

Marines, sailors show off their rides

Cleaner, polish capture essence of Commanding General's Car and Bike Show

BY PFC. JULIO MCGRAW

Combat Center Marines and sailors came together for another iteration of the Commanding General's Car and Bike Show at the Combat Center's Main Exchange parking lot, Saturday.

Marine Corps Community Services coordinated the show and was sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, American Friends of the Armed Forces, Yucca Valley Ford and Yucca Valley Chrysler.

The show brought enthusiasts of automotive classics and lovers high performance vehicles together. All in attendance could see a variety of vehicle ranging from muscle cars to Harley-Davidsons to tuners and lifted pick-ups. All were on display to win the Com-

manding Generals choice award.

"I think the car show is great for the Marines," said Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Crapparotta, Combat Centers Commanding General. "It definitely brings the Marines and the community together."

"The car show has an awesome vibe," said Lance Cpl. Cody Welch, owner of a 2014 Subaru Impreza. "Car enthusiasts came together to talk about cars, and it doesn't really matter if you have a show car or not, it's perfect for everyone."

Car enthusiasts respect their own vehicles as well as the time and effort others put into their vehicle to maintain them.

"It is a good show. It's a way to show off our proj-

See RIDES A6



Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Crapparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, retired Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Aldridge and Harold Aldridge, talk about a 1956 Chevy engine during the Commanding General's Car and Bike Show at the Main Exchange, Saturday. Aldridge drove the Chevy from Colorado to display it at the show.

Belle of the Ball prepares spouses for annual event

BY CPL. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program held its 3rd Annual Belle of the Ball event at the Officers' Club, Saturday.

"A few years ago, the family readiness officers were asking for something to really show the ladies what would be good for the ball and not good for the ball," said Amber Bilderrain, LINKS program manager. "We had a FRO that came from Cherry Point, N.C., and she gave us some ideas and we ran with it."

The Belle of the Ball event is a rehearsal of how the night would really function. They run through the cake escort and a presentation of what is and isn't suitable ball attire. At one point during the event, there was a skit performed by the L.I.N.K.S volunteers addressing behavior you shouldn't engage in during the ball. During the skit, L.I.N.K.S volunteers walked through the ball room, drinking wine from the bottle, talking loudly on the phone and taking selfies.

"If it's your first ball, it can be intimidating to go to a formal event if you don't know what to expect. Often times the Marine doesn't tell them what to expect,"



Sgt. Shawon Clark, supply, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, escorts Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills volunteers down the red carpet as they model proper ball attire during the Belle of the Ball event at the Officers' Club, Saturday. After the event concluded, appropriate ball attire was given away.

Bilderrain said. "The idea is just to get the word to them so they feel more confident when they're at their first ball."

For one who has never attended, it can be a bit overwhelming. The Belle of the Ball provided a crash course for the spouses of Marines on the do's and don'ts of the ball. With registration cutting off at

90 people and seats filled within four days, the event was in popular demand.

"I was expecting to have a good time," said Amber Vega, spouse. "It's important to be able to support our Marines and the tradition behind what our Marine Corps stands for."

During the event, there were prize giveaways including hair and makeup

tips from Elite Makeup, a two-day hotel stay, as well as ball gowns and high heels.

"I had a lady last year come up to me and say, 'I went to your Belle of the Ball! I was so prepared,'" Bilderrain said. "We get that when we go places and run into people who ac-

See BELLE A6

Marines across the globe unite for Warrior Games

BY PFC. THOMAS MUDD

The HITT program coordinated a 3-day competition pitting not one, but three nations of Marines against one another for competitive fun after the conclusion of the Black Alligator-14 exercise. From Oct. 7 to Oct. 9, Marines engaged in aquatic, endurance and sports-centered competition to determine which nation would walk away as victors in this year's Combat center Warrior Games.

The British Royal Marines and Dutch Marines recently conducted their training for Black Alligator-14, a bi-lateral training evolution with the U.S. Marines, before returning to their respective nations each branch welcomed the opportunity to compete.

"The MCAGCC HITT challenge and Black Alligator Warrior Games is a combination of the British, the Dutch and the Americans coming together to put together some challenges," said Edmundo Rangel Jr., HITT coordinator.

The different groups gave input on the different events that will take place over the duration of this competition.

"We tried to keep the

events even for all the different countries, because some countries might favor some events more than others," said Cpl. Stephen Griffiths, physical instructor, 45 Royal Marine Commandos. "We try to make it as even as possible."

The events of the Warrior Games were spread out over three days. Starting with a speed and strength course, and followed by an overhead-lift competition.

The next day had an obstacle course and a swimming competition. The last day had an assault course and the winners of the games were announced.

On the first day the Marines were tested on their speed, agility and strength. Starting with a 25-yard sprint, a kneeling medicine-ball throw, a standing jump and other agility based events. It ended with a strength gauntlet which consisted of tire flips, sled push, farmer's carry, running with a medicine-ball, and deadlifts.

"It's all to test your agility and speed," said Lance Cpl. Andrew Ashley, 7th Marine Regiment. "After that, we did a strongman competition; that also tests

See GAMES A6

Blue Angels are back!

Oct. 3 marked the return of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels during the world's largest airshow at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The pilots volunteer their time and efforts into showcasing our pride and professionalism to the community.



The Navy's Blue Angels fly in formation during the 2014 Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Air Show, Oct. 3. The Blue Angels is comprised of 16 officers who serve voluntarily.



Lance Cpl. Andrew Ashley performs a farmer's carry with weighted boxes during the strength gauntlet during the Warrior Games, at the West Gym aboard the Combat Center, Tuesday. The strength gauntlet was a test of speed and strength.

RIDE, from A1

ects and what quality of work we can do with the little spare time and money we have," said Gunnery Sgt. Alex Trujano, owner of a 1965 Ford Mustang Fastback.

The awards for the show were spilt up into different categories like: Best Car pre-1980, Best Modern Car post-1980, Commanding General's choice, People's choice, Best Truck and Best Motorcycle.

More than 50 cars and bikes entered the show, but car enthusiasts were not the only ones having fun. A children's play area with face painting and bounce houses was available and the Los Angeles Area band, Pretty Posh, performed. Tony Carbajal and Webster

Whinery, stunt motorcycle riders from Tony Carbajal Freestyle, also performed motorcycle stunts at the show.

Awards went out to participants and the Commanding General's Choice went to Harold Aldridge and his gold 1956 Chevy. From a 2014 Subaru Impreza to a 1971 Plymouth Roadrunner, lifted Ford trucks to track tuned Mustangs, the show had a vehicle for everyone to marvel at and talk about.

"To me, a car lover is not someone who has the shiniest most expensive car," Trujano said. "It's the person who puts the time into the vehicle they have and respects the vehicle for what it is and what it does."



PFC. JULIO MCGRAW

Lance Cpl. Cody Welch, Light Armored Vehicle crewman, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and Lance Cpl. Nick Rueter, LAV crewman, 3rd LAR, clean the engine compartment on Welch's Subaru Impreza during the Commanding General's Car and Bike Show at the Main Exchange Parking lot, Saturday. Cars in any condition were allowed in the show and over 50 cars were displayed.



PFC. JULIO MCGRAW

Webster Whinery, stunt motorcycle rider, Tony Carbajal Freestyle, performs a stopie in front of a crowd at the Main Exchange parking lot, Saturday. Whinery has worked as a stunt rider and stuntman in motion pictures such as "Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End" and "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

BELLE, from A1

tually went. So it's a good feeling."

For those who weren't able to attend, they can go to their family readiness officer for tips on proper attire, etiquette and a sequence of events.

"A FRO would love to give that information," said Bilderain. "If they ever have any other questions, they can always call us."

For more information please contact your unit FRO.

VISIT, from A1

your speed but also your strength."

After the morning event, the teams participated in an overhead-lift challenge. Each four man team had to lift 90 pounds of weight over their heads ten times before grabbing an ammo can and a plastic rifle, then going to the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer to fire mock-weapons

and test hand-eye coordination. Later in the games the teams went through swimming events at the Combat Center Training Tank, and an assault course.

"Event three is in the pool, a lot more swimming with combat equipment on," Griffiths said, "Event four is a series of different disciplines, then throwing a grenade into a bunker.

The last event is the Light Hammer Assault Course."

This competition gave the different countries a chance to test themselves against one another and see how the service members from across the world handle the courses.

"It's cool to have competition against people from America but then to also have the experience to go

against other people who are British or Dutch," Ashley said.

At the end of the Warrior Games, awards will be given to the teams based on various aspects of fitness and the time it took to complete the challenges.

Look for the results on the Combat Center Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thecombatcenter.



PFC. JULIO MCGRAW

Sgt. Michael Goeas, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, conducts tire flips during the Warrior Games at the West Gym aboard the Combat Center, Tuesday. The tire flips were part of a strength gauntlet, the first of five events for the first day of the games.

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM
by Lou Gerhardt



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once told a group of us that he liked to be described as "a drum major for justice." I thought that was great.

Now I want all of my readers to describe me as "a drum major for Hi Desert Medical Center."

Bob Tyk is the new CEO of the Hi-Desert Medical Center. Bob is a dispenser of positive energy and it is reflected in all of his decisions and activities.

I was especially impressed with his decision to give every employee of the hospital and its many affiliated programs a wrist band that reads "MDMC: What is BEST for the patient?"

Bob and his wife, Margaret have three children and six grandchildren.

We pet lovers are also pleased that Bob and Margaret adopted two dogs that needed a home and are providing Ruby Grace and Gus not only an atmosphere of love and caring but the dogs are providing Bob and Margaret some beautiful times as well.

My wife Patty and I own (or are owned by) two wonderful dogs (Bella and Blackie) and one beautiful cat (Cinderella) and are strong supporters of the NO KILL animal shelter in Joshua Tree. Once again I close by sharing with you a favorite quotation from my former fellow clergyman, the late S. Parkes Cadman: "Personally, I would not give a fig for any man's religion whose horse, cat and dog do not feel its benefits. Life in any form is our perpetual responsibility."

This column sponsored by:

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I know this is a tall order, but is anyone looking for casual fellowship over coffee who is a 5-point Calvinist? Amillennial? Doesn't believe in literal Sabbath-keeping, mandatory tithing, paedobaptism, or the health/wealth gospel? Believes Mat. 24 is fulfilled? Believes we are not the Romans 7 man or part old man and part new man? If so, call me at 760-365-6901.

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Reprinted from the Observation Post
October 11, 1985

'Lava Ranges gets a taste of new TOW II'

BY CPL. MICHAEL GENOVEE

Marines of TOW (Tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire command link guided missile system) Company, 3rd Tank Battalion, recently went to Lava Range aboard the Combat Center for a two-day live-fire exercise with the TOW II system.

"Our Marines have to requalify as TOW gunners each year," explained Master Sgt. V.E. Monroe, TOW unit leader. "This exercise will also prepare them for future deployments."

Monroe, native of Corona, N.M., pointed out the major differences between TOW I and II. Installation of the new night optical missile guidance system and increased range were some of the main changes. "The system detects thermal heat from an object, such as a running engine," said Monroe. The new range of this model is 3,750 meters, compared to 3,000

meters of TOW I.

After reaching the base camp, Marines practiced firing techniques with a TOW simulator. "The gunner must always keep the crosshairs of his optic sights centered on his target," Monroe said. "Or he can get confused and accidentally track the missing, causing him to miss the target."

Like many Marines participating in the exercise, Lance Cpl. Rogue Sanchez, gunner in 1st Platoon, was firing his first live TOW missile. After acquiring his target, the 20-year-old San Benito, Texas native centered his sights. His assistant gunner then cleared the diaphragm from the missile and ensured the back-blast area was cleared. There was a brief silence as Sanchez pulled the trigger, then the guided projectile blasted down range for a direct hit.

"I was nervous, but after the initial jolt of the launch it guided

easy. The TOW system has a high probability of a first-shot kill." He admitted.

"The rounds are designed to produce massive heat," said Cpl John Marple, another gunner in 1st Platoon. "All it has to do is set off the ammunition or fuel in the vehicle to blow it up."

The 23-year-old San Antonio native, envisioned one problem concerning the TOW system. "The enemy can use the back blast of a round to zero in and attack a TOW unit," Marple said. "On the desert floor, this back blast can be seen a long way; therefore, the best coverage is firing from the mountains."

"The TOW II with the night scope is useful both day and night. Since it only picks up heat, a gunner can locate an enemy vehicle through a smoke screen or during bad weather," Marple said. "The scope will register anything that produces heat-then the gunner can blast it."

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAYDEN FINLEY LASERNA
Born on: Sept. 5, 2014
Born to: Carlo and Maria Laserna

LAILA BELLE TRUJILLO
Born on: Sept. 7, 2014
Born to: Marcos and Andrea Trujillo

LOGAN RYAN RICHARDSON
Born on: Sept. 10, 2014
Born to: Timothy and Kayla Richardson

ELSA YOLANDA YAÑEZ
Born on: Sept. 18, 2014
Born to: Dominic and Desiree Yañez

LIAM JOSEPH LANTZ
Born on: Sept. 19, 2014
Born to: Ethan and Kelsey Lantz

SOPHIA ISABELLA COPP
Born on: Sept. 22, 2014
Born to: Alysha and Chad Copp

SAMUEL JOSEPH COLE
Born on: Sept. 24, 2014
Born to: Ryan Cole and Samantha Arots-Cole

AVA HARPER SOLOP
Born on: Sept. 25, 2014
Born to: Sarah Beth and Harper Solop

ROBERT ALAN LANCASTER
Born on: Sept. 25, 2014
Born to: Jenna and Jason Lancaster

PENELOPE ROSE PEREZ
Born on: Sept. 25, 2014
Born to: Mennelly and Gabriel Perez

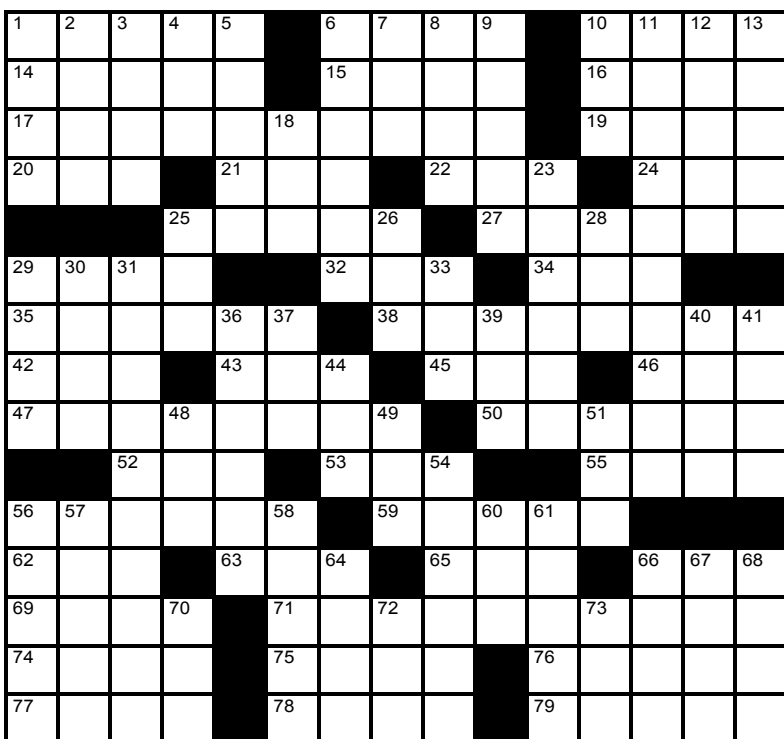
SILAS HARUKI HUBBARD
Born on: Sept. 26, 2014
Born to: Ayumi Hubbard-Hachimine and Jack Hubbard III

PENELOPE GRACE YOUNG
Born on: Sept. 27, 2014
Born to: Matthew and Dayle Young

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Cars for celebs
- 6 Cries loudly
- 10 Ride-sharing service
- 14 Expect
- 15 Ear cleaner
- 16 Bona ___ (real)
- 17 Sticky toy
- 19 Former GM make
- 20 Explosive letters
- 21 Hawaiian necklace
- 22 Baby boy, e.g.
- 24 Make up a story
- 25 Fixes
- 27 Maybe soon
- 29 Coke or Sprite
- 32 Unhappy
- 34 Use a shovel
- 35 Confuse
- 38 Sweet words to read
- 42 Long fish
- 43 Uncle ___
- 45 Health resort
- 46 "Now I understand!"
- 47 Made a burrito
- 50 Actor Christian ___
- 52 "What is it?"
- 53 Obtain
- 55 "The Heat ___"
- 56 Invented
- 59 \$1,000, in slang
- 62 Time of history
- 63 Pea holder
- 65 "First of all..."
- 66 Toothpaste brand
- 69 Uninteresting
- 71 Candy man
- 74 Having the power
- 75 Not good
- 76 Songs
- 77 Potato chip brand
- 78 Cincinnati team



79 Sirloin, e.g.

Down

- 1 Go the distance
- 2 Champion's shout
- 3 ___ liquor
- 4 Sesame or canola
- 5 Way
- 6 Sea creatures
- 7 Mel of baseball fame
- 8 Small amounts
- 9 Watch secretly
- 10 Sky sight
- 11 Males that go "maa"
- 12 Murphy or Money
- 13 Bowling alley button
- 18 Bic product
- 23 "We won't be doing business together!"

- 25 Atlas page
- 26 Actor Mineo
- 28 The ___ Man
- 29 Ending for mob or gang
- 30 Popular cookie
- 31 Waste time
- 33 Two, in Spanish
- 36 Exhausts
- 37 Tablet
- 39 Company execs
- 40 One of the Huxtable children
- 41 Make, as money
- 44 Coffee cup
- 48 Robert E. ___
- 49 Coat holder
- 51 First ___ kit
- 54 Mythical creatures

- 56 Gold, silver or bronze
- 57 Caribbean island
- 58 Button on a TV
- 60 Whatever number of
- 61 Slimy creatures
- 64 Jump into a pool, maybe
- 66 Actress Bancroft
- 67 Swedish furniture store
- 68 Part of a Halloween costume
- 70 "___ Miserables"
- 72 Tupperware top
- 73 Not safe, in baseball

SUDOKU

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Last week's solutions

R	O	C	K	C	A	P	E	F	A	C	E	S	8	7	1	9	6	2	4	3	5		
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 - Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
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- In Twentynine Palms:**
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 - 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

Ruthiea Sacramento, CA. Lance Cpl., 20

JOHNSON

LANCE CPL. RUTHIEA REBECCA RASHAWN JOHNSON HAS BEEN IN THE MARINE CORPS FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS AND PLANS ON PURSUING A CAREER IN MUSIC WHEN SHE GETS OUT. SHE DRAWS HER MUSICAL INSPIRATION FROM ARTISTS SUCH AS MISSY ELLIOT AND LAURYN HILL.

> **I wrote a lot** of poetry when I was younger. My mom has all the poems that I've ever written; she always encouraged me to go with it. My little sister would always ask me to write her a song. My older siblings are grown so they didn't live with us but they were always supportive of everything that I did.

> **It was just** a school project at first.

> **In my junior year of high school**, I was in this media class and my teacher had equipment to record on. I was doing a project for this contest, so I used my imagination and came up with this song. I created the beat and I won first place. From that point, I started writing random songs.

> **My first song** was about equality. To me, it had a message because back then I never used profanity in my music. I wanted people to get the message without me having to get angry or express myself in that type of way.

> **A lot of my music** was about my life, situations I'd been in or situations I'd seen my friends go through.

> **I make all my beats**. At first, they were horrible. Then my teacher showed me some things and I thought, 'I don't like his idea that much.' Yeah it's cool, but I want it to be my own.

> **I still write**. I pick and choose beats from YouTube because I don't have a laptop to create my own but I still write songs to them.

> **My mood impacts my words**; people around me could impact my words. Life impacts my words. I could read a story and want to write about it. It's kind of crazy how my mind works, it's the little things. It's the character of the person I respect, that's where my writing comes from.

> **I listen to all types of music**. I listen to rap, country, rock, gospel, I listen to everything. My favorite type of music would have to be old-school rap.

> **They actually are speaking** about life and it's real. It's not about money or sex or cars. They're saying you made me feel this type of way, this is how I feel and I'm going to express this through a song. Or I went through this as a kid but it doesn't matter because I'm here now and I'm making music for people who haven't made it yet. Stuff like that inspires me, it motivates me.

> **A lot of my music** is old and soulful. I like to chill, I think a lot. I use my brain a lot because I write a lot.

> **I'm in college**. I'm learning about music history and how to mix things. Kind of like a producer type stuff.

> **I love basketball**. I played basketball from the time I was in elementary school all the way up until middle school and high school. I was a starter all four years of my high school basketball team.

> **I'm a point guard** ... can't touch me from the three point line.

> **With me being in school** and being in the Marine Corps, it motivates me a little bit more to study harder or to actually go on and do my classes.

> **Music and writing**, all the togetherness of it, is my safe zone. It is my golden era.

> **In the Marine Corps**, if you want something you have to work for it. Nothing is given, everything is earned. What the Marine Corps has taught me so far is if I want to pursue something, I have to go get it myself.

> **If I look back 20 years from now** on my life and I get my music degree, I know that was my golden era because, I did that.

Interviewed by : Pfc. Medina Ayala-lo



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Students benefit from

STORY BY PFC. JULIO MCGRAW

School districts provide programs and purchase supplies for their schools with funding provided by local property taxes and business taxes. For some school districts, it poses a challenge to meet the No Child Left Behind Act because of boundaries that encroach into federally owned land that is exempt from federal and state tax.

In 1950, a federal program known as Federal Impact Aid was created to assist local school districts who have lost property tax revenue due to tax-exempt federal property and enrollment of federally connected children including children living on Native American reservations.

“Essentially, the program reimburses schools for money lost due to no property tax paid by families that live on base, or federally owned land,” said Thomas Cruz, Combat Center school liaison. “It provides the schools with the funding they need to meet the educational needs of its students.”

Funding for this program is not automatic. In order for a school to receive funding, 20 percent of the students going to the schools in the district must prove they’re federally connected.

“It is incredibly important for parents to sign and return these applications,” said Tom Baumgarten, Interim School Superintendent, Morongo Unified School District.

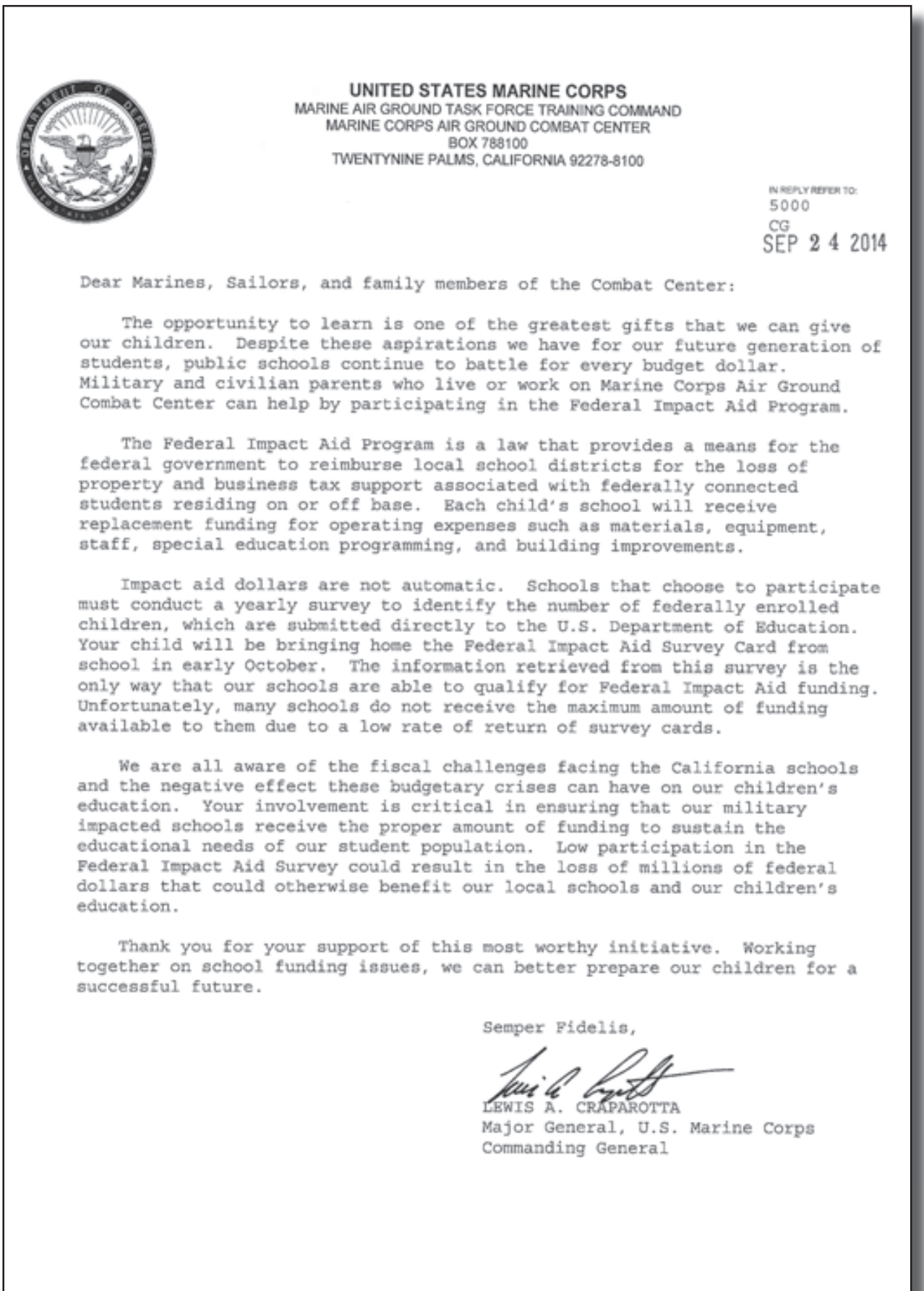
Locally, families living in the Combat Center, civilian employees working for the federal government including those at Joshua Tree National Park, and families living on Native American reservations must fill out an application for this program.

Starting in October, applications will be sent home with children in the Morongo Basin Unified School District for parents to fill out. Applications are not due until Jan. 31, 2015 but it is requested that parents return them as soon as possible.

“The funding goes into a unit fund for the district,” Baumgarten said. “Those funds are then used for a variety of programs that include maintaining facilities and providing students with different academic courses.”

In order to continue providing students of the Morongo Basin Unified School District with the education and resources they deserve, full participation is paramount.

For more information on the Federal Impact Aid program, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/impactaid/whatisa.html>.



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m Federal Impact Aid

School: _____
MORONGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FEDERAL SURVEY as of 10/01/2014

A. Student Data:
 Student Name (Last, First, Middle): _____ Grade: _____ Birth Date: _____
 Student's PHYSICAL Address on 10/01/2014: _____
Street Number and Name City

Is student's PHYSICAL address on Federal Property?
 No Federal Property Full address if different than above
 Yes Location (i.e. MCAGCC or JINP)

AND/OR B. MILITARY Parent/Guardian Employment Data:
 Was either parent or guardian with whom student resides on ACTIVE DUTY in the Uniformed Services on 10/01/14?
 No Yes Branch: _____
 Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Rank: _____
 _____ Unit: _____

Complete if both parents/guardians with whom the student resides is on Active Duty in the Uniformed Services on 10/01/14.
 No Yes Branch: _____
 Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Rank: _____
 _____ Unit: _____

B. CIVILIAN Parent/Guardian Employment Data:
 Was either parent or guardian with whom student resides employed on Federal Property on 10/1/2014?
 No Federal Property Location Full Street Address of Employment Location (where you report to work on a regular basis)
 Yes MCAGCC Civil Service MCAGCC MGS JINP Tonise Rock Casino Other: _____

The employer's name (Dept of Interior, contractor's business name, etc...) and address are also required.
 Employer Name: _____ Employer Address: _____
 _____ Street # & Name
 _____ City, State Zip

***** REQUIRED *****
 C. I certify that the above information is correct as of 10/01/2014.
 Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

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A.M.	P.M.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	RTV CODE

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SAT - NOV 8

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 PHILLIP PHILLIPS SAT - DEC 6
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Finding Your Voice to Report Domestic Violence

Domestic violence and abuse are used for one purpose and one purpose only: to gain and maintain total control over you. An abuser doesn't "play fair." Abusers use fear, guilt, shame, and intimidation to wear you down and keep you under his or her thumb. Your abuser may also threaten you, hurt you, or hurt those around you.

Domestic violence and abuse does not discriminate. It happens among heterosexual couples and in same-sex partnerships. It occurs within all age ranges, ethnic backgrounds, and economic levels. And while women are more commonly victimized, men are also abused—especially verbally and emotionally, although sometimes even physically as well. The bottom line is that abusive behavior is never acceptable, whether it's coming from a man, a woman, a teenager, or an older adult. You deserve to feel valued, respected, and safe.

Recognizing abuse is the first step to getting help

Domestic abuse often escalates from threats and verbal abuse to violence. And while physical injury may be the most obvious danger, the emotional and psychological consequences of domestic abuse are also severe. Emotionally abu-

sive relationships can destroy your self-worth, lead to anxiety and depression, and make you feel helpless and alone. No one should have to endure this kind of pain—and your first step to breaking free is recognizing that your situation is abusive. Once you acknowledge the reality of the abusive situation, then you can get the help you need.

Signs of an abusive relationship

There are many signs of an abusive relationship. The most telling sign is fear of your partner. If you feel like you have to walk on eggshells around your partner—constantly watching what you say and do in order to avoid a blow-up—chances are your relationship is unhealthy and abusive. Other signs that you may be in an abusive relationship include a partner who belittles you or tries to control you, and feelings of self-loathing, helplessness, and desperation.

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.

For further information please contact the Family Advocacy Program at 760-830-6345.



To determine whether your relationship is abusive, answer the questions below. The more "yes" answers, the more likely it is that you're in an abusive relationship.

SIGNS THAT YOU'RE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Do you:

- Feel afraid of your partner much of the time?
- Avoid certain topics out of fear of angering your partner?
- Feel that you can't do anything right for your partner?
- Feel emotionally numb or helpless?
- Wonder if you're the one who is crazy?
- Believe that you deserve to be hurt or mistreated?

Does your partner:

- Humiliate or yell at you?
- Criticize you and put you down?
- Treat you so badly that you're embarrassed for your friends or family to see?
- Ignore or put down your opinions or accomplishments?
- Blame you for their own abusive behavior?
- See you as property or a sex object, rather than as a person?
- Have a bad and unpredictable temper?
- Act excessively jealous and possessive?
- Hurt you, or threaten to hurt or kill you?
- Control where you go or what you do?
- Threaten to take your children away or harm them?
- Keep you from seeing your friends or family?
- Threaten to commit suicide if you leave?
- Limit your access to money, the phone, or the car?
- Force you to have sex?
- Limit your access to money, the phone, or the car?
- Destroy your belongings?
- Constantly check up on you?

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Combat Logistics Battalion 7 Marines rebuild obstacle course



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 work together to lift a log during the renovation of an obstacle course near the East Gym, Sept. 29.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Approximately 15 Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 are in the process of renovating the obstacle course near the East Gym aboard the Combat Center, Sept. 29. Restoration of the course began two weeks ago. The course, which was built in the late 1950s, is entirely made of wood and was in need of repair due to wear and tear.

"It's extremely important just to keep everything up-to-date. You don't want something being too flimsy or unsafe," said 1st Lt. Patrick Burns, combat engineer, CLB-7. "Especially something like this, that Marines are going over and under multiple times, you don't want anyone getting hurt. This renovation is really for safety and maintaining the Combat Center."

The work on the course is projected to end in six weeks. The re-building of the course is part of an initiative to provide Marines with a functional training environment.

"This is important for Marines because this is one of the first things they did back in boot camp," said Lance Cpl. Loreto T. Mendoza Jr., combat engineer, CLB-7. "You would have to do it as a test to see if you can qualify to do a lot of physical fitness that Marines do. It's pretty

much the basics of what we started off with."

The base is also managing to preserve resources by having Marines reconstruct the course.

"It looks like we're actually going to end up saving the government about \$50,000 from not contracting this out," Burns said. "Just by having the Marines doing the work, we're saving the government a lot of money."

The restoration of the course will provide an excellent training platform for the Marines who will utilize it, but also the Marines who are building it. That's not to say the renovations have gone off without a hitch.

"We've had a couple of learning experiences. Just how to cut the logs and how to use different types of equipment to get them to the correct dimensions," Burns said. "A lot of these Marines haven't been doing a lot of wood-working operations since we've been in Afghanistan."

Now that the course is being renovated, it won't present a hazard or hinder training.

"It's for the Marine's training," Mendoza said. "They get to do extra physical training, they couldn't do before because of how destroyed the course was. We're just fixing it up, making it good again."



Cpl. William Hamilton, combat engineer, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, takes direction from Cpl. Corey Worobi, combat engineer, CLB-7 while sawing a log during the renovation of the obstacle course near the East Gym, Sept. 29. The use of Marines for the project is expected to save the government approximately \$50,000.



Cpl. Brandon Wilson, combat engineer, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, levels a post during the renovation of an obstacle course by the East Gym, Sept. 29. The project began two weeks ago and is expected to end sometime next month.

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Combat Center Marines, sailors tackle for title

Staff Sgt. Christopher Williams, receiver, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, runs out for a pass during a football game at Felix Field, Wednesday. On Dec. 6, 2014, the team representing the Combat Center is scheduled to travel to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to play in a championship game titled "Best of the West."

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. MCGRAW

Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 and 1st Tank Battalion played into a setting sun in an intramural tackle football league game at Felix Field, Wednesday.

CLB-7 trailed 1st Tanks until the fourth quarter when they scored a touchdown and won with a final score of 13-12.

Marine Corps Community Services, Sports Division, coordinated the intramural league and provided the unit teams with the necessary gear to play.

"We hold an intramural football league every year," said George Schadegg, tackle football coordinator.

"This year we have four teams."

Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, CLB-7, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, and 1st Tanks are the four units competing in the league.

According to Schadegg, there is no fee to join the tackle football league and Marines and sailors who are not part of the units playing can still join any of the teams. Among the varied units, there are service members of various ranks and ages taking the field for some full contact fun.

"It's something to wind down from daily Marine Corps and work stress," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Williams, receiver, CLB-7. "I'm 30 years old, and I still play for the love of the game."

The four teams are each scheduled to play nine games this season. CLB-7 has a record of 5-0, 1st Tanks has a record of 0-5, MWSS 374 has a record of 1-4, MCCES has a record of 4-1. At the end of the season, an all-star team will be selected from players from all teams in the league.

The Combat Center team will compete against Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's championship team for the title "Best of the West" at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The game is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2014.

You can watch regular season games every Wednesday night at Felix Field starting at 6 p.m. For more information call MCCS Sports at (760) 830-830-6857.



Three Marines from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School football team tackle a Marine from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 during a football game at Felix Field, Wednesday. Players of various ages and ranks, keep returning to play in the league because of their love for football.



Gunnery Sgt. Micheal A. Ramirez, defensive coach, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, congratulates his team after their victory over 1st Tank Battalion at Felix Field, Wednesday. The four teams play in an effort to finish with the best record and advance to the "Best of the West" game against Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's team, scheduled for Dec. 6, 2014.

Sgt. Daniel Hayes, receiver, 1st Tank Battalion, runs a route for a pass during a football game at Felix Field, Wednesday. Marines from the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, and 1st Tanks participated in games that night.



Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

The annual Family Fall Festival is scheduled to be held at Del Valle Field at 5 p.m. on Oct. 24. The festival will have games, treats and more for Combat Center patrons and families to enjoy.

The Combat Center Library is holding a Pumpkin Decorating Contest of non-carved pumpkins from Oct. 1-22 for a chance to win a prize. Submissions are still being accepted.

The Commanding General's Golf Tournament is scheduled to be hosted at Deserts Wind Golf Course, Oct. 17. Events for the tournament day begin at 7:30 a.m.

The Desert Winds Golf Course is holding a 5 Kilometer Fun Run in support of Red Ribbon Week on Oct. 23 starting at 8 a.m. Red Ribbon Week raises awareness of drug prevention across America.

A health and wellness fair is being held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 22 at the West Gym. The fair will have booths, displays and other demonstrations to raise awareness about health.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Oct. 10

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

Saturday, Oct. 11

10:30 a.m. – Despicable Me, PG
 12:30 p.m. – When the Game Stands Tall, PG
 3 p.m. – The November Man, R
 5:30 p.m. – Chef, R
 8:30 p.m. – As Above, So Below, R
 11 p.m. – The Identical, PG

Sunday, Oct. 12

12:30 p.m. – The November Man, R
 2:30 p.m. – Guardians of the Galaxy, PG-13
 5 p.m. – Fury, R (Advance Screening)
 8 p.m. – As Above, So Below, R

Monday, Oct. 13

1 p.m. – No Good Deed, PG-13
 3 p.m. – Dolphin Tale 2, PG

Tuesday, Oct. 14

6 p.m. – The Identical, PG

Wednesday, Oct. 15

5 p.m. – When the Game Stands Tall, PG
 7:30 p.m. – As Above, So Below, R

Thursday, Oct. 16

5 p.m. – If I Stay, PG
 7:30 p.m. – The November Man, R

Friday, Oct. 17

5 p.m. – Forrest Gump, PG-13
 8 p.m. – Chef, R
 10:30 p.m. – As Above, So Below, R



Liam Neeson takes a stroll on the Big Apple's dark & seedy side

NEIL POND

"A Walk Among The Tombstones"

Starring Liam Neeson & Dan Stevens
 Directed by Scott Frank
 R, 113 min.

"Behind you! Behind you!!!" the lady seated beside me urgently whispered to the screen, to Liam Neeson's character, as unseen danger crept toward him from the shadows.

At this stage of his career, Neeson is fairly accustomed to threats in the shadows—and often it's him. At 62, he has emerged as one of Hollywood's leading "older" action stars, playing weathered, well-worn men well-versed in covert ops, and more extreme activities when needed, in the successful three-movie Taken franchise and the recent high-in-the-sky airplane drama Non-Stop.

In the new thriller-chiller A Walk Among the Tombstones, based on a novel by popular crime-mystery writer Lawrence Sanders, he's Matt Scudder, a rumples, crumpled New York City ex-cop loner on the trail of two pervs plucking women off the streets and subjecting them to unspeakable horrors. The title helps set the creepy stage right off the bat, and the opening credits—which play over a "dreamy" scene that you slowly realize is actually a nightmare—hits you like a punch to the gut. The grim atmosphere is orchestrated by cinematographer Mihai Malaimare Jr., who shoots the grungy New York locations in muted, washed-out tones and smoky pastels that match Scudder's bleak, bleached emotions, drained of color and joy after all that he's seen...and done.

The story is set in 1999, which also plays into the

look of the movie—it was a time before much of the Big Apple's modern urban-renewal polishing, and it burrows into the city's shabbier side streets and seedier locations to give real-life dimensions to its down-and-out drama. Scudder's a recovering alcoholic, which also contributes to the theme of brokenness—and also the hopeful idea of working toward reparation.

Brian "Astro" Bradley plays a homeless teen—and aspiring detective—who becomes Scudder's tag-along sidekick. Dan Stevens (Matthew Crawley on Downton Abbey) is a prosperous heroin trafficker whose wife's kidnapping draws Scudder down an ever-darkening trail that ultimately leads him to the tombstones of the title.

This is a movie about violent, twisted people, although much of the violence is left to the imagination rather than depicted. Most of the story is about the process, the escalating cat-and-mouse game, the "procedural" that will be familiar to anyone who watches TV shows like CSI, Law and Order or Criminal Minds. But that doesn't make it any less unsettling, especially when one of the victims is a 13-year-old girl, or when the camera lingers on a kidnapper fondling the tools of his torture trade, or asking one of his terrified, bound captives a question that should make the skin crawl on any woman, of any age.

"People are afraid of all the wrong things," says the movie's tagline. The wrong things, it suggests, are "scary" but benign places, like cemeteries, or the fear of death. The true terrors, and the real monsters, it so chillingly reminds us, can be ordinary-looking people in a cargo van cruising up and down the street, in a house next door—or sneaking up from the shadows right now, behind you, behind you!

The Combat Center has its own YouTube channel
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Dracula Untold (PG13)
 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

Alexander & The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day (PG)
 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

Annabelle (R)
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