

Excaliber comes to the desert, page A3

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Marines work to improve St. Louis, page A6

OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

June 24, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 54 Issue 25

5/11 shows capabilities for EMV

CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The Marines and sailors with Battery T, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, got a chance to practice their craft while providing artillery support for units training for their deployment during Enhanced Mojave Viper June 13 to 16, at the Quackenbush training area.

"Out here we have a lot of units calling for support, and they run us through lots of different scenarios with who we are supporting and why," said Cpl. Ricardo Mange-Salinas, a section chief with Battery T, 5/11.

While adding to EMV's diverse training, the battery received valuable experience handling live ammunition with their High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

"Anytime we can get out and do our job [in the training area] is twice as good as



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

The High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System with Battery T, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fires rocket-after-rocket in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper at Quackenbush training area June 15.

See EMV, A5

District 18 senator makes first visit to Combat Center

CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Senator Jean Fuller, the California District 18 senator, made her first visit to the

Combat Center June 17, to learn more about the installation's award winning efforts to conserve energy and stay environmentally friendly.

"[The purpose is] to show them the energy programs

and renewable energy we do for the Navy and Marine Corps overall," said Gary Morrissett, the Combat Center's energy manager. "[We want] to show them how progressive we are in our programs and how we are trying to help the community, state and federal governments out [while] meeting the requirements."

Fuller and her aides received a quick overview of the Combat Center's mission, expansion plans and steps being made to meet all federal energy mandates. They also toured the co-generation facility, solar farm, archeological facility, and Exercise Support Division. An aerial tour of the installation gave them a bird's eye view of the rest of the base.

"[I am] very pleased to be here, very impressed with the tour and the information and the process in which it was involved," said Fuller, who is also the vice chair for the Senate's Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee. "This is my first visit out here, and in addition to really learning a lot today, I am really enjoying both the people

See SENATOR, A5



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Brigadier Gen. Stacy Clardy III, the Combat Center's commanding general, escorts Senator Jean Fuller, the California district 18 senator, around the co-generation plant during the senator's first visit to the Installation June 17.

New phone number expedites urgent Red Cross messages

CPL. MIRANDA BLACKBURN

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina – Family emergencies can happen while service members are deployed.

During these times of crisis, American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services keeps military personnel in touch with their families by delivering urgent messages – a service provided through the organization's worldwide network of staff and volunteers.

There is now one single

number, 877-272-7337, to call and send an urgent message to a service member.

This is the telephone number currently available worldwide.

Procedures for overseas calling will remain the same, with the option to call the new number directly, access the number through a military operator or call the local Red Cross station.

Even if service members call an old number, the Red Cross staff will be able to serve them immediately.

"We're just trying to streamline our business to give the best service that we can

possibly give," said Jocelyn Townsend, American Red Cross senior station manager aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. "They should see faster service because now it's one main number, whereas before they had to call their local Red Cross."

With the new service in place, the Red Cross has also set up four different call centers, compared to the two they had in place before.

From start to finish, a service member should receive their Red Cross message with-

See RED CROSS, A5

MCTOG Marine receives Bronze Star

LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Lieutenant Col. Mark Dietz, the executive officer of Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal June 17 for meritorious actions in combat during his tour in Afghanistan last year.

The commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, Maj. Gen. Michael R. Regner, presented Dietz with his award citation during a small, private ceremony at MCTOG.

"I'm honored that you guys asked me to come up to do this," Regner said. "It's a big deal."

Dietz helped ensure the rapid transition from clearing actions to holding

efforts in Marjah, during the highly successful Operation Moshtarak, as stated in his citation.

Dietz was also recognized for immediately assuming command of 2nd battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, after their battalion commander was wounded when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. Dietz maintained the tempo of counterinsurgency operations in Garmsir District.

"Battalion commanders getting wounded or injured doesn't happen very often. Sergeant Maj. Bill Heyob, [the battalion's sergeant major], made it as painless of transition as possible, so the credit goes to him. It was as smooth as it could be given an unfortunate situation," Dietz

See MCTOG, A5



LANCE CPL. SARAH DIETZ

Major Gen. Michael R. Regner shakes the hand of Lt. Col. Mark Dietz, the executive officer for Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group, just before receiving the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious actions in combat June 17 at the MCTOG compound aboard the Combat Center.

Hey Combat Center fans!
Check out the official MCAGCC
social media sites at:

flickr <http://www.flickr.com/thecombatcenter>

You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/user/CombatCenterPAO>

facebook <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>

Meals, moves, together counts

SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

"For the first time in our history, American children may face a shorter expected lifespan than their parents."

That quote, taken directly from the Partnership for a Healthier America's website, explains the essence of a growing obesity problem across the United States. The partnership - which is headed by First Lady Michelle Obama - says that obesity rates have tripled in the past 30 years.

Obese and overweight children are more likely to suffer academic, social and financial burdens throughout life. So, what can you do to prevent this from happening to your children?

Together Counts

TriWest Healthcare Alliance, the company which administers TRICARE in 21 western states, believes that together, we can make a difference. That's why TriWest joined forces with Together Counts, a nationwide program that inspires active and healthy living. As part of Together Counts, we challenge you:

Eat at least ONE healthy meal each week.

Do at least ONE family activity each week.

That's it - Just one! It can be as simple as cooking dinner together, then going for a walk. Or if you have kids, let them choose a fun activity. A picnic and a game of Frisbee at the park? A barbeque followed by a few hours in the pool?

Because, what it all boils down to is, we are a nation that needs to move again.

What causes obesity?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity now affects 17 percent of all U.S. kids and teenagers.

The CDC listed these as the most common causes of obesity:

- Energy imbalance. This means eating too many calories and not getting enough physical activity to burn them off.
- Genetics, which also affects metabolism (how fast one digests food), behavior (staying up late and sleeping in), environment (nowhere and no time to exercise), culture, and socioeconomic status.
- One's behaviors and environment play the largest roles in causing obesity. These also represent the best areas for prevention and treatment.

Want more information?

It's easy to find! Learn more about Together Counts, and how you can help, by visiting <http://www.TogetherCounts.com>. Find more healthy living tips on TriWest's Healthy Living Portal, at <http://www.triwest.com/HealthyLiving>.

Centerspeak

What is your favorite summer activity?

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



LANCE CPL. ALEX SUMROW

3RD LIGHT ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION

"I really love playing basketball outside."



CPL. JUSTIN SYMMES

7TH MARINE REGIMENT

"My favorite summer activity is going swimming at the beach."



SGT. MIN LEE

COMPANY A, MARINE CORPS COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS SCHOOL

"I like sea fishing from a boat."

Hot Topics

HOME RUN DERBY

Join us for the Going Yard Classic Home Run Derby June 29 at 6 p.m. Felix Field. Divisions will be by weight classes, and the number of rounds depends on the number of entries per division. Weigh-ins will be the same day at 5:30 p.m. Hitters will provide their own pitchers. For more information, call 830-4092 or check <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

WOMEN'S VARSITY SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Women's Varsity Travel Softball Team will be at the Felix Field Sports Complex June 28 and July 7 at 6 p.m. For more information, call 830-4092.

GLOW BALL TOURNEY

There will be a glow ball tournament at the Desert Winds Golf Course today. Show time will be at 5 p.m., the game starts at 6 p.m. Sign up as a four-man team or as an individual and be placed on a team. Play nine holes at twilight, break for dinner, then finish the last nine holes. Cost is \$45 including green fees, cart, range balls, food and prizes. Golfers, bring your family to eat for only \$7 extra per guest. Call 830-6132 for more information.

FREE KIDS BOWLING

Kids bowl free during the 60 Days of Summer event at Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center, from June 13 to August 13. Children up to age 17. Those 18 year old, but still in high school are also welcome. Event runs 1 to 9 p.m., seven days a week, with a two-game per day limit per child. Registration required. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Standard shoe rates apply. For information call 830-6422.

Marine Corps History

June 25, 1966

In Vietnam, Operation Jay began about 30 kilometers northwest of Hue, and lasted nine days. The 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, landed north of the North Vietnamese 812th Main Force Battalion, and 2/7 landed south of the enemy's position. Caught in between the two Marine units, the enemy suffered more than 80 dead in nine days of fighting.



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



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

SUDOKU #2214

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2010 HOMETOWN CONTENT

ELEMENTARY

[Puzzle solutions on A4]

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49						50	51		52			53	54	55
57						58		59						
60						61						62		
63						64						65		

ACROSS

1. Nintendo competitor
5. Philanthropist Yale
10. It may be rigged
14. Port of Algeria
15. Successes for Mariano Rivera
16. Like unwashed hair
17. V-8 juice ingredient
19. Utter bore
20. Ship or shop figure
21. Theatrical pro
23. Alcott's "___Boys"
24. Tuxedoed wedding figure
25. Horse laugh
29. Japan's largest island
32. It may be assumed
33. Kim of "Vertigo"
34. Not yet on the sched.
37. "Results may ___"
38. Like Cheerios
40. Ending with ethyl or methyl
41. Gem State product, informally
42. Spy in Canaan
43. Former Israeli prime minister Levi
45. S2 window action
46. Basil-based sauce
48. Orienteering aid
49. 33's and 45's
52. Overdue debts
57. Like some vaccines
58. 1955 Penguins hit
60. Popeye's tooter
61. Popeye's archrival
62. Wine's partner
63. Caught in the act
64. Romance novelist Danielle
65. Pre-cable problem

DOWN

1. Mother porkers
2. QED part
3. Scandal suffix
4. From the top
5. Money held by a third party
6. Adds bacon to
7. "___ got it!"
8. "___ real nowhere man ..."
9. It dissolved in Dec. '91
10. In fashion
11. Washington-New York transport
12. Walkway material
13. Fierce feline, to Blake
18. Big Indians
22. Mammoth tooth
25. Collapsed under pressure
26. ___ Bator
27. Emergency exit of sorts
28. Wray of "King Kong"
29. Marvin Gardens buy
30. [see other side]
31. Palindromic Bobbsey
33. Brussels-base dalliance
35. Buddy, Max, or Bugs for short
36. Some Wall Streeters, for short
38. Symbol of strength
39. Mattress problem
41. Explorer Heyerdahl
42. "It's a Wonderful Life" director Frank
44. Destined for the chop shop
45. Campbell's Soup can painter
46. B-29's quartet, for short
47. Spine-tingling
48. Lusterless finish
50. Young socialites
51. Bagel topper
53. They may be tight or loose
54. Opposed to, in dialect
55. Gambling haven
56. Whole lot
59. Feel sorrow for

Combat Center Spotlight

Name: Cpl. Alexander McDonald
Hometown: Sacramento, Calif.
Unit: Phelps Mess Hall
Job title: Food Service Specialist
Job duties: Serves as Bake Shop noncommissioned officer, helps produce all baked goods served, and teaches his junior Marines.
What do you like most about your job?: "[I like] The people I work with, the friends I have. Most of the time it doesn't feel like I am doing a job, because I enjoy doing it."
Significant achievements: Studied at the Culinary Institute of America.
What is your most memorable meal you have had to make?: "My first meal with CIA. Because even with all the gunnery sergeants and master sergeants with years more experience than me in the class, all the meals still turned out subpar. It was then I realized where I stood in my profession, and [it] was the turning point to improve my skills."
Hobbies: "Running, working on my car, listening to music, swimming and hanging out with family and friends."
What made you start to cook?: "When me and my sister were left home alone, there was not much to do besides [read] the cookbooks. Since we both had big sweet teeth, we learned how to cook everything."
Time aboard the Combat Center?: Two years, two months.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

OBSERVATION POST

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2nd Bn., 10th Marines, take excalibur to desert

**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY LANCE CPL.
SARAH DIETZ**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Second Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment visited the Combat Center to test a new weapon in the most extreme of climates.

Shot from the M777 A2 Howitzer, the excalibur round is a precision-guided artillery round that uses the Global Positioning System to hit targets with pin-point accuracy. The round is now being used in Afghanistan to reduce civilian casualties while providing Marines with effective fire support.

For the majority of the battalion, this shoot was the first time they were able to experience the new gun and munitions.

Each round costs approximately \$100,000, making its time in training scarce.

"This is good hands-on experience for our guys," said Gunnery Sgt. Keith Allen, the battery gunnery sergeant for Battery E. "We are trying to use them more heavily in Afghanistan. They are more accurate, cutting down on casualties."

Marines had the opportunity to explore the positives and negatives of the newest version of their lightweight howitzer. The M777 A2 is an improvement over the M777 as it incorporates a GPS interface and can be moved quickly, thanks to lighter material used in its construction. The tremendous force and pres-



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, get ready to fire the M777 A2 Howitzer with the excalibur round June 17, in the Combat Center's Emerson range training area. The majority of the battalion has never fired the excalibur round before.

sure from firing its ordnance can increase the demands on the gun's crew, however.

"It's dependable, but it takes more to maintain," Allen said. "It's better, lighter and safer."

The gun and the round

have more technology in them than the predecessor M198 howitzer and its standard high explosive rounds. Both the round and the gun have computer chips and GPS units inside them, making them extremely accurate.

"It takes more [preparation] and more attention to detail," said Cpl. T. J. Dye, the section chief for gun one in Battery E. "It's not like the normal HE round. You have to hold it a different way, and you have to be very careful with it."

Dye said the round is used on a case-by-case basis. Because the round doesn't have a large kill radius, it is more likely to be used when insurgents are in a compound or similar area in order to avoid civilian casualties, whereas a

normal HE round would be used if the insurgents are found in an open field.

"This round is supposed to be very reliable," Allen said. "This is a great opportunity for the Marines to get a good feel of what this round is like."



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, take apart the inside of the M777 A2 Howitzer to clean after firing. The excalibur round is rarely shot in training because of its \$100,000 price tag.



Marines with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment clean the barrel of the M777 A2 Howitzer.

Looking for
the right job
for you?



Check the
Observation Post
Classified section

3rd LAR gets new pack leader

DIANE DURDEN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

The six companies that comprise the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Wolfpack, accompanied by the mounted color guard, aligned themselves on the Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field to welcome Lt. Col. Mark Clingan as the new leader of the pack June 17.

"I am very honored to stand in front of you today as the newest member of the Wolfpack," said Clingan, the newly-assigned battalion commander, who was previously assigned as the G-3, Current Operations Officer for the Division (Forward), for 1st Marine Division. "We are all drawn to the Marine Corps because we want to go out and make a difference, I look forward to making a difference with you all."

"Every Marine makes a difference as the motto of the battalion states," he said. "The strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack."

The Marines and sailors were also gathered to say farewell to another leader.

"Rich in history," "steep in tradition" and "very proud of heritage" are just a few of



DIANE DURDEN

Incoming commander for 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Lt. Col. Mark Clingan, tells his Marines and sailors he looks forward to making a difference with them during a change of command ceremony held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field June 17.

the phrases Lt. Col. Kenneth Kassner, the outgoing battalion commander, used to describe the unit as he summed up his time spent as their commander.

"[It's been] a distinct honor and privilege to stand

See 3RD LAR, A7



DIANE DURDEN

The mounted color guard, based at Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, Calif., provided a unique aspect to the Wolfpack's change of command ceremony. This color guard is the only remaining such unit within the Marine Corps.

SJA CORNER

What if your landlord sells your house?

1ST LT. NATHAN D. ADAMS

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE

What do you do if you find out that your landlord is selling the property you are currently leasing?

Fortunately, you are not going to be homeless and have to immediately start searching for somewhere else to live.

New buyers to a piece of property buy it subject to the lease agreement you have with the old owners.

First of all, the people buying the property will be on notice of a lease agreement due to the fact that you are living in the property. Any reasonable person would ask, "Who is living in your house, and why are you letting them live there?"

The lease agreement would then have to be brought to the purchaser's attention, and they would know about the lease. Second, the obligations associated with a lease are tied to the property itself and not necessarily the person you signed the lease with. Because of this, if your landlord sells the property, the new owners are obligated to fulfill the lease agreement.

You will simply have to write your rent checks to the new owners of the property instead of the previous owners. Your rent check will remain the same, as well as the same due dates, but you will just be writing the check to the new owners.

One cautionary note, THIS IS NOT THE CASE DURING A FORECLOSURE! If your property is being foreclosed on, and if the new owners are planning on moving into your residence, you will have 90 days to move out of the property no matter how much time you have remaining on your lease. For all the specifics of your rights as a lessee during a foreclosure, please refer to the SJA Corner's earlier article entitled "Tenants of foreclosed properties have rights."

If you have any issues with your landlord, whether the property is sold, foreclosed on, or any other issues, the Legal Assistance Office is here to help you know your rights and how to best handle the situation. Call 830-6111 and make an appointment as early as possible.

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

SEGA	ELIHU	MAST
ORAN	SAVES	OILY
WATER	CRESS	DRAG
STEWARD	ARTISTE	
JOS	USHER	
GUFFAW	HONSHU	
ALIAS	NOVAK	TBA
VARY	OATEN	STAR
ENE	TATER	CALEB
ESHKOL	WAGERS	
PESTO	MAP	
RECORDS	ARRIARS	
ORAL	EARTH	ANGEL
PIPE	BLUTO	DINE
SEEN	STEEL	SNOW

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

A High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System with Battery T, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fires an M-22 rocket in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper at Quackenbush training area June 15.

EMV, from A1

being at the gun park at Camp Pendleton just running through dry-fire missions," said Cpl. Adam Christman, a section chief with Battery T, 5/11. "For a lot of the guys who haven't shot a lot of rockets, it will be good for them when the launcher starts acting funny, and they will be able to troubleshoot [the problem] in the real world. You learn by experience in this job, so the field is definitely the place to be for HIMARS."

The training 5/11 conducted aboard the Combat Center was a change of scenery from the normal training they perform at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"It is the best time for us to come out and do our training, coming out from the backyard at Pendleton," said Christman. "Once we get in country, this is what we can expect."

With their upcoming deployment, the training also serves to advertise the HIMARS capabilities to the units they may be working with.

"Many don't know our capabilities, don't know who we are or what we can do, so we are trying to put ourselves out there," Mange-Salinas said.

Battery T, 5/11 will begin their pre-deployment training later this summer and are scheduled to ship out early next year.

SENATOR, from A1

and the opportunity to learn more."

The Combat Center had Fuller's attention before she

even set foot here.

"They initially made a visit to my office to create a personal relationship and open communication on what both sides might

want to accomplish by having this visit," she said. "Some of those same people that had greeted us had given a more in-depth briefing with Power Points

on the bus so our 'down time' wasn't specifically down time, but was pointed to some of the questions we had asked in our first relationship."

An unanticipated outcome ended up being one of the most beneficial.

Fuller said she enjoyed having multiple experts immediately available for her

group. Having their information and knowing the best person to contact will help simplify working on future projects between her office and the Combat Center.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Senator Jean Fuller [back, center], the California district 18 senator, and her aides take an aerial tour of the Combat Center during her visit June 17.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Aides for the California district 18 senator, Senator Jean Fuller, listen to a specialist at the Combat Center's co-generation plant during their tour of the Combat Center June 17.

RED CROSS, from A1

in 24 to 48 hours from the time their family member makes the call.

These urgent messages can keep service members in touch with their families, relaying important news.

The Red Cross provides these services to service members and their immediate family members.

"If it's an aunt, uncle or cousin, we'll have to have extenuating circumstances," said Townsend. "What that

means is there's something that would require them to come home, whether their aunt raised them or their cousin lived in the home with the service member for an indefinite amount of time. Once those requirements are met, then we can do a Red Cross message."

Communication services are also available to Department of Defense civilian contract workers working on military installations overseas.

If family members are in

a situation where they cannot reach their deployed service member directly and need to send an emergency message, they should have the following information readily available: full name, rank, branch of service, Social Security number of the service member, military address of the service member, and information about the deployed unit and location of the rear detachment unit.

"If we have all the correct information, we can easily

get verification," said Townsend. "That's our job. We're here to provide emergency messaging and valid, verified messages."

The changes allow local Red Cross chapters to provide vital services with a personal touch, including hospital programs and outreach to reserve families, by freeing up resources from call-intake functions.

According to a release from the American Red Cross aboard MCB Camp Lejeune, "The improvements we are making today are the foundation for continued quality service delivery to our men and women in uniform and their families."

MCTOG, from A1

said. "Lt. Col. McDonough is a personal friend, and the professionalism with which the Marines adapted to the change mid-deployment and continued on with the mission is a tribute to a great battalion."

For Lt. Col. Kevin Harris, the Marine who replaced Dietz as the executive officer for Regimental Combat Team 7, Dietz's leadership was a key factor in the success of the mission at hand.

"He absolutely is deserving of the award," Harris said. "It's a tough task to go to a battalion half way through the deployment to become their battalion commander. He had big shoes to fill because Lt. Col.

McDonough was a very effective battalion commander, and he was hard to replace. Dietz did it, and he did it in a fantastic way."

"He kept the battalion operating," McDonough said. "It's a tough task for any infantry officer to keep a battalion running. He never lost focus, and his guys kept taking the fight to the enemy. That is a direct reflection of his leadership."

Dietz credited the unit's success to his fellow Marines and colleagues who assisted him during the tour.

"One guy gets a little bit of recognition and a decoration that is really representative of the efforts of a large number of folks," Dietz said. "It's much more about teamwork, and group of great Marines."

Drug Education for Youth

PRESS RELEASE

ROBERT E. BUSH NAVAL HOSPITAL, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The DEFY program is starting up again this year. The year-long program is designed to strengthen protective factors that increase the likelihood that youth will lead healthy, drug-free lives. DEFY focuses on 9-12 year-old youth and has proven to be an effective early intervention for youth in the target age group who are at-risk for future involvement with drugs and gangs. Our goal is to empower military youth to

build positive, healthy lifestyles as drug-free, successful citizens. For more information, please contact Navy Chief Terry Morocco at 830-2539 and terry.morocco@med.navy.mil or Petty Officer 3rd Class Courtney Marsh at (520) 252-5517 and courtneymarsh@med.navy.mil.

Camp dates are July 31 to Aug 5. We will be accepting the first 20 applicants. You can find applications and more information on the program at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/nadap/Pages/DEFY.aspx>.



Whatever you're looking for, you can find it in the **Observation Post Classified** section

Marines get dirty to clean up St. Louis

**LANCE CPL. CHRISTOFER P. BAINES,
LANCE CPL. JACOB D. OSBORNE**

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

ST. LOUIS — Marines from 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Marine Week, brought the famous Marine work ethic to the largest urban park in America and several community gardens to restore and beautify these locations June 20-26.

Boy Scout Troop 981 joined the Marines June 20, and during similar events throughout the week hundreds of native St. Louisans sweat alongside the Marines while improving neighborhoods throughout the city.

Marines are going to start helping the community, and hopefully the people of the city will pick up where the Corps leaves off, said Cpl. Jerod Richardson, squad leader, Company I, 3/24. It shows the Corps cares.

Near Hyde Park, St. Louis, Marines removed weeds, laid down burlap and mulch, and prepared a community garden for planting. This garden will be used to teach young teenagers agricultural skills.

Jason Calahan, missionary and program director for Sun Ministries, said the Marines did impressive work, through the heat and humidity with the determination one only finds in a Marine.

In Forest Park, Marines refinished trails and built a bridge. They also dug trenches to keep it dry and laid mulch. With Troop 981's help, they completed the task within a day.

"Boy Scouts are working with the Marine Corps on some service projects throughout Marine Week," said Ike Eicher, an adult leader of Troop 981. "I think the Boy Scouts look up to them. Here's someone who gives back to their community, gives back to their country."

It wasn't just the neighborhoods that reaped the rewards. The Marines also walked away with more than when they arrived.

"Makes me proud, lets me know we are helping out," said



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOFER P. BAINES

Jason Calahan, a missionary and program director for Sun Ministries, changes a drill bit as Marines help him construct a frame for tomatoes to grow on at a community garden in St. Louis, June 20. Throughout Marine Week, Marines will participate in outreach events aimed at improving local communities.

Lance Cpl. Westley Martinez, rifleman, Company I, 3/24.

Throughout Marine Week, the Corps will continue to give back to St. Louis. Other events throughout Marine Week will include urban clean-ups, hospital visits, gar-

den maintenance and a blood drive.

For more information on Marine Week St. Louis, visit <http://www.marines.mil/marineweek> or <http://www.facebook.com/Marines>.



LANCE CPL. CHRISTOFER P. BAINES

Lance Cpl. Jonathan James, a rifleman with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, trims branches from an overgrown tree near a community garden during Marine Week St. Louis June 20.



LANCE CPL. JACOB D. OSBORNE

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Potts pounds in a length of rebar into a log to hold it into place for one of the drainage ditches at Forest Park in St. Louis June 20. The Marines and Boy Scouts worked together to fix the trail. Marine Week provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the Marine Corps' value to our nation's defense and to preserve and mature the Corps' relationship with the American people.



DIANE DURDEN

The Marines and sailors of the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Wolfpack, accompanied by the mounted color guard, march onto Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field to welcome Lt. Col. Mark Clingan as the new leader of the pack June 17.

3RD LAR, from A4

in the ranks with these men," said Kassner, who is leaving the Combat Center to attend classes at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

With the battalion being the last of the mounted cavalry, a mounted color guard seemed a significant inclusion in the ceremony, said Sgt. Maj. John Elliott, the pack's sergeant major.

The mounted color guard, based at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., is the only remaining such unit within the Marine Corps.



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

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

2001 BOMBARDIER DS650. Immaculate. Can be seen at lemon lot. \$3,000 OBO. 819-9353.

2007 CR85R HONDA. \$1,500 OBO. 366-7626

2002 XR80R HONDA. \$800 OBO. 366-7626

CLASSIC 1957 CHEVY PICKUP. 350 engine, 3 speed automatic, \$6,900 OBO. 361-3509.

2007 SUZUKI BOULEVARD. Black and chrome, 1600 CC, \$3,000 in extras included. Asking \$12,500. 401-3739.

MISC.

GOLF CLUBS. Ping Eye 2 Irons I-SW \$225. Slazenger forged blades 2-PW \$200. Assorted putters and wedges. Call 413-4015.

MOVING SALE: Like new grill, beds, furniture, kitchen items. All items very cheap. Call Sergio at 562-704-0366.

BUNK BED WITH MATTRESSES. White metal, \$200. 366-7626

STORAGE CONTAINER. An 8 x 10 foot rollup locking door, steel container in excellent shape. \$2,800. Call 362-5293.

EIGHT PIECE DINING SET. Very nice tile top, solid wood, light finish set that features an extra long, rectangle, legless table with removable center leaf. Includes six chairs and a two-seat bench. Very heavy and durable, yet semi-formal set. A must see. \$645. Call 362-5293.

NORDICTRACK CX1000: Elliptical workout \$300 OBO. 361-3509

FIREWOOD. Approximately two cords of dried, split, quality miscellaneous wood. Personally cut and hauled from Big Bear. Includes kindling. Sorry, delivery is not possible. \$295. Call 362-5293

BABY ITEMS: Solid wood baby crib, walker, stroller, wooden horse and more. All in excellent condition. Call 217-3310.

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

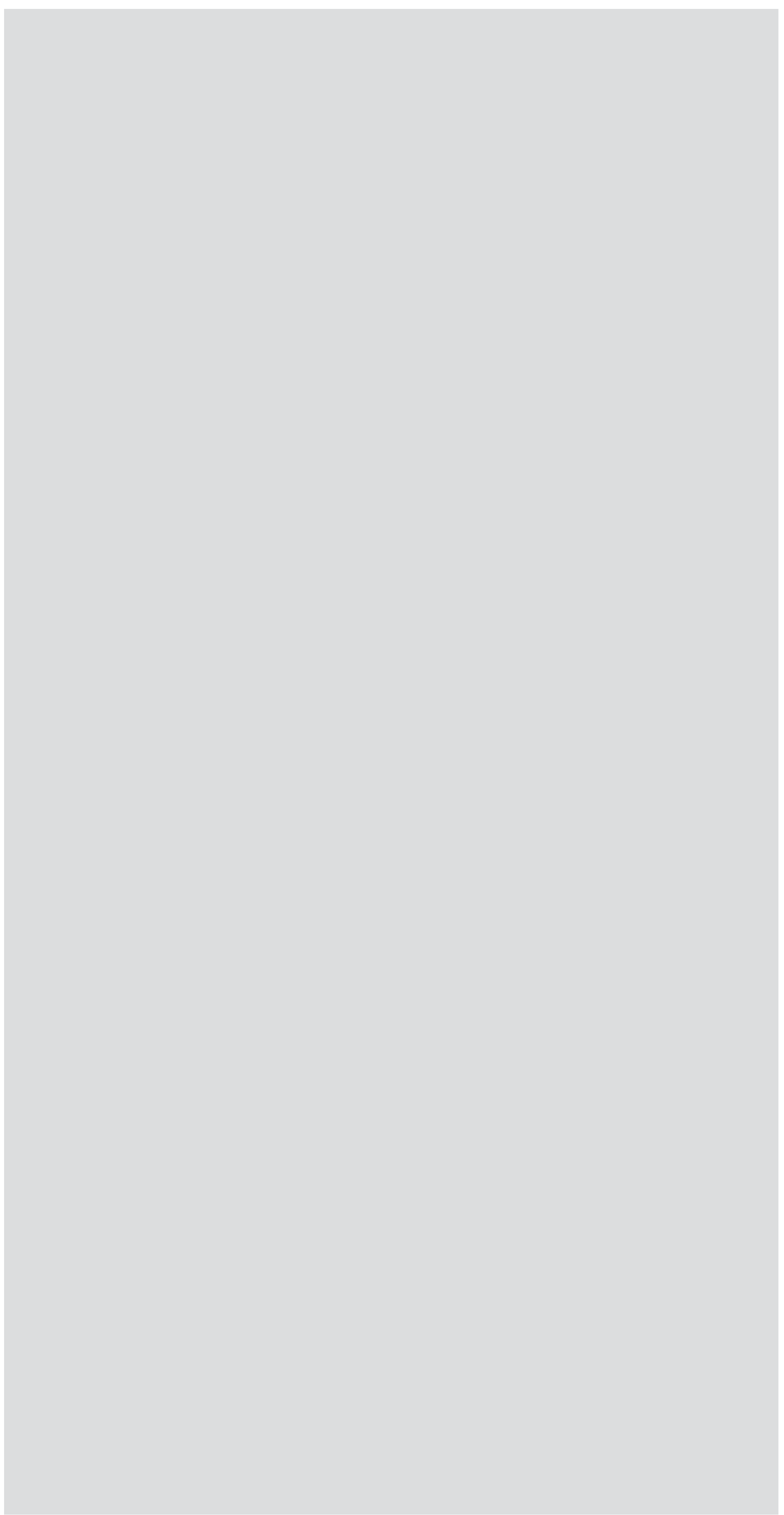
represent incidental exchanged not of sustained business nature.

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.





“Super 8” is super summer cinematic entertainment, page B2

Marines, sailors learn to ride from pros



Thunder Horse Ranch, near Julian, Calif., is a 300-acre lot full of extensive trails, tracks and jumps. Semper Ride, a handful of professional motocross riders, and Marines and sailors from the West Coast installations came together for the first off-road safety event of its kind June 17 and 18.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. WILLIAM J. JACKSON
BROADCAST CHIEF

Professional motocross riders from West Coast installations came together for the first ever Semper Ride off-road training and safety event near Julian, Calif., June 17 and 18.

The Marines and sailors packed up their all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes and camping equipment and headed to the 300-acre Thunder Horse Ranch, an oasis of trails, tracks and training.

Early Friday morning, the crowd of riders and their families rallied around a Red Bull bus to get word on the events of the day.

“Get out there, have fun and be safe,” said Jeff Tilton, the project manager for the event and a former professional motocross rider, to the mass of riders in attendance. Tilton also mentioned classes the Marines and sailors could sign up for to polish their riding techniques.

“I’ve been pushing off-road for a long time and finally it’s here,” he said. It’s been a lot of hard work, a lot of time and energy put into it and a lot of passion.”

Tilton works with Headquarters Marine Corps and with base safety on Marine Corps bases around the world.

The event hosted up to 100 riders each day and invited them to take as much training as they could from the professional riders as well as the other riders in their own groups.

“It’s awesome to see such a wide variety of riders wanting to learn,” said

Steven Haughelstine, a professional motocross rider at the event. “You can see a difference in how they ride even after a couple of run-throughs with them.”

Haughelstine, who’s been riding since he was a kid, teamed up with X-games gold medalist Ronnie Renner to give tips on cornering and handling jumps during the classes.

“Guys who aren’t used to riding in the ‘attack position’, they get tense,” Renner explained to the handful of riders in front of him,” while stressing the importance of standing up in the attack position on a track. “It will tire you out.”

Most riders came to enjoy the chance to ride on a new track. Corporal Andrew Walsh, an amphibious assault vehicle crewman with Company D, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, came to ride with his co-workers.

“I’m out here to have fun,” Walsh said. “I’ve been riding for a while, and you can always learn something new.”

In addition to June being Riders’ Safety Month, Semper Ride has set the bar high for a new curriculum for teaching riders the basics and safety precautions to keep their interest in the sport.

“I think what’s cool about Semper Ride is that it’s a completely different way that speaks to the rider,” Tilton said. “It’s not someone yelling at you or trying to scare you. It’s professional riders and your peers talking to you about what the sport is and how to get into it correctly. The ultimate goal here is to make these guys lifetime motorcycle riders.”



An ATV rider hits a 15 foot “table top” on Thunder Horse Ranch’s advanced track. Thunder Horse Ranch hosted up to 100 riders a day.



Ronnie Renner [right], an X-Games gold medalist explains the “attack position,” and how to properly handle a jump on a track, to a group of riders.

1st Tanks crush VMU-1



EMILY ANDERSON

A player from the 1st Tanks team [right] leaps to head the ball.



EMILY ANDERSON

Isaac Solorio, a player for 1st Tanks, holds possession of the ball during their Commanding General’s Intramural Soccer League game at Felix Field Tuesday. The 1st Tanks team is undefeated.



EMILY ANDERSON

Carlos Iruegas, a player for 1st Tanks, steals the ball shortly before VMU-1 can get a handle on it.



EMILY ANDERSON

A player from the VMU-1 team retrieves the ball from the goal after being scored on by the 1st Tanks. The 1st Tanks won the game 6-0.



Combat Center Clubs

Excursions Enlisted Club

Friday: Your Favorite T-shirt Night. Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m. DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m., Ladies Night
Saturday: Variety Night with DJ Gjettblaque 8-11 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.
Wednesday: Free gourmet bar food, 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 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.
Monday: Steak night and full dinner menu 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday: All-Hands lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Full dinner menu, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Thursday: Social Hour, 5 to 7 p.m.

Combat Center Officers' Club

Monday-Friday: All-hands lunch, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday: Steak night, 5 to 8 p.m.
Thursday: Taco Night, 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Local Events

Pappy and Harriet's Weekend Line-Up:

Brian Wright and the Sumner Brothers

Playing a mix of Americana, folk and rock
When: 8 p.m., Friday, June 24

The Fleshtones with guests the Forty Nineteens

The Americana, garage pop band performs
When: 8 p.m., Saturday, June 25
Where: 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown
For more information, call 365-5956 or visit <http://www.pappyandharriets.com>.

Willie Boy's Weekend Line-Up:

Tesla Tribute Band

The hard rock band receives a fitting tribute
When: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday, June 24

Ghost Train

The popular psychedelic rock/folk band performs
When: 9 p.m., Saturday, June 25
Where: Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall, 50048 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley
For more information, call 363-3343 or visit <http://www.willieboys.com>.

Summer Movies in Luckie Park

The Last Airbender
When: 8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30
Where: Luckie Park near the corner of Utah Trail and Joe Davis Drive in Twentynine Palms on the north-facing wall of the racquetball courts.

Lower Desert

Rodney Carrington

The comedian, actor, singer performs
When: 9 p.m., Friday, Tonight
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

The Monkeys

The comedic television band performs
When: 9 p.m., Friday, July 15
Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon
For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit <http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

Tesla

The rock band presents their Forever More Tour
When: 9 p.m., Sunday, July 8
Where: Agua Caliente 32-250 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage
For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit <http://hotwatercasino.com>.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, June 24

6 p.m. – Hoodwinked Too, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Water for Elephants, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Madea's Big Happy Family, Rated PG-13

Saturday, June 25

11 a.m. – **Free Matinee.** Toy Story 3, Rated G
2 p.m. – Rio, Rated G
6 p.m. – Prom, Rated PG
9 p.m. – Something Borrowed, Rated PG-13
Midnight – Thor, Rated PG-13

Sunday, June 26

2 p.m. – Hoodwinked Too, Rated PG
6 p.m. – Jumping the Broom, Rated PG-13
9 p.m. – Bridesmaids, Rated R

Monday, June 27

7 p.m. – Water for Elephants, Rated PG-13

Tuesday, June 28

7 p.m. – **Free Sneak Preview** Transformers 3: Dark of the Moon, Rated PG-13

Wednesday, June 29

7 p.m. – Rio, Rated G

Thursday, June 30

7 p.m. – Madea's Big Happy Family, Rated PG-13



COURTESY PHOTO

"Super 8" is really a movie about movies, riffing on vintage 50s monster and sci-fi themes, and built around a group of kids making a movie. The cast of plucky teens find themselves swept into an ultimately uplifting adventure beyond their wildest movie-making dreams.

Sci-fi adventure recalls geeky wonder years

NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

"Super 8"

Starring Elle Fanning, Joel Coutenay and Kyle Chandler
Rated PG-13

Some young teens witness something sensational – and terrifying – in "Super 8," the new collaboration from director-writer J.J. Abrams and producer Steven Spielberg that's much richer, much deeper and much more moving than its "monster movie" premise might suggest.

Abrams' resume includes the hit TV series "Lost" and the 2009 big-screen revival of "Star Trek." Spielberg, as most of the world knows, is

the moviemaking icon behind a long line of blockbusters, including "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial."

This is the first shared project for the two successful director/writer/producers, and it's really an affectionate, loveably geeky homage to both filmmakers' wonder years, when movies were gateways to worlds of imagination, mystery, danger, romance and good, old-fashioned, scare-your-pants-off terror.

"Super 8," set in the late 1970s, involves a train accident, something big and nasty that escapes from the wreckage and a reel of home movie film that accidentally

captures it all.

But it's really a movie about movies, riffing on vintage 50s monster and sci-fi themes, and built around a group of kids making a movie. And it's meticulously stamped, top to bottom, with the imprint of two guys who both got their first taste of filmmaking by shooting with home movie cameras and the Kodak film from which "Super 8" takes its name.

The terrific cast of likeable young newcomers includes 13-year-old Elle Fanning, Dakota's little sister. And, alongside her, 15-year-old Joel Coutenay makes a most impressive screen debut that provides the movie's essential emotional center.

The kids are working on a homemade zombie flick – inspired by George Romero's no-budget "Night of the Living Dead" – when their camera captures something else, something far scarier ... and something possibly quite scared itself.

Even though Spielberg

isn't behind the camera, "Super 8" frequently evokes some of his greatest creations. It often seems, in fact, that the whole movie is Abrams' tribute to classic Spielberg-ian moments, emotions, techniques and ingredients.

The movie does a great job of capturing the look and feel of its time and place, from hairstyles and clothing to bicycles, walkie-talkies, Sony Walkmans and radios blaring Blondie, Cheap Trick, The Commodores, The Knack and other artists who ruled the airwaves in the late 1970s.

But what it captures best of all is the pure rush of adrenalized entertainment that a movie can provide, as the plucky teens find themselves swept into an ultimately uplifting adventure beyond their wildest movie-making dreams.

And, by the way, they even finish their zombie project. Stay for the credits and you'll see it in its glorious, three-minute entirety.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Super 8," set in the late 1970s, involves a train accident, something big and nasty that escapes from the wreckage and a reel of home movie film that accidentally captures it all.

Combat Center Leisure

Desert Detours: Shields Date Garden



Welcome to "Desert Detours," a series that follows our correspondents around on their explorations of southern California. 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 SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

EDITOR / PRESS CHIEF

I've been asking my co-workers if they'd like a date all week.

Then I point to the box of dates (the fruit) I brought back from this week's Detour – the Shields Date Garden in Indio, Calif.

I never knew there was so much to know about dates, or so many varieties, or so many uses. Being a native of Texas and not California, I also didn't know this area was known as the "Date Capital of the World," according to some sources.

Shields takes that distinction to the max, with its own groves, a café, an ice cream parlor, a store and a theater, all dedicated to dates. Shields also boasts the "best date shake" in the area.

The claim does not come without some credentials. It was named one of the top four places in the country to get a date shake by renowned road foodies, Jane and Michael Stern, in their book "500 Things to Eat Before It's Too Late: and the Very Best Places to Eat Them."

With all this hype, I wanted to try one for myself.

If you have a taste for sweets, then the date shake, which tasted slightly like caramel, is the summer treat for you. The one I tried at Shields was a little too sweet for my liking, but I'm not much of a sugar eater in the first place.

Enjoying one of Shields' shakes involves practically all of your senses, though. It's dreamily creamy, and the combined scent of dates and vanilla ice cream was strong enough to waft through the plastic lid and up the straw. And with outdoor temperatures reaching above 100 degrees here, the coolness was a welcome and refreshing respite from the heat.

They also offer other fla-

vors, including chocolate, strawberry and mango.

If milkshakes aren't your thing, this place is still interesting enough, in a touristy kind of way.

The café, open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, features all the basic breakfast and lunch foods, from eggs, pancakes and French toast, to salads, soups and sandwiches. Of course there are several house specialties featuring their famous dates, like the Shields Date Pancakes, Shields Signature Salad and Shields Signature Date Burger.

The store area of the mini-complex, which houses the ice cream counter and the theater, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. There you can taste and purchase any of their date-infused products, like date bread made at the facility, and the 10 varieties of dates grown on location, including two kinds invented by Shields' original owner and three kinds that are naturally safe for those with sugar sensitivities.

All of their dates and several other date products, like sugar substitute and date crystals (used to make the shakes and for topping yogurt, cereal and ice cream),

See **DETOURS, B4**



The iconic Shields knight positioned along Highway 111 in Indio, Calif., points the way to the Shields Date Garden.



Dates grown at on-location groves are available for purchase, including two kinds invented by the former Shields owner.



Outdoor café seating is located behind the store and features a view of the date palm groves out back.

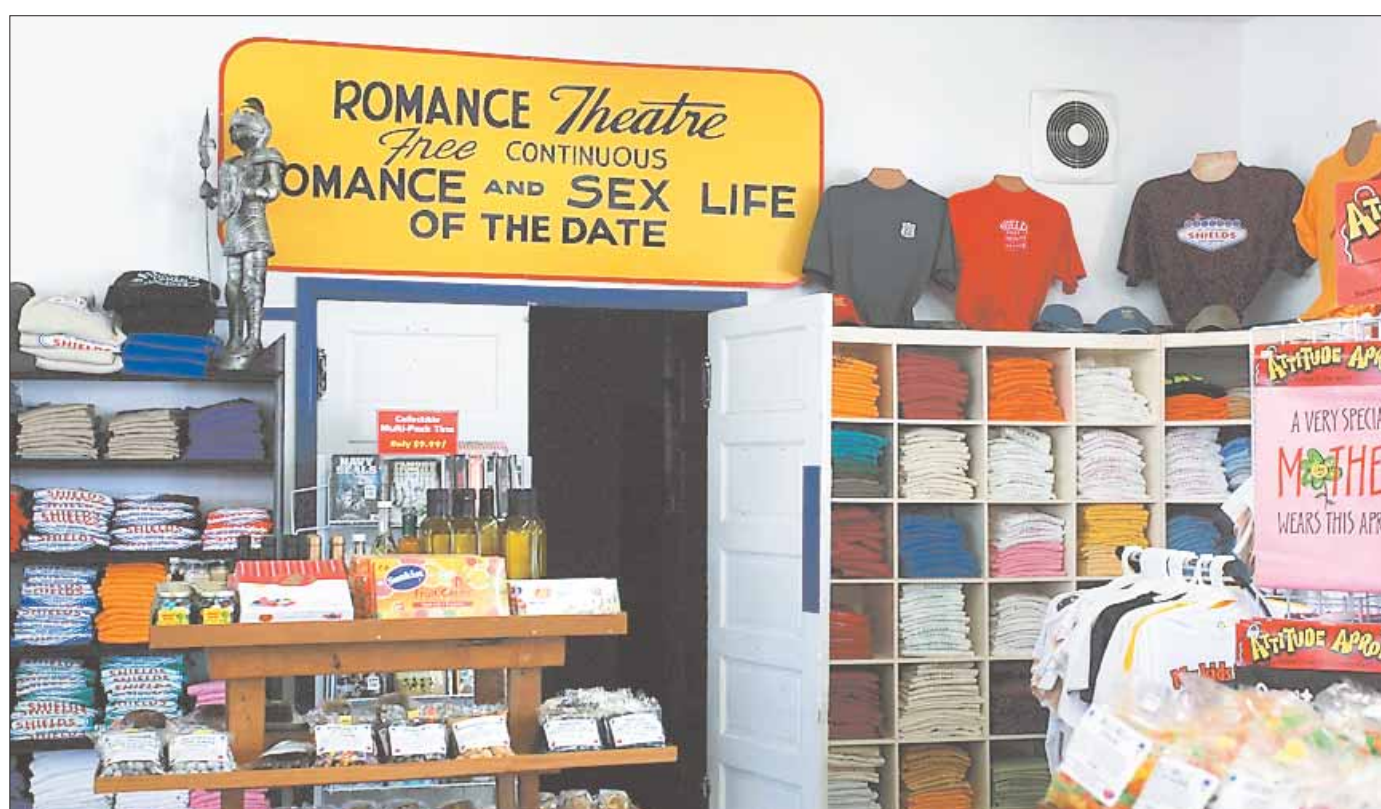
ADVERTISEMENT

Athlete of the Week



LANCE CPL. D. J. WU

Name: Eric Arthur
Unit: Company A, Marine Corps Communications-Electronic School
Hometown: Manchester, NH
Position: 3rd baseman for the MCCES Reds
Recognition: His defensive efforts led to the MCCES Reds place in the Commanding General's Intramural Softball League Championships
What is your favorite part of the sport?: "I just like competing with other players that enjoy playing the game as much as I do."
Do you have any advice for aspiring athletes?: "Practice. Practice. Practice."



SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN

Shields Date Garden patrons can learn all they ever wanted to know about the cultivation cycle of date palms during free, continuous showings of "Romance and Sex Life of the Date" at the Romance Theatre.

DETOURS, from B3

are available via mail order. Check out their full product list and the café's menu at <http://www.shieldsdategarden.com>.

The Romance Theatre is located at the back of the store, heralded by a large yellow sign in the corner above the nondescript door. One movie plays on

repeat – "Romance and Sex Life of the Date" – and tells the story of the date palm's cultivation cycle.

In just a few minutes, I learned that the "date is the oldest known cultivated tree crop," is also one of the most expensive to produce, and that one "male" date palm can pollinate up to 49 "female" palms.

I don't want to spoil the

ending though, so you'll have to go see it yourself. If you happen to miss it or you develop a date infatuation, never fear. Copies of the movie are sold at the register.

Despite all the tasty appeal of Shields, it rates a mere two palms. An hour and a half is a bit too far to drive for a milkshake and what amounts to a documentary about the date palm's love life.

However, if you happen to find yourself near La Quinta or Indio, Shields is not a bad stop to make.

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.