



# OBSERVATION POST

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS

November 4, 2011

Since 1957

Vol. 55 Issue 42



# Exchange OF FIRE



PFC. ALI AZIMI

Marines of Gun Six, Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment work with soldiers of the Australian Army to fire the M777 A2 Howitzer during the Golden Eagle exercise held at Lead Mountain training area Nov. 1.

## M777 v. M198 Howitzer



### M777 Howitzer

- Main Weapon Caliber: 155
- Weight: 8,250 pounds
- Length: 33.5 feet
- Degrees of lateral traverse: 45
- Elevation: From 71 to 3 degrees
- Crew size: 7
- Rounds per minute: 5
- Max range: 15.3 miles
- Max rocket-assisted range: 18.6 miles



### M198 Howitzer

- Main Weapon Caliber: 155
- Weight: 15,760 pounds
- Length: 35.75 feet
- Degrees of lateral traverse: 45
- Elevation: From 72 to -5 degrees
- Crew size: 10
- Rounds per minute: 4
- Max range: 13.92 miles
- Max rocket-assisted range: 18.64 miles

## Australian, Marine artillerymen bond over bombs

Lance Cpl. Sarah Dietz  
Combat Correspondent

The Marines of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, shared much with the soldiers of the Australian Army 1st Brigade, 8/12th over the last two months.

From exchanging knowledge to campgrounds in each others' homeland, the two units have formed bonds of brotherhood and trust that go beyond their primary mission of artillery.

It all started with Operation Golden Eagle in August, where the Marines from 3/11 took a month-long trip to Australia to learn about the M198 howitzer used in the Australian Army.

"I grew up on those [howitzers]," said Staff Sgt. John Harwood, section chief of Gun Six of 3/11. "It wasn't new to me, but my Marines had to learn how to fire the gun."

This was the first time many of the Australian soldiers worked with Marines; the similarities among the military branches were enormous.

"They were the same as us," said Australian Lance Bombardier James Thatcher, detachment commander for

See 3/11, A6



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines with Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and Australian soldiers with 1st Brigade, 8/12, trade stories while waiting for the fire missions to start coming downrange during cross training in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper Oct. 26 at Quackenbush range.

## CLB-7 returns

[Right] Hayden Mitchell, 3-year-old daughter of Sgt. Christopher Mitchell, a radio technician with CLB-7, excitedly waves a sign to welcome her father during his homecoming in the early morning hours of Oct. 29 at Del Valle Field. The battalion recently returned from their seven-month tour to Afghanistan.

[Below] Heather Alonzo embraces her husband Francisco Alonzo, after their long seven-month separation Oct. 29 at Del Valle Field.



PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL SARAH DIETZ

## Tanks history, rededicated

### 1st Tanks adds battle streamers, celebrates birthday

LANCE CPL D. J. WU

Marines, sailors and guests of 1st Tank Battalion gathered together at the unit's tank ramp to commemorate the Battalion's birthday with a color rededication ceremony Nov. 1.

The flag rededication was a reminder of the history of battles of unit has been through.

"A battle color rededication is something that needs to be done every once in a while," said Sgt. Maj. Troy Dabney, battalion sergeant major for 1st

Tank Bn. "The young Marines of the battalion witness first-hand the lineage of the unit."

The full battalion was formed up for the ceremony. There were also members of 2nd Tank Battalion representing the rest of the tank community.

Along with the rededication was the retirement of Master Sgt. William Carroccia Jr., the unit's former S-4 chief, who served 13 of his 23 years in the Marine Corps with

See TANKS, A7



LANCE CPL D.J. WU

The new battle streamers fly in the wind during the rededicated battle colors of 1st Tank Battalion at the battalion's tank ramp Tuesday.

# This Week in Combat Center History



Reprinted from the Observation Post dated Nov. 3, 1959, Vol. 3, No. 44

## 11th Marines end exercise conducted at base range

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, from Camp Pendleton, California, has departed for their home Base after conducting a ten-day field artillery problem at 29 Palms.

According to Sergeant Major Eugene W. Snyder, the purpose of the exercise was to give individual instruction to newly arrived officers and men as well as to evaluate the combat efficiency of the battalion in their role as a major artillery unit.

### Night Firing

Throughout the problem<sup>1</sup> several displacements were made from the organization's main camp area. After these movements prolonged night firing exercises shattered the desert stillness as the artillerymen brought the 105 millimeter howitzers<sup>2</sup> to bear on targets.

One of these lengthy exercises began early last Friday morning and ended at 6 p.m. Saturday. Still another "shoot" lasted a full 22 hours.

When the visitors were not engaged in firing the larger weapons they flexed their muscles and tested accuracy with the .30 and .50 caliber machine guns and also the 3.5 rocket launcher.

The battalion was supported throughout the ten days by the 2nd Light Support Company, 1st Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Regiment.<sup>3</sup> This unit is also from Camp Pendleton.

### Success

Major Haskell C. Baker, Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, termed the entire operation as a "Terrific success."

The recent change of weather aboard the Base "did not hamper training," emphasized Sgt. Major Snyder. He pointed out that it gave a much better picture of the combat efficiency of his battalion during inclement desert weather.<sup>4</sup>

(1) In the early years of the Combat Center, the field exercises were called problems.

(2) The 105 mm M-101 howitzer was developed in 1928. The Marine Corps now uses the M777 A2 howitzer.

(3) The 1st Force Service Regiment was activated on July 1, 1947 as the 1st Combat Service Group. It became the 1st Force Service Regiment in 1957 and was change to the current 1st Marine Logistics Group in 1976.

(4) The incimate weather 4th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, shot in was most likely cold temperatures, high winds and possible rain.

He added that moral among the 450 members of his organization was very high; helped out by exceptionally well prepared food from the battalion's field kitchens. Sunday Divine Services were held for the troops by Chaplain Warren, 11th Marines Chaplain, and Father James Herferman from 29 Palms.

## Patients curb rising pharmacy costs by switching to home delivery

### TRICARE PRESS RELEASE

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — TRICARE patients are making the switch to Home Delivery. In record numbers, patients with regular prescription medications are getting their 90-day supplies through the mail-order option — TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. That's made a dent in the use of more expensive retail pharmacy options.

Retail pharmacy growth slowed from an annual rate of about seven percent in 2010 to less than two percent through July 2011.

"This success is due in large part to great teamwork among TMA staff, our pharmacy contractor, senior DOD leadership, military associations and many more people who took the time to help us get the word out,"

said the retiring TRICARE Management Activity Deputy Director Navy Rear Adm. Christine Hunter.

It's a trend she is sure will continue under the leadership of incoming TMA deputy director, Brig. Gen. Bryan Gamble.

Beneficiaries who use TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery get prescription medications shipped conveniently and safely to their door through U.S. mail. Home Delivery also offers the popular option of automatic prescription refills.

"Patients realize significant savings by getting regular prescriptions through Home Delivery," said Hunter. "So does the Department of Defense."

There's an additional reason to switch to Home Delivery, which went into

effect Oct. 1. "Pharmacy copays are changing," said Hunter. "We're going to zero copays on generic medications obtained through Home Delivery, and you can't do better than that."

For more information about pharmacy options, new copayment rates and Home Delivery visit <http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy>.

Patients can see if making the switch to TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery works for them and move their prescriptions to Home Delivery through the website at [www.expresscripts.com/TRICARE](http://www.expresscripts.com/TRICARE). There's even an "app for that" for registered users at <http://www.expresscripts.com/mobile> where registered users can order refills, check orders and find a network pharmacy.

## Hot Topics

### FRAUD, WASTE, MISMANAGEMENT HOTLINE

The Command Inspector General's Fraud, Waste, Mismanagement Hotline is available to all military personnel, civilian employees and family members at 830-7749 or DSN 230-7749. Facsimiles can be called in at 830-6155 or DSN 230-6155. You can also file a complaint at SMBPLMS CenterInspector@usmc.mil

### HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

The Marine Corps Community Services here will be hosting a Holiday Festival Dec. 5 at Felix Field. Games, Santa, toys and beverages are available to the families in attendance along with holiday candy. For more information on the day, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>.

### TURKEY SHOOT AT GOLF COURSE

There will be a two-man scramble at the Desert Winds Golf Course Nov. 18. Show time is 8 a.m., and tee time is 9 a.m. Sign up as a team or as an individual. The fee is \$30 and includes golf, food and prizes. Sign up by Nov. 11 at the golf course. For more information, call 830-6132.

### WOMEN'S GOLF LESSONS

The Desert Winds Golf Course will be hosting golf lessons for Combat Center women. The six weeks of instruction will be taught by a PGA professional. The cost is \$100, which includes the use of clubs and green fees. For more information, call 830-3900.



## 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**



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

## SUDOKU #2340

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU PUZZLES COURTESY OF © 2011 HOMETOWN CONTENT

## THROWAWAY PUZZLE

[Puzzle solutions on A7]

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                    | 41. Throwing a movie VIP?        | <b>DOWN</b>                            | 30. Guide to achieving a major objective |
| 1. Spring formal                 | 44. Paid to play                 | 1. Alka-Seltzer-landing-in-water sound | 32. Joule fractions                      |
| 5. Where __ (trendy place)       | 45. Slaw or fries                | 2. "Arrivederci, __"                   | 33. Rock bottom                          |
| 10. "Immediately!" in the OR     | 46. End in __ (require overtime) | 3. Metal-bearing minerals              | 35. Shamu or Willy                       |
| 14. Traditional teachings        | 47. Inspiration for the Frisbee  | 4. Bright bunch                        | 37. Dele undoer                          |
| 15. Lunar valley                 | 49. Diana or Betsy               | 5. Applied, as a patch                 | 39. Italian beach resort                 |
| 16. One who's next in line       | 51. "__ longa, vita brevis"      | 6. Triangle tone                       | 42. Dumb cluck                           |
| 17. Black cat, to some           | 52. Pricing word                 | 7. Unlikely, as chances                | 43. Nixon or Agnew, in the '70s          |
| 18. Burger topper                | 53. Feedbag morsel               | 8. For everyone to hear                | 48. Snacks with salsa                    |
| 19. Air France airport           | 55. 007 creator Fleming          | 9. Present and past                    | 50. Got a load of                        |
| 20. Throwing a group of troops?  | 57. Throwing a cheese?           | 10. Buck or brogan                     | 54. "It's done!"                         |
| 23. Item up one's sleeve         | 64. Weevil's meal                | 11. Pottery clay                       | 56. Chicken's lack                       |
| 24. "Agnus __"                   | 66. Marsh wader                  | 12. Feel out of sorts                  | 58. Chase of stage and screen            |
| 25. Stubborn sort                | 67. Ormani money                 | 13. Take a shot at                     | 59. Tabriz's country                     |
| 28. Scud downer, briefly         | 68. Love-letter letters          | 21. Lipinski's milieu                  | 60. "Just say __ drugs"                  |
| 31. Shangri-la                   | 69. Mount the soapbox            | 22. Slight coloration                  | 61. Get lighter                          |
| 34. Pastoral vehicle             | 70. One of Salome's seven        | 26. __-faire                           | 62. Get heavier                          |
| 36. Pastoral expanses            | 71. Moffo or Magnani             | 27. Metric units of volume             | 63. Cinders of old strips                |
| 38. Like some vaccines and exams | 72. Granada gentleman            | 28. Dogpatch's creator                 | 64. "Be prepared" org.                   |
| 40. Lemons' locale               | 73. European erupter             | 29. Frosh's topper, once               | 65. Part of BYOB                         |

## OBSERVATION POST

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# The Survivor

Two drinks, one ride, change one woman's life

STORY BY  
**SGT. HEATHER GOLDEN**  
EDITOR / PRESS CHIEF

"I wasn't born using a wheelchair."

This is how Kelly Narowski introduced her story, the one she tells to thousands of people every year.

One day, years ago, after a couple of drinks, Narowski was enjoying a scenic ride down the Pacific Coast Highway in Santa Barbara. The vehicle's driver, her friend Heather, asked to switch places. Heather decided she was far too drunk to be behind the wheel.

Narowski figured she was fine, made her way around the car and slipped into the driver's seat. She wasn't wearing her seatbelt.

"That was the last time I ever walked," she said. "I had only had two drinks the day I put myself in a wheelchair. Two drinks. That's it. That's all it took."

Driving intoxicated wasn't the norm for Narowski. She usually wasn't much of a drinker anyway. But she'd been a risky driver for years.

"I didn't get it. I didn't get that those speed limit signs were there for a reason. I got five speeding tickets while I was in college. I always called my lawyer to get me out of it. And he always did."

"Years later, not 'getting it' would cost me my legs."

Now, she travels the country telling her story, mostly to members of the Armed Services, in the hopes that she can help keep others from making the same bad choice that changed her life forever.

"We feel safe in a car. We get in cars every day. You are more likely as a U.S. Marine to die on a U.S. road than you are to die in Iraq."

"You're U.S. Marines. You stand for what's right in this world. If a Marine dies on a U.S. road because of a bad choice, there's no purpose or honor in that at all."

Narowski, 25 at the time of her crash, was a personal trainer with a blossoming career.

"No seatbelt. Unfamiliar vehicle. Had had two drinks. All those bad decisions in one afternoon."

"We hit the guardrail, and I flew into the steering wheel. My body flew around like a ragdoll. My vertebra exploded like a grenade. My spine stretched like taffy."

"A split second decision can have enormous consequences."

She awoke hours later on a hard, unfamiliar hospital bed.

"I tried to move, but I couldn't move. I said, 'I can't move my legs.' I said it again. 'I can't move my legs.'"

Nurses ignored her. They were busy and already knew the truth that Narowski hadn't yet grasped.

She was paralyzed from the middle of her back, down.

"Your ability to walk is something you never think you're going to lose. I

never did. I felt invincible."

Narowski sustained enough damage to her spinal cord that the broken bones, bruises and concussions seemed like child's play.

"If you get a brain or spinal cord injury, doctors can't fix it," she said.

After seemingly endless days of operations and physical therapy, she left the hospital with two back fusions and two titanium rods holding everything together. She continued to keep getting sick even after that.

The journey to regaining her life had just begun. She needed to get back to some semblance of normalcy. But the crash had made that near impossible.

"The first year or two was living hell. That is not something I want to happen to any of you," she said.

"It wears on you emotionally. The first thing they see is a wheelchair, not a person. I just wanted to be treated like Kelly."

"I'm trapped in a body that's just unresponsive. It's not a lifestyle I recommend. It's much better to have the ability to walk, the ability to feel."

Everything from going to a restaurant with family to spending time out with friends had to be

planned meticulously.

"If there's not a ramp, you're not going," she said.

Bladder control is another issue many adults take for granted.

"Nothing is more degrading than being at the mall with your friends and suddenly, there's pee everywhere. And you think, 'Wow, I did this to myself.'"

Even after all of that, Narowski's life made a turn for the better, she's back on track and she's grateful at least her choice to drive while intoxicated didn't cost anyone their lives.

"I know how hard it is to live as a paraplegic. I think it'd be 100 times harder to wake up, look in the mirror and know I murdered someone."

Now, she's married to a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, has a close-knit group of friends and an amazing support network. She spends her days doing something she is passionate about — helping people make the right choices behind the wheel.

Narowski doesn't want or need pity.

"I make it a personal policy not to complain about the spinal cord. It doesn't change anything and nobody wants to hear it. I'm not telling you this so you think, 'Oh that poor lady. She's been through a lot.' I want your thoughts to be, 'I don't want any part of any of that,'" she said.

"There're two types of people in this world. Those who get it, and those who don't."

"I had to learn the hard way."

**"Nothing is more degrading than being at the mall with your friends and suddenly, there's pee everywhere. And you think, 'Wow, I did this to myself.'"**

— Kelly Narowski



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Kelly Narowski, a motivational speaker who travels the country talking to young adults about the dangers of drinking and driving, tells Combat Center Marines about how drunk driving took away the use of her legs.

## Did you know?

**The Liberty Call page on B2 now has Combat Center club information**

**Excursions Enlisted Club**

**Bloodstripes NCO Club**

**Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club**

**Combat Center's Officers' Club**

# Jane WAYNE DAY

## Military families learn more about loved ones' lives

Cpl. Andrew D. Thorburn  
Combat Correspondent

Crystal Meyer has only been in California for a few months. She left the only life she'd known, back with her family and friends in Washington state, to marry Cpl. Zackary Meyer, a squad leader with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

Since then, she's had to make some adjustments.

"Before we got married, I would come out and visit and meet some of his friends," Crystal said. "It's very different now. He's not home all the time, so I am getting used to being by myself a lot, but still being there for him."

Crystal said she knew what it meant to marry a Marine, but she didn't really understand what it was that kept him from their home, and walking in the door exhausted.

Thanks to 1/7's Jane Wayne Day event Saturday, Crystal, like other of the unit's family members, now has a taste of what her Marine does on a daily basis.

"It has always been when he would say that he is going out into the field, I just think they're going out and camping, and think 'Oh that's pretty fun,'" Crystal said. "But now I could see how it could tire you out."

The event offered a different perspective for a pair of parents who came out to see what their son has been up to since graduating recruit training in May 2010. Patricia Hillis and her husband Edward J. Hillis, said they are filled

with pride with what their son, Pfc. Cody Hillis, a machine gunner with 1/7, has accomplished so far.

"He has a feeling of maturity, like he grew up," Patricia said. "He always had a good head on his shoulders, but it was even better than that."

Patricia and Edward even watched their son in action as he demonstrated how to fire a Mk-19 automatic grenade launcher for the group.

Siblings also took part to see their brothers in the field or to swap war stories from their own time in the Marine Corps.

"It's awesome," said Andrew Hooper, the older brother of Lance Cpl. Gregory Hooper, a machine gunner, with 1/7. Andrew is a former Marine infantryman. "Me and him get along a lot better than we have ever before, and we have more things to talk about."

The chance to check out the equipment his brother will deploy with was something else Andrew said he enjoyed.

"I love it, they have a lot of new things to help keep them safer for when he goes to Afghanistan," he said. "I am super happy they are spending the money to give the grunts the equipment they need to fight."

Greg Hooper, the father of Lance Cpl. Hooper, was very impressed with how close the families got to the equipment.

"My oldest son was with 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and I was able to attend an event there," Greg said. "It's got a lot more hands-on at this event with the vehicles, and being allowed to get in. Of course, the qualified personnel giving the briefs is very informational."

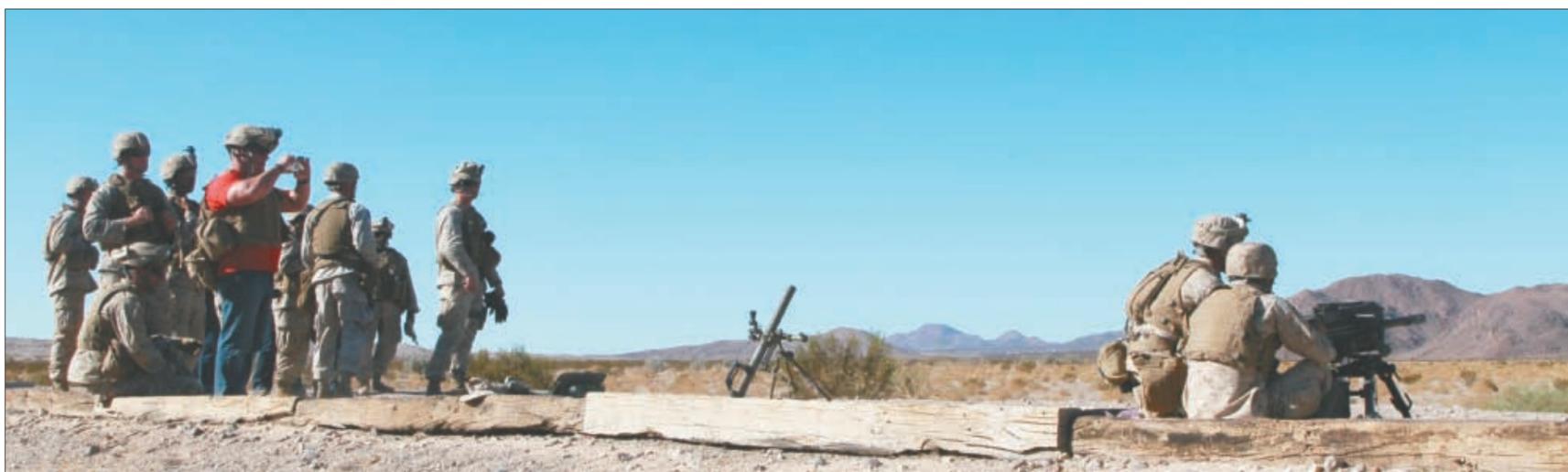
As the day ended, the families and their Marines slapped off the desert's dust and boarded the charter buses before heading back home.

Now when Cpl. Meyer kisses his wife goodbye before the next field training operation, Crystal will know exactly what he's up to.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Cpl. Zackary Meyer, a rifleman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, helps his wife Crystal, properly load an M240G machine gun during the unit's Jane Wayne Day Saturday.



CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Patricia Hillis and her husband Edward J. Hillis (left, in group) watch their son demonstrate the Mk-19 automatic grenade launcher during the Jane Wayne Day event Saturday.



Cpl. John C. Smeeton (right) and Cpl. Scotty D. Couch, both with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, grieve for their fallen 3/4 brothers during the memorial service at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 27.



A Marine pays respects in front of the battlefield cross of Lance Cpl. Jason Hill, one of the five Marines who were paid tribute to during the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment's memorial service held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 27.

# Fallen heroes *Remembered*



PHOTOS BY PFC. ALI AZIMI

Mannette Zanowick, mother of Cpl. Paul W. Zanowick II, grieves in front of her son's battlefield cross alongside his father, Paul, and wife, Ryanlynn, during the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment's memorial service held at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field Oct. 27. The unit lost five Marines during their deployment.

## Marines, families honor five fallen 3/4 Marines

**PFC. ALI AZIMI**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

The flag waved in the heavy wind, stars and stripes dancing around one another.

A formation of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment Marines stood at the center of Torrey L. Gray Field, silent and motionless. Families and Marines of other units filled the bleachers looking on toward 3/4's formation. In between the two massive groups laid five picture frames each with the immortalized image of five fallen heroes.

The 3/4 memorial service took place at Gray Field on Oct. 27, honoring the Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country:

Staff Sgt. Leon H. Lucas Jr., 32, of

Wilson, N.C.; Cpl. Paul H. Zanowick II, 23, of Miamisburg, Ohio; Cpl. Mark R. Goyet, 22, of Sinton, Texas; Lance Cpl. Christopher L. Camero, 19, of Kailua Kona, Hawaii; and Lance Cpl. Jason D. Hill, 20, of Poway, Calif.

The ceremony started with colors and led to speeches by Lt. Col. Robert Piddock, commanding officer of 3/4; Cpl. Daniel W. Blesi, Company L, 3/4; and Cpl. Scotty Couch Weapons Co, 3/4.

Marines with either M16 A4 rifles, dog tags, Kevlar helmets or a pair of boots in hand, marched in single file posting in front of each picture frame.

Next, the name of each fallen Marine was called out as the Marines posted in front of the picture emplaced

the rifle, helmet, dog tags and finally the boots, forming a battlefield cross in front of each picture.

Seven Marines with rifles standing at the edge of the service then fired three volleys into the air in honor of the Marines, a 21-gun salute.

The ceremony concluded with the families being given the right of being the first ones to approach the rifle memorials and pay their respects. Following them, an endless line of Marines and friends formed, waiting for their turns to pay tribute.

"We will continue to honor our fallen comrades' lives by living and loving," said Navy Lt. Dru Nelson, the unit's chaplain. "Their memory will continue on and endure this side of eternity."

3/11, from A1

8/12th. "They work the same and joke the same," he said.

After the month-long field training in Australia, the Marines came home, only to see their new comrades on their turf in the ranges of the Combat Center.

This time, it was the artillerymen of 3/11's turn to teach the soldiers about their M777 howitzer, the primary howitzer used in the Marine Corps and a weapon the Australian army has recently incorporated in its artillery units.

"It uses the same [ammunition] but is a different gun," said Australian Bombardier Matt Powers, the section chief of 8/12th. "It has a lot more computers and technology in it. This has been great for hands on

experience and the Marines are awesome teachers."

Aside from knowledge and experience, the two nations gained something invaluable--a brotherhood.

"We picked up right where we left off [after Operation Golden Eagle]," Thatcher said. "It feels like we are a team now. It all started back in Australia and we finished it here. These guys are my mates."

"We're so close and really tight," said Cpl. Nicholas Noe, the recorder for Gun Six 3/11.

There isn't much of a culture gap, and we will definitely keep in contact with each other, he added.

The Australians' visit here will end late November, after they attend one more event to build brotherhood -- 3/11's Marine Corps Ball.



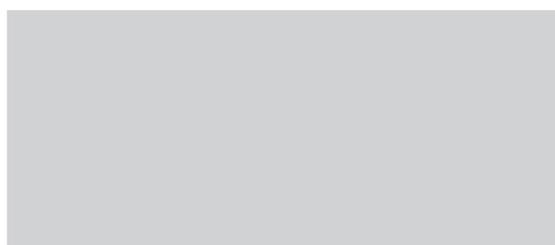
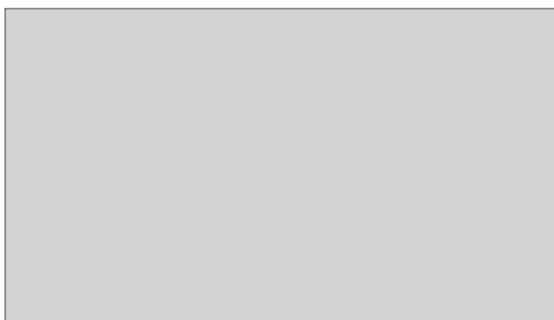
CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines with Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, and Australian soldiers with 1st Brigade, 8/12, work in tandem to fire the M777 howitzer during cross training in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper Oct. 26 at Quackenbush range.

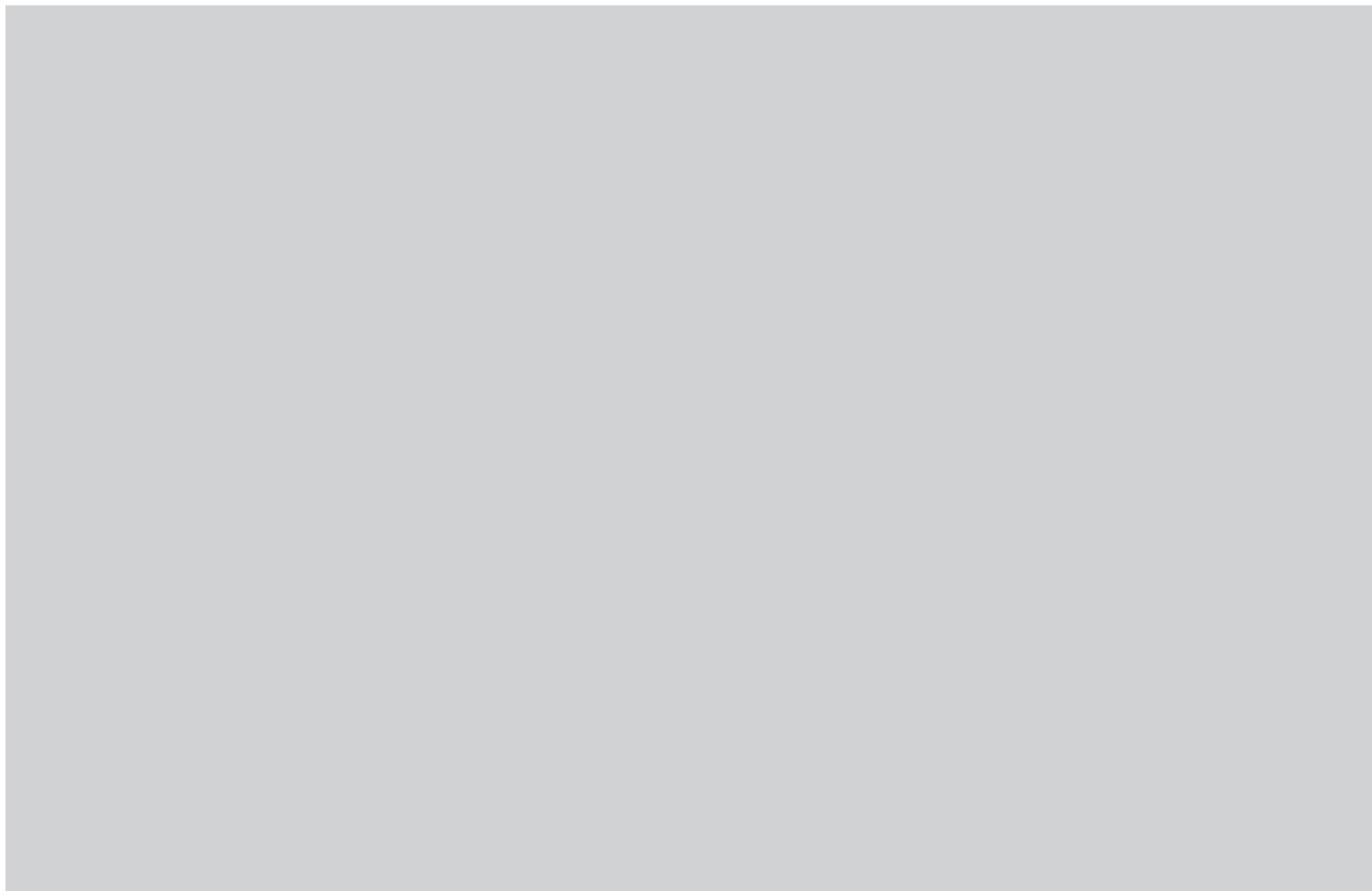


CPL. ANDREW D. THORBURN

Marines with Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, work with Australian soldiers with 1st Brigade, 8/12, to align Gun Five on the firing line during cross training in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper Oct. 26 at Quackenbush range.



**367-3577 For Advertising**



## CROSSWORD SOLUTION



## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

**COMBAT CENTER BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**
**CHARITY ABIGAIL OCHOA**

Born to Thomas and Tavve Ochoa  
Oct. 21, 2011

**JOHN VINCENT DUGO**

Born to Nicklaus and Emily Dugo  
Oct. 21, 2011

**ALEXANDRA KATHLEEN BASILE**

Born to Sean and Ashley Basile  
Oct. 20, 2011

**KELLEN JAMES POOLE**

Born to Johnathon and Kasandra Poole  
Oct. 6, 2011

**MEGGAN LYNN PRENTICE**

Born to Schyler and Amber Prentice  
Oct. 18, 2011

**PAYTON LEE BOHM**

Born to Benjamin and Sara Bohm  
Oct. 18, 2011

**BRITTON MAE EICHELBERGER**

Born to Andrew and Kelly Eichelberger  
Oct. 16, 2011

**ETHAN DOUGLAS NANCE**

Born to Justin and Ashley Nance  
Oct. 14, 2011

**CALLIE JEAN TODD**

Born to Edwin and Sarah Todd  
Oct. 13, 2011

**ELI KYAN PAPEZ**

Born to Jeremy and Irene Papez  
Oct. 13, 2011

**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  
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

\* Indicates child care is provided

+ Call 830-6456/6482 for confession and 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.



LANCE CPL. D.J. WU

Lt. Col. Timothy Barrick, 1st Tank Battalion's commanding officer, connects battle streamers on the rededicated battle colors at the battalion's tank ramps Tuesday. The event was held on the unit's birthday.

**TANKS, from A1**

1st Tank Battalion.

"The battle color rededications are typically done on special occasions," said 1st Lt. Phillip Tate, battalion adjutant. "Today the occasion is represented two-fold in the battalion's birthday

and master sergeant's retirement."

The battalion, which was activated Nov. 1, 1941, celebrated their 70th birthday in front of the tank community with a cake cutting. The first piece was given to the Marine who had served in the battalion longest and then passed to the newest member of the unit.

Dabney said, "[The ceremony today] was one last opportunity to get everyone in the battalion together before the companies leave for their deployments to Afghanistan."

The battalion currently has one company deployed to Afghanistan and is preparing for another tank element to leave in the near future.

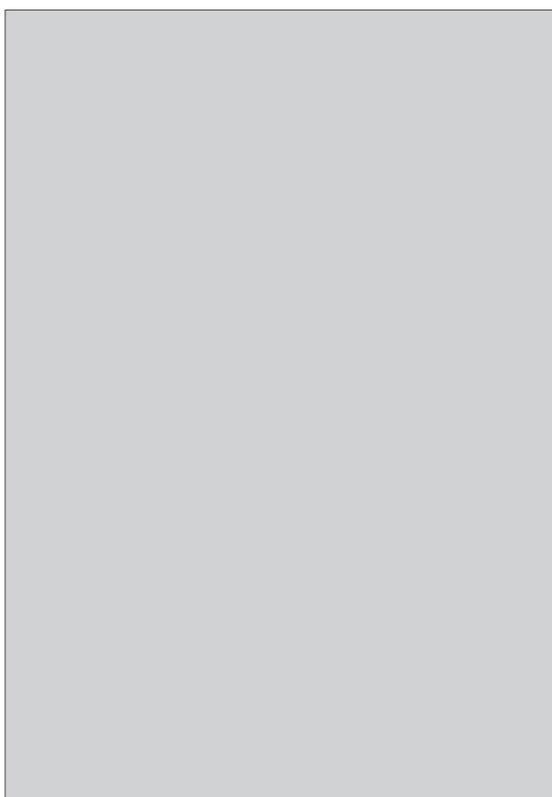
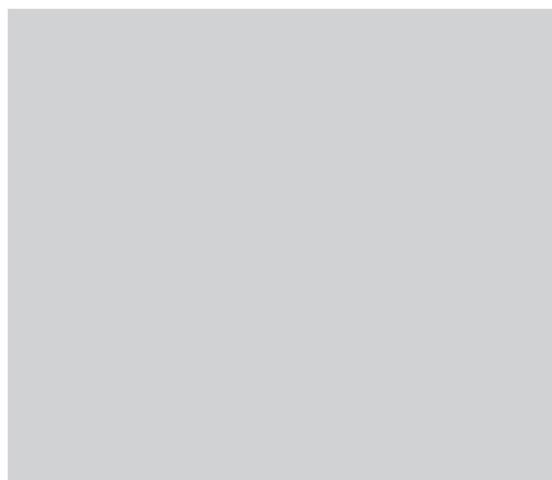


LANCE CPL. D.J. WU

Master Sgt. William Carroccia Jr., former S-4 chief with 1st Tank Battalion, receives his retirement flag from Lt. Col. Timothy Barrick, the battalion's commanding officer, during a ceremony marking the unit's history Tuesday.



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



Visit the official MCAGCC facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter>. CHECK OUT OUR NEW YOUTUBE TAB HERE TOO!

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

# WeekINPhotos

## Marine Corps Marathon



NAVY PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS JONATHAN CHANDLER



CPL. BRYAN NYGAARD

**[Above]** Cpl. Shaun Pennington, a system communicator with 2nd Marine Division (Forward), crosses the finish line during the Marine Corps Marathon Forward aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 30. More than 300 coalition service members participated in the 26.2-mile marathon. The race is a satellite edition of the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C.

**[Top, far right]** U.S. and NATO service members and civilians run the Marine Corps Marathon Forward at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 30. The satellite race has been held annually aboard Leatherneck since 2009.

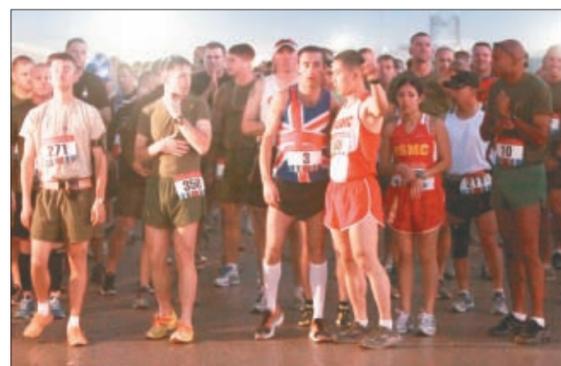
**[Right]** Participants in the 36th annual Marine Corps Marathon kick off the race through the nation's capital Oct. 30. Marine and actor Drew Carey fired the starting shot and there were a total of 30,000 participants from all walks of life who ran the 26.2 mile race.



SGT. KUANDE HALL



SGT. KUANDE HALL



CPL. BRYAN NYGAARD

**[Above]** Participants await the start of the Marine Corps Marathon Forward aboard Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Oct. 30.

**[Left]** Participants in the 36th annual Marine Corps Marathon wheeled portion begin the event 15 minutes prior to the runners for the National Capital Region race Oct. 30.



# MUSTANGS MOVE ON



MWSS-374 Rhinos' running back Alex Esprza attempts to break through the MCCES Mustangs' defensive line during the Commanding General's Intramural Football League playoff game at Felix Field Nov. 2.

## 'Stangs to face undefeated Bulldawgs in championship



MWSS-374 Rhinos' running back Byron Robinson is taken down by the MCCES Mustangs' defensive line during the Commanding General's Intramural Football League playoff game at Felix Field Nov. 2.

**PFC. ALI AZIMI**  
 COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

It has been a long and grueling season leading up to the play-offs for the Commanding General's Intramural Football League.

Four teams faced off over the course of six weeks leading to these last games.

After fighting tooth and nail, the teams narrowed down to the final two.

The Mustangs defeated the MWSS-374 Rhinos in the play-off game Nov. 2 at Felix field, earning them the chance to face the undefeated Bulldawgs

in the finals Nov. 9.

The game started off slowly, with no points in the first quarter for either team. Each team was careful in their strategy using each play as efficiently as possible. No Hail Marys or crazy plays, just trying to run the ball to the end zone.

In the second quarter the Rhinos took the lead with a touchdown, bringing the score 7-0.

The Rhinos reinforced their defense. For a while it seemed as though the Mustangs would not get through.

But the Mustangs did not

rest. They pushed through the Rhinos' defense and made their way to the end zone for a tie. They crushed what was a seemingly impenetrable defense and went on to score another five points and win the game 12-7.

The Mustangs will go on to face the Bulldawgs in next week's finals and decide who is the Combat Center's top team.

The winner of the final match-up will represent the installation in the Best of the West game against Camp Pendleton's best football team Nov. 12.



PHOTOS BY PFC. ALI AZIMI

MCCES Mustangs' running back Chris Harris fights to make it to the end zone during the playoff game at Felix Field Nov. 2.



# Liberty Call

## Combat Center Clubs

### Excursions Enlisted Club

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 - 7 p.m. followed by DJ Gjettblaque, 8 to 11 p.m., Ladies Night  
 Saturday: Variety Night, DJ Gjettblaque 8 - 11 p.m.  
 Sunday: Football coverage, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
 Monday: Monday Night Football coverage, 5:30 p.m.  
 Thursday: Social Hour, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

### Bloodstripes NCO Club

Friday: Social Hour with food, 5 to 7 p.m.  
 Monday: Monday Night Football coverage, 5:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Free gourmet bar food, 5 to 7 p.m.  
 Thursday: Social Hour, 7 - 9 p.m.

### Hashmarks 29 SNCO Club

Friday: Social Hour, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Monday-Friday: Lunch from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 Monday: Steak night and full menu, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Social Hour, 5 - 7 p.m.  
 Thursday: Social Hour, 5 - 7 p.m.

### Combat Center Officers' Club

Monday: Steak night, 5 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Monday-Friday: All-hands lunch, from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
 Thursday: Happy Hour, 5 - 7 p.m.

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

## Local Events

### Bless Me Father

When: Every Friday & Saturday until Dec. 17 at 7pm  
 Dec 1 Thurs., Sunday Matinee' Dec. 11  
 Where: Theatre 29  
 736377 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms  
 For tickets and information call 316.4151  
 or visit <http://www.theatre29.org>

### Solid Ray Woods with Special Guest Kal David

Live Music Rhythm and soul performance  
 When: November 4, at 8 pm  
 Where: Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace  
 53688 Pioneertown Rd., Pioneertown  
 for more information visit:  
<http://www.pappyandharriets.com> or call 365-5956.

### 29 Palms Annual Weed Show

Unique artistic displays of indigenous desert vegetation  
 When: Nov. 5, 12 pm - 4 pm, Nov. 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Where: Old School House Museum  
 6760 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms  
 Admission is FREE, donations are welcome.  
 For more information, visit  
<http://www.29palmshistorical.com> or call 367-2366.

## Lower Desert

### The Village People

70's Disco Icons  
 When: 9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 4  
 Where: Agua Caliente  
 32-250 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage  
 For more information call 888-999-1995 or visit  
<http://hotwatercasino.com>.

### Golden Boy Boxing, Mora vs Flores, 10 round bout

With a special meet and greet opportunity with Evander Holyfield  
 When: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 4  
 Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino  
 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio  
 For more information call 800-827-2946 or visit  
<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>.

### Zapp/The Ohio Players

Performing soul and funk music  
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19  
 Where: Morongo Casino Resort and Spa  
 49500 Seminole Drive, Cabazon  
 For more information call 800-252-4499 or visit  
<http://www.morongocasinoresort.com>.

### The comedy of Bill Engvall

The blue-collar comedian performs his stand up  
 When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 26  
 Where: Spotlight 29 Casino Resort  
 46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella  
 For more information call 866-377-6829 or visit  
<http://www.spotlight29.com>.

## Sunset Cinema

Sunset Cinema will be closed Nov. 2 through Dec. 8.

## Relax with the paper

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
 with the Hi-Desert Star

Thursdays with  
 The Desert Trail

Fridays with  
 The Observation Post



Hi-Desert Publishing Co.

Your community newspapers working to serve you better

# New reboot of '80s teen-dancing drama is practically a cinematic clone



COURTESY PHOTO

When an overly protective town never lets up on its youth, Kenny Wormald's character takes on his town by fighting for a school dance. The 1980's classic is back on screen with new actors and new perspective on America's youth 30 years ago.

### NEIL POND

AMERICAN PROFILE

### "Footloose"

Starring Julianne Hough & Kenny Wormald  
 113 min., PG-13

The word "footloose" has been around for centuries, but since a certain movie nearly 20 years ago, it's become shorthand for Kevin Bacon with spiked hair and a skinny necktie, a town of repressed teenagers, and a catchy theme song performed by Kenny Loggins.

Hollywood has always been fond of revisiting familiar themes, but the new reboot of "Footloose" is practically a cinematic clone.

There's an all-new cast, new hip-hopped, country-fried, crunked-up soundtrack tunes, and a couple of minor embellishments, like changing the location from Oklahoma to Georgia. But the characters, the scenes, the

dancing, even much of the dialogue—they're all plugged into a rigidly prefabricated storyline that treats its 1984 predecessor more as holy writ instead of perishable Reagan-era cheese.

In case you're unfamiliar with the premise, it's about a small town where over-zealous city fathers ban lascivious dancing after a car full of tipsy teens perish on the way home from an event where the music was blaring, the bodies were shaking and the beer was flowing.

Three years down the road from the tragic accident, life has moved on. Prohibited from shaking their groove things in public, kids have taken dancing underground, where a thriving subculture has created an entire high school of hoofers talented enough to freestyle on "So You Think You Can Dance."

Then a transplanted new kid, Ren (Kenny Wormald stepping into the original Kevin Bacon role), comes to

town. Incredulous at the puritanical no-fun zone in which he finds himself landed and stranded, he sparks a boot-scootin' revolution.

Former "Dancing With The Stars" cast member and country music performer Julianne Hough plays Ariel, the rebellious preacher's kid with a hankering for bad boys. Dennis Quaid is her overprotective, man-of-the-cloth father, whose stand-by-your-man wife (Andie McDowell) calmly suggests he could stand to cut their daughter some slack.

Although this new "Footloose" is set in a modern world, there's something about it almost bizarrely out of time, out of place and out of sync. It depicts a Southern community where iced tea is served strangely iceless, the local cotton factory doesn't seem to have any technology beyond the Iron Age, and kids take over the drive-in theater (a '50s relic in a 21st century remake of an '80s

flick—now there's a doozie of a time-warper) for sweaty, sexy, after-hours dance-offs.

It may be Georgia in 2011, but it seems like another planet.

But none of that will probably matter to the target audience of teens and young adults fuzzy on the details about another movie of the same name, from an era that seems prehistoric to anyone under the age of 25. In both movies, Ren stands before the city council and urges them to lift the ban on dancing, imploring them to break the chains from yesteryear, to give youth back their right to bump and grind.

"This is our time!" he says, his Bostonian "outsider" accent ringing in the Southern ears of what appears to be the entire town turned out for the meeting.

And so it is, as it has ever been, as it always shall be: Every generation has its time...time to cut loose—footloose!

## Batter up!

Drama Killers' catcher Alexis Hunter watches the ball as it comes to the plate in a game against Outkast in the Co-ed Softball League Tuesday.



### Co-ed Softball League: Week 5

Team	Wins	Losses
1. Pitch Slapped !!!	4	1
2. OutKast	4	1
3. Drama Killers	4	1
4. Chicks & Sticks	3	2
5. MCTOG Spartans	2	3
6. K's Buy	2	3
7. MWSS-374	1	4
8. Ballz & Dollz	0	5

367-3577 For Advertising

# FIGHT CLUB

## ■ Team takes gold in grappling tournament

Photos and story by Lance Cpl. D.J. Wu  
Combat Correspondent

In one of the first grappling tournaments since their triumph in Serbia in September, Fight Club 29 went to Murrieta, Calif. for a Grappling Experience No-Gi tournament, Oct. 22.

The tight knit team took five fighters with them to the tournament and tested out some of the new fight club additions in the grappling action. The team descended on their competition with confidence in their abilities and in knowing that their teammates were there supporting them.

"In the first match, I won with a submission," said Alex Hempstead, Fight Club 29 athlete. "It wasn't a real technically

sound take down, but everyone wanted to see a slam."

It is Fight Club 29's hard training, aggression and team spirit that get them through these types of tournaments.

"I believe I'm getting better in the tournaments," Hempstead said, who placed either first or second in all three of his last tournaments. "But if it wasn't for my teammates, I wouldn't be getting any better."

Hempstead finished first in his division in the tournament, continuing his string of successes in tournaments with Fight Club 29.

The team trains together daily at the Combat Center's

sergeant's course gym, working on their deficiencies and getting better as a team.

"We just help each other out, even here at the competition," said Edmund Cretens, fighter with the team.

The members of the team help each other during competitions by acting as assistant coaches and offering full moral support.

The team will continue to support their fighters in the future. Mike Smith, one of the teams veteran fighters, is slated to turn professional, and the team will be there supporting him in his first professional mixed-martial art fight Nov. 19.



LANCE CPL. D.J. WU

Edmund Cretens with Fight Club 29 has his hand raised in victory during a Grappling Experience No-Gi tournament in Murrieta, Calif., Oct. 22. Cretens finished first in his division and received a gold medal.



LANCE CPL. D.J. WU

Edmund Cretens, a Fight Club 29 athlete, attempts to choke out his opponent in a match during a Grappling Experience No-Gi tournament in Murrieta, Calif., Oct. 22. Cretens has been in Fight Club 29 and has been racking up tournament victories for almost six months.

