

Colonel Holden retires after 37 years, page A3

WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/29PALMS
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECOMBATCENTER
WWW.FLICR.COM/THECOMBATCENTER

Attackhead raids Excursions Club, page B1

OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

April 8, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 Issue 14

Jane Wayne offers taste of Corps

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

trucks, exposing them to the bumpy and dusty rides the Marines are so familiar with.

After a brief, the guests experienced the vehicles their Marines and sailors work with daily during tank and Assault Amphibious Vehicle rides.

"I got to ride in a tank! It made my life," said Thea

See JANE, A6

Family and friends of the 1st Tank Battalion got a little taste of the everyday life of their Marines and sailors during the unit's Jane Wayne Day March 31.

The visitors were taken out to Range 400 in 7-ton



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

All geared up, two women listen to a brief shortly before the Jane Wayne Day events begin at Range 400 March 31. First Tank Battalion hosted the event to allow their friends and family to experience a day in the life of a Marine.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A Marine with 1st Tank Battalion helps a woman off a tank after a ride during the unit's Jane Wayne Day event at Range 400 March 31. The participants also got to ride in Amphibious Assault Vehicles.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Cianna Pruitt, four-year-old daughter of Gunnery Sgt. Chris Pruitt, a platoon sergeant with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, hands her daddy his coffee mug shortly before his company deploys for their seven-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

3/4 Marines deploy to Helmand, re-join fight

LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, who left on their seventh consecutive combat deployment Wednesday.

"We are really motivated to get into the fight," said 1st Sgt. Gregory Harting, company

See DEPLOY, A7

Family and friends gathered to bid farewell to the Marines and sailors of Company L, Headquarters and Services Company and attachments



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Loved ones spend precious last seconds with the Marines and sailors of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, shortly before the buses pull out Wednesday.

Combat Center sailors help one of their own

LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Sailors from 23rd Dental Company understand the importance of service overseas as well as at home. They demonstrated their care for the community by volunteering to help a local military retiree Saturday.

The volunteer event came about after Senior Chief Kevin Edwards, the senior enlisted leader for the 23rd Dental Co., saw a U.S. Navy flag flying outside a Twentynine Palms home owned by Ronald Lee Rich, a retired master chief who is elderly and in a wheelchair. Edwards noticed Rich's yard could use a little sprucing up. Motivated by the retired sailor's continued dedication to the military, Edwards enlisted the help of other volunteer sailors and approached Rich and offered to lend a hand. Rich didn't want to impose but humbly accepted their offer.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Petty Officer 1st Class Jerry Wolf, a corpsman with the 23rd Dental Company, yanks out a branch from a fallen tree that broke part of Ronald Rich's fence while volunteering at the elderly retired Navy master chief's house Saturday.

"This was above and beyond the call," said Rich.

Seven volunteers arrived in good spirits and ready to help Rich.

"[Volunteering] is always good to see because not only

do we serve the country but we live in the community,"

said Petty Officer 3rd Class Francis Paje, a corpsman with the 23rd Dental Co. "It is what we are all about, not just helping over there but

back home as well."

After loading palm tree branches onto a trailer, they began cutting up a fallen tree covered in thorns, which

See HELP, A8

Leaders 'declare war' on sexual assault



CPL. ANDREW S. AVITT

Lieutenant Col. Dean M. Steffen, assistant sexual assault response coordinator [left], and Jennifer Husung, the Combat Center's SARC [right], pose with installation Uniformed Victim Advocates.

MCI-West is providing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Senior Leaders seminars aboard the Combat Center April 18. Two sessions will be offered from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. in classroom B, building 1707. Target audience is senior enlisted, chief warrant officers, field grade officers and government employees GS-12 and above. The seminar will provide senior leaders with information and tools to educate their personnel on the Marine Corps Bystanders Intervention strategies to prevent sexual assaults. All leaders who have not participated in a seminar, are highly encouraged to attend. Please R.S.V.P. to Husung by April 16 at jennifer.husung@usmc.mil or at 830-4997.

Check out the Presidential Proclamation naming April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month on page A4.

flickr

Hey Combat Center fans – Spread the word! The Combat Center has its own Flickr photo and video streams. Find them at <http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>.

YouTube

Hey Combat Center fans – Spread the word! The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel. Find it at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>.

TRICARE beneficiaries looking for allergy relief

PETER HOLSTEIN

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – For many people, the long-awaited arrival of spring also means the dreaded return of allergy season. To fend off the onset of sneezing and bleary eyes, TRICARE beneficiaries can take action now to prevent or minimize their symptoms.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases estimates there are 40 million to 50 million allergy sufferers in the United States. One of the most common spring allergies is pollen, causing congestion, itchy eyes, headaches and other unpleasant symptoms. Pollen can come from trees, grass, ragweed and flowers. In other words, the greenery so many celebrate every spring.

One strategy to prevent these symptoms is to reduce exposure to allergy triggers and create a medication plan before allergy season begins.

The NIAID recommends common sense steps to cut down on pollen exposure during the height of allergy season. Limit time outside and keep windows closed as much as possible. Quickly change out of and wash clothing worn outside, and don't dry clothing outside on the line. Using air filters and air conditioning cuts down on pollen inside a home.

TRICARE beneficiaries with seasonal allergies shouldn't wait until their symptoms are debilitating to start treatment. According to the NIAID, allergies can have a cascading effect, and symptoms can escalate if untreated. If a medication has relieved seasonal allergies in the past, start using it as soon as the first symptoms appear. This may prevent more severe discomfort later. Beneficiaries should consult their primary care physician to determine the best medications and proper timing. They may also get referred to an allergy specialist who can administer allergy tests or specific compounds to treat severe symptoms.

TRICARE covers prescription allergy medications and testing approved by the Food and Drug Administration. TRICARE also covers over-the-counter allergy medications with the active ingredients cetirizine and loratadine at no out-of-pocket cost to the beneficiary. Although these medications are available without a prescription, beneficiaries must get a prescription from the health care provider for TRICARE to cover their cost. Allergy medications are also available conveniently and at a low cost to beneficiaries through TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. To learn more about the home delivery or to sign up for the program, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery>. Beneficiaries can get more information on allergy services TRICARE offers and how to arrange care by visiting TRICARE's website at <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/allergy>.

For more information about allergies, visit the National Institutes of Health website at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/allergy.html> or NIAID at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov>.

Centerspeak

Who is going to win the World Series this year?

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



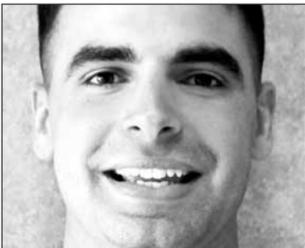
1ST LT. JOHN KELLER
COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION,
9TH MARINE REGIMENT

“The Texas Rangers, because they did really well last year.”



CPL. ALAN JONES
HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE CO.,
1ST BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT

“I’m going to go with the Minnesota Twins. I’m from Minnesota, and you gotta go with the home team.”



LANCE CPL. KIYAN SALIMI
COMPANY K, 3RD BATTALION,
4TH MARINE REGIMENT

“The San Francisco Giants, because they’re my team, and they did it last year.”



SGT. BRETT WILLIAMS
COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION,
9TH MARINE REGIMENT

“I don't know much about baseball, but I'll go with the Atlanta Braves because they're awesome.”

Hot Topics

BO BICE CONCERT

Bo Bice will be LIVE in concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 15th at the Sunset Cinema. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for this free concert for all MCCS authorized patrons. This concert is presented by Lincoln Military Housing, beer will be available for purchase and no flash photography or video will be allowed. For more information please call 830-5086

BINGO AT O'CLUB

This month's bingo is hosted by the Officers' Spouses' Club from 6-9 p.m. April 8 at the Officers' Club. Tickets are \$15. Prizes, a pasta dinner and drinks will be available. The event is open to all hands 18 and older. For more information call 831-392-5823.

MYCAA LUNCH AND LEARN SEMINAR

Kaplan Continuing Education is offering a MyCAA Lunch and Learn seminar at MCCS Lifelong Learning, building 1524 N, on Seventh Street, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 14. The event will cover health-care, business and IT educational certificates offered through their program. To register, e-mail Amy Steinberg at asteinberg@kaplan.edu or call 954-540-6429 by April 12.

Marine Corps History

April 5, 1947

Five Marine guards were killed and eight wounded when attacked by Communist Chinese raiders near the Hsin Ho ammunition depot in Northern China. This last major clash between Marines of the 1st Marine Division and Communist forces occurred shortly after withdrawal and redeployment plans from China were issued for the 1st Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on April 1.



Eagle Eyes

Immediately report any suspicious activity 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

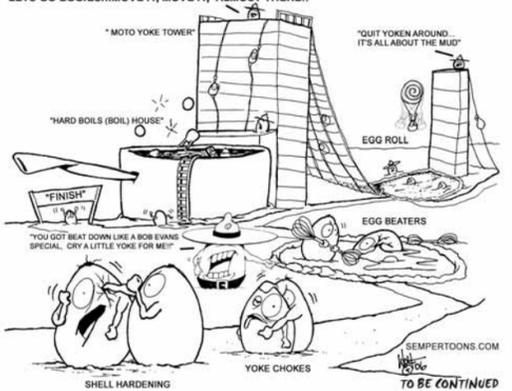
830-3937

PART 3 of a 4 PART SERIES

SemperToons Presents: How Easter Eggs get hard for Easter.

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

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



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

SUDOKU #2137

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

DIRTY DIGS

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

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						40				41			42		
43					44		45						46		
					47		48				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. Tour de France participant
6. Negotiations hang-up
10. Pigeon's pad
14. IRA-establishing legislation
15. Do some road work on
16. Sharer's word
17. Proverbial back breaker
18. Chief Norse god
19. Versatile vehicles, for short
20. Visit a shipwreck, say
22. Mudville complement
23. Plane measure
24. For adult viewing only
26. Perceive
30. Tyne of "Cagney & Lacey"
31. Think tank product
32. Equal to the task
35. Megastars, to fans
39. Well past one's prime

DOWN

40. December airs
42. ___ the crack of dawn
43. LBJ daughter ___ Bird
45. Fail to mention
46. Introduction to physics?
47. Bronx player, for short
49. Fish hawk
51. Dwarf tree
54. Cleo's wooer, ___ Antony
56. "We're in big trouble!"
57. There's no escaping it
62. Glassful, to a toddler
63. In the cellar
64. Chemically nonreactive
66. Newsman Seavereid
67. Flying "A" competitor
68. Strait-laced
69. Like a dungeon
70. "And ___ I wrote..."
71. Hits the bottle

DOWN

1. In medias ___
2. Part of BA ___
3. Magazine sales: Abbr.
4. Jacob's twin
5. Place to get oysters or clams
6. Fine china name
7. Gymnast Comaneci
8. Tel ___
9. Biological classifications
10. Local eye sore, perhaps
11. Navel unlikely to collect lint
12. Pollster's discovery
13. Reo contemporary
21. Indo-European speaker
25. "Rope-a-dope" boxer
26. Feature of a "pulse" phone
27. Uptight
28. "As ___ on TV"
29. 1980 Chase-Dangerfield comedy
30. Pickle purveyor
33. It may be thrown at you

34. Moon lander
36. Phone co. employee
37. After the buzzer
38. Reprieve from the governor, say
41. Baby bird?
44. Battery type
48. Canned corn morsel
50. Flaky rock
51. Played, as a fiddle
52. "Butterfield 8" author
53. "It's a ___ situation!"
54. Bit of pool room finesse
55. Follow, as advice
58. Corporal punishment unit
59. Not tricked by
60. Axel or Lutz
61. Toledo's lake
65. NFL successes

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Marlania Vinet
Hometown: Gretna, La.
Unit: Camp Wilson Fitness Center
Job title: Recreation attendant
Job duties: Keep the center clean, customer service, inventory and equipment diagnostics.
What do you like most about your job?: "I love my co-workers, meeting new people and the comfortable work environment."
Significant achievements: Graduating high school and established great friendships.
Hobbies: Video games, Phase 10 and "hanging out."
Time at Combat Center: Eight months.



OBSERVATION POST

Commanding General Brig. Gen. H. Stacy Clardy III

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Corps bids farewell to former chief of staff

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

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Colonel John Holden, the Combat Center's former chief of staff, bid his final farewell to the Marine Corps April 1 after 37 years of total service following Morning Colors at the installation's flag pole.

After an unusual entrance, in which Holden disguised himself as a tuba player in the Combat Center Band, Lt. Gen. John E. Wissler the deputy commandant for programs and resources, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., gave an eloquent speech, bidding farewell to his old friend from the Naval Academy.

"John and I have known each other since 1976, it's been a day or two," Wissler said jokingly. "Today I'm going to focus more than most retirements on both John and Lisa [Holden's wife]."

"I'm doing that because we lose, and by that I mean we, the Marine Corps and the community, lose a real national treasure when they depart to go onto their next adventure," Wissler added with a touch of deep feeling.

Wissler went on to explain how Holden and Lisa are a

model for military families.

"I would like to talk about John and Lisa in comparison to the Spartans [the ancient Greek warrior-state]," he said. "The actions by those 300 Spartans at [the battle of Thermopylae] had a significant impact on the final outcome, just as John and Lisa have had a significant impact on every Marine they have ever been around, and every Marine's family, or every soldier's family, or everybody in every city that they've ever lived in."

When it was Holden's turn at the mic, he thanked the band in particular, his family and the other members of the installation's personnel for their service and enriching of his life. He thanked his children, and above all else, he thanked his wife for her love and support. He said she is who kept him going, and he was not ashamed to admit it.

"Whatever I have done pales in comparison to what my wife has done," Holden said. "I often tell people I walk in my wife's shadow, and I'm good with that."

The pair were presented with letters from the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos. One was addressed to Holden,



Colonel John Holden, the Combat Center's former chief of staff, shakes hands with Lt. Gen. John E. Wissler, the deputy commandant for programs and resources, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., after receiving a Meritorious Service Medal during his retirement ceremony at the installation's flag pole April 1.

and another one to Lisa.

Holden also received a Meritorious Service Medal for his various contributions here, and throughout his time in the service.

Holden was commissioned a second lieutenant in May, 1979. Since then he has graduated with multiple honors from many professional-level military academies, as well as served multiple tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has held many billets, including chief of staff for both 2nd Marine Division and II Marine Expeditionary Force.

As Holden and his wife prepare to finally enter the civilian world together, his billet as the installation's chief of staff will be filled by Col. George Aucoin, who previously served as the assistant chief of staff for Mission Assurance at the Combat Center.



Colonel John Holden, the Combat Center's former chief of staff, sits next to his wife Lisa and a large circle of family and friends, as they listen to Lt. Gen. John E. Wissler, the deputy commandant for programs and resources, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., during his speech at Holden's retirement ceremony April 1, at the installation's flag pole. Wissler and Holden have known each other since becoming friends in 1976 at the U.S. Naval Academy.



Colonel John Holden, the Combat Center's former chief of staff, displays a rare sign of emotion among Marines during his retirement ceremony April 1. Holden also received a Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony at the installation's flag pole.



Colonel John Holden, the Combat Center's former chief of staff, addresses the crowd during his retirement ceremony held at the installation's flag pole April 1.

**Looking for local
entertainment?**

See page B2 for our **NEW
LIBERTY CALL SECTION**

Motorcycle safety: Ride it like you own it

FRANK SANTIAGO

RIDER COACH, CAPE FOX PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

What has gotten into our riders as of late? Careless lane splitting, unsafe weaving between traffic, childish speeds through corners.

This is not a rant on how much of a menace motorcyclists are on society's roadways.

Instead, I'd like to try and paint a picture of the stereotype we as motorcyclists have earned for ourselves. Perhaps I can possibly help adjust the mindset of our overly-extreme street riders.

Take into consideration what your motorcycle looks like. Go ahead, this can wait. Go out to the man cave and take a good long look at your ride.

Is your bike no more than four years old? If it is then ask yourself this: Why does it look like its ten years old? Does it have rash on more than one side? Are your turn signals held on with the ever-trusted duct tape? Are most of your fairings cracked or broken off? Be honest now. If you fall into this

category ask yourself "What am I doing wrong?"

The biggest enemy for a rider on the street is speed.

We can thank excessive speed for the name we've given ourselves. Sure, going fast is a lot of fun. I'm just as guilty as anyone else.

Who can resist the thrill of clicking through the gears as your tach pings the red line? Who can resist the sensation of miles counting down in just seconds? If you think about it, what's wrong with a little speed? Nothing, as long as it's being done in the appropriate time and place. It's like that old saying "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." So is speed really the villain here?

The attitude of the rider controls the speed.

The complete disregard for the rider's own safety is what creates the name for us. The utter disrespect that riders show toward other motorists has given us tarnished titles. We know there is a time and a place, yet we still insist on pushing our motorcycles to the edge

whenever we please.

The street is common ground shared by all. The street should be thought of as a community that only functions if all its members are responsible and courteous to one another.

A motorcycle traveling at a high rate of speed on the street is no safer than handling a four year old loaded revolver. Silly, right? So is over confidence when riding on public roadways.

Take it to the track! This would be the appropriate place and time to push yourself to the edge. This is where you can discover what your machine can and can't do. This is where little mistakes won't cost you your life. This is where you can set a good name for riders and not a negative one. If you keep pushing yourself to the edge on the street, very soon you may find yourself going over the edge.

Always have respect for your motorcycle and other motorists. Take pride in your abilities, develop your technique and own your skills.

April proclaimed National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Our Nation must continue to confront rape and other forms of sexual violence as a deplorable crime. Too many victims suffer unaided, and too many offenders elude justice. As we mark National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, we recommit to building a society where no woman, man, or child endures the fear of assault or the pain of an attack on their physical well-being and basic human dignity.

Despite reforms to our legal system, sexual violence remains pervasive and largely misunderstood. Nearly one in six American women will experience an attempted or completed rape at some point in her life, and for some groups, rates of sexual violence are even higher. Almost one in three American Indian and Alaska Native women will be sexually assaulted. Young women ages 16 to 24 are at greatest risk, and an alarming

number of young women are sexually assaulted while in college. Too many men and boys are also affected. With each new victim and each person still suffering from an attack, we are called with renewed purpose to respond to and rid our Nation of all forms of sexual violence.

Sexual assault is considered to be the most underreported violent crime in America, and criminal justice responses vary widely across our country. Some communities have developed highly trained, coordinated teams who understand the nature of sexual assault and can respond with compassionate understanding. In other places, victims hesitate to report these crimes because they fear the criminal justice system will respond with skepticism or fail to bring the perpetrator to justice. We must ensure our police, prosecutors, and courts treat victims with the seriousness and respect they need and deserve. We must

do more to provide services that help victims recover from the trauma of sexual assault. And ultimately, we must prevent sexual assault before it happens.

Under Vice President Joe Biden's leadership, my Administration is committed to engaging a broad spectrum of Federal agencies and community partners to prevent sexual assault, support victims, and hold offenders accountable. The Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women is leading the Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative to improve the way sexual assault survivors are served. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is funding innovative prevention campaigns that engage bystanders in reducing sexual assault, and the Department of Education is working to combat sexual violence at schools and universities. We

See ASSAULT, A7

SJA CORNER

Protect yourself: Use qualified, licensed contractors

CAPT. DAVID SEGRAVES

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

Everyone has a dream of a perfect home, but most people cannot find that home in the market.

For many, that means hiring a contractor to improve their home. Whether it's a landscaper, carpenter or other type of contractor, Marines and their families need to protect themselves by using reputable, licensed contractors.

In California, any home improvement contract for more than \$500 requires a licensed contractor. The California Contractors State Licensing Board <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/> regulates contractors.

The CSLB requires a con-

tractor to show four years of experience or education in their trade. They must be bonded, meaning the customer can get their money back from a third party company if the contractor fails to perform. Licensed contractors are also fingerprinted and have passed background check.

Licensed contractors are required to put their license number in their advertisements. They also have pocket licenses that clients can use to confirm their status. Potential clients can check for complaints on licensed contractors by going to the CSLB website or calling 800-321-CSLB (2752). Clients can also check the contractor's license history for any disciplinary actions by calling CSLB Legal Action

Disclosure at 562-345-7656.

Home improvement contracting transactions must conform to the law. One of the main areas of protection is in payments. Contractors may only collect payment for work completed or materials actually delivered. All payments must be part of the contract and spelled out in a schedule of progress payments. Down payments may not exceed \$1,000 or 10 percent of the contract prices, whichever is less. These rules help provide peace of mind that these contractors won't "take the money and run."

Dealing with licensed contractors provides a special method for addressing disputes – mandatory arbitration. Clients making a complaint

for less than \$12,500 against a licensed contractor in good standing must submit to mandatory arbitration. Under mandatory arbitration, the CSLB will pay for one expert witness to review the work at issue, and a professional arbiter to make a binding judgment. The CSLB will discipline contractors who do not abide by the award, including suspending or revoking the contractor's license. With this method, clients can have issues resolved quickly by objective professionals.

Another important area of protection for consumers is insurance.

Licensed contractors who have employees must have workers' compensation insurance. This insurance covers

any injuries a contractor's employees might suffer on a client's property. With unlicensed contractors, clients would have to rely on their homeowner's insurance to pay these expenses. Their policies might not cover this, leaving the client liable. Many licensed contractors also carry commercial general liability insurance, which covers any damage that occurs on your property while they are working. While licensed contractors are not required to carry this insurance, they must clearly state whether they have this coverage in any written home improvement contract.

Using an unlicensed contractor exposes clients to unneeded uncertainty and potential liability.

Although one might be able to pay less for the services of an unlicensed contractor, a

client has no method of ensuring a job is completed. Clients can also run into issues where contractors fail to pay suppliers or subcontractors. These jilted parties can file a mechanics lien on a property and start a foreclosure action if the debt is not satisfied. A client whose unlicensed contractor has led to a mechanics lien, not finished the job or performed non-conforming work have to take their unlicensed contractors to court to seek damages. Taking these unlicensed contractors to court can be difficult either because multiple parties have claims or the contractors cannot be located.

Often, licensed contractors will have higher bids for jobs than unlicensed contractors. In the end, the protections afforded by a licensed contractor are worth the added cost.

COMBAT CENTER RELIGIOUS SERVICES**Sunday****Immaculate Heart of Mary**

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

Mon. - Fri., 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, 6 p.m. -

Baptism preparation class

and 7 p.m. - Knights of

Columbus

Thursday**Immaculate Heart of Mary**

9 a.m. - Adult Class

6 p.m. - Children RCIA

6:30 p.m. - RCIA (Sept.-

April)

7 p.m. - Gr. 7 and

Confirmation

Friday**Immaculate Heart of Mary**

First Friday 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

Muslim prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 87.**Jewish prayer space is available in the Village Center, room 93.****For more information call 830-5430.****Combat Center Trader Ads****AUTOMOTIVE****CLASSIC 1957 CHEVY PICKUP.**

350 engine, 3 speed automatic, \$6,900 OBO. 361-3509.

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COLLECTIBLE SPORTS, SCI-FI**CARDS:** Baseball, football from mid 80's to 90's. Star Trek and Star Wars collectible cards too. Individual heroes, team sets or the whole collection. Call Stephen at 567-7921.**YOUR AD HERE****The deadline for submitting Trader Ads is noon Wednesday, for the upcoming Friday's newspaper.**

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

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

to publish an ad.

The limitations for ads are: 15-word limit, limit of two ads per household and the Trader may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property offered by and for individuals authorized to use this service. Such ads must repre-

sent 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.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A Marine in 1st Tank Battalion shows a teenage boy the 50-caliber machine gun on top of a humvee during the unit's Jane Wayne Day event at Range 400 March 31.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A participant aims a M-4 rifle down-range during the Jane Wayne Day event hosted by 1st Tank Battalion at Range 400 March 31.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

All geared up, participants listen to a brief they were given shortly before the 1st Tank Battalion Jane Wayne Day events began at Range 400 March 31. The battalion hosted the event to allow friends and family to experience a day in the life of their Marines.

JANE, from A1

McCracken, a wife of Lance Cpl. Cody McCracken with Company D, currently deployed to Afghanistan. "I have been excited for [Jane Wayne Day] for two months,

and now I get to tell my husband I sat two billets higher than him in a tank."

The group, which included, wives, sisters, mothers, friends, brothers, co-workers and children also watched a live-fire weapon demonstra-



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Bobbi Lowder, [left] and Tara Henkel, both wives of Marines in 1st Tank Battalion, pop their heads out of a tank shortly before their ride during the unit's Jane Wayne Day event at Range 400 March 31.

tions, which included the main gun on a tank and various machine guns. The guests were presented M-4 rifles and tried their hands at firing a firearm many Marines can put together and take apart practically with

their eyes closed.

"We want them to understand and have an idea of what their husbands do when they hear [their husbands] are going to the field," said Jany Wasdin, the family readiness officer for 1st Tanks. "They get a flavor of the field. It's not easy being out here. It's hot and dry. By experiencing this, they can understand what their husbands are talking about."

The guests were also given opportunities to talk to the unit's members and ask questions.

"It gives us a deeper respect because you get better insight on what they do," said Tara Henkel, wife of Lance Cpl. John Henkel, a mechanic with 1st Tanks. "Now we can pass understanding to new military wives coming in."

Following the fun in the sun, the Marines hosted a barbeque for lunch.

At the end of the day, the guests loaded up the 7-ton vehicles to ride back to mainside. To their unfortunate surprise, they were sandblasted by the desert winds the entire trip, a circumstance the Marines and sailors of 1st Tanks know all too well. This was a day in the life of the Corps.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Families of the Marines and sailors of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, watch their loved ones in formation shortly before they load the buses to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Wednesday at the parking lot in front of Del Valle Field.

DEPLOY, from A1

1st sergeant for Co. L. "The morale is very high in our company. We always tell them that they are the best trained Marines in the Corps."

The battalion is headed to northern Helmand province, while their official destination is unknown to most of the unit, the Marines said they will be ready for anything during the next seven to eight months.

"We have been waiting to deploy forever," said Lance Cpl. Christopher Chapman, a saw gunner with Co. L. "We have had really good, long

work-up, and we are going with really good guys."

The rest of the battalion, Company K and Weapons Company leave today.

For the ones the Marines and sailors are leaving behind, there are events and support groups the family members can lean on, said Ali Nelson, 3/4's family readiness officer.

"There are events scheduled to get together," Nelson said. "My advice to the families is to stay busy, and don't be afraid to call me if you need anything."

For any information regarding 3/4 contact Nelson at 830-8031.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A Marine searches for his bags in a sea of gear waiting to be loaded on the truck shortly before Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, leaves for their seven-month tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Wednesday.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Rowan Adams, 3-year-old son of Staff Sgt. Joshua S. Adams, platoon sergeant for Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, watches as his father boards the bus to leave on his seven-month deployment Wednesday.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Friends of the Marines and sailors of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, find a unique way of saying goodbye to their friends shortly before the buses pull out Wednesday.

ASSAULT, from A4

will continue to support new approaches that show promise in changing cultural attitudes toward sexual violence and preventing these crimes.

Each victim of sexual assault represents a sister or a daughter, a nephew or a friend. We must break the silence so no victim anguishes without resources or aid in their time of greatest need.

We must continue to reinforce that America will not tolerate sexual violence within our borders. Likewise, we will partner with countries across the globe as we work toward a common vision of a

world free from the threat of sexual violence, including as a tool of conflict. Working together, we can reduce the incidence of sexual assault and heal lives that have already been devastated by

this terrible crime.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States,

do hereby proclaim April 2011 as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. I urge all Americans to support victims and work together to prevent these crimes in their communities.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Thien Nguyen and Petty Officer 3rd Class Francis Paje, both corpsmen with the Combat Center's 23rd Dental Company, trim branches before loading them onto a trailer while volunteering at Ronald Rich's house Saturday. Rich, an elderly retired Navy master chief, is currently confined to a wheelchair.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Katarina Worthy, a dental assistant, and Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Elaina Crawley, a corpsman, both with 23rd Dental Company, plant flowers during a clean-up project at a retired sailor's house.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Navy Senior Chief Kevin Edwards, the senior enlisted leader for the 23rd Dental Company, pulls weeds off a fence Saturday, while volunteering in the community.

HELP, from A1

had crushed Rich's fence. With much struggle, the sailors pushed on and managed to remove all but the tree stump.

While some worked on the tree, other volunteers helped Rich's wife, Judy Lynne Rich, plant flowers at the base of the flag pole and pull weeds in front of the house.

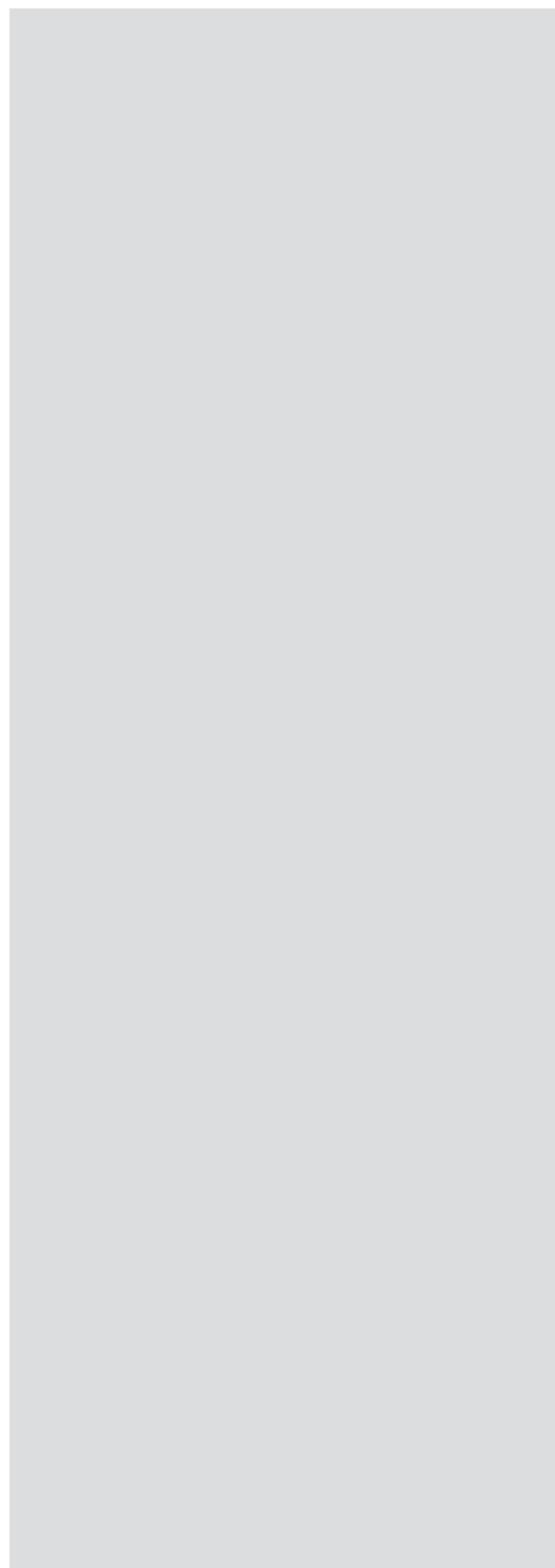
"She had laid out the flowers, and I figured, why not? I'm sure she enjoyed the help and I enjoy doing it," said Katarina Worthy, a den-

tal assistant with the 23rd Dental Company.

They finished the job by pulling down vines from the fence before heading to the back porch, where Judy had lunch ready. The hungry crew feasted on a large pot of macaroni salad, hot dogs, chips and refreshments.

As everyone enjoyed their well-earned meal and relaxed on the shaded porch on the sunny afternoon, Edwards and Rich discussed how Edwards could contact and help other military retirees in the future.

ADVERTISEMENT





Attackhead rallied in Excursions Club

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN**
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Combat Center personnel jammed to the heart-pounding, head-banging and earsplitting rifts of Attackhead at the Excursions Club April 1.

Before the concert began, Mark Chapman, lead singer of Attackhead, was feeling very good about the performance.

"I have already had a few guys come up to me already and said they heard us playing and were really looking forward to the tunes," Chapman said.

Unlike their usual performances, Attackhead didn't bring their sister band, Weapon X, along.

"Normally we would have our buddies, Weapon X, come out with us, but tonight they have a previous engagement, so we will handle it on our own," Chapman said. "We have noticed a lot of times when you get two bands, a lot of the [audience] go crazy the first hour, so the second hour is kind of dead. We are going to keep it short and powerful."

Employees of the club said they appreciated Attackhead coming out and performing for the Marines.

Jason Moore, an identification checker for the Excursions Club, said every time Attackhead comes here, he sees Marines getting a kick out of the performance. There is never a patron getting out of



Members of Attackhead rock the Excursions Club during a free concert April 1. The band has performed aboard the Combat Center multiple times in the past few years.

See CLUB, B4



The band Attackhead fills the Excursions Club with heavy metal music during a free concert April 1.



Private Jordan Joner, a student with Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, air guitars along with Mark Chapman, lead singer of Attackhead, during a free concert at the Excursions Club April 1.



Mark Chapman, lead singer of Attackhead, sings some old school-style heavy metal to Marines in the Excursions Club during a free concert April 1.

Midseason games spike excitement levels



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

Players from 3rd CEB [black] and TMO [red] battle it out at the net during a Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League game Tuesday at the West Gym and Fitness Center.



LANCE CPL. SARAH ANDERSON

A player from the TMO team attempts to backhand the ball over the net shortly before it is blocked by a player from 3rd CEB during a Commanding General's Intramural Volleyball League game against 3rd CEB Tuesday at the West Gym. Third CEB dominated the match by winning the first two games.

Sixth Annual Combat Center Challenge gears up

DIANE DURDEN
 PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Marines and sailors of the Combat Center are invited to participate in the upcoming Combat Center Challenge, scheduled to begin April 25.

The Combat Center Challenge is a week-long, base-wide competition pitting units against each other in various events.

Competitions will be held daily throughout the week with basketball, racquetball and water polo tourna-

ments. Marines and sailors can also participate in paintball, benchpress, volleyball, golf and First to Fight video game tournaments.

The competition ends April 29 with a field meet competition. Events scheduled for the final day will test participants' skills in military related events, including a Combat Fitness Test, M-16 assembly/disassembly, dummy grenade toss, jousting and corpsman/stretcher race.

The final two events of the Combat

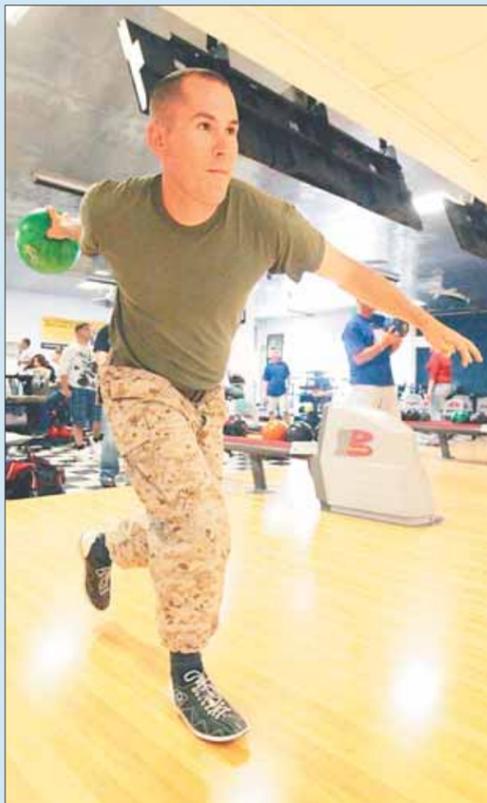
Center Challenge, the humvee pull and tug-of-war, will be followed by an awards ceremony.

Competitors must be active duty service members only. Family members and civilian employees are invited to attend to cheer and support their teams.

Units can register teams for any combination of events. The deadline to get teams registered is April 13.

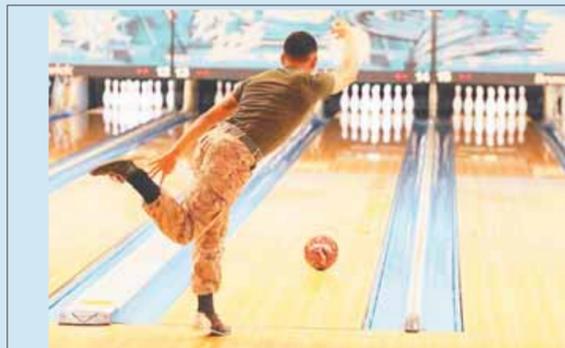
For more information or to register your team, contact Sissy Bourikas, 830-8106 or email sissy.bourikas@usmc.mil.

Intramural bowling competition heats up



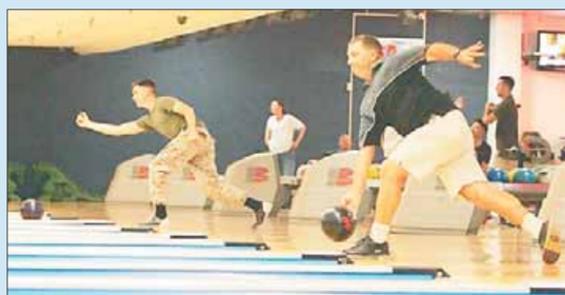
LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Joshua Krause, a player with RUDTF, prepares to chuck the ball down the lane during a Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League game at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center Wednesday. Every week the teams play three games with the winners determined by the total score of the team.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Daryl Gutierrez, a player with Paper Pushers, displays great form while hurling the ball for a strike during a Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League game at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center Wednesday.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Jacob Myers [left], a player with CLB-7, and Paul Lass, a player with Case Pool, hurl the bowling balls down the lane during a Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League game at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center Wednesday. The highest average for men and women will be honored with a trophy for their accomplishments at the league's conclusion.



Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Fridays: Social food, 5 to 7 p.m.; Ladies' night, 8 to 11 p.m.
DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: Variety Night with DJ Gjettblaque 8 to 11 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Bloodstripes NCO Club

Fridays: Social Hour with Food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Monday: Free Gourmet Bar Food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Free Gourmet Bar Food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour with Food, 7 to 9 p.m.

Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Fridays: Dinner, full menu, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Social hour 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., DJ, 8 to 11 p.m.
Mondays: Steak night, full dinner menu, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday: All-Hands lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club

Monday-Friday: Lunch served, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Friday: BINGO, 6 to 9 p.m.
Monday: Steak Night, 5 to 8 p.m.
Thursdays: Italian Buffet Night, 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Local Events

Pappy and Harriet's Weekend Line-Up:

Horse Thieves and Six Organs of Admittance

Description: The popular folk bands perform
When: 9 p.m., Friday April 8

Dengue Fever

Description: A Cambodian psychedelic pop band
When: 9 p.m., Saturday, April 9
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Willie Boy's Weekend Line-Up:

The Barnyard Boyz

Description: The popular country/rock band performs
When: 7 p.m., Friday, April 8

Stormin Normin

Description: The hiphop, R and B artist performs
When: 7 p.m., Saturday, April 9
Where: Willie Boys Saloon and Dance Hall, 50048
Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley, 363-3343.
or visit <http://www.willieboys.com>.

Theatre 29 presents "Pinocchio"

Description: Adapted from the novel by Carlo Collodi
When: 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday through April 9.
Where: Theatre 29, 73637 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms
For more information call 361-4151 or visit <http://www.theatre29.com>.

Lower Desert

Foreigner

Description: The famous classic rock band performs
When: 9 p.m. Friday, April 15
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

Julio Iglesias

Description: The famous pop star performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, April 23
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

Stevie Nicks

Description: The famous rock star performs
When: 8 p.m., Friday, May 13
Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio
For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

The Doobie Brothers

Description: The famous classic rock band performs
When: 6:45 p.m. Saturday, June 18
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa
49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinosort.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, April 8

6 p.m. – Gnomeo and Juliet, Rated G
9 p.m. – The Eagle, Rated PG-13
Midnight – I Am Number 4, Rated PG-13

Saturday, April 9

11 a.m. – **Free Matinee.** Fly Me to the Moon, Rated G
2 p.m. – Big Mamma's House 3, Rated PG-13
6 p.m. – Unknown, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – The Adjustment Bureau, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Hall Pass, Rated R

Sunday, April 10

2 p.m. – Gnomeo and Juliet, Rated G
6 p.m. – Beastly, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Take Me Home Tonight, Rated R

Monday, April 11

7 p.m. – Just Go With It, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, April 12

7 p.m. – The Roommate, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, April 13

7 p.m. – Justin Bieber, Rated G

Thursday, April 14

7 p.m. – The Eagle, Rated PG-13

Matthew McConaughey shines as sleazy attorney caught between justice, revenge

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"The Lincoln Lawyer"

Starring Matthew McConaughey, Marisa Tomei & William H. Macy
Rated R

After a dismal run of disappointing comedy flops, Matthew McConaughey makes a strong dramatic comeback in "The Lincoln Lawyer" as a slick, sleazy defense attorney who conducts business out of his Town Car.

His character, Mick Haller, has carved a successful, streetwise niche in the Los Angeles legal system representing clients who can afford to pay for his services, who know the evidence is stacked against them – and who may very well be guilty. If Haller can't get them completely off the hook, he can usually at least make sure they avoid a lifetime in prison or a death sentence.

But his latest client, a rich, privileged preppy, Ryan Phillippe, charged with a vicious sexual



LANCE CPL

Matthew McConaughey plays Mick Haller, a streetwise lawyer representing clients who can afford to pay for his services, who know the evidence is stacked against them, and who may very well be guilty.

assault, rocks Heller's world when evidence begins to suggest something creepier, deeper and darker than the case at hand.

Based on a bestselling novel by novelist Michael Connelly, a former Los Angeles Times crime

reporter, "The Lincoln Lawyer" crackles with crisp dialogue, a juicy plot punctuated with titillating twists and turns and a strong cast of familiar faces.

Marisa Tomei plays Heller's ex-wife, a spitfire prosecuting attorney ideologically opposed to his unsavory line of defense work – putting the "scumbags" she locks away back on the street. Not surprisingly, she's still carrying a bit of a flame for her bad-boy former hubby, the father of

their young daughter.

William H. Macy is Heller's rumpled investigative partner, charged with digging up the dirty details that will hopefully add up to a get-out-of-jail card for his clients.

Brian Cranston (from TV's acclaimed "Breaking Bad") is a crusty police officer with no love for Heller – especially when it appears that the lawyer might be a suspect himself.

Michael Peña is a shady con whose story could shed some vital light. The ultra-versatile John Leguizamo is a fast-talking bail bondsman hiding some powerful secrets.

Frances Farmer, whose career spans stage, screen and TV, plays the mother of Phillippe's character, a woman who'll do anything to keep her son out of prison.

And country star Trace Adkins has a tasty cameo as the burly leader of a biker gang that's become one of Heller's repeat customers.

But the show really belongs to McConaughey, who conveys a riveting range of emotion as doubt and danger set in around him and discoveries lead to a decision dangling in the balance between justice and revenge.

This is the kind of movie where too much description takes the well-earned punch out of its surprises. But suffice it to say, if you're a fan of "Law and Order" or any of TV's other crime 'n' courtroom procedurals, you'll love the movie's gritty depiction of the murky fishbowl world of justice-for-hire in which McConaughey's Lincoln lawyer swims.



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Lincoln Lawyer" is a gritty depiction of the murky fishbowl world of justice-for-hire in which McConaughey's Lincoln lawyer swims.

Combat Center Leisure

Desert Detours: World's Biggest Dinosaurs



Welcome to "Desert Detours," a series that will follow correspondent Cpl. M.C. Nerl around on his explorations of the high desert, the basin and the valley. The "out-of-five" palm tree rating scale offers a glance at how worthwhile the writer considers a place to be. Locales will be judged on their accessibility, atmosphere, fun, cost and facilities. Keep an eye out every week for new shenanigans and hot tips on cool things to do.

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

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Warning: If you have not seen Jurassic Park in a while, do not visit this place until you obtain a DVD copy of the film. I am not advertising for it, this place is just full of "awesome," and will compel you to run out and rent or buy the movie.

With that said, this week's edition of Desert Detours has taken us back in time, not only to my own childhood, but also to the olden days of taking a road trip across country with the family, not to mention the pre-historic era of the dinosaurs.

The World's Biggest Dinosaurs are located in "scenic" Cabazon, Calif., and were featured in "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure." This is what truly drew me to the attraction.

Mr. Rex, a 65-foot-tall Tyrannosaurus Rex, and Dinny, a 45-foot-tall Apatosaurus are the product of a former Knott's Berry Farm sculptor, by the name of Claude Bell. The later addition of the robotic dinosaur exhibit only added to the place's coolness.

Although Bell passed away, and ownership of the dinosaurs has changed hands, they are still bringing joy to people of all ages, and trust me – even at the ripe old age of 22, I enjoyed

the hell out of them.

The exhibit has an awesome retro feel to it, and reeks of 1970s America and Jimmy Carter. The restaurant next door does too, but we will get to that later.

Throughout the entire course of exhibits, it was hard to miss certain religious connotations and facts contradicting evolution and some scientific theories – so, if you're a serious evolutionist, be warned.

The robotic dinosaurs are awesome, and always on the move. In addition to that, the gift shop has stuff you totally know you wanted to have when you were 10 or 12 or 22.

The outside portion of the robotic exhibit is pretty neat too, even though the grand tour ends not going out, but "up" Mr. Rex, a dinosaur sculpture. Truth is, the stairway really leads up the side, but it makes for a good picture from certain angles.

The inside of Mr. Rex is quite fun. His walls are lined with cave paintings, fun interesting facts and smaller models of other dinosaurs. The view at the top is especially cool. It's probably how it looked inside Godzilla's mouth in that awful remake back in like, 2000, (seriously you know he would have crushed that cab in his mouth. There is NO WAY those people would have survived).



Dinny, a 45-foot-high Apatosaurus, is one of many dinos, to include a 65-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex named Mr. Rex, robotic dinosaurs and an awesome 24-hour diner. Admission to Dinny is seven days a week, while the other exhibits are only open on the weekends.

Dinny is open seven days a week, while Mr. Rex and the other exhibits are only open on weekends.

The military-friendly owners of the site were kind enough to offer a discounted price of \$5 to access the super-cool, pre-historic world on weekends.

The 24-hour Wheel Inn Restaurant next door is a whole different monster – one delicious monster.

The Rex and Dino burgers come in multiple stacks of properly-cooked, delicious meat patties at a pretty good price, considering how much food you get.

Don't worry though, unless you're near or over your height and weight limit. If you are, you may have to go on a dino-sized

run after eating all those calories and carbs.

Overall, if you don't mind the underlying conflict between the theories of creation and evolution, the dino area is a great roadside attraction to check out on your way to San Diego. It's also a good afternoon pit stop on your way back to the Combat Center after a long weekend.

The World's Largest Dinosaurs get 3 out of 5 palm trees. They'd probably get four if they sold beer.

Editor's Note: "Desert Detours" is a weekly series exploring opportunities for Marines and sailors from a firsthand perspective. All material included therein is the opinion of the writer and does not imply an endorsement by the U.S. Marine Corps or the Department of Defense.



Look at that beauty! The Dino Burger is the smaller of the two burgers featured at the 24-hour Wheel Inn Restaurant located near the World's Biggest Dinosaurs in Cabazon, Calif. The other dinosaur-themed burger, the Mr. Rex, is even larger and has three patties.



Mr. Rex, the tyrannosaurus rex located in Cabazon, Calif., is one of the two main roadside attractions along Interstate 10. Rex is accompanied by a restaurant, another massive dinosaur known as Dinny, and a robotic dinosaur exhibit.



Mr. Rex, the tyrannosaurus rex located in Cabazon, Calif., is one of the two main roadside attractions along Interstate 10. This is the view from the dinosaur's mouth, from which you can see the rest of the exhibit.



Robotic dinosaurs are literally hanging off the walls in Cabazon, Calif. The attraction itself was made famous by the movie "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure."



LANCE CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

George Portoulas, a guitar player for rock band Attackhead, jams along during a free concert at the Excursions Club April 1.

CLUB, from B1

line and everything just seems to go well.

Unfortunately, although the concert went well, the crowd wasn't as large as the previous times Attackhead visited the Combat Center.

"The concert was sick, man. Thrasher metal jamming and rocking out on the dance floor," said Pvt. Jordan Joner, a student with Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School.

The low attendance did not discourage the band, however. They said they were still more than happy to do their part to support the Marine Corps.

"It's a real honor to come out and perform for the guys who are putting it on the line every day," Chapman said. "That is really important to us. It is all about giving thanks to the brothers and sisters who are laying it all down every day."

To check out upcoming events at the Excursions Club, log on to <http://www.mccs29palms.com/calendars/eclub-google.html>.

Athlete of the Week



Name: Bryan Doerr

Hometown: Weirton, W. Va.

Unit: 7th Marine Regiment

Recognition: Pulled off a 7-10 split during a Commanding General's Intramural Bowling League game.

Favorite aspect of the sport: "It was something me and my dad did when I was little."

Advice for aspiring players: "Take advantage of free bowling Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m."