



Lance Cpl. Daniel Warren, rifleman, Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, provides security in the Blacktop training area as part of the defensive portion of 7th Marine Regiment's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise aboard the Combat Center April 6. CALFEX served as the kinetic portion of Desert Scimitar 16, an annual 1st Marine Division training evolution.

PREPARING TO MARCH

7th Marines conduct CALFEX

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL.
JULIO MCGRAW

As the largest combined arms, live-fire training facility in the Marine Corps, the Combat Center has the responsibility of ensuring Marines remain a force in readiness. The installation does this by utilizing more than 1,100 square miles of training area to prepare forces up to a Marine Expeditionary Brigade-level for deployments. 7th Marine Regiment and elements of 1st Marine Division conducted a regimental combat team-sized, Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise April 5-6, which served as the kinetic portion of Desert Scimitar-16. Desert Scimitar is an annual 1st

Marine Division training evolution. During the CALFEX, the two-day final exercise, consisted of offensive and defensive operations against a notional enemy, where 7th Marine Regiment provided command and control for RCT-7. The CALFEX is unique because infantry regimental staffs do not regularly control armor, light armored reconnaissance, or artillery units. "The execution for the FINEX began April 5 when we crossed the line of departure with Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, who conducted a zone reconnaissance," said Capt. Matthew Pederson, assistant operations officer, 7th Marines. "The entire RCT focused on the fundamentals of offensive and

defensive operations to integrate combined arms with maneuver." 'Magnificent Seventh' commanded RCT-7 through the Lead Mountain and Blacktop training areas. RCT-7 was comprised of various 1st Marine Division units to include: 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment; Company C, 3rd LAR; Company B, 1st Tank Battalion; and Battery S, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, who came together to make up the Ground Combat Element. Combat Logistics Battalion 7 supported the GCE as the Logistics Combat Element for the exercise.

See **CALFEX** Page A7



A High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle with 7th Marine Regiment stages at the Lead Mountain training area during the Regiment's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise aboard the Combat Center April 5. CALFEX served as the kinetic portion of Desert Scimitar 16, an annual 1st Marine Division training evolution.

Marine Corps' Top Shot

Every week, thousands of fans cast their votes for the best photograph posted on the Corps' Facebook page. This week's top shot comes from Sgt. Hector De Jesus.



Marines with Maritime Raid Force, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, conduct a deck shoot at night during their Western Pacific Deployment 16 aboard the USS New Orleans April 1.

Earth Week: household hazardous waste and e-waste collection

WRITTEN BY THE OFFICE OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS

The Combat Center's qualified recycling program, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, is committed to providing the installation with the best recycling program in the Department of Defense and Marine Corps. A recycling program that provides effective education to all of the installation's population and develops effective and efficient measurable waste reduction practices to meet Federal, State and local waste reduction requirements. A recycling program that effectively conserves our environment and natural resources, extending the life of the base landfill by diverting identifiable recyclables and locating the best methods and markets for selling material to contribute to quality of life programs.

During Earth Week, all residents of the BEQ, family housing, industrial and administrative facilities are encouraged to turn in expired and unwanted hazardous material, hazardous waste, electronic waste, and recyclable materials to the QRP, located at Bldg. 2095 Rifle Range Road. The QRP can be reached at 760-830-7244.

If you are unable to obtain transportation for the disposal of your unwanted HM/HW or e-waste, please contact the QRP at the number provided above to arrange for pickup.

The following is a list of common items that are accepted:

- Household Cleaners
- Assorted aerosol cans, pesticides and herbicides
- Paints, paint related debris or waste
- Petroleum Oil and Lubricants (Engine Oil, Brake Fluid, Transmission Fluid, Grease)
- Detergents and Bleach
- Light bulbs (Incandescent, Fluorescent and LED Fixtures)
- Electrical devices (appliances/electronic devices), Toaster, Microwave Ovens, Refrigerators
- Automotive repair waste streams, Batteries (Lead Acid, Alkaline, Lithium, Nickel Metal...)
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Tires, Bicycles, Furniture

Note: Only HM and HW generated by activities aboard MCAGCC will be accepted. The installation cannot accept waste streams generated off the installation.

Individuals who reside off the installation can turn-in their unwanted, excess and or expired HHW to the San Bernardino County, Hazardous Waste Collection point, on the 3rd Saturday of Each Month. The County HM/HW collection point is located at 62499 Hwy. 62 (Joshua Tree, approximately 1 mile west of the San Bernardino County Sheriff Station). Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Combat Center opens new Child Development Center

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY CPL. CONNOR
HANCOCK

Combat Center leaders and community members attended the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the base's new Child Development Center, Wednesday.

Before the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Brent Norquist, deputy assistant chief of staff, Marine Corps Community Services, spoke about the development center's innovative design and its importance to Combat Center families.

"It's the largest child development center in the Marine Corps and was designed to generate all the power that it consumes," said Norquist. "It has a wonderful utilitarian design and is also aesthetically pleasing."

The new development center, also known as 'Stepping Stones', accommodates extra space and learning resources for 304 children, 64 more children than the old facility was equipped for.

"The children will get a good start on their education," said Corinne van den Blink, facility director, CDC. "Our goal is not only babysitting, but providing children with developmental care."

The facility follows the creative curriculum developed by Headquarters Marine Corps, which, according to May

See **Center** Page A7



Brent Norquist, deputy assistant chief of staff, Marine Corps Community Services, addresses attendees prior to the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Child Development Center aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday. The development center, also known as 'Stepping Stones,' is a 37,000-square-foot facility.

PWD employee awarded for 40 years of servic



CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK
Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Craparotta, Combat Center Commanding General, congratulates Ricky Brennan, contract surveillance representative, Public Works Division, for achieving the Federal Length of Service Award, at the Combat Center's Public Works Division April 6. Brennan was awarded for 40 years of government service.



CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK
Lt. Cmdr. Ernesto S. Padilla, Facilities Engineering and Acquisition director, Public Works Department, congratulates Ricky Brennan, contract surveillance representative, PWD, following his award ceremony at the Combat Center's Public Works Division April 6.



CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK
Ricky Brennan, contract surveillance representative, Public Works Division, speaks to ceremony attendees at the Combat Center's PWD April 6.



CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK
Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino, Combat Center Sergeant Major, reads the Federal Length of Service award citation for Ricky Brennan, contract surveillance representative, Public Works Division, at the Combat Center's PWD April 6.

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- 1 Singer ____ Del Rey
 - 5 Keyboard key
 - 8 Poles, e.g.
 - 13 Over
 - 14 Volcano flow
 - 15 New addition
 - 16 Spray
 - 17 "Give me ____"
 - 18 Healthcare benefits giant
 - 19 Late
 - 22 Phenom
 - 23 Optometrist's interest
 - 24 Rock musician Brian
 - 25 Hall-of-Famer Mel
 - 27 Cut again
 - 29 TV oldie about attorneys
 - 31 By way of
 - 32 Open tract
 - 34 Nancy, in Nancy
 - 35 Pirate Lafitte
 - 36 2006 comic book film
 - 41 Kentucky county
 - 42 Old French coin
 - 43 Actor Chaney
 - 44 "____ magic!"
 - 45 Scale
 - 47 Risk
 - 51 Tiny criticism
 - 52 Went underground
 - 53 Yellowfin tuna
 - 55 Member of the flock
 - 56 Surmised
 - 60 Mythical breastplate
 - 61 Tall story
 - 62 Responsibility
 - 63 Cold shower?
 - 64 Peron and others

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- 65 Go the extra ____
 - 66 Complex orgs.
 - 67 9th mo.
 - 68 Extremities
- Down**
- 1 Like some vertebrae
 - 2 For each
 - 3 Snacks
 - 4 Opposer
 - 5 Mortarboard attachment
 - 6 With: French
 - 7 Single guy
 - 8 Follow closely
 - 9 In ____ of
 - 10 Avid gallery-goer

- 11 ____ blinds
- 12 Last word of "America, the Beautiful"
- 14 Lord's mate
- 20 Later
- 21 Nail polish
- 26 Light shades
- 28 "Jeopardy!" host
- 30 Per ____ (yearly)
- 33 Social reformer Bloomer
- 35 Johnny Cash's wife
- 36 Hide
- 37 Inopportune
- 38 Mailing costs
- 39 Wool colorers

- 40 Issue
- 45 Pirate prizes
- 46 Undeserved infamy
- 48 Check
- 49 "If asked, yes"
- 50 Bifocals
- 54 Vandals
- 57 Losing proposition?
- 58 Roof's edge
- 59 Heavy reading
- 60 Balaam's mount

SUDOKU

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Last week's answers

M	A	L	E		P	L	O	T		B	R	I	S	K
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3	7	2	6	4	5	9	8	1

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MCIWest off-limits establishments guidance prohibits service members from patronizing the following locations. This order applies to all military personnel.

- In Oceanside:**
- Angelo's Kars, 222 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside, Calif., 92054
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- In San Diego:**
- Club Mustang, 2200 University Ave.
 - Club San Diego, 3955 Fourth St.
 - Get It On Shoppe, 3219 Mission Blvd.
 - Main Street Motel, 3494 Main St.
 - Vulcan Baths, 805 W. Cedar St.
- In National City:**
- Dream Crystal, 15366 Highland Ave.
 - Sports Auto Sales, 1112 National City Blvd.

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- 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

Joe TEIRAB

Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minn. Captain, deputy staff judge advocate

Teirab believes it's important to give back to the community. He ushers at his church on Sundays and teaches a political science course every Tuesday night.



>**I was born in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minn.,** also known as the Twin Cities, but I grew up in a small, one stop-light town in Southwest Minnesota called Windom.

>**My father was a huge influence on me.** He always taught me about working and studying hard. My dad is from a small village in Central Sudan.

>**He's told me about how difficult it was** to get to school when he was a child, and how he would have to read under candlelight until the wee hours of the morning.

>**I think hearing his stories** along with him instilling in me the value of a good education had a profound impact on me.

>**It's immensely humbling** knowing where my parents came from. They were always looking to put my brother and me in the best position possible and teach us a certain set of values.

>**In high school I played** every sport I could. Unfortunately, I wasn't that great at any of them but I was okay in a lot of them. At different times I played: football, basketball, baseball, golf and I ran cross-country and track.

>**After high school I was accepted into** Cornell University in upstate New York. I started off as a pre-med major, but I eventually switched to political science.

>**Growing up in a small town I wanted** to get out and see the world a little bit. I applied to a bunch of schools, and Cornell was the best school I got into.

>**After Cornell, I wanted to** study law so I applied to Harvard Law School. Af-

ter getting into some other good schools, I was accepted off their wait list at the last second and I thought to myself, "I gotta go."

>**I became more interested in the law,** culture, government and politics and how those things influence each other. I realized people's lives can be made better through the law and through public policy. I wanted to obtain the skills and get the background to be able to make a difference in our world.

>**During law school,** I met a former infantry officer who lost both of his legs from an [Improvised Explosive Device] in Iraq and he became one of my better friends. He told me about the Marine Corps and what it meant to him. I was already thinking about being a [Judge Advocate] in the military but I wasn't sure of which branch. When he told me about the Marine Corps, I knew exactly what I wanted to do.

>**I decided to become a Marine** because I wanted a challenge. I wanted to grow as a person. Most importantly, I wanted to give back to the country I love, because I have been blessed with so much.

>**This is my first duty station.** I've been here since December of 2013 and my job is to support the Staff Judge Advocate in providing legal advice and counsel to the Commanding General and all base personnel.

>**On the weekends I try** to be involved in the community. I volunteer with an organization every month that provides free legal services to people in Los Angeles who can't afford them.

>**I volunteer with the organization** because I think it's important to spend time doing things that don't focus on yourself.

>**One big thing that I've taken away from the Corps,** it sounds very cliché, but it boils down to the leadership principle: "Know yourself and seek self-improvement." It jumps out to me because it implies you're not perfect and you're

not where you need to be.

>**As people, we make mistakes** but you have to realize that before you can even try to improve yourself.

>**Another thing I've learned** is every Marine has a unique situation or background that they're coming from that you might not gather from just looking at them. As a leader, it's important to realize that.

Interviewed and photographed by Cpl. Julio McGraw

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Three-gun showdown at annual

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. CONNOR HANCOCK

Marines from installations across the western United States came to the Combat Center to test their combat shooting skills in the annual Western Regional Combat Match April 4-8. The match was held to enhance combat marksmanship abilities of individual Marines.

“Once that buzzer beeps, you have to maintain a cool mindset and stick to your plan,” said Sgt. Jacob Weller, chief school house instructor, Combat Center Marksmanship Training Unit. “This competition really challenges Marines to think on their feet.”

There were two categories in the match; the team competition and the individual competition. Ninety-one Marines from 12 different units competed.

During the match, ‘high-fives’ and camaraderie were shared between competitors, but the three-gun competition made every Marine more confident in their combat shooting.

“This competition is a great learning experience for younger guys to become familiar with using different weapons systems before deployment,” said Gunnery Sgt. Nathan C. Stocking, of-



Cpl. James Tipton, Edson Range marksmanship coach, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, fires a Benelli M1014 shotgun at the Western Regional Combat Match April 8. Tipton and his team from MCRD San Diego took gold in the team competition.



Cpl. Patrik Braun, motor transport operator, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, carries two 30-pound ammo cans before reloading his shotgun at the Western Regional Combat Match April 8.



Marines wait for ammunition during the Western Regional Combat Match April 7. Marines fired buckshot, slug, 5.56mm, and 9mm rounds during the competition.



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Western Regional Combat Match

ficer in charge, Marine Corps Combat Shooting Team.

With oversight from the Marine Corps Combat Shooting Team, the Combat Center's MTU organized a total of 10 various firing courses throughout the match. Competitors had a three-minute brief prior to each table of fire and a five-minute walk-through to strategize their approach.

"The competitors are constantly changing their plan when they see someone else's strategy," said Sgt. Francis Shuster, combat shooting competitor, Marine Corps Combat Shooting Team. "In the end, they have to go with what works for them and be confident."

To emulate realistic combat training, the shooters were challenged both mentally and physically as they were required to carry two 30-pound ammo cans a distance of 30 yards before each reload during parts of the team competition.

"[The Western Regional Combat Match] is fast and more action packed than the precision shooting matches," said Cpl. Eric Schneider, heavy equipment mechanic, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion. "It's more fun than traditional

competitions and it's still good preparation for annual [rifle qualification]."

Competitors fired the Benelli M1014 shotgun, the Berreta M9 service pistol and M16 or M4 service rifles at a variety of targets. Shotgun slugs and buck shots hit steel and clay targets. 9mm and 5.56mm rounds tore through paper targets and the 'Texas Star', a spinning steel target, challenged shooters' precision. Each course of fire simulated a realistic scenario Marines could face in combat, including breaching doors and firing at hostage targets on ranges designed to simulate the inside of a building.

2nd Lt. Christopher Scott, military police officer, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, won a gold medal in the individual shooting match and a group of four range coaches from MCRD Weapons and Field Training Battalion took gold in the team competition. Every Marine who earned a medal in the Western, Eastern, Far East, and Pacific Combat Matches, will compete in The Marine Corps Combat Championship at Marine Corps Base Quantico, V.A., May 23.



Cpl. Anthony Lubbers, designated marksmanship instructor, Combat Center Marksmanship Training Unit, prepares to breach a door at the Western Regional Combat Match April 8.



1st Lt. Jeremy Spray, motor transport officer, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, fires an M4 service rifle during the Western Regional Combat Match April 7.



Cpl. James Tipton, Edson Range marksmanship coach, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, fires a Benelli M1014 shotgun at the Western Regional Combat Match April 8.

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Here's a look at some of the entertainment and special events planned:

Saturday

9 a.m.: Charles Harvey sings the national anthem
10:15-11 p.m.: Anita Neveu teaches a Zumba class
2-3:15 p.m.: Music by Spankshaft, a Joshua Tree-based pop-ska-punk band
3:30-5 p.m.: Music by Miri Hunter
5-7 p.m.: Music by Daytime Moon, a rock band
8 p.m.: Luminaria lap honoring people with cancer
8:30-9:30 p.m.: Rock and roll bagpiper Joel Daniel
9:30-10 p.m.: Musician Kurt Schauppner
10 p.m.-midnight: Karaoke

Sunday

9 a.m.: "Fight Back" lap

When musicians or karaoke performers aren't on the stage, music will be broadcast corresponding to themed laps, from Color the Track Purple and Road to Recovery to laps built around scavenger hunts, trick or treating, pajamas and the chicken dance. One hour will feature the music of David Bowie while another hour will feature all country music.

For more information, go online to www.relayforlife.org.

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Colonel William Vivian, commanding officer, 7th Marine Regiment, escorts Maj. Gen. Daniel O'Donohue, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, to the Combat Operations Center in the Lead Mountain training area during the regiment's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise aboard the Combat Center April 5.

CALFEX From A1

“The exercise force conducted individual unit training, which began a week prior to the FINEX,” Pederson said. “[We gave the mission to] Task Force 3/7, which included tanks and amtraks, they continued to the Blacktop Strongpoint to seize the regimental objective with artillery support from 3/11 and Sierra Battery, 5/11.”

According to Col. William Vivian, commanding officer, 7th Marines, the exercise is important for the regiment. After returning from the Special Purpose MAGTF-Crisis Response deployment to the Central Command area of operation, the regiment was assigned to 1st MEB and they used this exercise to practice their core skills. 1st Marine Division reassigned ‘Magnificent Seventh’ as the mechanized regiment for the Marine Corps and the regiment used this opportunity to refresh their skills in that area.

“Overall it was a great exercise,” Vivian said. “The Marines worked hard and they showed improvement everyday across the RCT. Before, we weren’t sure what we had, but now we do. I couldn’t be happier with the improvement that went on and we are definitely better prepared for anything that lies ahead.”



An M1 Assault Breacher Vehicle with Mobile Assault Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, drives to breach a berm in the Blacktop training area as an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank with Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, provides security during the offensive portion of 7th Marine Regiment's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise aboard the Combat Center April 6.



Marines with Company C, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, plan their route during the offensive portion of 7th Marine Regiment's Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise aboard the Combat Center April 5.



Personnel involved with creating the Child Development Center stand with children during the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the CDC aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.

Center From A1

Ford, Child and Youth Programs administrator, CDC, is rated number one in the country.

In addition to an exceptional curriculum, the outdoor play area is equipped with slides, logs, and new toys for children to play and learn with.

“The center was designed to incorporate nature,” Ford said. “Spending time in a nature-oriented environment allows the children to stimulate their imagination.”

According to Ford, the development center provides military families with the support they need while parents fulfill their military obligations.

“The military community needs childcare in order to be at their assigned place of duty,” Ford said. “With this facility, they won’t have to worry about finding care outside the gate.”

The CDC cares for children from six weeks old to six years old and its hours of operation are weekdays

from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Parents can apply for the volunteer program, which allows them to volunteer to teach their own children’s classes. Parents who want to get involved can call the Children and Youth Resource and Referral Office at 760-830-3349.

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NREA teaches girl scouts about desert tortoise



Girls Scouts of Troop 1744 feed ambassador tortoise Louise during their visit to the Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Sight, Sunday. The troop visited the installation to earn their Wildlife Habitat Badges which are earned through education on native wild animals and how they live.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL. THOMAS MUDD

Girl Scout Troop 1744 visited the Combat Center's Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Sight and the Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center to learn about the native desert tortoise, Sunday and Tuesday.

The troop visited the installation to earn their Wildlife Habitat Badges which are earned through education on native wild animals and how they live. Dr. Brian Henen, ecologist, Natural Resource and Environmental Affairs, taught the girls about the biology of the desert tortoise as well as how they survive in extreme desert conditions.

"The more we teach about the tortoise the saf-

er they will be," Henen said. "The girls learned about what kind of plants the tortoises eat, how they preserve water during the summer and what kind of borrows they make."

The girls of the troop had the opportunity to hold some of the tortoises as well as feed the ambassador tortoises, Thelma and Louise. After learning about the animal, the troop helped Henen transport Thelma and Louise back to the NREA building.

"The girls learned about the tortoise because it is an animal that the base takes great care of," said Juanita Rios, troop leader, Girl Scout Troop 1744. "The

girls can help keep the tortoise safe with what they learn here."

After their visit to TRA-CRS, the troop visited the Combat Center Curation Center to help build new borrows for Thelma and Louise. Building these new burrows was the troop's last step before earning their badges.

"Making the burrows shows the girls what the tortoise does when it makes a home," Rios said. "The girls can take all they learned at TRACRS and apply it to making the burrows. They learned many great things over these two days that can help preserve the desert tortoises."



Girl Scouts of Troop 1744 hold a three-year-old tortoise during their visit to the Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Sight, Sunday.



Brian Henen, ecologist, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, explains to Girl Scout Troop 1744 how the desert tortoise survives extreme desert conditions during the troop's visit to the Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Sight, Sunday.



Girls Scouts of Troop 1744 cover up pipe used for new borrows for ambassador tortoises Thelma and Louise at the Combat Center's Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center, Tuesday.



Brian Henen, ecologist, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, helps Leah Garza-Horbal and Lauren Middleton, girl scouts, Troop 1744, replace the tunnel of the new tortoise borrow for ambassador tortoises Thelma and Louise at the Combat Center's Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center, Tuesday.



Combat Center Events

Head down to the Curation Center's Tortoise Garden to see the Combat Center's ambassador desert tortoises Thelma and Louise April 18 and 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All hands are welcome.

Head down to the Officer's Club for a Sustainability Expo, April 26. The event, held in the Mesa Room, will begin at 9:30 a.m. It will include vendors displaying, recycled content, energy, and water efficient products that could contribute to the installation's sustainability efforts. All hands are welcome and refreshments will be provided for Expo attendees.

Hashmarks Staff Non-commissioned Officer Club hosts Steak Night, open to all hands, Mondays from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and SNCOs only on Fridays. For more information, contact 760-830-5035.

Sunset Cinema

Friday, April 15

5:30 p.m. — Zootopia, PG

8:30 p.m. — London Has Fallen, R

11:00 p.m. — 10 Cloverfield Lane, PG-13

Saturday, April 16

12:00 p.m. — Zootopia (3-D), PG

2:30 p.m. — Gods of Egypt (3-D), PG-13

5:30 p.m. — Eddie The Eagle, PG-13

8:00 p.m. — Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, R

10:30 p.m. — The Perfect Match, R

Sunday, April 17

12:30 p.m. — London Has Fallen, R

3:00 p.m. — Zootopia, PG

5:30 p.m. — Miracles From Heaven, PG

8:00 p.m. — The Divergent Series: Allegiant, PG-13

Monday, April 18

4:30 p.m. — Wall-E (Free Admission), G

7:00 p.m. — Miracles From Heaven, PG

Tuesday, April 19

4:30 p.m. — Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (Free Admission), PG

7:00 p.m. — The Divergent Series: Allegiant, PG-13

Wednesday, April 20

4:00 p.m. — Ice Age (Free Admission), PG

5:30 p.m. — Ice Age Continental Drift (Free Admission), PG

7:30 p.m. — Eddie The Eagle, PG-13

Thursday, April 21

4:30 p.m. — The Impossible (Free Admission), PG-13

7:00 p.m. — Gods of Egypt, PG-13

Friday, April 22

4:00 p.m. — Independence Day (Free Admission), PG-13

6:30 p.m. — I Am Legend (Free Admission), PG-13

9:00 p.m. — Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice (3-D), PG-13

11:50 p.m. — London Has Fallen, R

TOUGH MINDED OPTIMISM

by Lou Gerhardt

As we begin a new major league baseball season, I got to thinking about Babe Ruth.

Babe Ruth made his major league debut on July 11, 1914, over one hundred years ago, and we celebrate the man whose myth and legend are larger than life.

Connie Connaster was chair of our Church Board while I served our church as Senior Minister in Terre Haute, Indiana many years ago. Connie had been an outstanding member of the New York Yankees and he told me one night with tears in his eyes that his teammate Babe Ruth was the greatest player in the history of the game. He was not only a great pitcher and a fabulous hitter but he was a man who genuinely loved people—all people. His concern for others motivated his life. He cared for his family, his teammates, his fans, and, indeed, people of all ages everywhere.

Babe Ruth spent his final days at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

One morning a nurse found him standing on an outside balcony, watching a group of young boys playing baseball. “Watch the swing on that kid,” Ruth said with admiration.

“Go down there and tell that kid to step into the plate and lean forward on his swing,” Ruth said to the nurse. “He could be a real good hitter.”

The nurse did as requested, pointing out to the boy that he had a mentor. The boys gave Ruth, high on his hospital balcony, a wave.

The next day, Ruth summoned the nurse again. “I want you to give that kid this bat for me,” Ruth said weakly holding out one he had signed.

Ruth physically died later that evening.

My friend Connie had it right, didn't he?

This column sponsored by:

Marilyn Lutz, a strong supporter of Morongo Basin Humane Society's No-Kill Animal Shelter in Joshua Tree. Their next Woof Walk and Fair will be April 30 at Pappy and Harriet's in Pioneertown.

Dr. Lou can be reached at 760-367-4627 800-995-1620 res19mxc@verizon.net



Zootopia's first bunny officer Judy Hopps finds herself face to face with a fast-talking, scam-artist fox in Walt Disney Animation Studios' "Zootopia." Featuring the voices of Ginnifer Goodwin as Judy and Jason Bateman as Nick.

Hop To It

Hip, heartwarming 'Zootopia' shows how far House of Mouse has evolved

NEIL POND

'Zootopia'

Starring the voices of Gennifer Goodwin & Bradley Cooper

Directed by Brian Howard, Rich Moore and Jared Rush

Rated PG

A little girl dreams of leaving her rural hometown, moving to the city, becoming something no one else has ever been and making the world a better place. Sounds like a cliché, you say. Well, maybe—except in Zootopia, the little girl is a bunny, she wants to be a cop, and the city is full of other animals, but no people.

And there's this: Rabbits are “prey,” like 90 percent of the population of the mammal metropolis of Zootopia, which is also home to predators—lions, tigers, wolves, foxes, jaguars. But over the centuries, prey and predators have evolved past their primal, biological instincts and learned to coexist...mostly.

And Zootopia, the latest Disney film, shows just how far the House of Mouse has evolved from dreamy prince-and-princess fairy tales of decades past. There's bold new energy and excitement coursing through the studio, and it's everywhere in this hip, ingenious, wildly creative tale full of wit, emotion and a message of inclusion, understanding and diversity.

To see where the movie gets its mojo, start at the top. Co-directors Brian Howard and Rich Moore's credits include Disney's Tangled, Bolt and Wreck-It Ralph as well as The Simpsons.

The smart, super-sharp story (Jennifer Lee, one of the writers, won an Oscar for Frozen, and Phil Johnson wrote the new Sacha Baron Cohen comedy The Brothers Grimsby and the underrated Cedar Rapids) begins with the departure of buoyantly optimistic Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) from pastoral Bunnyborough for the teeming

Xanadu of Zootopia, where she aspires to become a police officer, the city's first bunny cop. She does, and quickly hops smack into some deep-rooted prejudice, fears and stereotypes.

An elephant refuses to serve a fox in his ice cream parlor; a tiger is told, “Go back to the forest, predator!” It's no stretch to substitute racism, sexism and other “isms” for the “species-ism” that Judy finds separating animals that are otherwise friends, neighbors, coworkers and fellow citizens.

After Judy encounters Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), a sly fox who makes his living running small-time scams and hustles, she soon must enlist his help investigating a mysterious case that's baffled the police chief (Idris Elba, a blustery cape buffalo).

To say much more about the plot—which deepens and thickens considerably—would give away its many delights. The animal animations are outstanding, and the computer artists create special-effect magic melding the menagerie with the personalities of the actors—J.K. Simmons as a lion, Jenny Slate as a sheep, Tommy Chong (of Cheech & Chong) as a “naturalist” yak, pop star Shakira as a sexy gazelle (who sings the movie's theme song, “Try Everything”).

The movie is a visual feast full of fun, suspense, surprise and adventure. It delivers its uplifting, more serious theme of unity and togetherness in a way that will rarely feel preachy or ponderous for kids. Grownups will keep busy tracking the dozens of pop-cultural riffs, sight gags and in-jokes, including meta-references to other Disney flicks and nods to classic Hollywood, like an especially clever Godfather scene and one of the best cop-doughnut jokes in any movie, ever.

From a talking mouse mascot to a flying elephant and 101 Dalmatians, Disney has always had a thing for animals. In Zootopia, they're not only running the show, they've taken over the world. And they've got a very important, oh-so timely message for us all.

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CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Jesse Santana, tank mechanic, Exercise Support Division, finishes first during the Annual Earth Day Mountain Bike Ride held near Range 100 aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday. The eight-mile bike ride began and ended at Range 100.



PFC. DAVE FLORES

Riders walk their bike up the incline during the Annual Earth Day Mountain Bike Ride held near Range 100 aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.



CPL. JULIO MCGRAW

Jesse Santana, tank mechanic, Exercise Support Division, shakes the hand of Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, after winning first place in the Annual Earth Day Mountain Bike Ride held near Range 100 aboard the Combat Center, Wednesday.



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