Romero’s curiosity rooted in undersea world

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Reaching the top
Youngsters climb the rock wall Wednesday at the Edwardsville YMCA’s Meyer Center during the YMCA’s New Year’s Eve Night. Other activities offered included a bouncy house, a fog machine, a lighted shooting gallery, use of the Aquatic Center, inflatables and a hot dog feed. A dozen inflatables for the price of $2 per ride were offered. A photo by Bill Tucker.

Combat helped prepare teacher for class
KANKAKEE, III. (AP) — Can you spot Josh Carlile’s students? The Manteno Middle School science teacher’s class might be the ones wearing camouflaged shirts outside in camouflage to demonstrate how animals hide themselves from predators.

The ecology lesson is just one way Carlile of Bourbonnais, can engage his high school students in the training and objectives of his military service in Kuwait and Afghanistan. The Bourbonnais Free Press reported last week that Carlile has been accepted into a National Guard unit in Springfield.

The dual role of teacher and soldier has earned him honors last month from the Bourbonnais National Honor Society, FFA and FBLA Ladies with a Citizenship Education Teacher Award for Promotion of Americanism among Students.

“I couldn’t think of a better person to motivate such an award or an award that better represents a teacher and what they have done for their students and their community,” said Nathan Short, the school’s assistant principal, who nominated Carlile for the honor.

Carlile has been on combat missions in Afghanistan in 2011 and in Kuwait in 2009, each time taking a leave of absence from his teaching duties. When he comes back, the experiences of the enemy and locating improvised explosive devices offered included a bouncy house, a lighted shooting gallery, use of the Aquatic Center, inflatables and a hot dog feed. A dozen inflatables for the price of $2 per ride were offered. A photo by Bill Tucker.

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