

Hawaii Marine



Lance Cpl. Harley Thomas | Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Col. Jay R. Vargas, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, waves at the camera after speaking to service members about the importance of finding help for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder Tuesday at the Chaplain Joseph W. Estabrook Chapel aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Medal of Honor recipient implores: Let it out *Vargas offers insight, guidance to MCBH community*

Lance Cpl. Harley Thomas
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

On May 1, 1968, while suffering from shrapnel wounds incurred while relocating his unit under heavy artillery fire the previous day, Capt. Jay R. Vargas, the commanding officer of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 9th Amphibious Brigade, combined his company with two others and led his men in an attack on the fortified village of Dai Do in the Republic of Vietnam.

“One of my platoons got pinned down by heavy machine guns — in fact, we all got pinned down — and couldn’t move anymore,” Vargas said. “I went forward with four Marines and ended up by myself because they were hit immediately, but I (took) out three heavy machine guns and killed 14 North Vietnamese in the trenches, opening us up to continue the attack.” Vargas said he and his remaining 80 Marines thought they had secured the village when the North Vietnamese Army counterattacked. He said after

48 hours of little to no sleep, the NVA pushed his already exhausted company into a cemetery. “We were surrounded and cut-off completely,” Vargas said. “I (told my Marines) the only way to survive (was) to dig up those graves and toss the bodies out. The NVA knew they had us good, and nobody could help me. Everybody said we weren’t going to make it and wrote us off.” Vargas said it wasn’t until hearing

See VARGAS, A-7



Cpl. Khalil Ross | Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Cub Scout James Lau crosses the 70-foot long one-rope bridge during the 104th annual Makahiki event Saturday at Ala Moana Beach Park in Honolulu.

Scouts show off what they know

Cpl. Khalil Ross
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

HONOLULU — Boy scouts and cub scouts weaving rope, tying knots and obstacle courses were the activities of the day Saturday as the 104th annual Makahiki event took place at Ala Moana Beach Park. Sixty different scout troops, 20 different military demonstrations and a handful of different food vendors made up the event. The Makahiki is an event where local Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs raise funds for their own education programs said Jason Fujita, the Makahiki volunteer director. He said the event was a great chance for the boys to see the community. “It’s a great opportunity for the

See SCOUTS, A-7

MarForPac Marine recognized for excellence in community service

Cpl. Erik Estrada
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

HONOLULU — Sgt. Jonathon McDonald, a motor transport operator with Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific has been named the Marine Corps’ 2015 Outstanding Community Service Honoree for the State of Hawaii. “One of the highlights of Military Appreciation Month is that the Military Affairs Council partners with the state and military to recognize service members in Hawaii, who have gone above and beyond their call of duty serving our nation by dedicating their free time to serving our Hawaii community,” said David Carey, the president and CEO of Outrigger Enterprises, and the chair of the Military Affairs Council. Every May in Hawaii marks Military Appreciation Month. McDonald works weekly with organizations on the island; mostly ranches. One of the things he does is set up horseback riding events for special needs children. Although he loves volunteering on the island, it hasn’t always been that way. “When he first got here, he would say ‘it’s nothing like home, there’s nothing to do here,’” said Tracey Ford, the protocol officer for MarForPac. “So I asked him what he did back home, and he said that he worked with horses and at rodeos.” Ford introduced McDonald to the organizations he now helps and consequently, got him recognized today by Hawaii State Gov. David Ige. As for continuing to volunteer, McDonald said, “My goal is to volunteer at as many places as I can and continue to help others around me grow.” When the Fowler, Colo., native was asked why he does it, his response was short and to the point. “Putting a smile on children’s faces, that is the reward,” McDonald said.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige, and Sgt. Jonathon McDonald, a motor transport operator with Headquarters and Service Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific pose for a photo at the Hawaii State Capitol Building, May 8. McDonald was recognized as the Marine Corps’ 2015 Outstanding Community Service Honoree for the state of Hawaii for volunteering during his free time to work with special-needs children.



Cpl. Erik Estrada | U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific



Island style
Mokapu Elementary holds May Day program for MCB Hawaii, **A-5**



Batter up!
3rd Marines, Scarface tie in intramural softball game faceoff, **B-1**



WORDS FROM THE BASE INSPECTOR

Why is parking on the grass prohibited?

Base Order 5560, paragraph four sets the Marine Corps Base Hawaii policy for Parking and Unattended Vehicles. In accordance with paragraph 4.b.6., a vehicle owner can be cited for “Parking on any lawn, seeded or vegetation area or sidewalk.” This is a violation is worth two points from the traffic magistrate.

So why is parking on the grass prohibited by the base order?

The obvious answer is because the weight of the vehicle damages the grass. Repeatedly parking or driving over the grass can kill the grass. In addition, any chemical leaks from the vehicle will be absorbed by the soil. Air conditioning refrigerant, motor oil and dirty water may drain from the vehicle, contaminate the soil and kill the grass.

The less obvious reason is that many seeded areas of Marine Corps Base Hawaii have underground irrigation systems. The pipes for irrigation systems are made of plastic and can be damaged by the weight

of a vehicle. Recently a vehicle parked on the grass in a housing area damaged an underground irrigation pipe, causing a leak. When the repair crew arrived to fix the leak, the vehicle was parked over the water control valve access. The repair crew was unable to shut off the water to the broken pipe until the owner of the vehicle was identified, located and contacted. By the time the owner arrived and moved the vehicle, the area had become a mud pit. In this case, the vehicle owner was responsible for the damage and the cost of repairs.

Recently, several dozen vehicles were observed parked on the grass adjacent to Riseley Field during a softball game. This would be understandable if there were not parking available nearby. However, the parking lot adjacent to the base theater is 800 feet away and provides plenty of parking for contestants and spectators.

Please contribute to the efforts to maintain Marine Corps Base Hawaii as a beautiful place to live and work by complying with the base regulations, behaving

responsibly and reminding others to do the same. If you have questions, contact the Base Inspector's Office at KBAZ_HQBN_INSP@usmc.mil.

Semper Fidelis.
Lt. Col. D. H. Bohn
Base Inspector
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Hawaii Marine

www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil
www.hawaiimarine.com

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This week in Corps history: May 15, 1862: Cpl. John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service in the USS Galena during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond. - **U.S. Marine Corps History Division**

JOINING FORCES WITH THE COMMUNITY

Kaneohe Bay Air Show

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

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MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII EVENTS

FUTURE EVENTS

Now through May 31 or until teams are filled, youth basketball registration is available at the Semper Fit Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Practice begins June 1, and games are scheduled from July 11 through Aug. 29.

Youth basketball is open to children of active duty, Department of Defense and Marine Corps Community Services families, born between the years 2000 and 2006. The \$65 registration fee includes uniforms and participation trophies. For more information, call the youth sports coordinator at 254-7473.

All Naval Health Clinic Hawaii operations are scheduled to be closed May 22. This includes all medical and dental facilities at Branch Health Clinics Makalapa, Camp H.M. Smith, Wahiawa, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay and Naval Shipyard.

Providers will be attending required training to ensure delivery of the best and most current patient care. All routine care should be planned prior to or after May 22. This includes appointment scheduling, prescription refills and laboratory draws.

All clinics will re-open for regular business hours on May 26. For NHCH hours of operation, visit med.navy.mil/sites/nhch. Beneficiaries can speak to a healthcare provider at any time the clinics are closed by calling the toll-free “Nurse Advice Line” at 1-800-874-2273, ext. 1. For emergencies, call 911 or go to Tripler Army Medical Center. For active-duty dental emergencies, call 864-4705.

will be re-opened after 3 p.m. daily. For more information, call Philip Lum at 257-6900.

The Provost Marshal’s Office is recruiting children and volunteers for the Drug Education for Youth Phase 1 Summer Leadership Camp and Phase 2 yearlong program 2015 to 2016. The deadline for both to sign up has been extended to May 29.

The nationwide program is sponsored by the Department of Defense. The DEFY program builds self-esteem and teaches leadership and teamwork skills, goal-setting, drug awareness and prevention, and deglamorization of “gang mentality” for children 9 to 12 years old. Participants will go on excursions to places like Sea Life Park, Bishop Museum and Kualoa Ranch.

Phase 1 Summer Leadership Camp is a non-residential, eight-day program that runs from June 22 through 26 June and June 29 through July 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phase 2 is the third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. until May 2016. Kids will meet every morning at building 1095. Parents will pick-up children at 4 p.m. at the same location. Transportation, DEFY gear, snacks and lunch are free.

The DEFY program is seeking eight adult volunteer mentors (18 and older) and five teen volunteer mentors (ages 15 to 17) to assist in the program. All volunteers are screened and attend mandatory DEFY staff training. For more information or to apply, call Jessica Burns at 257-8312 or email jessica.burns@usmc.mil.

The Marine Corps Embassy Security Guard screening is scheduled for June 1 and 2 at 8 a.m. in the base theater. End time will be determined at a later date. Please see Marine Administrative Message 177/15 or contact your career planner for more information.

Headquarters Marine Corps Special duty Screening is scheduled for June 1 and 2 8 a.m. in the base theater. End time to be determined at a later date. Please see Marine Administrative Message 177/15 or contact your career planner for more information.

TODAY

The Marine Corps Base Hawaii post office has Click-N-Ship pamphlets available for patrons. The pamphlets contain websites and instructions on how to prepare packages at home to ship. Patrons are able save money on and print postage from usps.com, as well as at order free shipping supplies. For more information, visit the base post office or call 257-2008.

SUNDAY

The base theater air conditioning system will be inoperable through Sunday due to upgrades. During this period, regular show times will continue and all movies will be free of charge.

For current movie listings, visit www.mccshawaii.com/theater. For more information, call the Marine Corps Community Services Business Performance Office at 254-7638.

MONDAY

Starting Monday, the Semper Fit Division is hosting a training program for people who are running a 5-kilometer race for the first time. The seven-week training program is scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Pop Warner Field track.

The goal is to train for the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Runway 5K Fun Run scheduled for July 4. For additional information and to register, call the Semper Fit Center at 254-7597.

The Personal Financial Management Program is hosting a class called “Credit 101: Understanding My Credit Report & Score,” scheduled for Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in classroom G of the Education Center, building 220. The class features a special guest speaker from Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Hawaii. Register online at www.mccshawaii.com/pfmpworkshops or call the PFMP office at 257-1232.

TUESDAY

The next Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills class is scheduled for Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the conference room of building 244. Provided by spouses for spouses, L.I.N.K.S. strives to develop the skills to successfully meet the challenges ahead and make new friends. The class is open to all active-duty Marine Corps and Navy spouses. Reservations are required. For more information, call Marine Corps Family Team Building at 257-2657.

WEDNESDAY

The next Alcohol Screening Program Prime for Life substance misuse education support course is scheduled for Wednesday, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Substance Abuse Counseling Center, located on the third deck of building 279.

The next monthly PFL classes are scheduled for June 24, July 12, Aug. 26 and Sept. 23. For more information, call Jon Barkley at 257-2464.

THURSDAY

The Personal Financial Management Program is hosting a class called “Budgeting 101: Developing Your Spending Plan,” scheduled for Thursday, from 10 a.m. to noon in classroom E of building 220. Call PFMP at 257-1232 or visit mccshawaii.com/pfmp with questions.

AROUND THE CORPS

Your weekly guide to what’s happening around the Corps

East Coast



Sgt. Austin Hazard | 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit

See <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/162846/22nd-meu-uss-wasp-conclude-fleet-week-port-everglades-2015#>. VVI5Td pVhHw for full story

Lance Cpl. Sarah Ziady, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit intelligence analyst, mans the rails of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) as it leaves Port Everglades, Fla., May 10 at the conclusion of Fleet Week 2015. Marines and U.S. Navy Sailors of the MEU, from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., participated in Fleet Week Port Everglades May 4 through 10. The purpose of Fleet Week was to showcase the strength as well as capabilities of the Navy and Marine Corps team through tours, static displays and community relations events. The event provided the public the opportunity to interact with Marines and Sailors.

Overseas



Sgt. Paul Peterson | U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa

Gunnery Sgt. Brian Smith (left), an explosive ordnance disposal technician from Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa, discuss various ordnance disposal techniques with a Spanish EOD technician Marine in Sierra Del Retin, Spain, May 5. The two groups joined forces for the three-day bilateral training exercise, which was designed to enhance their ability to work as a unified team during future operations.

See <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/163017/eod-international-us-spanish-marines-complete-interoperability-exercise#>. VVI5kd pVhHw for full story

West Coast



Sgt. Brian Marion | Marine Corps air Station Miramar

Maj. Gen. Michael Rocco (left), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, and Col. Chad Breeden, Marine Air Control Group 38, hold a ribbon while Lt. Col. Wayne Zuber, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion commanding officer, concludes a rededication ceremony with a ribbon cutting aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 8. Third LAAD Bn. held the rededication ceremony for its Training and Simulation Facility, which was renovated with state-of-the-art equipment in order to provide Marines with a better training environment.

See <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/162965/3rd-laad-bn-rededicates-facility#>. VVI6sd pVhHw for full story

Education Center hosts College 101 brief

Lance Cpl. Harley Thomas

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Service members attended a College 101 brief, hosted by Marine Corps Base Hawaii’s Education Center, May 6 in classroom A of building 220.

The purpose of the brief was to provide service members the information and correct procedures for utilizing their tuition assistance to the best of their ability. The brief was also meant to reinforce the benefits of seeking an education while still on active duty.

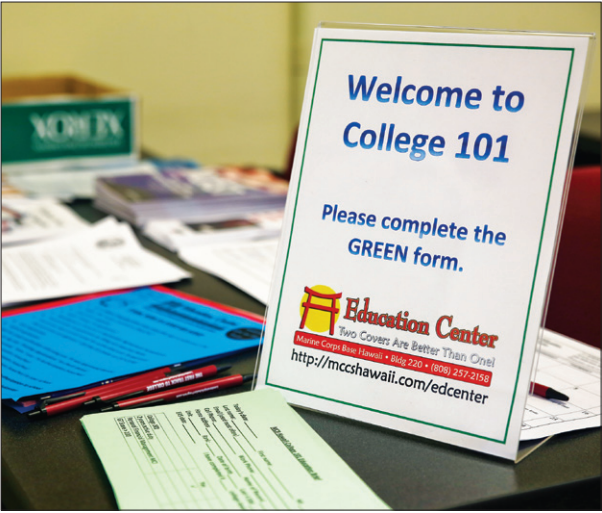
“Later in life, the more training you have while (on) active duty, the further your benefits will go,” said Cheryl Chiu, an education and career specialist with the Education Center. “The College 101 class prepares service members who wish to further their education.”

Chiu said TA is an excellent resource for the Marines to utilize, but they might not necessarily understand how they can use it to its fullest potential. She said that while the brief is mandatory, it provides the service members that extra information.

“Attending the brief is required for Marines who wish to use their TA, however, it is open to anyone who is interested, from dependants and spouses to veterans and Department of Defense civilians,” Chiu said. “The brief is open to anyone with base access.”

One topic the brief covers is the requirements for utilizing TA, Chiu said.

“There are four requirements,” she said. “The Marines must attend the College 101 training, have two years of active service, they must take the personal financial management MarineNET course and they need a degree plan from the institution they will



Lance Cpl. Harley Thomas | Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Service members aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii attended a College 101 education brief, hosted by the Education Center, May 6 in classroom A in building 220. The brief was intended to provide information and procedures for utilizing tuition assistance, as well as making the transition into the school setting easier for service members. The course was also meant to reinforce the benefits of seeking an education while still on active duty.

be attending, certifying that they have selected an appropriate course of study.”

Sgt. Brock Scholtisseck, a generator mechanic with Combat Logistics Battalion 3, said the brief also provides a general idea of how to plan for college and what is needed to apply.

“This tells (service members) where they can go to

get help and reminds them that they don’t have to go without having a plan,” Scholtisseck said. “People (with the Education Center) are willing to work with you. For example, they let you know that if don’t maintain a certain criteria, you might have to pay the government back and that’s something people may not know. This reminds you to apply yourself and make sure you don’t fail.”

Scholtisseck said it was a lot of information to absorb, but it’s worth it. He said that while the Marine Corps is a good plan and it pays well, service members should always want to have a back-up plan.

“I absolutely recommend attending the brief, even if it isn’t mandatory for your branch of service, and the sooner you can take it, the better,” he said. “I thought it was an effective way of getting the information across and I wish I did this a lot sooner. While it was in the form of a (slideshow), which isn’t necessarily everybody’s favorite, it was interesting and kept the audience engaged. You could tell (Chiu) knew what she was talking about.”

Chiu said education is important for the service members, so they may continue to seek a higher purpose in life. She said they should seek information and knowledge, not only to better themselves, but to better the society around them as well.

“For the service members attending the brief, I want them to have an excitement for learning something they are interested in,” she said. “Education shouldn’t just be about a job, it should be about a lifelong love of something you enjoy. I was always told, ‘If you do something you love, you will never work a day in your life.’ I try to instill that in my personal beliefs and I hope I present that through this course.”

3RD RADIO Bn. RETURNS FROM UDP



Cpl. Tyler Francis, a Chinese linguist with 3rd Radio Battalion, assists Cpl. Parker Chlovechok, a radio reconnaissance team slackman with Detachment 31, 3rd Radio Bn., with his luggage in front of building 7047, May 8. Marines with Detachments 31 and 5 returned from a six-month deployment to Okinawa. The Marines participated in the unit deployment program, supporting the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.



Cpl. Justin Price (left), a special communications signals collection operator with 3rd Radio Battalion, finishes adjusting the strap on a bag for Sgt. Michael Jy, a Chinese linguist with Det. 31, 3rd Radio Bn.



Photos by Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Sgt. Sean Stein (left), a Russian linguist with Det. 5, 3rd Radio Battalion, chats with Cpl. Emmanuel Delarosa, a Tagalog linguist, 3rd Radio Bn.



Photos by Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

ABOVE: Members of the third grade class perform to “Menehune Beach Bum Boogie” during the May Day celebration at Mokapu Elementary School, Wednesday.

RIGHT: Members of the fourth grade class perform to “Haleakala.”

Mokapu Elementary honors local May Day tradition

Kristen Wong
Hawaii Marine

Parents gathered at Mokapu Elementary School on a bright, sunny Wednesday to see their children partake in a local Hawaii tradition filled with flowers, song and dance: May Day.

For the first time, the entire school participated in the program, since May Day was revived at Mokapu several years ago by former Principal Keoni Wilhelm.

“I think it’s very important to highlight the Hawaiian culture,” said Mokapu Principal Chuck Fradley. “We have so many students from the mainland and moving to Hawaii is a very big adjustment for them. Even if it’s a part of the United States, it’s a very unique culture, and we take it upon ourselves to share that culture with our students



Second grader Kaylee Noa performs to “Kahuli Aku” with her classmates.

while they’re here; enjoy it, learn it and take a little bit of aloha when they leave.”

This is the first May Day celebration for Fradley, who is originally from Florida.

He said being able to synchronize a performance with more than 100 children has been challenging but amazing.

“The kids have been working so hard,” he said.

In the field behind the campus, the program began with students blowing into conch shells, and the fourth grade performing an oli, or a chant, called “E Ho Mai.”

After a playing of the national anthem and “Hawaii Pono,” the Junior Police Officers performed a drill demonstration and Fradley made remarks. Then members of Mokapu’s May Day Court took their places in the front of the program.

The court was made up of 18 boys and girls; one boy and one girl representing each Hawaiian island, as well as a king and queen. Each prince and princess wore matching colors for their respective island.



Students were chosen for the court based on their academic performance and behavior at school. This year’s king was sixth grader Kai Stagg, and queen was sixth grader Leila Johnson. Johnson’s father crowned her, and her mother presented her with a lei during the celebration.

Adrianne Vincent, the May Day committee chairperson, said she was grateful for everyone’s support and hard work for the event.

“Everyone did an amazing job,” she said. “It makes me proud of Mokapu for valuing the Hawaiian culture, which for many of us from the islands is very important. We hope to spread education about our islands and share our aloha with everyone, whether they are here for a short term or for the rest of their life.”

Each of the grades, including pre-kindergarten

and kindergarten classes, performed a hula for the crowd. The children were dressed in muumuus, dresses, aloha shirts and shorts. Some were adorned with leis around their necks, or haku leis on their heads.

Last, but not least, the faculty and staff of Mokapu Elementary, beaming with smiles, danced to “He Ui.”

It was the new principal’s first time performing hula, joining the rest of the faculty and staff as they did the final performance of the day.

“It’s a very moving experience,” Fradley said of dancing hula. “It tells a story and you really want to make sure you get the story right. It’s very graceful. I respect those individuals (who) are able to do the hula appropriately and correctly. We do have staff members that can convey that feeling of storytelling.”

Find new career paths during Navy Mustang Association’s event

Christine Cabalo
Hawaii Marine

For those with questions about becoming an officer or chief warrant officer, the Navy Mustang Association is offering answers.

The Hawaii Chapter of the association is scheduled to host a briefing about available military career opportunities Thursday starting at 12:30 p.m. at the base theater. Some of the Navy programs are also open to Marines.

“We’re going to go through and explain every commissioning program available in the Navy for Sailors and Marines,” said Lt. j.g. Angel Rivera, a Sailor with Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Hawaii Chapter treasurer. “We’ll also have

people available to give mentorship to people looking to apply. We have a directory network of 330 mustangs locally so we can connect the applicants to the right people.”

The association is named from the military term ‘mustang,’ when enlisted personnel become commissioned officers according to the Navy Mustang Association’s national website. Information for each of programs is in the Navy Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Programs Administrative Manual.

The Thursday briefing features details about applying to Officer Candidate School, the U.S. Naval Academy, the Medical Enlisted Commissioning

Program and other programs for career advancement through the Navy.

Both Matthews and Rivera said they wouldn’t be in their current leadership positions without their own mentors believing they could make a lasting difference in the community.

“It’s really important that Sailors and Marines seize the opportunity to find a mustang mentor,” said Navy Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Matthews, a Sailor with Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Hawaii Chapter vice president. “If you only look at OPNAV instructions, you may not realize there are also annual OPNAV updates or that a program has a website and additional information.”

Among the newer topics of the road show briefing will be the Judge Advocate General Corps In-Service Procurement Program, a pathway for enlisted Sailors to be judge advocates.

“The program was only introduced two years ago,” Matthews said. “It’s so new, there are not many commissioned in the program yet.”

He said enlisted Sailors and Marines deserve to learn about how to make their future better.

“We owe them these answers so they should not have to go out of their way to seek them,” Matthews said.

The association plans to host a brief next month at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area in Wahiawa and additional events in September. For details, call Matthews at 471-2537.



WEARING ANOTHER UNIFORM TO SERVE

Correctional officers Anthony Smith (center) and Sam Gonzalez speak to Sgt. Brent Gibbs, a model simulation noncommissioned officer with the Operations and Training Department at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The pair were recruiting new hires during the 2015 Transition Readiness Program Job Fair held at The Lanai Ballroom of The Officers’ Club, May 8. Gonzalez is a former Marine who was previously stationed at Kaneohe Bay. Employers from government agencies and private companies exhibited booths. The MCB Hawaii Education Center and other private colleges with satellite campuses were also at the fair.



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

SCOUTS, from A-1

boys to engage the military and see the kind of equipment they use and the kind of jobs there are,” Fujita said.

Each Department of Defense branch was in attendance of the event with the biggest attractions being the Marines showing off trucks and the army showing off artillery and explosive ordnance disposal suits.

Fujita said he and other committee members start planning seven to eight months in advance of the event. A lot of the planning involves figuring out the layout of the booths, food vendors, entertainment and different demonstrations.

The event has been held at Sand Island until recently in 2010 it was moved to Ala Moana Beach Park.

Billy Rayl, the staff advisor, said the Makahiki is the oldest scouting show and has been around since 1910.

“Scouting teaches leadership skills and development,” he said. “(The boys) are excited to share (what

they know and have learned) with the community.”

Rayl said a lot of the packs and troops have parents who are also in the military.

Staff Sgt. Adam Walker, the administration chief for Marine Corps Base Hawaii command deck, is also the assistant troop master of his son’s Boy Scout Troop.

Walker said the reason he joined was to be closer and more involved with his son.

He said he’s been the assistant troop master for the last year and the troop has done a ton of work together, including the last two Makahiki events.

“This Makahiki event we braided 550 paracord bracelets and also handles for (water bottles),” Walker said. “We were pretty popular and sold a lot of them.”

Walker said he had never worked with the Boy Scouts before his time with Troop 32. This is the second time walker has participated in the Makahiki event and is looking forward to next year.



Cpl. Khalil Ross | Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Cub Scout Jordan Perry slides down a 40-foot long zipline during the Makahiki event, Saturday. Perry could only go down the line once he completed crossing the monkey bridge and rope bridge.

VARGAS, from A-1

from Adm. John McCain, the U.S. Pacific Command commander-in-chief, that he knew his Marines would receive cover.

“He told me he had all his ‘little toys’ out there — his gunfire ships,” Vargas said. “He told me, ‘You are my priority, so do whatever you want to do,’ and I did just that. I built a circle of steel around (us) with aircraft, artillery and naval gunfire.”

Vargas said by digging up the bodies, his Marines were able to make fighting holes and create a 360-degree defensive position. He said his company fought all night, with their hands and bayonets, and, after three days, the Marines continued forward and that’s when Lt. Col. William Weise, the battalion commander, found him in the trenches.

“I told him he better get out of (there) because I’d called artillery on myself and my Marines,” Vargas said. “They knew it, and I told them to grab their butts because I was bringing it (close). The colonel turned around and as he did, took three shots to the spine. I had to bring in the fixed wing, artillery and naval gunfire with three radios in my hands because my radio operators were already dead.”

Despite his own injuries, Vargas

dragged his wounded battalion commander nearly 100 yards through withering fire to a covered position. He continued to coordinate his remaining Marines’ defensive actions and called in deadly airstrikes until the attacking North Vietnamese diminished. It was for his actions at Dai Do that he received the Congressional Medal of Honor, presented to him by then-President Richard M. Nixon during a White House ceremony.

The retired colonel, now a mental health advocate, spoke to the Marine Corps Base Hawaii community about the importance of seeking help for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, Tuesday at the Chaplain Joseph W. Estabrook Chapel.

Col. Timothy Winand, the commanding officer for 3rd Marine Regiment, said it was a great privilege to have a Medal of Honor recipient speak to the Marines about such an important topic.

“(It was) a great opportunity in the realm of professional military education,” Winand said. “Col. Vargas has commanded Marines at every level, from platoon to infantry regiment, and his great story is one of courage, dedication, honor, commitment and valor. This is a message we should all

listen to and take away from.”

Vargas, a Winslow, Ariz., native, said it took him 37 years to talk about his experiences and once he let it all out, it felt good. He said he held it in because it’s what his brothers did. His brothers, Angelo and Frank, were at the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II, and his brother Joseph was in the Korean War. Vargas said they never spoke about it.

“The night after I received the medal, the four of us got together at supper and that was the first time I had heard what they did in WWII,” Vargas said. “They held it in, like I did. I had just assumed that once you came home, you didn’t talk about it, like that’s the way it was supposed to be. To those of you who are coming out of a combat zone, don’t hold it in and, if you might have a problem, seek help.”

Vargas said there isn’t a Marine in this world that’s not tough, but there’s ongoing issue in the military called fatigue. He said it causes mental problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder or suicidal thoughts.

“I’ve found this stigma between all of us,” he said. “Nobody wants to admit they have a problem because of the things they’ve seen in combat, but most people don’t understand what effect

combat fatigue — that was the term we used in WWII — has on Marines. If you need help, contact your chain of command. PTSD is vicious and some people might not be aware they have it; after coming home, I didn’t.”

Coming from a family of hunters, Vargas and his brothers would always go out and hunt, he said. Vargas said for reasons unbeknownst to him, during one hunting trip, he would just go out and circle back to their base camp.

“I couldn’t kill anymore and I still can’t,” he said. “I can’t pull the trigger and my brother sensed (that). All he said, having gone through it himself, was ‘that’s okay, I understand,’ and took me (to get help). Was I cured? Yes. Will I ever forget what I went through in Vietnam? No. I will live with (my) memory of combat forever, I’m not going to deny that. I was told that my life was going to be different, that I would walk through life with a different posture. That I may even think about suicide.”

Vargas said one thing he has told Marines all over, was that nobody should ever think about taking their own life.

“Your life is too damn precious to throw away,” he said. “Some people never talk about what they go through, but if you put your heart and soul into it, you can live through anything.”

Sports & Lifestyle



Cpl. Khalil Ross | Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Steven Tholen, a center fielder for 3rd Marine Regiment, bombs the ball with a resounding metal thunk Monday at Riseley Field. The ball sails deep into the center field. The outcome of the game was a tie with the score being 11-11.



Cpl. Khalil Ross

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Thunderous echoes rang out into the night Monday as the softball game between Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 and 3rd Marine Regiment came to a close with a score of 11-11.

Both teams brought their big hitters to the game after coming back from operations.

“We were 8-0 and thought we would remain undefeated,” said Timothy Eustace, the first baseman for HMLA-367’s Scarface. “We had to send people off due to operational commitments which hurt us.”

That was last week and Scarface has gotten its big hitters back, Eustace said.

“I tried keeping the ball from the usual (hitting spots),” said Larry McConnell, the pitcher for 3rd Marines. “Sometimes good ball players can take (bad) pitches and do miraculous things with them.”

McConnell said the two teams were going at each other’s throats through the entire game and that just showed the outcome could go either way, or no particular way in this case.

“As far as both teams (playing tonight), it was incredible,” McConnell said. “They are a great team, we are a great team and it made a great game.”

Both teams are looking forward to the playoffs but also noticed a timing issue.

“Unfortunately we are going to have a lot of our guys out in Australia at the time (of the playoffs),” Eustace said. “All we can hope to do is move some players around and hope they step up.”

If teams aren’t able to make up a full team those players can join another team to play, said Christina Rizzello, the intramural coordinator for Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The game will be recorded as unofficial and the team will have to accept a loss.

The schedule for the playoffs is May 18 through 20 and will continue through May 27 and 28. The championship game will be on May 29. Rizzello will release the schedule with team names today.

Tracey Byers, the pitcher for Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367’s Scarface, runs and watches the ball he hit into the outfield get fielded Monday at Riseley Field. The game was full of big hits and pop flies from both teams.

Keep calm and PCS: Tips for moving to a new duty station

Kristen Wong

Hawaii Marine

The orders are staring you in the face. It is time to change duty stations. Soon you’ll be heading for a new home. Pack belongings? Check. Buy a plane ticket? Check. Ready? Not so fast.

Permanent changes of station are common across all branches of service, the peak season being from April to August each year. Generally, a service member can expect to move five times during a 20-year career, according to Marie Calvo, the program manager of the Family Member Employment Assistance Program and Relocation Services. Moving can be stressful, whether a service member is preparing to PCS, retire or separate from the military. When PCSing, service members have many responsibilities; some more obvious, such as packing household goods, while others might be overlooked, like forwarding mail.

Calvo said one of the challenges service members face is learning that they will soon receive orders to move, but they are not sure where or when they will move.

“We encourage them to come to the (PCS and Moving) workshop to get all the information,” Calvo said. “There’s so much you can do to plan your move that doesn’t require PCS orders and coming to the workshop offers that. So once you do get your orders (and) the countdown (starts), you’ve got a good plan in place to execute a move that best suits

your needs.”

Initially, she recommends creating or renewing one’s account at move.mil, the Defense Personal Property System website developed by the Department of Defense U.S. Transportation Command to help with moving. Calvo said the process of creating an account does take time.

Second, she recommends registering for the PCS and Moving Workshop, run by Marine Corps Community Services’ FMEAPRS. Last year, 688 active-duty Marines and Sailors attended this four-hour workshop. The workshop is held twice a month through the busy PCS season, and once a month after August. Active-duty service members who are changing duty stations are required to take the workshop, while it is optional for those retiring or separating from the military.

At the workshop, service members will receive an overview of their responsibilities before leaving the base, with briefings and time to chat with representatives of several departments, including the Finance Office, Legal Assistance and the Personal Financial Management Program.

Although service members and spouses are encouraged to attend this workshop three to four months before they are scheduled to leave the island, Calvo said they are allowed to attend earlier, and multiple times if they wish. She added that it’s not uncommon for spouses to come to the workshop first alone, then again with their service member. Department of Defense civilians who need to

PCS are also eligible to take the workshop. Registration is required, but service members do not need to have their orders yet to attend.

Additionally, Calvo recommends that service members schedule the detachment (service member’s last day at work) and departure (service member’s last day on island) date to be on the same day. Doing so can prove more cost effective as a service member may not realize how much excess money they would be spending while vacationing.

She also advises service members to stay organized. She has samples of organization systems which she shares at the workshops. One can organize their PCS move simply by having a binder or folders for all their paperwork.

One of the first places service members visit to begin the official transition is the Installation Personnel Administration Center, where orders are processed, entitlements are explained and flights are coordinated.

Once the service member receives their orders, Sgt. Stephen Kroulik, a PCS noncommissioned officer for IPAC’s Outbound Branch recommends that they come to the center immediately; the same day if possible. The center is the least busy around 7:45 in the morning, and no appointment is necessary.

“We will sit down and explain the whole PCS process to them,” Kroulik said. “It’ll help them with their timeline to make sure that they don’t feel that pressure.”

Kroulik, of Yumatilla, Fla., has experience PCSing to Marine Corps Base Hawaii from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. He faced several challenges, from having only 25 days for his transition, to fulfilling all requirements to move his pet to Hawaii and ensure his household goods arrived in time for his family.

Household goods are the specialty of the Distribution Management Office, which Kroulik, and Cpl. Victoria Ellis, DMO household goods clerk, recommend is the second stop on the PCS journey. At DMO, located in building 209, service members obtain their itineraries, tickets and government passports, and arrange for their furniture, vehicles and other belongings to be shipped to their next destination.

Ellis advises service members to learn as much information as they can about DMO entitlements and make sure to ship their household goods as soon as possible. Often, she said many people do not know what they are eligible to ship. In addition, she said many end up staying later than anticipated or selling items because they waited too long to start the process.

“(Obtaining flight tickets) is pretty fast; we can get that done within a week,” Ellis said. “But household goods (generally take) a couple weeks.”

The next two PCS and Moving Workshops are scheduled for May 27 and June 10. For more information about the PCS and Moving Workshop, call 257-8354 or visit mccbshawaii.com/trpworkshops.

AT EASE

Your weekly dose of non-mandatory fun in Hawaii Marine

As you unwind reading the paper at breakfast, wait in the lobby of the doctor’s office or ride the bus home, check out “At Ease” for some stress relief. Look no further for a funny story, a comic or a puzzle. Are you a budding journalist? Do you have some witty stories, movie reviews or insightful columns our base readers might enjoy? Email your submissions to hawaiimarineeditor@gmail.com. Please keep your submissions approximately 500 words, and make sure to include your first and last name along with a title for your article. Hawaii Marine staff reviews content and edits submissions. No explicit content, graphic language or topics inappropriate for a general audience will be accepted. If you have any questions, feel free to call 257-8837.

The Meat and Potatoes of Life: The Duke and Duchess of Prom

Lisa Smith Molinari
Submission

“Oh, Mom,” my daughter Anna crooned dreamily on the way home from junior prom last Saturday. “We went outside for a walk, and he gave me his jacket and held my hand ... it was so romantic!”

She floated off to her room, her head swimming with fresh memories of prom night that will stay with her forever.

In fact, 21 years of attending military balls as a Navy wife have not clouded my own memories of junior prom.

It was the spring of 1983. Despite a disappointing first kiss the year before, I couldn’t quell my teenage optimism and believed that I’d soon meet the boy of my dreams.

But three weeks before junior prom, I was still dateless. I was so desperate, I threw a note with my name and address on it out the track team bus window at an away meet, in hopes that some athletic stud from another school would find it and write to me. A few days later I got letters from two pitiful geeks who had fished my note out of a mud puddle on their way to the library.

The following week, a boy in my science class followed me to my locker. He was nice enough, but had a seemingly perpetual sinus infection.



Lisa Smith Molinari is an award-winning syndicated columnist, author, blogger and speaker.

A mouth-breather, the bottom of his upturned nose was always red and chapped. Speaking in a nasal tone past a full set of metal braces, he asked, “Woodyu wan do go wid me do da prom?”

Caught off guard, I stuttered, “Uh, wow, great, but I might be going with someone else, I’m not sure, I need to check ... I’ll let you know ...”

I had no idea what I was talking about. I had to come up with another date fast, unless I wanted photos of me and Mr. Crusty Nose arm-in-arm under the balloon arch.

I thought of a football player I knew — well, actually, he was the water boy who got promoted to third string lineman. A likeable, husky kid with a jolly disposition, he was a mascot of sorts to the team, who had nicknamed him “The Duke.” He seemed the perfect candidate to be my prom date — not popular enough to reject me, and free of excess nasal mucus.



I cornered “The Duke” after school and proposed that we go to the prom together “as friends.” “Excellent!” he responded with a smile.

The next day, I broke the news to Mr. Crusty Nose. I felt like a schmuck lying to him, but good thing I did, because he asked another girl who ended up becoming his wife. So, I guess you could say, he owes me.

My cousin and I swapped dresses — I gave her a violet taffeta monstrosity with huge puffy sleeves, and she gave

me a pink lace number that wasn’t much better.

“The Duke” showed up in a thoughtfully coordinated rental tux — a mauve poly blend with matching velour around the cuffs and collar, a ruffled shirt and an enormous mauve bow tie. Although there was no romance in our arrangement, we both felt like a million bucks, and were hopeful for a fun night.

We sat with his football player friends at dinner. They had always intimidated me, and I was glad to have “The Duke” as my buffer. Halfway through eating the cordon bleu, the boys were exchanging insults and inside jokes, when suddenly one of them pointed at us and shouted, “Hey, it’s ‘The Duke’ and ‘The Duchess!’” I swallowed my humiliation and faked a laugh.

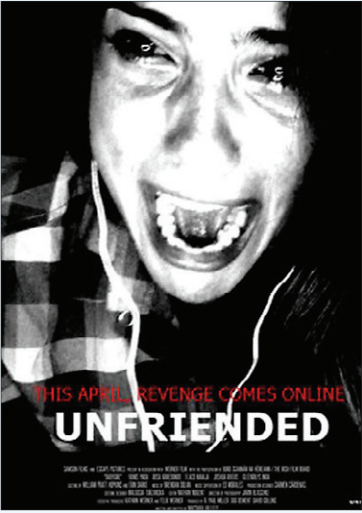
Later at the dance, “The Duke” requested his favorite song, “You Dropped the Bomb on Me” by The Gap Band, and we danced a mauve streak.

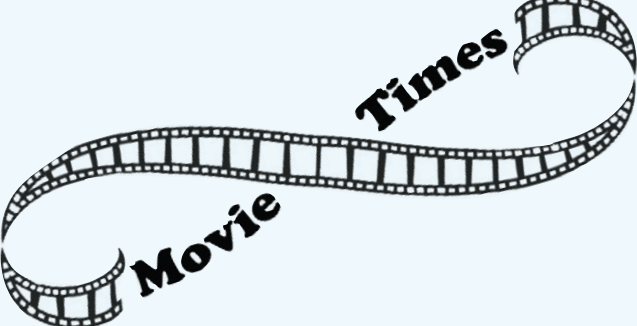
All in all, my junior prom was a pretty good time.

I might have sacrificed the romance that all teenage girls dream about, but not everyone gets to be the prom king and queen.

Some of us have to settle for being “The Duke and Duchess.”

www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com.





“Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2” PG Today | 6:30 p.m.

“Furious 7”(final showing) PG-13 Today | 9:15 p.m.

“Woman in Gold” PG-13 Saturday | 6:30 p.m.

“Unfriended” R Saturday | 9:15 p.m.

“Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2” PG Sunday | 2 p.m.

“Woman in Gold” PG-13 Sunday | 6:30 p.m.

“Unfriended” R Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.

Prices: All shows are \$5 for adults and \$3.25 for children. All 3-D shows are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children. For ticket pricing, the base theater box office defines an adult as a patron 12 years and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11 years old. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets.

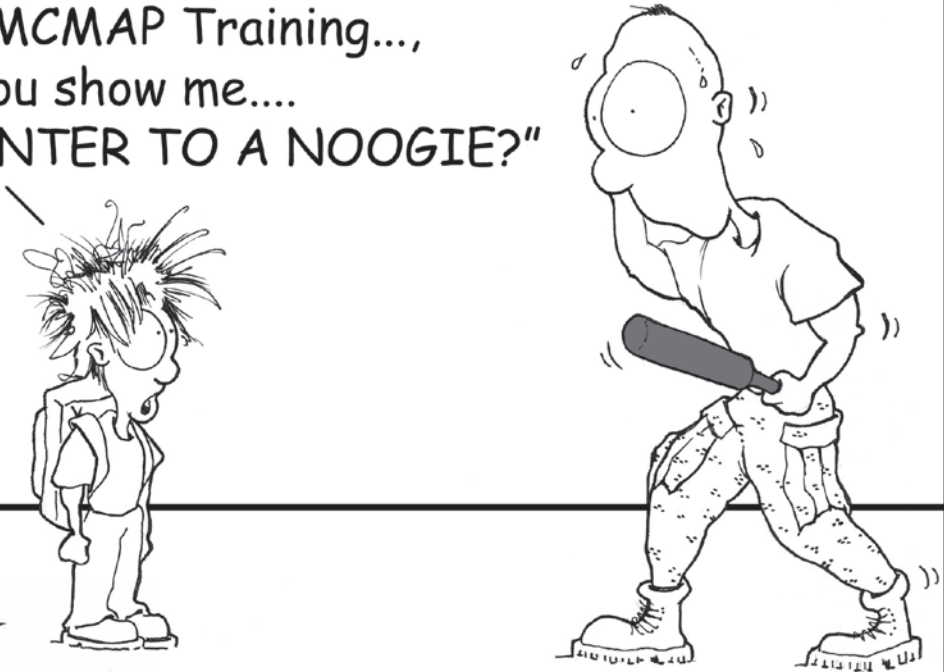
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SUDOKU

6				2				
			3					8
8			7			6		
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	7		1			3	5	

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

COMMUNITY, VOLUNTEER BRIEFS

Find everything for baby at expo

The New Baby Expo is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center. Admission is \$5.50 and parking is available at the center.

Fly in for Open Cockpit Day

Pacific Aviation Museum is hosting an Open Cockpit Day Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Suit up in flight gear and climb into the pilot’s seat of several legendary aircraft in the World War II-era hangar. Walter Klein, the mission director at the Armstrong Flight Research Center will be a guest. For more information, visit pacificaviationmuseum.org.

Release a lantern in remembrance

The Lantern Floating Hawaii 2015 ceremony is scheduled for May 25 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the Magic Island end of Ala Moana Beach Park. Attendees can honor loved ones who have passed away with lanterns, which will be set afloat on the water. For more information, visit www.lanternfloatinghawaii.com.

Society hosts spring concert

The Windward Choral Society is performing its 7th annual spring concert, “I Am in Need of Music,” June 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with a repeat performance June 7 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at St. John Vianney Parish in Kailua. The concert also features Kaanohiwaianuenue Hula Studio. Admission is free and no tickets are required. Find out more at www.thewindwardchoralsociety.org.

Join in commemoration of the Battle of Midway

The Pacific Aviation Museum is commemorating the Battle of Midway June 6 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The museum marks the 73rd anniversary of the turning point of World War II with a special Midway program. U.S. Naval Academy Professor Emeritus Craig L. Symonds, author of “Battle of Midway,” will speak and lead a discussion on the significance of this battle, followed by a book signing. The event is free with museum admission. For more information,

visit pacificaviationmuseum.org.

Volunteer to assist with Heeia Estuary Restoration Project

Hui o Koolaupoko is looking for volunteers for the Heeia Estuary Restoration Project June 13 from 9 a.m. to noon at Heeia State Park on 46-465 Kamehameha Highway. The project is aimed at improving water quality and increasing habitat for native aquatic animal species by removing invasive plants and replanting native Hawaiian species along a portion of the Heeia Stream estuary. This year's workdays are also the second Saturday of August, September, October and December. Participants under age 16 must have adult supervision. Participants under the age of 18 attending without their parent or legal guardian must bring a signed waiver. All others will sign the waiver upon arrival. For more information, visit www.hui-hawaii.org/get-involved.html. What to bring:

- closed-toe shoes (required)
- attire to get wet and muddy
- water bottle
- sun/rain protection
- towel
- change of clothes, bag for the dirty clothes

See music, art in upcoming festival

The inaugural Windward Art Festival is scheduled July 4 from noon to 4 p.m. at Kailua Elementary school in the cafeteria and lawn. Admission is free. There will be crafts for sale and performances by various organizations including the Windward Choral Society and the Shriners Potentate Band. For more information, visit <http://hawaiiwag.com>.

Build basketball skills for free

The Kailua Basketball Player Development Program offers free youth basketball coaching with tips to improve game performance. Girls and boys in 7th through 11th grade are welcome to play. Participants play in four-on-four teams at half court. Practice runs from 9 to 11 a.m. every Saturday at the Saint Anthony School basketball courts in Kailua. For details, call 282-6949.