

Marines complete operations in Afghanistan, depart Helmand province



STAFF SGT. JOHN JACKSON

Marines and sailors with Marine Expeditionary Brigade – Afghanistan load onto a KC-130 aircraft on the Camp Bastion flightline, Monday. The Marine Corps ended its mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, the day prior and all Marines, sailors and service members from the United Kingdom withdrew from southwestern Afghanistan.

BY 1ST LT. SKYE MARTIN

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The final United States Marine Corps command and service members from the United Kingdom have departed Regional Command (Southwest) in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Monday.

The lift-off followed an End of Operations ceremony held at the former command post of Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Afghanistan, aboard Camp Leatherneck, signifying the transfer of Camps Bastion and Leatherneck to the control of the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps. Regional Command (Southwest) is the first of the International Security Assistance Force commands to trans-

See **DEPART** page A6



STAFF SGT. JOHN JACKSON

Marine Corps and Royal Air Force helicopters fly in formation after departing Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Oct. 27. The Marine Corps ended operations in Helmand province and transferred the base to the Afghan National Army.

Combat Center hosts 10th Annual CAX for Spouses

BY PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

An early morning breeze blows and people rise as the Marines begin to march across the field. When the music stops, everyone takes their seats. The Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program held its 10th Annual Combined Arms Exercise for spouses at Felix Field, Oct. 23, 2014.

CAX for Spouses is unique to this base and was started in 2004 by Combat Center volunteers. At the time of its conception, the Integrated Training Exercise, which is the final training exercise that a unit conducts before it deploys, was known as the

Combined Arms Exercise. The L.I.N.K.S. volunteers thought it could benefit the families to have a CAX of its own.

“Our base is the premiere training base [of the Marine Corps],” said Amber Bilderain, L.I.N.K.S. program manager. “The Marines who are deploying overseas, will come here to prepare for their deployment.”

During CAX for Spouses, participants are afforded the opportunity to witness a colors ceremony, compete in a modified Combat Fitness Test and gain knowledge on the Marine Corps and how it maintains combat readiness.

“Our Marines and sail-

See **CAX** page A6



PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Amber Bilderain, Life, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program manager, shows participants the Headquarters Battalion colors during the Combined Arms Exercise for Spouses at Felix Field, Oct. 23. During the event, spouses received classes on Marine Corps traditions, customs and courtesies, as well as rank structure.

Pink walk takes steps to fight breast cancer

BY PFC. THOMAS MUDD

Sounds of laughter and music filled the air as people gathered at the Felix Field track. Children played in bounce houses while participants waited, donning pink attire, ready for the festivities to begin at the first Combat Center Pink Walk for breast cancer awareness.

The Pink Walk was held at Felix Field aboard the Combat Center, Oct. 24. The walk was a community event held to raise awareness in October, which is breast cancer awareness month.

“We are doing a community-building event,” said Eileen Murray, president of the Officers’ Spouses Club. “We did this to get people

out here and have fun.”

The OSC hosted the Pink Walk to give out information to the community about breast cancer and technology coming to the community.

“[We wanted] to let people know about programs from the hospital and that there are new mammography machines that will be closer to the community,” said Cherie Lewis, Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group unit representative, OSC.

The Pink Walk was created because several people in the Combat Center community have had personal experiences with breast cancer.

“We have people in the community that have sur-

See **WALK** page A6



PFC. THOMAS MUDD

Participants begin the Pink walk to raise awareness at Felix Field, Oct. 24. The campaign was held to raise awareness that one in every eight women may contract breast cancer.

Marine Corps’ Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans vote for the week on the best photograph, posted on the Corps’ Facebook page. This weeks top shot comes from Cpl. Laura Raga.



PFC. THOMAS MUDD

Eileen Murray, president of the Officers’ Spouses Club, signs the names of the people she is walking in honor of during the Pink Walk to raise breast cancer awareness, at Felix Field, Oct. 24. Murray hopes the Pink Walk will continue and grow long after she has stepped down as president.



You voted and this week’s Corps Top Shot comes from Cpl. Laura Raga. She captured the photo while a machine gunner with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit was firing an M240B machine gun during a gunners qualification exercise aboard the USS Makin Island, Oct. 19.

CAX, from A1

ors are trained to understand the Marine Corps, so they get all the information they need," Bilderain said. "But as family members, you're often just thrown into the mix. If you're new to the area, or even new to the Marine Corps, it can be overwhelming. This is a great training package for them to understand the Marine Corps but also get a good appreciation for a day-in-the-life."

Some of the activities provided during the event included lessons in Marine

Corps history and tradition, as well as rank structure and customs and courtesies. Being able to experience a variety of activities gave the spouses a glimpse into what pre-deployment training is like for their Marine.

"It allows the spouses to get a perspective of exactly what their husbands do on an everyday basis," said Lance Cpl. Jesus Anselmo Batista, student, Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School. "From the type of training they go through, to how to

prepare for deployments."

L.I.N.K.S. also hosts CAX for kids, which is a semi-annual event that takes place once in the spring and again in the fall. If a spouse or family member is unable to make it to these events there are monthly classroom sessions hosted by L.I.N.K.S., which can help provide loved ones with an introduction to the community and the Marine Corps.

For more information on how to participate call (760) 830-1696.



STAFF SGT. JOHN JACKSON

Major Gen. Sayed Malouk, the commander of the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps, speaks with one of his soldiers as he assumes watch on a tower of the Camp Leatherneck perimeter, Monday. The United States Marine Corps ended their operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan, and transferred the base to the ANA.

DEPART, from A1

fer authority to the Afghan National Security Forces as ISAF moves toward the Resolute Support Mission.

During the past year, six additional nations ended their operations in RC(SW), including Bosnia, Estonia, Denmark, Georgia, Jordan and Tonga.

"This transfer is a sign of progress. It's not about the coalition. It is really about the Afghans and

what they have achieved over the last 13 years. What they have done here is truly significant," said Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, Commander, Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Afghanistan.

During his speech, Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, commander of ISAF Joint Command, stated, "We lift off confident in the Afghans' ability to secure the region. The mission has been complex, difficult and dangerous. Everyone has made tremendous sacrifices—but those sacrifices have not been in vain."

ISAF Commander General Joseph Campbell stat-

ed, "Helmand, as you know, has been a very, very tough area. We feel very confident with the Afghan security forces as they continue to grow in their capacity and they continue to work better between the police and the army."

Following the completion of the tactical withdrawal from Camp Bastion and Leatherneck, the Marines, sailors and British service members flew to Kandahar Airfield where they will complete their deployment prior to returning to the United States and the United Kingdom during the coming weeks.

WALK, from A1

vived, or are going through breast cancer," said Julie Azua, Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group unit representative, OSC. "I think because it was close to home we wanted to bring more awareness to the community."

Event participation was more than double the amount the OSC anticipated.

"We were expecting about 100 people to show up," Lewis said. "There were more than 200 people between volunteers and

participants."

OSC chooses a new president every year. Murray hopes the Pink Walk will continue and grow long after she has stepped down as president.

"I will pass it one to my successor and hopefully they will," said Murray. "I would like to see it turn into a fundraiser for breast cancer research."

For more information on OSC events and how to help in the fight against breast cancer, please email cindym196@msn.com.



PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Spouses begin the first portion of their modified Combat Fitness Test during the Combined Arms Exercise for Spouses at Felix Field, Oct. 23. Spouses were able to witness a colors ceremony and sample Meals Ready-to-Eat during the event.

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Career Corner

Don't walk a way from a good thing

BY GUNNERY SGT. M. E. SCHMIDT

Many Marines, especially the younger ones, fail to grasp the real significance and value of Marine Corps retirement. Since we do not have to make a contribution to our retirement fund, as so many civilians do, we tend to overlook its true value.

In order for a civilian to retire as we can in the Corps after a 20 year period, they would have to be able to either invest heavily each month through insurance or have to invest when he retires a large sum of money to guarantee him a monthly income.

First lets look at the civilian who wants to quit work after 20 years compared to a Marine going out on twenty, who would be a Gunnery Sgt. He will draw a check of \$175.00 monthly. To do the same as a civilian, this is his cost: Monthly: \$138.60, annually: \$1,663.20. Total cost over 30 years: \$81, 496.80

To do the same after retirement, he would need \$99,000.00 to invest at 4%.

Not many young men today can set aside or save such sums of money toward retirement plans. After taxes, family expenses, and numerous other payments and deductions form the average civilians pay, not much is left to invest in retirement.

So his answer to retirement is to work longer, at least to age 60, if he lives that long, pay a small amount into Social Security, and then retire on less, and possibly not even enjoy his retirement because of worry. For our Marine, its just 180 degrees the other way: work less years, retire at age 38 to 48, pay nothing for his retirement, and live longer to enjoy it.

Someone said that you can't buy happiness in dollars and cents but through honorable and faithful service United States Marines, we can make a down payment on our future happiness. It's a good career, stay with it.

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 "Want a lift?"
 - 6 Cherry's center
 - 9 Different
 - 14 Miss Scarlett's surname
 - 15 Yoko ____
 - 16 Portland's state
 - 17 Healthy restaurant item
 - 19 South American mountain range
 - 20 iPod choice
 - 21 Month after Mar.
 - 23 Ambulance worker, for short
 - 24 Once in a long while
 - 27 Peeper
 - 28 Forks over the cash
 - 29 Part of the 27-Across
 - 30 Wise bird
 - 32 Use a doorknob
 - 34 Zeus or Poseidon
 - 35 Sad sound
 - 37 Gold, silver or bronze
 - 40 Find a place for
 - 41 Writing utensil
 - 42 Mischief maker
 - 44 ____-cone
 - 45 Sauce made with pine nuts
 - 47 Greek wraps
 - 49 Driving force
 - 50 Head toppers
 - 52 Flightless bird
 - 53 Irish person, e.g.
 - 54 Fashion's Christian ____
 - 56 Place
 - 58 Slithering creatures
 - 60 Paintings and such
 - 61 Butter amount
 - 62 "The Heat ____"
 - 63 ____ Carta
 - 65 Region of Virginia
 - 70 The same
 - 71 New Year's ____

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- 72 One-named English pop star
- 73 Does some crooning
- 74 Actor Stephen
- 75 Pulls (on)
- Down**
- 1 Syllables from santa
- 2 "____ believe in yesterday"
- 3 Tablet
- 4 Cara and Dunne
- 5 ____ passages
- 6 Game on horseback
- 7 Celeb chef ____ Garten
- 8 Tomorrow's yesterday
- 9 Actor Sharif
- 10 Lay out at the beach
- 11 Kids' game
- 12 Foe
- 13 Takes a breather
- 18 Whoever
- 22 Animal in the house
- 24 Put together, as a contraption
- 25 Came up
- 26 Take the seat next to the driver
- 27 Christmas worker
- 28 Not post-
- 31 Piece of chicken
- 33 Baseball game callers
- 35 Catch sight of
- 36 Like some handshakes
- 38 Viewpoint
- 39 Plunders
- 43 Chocolate dessert
- 46 ____ and feather
- 48 Up to now
- 51 Hotel amenity, often
- 53 It's north of the U.S.
- 54 Members of the nobility
- 55 Person from Baghdad
- 57 Complete and total
- 59 "That's impossible!"
- 61 Buddies
- 62 Thought
- 64 Old horse
- 66 "____ got it!"
- 67 Perfect score
- 68 Antlered animal
- 69 Hi-____ screen

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Last week's solutions

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Kaleigh Philadelphia, PA. lithographer, Combat Camera, Pfc., Age 20

MONASTERO-STEM

> **Not many people** where I lived hunted. The only time I did was when I visited my grandfather's house in the wooded areas.

> **I would bring my friends** with me sometimes and people are quick to judge because they don't do it on a regular basis but experiencing that taught me to not care what anyone thought about me and just be independent.

> **Hunting was also great** because it gives you an opportunity to reflect and have time to yourself. You can be sitting in a tree stand for six hours waiting for a good opportunity to get something and that time becomes very relaxing.

> **My dad was really big into Star Wars** when it was released. That hobby rubbed off on me and old comic books my father collected as a kid were given to me. One day he knocked on the door and he gave them to me as a gift and all I could say was 'Oh my God.' I never opened them because I want their condition to be intact.

> **I didn't think my love** for Star Wars would go this far. I would never do it, but if I were to sell all my stuff, I could make a good bit of money.

> **People don't expect it.** I enjoy going to the mall and finding really cool Star Wars stuff instead of doing normal 'shopping.'

> **I did cheerleading** for many years and it became a big passion for me.

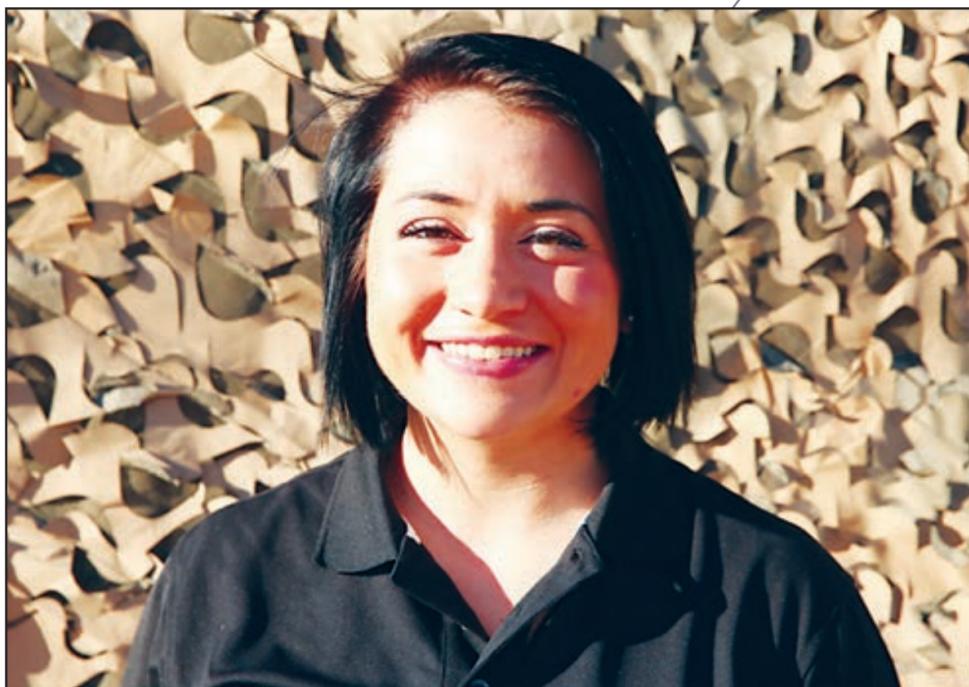
> **My favorite part** of cheerleading was tumbling. It was a scary experience but having that fear and overcoming it was a great feeling. Once you get through a section and people see what you worked hard on and ask, 'How did you do that?' it's a satisfying moment.

> **I was one of** the team members who did the tossing and although it may look easy, performing at that level was dangerous. I've been injured so many times whether it was getting kicked in the face or breaking my ankle.

> **If there was even** a slight change in movement from the person being tossed, you can get clocked by a foot or leg.

> **A big thing about it** was trust. A lot of girls were scared they were going to get hit in the face when they tossed the 'flyer,' but you have to know they are going to stay controlled and not kick you while the flyer has to know that you're going to do whatever it takes to catch them.

INTERVIEWED BY CPL. CHARLES SANTAMARIA



> **I remember a time** when I was injured after a toss. On any given toss, the flyer can go upwards of 30 feet in the air. As the flyer came down on this practice and landed in my arms she threw her head back on landing and busted my nose open. I began bleeding and ended up with two black eyes the next couple of weeks. It wasn't her fault and it happens so I sort of laughed about it and kept training.

> **My team would** qualify for the world-wide championships and compete against about 50 other international teams in Florida.

> **Teams also had** to qualify each year with a two-minute routine performed in front of a panel of judges. The organization in charge of the championships would scout the teams eligible to try out by going to the big competitions and seeing the best competitors.

> **The scariest experience** I ever went through was when I was practicing a back flip and a different coach was assigned to me for that day. It may not seem like a big deal but I grew a trust with my normal coach and having someone else spotting me freaked me out. On the attempt I fell on my neck and so many different emotions and thoughts rushed through my head. I was fine but all I could think of was what could have happened.

> **The Marine Corps** has shown me a bond between Marines that is like family. I did cheerleading for a majority of my life and in that time my team became my family. In that way the Marine Corps reminds me of that important time in my life.

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PFC. MONASTERO-STEM WOULD GO TO HER GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE IN THE SURROUNDING WOODED AREAS OF PHILADELPHIA DURING HUNTING SEASON. SHE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING WITH THE STATE ALL-STARS OF PENNSYLVANIA ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL FOR NINE YEARS. MONASTERO ALSO GREW UP COLLECTING STAR WARS MEMORABILIA, A HOBBY THAT WAS PASSED DOWN TO HER FROM HER FATHER.

NOT SO SPOOKY SPOOKTACULAR HOSTED ABOARD COMBAT CENTER



PHOTOS BY PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

Children feel the assorted 'human' parts in a bowl while Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students volunteer during the Not So Spooky Spooktacular at the Combat Center Library, Oct. 23.

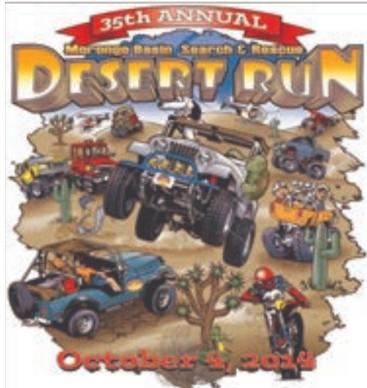


Carter Powell, son of 1st Lt. Rich Powell, feels the assorted 'human' parts in bowls during the Not So Spooky Spooktacular at the Combat Center Library, Oct. 23. The event was open to all ages.

Children look for toys in the 'Ghost Trail' during the Not So Spooky Spooktacular at the Combat Center Library, Oct. 23. The library was transformed into a haunted house with a spooky maze and spooky games.



Children feel the assorted 'human' parts in a bowl while Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School students volunteer during the Not So Spooky Spooktacular at the Combat Center Library, Oct. 23.



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Send your stories and photos to 56445 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, CA 92284.
Email them to editor@hidesertstar.com.

For information or help, call Stacy Moore at (760) 365-3725, Ext. 238.

Red Ribbon Week takes first strides with 5K

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. THOMAS MUDD



Staff Sgt. Shane Makary, ordnance maintenance platoon sergeant, Combat Logistics Battalion 13, finishes the Red Ribbon Week 5K race with a time of 19 minutes and 58 seconds at Desert Winds Golf Course, Oct. 23. Makary came in second place overall.



Staff Sgt. Shane Makary, ordnance maintenance platoon sergeant, Combat Logistics Battalion 13, receives a trophy for coming in second place during the Red Ribbon Week 5K race at Desert Winds Golf Course, Oct. 23.



Participants begin the Red Ribbon Week 5K race at Desert Winds Golf Course, Oct. 23. The race signified the beginning of Red Ribbon Week which raises drug abuse awareness.

Darren the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Lion diligently led the group of runners in some motivational stretches. The runners anxiously waited for the count down. 3 ... 2 ... 1: the siren blared and the crowd of runners launched from the starting line with each participant maneuvering their way through the pack.

The first Red Ribbon Week 5K run was held at the Desert Winds Golf Course, Oct. 23. Red Ribbon Week is a time when the nation promotes drug awareness and education for adults and children of this country.

"We are trying to commemorate Enrique Camarena, who represents Red Ribbon Week," said Joven Caguioa, drug abuse prevention, Marine Corps Community Services. "Every year between Oct. 23 and Oct. 31, the whole country pauses to reflect back on drug abuse."

Camarena was a U.S. Marine who joined the Calexico Police Department in Calexico, Calif., as a criminal investigator in 1970. In 1973, he started working as a narcotics investigator with the El Centro Police Department, where he stayed until 1974. That year, he joined the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Seven years later, he received orders to Mexico where he worked at the Guadalajara Resident Office. For four

and a half years, he worked on stopping marijuana and cocaine traffickers in Mexico. In 1985 he was kidnaped and killed.

"Red Ribbon Week is about Enrique Camarena who was a DEA agent that was killed in Mexico," said Michelle Godfrey, domestic violence prevention, MCCS. "It did not get national attention until [later that year] when First Lady Nancy Reagan declared 'America should be drug free.'"

The Red Ribbon Week campaign was not formalized until 1988, three years after Camarena's death.

Combat Center service members, Spouses, children, and MCCS employees participated in the race against drug use.

"They are trying to establish a drug free community," said Staff Sgt. Shane Makary, ordnance maintenance platoon sergeant, Combat Logistics Battalion 13. "I feel that [a drug-free community] is important. It will snowball into making the community better overall."

Godfrey and Caguioa plan to continue sponsoring Red Ribbon Week. Next year they hope to make the event larger and move from a five-kilometer race to a half marathon.

For more information in Red Ribbon Week or upcoming MCCS events, please call (760)-830-6344.



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Combat Center hosts annual Family Fall Festival



Children board a train at Del Valle Field during the Family Fall Festival, Oct. 24. Marine Corps Community Services' special events section took over the Family Fall Festival approximately four years ago and is the biggest event they host.



Christie Annabella Perez-Saldibar, one and a half, feeds a goat at the petting zoo section at Del Valle Field during the Family Fall Festival, Oct. 24. The event was hosted by Marine Corps Community Services to provide families with fun activities on base.



Olivia Jen-Charles, two, looks on as employees from Jolly Jumps Express Events give her a temporary tattoo at Del Valle Field during the Family Fall Festival, Oct. 24. The festival included mostly free events and activities. For the events that weren't free, families could purchase tickets at designated Marine Corps Community Services tables.

Children play a game of hockey at Del Valle Field during the Family Fall Festival, Oct. 24. The event is annual and on average, anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 people attend.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC. MEDINA AYALA-LO

The sun rests low in the sky as families gather at Del Valle Field. Across the field, miniature princesses, monsters, and superheroes gather for the festivities. Marine Corps Community Services held their annual Family Fall Festival, Oct. 24.

"As MCCS, our main goal is to provide the best for our Marines, sailors and their families," said Ranna Contreras, special events manager, MCCS. "We think it's really important to provide them with events and programs that will support them and really get them active in the community."

MCCS' special events section took over the Family Fall Festival approximately four years ago and is the biggest event they host. On average, anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 people attend each year. MCCS also receives donations from outside sponsors. This year the sponsors were United Services Automobile Association, American Friends of our Armed Forces and the National Hockey Leagues' L.A. Kings.

"It brings the community together," Contreras said. "We live in a really small town, so there are not many options out here during the fall. It's a great opportunity for kids to really enjoy a fall festival."

The festival included free events and activities that families could

participate in with tickets that could be purchased at designated MCCS tables. The activities at the event included a petting zoo, a hay ride, face painting, pony rides, crafts and a Jupiter Jump, which is a harness with bungee cords attached to two poles that allows participants to jump really high.

"It's a great opportunity for all ages, we really try to provide a variety," Contreras said. "We always try to gear it toward everybody."

The festival began at 5:00 p.m. and was open to all ages. Not only did families receive a chance to bond with one another, but it also gave Combat Center Marines the opportunity to volunteer at several stations throughout the festival.

"I love working at this base," said Lance Cpl. Niccolo Bonomo, recreation attendant, Single Marine Program. "The parents sacrifice so much for the Marine Corps. Some kids here might have parents that are deployed and it's just nice to give them something to take their mind off of it."

The Combat Center experiences the desert heat and atmosphere year-around. It's easy to forget the changing of seasons in Twentynine Palms but celebrations, like the Family Fall Festival, reminds patrons of the joy that comes from the fall season.

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TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt



This column is repeated for emphasis

I recently met two of the nicest men you could ever hope to meet and they live right here in the Morongo Basin! The more I get to know them the more impressed I am with their integrity, their love of people, and their desire to do good for others—all others. Here is their story:

Since 1976, when he taught German as a high school teacher in Colton Steve Kanold has been designing international tours and taking tens of thousands of travelers around the world—to 120 countries on all seven continents, at last count. Steve is president and founder of Adult Customized Tours, a company based in Palm Springs operated by him and his business partner, Lalo Alvarez. After residing in the Coachella Valley for 25 years, the two moved to Yucca Valley and commute a couple times a week to their office in the lower desert.

"We should have done it years ago," Lalo says, adding "The Hi-Desert is the best-kept secret. Friendly, interesting people, natural wonders, and it's close to everything."

The two established last year Travel Club of the Desert, which attracts hundreds of members who meet every month to hear travel and motivational experts speak, including our own Dr. Lou. There is no charge to join, and information can be downloaded from the company's website, HYPERLINK "http://www.act-tours.com" www.act-tours.com.

Kanold's advice to all: "Enjoy life. It has an expiration date."

This column sponsored by:

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List 10 words that rhyme with "bat."

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- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Some answers: at, brat, cat, fat, gnat, hat, mat, pat, rat, sat, spat, stat

Name That Bat

Each of the following is a type of bat. Fill in the blanks to name that bat.

- GR__A__ M__U__E-__AI__ED BAT
- E__ST__R__
HO__ES__OE
BAT
- S__O__TED BAT
- __A__ID BAT
- B__M__E__EE
BAT
- G__OS__-F__C__D
BAT
- B__S__AR__
F__Y__NG__OX

Answers:
1) Great mouse-tailed bat
2) Eastern horseshoe bat
3) Spotted bat
4) Pallid bat
5) Bumblebee bat
6) Ghost-faced bat
7) Bismarck flying fox



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A Marine color guard stands at parade rest in front of the Beirut Memorial in Jacksonville, N.C., during the Beirut Memorial Ceremony Oct. 23. The memorial, comprised of a granite wall etched with the names of those who died in the bombing at the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, stands as a testament to those that lost their lives and a reminder of the true cost of freedom.

THEY CAME IN PEACE:

A COMMUNITY REMEMBERS FALLEN DURING BEIRUT MEMORIAL CEREMONY

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. JAMES SMITH

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. - It's a place of serene peace, far removed in time and space from the events that gave it birth. But even three decades later, the single granite wall and surrounding gardens at the Beirut Memorial are filled with living memories.

On the morning of Oct 23, 1983, 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers lost their lives when a truck loaded with 2,000 pounds of explosives destroyed the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon.

They came as part of a multinational peacekeeping operation. The attack is considered one of the first shots in the war on terror.

"I am one of those Marines old enough to remember the attack," said Maj. Gen. Richard Simcock, the commanding general of 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force. "I remember the memorial service we had," continued Simcock, who was training at the time. "It was the first time I felt the loss of a comrade in arms. I remember thinking that the only thing that separated me from the lieutenants of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit, or the platoon commanders of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines was just a couple of months ... [They] had completed the same training I was just beginning."

Thirty-one years later, Simcock joined with veterans, families and community leaders from Jacksonville to reflect on what happened that day. They gathered before the single granite wall, partially broken at the center to symbolize the crumbling barracks where so many lost their lives. The words "They came in peace," are forever etched beside the statue of a single Marine.

"I've been continuously involved with this event since the 23rd of October, 1983," said Ronald Bower, a member of the Beirut Memorial Advisory Board. "I'm a history teacher, and one of the things about history is that it is a precursor to the future. If you don't remember your history, you

will be doomed to repeat it."

Similar gatherings happen every year in an attempt to remember that history and the sacrifice of fallen brothers. To this day, groups of Marines still visit the site as part of leadership courses or simply to pay their respects.

"Sacrifices such as those on 23 October 1983 are difficult to accept," acknowledged Simcock. "But the memory of those lost gives us strength and determination to win the long war in their honor. It clearly demonstrates to the world and to our enemies that U.S. Marines, even in the face of such sudden losses, will remain undaunted, that we will continue to hold the line, to fight and win."

Members of the Jacksonville community joined Simcock in his pledge to remain vigilant, ready, and above all to remember.

"I am honored to renew the pledge that we, as a community and as a city, will never forget this date," said Sammy Phillips, the mayor of Jacksonville. "We mourn as a community: one community. Not as a [service member] or civilian, but as an entire community. Thirty-one years may soften, dampen or diffuse some of the pain, but we know that the loss is still real. While we mourn this loss of life, we also honor their sacrifice by celebrating today."

As the ceremony came to a close, guests came forward to pay their respects at the humble shrine. They left mementos, flowers, and tears near the foot of the Marine statue and the names engraved on that broken wall.

They stood side by side with veterans, community leaders, and the families of the fallen service members.

"People need to remember that life is short and they shouldn't take anything for granted," said David Burdette, a Beirut veteran who came to pay his respects to his fallen comrades. "I'm going to continue to come here and pay my respects as long as I'm physically able to. I owe it to those guys on that wall."



Guests of honor walk past a Marine color guard as they make their way to the main stage in front of the Beirut Memorial in Jacksonville, N.C., during the Beirut Memorial Ceremony Oct. 23. Thirty-one years after the attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, Americans still reflect on what happened. The memorial, comprised of granite walls etched with the names of those who perished, stands as a testament to those that lost their lives.



A visitor runs his fingers along the names etched into the wall at the Beirut Memorial in Jacksonville, N.C., after the Beirut Memorial Ceremony Oct. 23. When a truck loaded with explosives drove into the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon on the morning of Oct. 23, 1983, 241 service members were killed.



Wreath bearers salute at the front of the Beirut Memorial in Jacksonville, N.C., during the Beirut Memorial Ceremony Oct. 23. Thirty-one years after the attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, Americans still reflect on what happened. The memorial, comprised of granite walls etched with the names of those who perished, stands as a testament to those that lost their lives.

Liberty Call



Combat Center Events

The Mameluke's Pub is hosting the Battle of the Units Competition from October through December. With every drink purchased, a chip is put into the jar of the buyer's respected unit. For more information call the Pub at 760-830-6922.

The Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center is hosting turkey bowling on Nov. 22. Registration is open until Nov. 21. For more information call 760-830-3910.

A **'Coping with work and family stress'** workshop is scheduled to be held in bldg. 1530 every Tuesday 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information call 760-830-6345.

The Semper Fit home school physical education program is scheduled for every Tuesday and Thursday in the month of November at Felix Field and the hobby shop. Archery will be conducted at the field and wood working at the hobby shop. Children aged 5 to 9 are scheduled from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and ages 10-17 are scheduled 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. All home school children are welcome. For more information call 760-830-8421.

A **Marine Corps Family Team Building** workshop is scheduled for Nov. 6 in Bldg. 1551, w room 25. A L.I.N.K.S for spouse's class is scheduled 9 a.m. and a Life Skills workshop is scheduled for 1 p.m. For more information on workshops and scheduled call 760-830-3110.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, Oct. 31

5:30 p.m. – The Maze Runner, PG-13
8:30 p.m. – Annabelle, R
10:10 p.m. – Devil's Due, R
11:40 p.m. – Sinister, R

Saturday, Nov. 1

10:30 a.m. – Monsters University, G
1:00 p.m. – The Boxtrolls, 3-D, PG
3:30 p.m. – This Is Where I Leave You, R
6:00 p.m. – No Good Deed, PG-13
8:00 p.m. – A Walk Among the Tombstones, R
11:00 p.m. – The Equalizer, R

Sunday, Nov. 2

12:00 p.m. – The Boxtrolls, PG
2:30 p.m. – The Good Lie, PG
5:00 p.m. – The Equalizer, R
8:00 p.m. – Annabelle, R

Monday, Nov. 3

6:00 p.m. – A Walk Among the Tombstones, R

Tuesday, Nov. 4

5:00 p.m. – The Boxtrolls, PG
6:50 p.m. – War Horse, PG

Wednesday, Nov. 5

5:00 p.m. – Dolphin Tale 2, PG
7:10 p.m. – The Monuments Men, PG-13

Thursday, Nov. 6

5:00 p.m. – No Good Deed, PG-13
6:30 p.m. – Zero Dark Thirty, R

Friday, Nov. 7

4:30 p.m. – The Boxtrolls, PG
7:00 p.m. – The Equalizer, R
9:20 p.m. – Black Hawk Down, R
11:50 p.m. – U-571, PG-13



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Gutsy, grimy war flick drives home the horrors & haunts of combat

NEIL POND

"Fury"

Starring Brad Pitt, Logan Lerman & Shia LeBeouf
Directed by David Ayer
Rated R

War is hell, and this gripping WWII battle drama brings you about as close to the angry, anguished flames as anyone would ever want to get.

Brad Pitt stars as Sherman tank commander "Wardaddy" Collier, leading his battle-weary crew across Germany to finish off Hitler's forces in early 1945. Wardaddy's tank is nicknamed "Fury," with its name written in white paint along its barrel.

Even though the war is almost over, the Nazis are desperate and determined to fight to the end, they greatly outnumber the Americans,

and their tanks are bigger, heavier and better fortified.

"Why don't they just quit?" wonders an exhausted senior officer, who's just learned of the slaughter his men by a pocket of heavily fortified, entrenched Germans, who mowed them down in an open field. "Would you?" responds Wardaddy.

Indeed, the "would you?" question hangs heavy over much of the movie, as Wardaddy and his crew confront situations that force them to make instantaneous life-or-death, kill-or-be-killed decisions, and mounting atrocities become everyday occurrences. "This ain't pretty," explains grizzled Grady "Coon-Ass" Travis (Jon Bernthal) to the tank's newest team member, wide-eyed Norman (Logan Lerman), who'd never seen combat until assigned to Wardaddy's command. "This is what we do."

Lerman's character becomes the audience's

surrogate, as we share his shock, his revulsion and his reluctance to relent to what seems like madness. We wonder how much we could see before it starts to "do" something to us. We wonder what we'd do with our finger on the trigger of a turret-mounted machine gun, if we could kill other people on sight, without question, without pausing to think about who they are, what they might be planning to do, or what's right and what's wrong.

Wardaddy's crew also includes Mexican-American "Gordo" Garcia (Michael Peña) and Scripture-quoting "Bible" Swan (Shia LeBeouf), who sings hymns to pass time and prods his tank mates to think if "Jesus loves Hitler."

Writer-director David Ayer, whose other work includes Training Day and End of Watch, makes us feel every cramped, claustrophobic inch of Fury's crowded interior space, a dreary metal dome where Wardaddy's crew barely has room to move—or breathe, or bleed. The landscapes are all mud

and muck; faces are dirty and grim; violence is intense; fear is everywhere.

We've seen other war movies, certainly—they've been a Hollywood staple for decades. But I can't remember another movie—and certainly not another contemporary one—that's taken such a hard, gritty, gutsy look at World War II tank warfare. There's nothing glamorous or glorious about the battles, or the war, depicted in Fury. It's tough, rough stuff, hard going, and—indeed—it "ain't pretty."

But it's raw, it's powerful and it sticks with you, especially in a scene when the crew rolls into a German town square, where a little bit of everything occurs. That square becomes a microcosm of war itself, and how it compresses and contorts the world, like a busted telescope with a smudged, shattered lens: life, death, love, hate, past, present, future—they're all there, and then they're not, gone in an instant, goodbye.

You won't be cheering when Fury ends. But you'll be thinking.



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Fury (R)
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SPECIAL MILITARY PRICING ON ALL UNITS!

• Ground Level Units • Controlled Gate Access
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760 **367-2510**

AA BUNKER
5020 Adobe Rd • 29 Palms

Naval Hospital battles Flu with vaccinations



Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital is currently providing walk-in vaccinations at Clinic A. Tricare beneficiaries can come in Monday through Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays, to accommodate for school-age children, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There are no vaccinations scheduled for Fridays. The vaccinations are being offered until November 20, after which they will be moved to the immunizations section, Clinic D. The vaccination is an effective way to prevent the flu and it's symptoms, such as: fevers, muscle aches, headaches and fatigue. For more information, call the hospital information desk at (760) 830-2190.



ONLINE AND IN PRINT

29 PALMS

EVERYTHING MUST GO! Leaving country sale! Little bit of everything! furniture, clothes, tools etc one day ONLY 11/1 6862 Manzanita

FLAMINGO HEIGHTS

Large Yard Sale Fri & Sat. 7am-? 55566 Tanager Rd. 1000's of clean LP's & 45's, Appl, DVD's, CD's, tools, wood burner, dolls & more. 760-364-3217

JOSHUA TREE

Large Yard Sale Fri, Sat & Sun. 61779 Valley View Circle. Joshua Tree

LANDERS

MB Historical Society Yard Sale! 11/1 & 11/2. 9am-2pm. 632 Landers Ln xReche. ALL NEW TREASURES! Xmas dog outfits & bones, rumtopf cookie jar, lenox, artisan bread, kids & adult clothing, vintage sheet music, Coleman lantern, Collectibles, jewelry, dolls, maps, bassinet, books, RV space heater, Hamilton beach coffee pot, telescope.

YUCCA MESA

HUGE yard sale, Crafters & Quilters Paradise, furn., W/D, freezer, tools, ladders, dishes, pots & pans, linens, BBQs, Hshld items, new scooter, clothing, shoes, book & Much More! Everything Must Go. 3872 Warren Vista Oct. 31, Nov. 1 & 2, 7am-4pm

YUCCA VALLEY

Giant Sale - Acres of Stuff! Fri & Sat. 8am-2pm. Furn, antiques, tools, building materials. Everything goes! Make offer. 2476 Old Woman Springs Rd. YV. Info. 364-4546

A LOT of Men's Tools, Some girl items, automotive, 55878 Antelope Trl Fri. Oct. 31 & Sat. Nov. 1 8am-2pm

Nov. 1st & 2nd. 8am-1pm. 8789 San Diego Dr. Many tools, auto parts, house ware, firewood, lrg dog carriers, books & much more.

Multi Family Sale - Holidays are just around the corner. Enjoy our desert fall weather while finding fun treasures. Fri & Sat. 8am-2pm. 56580 Zuni Trl.

To place your classified ad call 760-365-3315 or submit ad online :www.hidesertstar.com Hi Desert Publishing Co.

WARNING

Palm Springs Nissan's Pre-Black Friday Sales Event contains deeply discounted inventory pricing, low financing rates and maximum savings on leasing programs. Failure to visit Palm Springs Nissan starting November 3rd through November 15th can result in regret, loss of sleep, appetite and Nissan Envy.



A Truly EXCEPTIONAL Experience!

pre-BLACK FRIDAY NISSAN ENVY

THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR MASSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR ALL CUSTOMERS BY PALM SPRINGS NISSAN:

RIDICULOUS SAVINGS

NO RESTRICTIONS, EVERYONE CAN SAVE

FOR INTENSE SAVINGS, STRONG INCENTIVES, AND JAW DROPPING INVENTORY SELECTION.

2015 NISSAN ALTIMA S, SL or SV



115 AVAILABLE

0% APR FINANCING X 60 MONTHS* \$1,000 NMAC CAPTIVE CASH**

*0% APR for 60 months = \$16.67 per month per \$1000 financed with \$0 down to well qualified buyers with approved above-average credit on select models. Must finance thru NMAC. **NMAC Cash available when financed thru NMAC and is subject to credit approval. No money down to qualified buyers thru NMAC.

2014 NISSAN SENTRA S, SL, SR or SV



214 AVAILABLE

0% APR FINANCING X 72 MONTHS* \$500 NMAC CAPTIVE CASH**

*0% APR for 72 months = \$13.89 per month per \$1000 financed with \$0 down to well qualified buyers with approved above-average credit on select models. Must finance thru NMAC. **NMAC Cash available when financed thru NMAC and is subject to credit approval. No money down to qualified buyers thru NMAC.

2015 NISSAN VERSA NOTE S, SR, SV or S PLUS



33 AVAILABLE

0% APR FINANCING X 60 MONTHS* \$1,000 NISSAN CUSTOMER REBATE*

*0% APR for 60 months = \$16.67 per month per \$1000 financed with \$0 down to well qualified buyers with approved above average credit on select models. Must finance thru NMAC. *Nissan Customer Rebate includes \$500 NMAC Captive Cash and \$500 Nissan West Region Bonus Cash. NMAC Cash available when financed thru NMAC and is subject to credit approval. No money down to qualified buyers thru NMAC. Nissan West Region Bonus Cash available to all customers.

2015 NISSAN FRONTIER



41 AVAILABLE

2015 NISSAN VERSA



39 AVAILABLE

2015 NISSAN ROGUE



27 AVAILABLE

2015 NISSAN NV200



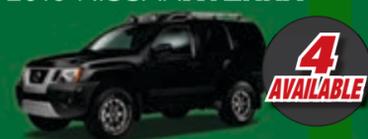
18 AVAILABLE

2015 NISSAN LEAF



15 AVAILABLE

2015 NISSAN XTERRA



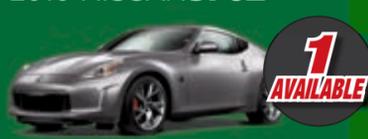
4 AVAILABLE

2015 NISSAN PATHFINDER



3 AVAILABLE

2015 NISSAN 370Z



1 AVAILABLE



760-328-2800

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SALES: Mon-Fri: 9:00AM-8:00PM OR LATER • Sat: 9:00AM-8:00PM OR LATER Sun: 10:00AM-7:00PM OR LATER



68-177 Kyle Road Cathedral City Auto Center



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