

## Shuffle *up* and deal

### Texas Hold 'em invades Pearl Harbor at Beeman Center

Story and photos by  
JO3 Ryan C. McGinley  
Staff Writer

Liberty in Paradise started a regular Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament every Wednesday night at the Beeman Center for active duty Sailors, so they could learn and have fun with the ever-growing game.

"I think this is important because it gives Sailors something to do in the evening," said Kristin Jelliff, liberty program intern. "It's free to play and they can meet new people."

The program was

established in January to accommodate the growing popularity of the game, which took off in response to television shows and popular culture.

"We bought a few sets and it just kind of took off," said Jelliff. "Everyone comes and everyone asks about it. Everyone comes back every week. Sailors get mad if I'm two minutes late. They are here every week on the dot ready to play."

The game is no limit Texas Hold 'em. It's a seven-card stud game in which two cards are dealt to each player face down. The dealer then lays five community cards in the center of the table, for each player to make the best possible five-card hand. Jelliff said those Sailors that don't know how to

play the game can still come, because everyone helps you learn.

"In this game when you sit down, everyone teaches you and helps you out if you don't know the rules really well," she said.

Jelliff also said playing at the Beeman Center helps inexperienced Sailors because the game does not involve the pressure of professionals and more serious games.

"It's so much fun and it's easy. Because you are betting against each other and not the house, there is no one really to beat you except your friends. It's not as intimidating as a casino."

The program started out as a weekly game for fun and small prizes.

However, Liberty in Paradise is holding a Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament starting March 16 for all active duty Sailors. The tournament will have four qualifying rounds March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 starting at 6 p.m. at the Beeman Center.

The final round will be played April 9th. Although no money is involved with the program, Jelliff said liberty is offering prizes for the winners. Prizes include six trips to Las Vegas and a brand new Dell desktop computer.

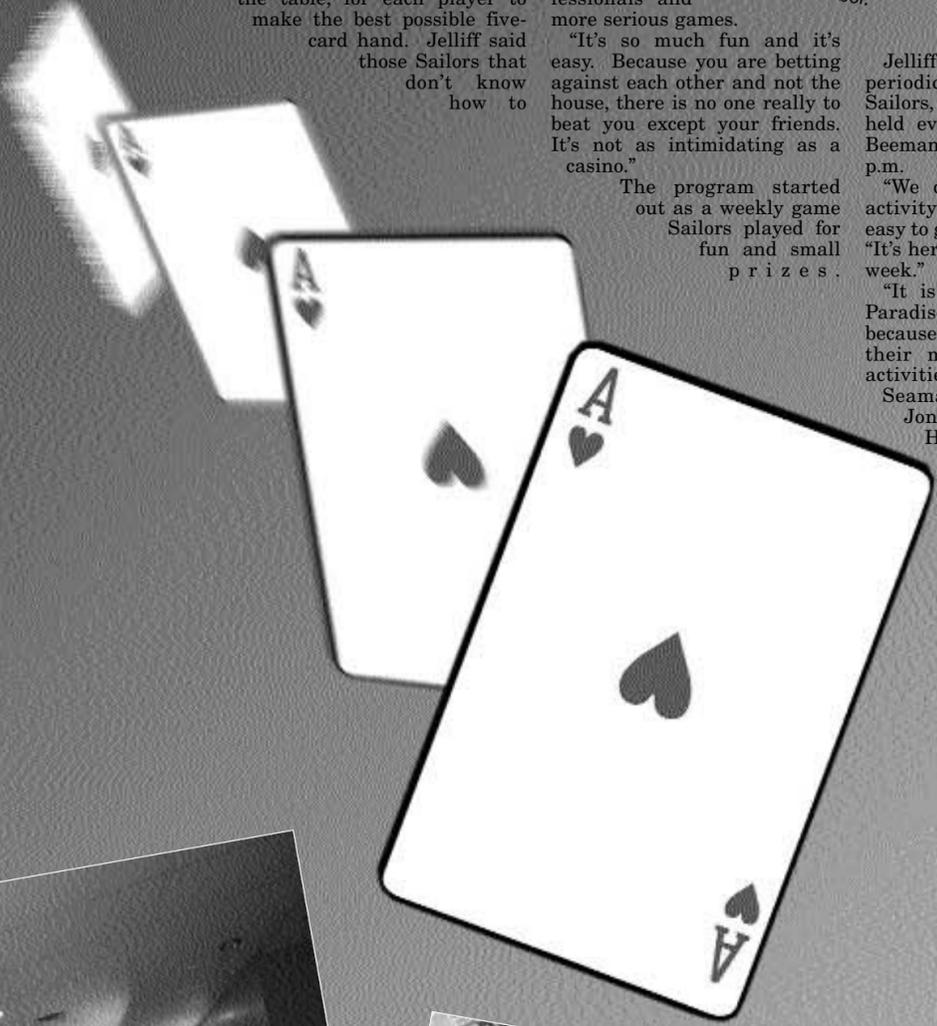
Jelliff said she hopes to have periodical tournaments for Sailors, and regular games are held every Wednesday at the Beeman Center starting at 6 p.m.

"We do this to provide an activity that's free, fun and easy to get to on base," she said. "It's here no matter what every week."

"It is good that Liberty in Paradise offers this program because it helps Sailors keep their minds off the normal activities of work," said Seaman Apprentice Troy Jones, assigned to USS Hopper (DDG 70). "Sailors come here and relax and play a few card games. It's all for fun."



Sailors play no limit Texas Hold 'em in a tournament at the Beeman Center on Pearl Harbor.



A Sailor assigned to USS La Jolla (SSN 701) jokes with other players after winning a big hand at the Texas Hold 'em tournament at Beeman Center. Liberty in Paradise holds poker tournaments every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for active duty Sailors.



Sailors practice their skills at a Texas Hold 'em tournament at the Beeman Center. Liberty in Paradise is beginning a tournament March 16 for active duty Sailors.

### Poker Hand Rankings

Royal Flush	Straight Flush	Four of a kind	Full House	Flush	Straight	Three of a kind	Two pair	Pair	High card
A, K, Q, J, 10 all of the same suit	Any five card sequence in the same suit	All four cards of the same index	Three of a kind combined with a pair	Any five cards of the same suit, but not in sequence	Five cards in sequence, but not in the same suit	Three cards of the same index	Two separate pairs	Two cards of the same index	High card

Commentary

## Window on Pearl Harbor

Karen S. Spangler, Assistant Editor

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### Celebratin' the wearin' o' the green

Gosh and begorah! It would seem that somehow in the midst of celebrations of ethnicities and cultures, the Irish folk have been given lesser significance. Think about it – we celebrate such observances as African-American Heritage, Native American culture, Women's History Month, etc. for a whole month. But we have relegated our observance of Irish culture to just one day – St. Patrick's Day which occurs on March 17.

Leapin' leprechauns – that seems such a travesty – so since I come from a strong Irish, albeit Scotch-Irish heritage, I thought that I could at least familiarize you with some very basic information about Irish heritage.

There are a lot of things that people associate with the Irish – leprechauns, shamrocks, the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, corned beef and cabbage and, of course, the traditional gatherings on St. Patrick's Day at pubs and taverns to enjoy some brew – colored green, of course.

But how much do you really know about the Irish and Irish culture? Hmm...just as I thought...but not to worry, I can share with you some of the basics before you start your own journey to learn about the "wearin' o' the green" and all things Irish.

St. Patrick's Day was so named for the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. St. Patrick was one of Christianity's most widely known figures and St. Patrick's Day observes the date of his death, March 17, around 460 A.D.

However, the famous account that tells of St. Patrick banishing all of the snakes from Ireland is the typical product of Irish storytelling – but not true.

St. Patrick's Day is always celebrated with a traditional Irish parade in many cities – the most famous of these in New York City.

As it happens, the first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States, not in Ireland, as Irish soldiers who served in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. It was a proud moment for many Irish when President Truman attended the St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City in 1948.

The story of the Irish in America is a story of strife and struggles and tells of courageous Irish immigrants who came to America to escape starvation – only to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice in their quest to find acceptance in America.

If you have some Irish ancestry, you are one of about 34 million people in the United States and one of about 70 million people worldwide who claim Irish heritage.

Irish is the leading ancestry group in three states: Delaware, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Irish is also among the top five ancestries in every state, but two – Hawai'i and New Mexico.

There are nine places in the United States that share the name of Ireland's capital, Dublin. The two most populous

of these Dublins are Dublin, Calif. and Dublin, Ohio.

So how about some of those things that we consider symbolic of the Irish. The shamrock, a three-leafed clover, has long held a place in Irish culture.

Also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, the shamrock was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. It later became representative for the Irish as they wore the shamrock as a symbol of pride in their heritage.

Irish music is often associated with St. Patrick's Day and Irish culture. It has been an important part of Irish life since the ancient days of the Celts. Because it stirred emotion and helped to unite the people, music was outlawed by the English. Queen Elizabeth I decreed that all artists and pipers were to be arrested and hanged on the spot.

Traditionally, many Irish Americans share a meal of corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day. While cabbage has long been an Irish food, corned beef only began to be associated with the Irish holiday at the turn of the century. Irish immigrants who lived on the lower east side of New York City substituted corned beef for their traditional dish of Irish bacon.

And I really hate to be the one to break this to you, but leprechauns have nothing to do with St. Patrick or the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. In actuality, Irish leprechauns or "lobaircin" as they are known by in the Irish language, means "small-bodied fellow." The Celts believed in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers for good and evil.

In Celtic folklore, leprechauns were cranky souls who were known for their trickery and they often used such deception to protect their fabled treasures.

But in 1959 with the release of a Walt Disney film, "Darby O'Gill and the Little People," America was introduced to a purely American invention, a cheerful, friendly leprechaun. It became a recognizable symbol of St. Patrick's Day and Ireland, but was a very different leprechaun from the cantankerous little fellow derived from Irish folk tales.

The Irish are also known for many wise – and oft witty – sayings. One of the most famous Irish blessings goes like this:

"May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,

The rains fall soft upon your fields,  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you,  
In the palm of his hand."

Whether or not you be an Irish lassie or laddie, may the luck of the Irish be yours today and have a fine Navy day here in paradise.

*We welcome comments from readers. If you have comments, please send them to: Karen.spangler@navy.mil.*

## Miss Latina Hawai'i comes to NEX

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón  
Editor

Audrey Vasquez, Miss Latina Hawai'i, was on hand at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange March 5 to help promote the latest Escada Fragrance – Rockin' Rio. Even more interesting? Vasquez is also known as Cryptologic Technician-Interpretive 2nd Class Audrey Vasquez at Naval Security Group Activity Kunia.

The 22-year-old model from Globe, Ariz., has been in the Navy for almost five years. She's been modeling for a little more than one year. In that time, she has participated in pageants, done a music video for the band Fredalba and hosted the TV show "Model Search TV."

Vasquez also participated in the national Miss Latina USA competition and was third runner up.

Since beginning her modeling career, she has started her own Web site at [www.audreyvasquez.com](http://www.audreyvasquez.com). Vasquez said she enjoyed the chance to help launch Escada's newest fragrance.

"I was really excited to do the event," Vasquez said. "Escada makes all my favorite fragrances and I really like the Rockin' Rio. It's a lot easier to promote things you truly like than to just go out and pretend."

Richard Cooks, president of Tradewind Success Productions, coordinated the event at the exchange.

"We felt the best way to bring it out was to bring in a Latin American Fiesta atmosphere right to the island," Cooks said.

Among the talent Cooks



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderon  
Audrey Vasquez, Miss Latina Hawai'i, talks about the new Escada fragrance, Rockin' Rio, at the product's launch at the Navy Exchange March 5. In addition to being a model and third runner up for Miss Latina USA, Vasquez is also a Cryptologic Technician-Interpretive 2nd Class at Naval Security Group Activity Hawai'i.

brought in were D.J. Tony Vasquez, Greg "Salsa Man" Henry of Hot Salsa Dance Co. and several models from So Vain Models. Latin music and dancers were on hand to bring members of the assembled exchange and commissary shoppers onto the stage.

Susie Obungen, regional manager for Military Sales and Services Co. said Rockin' Rio is a "fashion fragrance."

"It will follow a fashion trend," she said. "The goal is to make people aware of the fragrance, of Escada and to have fun. After all, if you're not having fun, why bother?"

The fashion fragrance is available in 21 Navy exchanges worldwide and will be available in around 50 Army and Air Force exchanges soon. Obungen said the fragrance will likely be available through 2005, then will be replaced by the next fragrance.

Obungen enjoys working with the NEX here.

"They are absolutely wonderful," she said. "They really did everything as far as arranging and setting up the displays. I think NEX management wants to see more of this kind of display so we're looking at doing more of this kind of thing."

In the future, Vasquez plans to continue her modeling career and hopes to break in to acting. She will be taking acting lessons soon in preparation to leave the island after she separates from the Navy this summer.

She advises anyone interested in following a career in modeling to look to themselves for inspiration.

"You just have to be persistent," she said. "You have to go out, meet people and network. You really have to go and get your name out there."

## NEX bumper stickers bring customers rewards

Lacy Lynn  
Staff Writer

The new 2005 "Shop NEX" bumper stickers are now available at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange. From March 1 through the end of the year, patrons who place the stickers on their cars have a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate from the NEX.

Each week, the NEX will announce two gift certificate winners and, in turn, those winners will be entered in a grand prize drawing for a \$2,000 NEX shopping spree at the end of the year.

Last year's grand-prize winner was John W. Little, who received his prize in February.

"I did it because you never know when you're gonna win something," he said of the NEX contest.

Little explained how he got involved by chance, "I used to see all these cars with stickers on them," he said, and finally he "asked somebody and that person explained what the bumper stickers were for, so I got one and put the sticker on my car."

Although Little was unaware at the time, the bumper sticker on his Nissan Sentra would turn out to be worth \$2,000.

According to Little, after a late night trip to the NEX his car was sighted and chosen by a representative from the NEX, who left a slip on his windshield to notify him of his winning. According to Beverly Borges, manager of marketing at NEX Pearl Harbor, an NEX employee chooses vehicles randomly for weekly prizes.

"That's the first time I won the certificate, a \$25 prize," said Little.

Little said he was surprised to hear of his \$2,000 prize. He had no idea of the year-end grand prize drawing of previous winners, which was held Jan. 19.

"The purpose of the program is to reward our loyal NEX patrons," said Borges.

Every year the NEX creates a new design for the bumper sticker. For 2005, Brian Lopes, a graphic designer at NEX Pearl Harbor's marketing department, created a patriotic red, white and blue aloha print design.

Patrons can pick up bumper stickers at the customer service desk, or at any cash register or comment card box location at The Mall.

For more information, visit the customer relations desk located at the NEX Hawai'i at Pearl Harbor rotunda or call 423-3274 for customer service.

# PMRF taking steps to protect lives, birds, aircraft

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón  
Editor

(Part 1 of 2)

On the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), three federal agencies are working together to preserve the safety of aircraft flying in and out of the airfield, the lives of Sailors who man those aircraft and the albatrosses who nest on PMRF.

PMRF, located on the island of Kauai, is home to several species of local wildlife.

The Navy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have been

working to preserve the lives of Laysan Albatrosses and the safety of naval aircraft on the island. Several types of aircraft, ranging from H3 helicopters to C-26 metroliners and assorted civilian contractor and Navy aircraft, fly in and out of PMRF on a regular basis. Lt. Cmdr. Ken Gilbert, the air operations and aviation safety officer for PMRF is in charge of the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) program there.

"It was a concern for us," he said. "The albatross is a large bird and they are a BASH hazard."

The Laysan Albatross is a migratory sea bird with a six-foot wingspan that nests on PMRF and at other locations on the island. Since 1988,

PMRF has had a program in place to transplant adult albatrosses to other locations in order to prevent the birds from becoming a flight hazard to pilots.

One difficulty, according to APHIS personnel, was the albatross' tendency to maintain site fidelity. This is a known characteristic of albatross as well as many other bird species.

"This characteristic is one of the many challenges presented to us as wildlife managers in working on projects like this," said Jayme Patrick, supervisory wildlife biologist for the USDA APHIS. "On this project, we relocated the birds knowing that some of them would return to PMRF. However, our records indicate that over time, the program has successfully moved a large number of the birds off of the base, with only a small percentage of them continuing to return."

Albatrosses maintain what biologists term a "super GPS" or global positioning satellite system. Once they fledge, or fly away, from a nest, they know to return to that nest, no matter where in the world they fly, when they return after more than eight years away. While away from their nest, they spend their time at sea for the first three to four years, then spend an additional four years in nearby colonies searching for a mate. Once they take a mate, they remain together until death.

If there is an egg in a nest when the adults are moved out and the egg or nest is moved as little as 10-15 feet, the adults who return will no longer care for that egg or that nest. They will go back to the place they left and wonder where their egg and nest have gone and will possibly build another nest in the same site the following year. Albatross females lay one egg per year.

"The birds are programmed to return to the location they fledge from," said John R. Burger, PMRF environmental coordinator. "We have been relocating the adults to the Kilauea [Point] light house area, but understandably that has not been completely successful. We continue to have



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderón

An albatross chick at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge looks around its nest while a camera in the background watches its every move. The camera is hooked to a live feed so visitors to the refuge can see the birds without disturbing them.

returning birds during the year, and from season to season, as well as unbanded, new birds that drop in looking for a mate."

"We would normally relocate earlier in the year in an effort to catch them and relocate them before they laid eggs," Patrick said. "If there were eggs, most of them were broken."

There seemed to be no other alternative for the eggs since no group or agency had a need for the eggs or funds to raise the birds. The adult birds, however, could not simply be destroyed. They are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The act provides permits for the movement of birds for safety purposes. It also provides permits for their destruction, but officials did not consider that a feasible choice.

"Killing the adult birds was never an option," Gilbert said. "The only way to eliminate the birds is through relocation. They would catch the birds, take them up to Kilauea Point and then release them."

A representative from the USDA APHIS would take both nesting and unpaired birds from PMRF and relocate them to Kilauea – a drive

of more than 90 minutes. There was no system in place to relocate the eggs. Most were destroyed but a few were taken to research facilities where the chick could be raised and studied. Again, the nature of the albatrosses was such that simply relocating the nest, egg and parents would result in the parents abandoning the egg wherever it was in an attempt to return to their "true" nest. Last year, the Commander Naval Installations determined the funds for aircraft safety programs were to come from air operations. Since the decision came after the budget for fiscal year 2005 had already been drafted and approved, the money had already been allocated to other areas.

"The request went all the way up to Rear Adm. Vitale [Commander Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific] because we didn't have the funds locally," Gilbert said. "It took \$20 thousand or so to get this thing going."

Rebecca Hommon, Navy Region Hawai'i environmental counsel, was instrumental in apprising senior leadership of the problem.

"I brought the issue from PMRF to the attention of the region commander who agreed to fund it," she said.

Once Vitale learned of the situation, he was quick to act. However, on Kauai the situation was becoming critical.

"The 'crisis condition' came in January when the eggs were just on the verge of beginning to hatch," said Burger. "Previously, the eggs were never the issue."

Historically, the issue, according to Burger, was nest fidelity – the behavior of the albatross to remain true to its nest area.

The new concern - eggs on the verge of hatching, pipped (partially hatched), or hatched was resolved with what Burger termed "a coalition of necessity." PMRF environmental worked with USDA APHIS and USFWS on a new solution. Previously, no one had an alternative solution to the destruction of the albatross eggs. However, at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Brenda Zaun, wildlife biologist, had a problem that turned into a solution to PMRF's albatross egg situation.

(Part 2 will run in next week's Hawai'i Navy News.)



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderón

A Laysan Albatross sits on its chick to keep it warm. These albatrosses are at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on the island of Kauai.

## STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: [hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com)

**Hawaii Navy News**

## Company offers free theme park admission

Sgt. 1st Class  
Doug Sample

American Forces Press  
Service

Dan Hartman's "Free Ride" could be the theme song to the Anheuser-Busch Company's latest offer to the military.

The brewery announced that once again it will open the gates to its SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place theme parks for free as a way of saying thanks to servicemembers and their families.

The company's latest promotion, dubbed "Here's to the Heroes," offers a free single-day admission to service members, including Guardsmen and Reservists, and as many as three "direct dependents," according to Fred Jacobs, senior director for communications at Busch Entertainment Corp. The offer runs through Dec. 31. The company has held four similar free-admission programs since the first Gulf War: Yellow Ribbon Summer, Salute to America's Heroes, Operation Salute and last year's Operation Homecoming.

Jacobs said, "These programs were conceived to acknowledge the men and women who serve our country and preserve freedom and security for every American."

"We benefit only from the sense of satisfaction that our employees across the country get from saying, 'thank you' to our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen."

Jacobs said the company decided on the name "Here's to the Heroes" because, "That is exactly how we view those Americans who have chosen to serve in the armed forces."

Eligible service members can register for free admission online or in the entrance

plaza of participating parks, Jacobs said. A Department of Defense photo ID must be presented at the gate before entrance, he added.

Military family members also can take advantage of the offer without their military sponsor; however, an adult must accompany minor children.

Jacobs said the company estimates that more than one million service members and their families will visit its parks during the offer and that nearly 100,000 people have registered already.

The Busch Gardens theme park in Williamsburg, Va.; SeaWorld in San Antonio; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa.; are seasonal operations that open in the spring. The company's SeaWorld Orlando and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, both in Florida, and SeaWorld San Diego, are open year-round. The company has received "thousands of e-mails, phone calls and letters thanking us for recognizing the service and sacrifice of our armed forces," Jacobs said.

"I have had the privilege of responding to many of those notes and I can tell you from personal experience how gratifying it is," he added.

Anheuser-Busch has a long tradition of supporting the military. In 1921, Lilly Busch, the widow of company founder Adolphus Busch, opened the Busch family garden to the public, donating admission fees to disabled veterans. The company has also provided scholarship funds for United Service Organizations members and Desert Storm survivors.

In 2003, the company created the Intrepid/Anheuser-Busch Fallen Heroes Fund, donating \$1 million in scholarships for spouses and children of service members and coalition personnel killed during the war in Iraq.

## Bowling over the competition



Photo by Amiee Huepenbecker

Winners of the all-Navy bowling tryouts will compete in the Hawai'i All Military Bowling Tournament March 15-18. The team consists of the top six male and top four female bowlers. Tryouts were held at Naval Station Pearl Harbor Bowling Center. For more information call 473-2651.

## New program will help Navy deal with domestic violence cases

Kaylee LaRocque

Naval Air Station Jacksonville Public  
Affairs

Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville began a new project with the Department of Justice in December to create specific guidelines for coordinating the response of military and civilian agencies regarding domestic violence cases involving military personnel.

These new guidelines are being created through the Military/Civilian Coordinated Community Response Demonstration Project (M/C CCR) and will enhance the safety of victims, hold perpetrators accountable for ending their violence, and provide support and safety to children involved in family domestic violence cases.

"Historically and currently, there has been a very different response system regarding domestic violence in the civilian and military communities," explained Connie Sponsler-Garcia, Military Projects Coordinator and

Jacksonville Site Coordinator of the Battered Women's Justice Project. "As a result of one of the recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, it was determined there was a need to increase options for victims and that each system needed to enhance its capability to hold offenders accountable."

The program is the first of its kind and is currently being initiated in the Jacksonville area involving both NAS Jax and Naval Station Mayport. Another program will also begin soon at Fort Campbell, Ken.

If successful in the prototype areas, the program could eventually be used on military installations worldwide.

"The entire program is being funded by the Department of Justice, so there is no cost to the military bases except staff resources," continued Sponsler-Garcia.

Each site is responsible for selecting a military and civilian CCR coordinator who will work with a site coordinator to review existing coordination practices between the military and

civilian agencies regarding procedures in handling domestic violence cases.

The coordinators will also be responsible for convening an implementation team who will assist in developing a new coordination plan and getting the program up and running here.

The implementation team will also determine any specific training or technical assistance needed to support this new program.

"Right now we have four teams who are currently looking at the entire process of how military and civilian domestic violence incidents are handled in our area," said Sandy Jones, counseling and advocacy coordinator for Commander, Navy Region Southeast. "They will assess every step, and eventually, we'll determine what needs to be changed and how we can improve on what we are doing now."

"We have both military and civilian employees from NAS Jax and NS Mayport on each of the different teams, as well as civilians from different agencies within the community," she added. "It's definitely a collaborative effort."

# Movie Call

**Sharkey Theater**  
Naval Station Pearl Harbor  
(473-0726)

**FRIDAY**  
7:00 p.m. White Noise (PG 13)  
**SATURDAY**  
2:30 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)  
4:30 p.m. Coach Carter (PG 13)  
7:00 p.m. Alone in the Dark (R)  
**SUNDAY**  
2:30 p.m. Racing Stripes (PG)  
4:45 p.m. Elektra (PG 13)  
7:00 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)  
**THURSDAY**  
7:00 p.m. Phantom of the Opera (PG 13)  
\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

**Memorial Theater**  
Hickam Air Force Base  
(449-2239)

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**  
7:00 p.m. The Wedding Date (PG-13)  
**SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY**  
7:00 p.m. Phantom of the Opera (PG 13)  
**THURSDAY**  
7:00 p.m. The Wedding Date (PG-13)  
\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

**Sgt. Smith Theater**  
Schofield Barracks  
(624-2585)

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**  
7:00 p.m. Hide and Seek (R)  
**SUNDAY AND THURSDAY**  
7:00 p.m. Alone in the Dark (R)  
\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

*Editor's note: Every effort has been made to provide the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. However, scheduling of these events is subject to change. It is recommended that you call the contact numbers for the individual events to determine whether or not the activity will be held.*

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EVENTS

- **March 19:** Dolphin excursion, 8 a.m., \$60. Register by **March 16**.
- **March 20:** Tandem skydiving, 8 a.m., \$135. Register by **March 17**.
- **March 26:** Kaluanui Ridge hike, 9 a.m., \$5. Register by **March 23**.

## YOUTH FITNESS ORIENTATION

Youth fitness orientations will be offered **March 12** at Power Point. The orientations take youngsters ages 10-15 on an educational tour of Navy fitness centers. The free tours are held the first and third Saturday of each month. Parent's attendance is required. Register by the Thursday prior. To register or for more information, call 473-0793.

## SPRING HOLIDAY PARTIES

Celebrate the season at free spring holiday parties hosted by MWR at housing neighborhood community centers. Children of all ages are invited to enjoy the fun activities. The schedule follows:

- **March 12,** 9-11 a.m., Catlin Park
- **March 13,** 2-4 p.m., Camp Stover
- **March 19,** 9-11 a.m., Pearl City
- **March 20,** 2-4 p.m., Iroquois Point

## HAWAII ALL MILITARY BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The Hawai'i All Military Bowling Tournament will be held **March 15-18** at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor bowling center.

The best of the Hawai'i military bowlers in the state will compete for the title of Hawai'i's Best Military Bowler. Competition will begin each day at 10 a.m. For more information, call the bowling director at 473-2651.

## TENNIS DOUBLES ROUND ROBIN

A free tennis doubles round robin will be held **March 18** at Wentworth tennis courts. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. Sign up by calling or visiting Wentworth Pro Shop no later than **March 15**. For more information, call 473-0610.

## GREEN BUOY KAYAK RACE

A green buoy kayak race will be held **March 17**, St. Patrick's Day, at Rainbow Bay Marina.

The event starts at 10 a.m. and lasts until 3 p.m. The cost is \$3 per two-person team. Refreshments will be served. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place finishers. For more information, call 473-0279.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Come out for the wearin' o' the green at a St. Patrick's Day party at Club Pearl's Pool & Pizza on **March 17**. The event will feature singing and Irish-style pupus and lasts from 4-6 p.m. For more information, call 473-1743.

## RAINBOW BAY MARINA REGATTA AND FAMILY FUN DAY BARBECUE

Rainbow Bay Marina regatta and family fun day barbecue will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **March 19**. The free, fun in the sun event will offer a variety of family activities. Sail the historic waters of Pearl Harbor, try the ancient Hawaiian sport of outrigger canoeing or test your skill in kayaking and paddle-boarding. For those who are not up to that kind of exertion, the marina staff will offer a piloted harbor cruise. Or enjoy the party from the shore and watch the boat races, jump in the bounce house or enjoy a meal at the local-style barbecue. The event is sponsored by USAA. For more information, call 473-0279.

## CAMP ADVENTURE SPRING BREAK CAMP

Registration for Camp Adventure spring break camp is now ongoing. The camp will run from **March 21-April 1**. Camp hours are from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and will be held at Catlin and Iroquois Point Clubhouses. Day camp is open to patrons ages 5-12. Fees are based on total household income. For more information, call 421-1556.

## PEE WEE BASKETBALL

Registration for pee wee basketball will be from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. though **March 25** at the youth sports office, building 3456 on Main Street, just off Valkenburgh. Children between the ages of three and five years are eligible to register. At the time of registration, parents should bring player's birth cer-

tificate, current sports physical (dated no more than one year ago) and a \$35 fee, which includes T-shirt, medal and certificate. The league is open to family members of active duty, retirees, reservists and DoD civilians. For more information, call 474-3501.

## 8TH ANNUAL FORD ISLAND BRIDGE RUN

Sign up now for the 8th Annual Ford Island 10K Bridge Run which will be held **April 9**. Early registration (with T-shirt) is through March 26. Entry forms are available online at [www.greatlifeflowhawaii.com](http://www.greatlifeflowhawaii.com) or can be picked up at any military fitness center. For more information, call 473-2494.



- **March 11:** Blue Hawai'i dinner and show, \$40, 4:30 p.m.
- **March 12:** Introductory surfing lessons, \$3, 10 a.m.
- **March 13:** Grand Circle Island Tour, \$25, 9 a.m.
- **March 16:** Black out bingo, free, 6:30 p.m.
- **March 17:** St. Patrick's Day - Hare & Hound, \$3, 6:30 p.m.

## Weekly events:

- Sunday:** Chess tournament, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday:** WWE wrestling, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday:** 8-Ball tournament - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday:** Game show - 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday:** 9-Ball Pool tournament - 7 p.m.

# Community Calendar

To have your activity or event featured in the Community Calendar, e-mail your requests to [hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com) or fax 473-2876. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's issue. Items will run on a space available basis.

**The Mardi Gras Follies** is currently on stage for its 50th anniversary and final curtain call on weekends through **March 19** at The Banyans at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The Las Vegas-style song and dance revue is the main fundraiser for the Pearl Harbor Performing Arts Association (PHPAA) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Tickets are available at a cost of \$35, \$45 and \$50 per person and offer an evening of entertainment - including a buffet dinner, the Mardi Gras Follies show, tax, tip and free parking. A portion of the cost is tax deductible. For tickets, call 473-1703 on weekdays between the hours of 10 a.m.-1 p.m. You can also visit the Mardi Gras Follies web site at [www.mardigrasfollies.com](http://www.mardigrasfollies.com) for more information.

**USS Chicago Ohana Wives Club** will hold a fundraiser (McTakeover) from 5-8 p.m. **March 15** at the McDonald's at the Moanalua Shopping Center. During the three-hour time span, spouses from the USS Chicago Ohana will work behind the counters at McDonald's to raise money for the ohana wives club. The club will receive 20 percent of the proceeds made during that three hours. The event is the club's biggest fundraiser for the year. For more information, call 421-1566.

The annual Hickam/Pearl Harbor **American Red Cross Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** will be held from 10 a.m.-noon **March 18** at The Banyans at Pearl Harbor. The lunch is complimentary for volunteers and \$12 for guests. For more information or to make a reservation, call 449-0166.

Navy Exchange Hawai'i associates and customers will paint the "Shades of Spring" on the runway at the NEX rotunda during the **Spring 2005 Fashion Show** which begins at 1 p.m. **March 19**. Customers can take a peek at what's fashionable and welcome spring in style. The event is for the whole family.

**Join the Easter Bunny for breakfast** from 8-10 a.m. **March 19** at the NEX food court lanai. Breakfast includes McDonald's pancake breakfast, Polaroid photo with the Easter Bunny, Easter favors and balloons. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be pre-sold at the customer service desk and are available on a first come, first served basis.

A **free scrapbooking class** will be offered **March 22** at the Armed Services YMCA at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The class will introduce the basics needed to create beautiful scrapbooks for those cherished family photos. For more information or to sign up, call 473-3398.

Learn **Hawaiian quilting** and how to make a treasured family heirloom from Linda Yamamoto, a quilter with many years of experience. The class begins **March 24** and will meet from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Thursday at Armed Services YMCA at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The cost of the class is \$24. A list of supplies will be provided upon payment of class registration. For more information or to reserve a spot, call 473-3398.

**The Pearl Harbor Commissary** will close at 3 p.m. **April 6** for an annual **storewide inventory** and storewide reset. The commissary will reopen on April 7 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. The Pearl Harbor Commissary

will add additional shelf spaces to provide patrons with a better flow of product throughout the day. To accomplish this, the commissary will close at 3 p.m. June 20 and will be closed all day June 21-22, reopening for normal business on June 23 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

**A VP-4 All Hands Reunion** is planned for **Aug. 4-7** in Portsmouth, Va. For more information, call Steve Andruszkewicz at (818) 652-9942 or email [VP4Reunion2005@aol.com](mailto:VP4Reunion2005@aol.com)

The **American Red Cross**, Hickam Service Center is seeking volunteers to fill the following positions: chairman of volunteers, records chairman and publicity chairman. For more information, call the Red Cross office at 449-0166. The office is located at 655 Vickers Ave., building 1105 and is open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

**Sea World San Diego** is offering free admission throughout 2005 for all active duty military and up to three dependents. For more information, visit <http://www.herosalute.com/cavatz/index.html>.

**The USS Chafee Ohana** meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the community center in Pearl City housing. Child care is provided at a cost of \$2 for the first child and \$1 for each additional child. For more information, call 780-4132 or contact [chafeeohana90@yahoo.com](mailto:chafeeohana90@yahoo.com)

The **Navy Exchange Appliance Store** has a new home, located in building 70 at the corner of Radford Drive and Bougainville Drive. It is open from 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. daily. For more information, call 421-1495.

Bring your child's most recent report card to the Navy Exchange to register for the **Project A-OK** program. Good grades could win your child \$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000 or \$1,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds. For more information, visit the NEX customer service department at The Mall rotunda.

How to contact **TriWest/TRICARE services** - Beneficiaries can contact TriWest with enrollment; Primary Care Manager and address changes; program benefits questions; claims status; fee payments and locating network providers in the area by calling 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378), visiting their web site at [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com), or visiting TRICARE Service Centers located at Makalapa Medical Clinic and Kaneohe Bay Medical Clinic.

The TRICARE Service Center located at the Pearl Harbor Makalapa Clinic is open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The TRICARE Service Center located at the Kaneohe Clinic is open from 7-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m.

**T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)**, a nonprofit, non-commercial weight-loss support group, meets every Wednesday at the Armed Services YMCA, Aliamanu location. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:15 p.m. Membership fees are low and includes the T.O.P.S. magazine. There are also incentive programs offered. The first meeting is free. T.O.P.S. in Hawai'i is a support group for helping members Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group recently held its state convention and crowned the state queen. She had lost all her weight by the end of December 2003 and lost 163 pounds. The first meeting of T.O.P.S. is free. If you need support in your weight loss efforts, the group offers low monthly fees and a low joining fee. Call Delcie at 623-1403 for information on the several chapters and meeting places on the island. For more information, call Delcie at 623-1403.



**Alone in the Dark:** A detective travels to Shadow Island to solve the mystery of a friend's death. He discovers the secrets of the Abskani, an ancient tribe that worshiped demonic forces.

**Are We There Yet?:** When Suzanne's work keeps her in Vancouver for the holiday, Nick offers to bring her kids to the city. The kids are determined to turn the trip into a nightmare.

**Coach Carter:** Ken Carter, who oversees Richmond High School's basketball program, found himself in the center of controversy when he locked out his entire varsity team in order to motivate them to improve their grades.

**Elektra:** Elektra becomes an assassin trained by a crew of killers. Their leader sends her on a mission to kill Mark Miller and his daughter. However, Elektra befriends her would-be victims and defends them from ninja assassins.

**Hide and Seek:** As a widower tries to piece together his life in the wake of his wife's suicide, he discovers that his daughter finds solace by creating an imaginary friend with a terrifying vendetta.

**The Phantom of the Opera:** A disfigured musical genius haunts the catacombs beneath the Paris Opera. When he falls in love with Christine, he devotes himself to creating a new star for the opera, exerting a strange sense of control over the soprano as he nurtures her talents.

**Racing Stripes:** A circus accidentally leaves behind a baby zebra. He is rescued by a horse farmer, whose farm borders a racetrack, where thoroughbreds compete. From the first moment Stripes lays eyes on the track, he knows that he could leave all those other horses in the dust.

**The Wedding Date:** See Review

**White Noise:** Jonathan Rivers, distraught after the death of his wife, is contacted by a man who claims to be receiving messages from her through something he calls electronic voice phenomena. Jonathan is at first skeptical, but then becomes convinced EVP is real and tries to contact her himself.

## JO3 Ryan C. McGinley The Wedding Date

Add two teaspoons of B-list actors, a tablespoon of an unknown director, a cup of "Pretty Woman" and a dash of "My Best Friend's Wedding" and you have the recipe for the bundt cake of romantic comedies, "The Wedding Date."

Nothing spells disaster like combining other movies together with lesser actors to try and make something new and fresh, which is what "The Wedding Date" tries to accomplish.

Kat Ellis (Debra Messing from the television show "Will and Grace") hires an escort to accompany her to her sister's wedding in London, where her ex-fiancé will be the best man. She hires the escort to make her ex-fiancé jealous and prove to her family she is not sulking alone in New York.

The escort is Nick Mercer (also known as Dermot Mulroney who was ironically in "My Best Friend's Wedding" as well). Nick is the perfect man. He is charming, handsome, erotic and loveable all at the same time. As well he should be since he is charging the price of \$6,000 for the event.

Eventually, drama ensues and surprisingly, Kat falls for Nick. Will wonders never cease? There is nothing original or interesting about this film. The plot is weak, predictable and occasionally irritating. What saves the film from being a complete mess is occasionally poignant and funny dialogue between the characters. It is possible to have a bad script with good dialogue and "The Wedding Date" is a prime example. With lines like, "I think I'd miss you even if we never met," girls will weep and guys will wish they had the lines in their arsenal.

But as a whole, "The Wedding Date" is nothing more than a recipe for disaster. It's overcooked, underdone and mixed wrong all at the same time. Sure, audiences will chuckle and maybe even laugh out loud a few times, but it's hardly a cause for celebration and most will go searching for something a little sweeter.

**OVERALL RATING:** ★★☆☆☆