



CPL D. J. WU

Maj. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, shakes hands with Capt. Christopher Ashinhurst, company commander, Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, after pinning Ashinhurst with a Bronze Star Medal with combat-distinguishing device at the unit's tank ramp Tuesday. Nicholson also awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Cpl. Matthew Gonzales, tank crewman, Company A, 1st Tanks, and to Sgt. Asturo Zavala Jr., tank gunner, A Co., 1st Tanks, and a Purple Heart to Sgt. Fredy Esquivel, tank crewman, Company C, 1st Tanks.

## 1st MarDiv CG awards '1st Tanks' Marines

Cpl. D. J. Wu  
Combat Correspondent

Marines with 1st Tank Battalion were recognized for their heroism, sacrifice and dedication to duty with two Navy and Marine Corps Medals, a Bronze Star with combat-distinguishing device and a Purple Heart Medal at the unit's tank ramp, Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, presented Navy and Marine Corps Medals to Cpl. Matthew Gonzales, tank crewman, Company A, 1st Tanks, and Sgt. Asturo Zavala Jr., tank gunner, Co. A, 1st Tanks. Nicholson also presented a Bronze Star to Capt. Christopher Ashinhurst, company commander, Company D, 1st Tanks, and finished with Purple Heart to Sgt. Fredy Esquivel, tank crewman, Company C, 1st Tanks.

"Earning these awards is really a team effort," Nicholson said. "Nobody earns a combat medal for what they did alone. They got it because the team did it. When you wear that personal medal, you're wearing it because your team helped you get it."

Gonzales and Zavala were awarded their medals for their actions in Afghanistan on Feb. 25, 2012. The two Marines, while crossing a small, flooded area during a combat patrol, sunk more than eight feet in their tank. After evacuating the vehicle, they realized their driver was still trapped inside. They both dove into the water to free the trapped Cpl. Gary Ettinger, saving his life.

Ashinhurst was awarded the Bronze Star with combat-distinguishing device for his heroic actions while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Jan. 2 to July 20, 2013. He displayed extraordinary leadership and courageously led his company in direct combat against enemy forces.

"It's an important medal because the Marines of Delta Company were here to see me get it," Ashinhurst said. "They are truly the reason why I'm receiving this award

today. They were at their best when we were in the worst for the whole seven months. To be here with them today is truly an honor."

Esquivel was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for injuries he sustained during while deployed to Afghanistan in 2012.

The men were honored in front of their battalion. They

See **TANKS** page A7



CPL ALI AZIMI

Maj. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, speaks to Marines with 1st Tank Battalion after four Marines receive combat-related medals at the unit's tank ramp, Tuesday. Nicholson spoke to the Marines about the importance of each of the medals being presented as well as the character of each of the Marine being awarded. The Marines were awarded for their actions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. These actions include sustaining injuries, heroic service and saving the lives of fellow Marines

## ALL BARK ALL BITE

### K9 conducts aggression drills

Cpl. D. J. Wu  
Combat Correspondent

Military working dogs are trained to do many things. They can locate drugs and explosive components. They can be a part of search-and-rescue teams. They save lives.

Aggressive behavior is encouraged with military working dogs, but it is a very controlled aggression. Some dogs have the aggression built into them when they are born some need a little more training to have the confidence to pursue a suspect or go in for the takedown.

"It's all about building confidence," said Staff Sgt. Charles Hardesty, kennel master, Provost Marshal's Office. "If the handlers are timid, the dogs are going to sense that and act the same way. We have to build



CPL D. J. WU

Cpl. Paul Kelley, military working dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office, holds on to military working dog Collie before setting him on a potential suspect during aggression training near the K9 unit kennels, Wednesday. Aggression training is a crucial part of the military working dogs' training regimen.

their confidence and then reinforce it with positive feedback."

The aggression in a military working dog can be compared to the use of a ballistic vest for police officers. The likelihood of being shot on duty is relatively low, but it's always good to have a tool and not need it, vice the alternative.

"It's a tool that we like to have," Hardesty said. "Aggression and biting are skills we need the dogs to have even if we aren't going to use it."

Training the dogs' aggression is a gradual process. Handlers will work on specific drills and repeat them until the dogs can maintain that good habit. Handlers and trainers utilize bite sleeves and suits to get the dog in an aggressive mindset. They move more aggressive dogs into advanced training, including vehicle extractions and hidden bite sleeves under civilian clothes.

"We like to take it step by step with aggression," said Daniel Andrzejewski, K9 trainer, Provost Marshal's Office. "Training varies from dog to dog. We work them up with different biting wraps. We like to work

See **K9** page A7

## Changes to the UCMJ

STORY BY CPL. ALI AZIMI

The average Marine doesn't fully comprehend his or her rights. It's not for a lack of trying, but simply because the average person doesn't have any legal training. The legal terms and inner wordings of laws in our Uniform Code of Military Justice can seem like gibberish to anyone but a lawyer. This article is highlighting some of the recent changes made to the UCMJ.

Recently, the UCMJ underwent what can be considered the biggest change the previous decade. The changes to Articles 32, 60, 120 and 125, approved by President Barack Obama in December, and passed by the National Defense Authorization Act, are scheduled to be phased in this year.

These articles mainly correlate with the rights and proceedings in courts-martial regarding rape and murder. The changes made to the listed articles include investigations, pretrial agreements and sentencing.

Judge advocates are now required to serve as investigating officers in Article 32 investigations, victims are no longer required to face the accused at the pretrial and Articles 120 and 125 now have a minimum punishment. These are just a few of the many changes made under the listed articles.

It is not only important for Marines to understand their own rights, but to understand them as leaders.

Check out next week's issue of the Observation Post for the full story.

## Combat Center improves Quality of Life

Story by LANCE CPL. CHARLES J. SANTAMARIA

Combat Center patrons can look forward to the changes coming to the base in 2014. Last year, the Combat Center began many projects, such as the reconstruction of Adobe Road and remodeling of Felix Field. The repaving of roads on and around base and the construction of new bachelors' enlisted quarters for Marines and sailors, show promise of even more exciting things to come in the near future.

The Combat Center will see the completion and beginning of different projects in 2014 making day-to-day life easier and more enjoyable

See **CHANGES** page A7

# Combat Center's Special Liberty Dates 2014

- DR. M.L.K. JR. DAY..... 17 Jan. – 21 Jan.
- PRESIDENTS' DAY.....14 Feb. – 18 Feb.
- EASTER SUNDAY.....18 April – 22 April
- MEMORIAL DAY .....23 May. – 28 May.
- INDEPENDENCE DAY ..... 3 July – 8 July
- LABOR DAY .....29 Aug. – 3 Sep.
- COLUMBUS DAY .....10 Oct. – 14 Oct.
- VETERANS' DAY .....7 Nov. – 12 Nov.
- THANKSGIVING DAY .....26 Nov. – 1 Dec.
- CHRISTMAS DAY .....22 Dec. – 26 Dec.
- NEW YEAR'S DAY.....29 Dec. – 2 Jan.

# Commanding General hosts Civilian Honors Breakfast



LANCE CPL ABIGAIL LABOY

Gregory Cross, maintenance worker, Facilities Maintenance Branch, G-4; Calvin Broutte, management assistant, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group; Bob Crosier, food service operations manager, Marine Corps Community Services; Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, commanding general, MCAGCC, and his wife Donna; Rey Espinoza Jr., information technology specialist, G-6; and Wendy Chavez, administrative officer, G-7, gather for the Commanding General's Civilian Honors Breakfast at Quarters One, Jan. 10.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BENTLEY SCOTT RUIZ**  
Born on: Jan. 2, 2014  
Born to: Roger and Elizabeth Ruiz

**ELIJAH BLAINE WILLIAMS**  
Born on: Jan. 6, 2014  
Born to: Michael and Elaine Williams

**AMELIA IRENE MUSICK**  
Born on: Jan. 4, 2014  
Born to: Matthew and Amanda Musick

**AUDREY ELIANE BALDERAS**  
Born on: Jan. 9, 2014  
Born to: Samuel and Briana Balderas

**ALEXANDRIA CAY BOSWELL**  
Born on: Jan. 5, 2014  
Born to: Cody and Angie Boswell

**JEREMIAH DANIEL ARNOLD**  
Born on: Jan. 11, 2014  
Born to: Tyler and Carmen Arnold

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

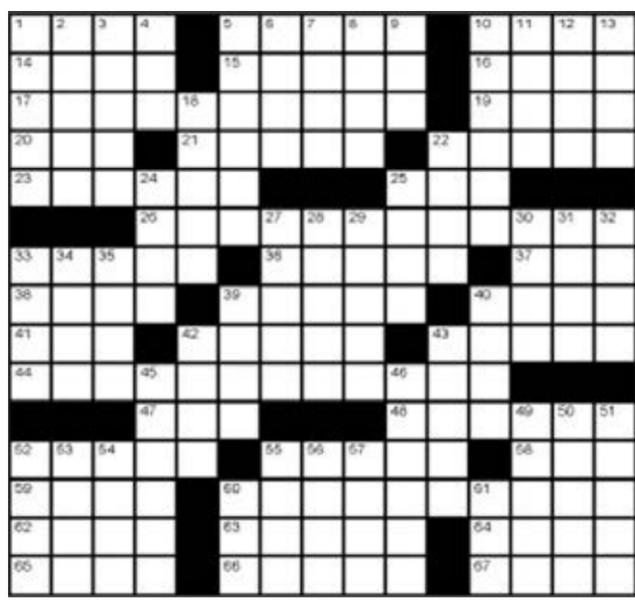
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## NUMBERS GAME

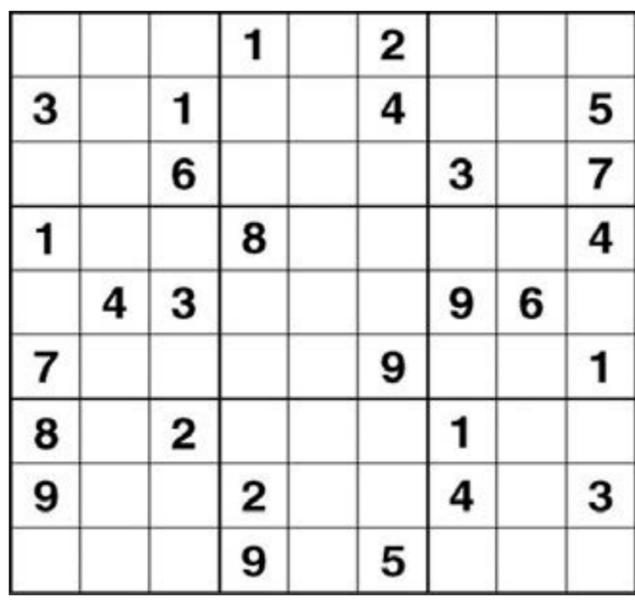
- Across**
- 1 Mascara target
  - 5 Toronto \_\_\_ Leafs
  - 10 Syllables from Santa
  - 14 Swedish furniture store
  - 15 Atlantic or Pacific
  - 16 Each, casually
  - 17 When most 6-Downs happen
  - 19 Sister of Bart Simpson
  - 20 Prefix with athlete
  - 21 "\_\_\_ la vista, baby"
  - 22 Strong metal
  - 23 African vacation
  - 25 Not he
  - 26 Middle of hockey game
  - 33 "Nonsense!"
  - 36 Shriver or Sharapova
  - 37 \_\_\_ sauce (used in Chinese cooking)
  - 38 Hit the mall
  - 39 Matt of movies
  - 40 Puzzle with a start and a finish
  - 41 Tree gunk
  - 42 Leonard or Sasha
  - 43 Did some stitching
  - 44 He guards against doubles down the line
  - 47 Tiny
  - 48 Blows, like a volcano
  - 52 Coffee that won't keep you up
  - 55 African nation whose capital is Accra
  - 58 Fish eggs
  - 59 Country bordering Iraq
- Down**
- 1 Raises up
  - 2 "Rashomon" director Kurosawa
  - 3 Typographical flourish
  - 4 Possesses
  - 5 Artwork with tiles
  - 6 Untouched blasts, in tennis
  - 7 \_\_\_ Plus (shampoo brand)
  - 8 Mauna Loa outpouring
  - 9 Compass dir.
  - 10 Animal controller
  - 11 Mayberry kid
  - 12 Garden squirter
  - 13 October birthstone
  - 18 Tossed
  - 22 Former Mets stadium
  - 24 Quickly
  - 25 Go around and around
  - 27 Largest city in Nebraska
  - 28 John, Jane, Steve, Alice, etc.
  - 29 Unmanned aircraft
  - 30 "\_\_\_ Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"



- 31 Seep
- 32 Turned hair a different color
- 33 "Hey you!"
- 34 Former Iranian leader
- 35 Southwest Indian tribe
- 39 "\_\_\_ quiet?" ("Stop talking!")
- 40 What waiters hand you
- 42 B-G connectors
- 43 Politician Palin
- 45 "Hotel \_\_\_"
- 46 Not physical
- 49 Quick TV spot
- 50 Needed after a shower
- 51 Get the feeling
- 52 Lowers, as lights
- 53 Great Lakes
- 54 Lacks the power
- 55 "I've \_\_\_ bad feeling about this..."
- 56 "Silence!"
- 57 Section
- 60 Relatives, casually
- 61 Papa
- 60. Sale condition
- 61. "Hey you!"
- 63. Serling or Stewart
- 64. Rolled cube
- 65. Santa \_\_\_\_, California
- 66. Color of the sunset, sometimes
- 58 Lawyer's gp.

See answers on page A7

## SUDOKU 3158D



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- Local off-limits guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations.
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    - Angelo's Kars, 226 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
  - In San Diego:**
    - Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
    - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
    - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
    - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
    - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
  - In National City:**
    - Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
    - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.
  - In Twentynine Palms:**
    - Adobe Smoke Shop, 6441 Adobe Rd.
    - STC Smoke Shop, 6001 Adobe Rd.
    - K Smoke Shop, 5865A Adobe Rd.
  - In Yucca Valley:**
    - Yucca Tobacco Mart, 57602 29 Palms Hwy.
    - Puff's Tobacco Mart, 57063 29 Palms Hwy.
  - In Palm Springs:**
    - Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr.
    - Whispering Palms Apts., 449 E. Arenas Road
    - NYPD Pizza, 260-262 N. Palm Canyon Drive
- For the complete orders, but not off-limits, check out the Combat Center's official website at <http://www.29palms.marines.mil>

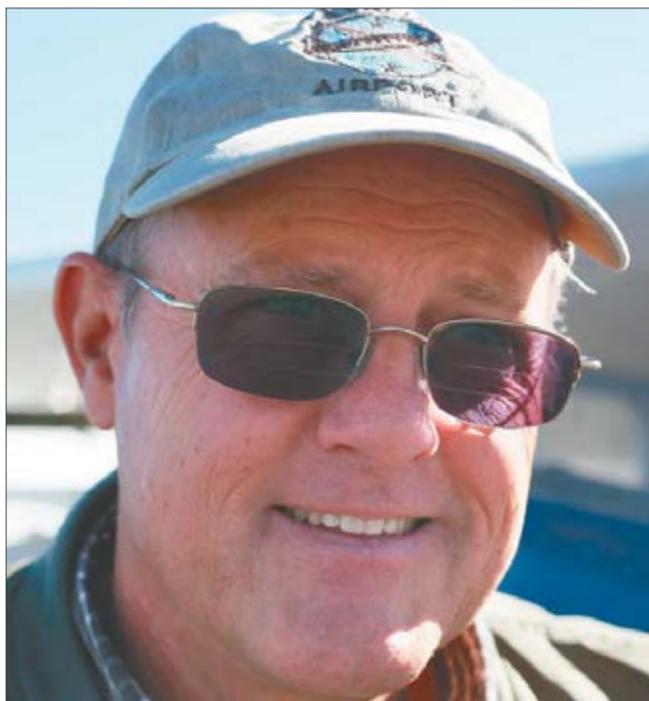
## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

# Jim

Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Certified Flight Instructor, Real Estate Specialist, 57

# BAGLEY



> **When I was a kid**, I was a motorcycle racer and a skier. Flying is trying to make it not risky. That's part of my job as a flight instructor.

> **I flew gliders as a kid**. I started working on my license when I was in college at the University of California Los Angeles. I could never really afford to fly, but it got to a point in my life when I said it wasn't going to get any cheaper and I can't afford not to fly. So, I've been flying for 20 years and instructing for about 12. Big Bear is only 30 minutes away and I like to have breakfast up there sometimes. They usually have the cheapest avgas too, so it's kind of like a local gathering spot.

> **Last night I flew** down to Riverside. I have a friend down there, so I went to see her and had dinner. It's 50 minutes away. If you were driving, that would easily be two hours. She lived about 20 minutes from the airport. She picked me up, had dinner and I was back by 10 o'clock.

> **I just love flying**, the technical part of it. It's applied sciences, it's fun, it's adventurous.

> **Most of the instruction** I do now is recreational. I do have instructor ratings for everything. I'm certified in most types of aircraft.

> **My Cessna 172** was manufactured in 1955 and they've grown in size since then. A new one costs just less than 400,000 dollars. My airplane is worth about 30,000. I've had mine about 10 years and I want to restore it.

> **I have a jacket celebrating** the Wright brothers' centennial of flight. I went back to Kitty Hawk, N.C. It was a magical event. Every living icon in aviation was there. Every astronaut, every cosmonaut, everyone was there.

BAGLEY IS A NATIVE OF TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF. HIS FAMILY HAS BEEN PART OF THE COMMUNITY FOR THREE GENERATIONS AND BAGLEY HAS SERVED AS MAYOR OF TWENTYNINE PALMS THREE TIMES.

> **It was raining terribly**. We all stood in the rain and watched them try to fly. They crashed, which is exactly what happened to the Wright brothers. It was a celebration and it was perfect.

> **Flying to the centennial** is definitely a highlight in my flying career. I flew to Oshkosh, Wisc. this year, which is the big annual air show. It's the Haj of aviation, it's Mecca.

> **The flight was 1,400** miles from Twentynine Palms. I have a 100-know airplane, which isn't fast. One of my favorite things to do from Twentynine Palms, is fly to Catalina Island. It's just an hour and 10 minutes away and there's so much to do there.

> **One of the things** I do on the weekends, is I tow gliders. Saturday, I was working in Warner Springs and I had my GoPro in my tow plane with me and it's actually a pretty cool video. I had it in my hand, so I was moving it around a lot. I had to go down to the stick, manipulate the throttle and it's a very interesting angle. You don't normally get to see inside the airplane.

> **I can't tell you** how many different airplanes I've flown. I'd have to look at my log books. This is the last year I'll be keeping a paper log book. It's all digital from here. I have an app on my iPad that keeps all of my flight data, so it's so much easier.

> **The trunk of my car** is like my hangar. If I need to take the cowl off or look at spark plugs, they're here. I have all my fluids and tools in here.

> **I did all the riskier** things in my younger days. I raced bikes and skied when I was a kid. But now, I just love to fly. It's the least risky thing I do now.



Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. D. J. Wu Dec. 21, 2013



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LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA



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LANCE CPL. ALEJANDRO BEDOYA

## Service members, families take a shot at the Climbing Wall

**Lance Cpl. Alejandro Bedoya**  
Combat Correspondent

Service members and their families kicked off the holiday weekend by attending the Climbing Wall Family Night at the West Gym, Jan. 17. The Family Night is hosted by Marine Corps Community Services and gives families aboard the Combat Center a chance to spend an evening away from home.

“Before we started coming to the rock-climbing wall, we would usually just play video games,” said Sebastian Pereira, 8, son of Jose Pereira, crafter, plaque shop, Marine Corps Exchange. “Now we can have fun away from the television and have something to look forward to every week.”

The Climbing Wall Family Night is free of charge and is held every Friday night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the West Gym. The wall is open to children from 5 to 15 years of age. The children must also weigh a minimum of 35 pounds for safety purposes.

“Safety always comes first,” said Daniel Campese, trainer, MCCC. “We want the families to have fun but not to get hurt in the process.”

Parents and children cannot be on the climbing wall at the same time. All youth must also be directly supervised, and wear protective head gear and full body harness while on the wall. Safety gear, including head gear, shoes and harnesses, is provided by MCCC.

Children quickly put on their gear and went to the rock-climbing room. Once they were secured in their harnesses, they charged the walls. Some children knew their limits and focused their attention on the easier sections of the wall while others enjoyed the challenge of trying to overcome the more difficult sections. After two hours of climbing, the children and parents left the gym, excited for the next Climbing Wall Family Night.

“You don’t have to bring anything or pay anything,” said Jose Pereira. “I can spend time with my boys and get a work out for free instead of sitting around the house doing nothing. It doesn’t get better than that.”

For more information on the Climbing Wall Family Night, call 830-6451.

**[Top, right]** Jose Pereira, crafter, plaque shop, Marine Corps Exchange, climbs a rock wall during the Climbing Wall Family Night at the Combat Center’s West Gym, Friday.

**[Top, left]** Paige Graham, 9, daughter of Jennifer Graham, attempts to climb a rock wall during the Climbing Wall Family Night at the Combat Center’s West Gym, Friday.

**[Above]** Sebastian Pereira, 8, son of Jose Pereira, crafter, plaque shop, Marine Corps Exchange, gets a firm grip on a rock during the Climbing Wall Family Night at the Combat Center’s West Gym, Friday



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TANKS, from A1

gathered in a school circle around Nicholson and listened to the readings of the citations and the major general's remarks about the Marines of 1st Tanks.

"It truly is a family event today and I'm glad we got to put it on," Nicholson said. "It's important that I got to participate today because these are combat awards. Nobody joins in a time of war and not think they're going into the fight. These four Marines all have multiple combat deployments and I know their actions reflect what's going on in this battalion."



CPL. D. J. WU

Capt. Christopher Ashinhurst, company commander, Company D, speaks with the Marines from his company after receiving a Bronze Star Medal with combat-distinguishing device at the unit's tank ramp Tuesday. Ashinhurst stands in the formation with three other award recipients.

CHANGES, from A1

for service members and their families on on base.

The Combat Center saw many changes in the past year, and those changes will continue into 2014 with construction, restaurants, Marine Corps Community Services events and more.

The Combat Center is constantly trying to improve the quality of living for service members and their families in an effort to make day-to-day life easier and more enjoyable; these are some of the projects being carried out.

Contractors began construction on parts of Adobe Road near the end of 2013. This construction is scheduled to be completed in 2014 and will allow for smoother flow of traffic into the front gate all while extending the life of the road, according to Mark Myrum, assistant deputy chief of staff, G-4.

Three new bachelors' enlisted quarters are scheduled to be completed by March, 2014. Each building will hold 192 rooms, and a new dining facility is scheduled to be opened in

February.

"These projects raise the bar for living standards for single Marines and sailors and their families. Each new BEQ built is a little better than the previous one," Myrum said.

Remodeling of Felix Field, which was started last year, will be finished in 2014. The new football field opens doors for Marines, sailors, and fami-

*The resurfacing of Felix Field not only provides a state-of-the-art athletic field, it also saves water and reduces required maintenance."*

- Mark Myrum

reduces required maintenance," Myrum said.

Several utility projects are scheduled to be completed within the year such as a new power line, a new gas turbine allowing the base to generate more of its own electricity using natural gas, and the replacement of three main boilers. These projects will allow for better operation of energy management on base and allow for improvement needed in other areas.

Alongside the projects slated for completion in 2014, there will be some that begin this year and are slated for completion in 2015.

Among those construction plans are the new Child Development Center, which began construction this month, an adult medical clinic, a transient lodging facility, a solar array in the dry lake bed near the main gate, and utility upgrades at Camp Wilson.

Combat Center patrons can look forward to the changes to come as the base continues to improve its facilities, roads and utilities to accommodate the families and service members that live here.

lies. Intramural sports can be played on the field such as football and soccer, units can use the field for events or ceremonies such as retirements, and a running track will be available for training.

"The resurfacing of Felix Field not only provides a state-of-the-art athletic field, it also saves water and

K9, from A1

off wraps too because we don't want the dogs to become gear dependent."

Controlled aggression is crucial characteristic for K9 handlers to instill in their MWDs. It allows them to be effective in their jobs and safe when those skills are called into action. Aggression is a true test of the working dogs obedience. Commands

for aggressing and stopping need to be obeyed without hesitation. The handler and working dog need to have a strong relationship to be able to be aggressive when the time comes.

K9 training is continual throughout the MWDs career. From the time they get to the kennel as young as two years old until the day they retire, they work on the skills of their trade.



Cpl. Joshua Tavares, military police officer, takes a bite from military working dog Collie during aggression training near K9 unit kennels, Wednesday. The bite suit is one of the tools handlers can use to assist aggression training. The decoy which Tavares is playing is an integral part of the military working dog's training.

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

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

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SHOP	DAMON	MAZE						
SAP	COHEN	SEWED						
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Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron 303



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL THORN



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL THORN



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL THORN

**[Above]** Maj. Gen. Steven Busby, commanding general, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, shakes the hand of a recently promoted corporal with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron 303 who just received his blood stripe during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 17. Family, friends and fellow Marines attended the ceremony to commemorate corporals of HMLAT 303 receiving the blood stripe, which is the strip of red felt found on the blue dress trousers worn by non-commissioned officers.

**[Top, right]** Corporals with HMLAT 303 receive their blood stripes during a Blood Stripe Ceremony aboard MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 17. Marines are not entitled to wear the traditional blood stripe until they reach the rank of corporal, signifying their status as a noncommissioned officer.

**[Bottom, right]** Corporals of HMLAT 303 stand at parade rest while being introduced during a Blood Stripe Ceremony aboard MCAS Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 17. Signifying the ascent to non-commissioned officer, the Blood Stripe Ceremony recognized the newly promoted corporals of HMLAT 303.

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Story and photos by **LANCE CPL. KASEY PEACOCK**

## Humana Challenge hosts Marines during PGA Tournament

As spectators look on in anticipation of the next shot, signs begin to appear above the noisy crowd reading, “quiet please.” The crowd goes silent as the next golfer steps up to the tee. In the midst of the silence, thoughts came to the fans’ minds. Is he going to slice it? Can he reach the green from here?

With the last sound heard by the crowd being a loud ‘tink’ before an epic eruption, a small wave from the golfer signifies another shot taken at the Professional Golfers’ Association of America Tour in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday.

On this particular day, golf was not the only thing on the agenda. The Humana Corporation, partnered with the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, that sponsor this annual tournament, promoted values and benefits of good health and sustainable well-being to help people live life to the fullest.

With the undertone of health and wellbeing, military appreciation was also highlighted as Combat Center Marines and military veterans throughout Southern California were invited to attend as a part of Military Appreciation Day.

“We’re proud to support the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families,” said Gino Lamont, news anchor, KMIR News Palm Springs. “We can’t give enough thanks for the priceless gift of freedom, and that is why we recognize

everything that service members do.”

During the appreciation day, more than 50 Marines with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, and military veterans received complimentary tournament admission. At the tournament, a tent was set up where the Marines and veterans could enjoy a free meal while watching the event.

Upon completion of the day’s round of golf, a military-appreciation ceremony was held on the 18th green, where students and staff with MCCES formed up, and presented the colors.

While the Humana Corporation acknowledged all the Marines and veterans in attendance, a special gift was presented to a wounded combat veteran at the end of the ceremony.

A mortgage-free home in Indio, Calif., was presented to former Army Staff Sgt. Roberto Flores after his time spent in Afghanistan left him paralyzed from the waist down.

“I can’t thank the military enough for all they have done and continue to do,” Flores said. “My wife, son and I can’t thank all the organizations involved enough for presenting us



with this home.”

The event, which honored all members of the Armed Forces and their families for the sacrifices they have made, also featured a Douglas C-47 Skytrain flyover during the ceremony.

“The Humana Challenge, formerly the Bob Hope Classic, has a wonderful history of honoring our nation’s true heroes,” said Tim McClain, Humana President of Government Business. “Given Bob Hope’s legacy and devotion to entertaining military troops, it is fitting to dedicate a day to honoring military personnel and their families. We are proud to grow this tradition by donating a 100-percent, mortgage-free home to a local veteran injured during combat, in conjunction with Military Warriors Support Foundation, for the second year in a row.”

For the MCCES students, the opportunity to be a part of something so charitable and extraordi-

nary will leave a lasting impression on the rest of their careers and lives, according to Pvt. Andrew Yerkey, student, MCCES.

“I think this was a fantastic opportunity for me, and I enjoyed every part of it,” Yerkey said. “Everyone was very welcoming and respectful to all of us. Events like these make me want to be better and more motivated to go farther with my career.”

Events like these that bring the community closer together with the military build the foundation for a better relationship between the two, according to Sgt. Cory Smith, ground-radio repairman, MCCES.

“We are lucky here in Twentynine Palms to be able to get out with the community and do events like these,” Smith said. “I noticed that a lot of people stayed after the tournament to watch the ceremony, and that is why we do things like this, to bring everyone closer together.”



**[Top]** Students and staff with the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School stand at attention during a military appreciation ceremony on the 18th green at the Professional Golfers’ Association of America Tour West in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday. **[Above, right]** Students with the MCCES march to the 18th green at the PGA of America Tour West in La Quinta, Calif., Sunday. **[Above, left]** Combat Center Marines present the colors on the 18th green at the PGA of America Tour West in La Quinta, Calif., Saturday, during the Humana Challenge Military Appreciation Day.



# Even this big B.C. cheese ball can't bring down mighty Hercules

NEIL POND  
"The Legend of Hercules"

Starring: Kellan Lutz and Gaia Weiss  
Directed by Renny Harlin  
PG-13

He's buff, he's tough, and he's strong enough—to survive everything Greek and Roman mythology could throw at him, and then eons later, to withstand the whirring blades of the pop-cultural blender.

The mighty mythical Hercules, the son of a mortal queen mother and the Olympian god Zeus, has been portrayed on TV and in the movies by dozens of actors, including Arnold Schwarzenegger, Kevin Sorbo, Lou Ferrigno and Ryan Gosling, turned into a cartoon by Walt Disney and even made into a Three Stooges sidekick. Later this summer, he'll return to the big screen in yet another incarnation, MGM's "Hercules," starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

But before that, though, there's this: "The Legend of Hercules," a 3-D action spectacle starring Kellan Lutz as the muscle-bound hunk with part of his DNA from the heavens.

Fans of the "Twilight" movies might recognize Lutz as one of the lesser vampires from that franchise, but you'll get eyestrain trying to spot many other familiar faces in this shaggy-dog, made-in-Bulgaria production. (Liam McIntyre, who stepped into the title role of Showtime's "Spartacus" series in 2012, and Johnathon Schaech, who played the leader of the band in "That Thing You Do!," have supporting roles.)

Your eyes won't be the only things strained as you try to follow along with the hollow dialog, hammy acting and hackneyed digital effects that look like videogame graphics. Finnish director Renny Harlin, whose career never quite maintained the adrenaline high of "Die Hard 2" and "Cliffhanger" in the early 1990s, here continues to work the shallows, although he's still got some mojo for making good ol' mano-a-mano mayhem look stylish, as when Hercules squares off in the gladiatorial arena against one (or more) opponents, or dusts it up with his own stepfather (who never liked him anyway).

"Have you come to bring the wrath of Zeus upon me, boy?!" bellows the stepfather (Scott Adkins), sounding more like a modern-day brawler than an ancient Aegean warlord king. In other places, too, the movie seems to be confused about its era. Hercules and his princess girlfriend (Gaia Weiss) get lovey-dovey in a gauzy, fabric-draped woodland gazebo that looks like it came from a Bed Bath & Beyond in Athen's Parthenon Plaza.

But even worse, "The Legend of Hercules" can't seem to sort out its own hero from every other sword-and-sandal story of the past 2,000 years. It's a mash-up of "Gladiator," "Ben-Hur," "300," "The Passion of the Christ," the Samson saga from the Old Testament and dozens of other narrative threads that have come before it, without much idea about how to use them to weave anything original.

But, through the centuries, the legend of Hercules has survived. It will undoubtedly survive the splat of this big B.C. cheese ball, too.

## Combat Center Events

### Book Signing with R. Lee Ermey

Retired Marine and actor, Ronald Lee Ermey, will be present to sign copies of his book "Gunny's Rules" at the Main Exchange.

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 28.

Where: Main Exchange

For more information, call 830-1917

### Super Bowl XLVIII

Prizes and giveaways throughout the game. As well as food, entertainment and drink specials.

When: Feb. 2.

Where: Excursions, Blood Stripes, SNCO and Officers Club

For more information, call 830-829

### Coping with Work and Family Stress

This workshop will cover a wide range of active coping skills, ways to make better use of social networks, and specific stress management approaches.

When: Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m.

Where: Bldg. 1530, Classroom 303

For more information, call 830-4950

### Nurturing Parenting Class 2014

This class is an evidence-based and family-focused program that is recognized internationally for enhancing self worth, empathy, discipline and empowerment.

When: March 12 and 19.

Call 830-7622 for more information

For more events, visit <http://www.mccs29palms.com>

## Sunset Cinema

### Friday, Jan. 24

6 p.m. – Out of the Furnace, R

8:30 p.m. – Tyler Perry's: A Madea Christmas, PG-13

11:30 p.m. – American Hustle, R

### Saturday, Jan. 25

10a.m. – Free Admission Over the Hedge, PG

12 p.m. – Philomena, R

2 p.m. – Saving Mr. Banks, PG-13

5 p.m. – The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, PG-13

8:30 p.m. – Out of the Furnace, R

11:30 p.m. – Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues, PG-13

### Sunday, Jan. 26

12:30 p.m. – Walking with Dinosaurs 3-D, PG

3 p.m. – Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues, PG-13

6 p.m. – 47 Ronin, PG-13

9 p.m. – Grudge Match, PG-13

### Monday, Jan. 27

6 p.m. – The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3-D, PG-13

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

6 p.m. – Walking with Dinosaurs 3-D, PG

### Wednesday, Jan. 29

5 p.m. – Tyler Perry's: A Madea Christmas, PG-13

7:30 p.m. – Grudge Match, PG-13

### Thursday, Jan. 30

5 p.m. – Philomena, R

7:30 p.m. – Out of the Furnace, R

## High Desert

### Free Line-Dance Lessons

Learn to dance the night away

When: 5 - 9 p.m., every Sunday

Where: Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall

50048 29 Palms Hwy, Morongo Valley, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 363-3343.

### The Importance of being earnest

A trivial comedy for serious people

When: 7 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays, Jan. 10 - Feb. 8

Where: Theatre 29

73637 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, Calif.

For more information, call (760) 316-4151

## Low Desert

### Morris Day and the Time, Sheila E.

An evening of funkalicious R&B

When: 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25

Where: Spotlight 29 Casino

46-200 Harrison Place, Coachella, Calif.

For more information, call 866-377-6829 or visit

<http://www.spotlight29.com>

### Martina McBride

American Country Music singer performs

When: 8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 31

Where: Fantasy Springs Resort Casino

84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, Calif.

For more information, call 800-827-2946 or visit

<http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com>



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# RIGHT ON CUE

## Marines compete in pool tournament

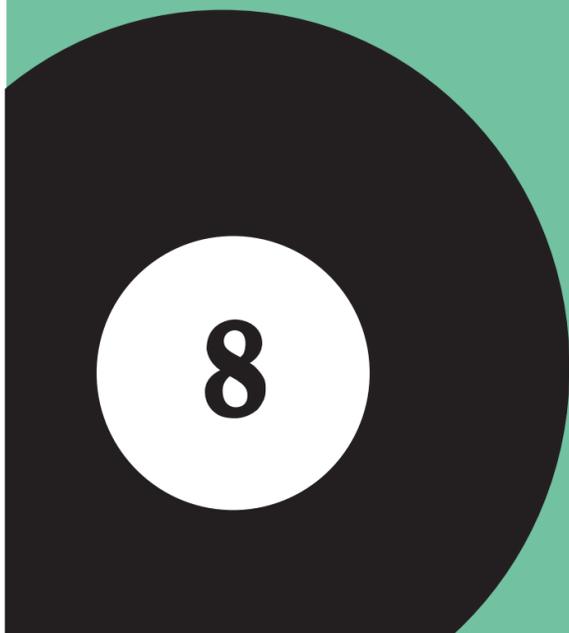
Photos by **LANCE CPL. PAUL S. MARTINEZ**

Marines aboard the Combat Center engaged in friendly competition during the weekly Single Marine Program pool tournament at the 5th Street Zone. The tournament allows Marines to face off in multiple games of pool until only one winner remains.



The first shot in a game of pool hits during a Single Marine Program pool tournament at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday. The weekly tournament allows Marines to compete against one another in friendly games of pool.

Pfc. Bryan Rourke, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, prepares to take a shot during the Single Marine Program pool tournament at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday. In the weekly pool tournament. The pool tournament is just one of several recreational activities the Zone offers including ping pong tournaments and outings to the surrounding areas.



Pfc. Justin Heslep, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, racks the balls in preparation for a game of pool during a Single Marine Program pool tournament at the 5th Street Zone, Tuesday. In the weekly pool tournament, Marines compete against one another and advance to play other contending Marines until one is victorious.

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