

‘Counting gentle giants’



Whales are estimated to live between 30 to 40 years and return to Hawaiian waters to reproduce and nurse.



A whale throws its tail out of the water and in the process slaps its peduncle on the surface.

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

Photos courtesy of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

It's whale watching season in Hawai'i – and an opportunity to view some of the largest animals on earth while they spend the winter months in Hawai'i. There are also opportunities for volunteers to help count the huge mammals during their stay in Hawaiian waters to reproduce and nurse their young.

Volunteers will be able to help the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary to count whales as part of its Sanctuary Ocean Count project. The count enables the sanctuary to look at whale population, distribution and behavioral trends at different sites and also allows volunteers to learn more about humpback whales.

The project involves counting the number of whales that can be seen around the islands over a four-hour period and recording their behavior. Volunteers are needed to assist with the whale counting from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Feb. 24 and March 31.

“We're especially fortunate in Hawai'i to be able to see humpback whale activity from shore so that families who may not have the resources or time to take their whole family out on a boat can still join in the fun,” said Becky Hommon, Navy Region Hawai'i environmental counsel.

“It's also a great educational

opportunity - who knows, the next generation of marine biologists might get their start by participating in a shore-based whale count,” noted Hommon.

Ke kohola, the Hawaiian word for the humpback whales, grow to about 45 tons and are between 42 to 45 feet in length when they reach their full maturity after five to nine years.

It is estimated that the marine mammals have a life span of 30 to 40 years. After returning to Hawaiian waters to reproduce and nurse their young during the winter timeframe between October and May, the humpbacks return to Alaskan waters to feed during the summer months.

Humpback whales are listed as endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Approaches to whales are limited to 100 yards by sea and 1,000 feet by air. Federal law prohibits harassing, injuring or killing any humpback whales. If anyone witnesses a stranded marine mammal, they should call the National Marine Fisheries Service at 1-888-256-9840.

Anyone who sees a stranded marine mammal should stay away from it and keep all pets away. When reporting the stranded mammal, give the location and species or a description of the animal, including approximate size and the condition of the animal.

Those who wish to register to help with the whale watching count should call the following numbers: O'ahu, 397-2651, ext. 253, or Kaua'i, 246-2860.

For more information about the whale sanctuary, visit <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noa.gov>.



A whale breaches the surface in the waters off Hawai'i.

Forest City to host 'Hawaiian Experience'

Forest City Residential Management

Forest City Residential Management will host the Iwalani School of Dance as it performs at "Forest City's Hawaiian Experience," slated for today, Saturday and Sunday at The Banyans at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Forest City residents are invited to attend, by community, on the following days:

Today from 6:30-8 p.m., Camp Stover, Ford Island, Manana, NCTAMS and Pearl City Peninsula; Saturday from 1-2:30 p.m., Catlin Park, Doris Miller Park, Hale Ali'i, Halsey

Terrace, Hospital Point, Makalapa, Maloelap, Marine Barracks, McGrew Point and Radford Terrace; and Sunday from 1-2:30 p.m., Halawa, Hale Moku, Hokulani, Moanalua Terrace and Red Hill Terrace.

Iwalani's School of Dance, a troupe of artists of various ages, will perform a cultural timeline on the unique and inviting history of Hawai'i through narration, song and world renowned dance.

The school's director, Iwalani Tseu, is many things - performer, model, entertainer, educator, director, judge, philanthropist, Hawaiian cultural specialist, and even the inspiration

for a bronze statue at Aloha Tower Marketplace.

A past judge at Merrie Monarch Festivals and a dance purist who has traveled the globe preaching the art of aloha, performing for royal courts and cruise ships, Tseu has created a program for Forest City residents that emphasizes varieties of hula, Maori (New Zealand), Tahitian (Tahiti) and conch shell blowing. She will demonstrate the many influences that create the description "Hawaiian."

A breast cancer survivor, she founded the Iwalani Foundation for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Forest City will donate the proceeds for her school's performance to this charitable organization.

Residents are encouraged to bring their cameras and pose with the performers after the show.

For more information, call Corinne Medrano at 839-8620, Diana Su at 839-8630, Amy Ritch at 839-8640, or Angel Galinato at 839-8670.

Photo by Mike Bambi

Iwalani Tseu and her school of dance will perform at 'Forest City's Hawaiian Experience' from Feb. 23-25 at The Banyans at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.



Barbers Point Golf Course driving range closing for renovations



Photo courtesy of Navy Region Hawai'i Fleet and Family Readiness, Marketing

The driving range at Barbers Point Golf Course will be closed from Feb. 27 until August for renovations.

Sara Mizushima

Navy Region Hawai'i Fleet and Family Readiness, Marketing

The driving range at Barbers Point Golf Course will be closed for renovations from Feb. 27 until August. The renovation project will include the installation of a new automatic irrigation system and some small target greens on the range and replacement of stall dividers.

The current starter building will be demolished due to termite and water damage and will be replaced with an inviting open-air picnic pavilion. The golf course and pro shop will remain open during this time.

In the past, the driving range was manually watered. Unfortunately, large areas of the range could not be reached, leaving only portions of the range with growing grass. The new automatic irrigation system will create a greener, more wholly aesthetic range and it will cut down on the dust.

"The project will involve

trenching through coral to install the main and lateral lines for the irrigation system. This initial phase will be the most challenging and will have the greatest impact on our ability to finish the project in a timely manner. Coral is dense and very difficult to get through," said Robin Hashimoto, Barbers Point Golf Course head golf professional.

Upon completion of the project, the new irrigation system will use recycled water to help conserve natural resources. When patrons drive their golf balls on the newly-renovated range, the new target greens will help them to gauge their shots and improve their golfing game. The open-air pavilion, which will replace the starter building, will provide a place for golfers to relax and rest.

Even with major renovations for the driving range underway, tee times will still be available from 7 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. The pro shop will also remain open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 682-1911.

GoGirlGo!

Navy Region Hawai'i Fleet and Family Readiness, Marketing

Today is the last day to register for GoGirlGo!, a new program from Navy Region Hawai'i Morale, Welfare and Recreation designed for girls ages 10 to 15 years old.

The program empowers teenage girls and focuses on their overall well-being.

It moves beyond just fitness and will improve girls' body awareness and increase self-esteem. It teaches young ladies how to live a well balanced lifestyle.

Girls will learn a variety of exercise workouts such as yoga, Pilates, dance and weights. Classes will also incorporate hair care, proper hygiene, dressing to impress and how to flatter their figure.

Girls will learn how to eat properly with good manners and be educated on the negative impacts of smoking, drugs and alcohol. Experts will provide motivational lectures in their field of expertise.

GoGirlGo! will be offered from 3-5 p.m. on Fridays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at Bloch

Arena. The cost is \$25. A minimum of six students is required for the class.

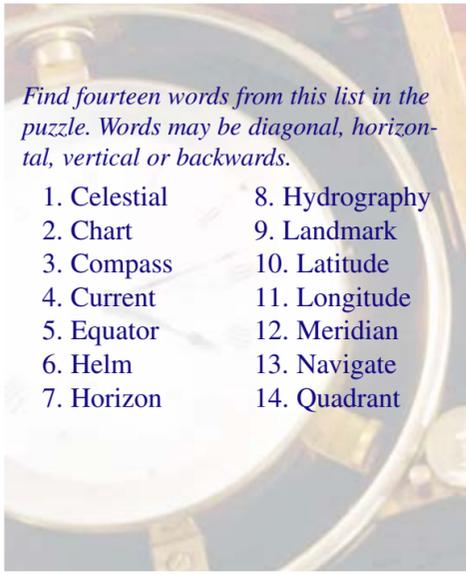
For more information, call 473-0793.

A Navy family member works out on one of the fitness machines at Bloch Arena. GoGirlGo!, a new MWR program for girls ages 10-15 years old, begins March 2 and will include sessions on fitness, dressing to impress, healthy eating and more. Today is the last day to sign up.

Photo courtesy of Navy Region Hawai'i Fleet and Family Readiness, Marketing



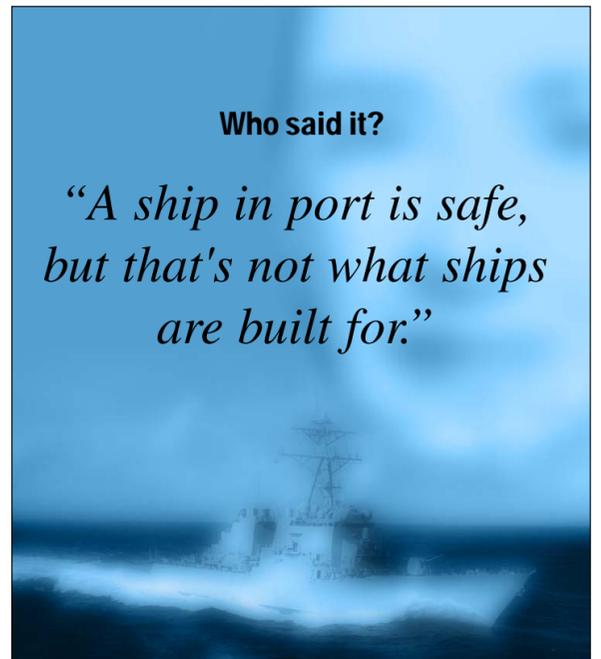
Skylark Central



Find fourteen words from this list in the puzzle. Words may be diagonal, horizontal, vertical or backwards.

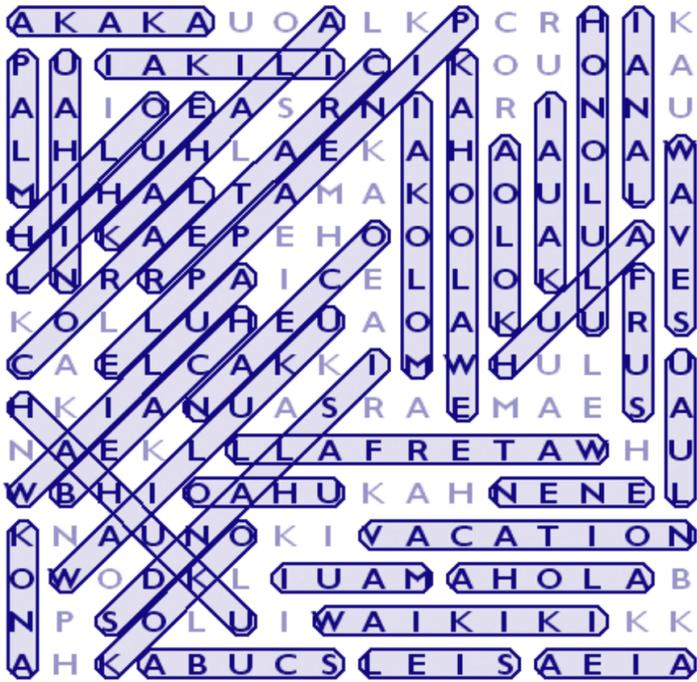
- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Celestial | 8. Hydrography |
| 2. Chart | 9. Landmark |
| 3. Compass | 10. Latitude |
| 4. Current | 11. Longitude |
| 5. Equator | 12. Meridian |
| 6. Helm | 13. Navigate |
| 7. Horizon | 14. Quadrant |

I	Q	U	A	T	L	O	N	G	I	T	U	D	E
A	S	H	O	R	I	Z	O	N	H	C	M	E	B
I	L	I	Y	L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K	D	U
T	Q	U	A	D	R	A	N	T	P	V	S	U	Q
S	Y	M	V	U	R	N	A	V	I	G	A	T	E
E	Z	E	W	R	N	O	T	D	S	C	F	I	Q
L	A	R	Y	B	C	R	G	S	U	D	H	T	U
E	X	I	U	J	A	E	A	R	M	L	I	A	A
C	E	D	D	H	T	P	R	N	A	I	F	L	T
P	V	I	C	L	M	E	I	A	R	P	B	H	O
R	W	A	X	O	N	S	C	M	L	E	H	J	R
P	B	N	C	T	G	A	M	I	N	A	V	Y	T



Who said it?

“A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for.”



Solutions to the Hawai'i related words from last week's word search puzzle.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Aiea | Hahuku |
| Kahoolawe | Leis |
| Oahu | Vacation |
| Akaka | Hilo |
| Kauai | Lihue Waikiki |
| Ocean | Honolulu |
| Aloha | Luau |
| Koko | Wailua |
| Palm | Hula |
| Beach | Maui |
| Koloa | Wailuku |
| Pineapple | Ilikai Molokai |
| Coral | Waterfall |
| Kona | Scuba |
| Crater | Islands |
| Lanai | Surf |
| | Nene |
| | Waves |

Know your Navy

Q. Where does the word admiral come from?

Last week's question...
 Women were able to enter regular military service for the first time under the Armed Services Integration Act on June 12 of what year?

Answer...
1948

Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

LET'S U R E

Morale Welfare & Recreation



H CAMP ADVENTURE REGISTRATION FOR SPRING

Registration for Camp Adventure day camp for spring is underway. Camp includes activities, crafts, games and field trips and will be held at Catlin Clubhouse and Pearl City Community Center from March 19-30, Monday to Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. FMI: 421-1556 or 421-1557.

H SAM SNEAD'S TAVERN RENOVATIONS

Sam Snead's Tavern will be under partial renovation until March 7, but will still be open. Lunch and dinner "all you can eat" buffets will be served on the open-air Cafe Patio located next to the golf course's ninth hole. FMI: 421-SAMS (7267).

H CONCERT IN THE PARK

The Pacific Fleet Wind Ensemble will perform a free, belated Valentine's Day concert beginning at 6 p.m. tonight on the lawn behind The Banyans at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. FMI: 473-0606.

H REGISTER FOR GOGIRLGO

Registration deadline is today for MWR's new program for girls ages 10 to 15-years-old, GoGirlGo! FMI: 473-0793.

H HEARTS TOURNAMENT

Single Sailors can play their hand in the first ever Pearl Harbor Hearts Championship beginning at 6 p.m. Feb. 27 at Instant Liberty at Club Pearl. Registration closes at 5:30 p.m. FMI: 473-4279.

For more information on Navy Region Hawai'i MWR events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com

Community Calendar

N February

24- (also March 31) – Help count 'gentle giants.' The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is seeking volunteers to help count humpback whales from 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. FMI: 397-2651, ext. 253 (Oahu) or 246-2860 (Kauai).

24- Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) – Kaneohe will host its 13th annual Swamp Romp. The obstacle-laden mud run is open to the public and begins at Boondocker Field adjacent to the Marine Corps Exchange Annex parking lot. FMI: 254-7590 or www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.html.



N March

2- Naval Station Pearl Harbor Golf Tournament. Tee off time is 11 a.m. at Barbers Point Golf Course. Sign up by Feb. 27. FMI: 472-5610 or 472-7149.

Sharkey Showtimes



Night at the Museum (PG)

Good-hearted dreamer Larry Daley accepts what appears to be a menial job as a graveyard-shift security guard at a museum of natural history. During Larry's watch, extraordinary things begin to occur: Mayans, Roman gladiators and cowboys emerge from their diorama to wage epic battles. Amidst the chaos, the only person Larry can turn to for advice is a wax figure of President Teddy Roosevelt, who helps our hero harness the bedlam, stop a nefarious plot, and save the museum.

TODAY

7:00 PM Children of Men (R)

SATURDAY

2:30 PM Night at the Museum (PG)

4:45 PM Happily N' Ever After (PG)

7:00 PM Black Christmas (R)

SUNDAY

2:30 PM Arthur and the Invisibles (PG)

4:45 PM Codename: The Cleaner (PG 13)

7:00 PM Freedom Writers (PG 13)

THURSDAY

7:00 PM Alpha Dog (R)

MEMORIAL THEATER Hickam Air Force Base (449-2239)

SGT. SMITH THEATER Schofield Barracks (624-2585)



A-OK Program awards \$1,000 savings bond to Radford High School junior

Story and photo by
Beverly Borges

Navy Exchange Hawai'i
Marketing

Kayla Gines's hard work and excellent grades in school have finally started to pay off—literally. The Radford High School junior was one of four quarterly winners of the A-OK Student Reward Program sponsored by the Navy Exchange.

"I am very proud of myself. I want to eventually go to veterinarian school and this will help me pay for it myself," said Gines.

The daughter of Staff Sgt. Vincent Gines, Kayla maintains the required 3.0 or better average, which qualified her to enter the drawing and eventually earned her the \$1,000 savings bond.

The A-OK Program rewards hard working students with a chance to win \$11,000 in savings bonds each quarter. The winning recipients are awarded savings bonds with \$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000



Jon Kawata, softlines divisional manager, awards a certificate to A-OK Program winner Kayla Gines. The 17-year old junior at Radford High School won a \$1,000 savings bond from the A-OK Student Reward Program sponsored by the Navy Exchange.

denominations at maturity.

The drawing is open to authorized children of active duty service members, Reservists, and military retirees, including family members of NEX associates whose spouses are active duty, Reservists or military retirees.

The students must be

enrolled in school full-time from first through 12th grade and have a "B" grade average or better.

To enter, stop by Navy Exchange Hawai'i with a current report card and have an NEX associate verify the minimum grade average. Then fill out the entry card and obtain an A-OK ID, which entitles the student to discount coupons for purchases at the Navy Exchange. Dependent children without ID cards must be accompanied by their sponsors to submit their entry.

The A-OK Program is a system-wide contest. An estimated 35 to 40 entries from Hawai'i make it to the headquarters each quarter.

(Editor's note: This story replaces a story that ran on page B2 of the Feb. 16 edition of Hawai'i Navy News. The information in that story and photo cutline were inaccurate. The incorrect information was provided to Hawai'i Navy News. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.)

Sailors benefit from free tax services

MCSA David L. Smart

Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific

Throughout the 2007 tax season, Sailors are volunteering to provide free tax assistance to fellow service members as part of the military's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

VITA program coordinators from all branches of the military receive specialized training to address military-specific tax issues such as combat zone tax benefits and the effect of the new earned income tax credit guidelines.

"It makes it a lot easier for [service members] to file our taxes," said Storekeeper 1st Class (AW/SW) Barron Frank, a VITA customer from USS Nimitz (CVN 68). "They are a single point of contact to answer all of your tax-related questions."

Commanders typically support the program by selecting individuals from their unit to attend VITA training and assist other members in preparing returns. The IRS supports these efforts by providing tax software and by training the volunteer service members to prepare taxes at military sites.

"We provide all tax services from a basic tax return to counseling and assistance with the IRS," said Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SW/AW) Warren Blue, command career counselor for Naval Base Coronado and VITA coordinator.

Active duty and retired service members,

Department of Defense employees and families are eligible to receive free tax preparation assistance at local military bases.

"It's a good program to use; it's free," said Gunner's Mate 1st Class William Mosely assigned to SEAL Team 7. "I used it last year and it's nice because I don't have to go out on town and pay for it."

The IRS Web site states that the military tax programs generated over 332,988 electronic federal income tax returns in 2005 alone. Most service members file their tax returns electronically at their tax center and, by selecting direct deposit, receive their refunds in as little as one week.

"We encourage all Sailors and their families to use the program to save money on their tax services," said Blue. "On average, Sailors save \$150 to \$200 on their tax services by using VITA. That's a couple extra hundred dollars they can spend on their families."

(To contact the tax center at Pearl Harbor, call 473-1771.)

