

Combat Center honors civilian

By Pfc. JULIO MCGRAW

The Combat Center's Commanding General awarded the third-highest civilian award to Josie Nemeth at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Saturday.

Nemeth was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for her efforts as the Combat Centers Adjutant Chief.

"It is truly an honor to have someone like Josie working for us," said Maj. Gen. Lewis Crapotta, Combat Center Commanding General. "We appreciate the hard work that she has done for us during the government shutdown and draw down."

Marine Corps Order 12451.2C states the Meritorious Civilian Service Award is given to the civilian employee who contributes to an area of operation, resulting in high value or benefits to the Marine Corps.

"It was unexpected," Nemeth said. "I am truly grateful and honored for the award."



PFC. JULIO MCGRAW

Josie Nemeth, Combat Center Adjutant Chief, talks about being awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Sept. 25. "It was unexpected, but I am truly grateful and honored for the award," Nemeth said.



Josie Nemeth, Combat Centers Adjutant Chief, receives the Meritorious Civilian Service Award Sept. 25.

See **HONORS A6**



PFC. JULIO MCGRAW

A co-worker congratulates Josie Nemeth, Combat Center Adjutant Chief, after receiving the Meritorious Civilian Service Award at the flag located at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Sept. 25. The award is given to the civilian employee that contributes to an area of operation, resulting in high value or benefits to the Marine Corps.



PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Lance Cpl. Brian Gonzales, field wireman, 1st Tank Battalion meets his daughter for the first time during the 1st Tank Battalion homecoming on the battalion's tank ramp, Sept. 25. The battalion was deployed for seven months.

Loved ones embrace returning battalion

BY PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Approximately 85 Marines and sailors with Company C, 1st Tank Battalion were welcomed home by their loved ones at the 1st Tank Battalion Ramp, Sept. 25.

"I am extremely excited for the families and the return of these sailors and Marines," said Lt. Col. Lee Rush, battalion commander, 1st Tank Battalion. "This is tremendous to see the amount of excitement and energy that the families have right now just to welcome everybody back home."

The Marines were deployed for approximately seven months in support of Marine Aircraft Group 50.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of them," Rush said. "I keep telling the parents, I am as excited as they are just to have the safe return of our sailors and Marines."

Although this is a happy reunion with loved ones, for some, this is an introduction to new members of their family.

"I'm really excited to be home, I'm finally able to meet my daughter," said Lance Cpl. Brian Gonzales, field wireman, 1st Tank Battalion. "The only time I got to see her was on face time so I couldn't really feel the emotions I feel



PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Marines of 1st Tank Battalion are welcomed home by friends and family during the 1st Tank Battalion homecoming on the battalion's tank ramp, Sept. 25. After the homecoming, the Marines will receive post-deployment leave.

now. So to actually see her, it finally hit me. It's more emotional."

Although the Marines have returned from their deployment, training and preparation for the next assignment is always on the list for the battalion.

"We'll give them their post-deployment training, and the post-deployment leave block and a little bit of time off," Rush said. "Then they'll be right back at getting to their primary MOS skill training."

Homecomings are spe-

See **Home A6**



PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Sgt. Gary Raper, tank crewman, 1st Tank Battalion is warmly greeted by his children during the battalion homecoming on the 1st Tank Battalion Ramp, Sept. 25. The Marines were deployed in support of Marine Aircraft Group 50.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans vote for the week on the best photograph, posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Sgt. Emmanuel Ramos.



This week's Corps Top Shot comes from Sgt. Emmanuel Ramos. He captured this image of Lance Cpl. Dominique Sparacino, an assaultman with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport Sept. 8.

National Safety Council recognizes base Safety Division

BY PFC. THOMAS MUDD

The Combat Center Safety Division received awards regarding their safety training course for young drivers, Sept. 13.

Three awards were given to the safety division from the National Safety Council. Two of the awards went to the division and the third went to one of their instructors.

"The National Safety Council is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the safety of workers and people in general," said Dave Horn, director of the Combat Center Safety Division. "They play a part in all areas of safety."

The Safety Division won the 2014 Excellence in Highway Safety and the 2013 defensive driving course Best Performance Award for Alive at 25. The third award went to Angel Rios, who won the Instructor of the Year Award for the Alive at 25 Defensive Driving Course.

"Since 2008, we have steadily improved on everything we do here," Horn said.

The safety division's goal is to make the roads safer for Marines.

"Just here at Twentynine Palms, we have taught in excess of 26,000 Marines since 2008," Horn said.

That is not the only thing the department did to improve drivers safety.

"One of our instructors, Mr. Rios, turned out to be an outstanding instructor," Horn said. "He is the only Marine Corps trained instructor for the Alive at 25 course."

Rios has been teaching the Alive at 25 course for seven years and has received this award four times.

"[The course] is taught to active duty and reserve Marines between the ages of 18 and 25, when they reach the fleet, on the hazards of driving," Rios said.

The course goes through

See **Safety A6**

HONORS, from A1

As the adjutant chief, Nemeth and her team work directly for the commanding general.

"Our job here is to accomplish the administrative mission [for the commanding general]," Nemeth said.

After the ceremony, Nemeth did not waste any time getting back to helping fellow workers in the office.

"I think I received it for all the hard work I do," said Nemeth. "But more so the work we do in this office. It takes the entire team to make sure that the mission is accomplished."

Each command has a different mission throughout the Marine Corps and Nemeth is one example of how civilians play an important role in mission accomplishment.



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center commanding general, talks about Josie Nemeth, Adjutant Chief, and her work at the Manpower office, at the flag located at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Sept. 25. Nemeth was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for her work as the Combat Center's Adjutant Chief.



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, applauds Josie Nemeth, the Combat Center Adjutant Chief, after she receives the Meritorious Civilian Service Award at Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray Field, Sept. 25.



Family and friends eagerly await for the arrival of their loved ones during 1st Tank Battalion's homecoming on the 1st Tank Ramp, Sept. 25. Marines from first and second platoon Company C, returned home from a seven-month deployment.

SAFETY, from A1

the seven main hazards of driving: speeding, fatigue, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, seat-belts, driving with too many people in the vehicle, driving distractions, which include eating, drinking a

beverage, cell-phones, texting and other distractions. "The end result we are looking for is that our numbers go down, for example our driving under the influence numbers, we want those down," Rios said.

The Safety Division continues to teach the drivers course every Wednesday for Marines to try to keep them safer while driving. For more information call the Safety office at (760) 830-6154.

HOME, from A1

cial for the service members returning home. What makes them better is witnessing the support of those who love them.

"Everyone should always try and take an opportunity to come out and welcome our Marines home from deployment," Rush said. "Just a chance to see the smiles on the faces of the children, wives and spouses is very uplifting."

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"Oktoberfest at Big Bear now underway"

BIG BEAR GOES BAVARIAN Sept. 28, 29, 30 and Oct. 5, 6, and 7.

Here we go again ... 'mit der polka und pretzels, und oom pah pah!' It all happens during two fun-filled weekends at the Goldmine Ski Are, located in the pine forested San Bernardino Mountains. Where else in Southern California could you find a better location for a real Oktoberfest?

A huge, festive tent will bounce to the lively tunes of authentic Bavarian Bands, with dancing and entertainment featuring the Phoenix Club Schuplatler Dancing Group. Outside, local folk in colorful dirndls and lederhosen will offer a

wide variety of unusual wares, as part of the colorful arcade of booths surrounding the big beer tent. Food to tempt your appetite and unique gift and souvenir items to tempt your purse. No admission will be charged.

Inside the beer tent, Lowenbrau will flow the brew, and both German and American food will be served at special food stands. Just like a county fair, a la Old World Style, with waitresses in Bavarian costume to lend even more atmosphere to the festivities.

Reigning over all this exuberance will be the Oktoberfest Queen, Big Bear's own Janet Backs, who won her enviable crown last year

by carrying a world-record tying, 17 steins of beer (weighing a total of 85 pounds) to match the mark of a maid from Munich, Germany, the home of the original Oktoberfest. Miss Backs will be challenged this year by representatives from German-American Clubs all over California and possibly even by a contestant from Munich, where it all began. Selection of the new Queen will be on Saturday evening, Sept. 29, in the big beer tent.

A special feature of this six-day long celebration will be a Kinderfest, with games, entertainment, and contests for the children. The whole family can get in on the fun!

CROSSWORD

"CD Cases"

- Across**
- 1 ____, paper, scissors
 - 5 Superman's is red
 - 9 Turns toward
 - 14 Land measurement
 - 15 Cain's brother
 - 16 Manage to keep away from
 - 17 Porcelain "person"
 - 19 Oscar who wrote "The Importance of Being Earnest"
 - 20 Before, in poems
 - 21 Uncover
 - 23 Grant, Tan and Poehler
 - 24 Even though
 - 26 Quaker ____
 - 28 Driver's licenses and such
 - 29 Had as a tenant
 - 33 Medieval weapon
 - 36 ____ line (Caribbean fun)
 - 37 Vegetable, sesame or canola
 - 38 Cool ____ cucumber
 - 39 Hot appetizer
 - 41 Bring down the aisle
 - 42 Madam's counterpart
 - 43 Places to live
 - 44 "No ifs, ____ or buts!"
 - 45 Hostages
 - 47 Chef's need
 - 49 "____ kleine Nachtmusik" (Mozart)
 - 50 Shakes like Jell-O
 - 54 Puts down the lawn
 - 56 Cause harm to
 - 59 "Bravo!"
 - 60 Alternative to "Patty"
 - 62 Presidential retreat
 - 64 Exhaust
 - 65 One of the Great Lakes
 - 66 Second Greek letter

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- 67 Architectural features
 - 68 Celeb chef Paula
 - 69 Garden of ____
- Down**
- 1 Went quickly
 - 2 Earth shade
 - 3 Sheds some tears
 - 4 Barbie's beau
 - 5 Military academy students
 - 6 Over
 - 7 Soccer great from Brazil
 - 8 Singer Fitzgerald
 - 9 Not many
 - 10 Take to the skies
 - 11 Counts to ten, say
 - 12 Whirlpool
 - 13 Gets a look at
 - 18 Hot and dry
 - 22 First letter in "Ireland" or "Iceland"
 - 25 Cake's cousin
 - 27 Give someone ____ on the shoulder
 - 29 Nighttime garments
 - 30 Finishes up
 - 31 Even, as a score
 - 32 Former GM car, for short
 - 33 Not fem.
 - 34 Largest continent
 - 35 "Seize the day," in Latin
 - 36 Arrived
 - 39 Face part
 - 40 Wandered far and wide
 - 44 Director Lee
 - 46 Kleenex
 - 47 Sty
 - 48 Got older and better, like wine
 - 50 Actor Foxx
 - 51 Adored
 - 52 Cream of the crop
 - 53 Family car
 - 54 Kind of earring
 - 55 Approximately
 - 57 Did perfect on, as a test
 - 58 Adult female horse
 - 61 Some computers, for short
 - 63 President Lincoln

SUDOKU

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Last week's solutions

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 - 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

Gabriel Lee EMERY

Topeka Kansas Supply Administration, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines

BEFORE JOINING THE MARINE CORPS, EMERY WAS STUDYING FOR A DEGREE IN EXERCISE SCIENCE AND KINESIOLOGY. HE HAS AN INTERVIEW WITH THE EXECUTIVE OF MUSCLE AND FITNESS MAGAZINE AND, FROM THAT INTERVIEW, HAS THE POSSIBILITY TO EARN SPONSORSHIPS.

> **I was always a really small dude.** Always really ripped, I just didn't have any mass. I remember the first time I saw guys like Terry Crews and Ronnie Coleman; it made me want to be like them.

> **When I first started lifting** it was more for football because it's conditioning. But I fell in love with the weight room more than I did the field so I stuck with that.

> **I did power lifting all through high school.** Bodybuilding has always been an intriguing passion of mine. Shortly after my freshman year I transitioned from power lifting to bodybuilding. I fell in love with it.

> **I power lifted** my first eight months of college and then shortly after ended up tearing my acromion, in my left shoulder. Recovery wasn't bad, but it took me out a little bit.

> **I competed in** the teen division when I was 19.

> **It was great because** I got to fulfill my dream for the first time. I got to step on stage and it really gave me a chance for a professional to look me over and assess me. It also taught me how to assess myself. That's what's most important. If you can't do that then no matter how much work you put in at the gym, you'll never win. You have to be honest with yourself.

> **A weightlifter is solely concerned about a number.** He's concerned about how much weight he can sling around.

> **Bodybuilding, it's different.** It's a mind muscle connection. It's something that when you lift, you have to lift with a rhythm. You can't explode and just throw weight around. You have to be methodical with it.

> **It's therapeutic. The weight room can't lie** to you. If you're not strong enough to lift 300 lbs., you're not strong enough to do it. It doesn't lie, it doesn't leave, it's always here, it's always truthful and it gets stress off. Stress from life, stress from work, stress from family; you come here and it's just you and the weight.

> **The first time I hit the stage** it definitely was an eye opener. I'd say for anyone who wants to compete, the first time you shouldn't be going for a win. You should show up with your best physique and just learn from the other veteran competitors, and ask the judges what your weaknesses are.

> **Bodybuilding is something else.** It's an art, it's sculpting yourself. You're the sculptor and you're the masterpiece so if the masterpiece sucks, you only have you to blame.

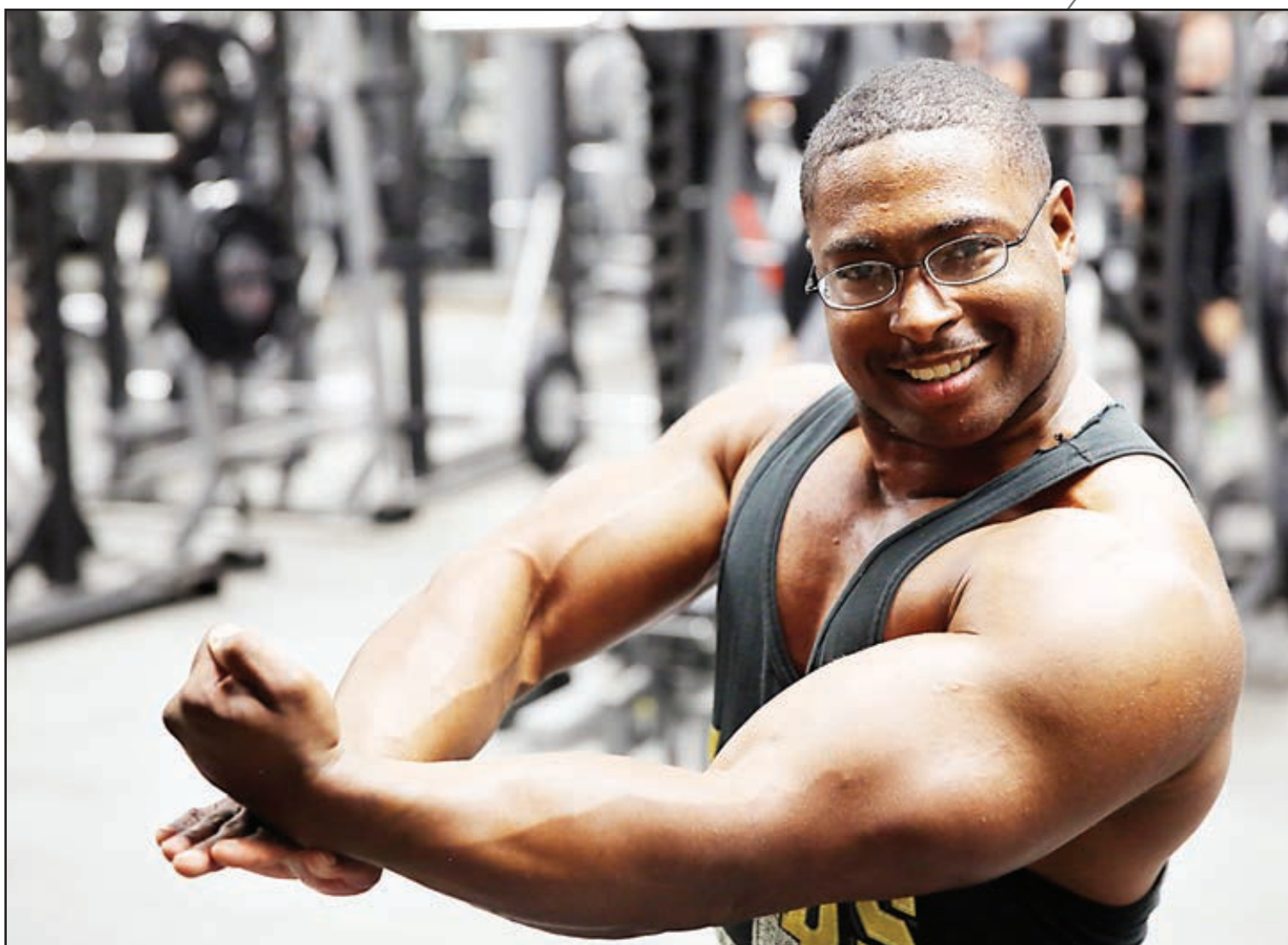
> **I decided to join the Marine Corps** as a stepping stone to become a personal trainer.

> **A Marine in my** old unit told me he wanted to gain about 20 lbs. of muscle. I gave him a routine, I worked out with him a little bit and I let him go on his own, and he's done well.

> **I love helping people out** and I've helped many people out. It's something I enjoy. It's a passion that I have for all areas of fitness.

> **It's more than a hobby to me.** It's a passion, it's a lifestyle.

> **Every day I wake up I'm happy,** because I'm doing what I love, I'm great at what I'm doing, I'm living the dream.



Lance Cpl. Gabriel Lee Emery, supply administration specialist, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, performs a shoulder press exercise with two 85 lb. dumbbells at the West Gym, Wednesday. Emery uses this exercise as a warm-up before beginning his usual routine.

INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS BY PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

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(R)

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Marine team heats up practice before 2014 Warrior Games

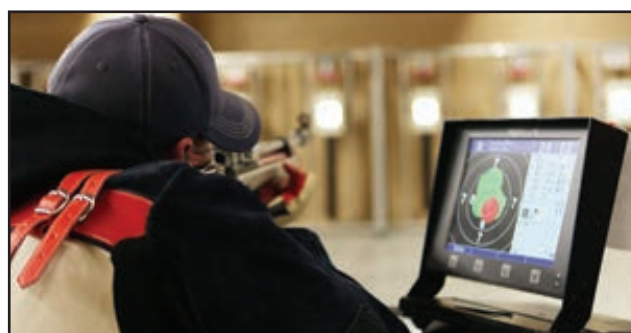


Photos by Lance Cpl. Carson Gremley

Staff Sgt. Dean Sanchez, native of Denver, Colo., sights in on his target during archery practice for the Marine Corps team, Sept. 25, in preparation for the 2014 Warrior Games. The team is comprised of both active duty and veteran wounded, ill and injured Marines who are attached to or supported by the Wounded Warrior Regiment.



Paul Davis, shooting coach, gives advice to Cpl. Michael Politowicz, native of Mt. Clemens, Mich., during shooting practice for the Marine Corps team, Sept. 25, in preparation for the 2014 Warrior Games.



Sgt. Justin Wess, native of Hubbard, Ohio, fires a shot down range during shooting practice for the Marine Corps team, Sept. 25, in preparation for the 2014 Warrior Games.



Cpl. Michael Politowicz, native of Mt. Clemens, Mich., and his fellow teammates take to the firing line and sight in during shooting practice for the Marine Corps team, Sept. 25, in preparation for the 2014 Warrior Games.



Capt. Chris McGleinnais, native of Kailua, Hawaii, and teammate Sgt. Andres Burgos, native of Orlando, Fla., draw back and prepare to release arrows during archery practice for the Marine Corps team, Sept. 25, in preparation for the 2014 Warrior Games.

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Relationships should be safe

COURTESY STORY FROM MCCS-MARINE & FAMILY PROGRAMS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BRANCH

“Relationships Should Be Safe,” is the theme for this year’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month. While this simple statement should make sense to any reasonable person, it is ironic how many people seem to forget this during times of marital conflict or when caring for children.

In fact, one of the greatest ironies is that while we might act in abusive ways to those we care about, we would take extreme measures to protect those same people from abusive actions on the part of others. It’s almost as if our partners and children are our personal property to treat as we wish.

Intimate relationships really are partnerships, where neither party has the right to own or possess the other. When couples first expressed their vows they promised, among other things, to protect each other.

It begs the question, why would we become the person we have committed to protect our partners and children from.

Unfortunately, domestic violence is a social condition that too many suffer from. Offenders creating fear in those they should be keeping safe, victims turned offenders in order to protect themselves. This stems from attitudes and beliefs that imply a sense of ownership, and the granting of certain rights that come from owning property.

This social condition has cost far too much money in programs aimed at protecting victims and ending family violence. More importantly, it has cost lives and



broken up families; divorce, children in foster care.

There are a myriad of services available to help victims of abuse. There are also services aimed at helping those who have been abusive to family members. It takes a great deal of courage for victims to step forward and admit they couldn’t keep themselves safe, or for an offender to acknowledge their abusive attitudes and actions.

The key is to get ahead of the problem by recognizing the things that lead to family abuse and to seek help before we hurt those we love. The Family Advocacy Program is committed to assisting Combat Center fam-

ilies who are in crisis due to abuse.

Programs include prevention and education activities to address problems before they happen and intervention services to families where abusive behaviors have already occurred.

For further information about how to receive these services, please call 760-830-6345.

Remember, “relationships should be safe.” If you suspect that you or a loved one is a victim of Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence, please don’t hesitate to contact a Victim Advocate using the 24/7 response line at 760-362.9837.

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Texas Hold'em brings Marines to The Zone



Marines play a hand of Texas Hold'em at The 5th Street Zone, Sept. 26. The Zone holds a Texas Hold'em tournament on the last Friday of every month and has been holding the tournament for four years.



Marines begin a hand of Texas Hold'em at The 5th Street Zone, Sept. 26. The hand started with two players placing bets on the hand that was dealt to them, with the dealer placing five cards, the river, at the center of the table. Players then place more bets as the dealer gradually reveals more cards to the participants.



A shirt is presented to all participants during the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament hosted by the Single Marine Program at The 5th Street Zone. The poker tournaments are held monthly and are open to all active-duty service members.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. THOMAS MUDD

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - The Single Marine Program held its monthly Texas Hold'em poker tournament at The 5th Street Zone, Sept. 26.

This poker tournament has been held on the last Friday of every month for the past four years. Every month, the tournament attracts Marines from several units aboard the Combat Center of varying ranks.

"From the time I have started [playing] I have seen about 25 to 35 people every time," said Lance Cpl. Nick Rosen, combat engineer, Combat Logistics Battalion 7. "I have seen privates up to gunnery sergeants in here."

Instead of gambling, this free tournament has a prize for the winner of the event. The prize this month was a laptop. Marines of any age are able to participate in the game.

"I have seen them give away Xbox consoles, PlayStation 3's, Samsung tablets, now they are giving away a laptop," Rosen said enthusiastically. "I have never seen that before so it's interesting."

This event brings seri-

ous players as well as players that are just looking for a fun game to play with some friends.

"I have seen people that put in their headphones or put on their sunglasses because they're really into it," Rosen said. "I have also have seen people just trying to have a fun time."

The people at The Zone enjoy the poker tournaments just as much as the Marines do.

"I love sitting in there and seeing how the guys play and how they talk trash to each other," said Darryl Elliott, recreational attendant, The Zone. "It is pretty funny."

This month there were some new poker players at The Zone.

"There are a lot of people here that came for the tournament," Rosen said. "There were also some British Royal Marines here this time."

For service members stationed aboard the Combat Center or units who come for training, these events and others are a way to enjoy some time after work and unwind from the stresses of the day.



Marines place bets on the last card of a hand of Texas Hold'em at The 5th Street Zone, Sept. 26. The event was free of charge with service members receiving free chips at the beginning of the tournament.



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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



I am an early riser and I start the day, seven days a week, reading three daily newspapers—The Los Angeles Times, The San Bernardino Sun and The Desert Sun.

I always begin by reading the comics. I don't read every strip or cartoon but I read all the funny ones. My favorites include Blondie, Peanuts, Beetle Bailey, Family Circus, Dennis the Menace, and Ziggy. I also enjoy the clever cartoons in our two local weeklies.

This is not only a delightful habit but it also increases a person's life span. Serious studies from the University of Wisconsin reveals that people who read the comics before the obituaries have markedly longer life spans. It makes sense to me!

A sense of humor is a powerful attribute that can do much to improve the health and well-being of any person who makes the concerted effort to develop this inherent gift from the Creator.

That's one of the reasons I never miss the weekly newscasts on radio Z 107.7 FM. Gary Daigneault and Pat Michaels always provide a joke for the morning and other light-hearted banter that gets my day off to a good start.

No less an authority than the renowned theologian Reinhold Niebuhr led me to believe that humor and laughter are both basic to the development of a truly satisfying religious life. It was Dr. Niebuhr who wrote, "Humor is a prelude to faith and laughter is the beginning of prayer. Pass it on!" Well, I have spent a lifetime living the advice of my brilliant contemporary and passing it on. I have always kept humor and genuine laughter at the heart of all I say and do.

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MWSS 374 Marines refurbish Camp Wilson airfield

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC.
JULIO MCGRAW

Forty Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, amidst the desert heat, finished replacing the approach section of an expeditionary runway on the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field at Camp Wilson, Monday.

Marines from the support squadron laid 2000 ft. of new matting for the airstrip. The runway was replaced due to wear and tear from large aircraft landings.

"We replaced it because the non-skid surface on the runway, which helps aircraft land, was covered with rubber from all the planes," said Staff Sgt. John Schoolfield, staff non-commissioned officer in charge, SELF re-matting project, Camp Wilson.

Schoolfield said when the aircraft land, rubber gets left behind from the tires and over time it accumulates and eventually needs to be replaced. Wear on the runway was not the only reason why part of the landing area was refurbished.

"We also did it for safety," said Capt. Wayne A. Gantz, airfield company commander. "It is a critical area that we replaced. It is where the big aircraft, like the C-130's, touch down and this is a key training ground for the Marine Corps;

this airfield supported Mojave Viper, and now the smaller integrated training exercises that test units on their mission capability."

Although a daunting task, the Marines who worked on the project thought of it as a familiar children's toy.

"It's like a giant Lego kit" said Lance Cpl. Romen Hines, crew member, Expeditionary Airfield, Camp Wilson. "Once you start putting it together, after a day or so, you get into the rhythm of doing it and it gets easier."

Although comparable to plastic building blocks, the panels were not light in weight. The Marines also had to re-learn how to lay down the matting. For most, they had not worked with it since their military occupational specialty school training.

"The 12 ft. panels weigh 144 lbs. and the 6 ft. [panels] weigh 77 lbs. Two-man teams had to pull them off and haul them and make stacks to send them back," Schoolfield said. "I'm extremely surprised how well [the Marines] did. You would have never known that a lot of these guys had not worked with matting since the school house."

Although the task was physically demanding, the Marines have now made the runway safer for aircraft landings and for training exercises in the future.



Lance Cpl. Romen Hines, crew member, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, and Lance Cpl. Timothy Sakaida, crew member, MWSS 374, jackhammer stakes to anchor panels into the ground at the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Camp Wilson, Monday.



Cpl. Jeremy Montoya, crew leader, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, and Sgt. Horacio Leyva, Runway supervisor, MWSS 374, paint numbers on the approach section of the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field at Camp Wilson, Monday. The Marines were involved in a 2,000-ft. matting project at the SELF.



Sgt. Horacio Leyva, runway supervisor, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, paints the number at the approach section of the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field, Camp Wilson, Monday. The section was replaced to make the approach safer for aircraft that land at Camp Wilson.

6x15

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This page COLOR

Philippine, US forces share knowledge



Philippine Marine Cpl. Eugene Aquino Jr. demonstrates basic techniques from Filipino-martial arts to U.S. Marines and sailors during a subject matter expert knowledge exchange in Tagabinet, Palawan, Philippines, Sept. 18. During the exchange, medical personnel from both military forces, health center representatives, and students from a local school also shared best practices, techniques and procedures with one another.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ANTHONY KIRBY

PALAWAN, Philippines - Staff and students of Cabayuga National High School-Tagabinet Extension, health workers, members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. service members held a subject matter expert knowledge exchange in Tagabinet, Palawan, Philippines, Sept. 18.

During the exchange, medical personnel from both military forces and health center representatives shared best practices, techniques and procedures with one another. Additionally, this opportunity was extended to students of the nearby school to provide them with experience and knowledge outside of the classroom.

"The class is a great opportunity for all of us to learn together," said Mariahezel Arangorin, an English teacher at the school. "We incorporate the new information we get from the exchange into our class lessons."

The topics covered in the class focused on medical assessments, proper care and follow-on actions for a variety of issues, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, food sanitation, wound infection, rabies and dental care.

The exchange educates all who attend but, just as importantly, it also informs the local community about future cooperative health engagements that will provide medical support and operations to the community, according to Petty Officer 1st Class Ariel G. Galang, pharmacy technician, 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

"Our presence with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and health representatives creates trust and confidence with the local people," Galang said. "They feel safe and comfortable participating in the cooperative health engagement."

During the future cooperative health engagements, local residents will be offered medical and dental treatment to address issues or ailments they may be experiencing free of cost.

Following the medical classes, some Philippine Marines taught the group self-defense moves from Filipino martial arts. They learned basic foot movements, hand-counterstrikes, and disarming enemies. Afterwards, U.S. Marines shared techniques from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

"I've been a martial arts instructor for three years, but this was my first time teaching U.S. forces," said Philippine Marine Cpl. Eugene Aquino Jr., radioman, 34th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team 4. "It's good that we share this information with each other. There is so much to learn when it comes to martial arts. I'm glad I was able to learn more techniques to show my peers."

The day ended with the entire class making the Filipino dessert, Nilupak, together. Service members and children took turns pounding banana and coconut together to prepare it. It was a fun and informative way to end the exchange.

"[Today] was good. It's about the willingness to share what you know as much as it's about the subject being taught," Galang said.



Petty Officer 1st Class Ariel G. Galang and Philippine Marine Staff Sgt. Ambrocicio O. Gutay demonstrate cardiopulmonary resuscitation during a subject matter expert knowledge exchange in Tagabinet, Palawan, Philippines, Sept. 18.



U.S. Marine Cpl. Hunter M. Eden, practices disarming techniques using Filipino-martial arts to Philippine Marine Cpl. Eugene Aquino Jr. during a subject matter expert knowledge exchange in Tagabinet, Palawan, Philippines, Sept. 18.



Philippine Marines Cpl. Eugene Aquino Jr. and Cpl. Charliejay Luban demonstrate techniques from Filipino-martial arts to U.S. Marines and sailors during a subject matter expert knowledge exchange in Tagabinet, Palawan, Philippines, Sept. 18. Aquino is a radioman, and Luban is a gunner. Both are with 34th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team 4, and the U.S. service members are with the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

The Red Zone football challenge is scheduled to be hosted from Nov. 4 to Dec. 18. Each team in the tournament can have a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 10. The tournament is open to all active duty and Combat Center employees.

The Combat Center library is scheduled to host a pumpkin decorating contest from Oct. 1 to Oct. 22. Winners will be chosen in three different age groups. Pumpkins are to be dropped off at the library Bldg. 1524, for display throughout the month of October. Literary themed pumpkins are recommended.

The Mameluke's Pub is scheduled to host the Battle of the Units. From the Months of September through December, chips will be put into the different unit jars. The unit with the most chips at the end of the competition wins a bash. For more information call 760-830-6922.

The Community center is scheduled to host a craft fair and bake sale. Registrations are scheduled to conclude October 24. The Fair is scheduled to begin Oct. 25 at 9 a.m.

The Marine Corps Exchange will hold the Commanding General's Car and Bike show in its parking lot. The cars and bikes will be split up into different categories. The Car show is scheduled for Oct. 4 at 10 a.m.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Oct. 3

4:30 p.m. – The Giver, PG-13
 7:00 p.m. – Let's Be Cops, R
 9:30 p.m. – As Above, So Below, R
 11:20 p.m. – The Green Mile, R
 12:30 a.m. – As Above, So Below, R

Saturday, Oct. 4

10:30 a.m. – Planes: Fire and Rescue, PG
 12:30 p.m. – Let's Be Cops, R
 3:00 p.m. – As Above, So Below, R
 5:30 p.m. – If I Stay, PG-13
 8:00 p.m. – The November Man, R
 11:00 p.m. – The Expendables 3, PG-13

Sunday, Oct. 5

12:30 p.m. – The Giver, PG-13
 3:00 p.m. – Let's Be Cops, R
 5:30 p.m. – The Identical, PG
 8:00 p.m. – Chef, R

Monday, Oct. 6

6:00 p.m. – As Above, So Below, R

Tuesday, Oct. 7

6:00 p.m. – The November Man, R

Wednesday, Oct. 8

5:00 p.m. – The Expendables 3, PG-13
 8:00 p.m. – The Giver, PG-13

Thursday, Oct. 9

5:00 p.m. – Let's Be Cops, R
 7:30 p.m. – As Above, So Below, R

Friday, Oct. 10

3:30 p.m. – Transformers: Age of Extinction, PG-13
 6:30 p.m. – If I Stay, PG-13
 9:00 p.m. – The Identical, PG
 11:30 p.m. – Chef, R



Fin-tastic & True

■ All-star cast returns for more dolphin aqua-drama

NEIL POND

"Dolphin Tale 2"

Starring Harry Connick Jr., Cozi Zuehlsdorff & Nathan Gamble
 Directed by Charles Martin Smith
 PG

Critics and audiences alike cheered for the first *Dolphin Tale*, the story of a bottlenose dolphin rescued off the coast of Florida and custom-fitted with a prosthetic tail after tangling and mangling hers in the wires of a crab trap.

The 2005 movie was based on true events, real people, and the actual place, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where the repaired and rehabilitated sea mammal, renamed Winter, became a star attraction.

Dolphin Tale 2 continues Winter's remarkable (true) story and reunites most of the original cast, including Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd, Morgan Freeman and Kris Kristofferson, along with teen actors Cozi Zuehlsdorff and Nathan Gamble, and the real-life Winter. Actor-director Charles Martin Smith (watch for him as the aquarium inspector) also returns as writer-director, and surfer-celebrity Bethany Hamilton, whose left arm was infamously bitten off by a shark, makes a cameo.

Once again filming on location at the Clearwater facility, this *Dolphin* tale involves a new predicament for Winter—and the interplay of emotions between humans as well as other creatures, including affection, bonding, celebration, loneliness, loss, anxiety, and the bittersweet pangs of goodbye. "We don't know if dolphins feel emotions the way we do," notes Sawyer (Nathan Gamble), Winter's young trainer. No, we don't—but the movie clearly wants us to think that they might...and believe that they can.

And you will believe, as well as learn a thing or two about dolphins—like how regulations prohibit keeping a dolphin in captivity alone, without a companion, and how even the most "trained" dolphin is still a wild animal that can seriously injure a human. You'll also understand how Winter became such an inspiration for so many real-life visitors, from kids to war veterans, who had lost a limb, or more—as one scene (and even more so, the documentary footage that runs at the end of the movie) so movingly depicts.

Children especially will enjoy the antics of couple of non-dolphin characters, a pelican and a rescued sand turtle, that become unlikely buddies. (And grownups might also pick up a message about how the heart's gonna do what the heart's gonna do, without letting land, sea, air, species or anything else stand in the way.)

Like its predecessor, *Dolphin Tale 2* is another wholesome, family-friendly movie especially good for younger kids and tweens, and it avoids playing down to its audience, or dipping into the crude humor that often creeps into fare for even the youngest viewers (although there is a blowhole emission, which sounds like a fart, that is clearly meant to get a laugh). There are thoughtful, smart plotlines about growing up, taking responsibility, making tough decisions, sorting out the blurry lines between jealousy and affection, learning lessons in unlikely places—and the drama of waiting to see what happens to Winter when her options appear to have run out.

There's no explosive razzle-dazzle, and no splashy special effects—but lots of real splashes, some dandy, ballet-like, below-water swimming sequences, and plenty of emotion centered around one fin-tastic dolphin, Winter, whose true tale continues to uplift and inspire.

3x5
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