

OBSERVATION Post

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

OCTOBER 22, 2010 SERVING THE TWENTYNINE PALMS COMMUNITY SINCE 1957 VOL. 53 ISSUE 42

Missed appointments impact patient care at Naval hospital

SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN
PRESS CHIEF/EDITOR

Missed appointments, or “no-shows,” are an ongoing challenge everyone from the Combat Center’s higher command to the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms staff is fervently trying to eliminate.

No shows affect every medical facility in the DoD. What many patients do not realize, however, is the

negative impact missing an appointment can have on staff schedules, medical care costs, manpower availability and access to appointments for other patients who are in need of medical care. More importantly, it may affect their own health and opportunity for timely healthcare services.

Hospital reports indicate an average of 823 appointments are missed each month, and no-shows for July and August exceeded that

number, said Navy Command Master Chief Kevin Hughes, the hospital’s top enlisted.

These numbers translate to nearly 10 percent of all appointments being missed and \$58,762 lost each month, said Navy Lt. j.g. Bill Lawson, the hospital’s data analyst. This is money lost that could have been used to provide better patient care. A year’s worth of missed appointments is the equivalent of closing the hospital

one month out of the year.

The biggest impact no-shows have is on other patients seeking care, said Navy Cmdr. Maria Young, the director of Nursing and Surgical Services and the department head of the hospital’s Healthcare Operations. “If all the appointments are booked, and a new patient calls, they can’t be seen,” she said.

Appointments cancelled at least 24 hours prior to the appointment

time are filled with other patients 95 percent of the time, said Young, a Monroe, N.Y., native. In contrast, less than 50 percent of no-show appointments are ever filled, leaving available providers with time open and no patients to see.

This has the potential to affect an active duty patient’s deployment readiness. Medically-unfit personnel can’t

See PATIENT, A5

RCT-7 remembers 74 fallen brothers



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Seventy-four military crosses line Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field during a memorial ceremony for Regimental Combat Team 7 Oct. 15. The total fallen consisted of 70 Marines, three sailors and one British civilian reporter.

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Rows of military crosses solemnly lined Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 15 during a memorial ceremony dedicated to the 74 men lost during to Regimental Combat Team 7’s recent deployment to Afghanistan.

From October 24, 2009 to September 28, 2010, units attached to RCT-7 lost 70 Marines, three sailors, and one British journalist to the war overseas.

Seventy-three helmets were placed on 73 rifles while 73 dog tags hung over 73

new boots. There was a single white cross in the midst of them all, with a British flag placed beside it, a quiet reminder the United States is not alone in this war.

“The battlefield cross – its purpose, to show honor and respect for the fallen at the battle sight,” stated a narrator of the service. “Today its immediate need is to show respect for the fallen among the still living members of the unit.”

Regimental Commander Col. Randy P. Newman rose and spoke of the honor these 74 men showed on the battlefield.

“We pay tribute today to

what these men gave, lives cut short but not unfulfilled,” Newman said. “Each man gave their lives in a noble effort to give back to the people of Afghanistan so they can determine their future and to increase the security of our own nation.”

As he spoke, the 74 crosses behind him held a reminder for every Marine in attendance of what it means to fight alongside one another to complete the Corps’ mission.

“Once the first drop of blood was shed by a Marine in Afghanistan, we became committed to remaining there for

See FALLEN, A6



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A Marine bows his head in remembrance of a fallen Marine during the Regimental Combat Team 7 memorial ceremony Oct. 15 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. The units attached to RCT-7 were deployed to Afghanistan from Oct. 24, 2009 to Sept. 28, 2010.

HQBN Marines take on advanced rifle course



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

During the Table 3 course of fire, Headquarters Battalion Marines and sailors maneuver from the 25-yard line to the 15-yard line firing a “controlled pair,” which is a drill that consists of two well-aimed shots, at the Combat Center’s Rifle Range Wednesday.

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The rifle qualifications for the Marine Corps consist of four courses of fire. Marines from Headquarters Battalion recently tried their hands at the Table 3 course.

During basic training, Marines complete the first two tables of fire. Table 3 is designed to challenge the Marines already proficient with their rifles with a more advanced course of fire to further extend their knowledge of combat marksmanship, according to Marine Corps Order 3574.2, and Marine Corps Reference Publication 3-01a.

Table 3 begins with the

“firing while maneuvering” stage. Participants begin at the 25-yard line and fire two controlled shots while moving to the 15-yard line. There, they wait for the coach’s command to cease fire.

The next segment is another fire while maneuvering exercise, this time moving from the 15-yard line to the 10.

At the 10-yard line, the participants are told to face left, look at their target, pivot back right and fire a “failure to stop drill,” which consists of three shots, two to the chest and one to the head or pelvis. They then repeat the movements, only this time firing a “hammer pair,” or two quickly-performed shots. The two drills

are repeated with a right-side pivot as well.

After maneuvering from the 10-yard line to the five-yard line while firing a controlled pair, participants complete a final hammer pair and failure to stop drill with a right and left pivot.

The whole course was then repeated after sunset for the night fire segment.

The most recent battalion participating in the course was Headquarters Battalion. However, due to a lack of equipment and training time, the battalion was exempt from the night fire segment.

This is the first time the non-deployable unit has been

See TABLE 3, A7



Get a grip ~ See A3



Sergeants of Marines ~ See A4



Wheelin’ ‘n’ dealin’ ~ See B1



Gridiron gridlock ~ See B3



Exclusive

Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>



Kayde Escobedo, the 3-year-old son of Sgt. Brent Escobedo, gets a snake painted on his arm by a clown during the 7th Marine Regiment's Family Day Oct. 15 at Felix Field. To see more photos check out the Combat Center's Facebook page.

Oral health tips for Halloween, year-round

SHARON FOSTER
TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Trick or Treat! It's that time of year again, when kids look forward to Halloween sweets and parents worry about the damage sugar does to their kids' teeth. TRICARE officials remind beneficiaries that brushing and flossing after eating sugary treats is the best way to keep cavities away.

"Ideally, we recommend limiting sugary snacks for oral health and overall health, but that may not be practical during Halloween," said Army Col. Jeffrey Chaffin, Army dentist and chief of the TMA Dental Care Branch. "When possible, try to encourage healthy snacks. The best advice to parents is to ensure that children brush and floss properly after eating Halloween treats."

Even though the oral health of children has improved significantly over the past few decades, tooth decay still affects children in the United States more than any other chronic infectious disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Untreated, tooth decay causes pain and infections that may lead to problems eating and speaking.

The good news is that tooth decay is preventable. According to the CDC, the combination of dental sealants and fluoride has the potential to nearly eliminate tooth decay in school-age children. Dental sealants are thin coatings that are applied to the grooves on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to protect them from tooth decay. Most tooth decay in children and teens occurs on these surfaces. Fluoride helps strengthen teeth, which in turn helps keep them free of cavities and decay. It is a natural substance contained in toothpaste, mouthwash, and in some cities, water.

TRICARE officials understand the importance of good oral health year-round and think Halloween is a good time for parents to reevaluate best practices. Below are several tips to help parents and their kids maintain a healthy smile:

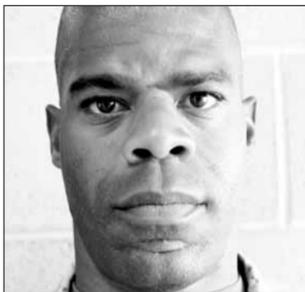
- Brushing teeth twice a day
- Avoiding excessive snacking on sweets and carbohydrate rich foods
- Rinsing with water after meals
- Cleaning between teeth with floss and/or interdental brushes
- Getting regular dental checkups

For more dental hygiene tips and coverage information, visit the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) website at www.TRICAREdentalprogram.com.

Centerspeak

What are your plans for Halloween?

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



LIEUTENANT COL. JAMES MCARTHUR
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3

"Running the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington."



CORPORAL VINCENT THORN
1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINE REGIMENT,
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICES COMPANY

"Going back home to Glendale, Ariz."



CORPORAL DESHAUN WHITEHEAD
1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINE REGIMENT,
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICES COMPANY

"Going to a costume contest as SpongeBob SquarePants."

Hot Topics

TRICK OR TREAT HOURS

The 2010 Combat Center Halloween "Trick or Treat" hours will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31.

SMP HAUNTED HOUSE

The Combat Center Single Marines and Sailor Program will host a "Lunatic Asylum" Haunted House at the East Gym Oct. 27 from 7-10 p.m., and Oct. 28 from 7-11 p.m. Volunteers are still needed to assist with set-up. Set-up dates are Oct. 25-26 at 8 a.m. All volunteers will receive a Letter of Appreciation. Contact Lance Cpl. Brittany Alexander for more information at 830-1090 or at brittany.alexander@usmc.mil.

ROAD CYCLING BIKE RIDE

There is a Road Cycling bike ride every Wednesday, all year-round. Riders depart the main training tank parking lot at 11:15 a.m. for a 20-mile loop around the Wonder Valley area. The group exits and enters through the Condor Gate. All riders and all levels are welcome.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL TICKET DEAL

San Diego State University is offering prime tickets for their home games to military personnel and their families for \$5 a seat. Purchased tickets through MCCS ticket offices. The seats are located between the 30 yard lines at the Plaza level. Retail value is \$26/seat.

BABY BASIC CLASS 2010

Baby Basics is a fast-paced class that provides information on labor and delivery, postpartum, breast-feeding and safety for babies from pregnancy to 12 months. The class also emphasizes the father's involvement and includes interactive demonstrations of basic infant care, such as bathing, diapering and soothing a crying baby. The class is provided to expectant parents (couples and singles). Participants must register prior to attending class. This class combines Mommy's Basic Training and Daddy's Baby Boot Camp. The classes are offered Nov. 4 and Dec. 2. For more information please call 830-7622.



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

AFTER MY 4TH YEAR...THE ROOTS GREW!
SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN MY MONITORS WORST NIGHTMARE!!



HOME STEADER'S

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

SUDOKU #1969

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

Marine Corps History

Oct. 23, 1983

An explosive-laden truck slammed into the Battalion Landing Team headquarters building in Beirut, Lebanon. The massive explosion collapsed the building and took the lives of 241 Americans, including 220 Marines. This was the highest loss of life in a single day for Marines since D-Day on Iwo Jima in 1945.

THE BIG ONE

[Puzzle solutions on A5]

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16								17						
18					19					20				
21			22	23			24	25	26		27			
			28			29		30		31				
32	33	34				35	36					37	38	39
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49	50	51			52		53		54			55	56	57
58					59			60	61				62	
63					64	65				66	67			
68									69					
	70													
									71					

ACROSS

1. Marshy area
7. Spiffs up the wingtips
13. Having great wisdom
14. Suffering memory loss
16. Imposing sight at Fenway
18. Treador's trophy
19. Merino mother
20. Franklin or potbelly
21. Two-dimensional
24. Old Ford model
27. Blunted blade
28. To boot
30. "American Gothic" artist
32. Left, at sea
35. Mansard and gambrel
37. ___-relief
40. Hoax of 1869
43. Fallen Russian or biter
44. "Peg Woffington" author Charles
45. Ready to serve, as ale
46. Pre-Russian Revolution ruler
47. Sweater letters
49. Fleck or Bartok
52. Pot pie spheroid
54. Having an aroma
58. Flee to wed
60. Diarist Anaïs
62. "This ___ test ..."
63. Biblical adversaries
68. In an unyielding fashion
69. Sources of wisdom
70. Some English exam answers
71. Time for dodgeball, maybe

DOWN

1. Taj ___
2. Met production
3. Fix, as a fight
4. ___ Lingus
5. Looks from Snidely
6. Culinary potpourri
7. Houston of Texas
8. Med. insurance plan
9. Travelers' stopovers
10. Placed one inside another
11. Prevent, in legalese
12. Holey utensil
13. "___ right up!"
15. Manitoba tribesmen
17. "___ blu, dip into di..."
22. Pusher pursuer
23. Where sacrifices are made
25. Get-one-free deal
26. Tip, as a hat
29. Madonna's "Truth ___"
31. Newsman Charles
32. PIN requester
33. Honor society letter
34. Not 'neath
36. Suffix with human or fact
37. Exemplar of blindness
38. Actress ___ Alicia
39. Indy 500 sponsor
41. Use a scythe
42. Not ___ many words
46. Fleshy-snout critter
48. Writer ___ de Balzac
49. Nursing home count
50. Tickle pink
51. Is gaga over
53. "___ how!"
55. Iranian cash
56. ___ Park, Colorado
57. Bits of Morse code
59. "So Big" writer Ferber
61. Humpbacked helper
64. Khan married to Rita Hayworth
65. George Pataki's old bailiwick: Abbr.
66. Fond du ___
67. Diamonds, to hoods

OBSERVATION POST

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SJA CORNER

Marines must support family members

CAPT. DAVID SEGRAVES

OFFICER IN CHARGE, LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

Whether you are a Marine considering divorce and looking for guidance on your responsibilities or a dependent spouse asking about your rights during a divorce, the basic answer is the same: Marines must support their family members. The state court that presides over the divorce or other family law matters will make the ultimate determination on the amount of support. Nevertheless, until a court has made an order of support or both parties have agreed to a support amount, Chapter 15 of the Legal Administration Manual governs support required by Marines.

Support under Chapter 15 is not automatic. A family member must complain to a Marine's chain of command, which will then bring the matter to the attention of the Marine's commanding officer. The commanding officer has 10 working days to meet with the Marine and take appropriate action. In most cases, this action will include an order for support. Violation of this order could lead to punishment under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice. The commanding officer must take multiple things into consideration, including which family members rate support, the standard amount of support and if any factors warrant reduction or elimination from the standard support amount.

Being a DoD-recognized dependent does not equate to rating support under Chapter 15. The support guidelines only apply to spouses, biological children and adopted children of Marines. Furthermore, Marines are not required to provide support to spouses who also serve on active duty in the military if they have no children. Children born in-wedlock are presumed to be the biological children of the Marine, but children born out of wedlock require proof of paternity. This proof can either be in the form of an administrative or court order or voluntary declaration of paternity from the Marine.

Once the commanding officer has determined which family members are entitled to support, Chapter 15 provides a chart for the standard amount of support. It provides for either a cash amount per family member or a fraction of the basic allowance for housing per family member. Family members will receive the greater of the two numbers.

Marines may request to reduce or eliminate the interim order of support. Commanding officers may do this in four situations: if the spouse seeking support has a higher gross income than the Marine, including allowances; if the Marine has provided interim financial support continually for 12 months; if the Marine has been the victim of a substantiated instance of abuse by the spouse seeking support; or if the Marine has been making regular and recurring payments of obligations such as rent or car and insurance payments for the family members seeking support. In each situation, the burden rests on the Marine to provide evidence to support the reduction.

The Legal Assistance Office can provide further guidance to Marines or family members regarding interim support. As always, we advocate self-help first. For Marines, that means knowing your obligations and fulfilling them. For family members, it means knowing your rights and speaking up.

Assault climbers reach new heights

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

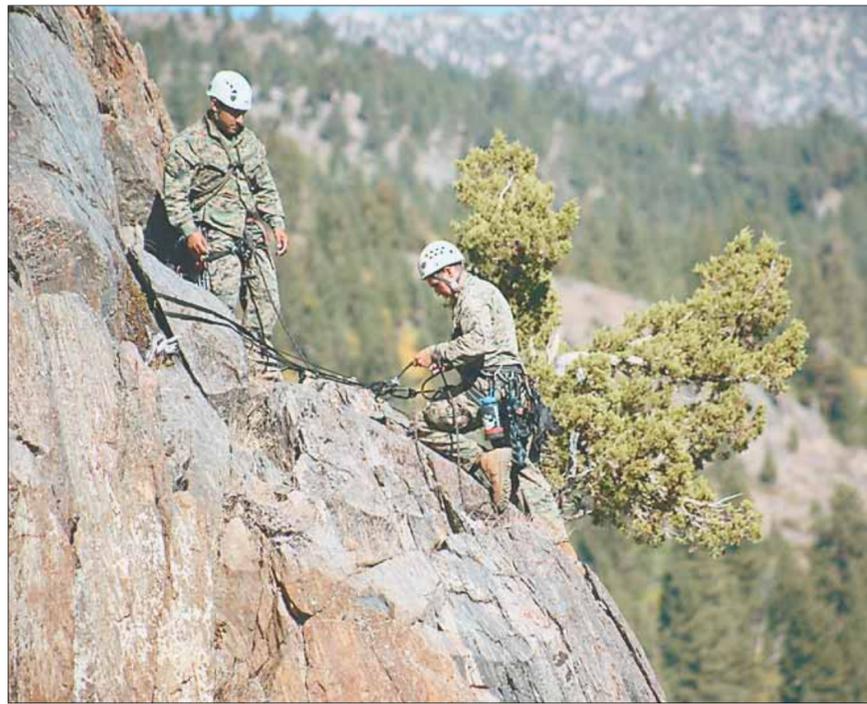
MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif.—Marines and sailors with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, learned the art of mountain climbing and its practical application in a tactical environment during the climbing phase of their assault climbers course at the Mountain Warfare Training Course Oct. 4-15.

Throughout the five-week course, students learned about mountain safety, the care of mountaineering equipment, mountain casualty evacuations, suspension and traversing, among other techniques useful for assault climbers.

The mountain climbing portion of the course taught Marines the basics of climbing and eventually progressed to the more advanced aspects, such as a conducting lead climbs.

"Ninety percent of the Marines here have never climbed before," said Capt. Thomas Irwin, officer in charge, Special Operations Training Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force. "[The course] takes the Marines from the bottom to the top," said the Culver City, Calif., native, commenting on the evolving Marine's skill levels.

Climbing teams scaled



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Two Marines with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment conduct a two-party-climb while scaling a 150 ft. wall Toiyabe National Forest during the Assault Climber's Course Oct. 15.

multiple rock faces during the phase, including one more than 150-feet-tall.

"During the course, the hardest part to overcome for me was my fear for heights," said Cpl. Robert Blair an anti-tank missile man and team leader with 2nd Bn., 5th Marines. "When I did, I was looking for my next thrill, that next chance to repel or climb.

"After you realize the sys-

tems are good, it gives you a lot more confidence in everything that you're doing," said the Dallas native.

Blair said throughout the course he was challenged mentally and physically and has a few recommendations for Marines and sailors considering the course.

"Study your knots. The hardest part of this course was the first week, while

learning about the knots and systems. There are also a lot of things that you will do in this course you never expected doing in your life, you know? I am from Dallas; there aren't too many places to go repelling around there."

A tactical theme was present throughout the course, as Marines learned how to

See ASSAULT, A7



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Sergeant Michael Truax, an assault climber instructor with Special Operations Training Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, quizzes his Marines over material learned throughout the course, at Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., during the Assault Climbers Course Oct. 15.

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Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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

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

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

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

Cancer is a **WORD,** not a sentence.

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Yucca Valley, 92284

Leaders leave Sergeants Course 'fit to fight'

LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sergeants throughout the Marine Corps came to the Combat Center's Sergeants Course Class 6-10 with open

minds to learn, to become better leaders and take the opportunity to bring something back to their units.

After eight grueling weeks, Class 6-10 graduated Oct. 13 as the newest to the Corps' best leaders.

The Marines were instructed on many different things like close order drill, guided leadership discussion, combat operations, land navigation, warfighting and physical fitness training.

"From the classes, we got a lot of leadership training and [physical training]," said Sgt. Sgt. Thiago Mocarzel, an unmanned aerial vehicle operator for Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, and a Class 6-10 graduate.

The crowd's attention turned to First Sgt. Carlos Ruiz, the guest speaker for the graduating class.

"Ask questions and ask for knowledge," Ruiz advised Class 6-10. "Don't go back to your units and hide. Inspire your Marines to stick around."

The class graduated with a total of 76 Marines, held an overall grade point average of 91.18 and recognized

See SERGEANTS, A7



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

Master Sgt. Daniel Penrose (left), an operations chief for Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, talks with Sgt. Thiago Mocarzel, an unmanned aerial vehicle operator for VMU-3 and a native of Victoria, Texas, before Mocarzel's graduation ceremony for the Combat Center's Sergeants Course Class 6-10 at the installation's Protestant Chapel Oct. 13.



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

First Sgt. Carlos Ruiz (left), the guest speaker for the Combat Center's graduation ceremony, presents Sgt. Matt Latuff, a platoon sergeant for Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, an award for taking top honors for Class 6-10. Latuff graduated with a 96.73 percent average over the eight week course.

Temporary childcare facility coming soon



LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON

The Combat Center, along with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest and Icon Construction, based out of McKinney, Texas, broke ground on a \$2.48 million, 15,000-square-ft. temporary Child Development Center project on the corner of Cottontail and Condor Road Tuesday. The temporary facilities will be able to provide care for 300 infant to preschool-aged children, and is slated to be finished Nov. 23, explained Tony Principi, the NAVFAC construction manager. "This is actually being established because the capacity of the current facilities is exhausted and there is a need to put several hundred more children into care," Principi said. The project plans include modern, age-specific classrooms and three playgrounds designed specifically for infants and preschool aged children. "Even though it's a temporary facility, it's very safe," Principi said. "It's been thoroughly, seismically engineered and has a state-of-the-art fire alarm system." The temporary facilities will stand in to provide the extra care until a permanent facility is built, which is anticipated to be in the next five years.

Construction update

Sewer line installation along Bourke

There will be sewer line installation along the west side of Bourke, beginning just south of 7th Street and continuing north through intersection at 8th Street from Monday to Nov. 10. Traffic will be reduced to one lane with flagmen for approximately 100 feet in the area of immediate work. Vehicle parking on the north side of Bourke will be restricted, and no parking signs will be posted. For any questions regarding this construction project, please contact Margie Trandem, the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction engineering technician at 578-2572 or the Blade Geary Construction manager at 830-9162.

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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29 Palms

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This Week's Spotlight Church

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
365-4014

SUNDAY
Bible School.....9:30am
Worship.....10:45am

Apache Mobile Home Park
29 Palms Hwy
Hi Desert Star

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
SUN. SERVICE & 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

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

DESERT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday 10:00 A.M. - Worship
Sunday School Child Care
29 Palms • 5688 Sunrise Drive
760-361-0086

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM
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CHURCH: 365-2548 Preschool & Daycare: 369-9590

Joshua Tree First Baptist Church
Bible School 9:00 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday 6:15 PM
6740 Sunset Rd.
366-3704

United Methodist Church
of Twentynine Palms
6250 Mesquite Springs Road
Phone: 367-7338
Sunday School: 8:00 a.m. - Worship: 9:00 a.m.
(Child Care Provided)

Reverend Lynn Reece
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St. Martin-In-The-Fields
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Sunday School & Eucharist 10:00 am
Sunday Gospel Meditation 9:00 am
Wed. Morning Prayer 7:30 am
"We are baptized into ministry."
72348 Larrea Road (2 blocks N. of KFC)
www.stmartinchurch29.org (760) 367-7133

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Sunday Services
Sunday School 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

Truth Tabernacle Apostolic Church
73493 29 Palms Hwy., Twentynine Palms

Pastor Titus R. Burns
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 PM
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Worship.....10:45am

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Operation Mountain Sweep maintains forest beauty

CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER BRIDGEPORT, Calif. – Sixty-four Marines and sailors aboard the Mountain Warfare Training Center participated in Operation Mountain Sweep Oct. 18 and 19 in the Toiyabe National Forest.

The MWTC conducts the biannual cleanup effort to ensure that the training areas used by the installation, to train

military units in various types of mountaineering skills, are kept clean to ensure national forest and wildlife preservation.

Parts of the Toiyabe National Forest used by the MWTC are also accessible to civilians making the biannual clean-up not just a must for units going through future courses, but for other outdoor enthusiasts who visit the park.

"It's really important that we keep the area clean," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Wennberg officer in charge of Operation

Sweep, "Being good stewards of the land, as well as keeping good relations with the U.S. Forest Service, has allowed us to add over 12,000 acres to our training areas."

Captain Andrew Irvin, the natural and cultural resource manager for MWTC, agrees the mountain sweep positively affects training operations here, but that the most profound benefits are for the environment and wildlife.

By disposing of trash, personnel with MWTC get rid of unnatural food products predators would otherwise eat, combating a potential explosion in the rodent population, he said.

"Because the predators would eat garbage, they wouldn't rely on rodents to fulfill their diet," Irvin said. "An increase in rodent activity increases the risk of plague and the Hanta virus, both of which can jump to humans."

"It is our training area, and it is our responsibility," he added. "Not only do we pick up Marine Corps trash, we pick up civilian trash from hunters, campers and



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Marines aboard the Mountain Warfare Training Center search for trash during operation Mountain Sweep Oct. 18 in the Toiyabe National Forest. The biannual clean-up effort helps maintain the preservation of the national forest and the wildlife that inhabit it.



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

A Marine aboard the Mountain Warfare Training Center picks up a littered water bottle in the Toiyabe National Forest Oct. 18. The Marines joined together to clean up the national forest and keep it safe for wildlife.

fishers. What we do is identify the problem areas in the training area for the National Forest Service, and then we take care of it."

Private First Class Yong Kim, a supply administration and operations specialist at MWTC, took the chance to

get out of the office Tuesday to help with the effort and reflected on his fortune as he picked up trash.

"It was good to get out and see all the views of the training center while helping to clean the mountain of trash left behind by campers and others

that use the park," he said.

Wennberg said he has no doubt clean-up projects will continue into the future at MWTC as units continue to prepare and train for the deployments. Future clean-ups will also preserve lands for visitors and outdoor enthusiasts.

PATIENT, from A1

deploy, and this may impact a Marine whose presence is critical to the mission, Young said.

As fewer patients are seen by each provider, patient care reports sent to higher headquarters at Navy Medicine West could impact the overall staffing of providers, nurses, and Corpsmen stationed at the Combat Center, said Navy Captain Mike Moeller, the hospital's executive officer.

"It has an impact on the resources allocated," he explained. "If resources are not used, they may be taken away."

Colonel John P. Holden, the Combat Center's Chief of Staff, echoed Moeller's concerns.

The no-shows suggest the hospital does not have patient loads similar to other facilities, he said. As a result, more per-

sonnel could be augmented to other units, and there will be fewer providers here.

"Obviously, we have a requirement here in the high desert," Holden said. "We just need those making appointments to follow through or cancel in a timely manner so the majority doesn't have to pay the price."

The impact of no-shows trickles into other aspects of hospital operations, said Navy Cmdr. Sharon W. Kingsberry, the hospital's director of Medical Services.

Many patients who cannot make a timely appointment will head to the emergency room for care, she said.

Emergency Room staff do not have as detailed access to each patient's medical history as a primary care facility would. The result is the breakdown in the continuity of patient care

and the ability for patients to see the same provider on a consistent basis. The ER providers are left to treat patients based on what they can observe and what the patients can tell them. No one knows a patient better than their own provider, added Kingsberry, a Bronx, N.Y., native.

Also, non-emergency visits to the ER can create gridlock. This leads to wait times easily approaching four hours, and possibly more if a patient suffering from a heart attack or other trauma arrives, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Raul Carrillo, the ER's department head. With flu season just around the corner, non-emergency patients can expect even longer wait periods, said Carrillo, who is from San Antonio.

The solution to this problem is simple and as easy as making a quick phone call to cancel appointments as soon as possible, said Lawson, a Salt Lake City native.

"One-hundred percent of the time, we'd rather have a patient cancel than no-show," Lawson said. "Just that call or e-mail would have a huge impact, because we can easily re-book that appointment for someone else."

Kingsberry agreed, saying "cancelling is a good thing." However, she also encourages those who need treatment, and even those who followed proper cancellation procedures, to still book another appointment as soon as they can.

"We want to promote health, and in order to do so,

we need patients to come in," she added.

Ensuring Marines are medically fit and following through on appointments is a leadership issue, and leaders at every level need to take a vested interest in their Marines' medical readiness, said Sgt. Maj. Harrison L. Tanksley, the Combat Center's sergeant major.

"I expect a Marine's word to be their bond," Tanksley said. "Missing medical appointments is simply not acceptable. It is a violation of our core values of honor, courage and commitment. Leaders have an obligation to support their Marines as they schedule and keep appointments. In those cases where Marines have flagrantly disre-

garded their appointments, I expect their leadership to hold them accountable. As for family members, cancel your appointments if you cannot make it. It is that easy."

To make it as easy and convenient as possible, the hospital created a dedicated cancellation line at 830-2369. Patients can book their primary care appointments by calling the dedicated appointment line at 830-2752. Cancellations or rescheduling an appointment can also be done using the hospital's direct e-mail at NHTP-CAPC@med.navy.mil.

Both numbers and e-mail are also listed on the back of the appointment reminder cards provided to each patient when they book an appointment in person.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



The other morning I was having breakfast with Martie Avels, a candidate for re-election to the Morongo Unified School District's Board of Directors when I happened to mention that I graduated from Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. That really struck a chord with Martie. She had received her Bachelor of Science degree in the state of Oregon and her first significant professional position was as Nursing Supervisor at Forest Grove Community Hospital. Obviously, we know many of the same people.

In the years that followed Martie did much in the field of medicine both as a nurse and an administrator. In fact, she held various positions at Hi-Desert Medical Center from 1981-2003, including Interim Chief Executive Officer for three years. After Martie's retirement the Hi-Desert Medical Center changed the name of their prestigious nursing scholarship program to the Martie Avels Nursing Scholarship Program.

Martie and her husband Jamie have had three children educated at MUSD schools during the past 25 years and understand the strengths and challenges of our Hi-Desert.

Martie is typical of the many wonderful men and women who are candidates for the elective positions available from Morongo Valley to Wonder Valley. I personally know the vast majority of the candidates. They are good, decent, dedicated citizens who know that a democracy is no better than the people who participate in the entire process from voter registration to personal commitment of time and talent.

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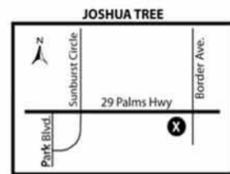
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COMBAT CENTER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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 p.m. - Choir Practice
4:15 p.m. - Confessions+
4:30 p.m. - Rosary
5 p.m. - Catholic Mass
Christ Chapel
9 a.m. - Calvary Fellowship (Contemporary Worship*)
9 a.m. - Children's Church
10:30 a.m. - Redemption (A blend of traditional and contemporary worship)
10:45 a.m. - Children's Church*)
Weekday Events
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Mon.-Fri. 11:45 a.m.-Catholic Mass
Christ Chapel
Monday - Friday, noon - Prayer
Tuesday
Christ Chapel
9 a.m. - Christian Women's Fellowship* (Sept.-May)
Immaculate Heart of Mary
3:30-5:30 p.m. - Military Council of Catholic Women
Wednesday
Immaculate Heart of Mary
First Wednesday each month, 12:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m. - Exposition/ Adoration Most Blessed Sacrament
Legend
* Indicates child care is provided
+ Call 830-6456/6482 for confession appointments

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For information call 830-5430.

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

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FALLEN, from A1

however long our nation desires there," Newman said. "Our Corps will remain there and will fight because that is what we do. They went on to the battlefield with the full understanding that we were 100 percent committed to what we were there for.

"The only way that any of these men would have died in vain is if we give up in the effort that is currently succeeding in Afghanistan," Newman said.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Marines bow their heads in remembrance of the 74 Marines, sailors, and one civilian journalist lost in Afghanistan during a Regimental Combat Team 7 memorial ceremony Oct. 15 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A trumpet player in the Combat Center's Band plays taps over the 74 memorial crosses during Regimental Combat Team 7's memorial ceremony Oct. 15 at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field. RCT-7 was deployed to Afghanistan from Oct. 24, 2009 to Sept. 28, 2010.

Remembering RCT-7's fallen

Oct. 24, 2009-Sept. 28, 2010

1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment

Lance Cpl. Justin Swanson

2nd Bn., 8th Marines

Cpl. Xhacob Latorre

3rd Bn., 4th Marines

Lance Cpl. Cody Stanley
Lance Cpl. Joshua Birchfield

3rd Bn., 10th Marines

Sgt. Christopher Hrbek

1st Bn., 3rd Marines

Mr. Rupert Hamer

Lance Cpl. Mark Juarez
Lance Cpl. Jacob Meinert
Lance Cpl. Timothy Poole

Lance Cpl. Noah Pier

Lance Cpl. Curtis Swenson

1st Bn., 6th Marines

Sgt. Daniel Angus

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith

Lance Cpl. Jacob Turbett

Lance Cpl. Kielin Dunn

Cpl. Jonathan Porto

Capt. Brandon Barrett

Sgt. Joshua Desforges

Cpl. Nicholas Paradarodriguez

Lance Cpl. Philip Clark

Lance Cpl. Anthony Dilisio

3rd Bn., 6th Marines

Lance Cpl. Alejandro Yazzie

Pfc. Eric Currier

Pfc. Kyle Coutu

Lance Cpl. Matthias Hanson

Lance Cpl. Christopher Rangel

Lance Cpl. Patrick Xavier

Lance Cpl. Gavin Brummund

Lance Cpl. Timothy Serwinoski

Lance Cpl. Daniel Raney

Lance Cpl. Tyler Roads

3rd Bn., 1st Marines

Cpl. Jeffrey Johnson

Sgt. Kenneth May

Navy PO3 Zarian Wood

Sgt. Brandon Bury

Lance Cpl. Derek Hernandez

Cpl. Donald Marler

Sgt. John Rankel

Navy Seaman William Ortega

Sgt. Joseph Caskey

Cpl. Larry Harris

Cpl. Max Donahue

Cpl. Kristopher Greer

Gunnery Sgt. Floyd Holley

2nd Bn., 6th Marines

Sgt. Zachary Walters

Sgt. Derek Shanfield

Cpl. Dave Santos

Lance Cpl. Abram Howard

Lance Cpl. Cody Childers

Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Schultz

Sgt. Jason Calo

Lance Cpl. Cody Roberts

Lance Cpl. Ross Carver

Cpl. Philip Charte

Lance Cpl. Anthony Rosa

3rd Bn., 3rd Marines

Pfc. Jake Suter

Cpl. Joe Wrightsman

1st Lt. Scott Fleming

2nd Bn., 9th Marines

Navy PO3 James Swink

Lance Cpl. Joshua Twigg

Cpl. John Bishop

Sgt. Joseph Bovia

2nd Assault Amphibian Bn.

Lance Cpl. Shawn Hefner

3rd AAB

Cpl. Julio Vargas

4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Bn.

Sgt. Frank World

2nd Bn., 2nd Marines

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Hand

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Taylor

Lance Cpl. Michael Freeman

Pfc. Jason Estopinal

Staff Sgt. Christopher Eckard

Lance Cpl. Adam Peak

Lance Cpl. Eric Ward

Lance Cpl. Garrett Gamble

Lance Cpl. Jacob Ross



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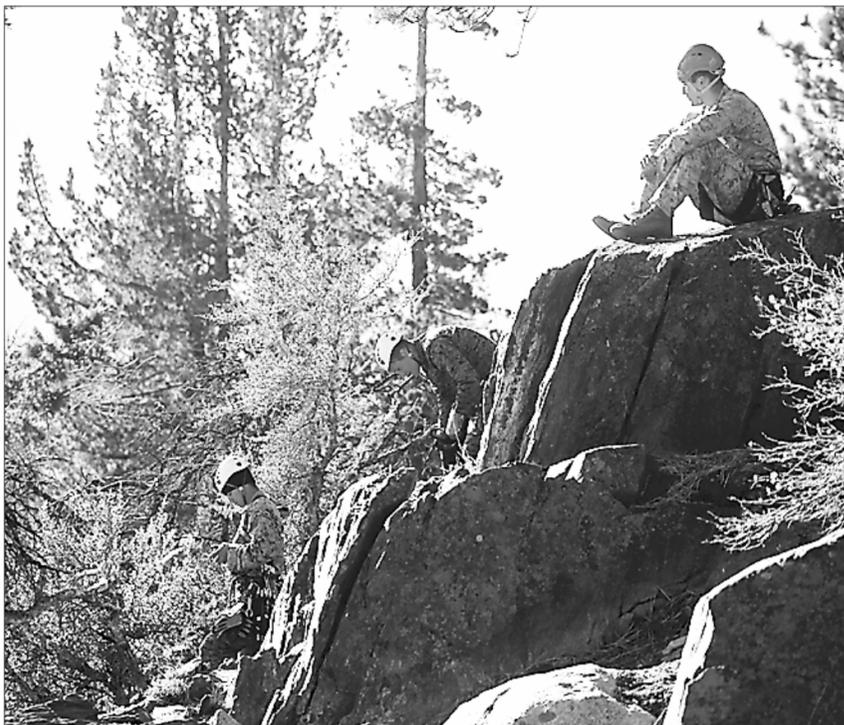
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CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, take in the view after scaling a rock face during the Assault Climbers Course at the Mountain Warfare Training Center Oct. 12.

ASSAULT, from A3

minimize the sound of their climbing harness and other swinging pieces of gear attached to it.

"For nighttime climbing, when we are trying to be more tactical, we don't use voice commands. We use rope tugs," said Sgt. Jay

Richardson, an instructor with SOTG, I MEF. "One rope tug means 'I'm off climb,' two rope tugs means 'I'm on belay,' and three rope tugs symbolizes that 'I'm about to start climbing.'"

Upon graduation, the assault climbers will return to their units, adding to the flexibility and capabilities of

that unit, said the Orange County, Calif., native. Their new skills include being able to effectively move gear, as well as raise and lower casualties, he added.

"They are learning the skill set to move a company's worth of Marines up the side of a cliff safely," Richardson said.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A range coach instructs Marines and sailors shooting from the 25-yard how order to properly battle-sight-zero their weapons before the Table 3 course of fire at the Combat Center Rifle Range Wednesday. Headquarters Battalion is now requiring its Marines and sailors to participate in the Table 3 course, in addition to Table 1 and 2.

TABLE 3, from A1

required to complete Table 3.

"This gives Marines a chance to get familiar with the weapons again," said Cpl. Chris Jones, a logistics noncommissioned officer at the S4 and a recent participant of the Table 3 course. "The Marines could always

get a chance to augment out and deploy."

Jones not only pointed out the educational value of the range experience, but also explained range training as a duty that comes with being a Marine. "This training is motivating, it's a part of being a Marine," he said.

Other Marines in Headquarters Bn. not only saw the training as beneficial, but as a chance to get out of the office and do something new, said Pfc. Amber Carroll, a Co. B clerk. "We need to do the same stuff deployable units do, even though we don't deploy. We are still Marines."

SERGEANTS, from A4

three distinguished honor graduates: Sgt. Matt Latuff, a platoon sergeant with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment; Sgt. Smahe Menier, an individual material readiness list manager with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron; and Sgt. Randolph Chatfield, 3rd platoon guide with Company I, 3rd Bn., 4th Marines.

Each of the three distin-

guished honor graduates received a certificate of recognition from the President of Marine Corps University, Maj. Gen. Robert B. Neller.

"I'm happy to graduate," said Mocarzel, a native of Victoria, Texas, after the graduation, adding he recommends the course for other sergeants who might be weighing the opportunity to attend a future course.

Although Class 6-10's Sergeants Course education

has come to an end at the Combat Center, it's only a short pause for the instructors as they are already preparing for their next group of sergeants and another opportunity to mold the future's leaders.

Editor's Note: This is part of a series documenting Sergeants Course Class 6-10 on their journey to becoming the best leaders the Corps has to offer. This is the sixth and final installment in the series

More options at end of enlistments



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Corporals Christopher Burgess and Michael Harris, both mechanics with 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, talk with Staff Sgt. Matthew T. White, a prior service recruiter with Prior Recruiting District 12, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., about job opportunities in the Marine Corps Reserves during the second semi-annual Job Fair hosted by Mojave Viper Support Division Oct. 13. The semi-annual job fair featured 25 businesses, colleges and vocational schools, as well as the prior service recruiter. "When a Marine initially signs his first four-year contract, he or she signs up for four years active duty and four years in the [individual ready reserve]," White said. "What we want to accomplish here is to give a Marine options," White said. "It lets them know the Marine Corps isn't turning its back on them." For more information about any of the reserve programs, contact your unit career retention specialist or call Prior Recruiting District 12 at 725-9677.

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

Trader Ad forms are available at the Public Affairs Office and may be filled out during normal working hours at Bldg. 1417. Ads may also be submitted through e-mail, but will only be accepted from those with an @usmc.mil address.

If you are active duty, retired military or a family member and do not have an @usmc.mil address you can go to the PAO page of the base Web site at: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/pao/> and complete a request to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used

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

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

To have a "House For Sale" ad run in the Observation Post, applicants must provide Permanent Change of Station orders and have the ad approved by Base Housing. This ensures the Combat Center Trader is not used for commercial real estate endeavors.

Ads are run on a first-come, first-serve, space available basis. If you have questions please call 830-6213.

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B1

Metal Mulisha Troops take Combat Center for wild ride

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Metal Mulisha Troops, along with car and bike owners from around the Combat Center community, dazzled the installation Saturday during the Commanding General's Car and Bike show and Metal Mulisha performance here.

Metal Mulisha is a group of professional stunt riders who travel and perform large venues and for service members.

The Troops performed three shows during the day, adding a kinetic display to compliment the elegant exhibit of rare and custom vehicles displayed across the way.

Performing for service members is a rewarding experience for the riders, said Jimmy Fitzpatrick, a member of the Mulisha, from Temecula, Calif.

"The team is glad to be back here," Fitzpatrick said. "We all like putting on a show for the military guys. It's cool to do these military shows, because we're the Metal Mulisha Troops, but [service members] are the real troops."

Fitzpatrick said the high winds in the desert had proved problematic before, but during the show all was clear, and the riders put on a show to remember.

The car show had its share of sights to behold as well, one of which was a 1947 Chevrolet Fleetmaster hot rod, owned by Gunnery Sgt. Tim Warren, a watch commander from the Provost Marshal's Office.

"I always take it to a show when I get the chance," said Warren, from Binghamton, N.Y.

Warren, who placed third in the car show for his category, Under

See METAL, B4



Derek Garland, a rider with the Metal Mulisha Troops, pulls off one of many aerial stunts Saturday aboard the Combat Center for those in attendance to the Commanding General's Car and Bike show. The Troops did three shows Saturday.



A 1956 Ford Fairlane was one of the many vehicles displayed here Saturday during the Commanding General's Car and Bike show.



Lieutenant Col. Dick Penley's 1934 Ford truck sits on display at the Commanding General's Car and Bike show Saturday. Along with a display of vehicles, three Metal Mulisha Troops put on a show across the street with their stunt bikes.



Derek Garland, a rider with the Metal Mulisha Troops, eyes the ramp before performing a jump for those in attendance to the Commanding General's Car and Bike show aboard the Combat Center Saturday. The Troops did three shows.

Commissary serves up turkey bowling



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Corporal Catherine Hopkins, a weather observer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, tosses a frozen turkey during game of turkey bowling at a lunch barbeque at the Combat Center's commissary Monday. Cyndy J. Fults, the store director for Commissary, said the lunch barbeque is a quarterly event to reach out to the single Marines and sailors on the Combat Center. "We want people to know that we are non-profit, unlike the stores out in town or even the exchanges. We can save Marines money on most purchases and for those who don't have a car, the Single Marine Program provides shuttle rides out here at no cost." At the end of the event some of the Marines were able to take home the turkeys and bottles of soda used for the bowling.

74th annual Pioneer Days parade marches through Twentynine Palms

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Service members from the Combat Center and local civilians, gathered in Twentynine Palms to participate in the 74th annual Pioneer Days parade, Saturday.

The parade is held every year in celebration of the founders of the town, and Combat Center Marines participated to show their support.

"This parade is celebrating the heritage of Twentynine Palms," said Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III, the Combat Center's commanding general. "We are a part of that and they embrace that so I think it is important that they do it and we participate in it because we are all a part of the same community."

The Marines lead the parade with the colors, proudly setting the parade's pace. Citizens stood along the side of the road and placed their hands over their hearts in honor of "Old Glory."

The spectators along the parade route appreciated the Marines participating in the parade since they play an intricate part in making Twentynine Palms the town it is.

"Marines are essential to the community," said Bradley

White-Findeisen, the Scout Master for Boy Scout Troop 229 and a native of Twentynine Palms, Calif., which carried the parade flag behind the Combat Center's Color Guard.

"Half of the businesses

in town are about being there for the Marines, and we wouldn't have half of our athletic teams. Scouting and a lot of the organizations would have a very hard

See PARADE, B4



LESLIE SHAW

Aryann Leucart [left] prepares to take a picture of her sister, Addalane Leucart, as she poses with Marine Corps Community Services computer technician Charles F. Delvalle in his "Uncle Fester" persona during the 2010 Pioneer Days Parade.



Liberty Call

Kind of funny, kind of sweet

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"It's Kind of a Funny Story"

Rated PG-13

What's so funny about schizophrenia, suicidal depression and pathological delusion? The new coming-of-age comedy "It's Kind of a Funny Story," about a teenager's weeklong stay in a psych ward, gently finds the humor — and the heart.

Newcomer Kier Gilchrist plays Craig, a 16-year-old freaking out over his high-pressure school work, his high-and-dry love life and the high expectations of his workaholic dad. After a recurring dream about jumping off the Brooklyn Bridge, Craig checks himself into a local hospital, thinking he's suicidal, and is assigned to the mental wing for five days of monitoring.

It takes him only a few sobering moments to discover he's not near as bad off as most of the other patients, who are working



K.C. BAILEY

Keir Gilchrist [right] plays Craig, a 16 year old who checks himself into a psych ward to escape his suicidal dreams. Zack Galifianakis [left] plays Bobby, another patient who is trying to keep his troubled past well hidden.

through a spectrum of psychological issues. That's when we get to know burly Bobby (Zack Galifianakis), who keeps his troubled past well hidden, and teen hottie Noelle (Emma Roberts, Julia's niece), whose scars are

quite evident on the surface. Not surprisingly, Bobby and Noelle teach Craig some valuable lessons about life, love and letting himself loose.

There's nothing inherently funny about mental illness. But the movie navigates this tricky terrain nimbly, never lampooning the situation in which Craig finds himself, and never using his wing-mates for cheap laughs. There's a tenderness to the tone that elevates it above what usually passes for slash-and-burn movie comedy.

Galifianakis, in particular, shines. Best known as a rapid-fire dynamo of hirsute hilarity in "The Hangover" and "Dinner For Schmucks," here he dials everything back. He still provides most of the movie's chuckle bait, but also makes you keenly aware of the hurt and the heartbreak that have made Bobby a painfully wounded man.

The budding romance between Craig and Noelle forms the movie's real emotional core, and the young actors playing them do a great job of sounding like real teens, grappling

with real teen issues. As two institutionally "incarcerated" youths in on a converging path of self-discovery, they often make things feel like "The Breakfast Club" meets "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

Directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, who collaborated previously on the knockout 2008 baseball movie "Sugar," use some very cool techniques, including freeze-frames and flashbacks with voiceover narration, scenes that become explosions of hand-drawn illustration, and moments when Craig turns to the camera to address the audience directly.

Overlay it with a cool soundtrack, including a concert fantasy sequence orchestrated to David Bowie's "Under Pressure," and you've got a movie experience that covers a lot of bases. It's kind of funny, kind of sweet, kind of hip and kind of heartwarming.

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" is kind of a charming little movie that will win you over if you give it the chance.



K.C. BAILEY

Silver screen newcomer Kier Gilchrist plays Craig, a 16-year-old freaking out over his high-pressure school work, high and dry love life and the high expectations of his workaholic father.



K.C. BAILEY

Keir Gilchrist [left], Zack Galifianakis [center] and Emma Roberts [right] star in Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck's "It's Kind of a Funny Story."

Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Fridays: Social food, 5 to 7 p.m.; Salsa dancing, 7 to 8 p.m.; Ladies' night, 8 to 10 p.m.; DJ Vlad, 8 to 11 p.m. Saturdays: Variety Night with DJ Gjettblaque Sundays: Football coverage, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays: Monday Night Football, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays: Karaoke with DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 10 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Mondays: Monday Night Football with chicken nuggets and nachos, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays: Italian sausage with peppers & onions, green salad. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 9 p.m., Social hour 5:30 p.m., DJ, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Mondays: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday: All Hands Lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 9 p.m., Karaoke, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center's Officers' Club

Mondays: Monday Night Football, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday: OSC Oktoberfest, all hands, 7 p.m. Oct. 23 Monday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday: Costume Party, 4:30 to 8 p.m.

For complete calendars, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

Local Events

Mixed Martial Arts LIVE!

Description: Seven amateur & three professional fights. This event is open to all MCCS authorized patrons. Beer & Food available for purchase. When: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday Oct. 22 Where: The Combat Center's Del Valle Field at the corner of Del Valle and 3rd Street.

The Farmers (formerly The Beat Farmers)

Description: The country rockers perform When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 22 and 23 Where: Pappy and Harriet's 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

"Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got The Will?)"

Description: Del Shores' hilariously biting comedy When: 8 p.m. on Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. on Sundays through Oct. 31 Where: Groves Cabin Theatre 8768 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley For more information call 365-4523 or visit <http://www.grovescabintheatre.org>.

7th Annual Halloween Haunt

Description: The spookiest haunted house in the basin When: 6 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday through Oct. 31 with one Thursday performance 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 29. Where: Theatre 29 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>

HWY 62 Art Tours 2010

Description: Over 100 artists and 62 locations. When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. East end tour, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23 and 24 West end tour, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 30 and 31. For more informatin visit www.hwy62arttours.com.

Annual Halloween Costume, Parade and Carnival

Description: A costume parade then Halloween carnival When: Costume Parade is 3 p.m. Saturday Oct. 23 followed by the carnival at 5 p.m. Where: Joshua Tree Community Center 6171 Sunburst Avenue, Joshua Tree For more information call 366-0378.

Lower Desert

Ana Gabriel

Description: Baja rock singer/composer from Mexico When: 8:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22 Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Gladys Knight

Description: The R&B/soul star performs her hits When: 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 7 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Neil Sedaka

Description: The pop star performs his hits When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 27 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit <http://www.spotlight29.com>.

Sunset Cinema

The Sunset Cinema will be closed for the month of October to replace fire sprinklers and to complete the lighting project.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

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Combat Center Sports



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

James Jones, a receiver with the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Rhinos, scores a vital touchdown during a tight game against Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Wednesday at Felix Field. The Rhinos went on to win, 19-14.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Cory Jones, the quarterback for Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, chucks a pass over an incoming defender Wednesday during their game with the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Rhinos at Felix Field. MCCES lost the game however, by a score of 19-14.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Jason Streets, quarterback for the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Rhinos, tries to escape a defender from Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School Wednesday at Felix Field. The Rhinos won the game, 19-14.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Cory Jones, the quarterback for Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, tries to control a high snap on their final drive Wednesday before losing to the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 Rhinos by five points at the installation's Felix Field.

K-9 shows off at Pioneer Days



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Bo, a military working dog with the Provost Marshal's Office, latches onto Lance Cpl. John T. Eolezal during a demonstration of the working dogs' capabilities at Luckie Park Saturday. Staff Sgt. Michael A. Skillings, the kennel master for the MWD Section, PMO, said they had been requested to put on two different shows during Pioneer Days. "We can just come out here and show the local community what our assets are that we can use on the base. We can show the kinds of training we do with the dogs and how the Marine Corps is helping the local community grow," he said.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Justin Shumpert
Hometown: Lexington, S.C.
Unit: Marine Wing Support Squadron 374
Job title: Motor transportation operator
Recognition: As the fullback for the MWSS-374 Rhinos, he was a crucial element in his team's win over the MCCES team Wednesday.
Favorite part of the sport: "The feeling of hitting another person, making them feel pain."
Advice to any aspiring athletes: "Keep your head up and stay low."

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METAL, from B1

Construction, said he plans on entering his vehicle again next year as well.

Lance Cpl. Mike Marra, who attended the event, said he's been a huge Metal Mulisha fan for a long time and was excited to hear about the show.

"If they were selling tickets, I would have camped out to get one," said the Atlanta native. "It was great getting to see them riding out here. It's also awesome that people who have all that going on take time to come out here and do a show."



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Gunnery Sgt. Tim Warren's 1947 Chevrolet Fleetmaster hot rod sits on display at the Commanding General's Car and Bike show Saturday at the Combat Center. Warren is a watch commander at the Provost Marshal's Office.



LANCE CPL. M. C. NERL

Patrons enjoy the Commanding General's Car and Bike show Saturday aboard the Combat Center. Across the street however, was a less static display put on by three members of the Metal Mulisha Troops for the installation.



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PARADE, from B1

time if it wasn't for the Marines volunteering," he said. "We would have a hard time being a town without the Marines."

Sixty-two Marines from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School volunteered to march in the parade on their day off.

Private First Class Kevin Habel, a student with Company B, MCCES, and a native of Cincinnati, said he has been looking forward to this for a couple of weeks and it was a good opportunity to don his dress blue "charlies," a uniform he almost never wears.

"I think [the Marines] like the fact the people appreciate they are here and they serve our country, and I could hear them back there thanking [the Marines] for their service," Clardy said. "I

think it is important for them to hear that coming from the people out here."

Sergeant Maj. Harrison L. Tanksley, the Combat Center's sergeant major, said having Combat Center personnel participate in the Pioneer Days Parade helps show the Combat Center's support for the local community.

"We are willing to give back and always support whatever endeavors the community may have, because they support us through thick and thin, not only when we have warriors pushing out into theater, but when warriors return," Tanksley said. "The community turns out in droves to support everybody in the Combat Center."

"I just want to thank the community of Twentynine Palms for everything they do for the war fighters and their families," he added.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Sergeant Maj. Harrison L. Tanksley, the Combat Center's sergeant major, waves to spectators during the 74th annual Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines with the Combat Centers Color Guard lead the 74th annual Pioneer Days Parade in Twentynine Palms, Calif., Saturday.

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