st Lt. Doy Demsick  
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## PUZZLE FOR BOB

[Puzzle solutions on A6]

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### ACROSS

1. Capacitance unit
6. Prove false
11. Mucky area
14. Stradivari's mentor
15. Walled city in Spain
16. "Green" prefix
17. Free pass, on the diamond
19. "\_\_\_ nuff!"
20. James who played Sonny Corleone
21. Ready for dinner
23. Aids in typing columnar text, on typewriters
27. Cross the plate
28. Bluffer's declaration
29. Analgesic's promise
32. MacArthur return site
33. Most common dice roll
34. Consumer protection org
37. Son of Seth
38. Paramecium propellers
39. Con \_\_\_ (vigorously)
40. Luftwaffe foes of WWII
41. Like an alley cat
42. Borscht veggies
43. Brewer's grain
45. Private teacher's students
46. \_\_\_-tingling (eerie)
48. Devoid of moisture
49. Time for an eggroll
51. Dinette spot
52. SASE, e.g.
53. Message on a car-window sign
59. Shooter ammo
60. "Ocupado"
61. Product-pitching cow
62. Like some grins
63. Defeated, but barely
64. Greyhound terminus

### DOWN

1. The \_\_\_ Four (the Beatles)
2. Org. with a famous journal
3. \_\_\_ Tafari (Haile Selassie)
4. Munched on
5. Bishop's jurisdiction
6. Rummy cakes
7. Politico Bayh
8. Rapper \_\_\_ Kim
9. Things to cure
10. Begins slowly
11. Dog show honor
12. Earthy hue
13. Berry's "Johnny B. \_\_\_"
18. "Great" detective of kid lit
22. Pass with flying colors
23. Mosaic artist
24. Bout venue
25. Body of water bounded by France and Spain
26. Does nothing
29. Event with batons
30. Sermon topic
31. Place to graze
33. Kingly address
35. Nail-\_\_\_ (tense situation)
36. Generic cow's name
38. Disney collectible
39. \_\_\_ noire (bug bear)
41. No-cost item
42. Double-decker furniture
44. Social insect
45. Goofy or Daffy, e.g.
46. Barely flows
47. Game show group
48. Reacted to a bad call
50. Cape Town cash
51. Big Board in its.
54. Programmer's headache
55. Bullring cry
56. Cleopatra's undoing
57. Brazilian hot spot
58. NYPD rank



# Corps makes clear: Sexual assault not tolerated

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

The Combat Center's Headquarters Battalion made it very clear sexual assault is not tolerated in the Marine Corps and renewed its commitment to support victims and hold perpetrators responsible.

Jennifer Husung, the Combat Center's sexual assault response coordinator and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program manager, held a brief at the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group auditorium Tuesday for the battalion's active duty women to inform them of the dangers of sexual assault.

Husung ensured the Marines knew and understood the Department of Defense's definition of sexual assault, which is "intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent." She also told Marines about the many services and support personnel available to those assaulted.

The SAPR program is cohesively working to ensure victims of sexual assault are well taken care of, said Husung, a Twentynine Palms, Calif., native.

The top three things a Marine should do after being assaulted is get to a safe place, seek medical attention if needed and contact a uniformed victim advocate, said



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jennifer Husung, the Sexual Assault Response coordinator and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program manager, speaks with the women of Headquarters Battalion during a sexual assault brief at the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group auditorium Tuesday.

Gunnery Sgt. Sergio Jimenez, the UVA for Company B, Headquarters Bn.

The UVA can help the victim choose between filing a restricted or unrestricted report and inform the victim of their rights, provide support and help them navigate through the process.

A restricted report allows the Marine to receive necessary counseling without initiating an investigation.

"Under restricted reporting, victims can go to their UVA, counselors, and the sex-

ual assault response coordinator for confidential support and guidance," said Jimenez, from Norwalk, Calif. "However, under restricted reporting, law enforcement and the victim's command will not be informed, no investigation of the assault will occur, and a full range of protections afforded to the victim will not be available, such as military protective orders."

Chaplains are also an available source of counseling protected under confidentiality rights, Husung said.

However, chaplains cannot help victims work through the filing process.

Choosing the restricted reporting path could limit medical care options, because California State law requires all medical personnel to report sexual assault cases to law enforcement officials, Jimenez said.

"This obviously creates serious health implications for

victims, because they may not be treated for sexually transmitted diseases or for pregnancy in women," he said.

Alternatively, if the Marine decides to file an unrestricted report, law enforcement will conduct an investigation. Medical personnel will be informed, and a Sexual Assault Forensics Examination can be conducted to gather evidence and aid

law enforcement officials in their criminal investigation.

Husung relayed some sobering statistics to the Marines while emphasizing the importance of using a buddy system.

"Seventy-three percent of rapes are acquaintance rapes," Husung said. "Acquaintance rapes are by someone you know, or is known to you through a friend or coworker. Nearly ninety percent of acquaintance rapes involve alcohol or drugs."

According to Marine Corps Order 1752.5A, the Marine Corps has "zero tolerance" for sexual assault, and reminds all Marines they are required to report actual, suspected or alleged sexual assaults. The UVAs, SARCS and victim advocate counselors are the only ones who hold confidentiality and, by law, are not allowed to report acts of sexual assault.

"Sexual assault is a crime that goes against everything the Marine Corps stands for," Jimenez said. "If you are victim, remember it is not your fault. I encourage you to report it and help prevent it from happening to someone else."

For more information regarding sexual assault, visit the Web site <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/sapro/index.cfm?sid=ml> or contact the installation UVA or your battalion's UVA.

## DIGITAL, from A1

involving live video feeds."

Given this advancing world of technology, instructors with MCCES and Marine communicators from Marine Expeditionary Forces across the Corps received instruction from experts

who built and engineered the new facility.

The Marines learned the differences between the old and new DTC facilities, how to set up and the operation and maintenance of the new equipment.

Courses outlining the use and maintenance of the new

and improved DTC facilities are scheduled to be added to the MCCES students' schedules this summer.

With the pending implementation of the new system in 2011, commanders, warriors and families will soon have the means to stay connected better than ever before.

## Go for the Gold



## Commanding General's Golf Tournament

Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00am show / 8:00am start

The Desert Winds Golf Course will hold the annual Commanding General's Golf Tournament on Friday, May 7th. The format will be a 4-person scramble. Sign up as an individual or to be assigned to a team. Cost is \$80 and includes golf, continental breakfast, steak lunch and prizes!

To sign up & for more details, call 830.6132 or visit [MCCS29Palms.com](http://MCCS29Palms.com)



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# Ospreys crews work hard, enjoy roller coaster ride

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUNNERY SGT. STEVEN WILLIAMS**

3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (FWD)

CAMP BASTION, Afghanistan – “You guys ready to go fast?”

Those are the last words from the pilot before the MV-22 Osprey catapults in midair and in one fluid movement, and within seconds, switches from a vertical-lift aircraft into a horizontally-propelled airplane. Passengers are strapped in with shoulder harnesses and lap belts, but they can't help holding on to their seats as the aircraft jettisons out on its next mission.

The Marines of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), are used to it now.

Other Marines, especially first-timers, are usually in for a wild ride.

“We fly all over Helmand province, and sometimes further, in support of ground operations, taking people to and from the fight, and fast,” said Staff Sgt. John Godwin, a Loxley, Ala., native serving as a flight equipment technician and aerial observer for VMM-261.

That's more than 260 knots, or nearly 300 mph. The Osprey can move troops and gear much

faster than the CH-53E Super Stallion – the Corps' 29-year-old, war-tested veteran for some of the same tasks.

“This aircraft obviously brings the speed and distance that no other assault support aircraft has,” explained Godwin. The Osprey's impressive capabilities “shrink the battle space” according to many leaders here – a valuable attribute when operating in the region's expansive, barren and rugged terrain.

It's a mission Godwin and the other VMM-261 Marines take a lot of pride in.

“It feels good to get back off a seven-hour flight knowing that all of our taskings for that day were completed. There are so many moving parts and setbacks that come into play in a day's worth of taskings, but we somehow manage to work through them on a daily basis and get the job done. That's what I like.”

There is no doubt it takes a lot of effort to move Marines, supplies and equipment across the region. But Godwin and many VMM-261 Marines sometimes hesitate to call it “hard work,” given they get to fly aboard a kind of aerial roller coaster.

This is especially true when they hear the pilot ask, “You guys ready to go fast?”



Lance Cpl. Mark Moretz, a flight line mechanic with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), takes a look at the wings and rotors of an MV-22 Osprey during a preflight inspection ensuring the bird is ready for a full day of missions April 24 at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan.



Staff Sgt. John Godwin, a Loxley, Ala., native serving as a flight equipment technician and aerial observer with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), makes a few final checks on the MV-22 Osprey.



An MV-22 Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), lifts off from the flight line at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. The Osprey continues to prove a valuable asset for “shrinking the battle space” in 3rd MAW (FWD)'s operations area, flying faster and farther than any assault support aircraft in the region.



Lance Cpl. Jessica Livingston, watches Cpl. Colin McCall mount an M240G medium machine gun to the tail of an MV-22 Osprey prior to the aircraft's departure on the day's missions April 24 at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. Livingston, from Great Falls, Mont., and McCall, from Mercerburg, Penn., are both aviation ordnance technicians with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 261, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).

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<p><b>St. Joseph of Arimathea Episcopal Church</b>                  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><b>Skyview Chapel Church of God</b>                  Worship Service 10:30 A.M. &amp; 6:30 P.M.                  Wed. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.                  7475 Sunny Vista Rd., Joshua Tree                  Pastor Abe Casiano                  Church (760) 366-9119</p>	<p><i>This Week's Spotlight Church</i></p> <p><b>Yucca Valley Church of Religious Science</b>                  Healing Lives &amp; Building Dreams  <b>Reverend Ron Scott</b>                  Sunday Celebration &amp; Junior Church 10 AM                  7434 Bannock Trail, Yucca Valley                  365-2205                  yvcrs.org</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST</b>                  SUN. SERVICE &amp; SUN. SCHOOL... 10 AM                  WEDNESDAY MEETING... 7 PM                  READING ROOM Tues.-Thurs. 12-3 PM                  Sat. 9-Noon (Except Holidays)                  56039 Santa Fe Trail • 365-4185                  Corner Apache Trail, Yucca Valley</p>	<p><b>29 PALMS CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>                  72309 Larrea Ave. (1 block up from KFC)                  Sunday Bible Study 10:00AM                  Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM                  Sunday Evening Worship 5:00PM                  Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM</p>
<p><b>OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH</b>                  6631 Utah Trail, 29 Palms                  Service Times                  Sunday 9:00 am                  Nursery provided at 9:00am                  367-7812                  www.oasiscommunitychurch.com</p>	<p><b>New Beginning Community Church</b>                  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</p>		<p><b>DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b>                  Call for free van ride                  Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship                  Sunday School ages 4-10 yrs                  Visitors Welcome                  Sunday Concert Series • Call for info                  29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive • 361-0086</p>	<p><b>St. Martin-In-The-Fields EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b>                  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><b>Two Mile Apostolic Tabernacle</b>                  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><b>First Baptist Church of 29 Palms</b>                  Children Available                  Sunday Services 9:15 am, Morning Worship 10:30 am.                  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</p>	<p><b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</b>                  (Missouri Synod)                  WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM                  SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM                  WE PREACH CHRIST RISEN                  59077 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley                  CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool &amp; Daycare: 369-9590</p>	<p><b>United Methodist Church of Twentynine Palms</b>                  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><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 365-4014</b>                  SUNDAY Bible School.....9:30am                  Worship.....10:45am</p>
<p><b>United Methodist Church</b>                  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</p>	<p><b>Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church</b>                  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><b>www.vcchapel.org 760-365-6774</b>                  Non-Denominational  <b>Valley Community Chapel</b>                  Sunday Services - 9:00 AM • 11:00 AM                  Wednesday Service - 6:30 PM                  Sundays en Español - 1:30 PM • 3:00 PM                  59025 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley</p>		

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# Afghans in Nawa gather to open new city hall building

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7

NAWA, Afghanistan – As Gulab Mangal, governor of Helmand Province, spoke to more than 100 Nawa citizens during the opening ceremony of Nawa's District Governance Center April 18, there was no English translation provided and only two seats reserved for Marines.

It was evident that this event was a celebration of prosperity for the people of Nawa, by the people of Nawa.

Most the Marines of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and leaders from 1st Marine Division (Forward), who came to the event stood quietly in the back of the crowd of Afghans who attended the ceremony. Although Marines of 1/3 maintained security nearby with their Afghan National Police counterparts, the overall US military footprint at the event was kept to a minimum.

"The opening of the Nawa District Center building here is a very happy time," said Mangal, who arrived by helicopter from the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah before the ceremony. "Three years ago, nobody ever expected that we could come to Nawa and open a government building for the people here. Our schools and clinics will soon follow, and those will be good as well."

Citizens, elders, and community and government leaders from Nawa praised the opening of the DGC, which will function as a city hall in the heart of Nawa District. Many talked about how the look of the reconstructed building, with its open-air courtyard surrounded by painted white walls and gold-tinted glass, is a significant improvement from the war-torn and neglected state in which Marines of 1/3 first saw it when they came to Nawa in December.

"Think back to what this building used to look like – the windows gone, the bullet holes and everything a mess," said Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Osterman, commanding general of 1st MarDiv (FWD), who was honored by



The Nawa, Afghanistan's District Governance Center was under construction in December of 2009. The war-torn structure has been transformed from a makeshift military patrol base into a functioning building which will house government offices for Nawa District.



Pictured is a front view of Nawa, Afghanistan's new District Governance Center, hours before the building was officially opened in a ceremony April 18 by Helmand Provincial Governor Gulab Mangal and local government leaders from Nawa.

Afghan leaders with a ceremonial headdress before speaking at the ceremony. "Now look up in front of you and see what can happen when a community comes together and decides it wants to make a change."

Construction of the building initially began in 2008, but was delayed when the contractor's funding ran out, and there was significant increase in violence in the area in early 2009. British forces then used it as their patrol base headquarters in Nawa, and it was the site of numerous firefights. The damage to the building climaxed during Operation Khanjar last summer, when Marines and Afghan National

See CITY HALL, A7



Gulab Mangal, governor of Helmand Province, tours Nawa, Afghanistan's recently-completed District Governance Center before officially opening the building during a ceremony April 18.

## TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



Nobody ever said it better than my fellow clergyman and college professor the late Dr. S. Parker Cadman:

"Personally, I would not give a fig for any man's religion whose horse, cat and dog do not feel its benefits. Life in any form is our perpetual responsibility."

Amen, brother, Amen. That's exactly how I think and feel.

We may be tough minded optimists but we love our pets. They become family. My wife Patty and I have three dogs and two cats and we treasure our special relationships with each of them. We love them. That is an appropriate word. To love any living thing is to sincerely desire that which is on the best interest of the object of our love.

I want you to know that there is no veterinarian in the High Desert who epitomizes that attitude more beautifully than Dr. Norman Smith of Companion Animal Clinic in Yucca Valley.

I can tell you without any hesitation whatsoever that many people have personally told me that they love Dr. Smith.

To name a few: Martha of Pioneertown who was surrounded with love when her dog Brite had a fatal stroke, R.J. of Wonder Valley when her cocker spaniel was bitten by a rattlesnake, Fran, proprietor of JAMES horse ranch who has received over and above advice and assistance, Flo and her beautiful cat, Tuesday, of Twentynine Palms, and Candace of Twentynine Palms when her dog was seriously injured in an auto accident.

These comments were not solicited by me. All of these people are personal friends of mine.

Believe me, Dr. Norman Smith and his staff are great people.

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THIRD, from A1

first, but once they realized we were there to help, they really opened up," said Collins, who is from Clay County, Ky. "We learned to work together with the locals. We helped them improve their quality of life, and they helped us find enemy insurgents."

Afghanistan's mountainous terrain provided challenges for the Thundering Third, but the Marines and sailors overcame these obstacles by acting independently, said Kelly, from Long Island, N.Y.

"The Marines began improving the facilities from the time we arrived," Kelly said. "One Marine used to be an electrician. Others had construction experience. They were self-sustaining, which allowed us to operate effectively in an area that can present some logistical difficulties. We really have a lot of talented Marines."

The battalion handed their area of responsibility over to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, who now continues along the path they established with the people of southern Afghanistan.



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Chris Elliott, the water resources manager for NREA, keeps a steady pace during the 10k Mountain Bike Ride April 22 in support of Earth Day. The Combat Center hosted a variety of events to educate installation personnel about the importance of going green.

EARTH, from A1

to the environment.

Representatives from NREA shared with the community their wildlife management initiative and how the Combat Center is cutting down their light pollution by installing motion-censored solar-powered lights throughout the installation.

According to <http://www.earthday.org>, nearly 50 percent of the energy America produces comes from coal. The Web site urges organizations to use clean, renewable energy and transition away from using coal and oil.

Also during Earth Week, Combat Center children learned about the need to recycle and do their part to keep the earth clean.

Marine Corps Community Services hosted a poster contest at the

Children's Teen and Youth Center to help raise awareness throughout the younger generation.

"There's a lot more emphasis now in protecting our planet and [to] pass that point on to our children," said Ward, a Huntingdon, Penn., native. "Becoming greener is the ongoing theme."

NREA also hosted an installation-wide beautification clean-up contest, during which tenant units competed to turn in the most recyclable material and industrial bulk to NREA's Hazardous Waste Management Section.

The 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion received first place in the recyclable material category, and Mojave Viper Support Detachment received first place for turning in the most industrial bulk.

The week of green emphasis culminated April 22 with Earth Day. This was the busiest day for NREA, because they held multiple events throughout the Combat Center to raise awareness and provide the tools necessary to help people stay on track.

The day began early with a 5k Earth Day Challenge Run, and a 10k Mountain Bike Ride. Participants received a biodegradable water bottle and a T-shirt.

Chris Elliott, the water resources manager for NREA, who also participated in the bicycle race, said Earth Day is the perfect time to stop and recognize all the things people take for granted every day and recognize people for their efforts to keep the earth clean.

"Normally each Earth Day we're just like, 'Here is Earth Day, you guys should recycle,' and we push that," said Elliott, a Gainesville, Fla., native. "This time we're pushing how it can be enjoyable. With running and cycling you stay fit, but it also gets people out of the norm - gets them out of their cars and into the environment to have some fun."

One of the last events held by NREA for Earth Week was the Earth Day Fair at the West Gym and Fitness Center April 22, where NREA set up booths and handed out pamphlets to inform The Combat Center community of the importance of staying green.

"Awareness information was passed-out, and all activities present had many forms of literature available for dissemination," Ward said. "Many free items were given out, to include free tote bags, biodegradable sports bottles, eco-green pencils and 10-step energy awareness magnets. Additionally, there were Kreamy Soap samples with natural ingredients, and Public Works Division gave out free compact fluorescent light bulbs, and energy efficient temperature magnets."

For more information about Earth Day, or how to take action to preserve the earth, visit <http://www.earthday.org>.

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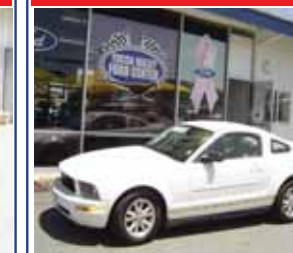
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SGT. BRIAN A. TUTHILL

Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Nawa, Afghanistan citizens make preparations for the opening ceremony of the Nawa District Governance Center April 18. The building was officially opened by Helmand Provincial Governor Gulab Mangal and local government leaders from Nawa.

### CITY HALL, from A5

Army soldiers first pushed into Nawa and were attacked there while trying to flush insurgents from the area, said Maj. Rudy Quiles, who leads the civil affairs team in Nawa and helped organize reconstruction efforts for the DGC.

The building was, until recently, a mess of battle-scarred brick walls, rotting wood, broken windows, without a roof and had piles of rubble strewn around it.

Over the past eight months, Afghan contractors have transformed DGC into a functioning two-story office building,

which boasts amenities like electricity, running water and air conditioning. The DGC will be the center of government for Nawa, not only housing the offices of local government leaders, but also key government offices such as financial managers, courts and legal staffs, investigators, religious advisors, as well as representatives from the ministries of agriculture, reconstruction and development, education and cultural affairs, among others.

"The offices will serve as the visible presence of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

and serve as the coordination hub for further development and stability operations for the district," Quiles said.

Before the construction of the DGC, citizens here often had trouble coordinating government functions because offices were separate and so far away from one another. Now there are no excuses, and the government can better serve the people, Mangal said.

"The people of Nawa will now always have an office to serve them," Mangal said. "Take good care of this building, you've worked hard for it. Let it serve the people of Nawa well for a long time."

### SEMINAR, from A1

after the briefing.

According to a memorandum outlining the visit, the event could potentially lead to organizing a program similar to the California State University Special Admissions Program.

This program, as stated in Marine Administrative Message 0027/09, reserves limited admission spaces for Marines exiting the Corps at CSU and provides a way for them to qualify for in-state student tuition rates.

The universities anticipat-

ed to participate are Michigan State, Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, Northern Michigan, Wayne State, Ferris State, Lake Superior State and Saginaw State.

For more information, contact Jeff Fourier at 830-4702.

## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

### Sunday

#### 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

8:30 a.m. - Lay-led independent Baptist breakfast in the 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

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\* Indicates Child Care Provided

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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

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## Combat Center Trader Ads

### AUTOMOTIVE

**1957 NASH EXECUTIVE MODEL PROJECT CAR.** Registered, complete engine, \$650 OBO. 5 rims, size 15.6 lug, off-road heavy duty. \$180. OBO. Call Jose 361-3509. 4/23/10

**1963 CHRYLSER 300.** 2 door, 413 cui engine with push button transmission not running. \$2,000. Don 830-5581. 4/16/10

### 1969 CHEVROLET CAPRICE.

454 cui. Not original motor. With TH400. 2 door. Don 830-5581. 4/16/10

### 2002 CR250R DIRT BIKE.

Eline stater, FMF pipe and silencer. Paddle tire for the dunes. Runs very good, hardily ridden. \$3,000. 910-3979. 4/9/10

### 2002 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT.

Leather interior, loaded, alloy wheels, V-6 3.8L, 77,000 miles. Selling for payoff. \$6,000. Call Dane at 368-9535. 3/26/10

### 2009 HONDA SHADOW FOR SALE.

Great condition, low miles, never dropped. Black with flame pin stripes. \$5,250 OBO. Call Logan for details. 423-504-6926. 3/12/10

### MISC.

**TWO PAINT HORSES.** For lease or sale. \$225 per month lease. 367-0831. 4/16/10

### PINE FOUR DOOR ENTERTAINMENT CENTER.

Holds 32 inch TV. Tall corner unit, chestnut finish. \$100. O.B.O. Contact 368-9535. 3/26/10

### 19 INCH SONY TRINITRON TV.

Silver with remote. Asking \$50 O.B.O. Contact 368-9535. 3/26/10

### 8 X 20 CONEX BOX.

\$1,750. Call 219-2184. 2/12/10

### FOOTBALL CARD COLLECTION.

Mid '80s to mid '90s. For sale by teams, individual players, sets or the whole collection. Call Stephen 567-7921. 2/12/10

### 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.



# Hundreds of People Cash In at the Yucca Valley Roadshow Yesterday

By Jason Delong  
Treasure Hunters Roadshow  
STAFF WRITER

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

Yesterday at the Elks Lodge, hundreds lined up to cash antiques, collectibles, gold and jewelry in at the Roadshow. The free event is in Yucca Valley all week buying gold, silver antiques and collectibles. One visitor I spoke with yesterday said

*"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."*

"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



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

thousand 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 bring 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

*"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 Elks Lodge through Saturday in Yucca Valley."*

silver dollars,... his check was for over \$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, Kruggerands, 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 Yucca Valley.

## www.treasurehuntersroadshow.com

The Roadshow is featured this week:

**April 27th - May 1st**

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

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Elks Lodge**

**55946 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284**

Directions: (760) 365-2314 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 Yucca Valley 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



**WE BUY 10¢ & 12¢ COMIC BOOKS!**

## GREAT PRICES PAID FOR:

1950'S & 1960'S Era Electric and Acoustic

**GUITARS**

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- Fender
- Gibson
- Martin
- Gretsch
- Rickenbacker
- National
- And others





# SPORTS AND LEISURE

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

APRIL 30, 2010

SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957

B1

## HQBN drops ball; MCCES victorious

**CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The court was blurred with streaks of white and black as the two top teams participating in the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League championship game vied for victory at the Combat Center's East Gym and Fitness Center April 22.

The MCCES All-Stars pulled ahead at the start of the game and maintained the lead against HQBN A, winning the first place title and trophy with the end score of 56-47.

Jerome McCray, a player for MCCES, who was named the most valuable player of the game, set the tone for the rest of the game with an early basket. He followed that with a slam dunk during the middle of the game.

"We've won [the championship] two out of three years I've been here, so this is my last one, and I felt pretty good about it," said McCray, from Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "I think we played the best basketball we've played this year."

HQBN A managed to stay on MCCES' heels with the help of Tommy Burke, who scored a high amount of baskets for his team. However, none of their efforts slowed their opponents. MCCES continued to gain momentum while HQBN A tried in vain to hold on.

Skip Best, the Combat Center's Marine Corps Community Services athletics director, said it was a close draw on who would win the championship game as both teams had their fair share of talent.

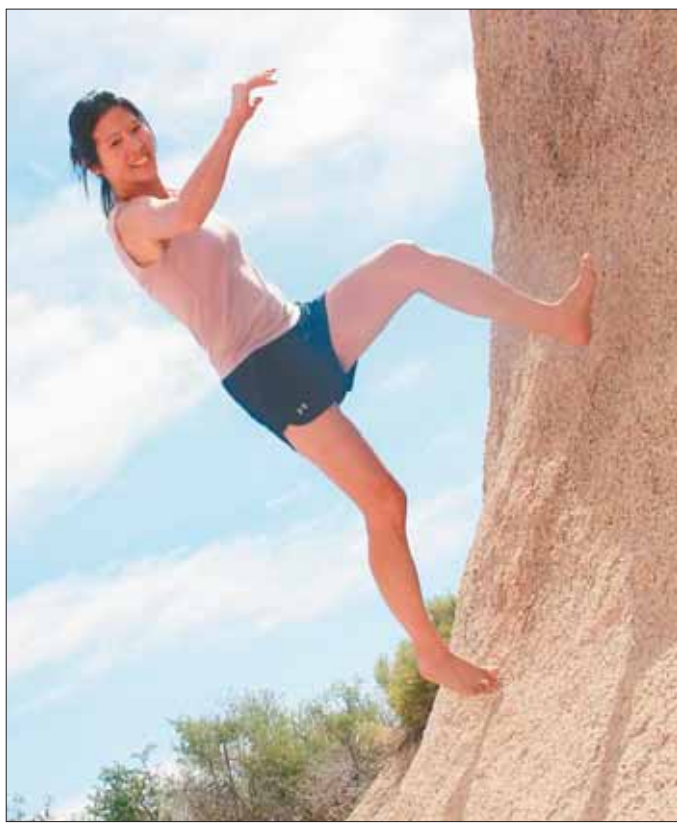
"It was one of the most intense basketball games I've seen," said Best, a Honolulu native. "I am very proud of the players for both teams, and both teams



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Tracy Campese, a player for HQBN A, loses control of the ball as she falls under Tony Rogers, a player for MCCES All-Stars April 22 during the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League championship game. MCCES defeated HQBN A, 56-47, at the East Gym and Fitness Center.

See MCCES, B3



Jessica Lee, coauthor of "Barefoot Running" and founder of RunBare, from Boulder, Colo., skips up a stone wall at Joshua Tree National Park Tuesday. The visit to the national park was just a stop along the way of her book and clinic tour scheduled to take place over the course of 180 days visiting 168 cities across the continental United States.



Michael Sandler, author of "Barefoot Running" and a professional running coach, from Boulder, Colo., and Jessica Lee, coauthor of "Barefoot Running" and founder of RunBare, also from Boulder, Colo., take a break from their nation-wide book and clinic tour to run barefooted through Joshua Tree National Park Tuesday. The tour is scheduled to take place over the course of 180 days visiting 168 cities across the continental United States.

## Barefoot runners gain traction in high desert

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Most runners rely on shoes to pad their feet. Changing their running shoes every six months is a ritual to them, but not to barefoot runners Michael Sandler and Jessica Lee.

The Boulder, Colo., duo said they don't appreciate the extra weight tied to their feet or the misleading comfort some running shoes provide. They would rather run as their ancestors once did — free.

Barefoot running offers various positive effects for runners and could potentially help strengthen the physical performance of members of the U.S. military, said Sandler and Lee.

Some of the benefits include developing the feet muscles, a lower-impact work-

out and an overall improvement in running technique, which could help Marines during physical training and rehabilitation from injuries.

"We believe that could help a Marine in the field," Lee said. "They have to carry a lot of weight, so this type of physical conditioning could be especially useful."

Sandler also has personal experience with common leg injuries many Marines face after years of strenuous running.

While training for an inline skating event, Sandler experienced a near fatal accident that changed the way he would run for the rest of his life.

Sandler shattered his femur, hip and arm in the accident. Once at the hospital, doctors told Sandler they might not be able to put the broken bones in his leg back together. His chances of walking or running ever again were slim.

After 10 knee operations and a year of hobbling on crutches, Sandler decided it was time to strap on his shoes and ease himself back into running.

"I wasn't supposed to be able to run again," he said. "I went from overuse injury to overuse injury, from shin splits to knee pain, to knee tendinitis to hip problems. I used to call it chasing my demons."

So, he hit the Web in search of an answer and soon realized he might be over accessorizing.

As he read in an essay titled "Spiridon" by Dr. Joseph Froncioni, "The modern running shoe, presently thought of as a protective device, should be reclassified as a health hazard."

The common idea in Froncioni's essay, and one shared by many barefoot enthusiasts, is being able to feel the ground enables the runner to resume a much more natu-

ral stride, and the cushion in running shoes blocks the proper sensory feedback, which is essential for safe and effective locomotion.

"I was completely broken, and couldn't run a mile without pain, so two days later I said, 'Let the experiment begin.'"

The first day he could only run 100 yards. With persistence, he increased the distance every other day for three months. Sandler recovered beyond his doctors' imagination.

"I was able to run a 10k faster than I was ever able to in shoes," he said.

Along his path to runner's enlightenment, Sandler came across Lee, who had previously hated running. That is, until she discovered the joys of doing it without shoes.

The duo offered a few tips for those interested in putting barefoot running to the test.

"Start extra slow," Sandler cautioned. "Do a small amount of running barefoot, and then use your footwear to recover, then a little more, and a little more."

"Particularly for better runners, the stronger you are, the slower you want to transition. Force doesn't win this game. Form wins this game," he explained.

The "two question rule" should also always be in affect for beginners.

"This is important, especially for Marines, to consider while running barefoot," Sandler said. "The first time you ask yourself, 'Should I stop?,' take a mental note of it. The second time you ask, don't even think about it, just stop,"

he said, "The first time you ask yourself, 'Should I stop?,' take a mental note of it. The second time you ask, don't even think about it, just stop," he explained.

Sandler and Lee assured the slight discomfort runners will feel in the begin-

ning is only temporary.

"The first two or three weeks you watch out very carefully for what you step on," Sandler said. "After that, the skin toughens up real quick."

As for glass, rocks, salt, snow or any other potential hazards the pair has been asked about, none have injured them while running barefoot, Lee said.

"Well, except for that time Michael stepped on a bee during a clinic we were hosting," she said, ribbing Michael playfully.

Sandler and Lee are currently on the road touring with their new book, "Barefoot Running: How to run light and free by getting in touch with the earth." They are also hosting running clinics in 168 cities across the United States, sharing their experiences and unique outlook on a sport that, perhaps, has been wearing shoes for far too long.





Local Events

**Jason Heath & The Greedy Souls!**

Description: Folk, Americana and alternative  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, April 30  
**Sara Petite**  
Description: Country music  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, April 24  
Where: Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace  
53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown  
For more information call 365-5956 or visit  
<http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

**"April" at Groves Cabin Theatre**

Description: An original work by Kurt Schappner  
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.

**City of Twentynine Palms Spring Concert Series**

Description: Local band DEEP 6 performs  
When: 6 p.m., Saturday, May 8  
Where: Luckie Park  
at the corner of Two Mile Road and Utah Trail.  
For more information call 367-7562.

**Art Show Reception for David Green "Movie Star Zombie Love Affair"**

When: 6 to 10 p.m.  
Where: 29 Palms Creative Center (next to Barr Lumber)  
6847 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms  
For more information call 361-1805.

Lower Desert

**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.

**Battle of the Badges Boxing**

Description: Law enforcement vs fire fighters  
When: 5 p.m., Saturday, May 8  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

**Earth, Wind and Fire**

Description: Music Hall of Fame band play their 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>.

**Bongo at Morongo II, with Mark and Brian featuring Blue Oyster Cult**

Description: The psychedelic rock band performs their hits  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 15  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

**Steve Miller Band**

Description: The rock 'n' roll legend performs  
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, May 22  
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon  
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

**Heart**

Description: The legendary sisters of rock perform  
When: 8 p.m., Friday, May 29  
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 30**

6 p.m. – Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Rated PG  
9 p.m. – Our Family Wedding, Rated PG-13  
Midnight – Green Zone, Rated R

**Saturday, May 1**

11 a.m. Free Matinee– Old Dogs, Rated PG  
2 p.m. – Alice in Wonderland, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – Remember Me, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – Brooklyn's Finest, Rated R  
Midnight – She's Out of My League, Rated R

**Sunday, May 2**

2 p.m. – How to Train Your Dragon, Rated PG  
6 p.m. – The Bounty Hunter, Rated PG-13  
9 p.m. – Repo Man, Rated R

**Monday, May 3**

7 p.m. – Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Rated PG

**Tuesday, May 4**

7 p.m. – She's Out of My League, Rated R

**Wednesday, May 5**

7 p.m. – Crazy Heart, Rated R

**Thursday, May 6**

7 p.m. – Brooklyn's Finest, Rated R

Carell and Fey hook up for 'Date Night'

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Datenight"

Rated PG-13

A married couple looking to playfully spice up their on-the-town evening gets much more than they bargained for in "Date Night," the new romantic comedy starring Steve Carell and Tina Fey.

The idea of characters put into a crazy situation outside their comfort cocoon isn't new. But these two instinctively funny stars capably carry the movie across the familiar terrain, to the point that you forgive (or forget) the plot holes, cartoonish stretches of plausibility and the fact that you've basically seen it all before.

Carell and Fey are Phil and Claire Foster, whose marriage is stuck in a rut of exhausting jobs, young kids and a draining cycle of diminishing romantic returns. Director Shawn Levy, whose resume includes "Big Fat Liar," the 2003 remake of "Cheaper By The Dozen" and both "Night At The Museum" and its sequel, does an effective job of laying the foundation from the get-go, making us



SUZANNE TENNER

Perpetually shirtless security expert Holbrooke, played by Mark Wahlberg, comes to the aid of beleaguered couple Phil Foster, played by Steve Carell, and Claire Foster, played by Tina Fey.

feel like we know the Fosters and understand their situation.

In the first opening seconds, to the tune of the Clash's frenetic "Blitzkrieg Bop," children sweep down the hall and into their parents' bedroom to rouse mom and dad from their peaceful morning slumber, robbing them of a few final moments of snoozing. It's a

playful hint that Phil and Claire's sleepy, peaceful, organized suburban lives are about to get a jarring jolt of comic anarchy.

Later, on an unprecedented wild-hair whim, Phil and Claire show up without a reservation at a trendy new overbooked Manhattan restaurant, where they seize an opportune moment to pretend to be another couple in order to get a table. But this little lie takes a bizarre turn when the Fosters discover – uh-oh – the no-show couple they're "impersonating" is being pursued by a pair of crooked cops in a nasty blackmail plot that involves both the local district attorney and the mob.

Mistakenly pegged as the blackmailers, Phil and Claire rush through one madcap PG-13 situation after another, including a frenzied chase scene involving two cars that have been joined nose-to-nose, recurring encounters with a chronically shirtless security-expert stud (Mark Wahlberg), and a hilarious impromptu dance on the stripper's stage in the back

room of a seedy nightclub.

In between the chuckles, little chords of truth resonate about the need to keep a relationship fresh, the different ways couples relate to each other, and the subtleties of making a marriage work. Several recognizable faces pop up, including Fey's "Saturday Night Live" cast mate Kristen Wiig, Mila Kunis, Mark Ruffalo, James Franco, Black Eyed Peas rapper Will.i.am, and Ray Liotta.

But they're all just along for the ride. This movie belongs to Carrell and Fey, basking in comedic synergy and sharing a fine-tuned sense of dry, deadpan, dialogue-based humor that can, when necessary, blossom into surprisingly game outbursts of laugh-out-loud slapstick.

If you like them on their respective TV comedies, "The Office" and "30 Rock," you'll love the way they team for "Date Night," the first project the two prime-time stars have ever undertaken together. It's a match-up that begs for another movie outing.

**Cinema 6**  
MOVIE TIMES 365-9633  
Showtimes Effective 4/29/10 - 5/6/10

A Nightmare On Elm Street (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	The Last Song (PG) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Losers (PG13) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	Kickass (R) Everyday: 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00
Thursday May 6 Midnight Show Ironman2	

ADULTS \$8.00  
SENIORS \$6.00  
CHILDREN \$6.00  
U-HAUL RENTALS 29 Palms • Joshua Tree • Yucca Valley 361-7141

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**RIDE MBTA**

15 MCAGCC-Palm Springs Friday							
Base Post Exchange	Building 1664	Subway	29 Palms Community Center	29 Palms Staters	Joshua Tree Park Blvd.	Stater Bros WallMart	Palm Springs Airport
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 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.

Fares from 29 Palms  
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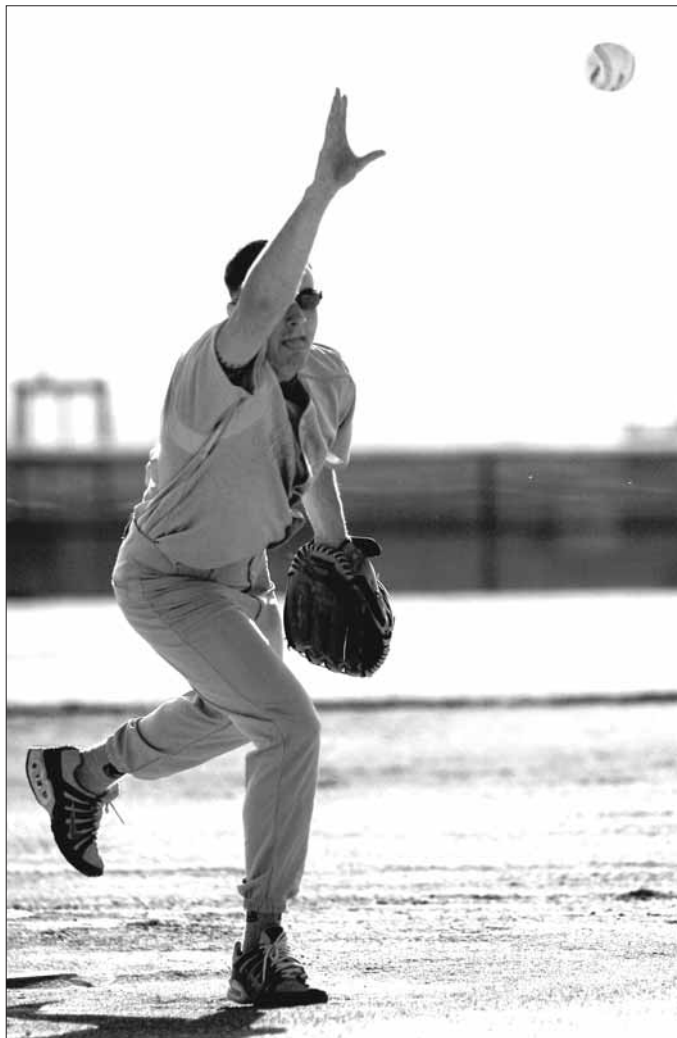
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**ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT!!**  
**1 HR HOT STONE MASSAGE**  
**\$50<sup>00</sup>** or 1 1/2 Hrs **\$70<sup>00</sup>**  
With this ad

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# Combat Center Sports



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

David Ryan, a pitcher with Article 134, throws a pitch Monday at the Combat Center's Felix Field during a Commanding General's Intramural Softball League game.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

David Ryan [right] sprints from first base Monday as Edward Powell knocks a ball out of the park. The two players are part of Article 134, a team in the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

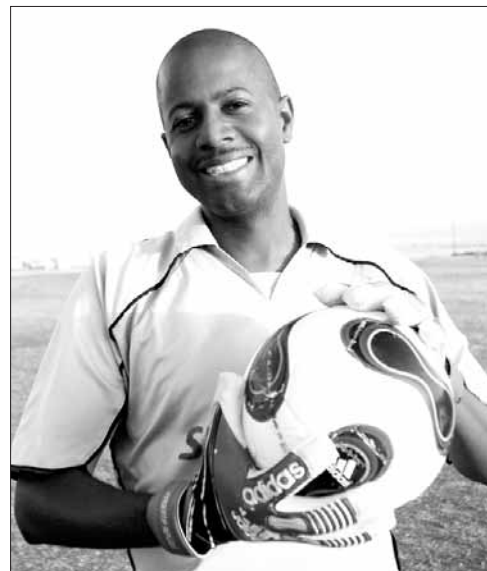
Scott Pryor [left] tees off on a pitch as Jason Kupka, a coach with the team, watches at the Combat Center's Felix Field Monday. The two players are on team No Stinkin Badges.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Matt McCaskill, a shortstop for No Stinkin Badges, rounds third base on his way home Monday at the Combat Center's Felix Field.

## Athlete of the Week



**Name:** Terence Harrell  
**Hometown:** Charleston, S.C.  
**Unit:** Company B, Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School  
**Recognition:** Coach for MCCES soccer team, played soccer for nearly 30 years.  
**Favorite aspect of the sport:** "I like the strategy and thought that goes into the most beautiful game. It is the 'real futbol'."  
**Advice for aspiring athletes:** "It doesn't matter if you are the slowest or the fastest, just don't ever quit."



CPL. MONICA C. ERICKSON

Jerome McCray, a player for the MCCES All-Stars, stretches to the limit as he blocks a shot from HQBN A during the Commanding General's Intramural Basketball League championship game April 22. McCray, who was named MCCES' most valuable player, helped defeat HQBN A, 56-47, at the East Gym and Fitness Center.

### MCCES, from B1

played exceptionally well." Despite the strong competition, both teams also displayed strong sportsmanship by helping each other off the floor after a fall, and shaking hands and congratulating the winning team after the game, Best said.

Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy, the Combat Center's commanding general, attended the game and said if an installation sport is marked as the commanding general's league, he should attend the championship game. He showed his support by cheering for both teams and handing out trophies at the end of the game.

"You all should be proud of yourselves," Clardy said, while speaking to both teams after the game. He

then spoke directly to MCCES, congratulated them on their win and stood in for a team photo.

"It is just great he came

out," Best said. "It has been a few years since we've had a CG take the time and come out, and I know the players appreciate it."

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## We Want Your Story!

Are you or a loved one among the ranks of Morongo Basin residents who are sworn to protect and serve? If so, we want your story. Hi-Desert Publishing Co. has revamped our annual public safety special section to tell the stories of emergency medical responders, firefighters and law enforcement officers who work in the trenches in the Hi-Desert every day.

### "Real Stories of Those Who Protect and Serve"

will be published in July 2010 and will feature stories written by everyone from firefighters and EMTs to sheriff's deputies, California Highway Patrol officers, military policemen and probation officers, or by their family members.

To submit your story and photographs for the section, e-mail them to Features Editor Kelly O'Sullivan at osullivan@desert-trail.com or call her at (760) 367-3577 for more information. Be sure to include your contact phone number. All submissions are subject to editing for style and for length, and we request that they be 800 words or less. We prefer text submissions via e-mail or on disk as a text-only or Word document (.doc only, no .docx). Digital photographs should be at least 1 megabyte in size. If you don't have a digital photograph, call O'Sullivan for more information on how to submit a photo. Deadline for all submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, June 4, 2010.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rates and terms based on approved credit. 5.125% APR available on loans up to \$417,000. Owner occupied, California properties only. Sample monthly payment for principal and interest based on a \$200,000.00 balance with a 30-year fixed rate and 0 points @ 5.125% APR would be \$1,653.46. Additional restrictions may apply. Competitive rates are also available for loans greater than \$417,000.  
 \*\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates and terms are effective 4/1/2010, and subject to change without notice. The quoted loan rates and terms are for maximum 99% LTV, owner occupied California properties only, for up to \$417,000. The interest rate will be based on the index of the 1-year Constant Maturity Treasury (CMT) plus a margin of 2.75 percentage points. The interest rate is subject to increase after the fixed period, and may change each subsequent adjustment period due to changes to the index, unless the interest rate "caps" limit the amount of the change in the interest rate. Example: On a \$250,000, 30-year 3/1 ARM with an initial interest rate of 3.50 percent, payments would be \$1,571.66 for 36 months, followed by 34 payments of \$1,565.17 (PMI insurance is required for LTV's over 80%, payments do not include taxes or insurance, actual payments will be higher). An origination fee of .50 basis points will be added to the closing costs of the loan, making the APR 3.266%. The interest rate cannot increase or decrease more than 2 percentage points per year, and has a 6% cap over the lifetime of the loan. The rate will never be lower than 2.75 percent, nor greater than 9.5 percent. Other terms and conditions apply.  
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