



Truck Company B look on Camp Johnson in the field house Monday. Page 1B



2nd Combat Engineer Battalion conduct route sweep training. Page 1C



Camp Lejeune children, adults celebrate reading. Page 1D

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THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2009



PRESIDENT VISITS LEJEUNE MARINES

Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael J. Ayotte

President Barack Obama, talks to service members and civilians during his visit to Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 27. The president spoke on current policies and his exit strategy for Iraq.

Obama sets end dates for eventual drawdown in Iraq

CPL. BRYCE C.K. MUHLENBERG
Marine Corps Base

Even before dawn the mood was tense, as more than 130 media personnel descended on the gates of Camp Lejeune vying for access. These individuals would soon turn a dimly lit Goettge Memorial Field House into an international stage. As the morning progressed, service members, secret service, state and local representatives packed themselves into bleachers and claimed available spots on the court. There couldn't have been more than 15 square feet of space open during what, for most Marines, was a historic day. It had been six years since former President George W. Bush visited, to speak with

service members about the early combat operations in Iraq.

At 11:45 a.m. the Marines' commander in chief, President Barack Obama emerged from the side entrance. Only minutes into his speech he announced to a packed house by Aug. 31, 2010, the combat mission in Iraq would end.

"We will retain a transitional force to carry out three distinct functions: training, equipping, and advising Iraqi Security Forces as long as they remain non-sectarian; conducting targeted counter-terrorism missions; and protecting our ongoing civilian and military efforts within Iraq," said the president. "Initially, this force will likely be made up of 35-50,000 U.S. troops."

For the Marines who had seen multiple deployments



Photo by Ena Sellers

President Barack Obama waves to the crowds acknowledging an enthusiastic group who yelled, "We love you, Obama."

and seen the gradual change and the diminishing role of the regular infantrymen in Iraq's progress, the president's news was welcomed with resounding applause.

The president attributed the first portion of the new strategy, and the overwhelming success in Iraq during the last six years, to these service members, Iraq's Se-

curity Forces and a partnership with Sunni Arabs. The Marines and civilians sat with rapt attention as the president continued to outline his plan.

"As we responsibly remove our combat brigades, we will pursue the second part of our strategy: sustained diplomacy



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael J. Ayotte

President Obama greets Marines on his way out of the Goettge Memorial Field House after his speech, Feb. 27.

SEE OBAMA 5A ▶

INSIDE THE GLOBE



THE MARINE CORPS BAND COMES MARCHING IN. PAGE 6A

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Fallen heroes remembered

1ST LT PHILIP W. KLAY
2nd Marine Division

In a speech discussing the Iraqi troop withdrawal delivered here Feb. 27, President Barack Obama also paid tribute to the heroism of two Marines from the 2nd Marine Division, Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter, from Sag Harbor, N.Y., and Cpl. Jonathan T. Yale, from Burkeville, Va. The Marines were posthumously awarded the Navy Cross medals by the Secretary of the Navy, Donald C. Winter, at a ceremony Feb. 20 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps near Quantico, Va.

Haerter and Yale were infantrymen assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, respectively, and were killed in action while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Semper Fidelis," said Obama, "it means always being faithful to Corps,



Photo by Lance Cpl. Powelson

Secretary of the Navy, Donald C. Winter, presents the Navy Cross to JoAnn Lyles mother of Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter, Feb. 20.

and to country, and to the memory of fallen comrades like Cpl. Jonathan Yale and Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter."

"These young men enlisted in a time of war, knowing they would face great danger. They came here, to Camp Leje-

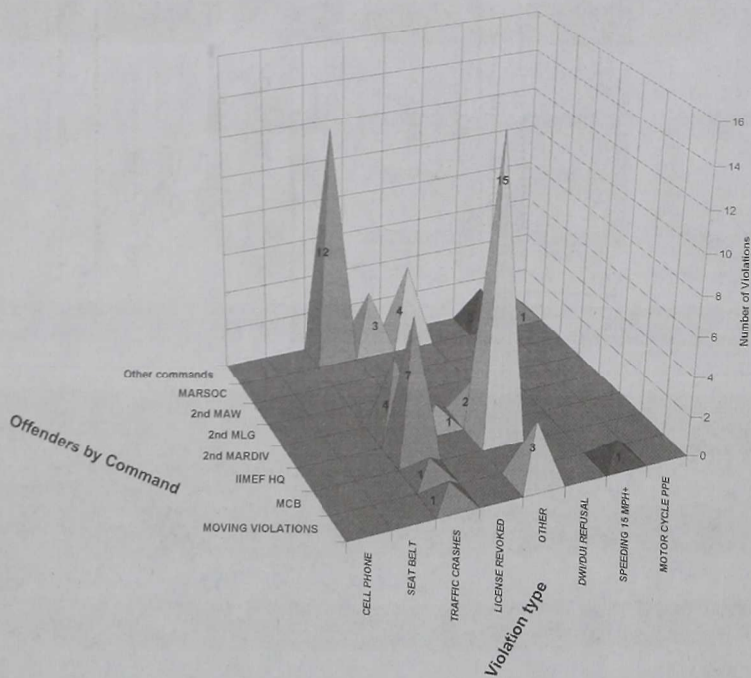
une, as they trained for their mission. And last April, they were standing guard in Anbar. In an age when suicide is a weapon, they were suddenly faced with an oncoming truck filled with explosives. These two Marines stood their ground," said the president.

"These two Marines opened fire. And these two Marines stopped that truck. When the thousands of pounds of explosives detonated, they had saved 50 Marines and Iraqi police who would have been in the truck's path, but Cpl. Yale and Lance Cpl. Haerter lost their own lives. Jonathan was 21. Jordan was 19," he added.

Members of Yale and Haerter's families were in the audience, as were members of their platoons. "It felt really good to have the commander in chief take time out of his day to talk about these Marines," said Lance Cpl.

SEE HEROES 10A ▶

Traffic violations aboard Camp Lejeune



This graph represents traffic violations and Driving While Intoxicated / Driving Under the Influence refusals for Camp Lejeune during the week of Feb. 23 through Saturday. Traffic violations are defined as: driving while license revoked, speeding in excess of 15 mph or over, traffic crashes, seatbelt, cellular telephone and motorcycle personal protective equipment violations.

Source: Command Inspector General's Office for Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

SemperSafe

BY MARINE CORPS SAFETY DIVISION

Advance motorcycle operator's course

One English idiom that is often stated "Run before you walk" reasonably lacks good sense since it is evident crawling, and then walking are required skill sets that are best instituted before attempting the faster pace of running. It is equally true the skill sets for safe motor cycle operation are and should be progressive. That is why the Keith Code's California Superbike training has been embraced by the Marine Corps leadership and Installation Safety offices at many military bases.

The Basic Rider's Course is developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. This is the comparison of learning to crawl and walk. Riders should first learn licensing requirements, government regulations and safe handling of their two-wheeled vehicles at parking lot speeds before they launch out to the equivalent of a full jog.

In contrast, the skill sets required to safely travel at highway speeds while surrounded by large four-wheeled vehicles is not able to be learned traveling at parking lot speeds. So another

stepping stone to consider is for riders to enhance their skills by attending the Experience Rider Course. This six-hour course is designed for people who already know how to ride, and want to increase their knowledge and skill on their own motorcycle. Emphasis is placed on advanced riding skills and handling emergency situations.

Finally, the polishing touch for a rider's skill can be found by attending the Keith Code's California Superbike School. This two day course is an Advanced Motorcycle Operator's School and builds on the basic skill sets learned during BRC and or the ERC. The target population for this training is understandably a younger crowd, ages 18 to 27, although all riders would benefit regardless of age. Initially, this training was considered suitable for both cruisers and sports bike riders; however, the focus is now exclusively on sport bikes. The training addresses steering, braking, throttle control, turn entry/exit, visual control, lean angle control and shift-

ing. These skills relating to speed and directional change are learned during drills. The percentage of performance and improvement that was measured during these drills in 2008, from those that attended AMOS, confirms that this is a remarkable course that really works.

When it comes to adult learning, we are responsible for our own learning. Simply, we should always walk away with something after training, and in order to do that you must seek out and attend training. If you have already learned to crawl and walk as a motorcycle rider; nothing could be better than seeking out and attending a course that will improve your chances of enjoyment and safety as you arm yourself with the improved skill sets. Live life to the fullest by staying alive while you do it.

Commanders and supervisors: You are responsible for the safety of your personnel. For more information contact your Unit Safety Officer or Installation Safety Office.

MAN ON THE STREET

Do you prefer talking on the phone or texti



Seaman Steven Musik
1st Battalion, 9th Marines

"Definitely texting; I text all the time."



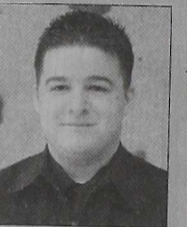
Lt. Col. Timothy Seamon
Marine Corps Engineer School

"Talking on the phone. Texting is too impersonal. I don't even have it."



2nd Lt. Christopher Martin
Combat Logistics Regiment 2

"It depends, texting for short messages or talking if I need to figure something out."



Seaman Eric Obrand
Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune

"I'm definitely a text addict. Most of the time I don't feel like talking to the people I'm talking anyway."



Edward Nutter
Civilian Contractor

"I personally prefer to talk to people on the phone however, to stay involved with today's generation I have to text. My wife is a big texter so I had to learn how to do it."

News Watch

Crime Stoppers Barbecue fundraiser
The barbecue fundraiser will take place March 26, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jacksonville Mall parking lot, Western Blvd. The cost is \$6 per plate. For tickets or more information, contact 347-4007. Delivery to any one location available with the purchase of 10 or more dinners.

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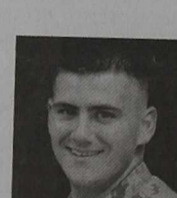
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CAMP RIPPER, IRAQ

CAG Marines learn conversational Arabic

L. ERIC C. SCHWARTZ
Regimental Combat Team 8

The famous poet Khalil Gibran once stated in Sand and Foam, "We shall never understand one another until we face the language to seven words." Arabic and English are equally comprised of thousands of words, and Marines have found each of the words as equally important to their linguistic counterparts. Marines with Civil Affairs Group, Regimental Combat Team 8, are taking time out of their busy schedules to learn Arabic culture and language to help build a bridge of communication between themselves and the Iraqi people. "Being able to communicate is important in our job," said Sgt. Michael Tietje, a fire direct controller with CAG. "Plus, you're showing respect for their culture." Since March 2003, Iraqis have felt a strong Marine presence that only recently has started pulling back as Iraqis have become more self-sufficient. CAG has been work-

ing with Iraqi contractors and government officials in Al Anbar province since the Anbar Awakening in 2005, always working with an Arabic interpreter to understand the local populace. Now, an Arabic linguist with CAG is making sure her Marines know more than simple gestures and phrases.

"They have an easier time seeing us as fellow human beings when we are able to break through the language barrier," said Staff Sgt. Tracy Salzgeber, a 2007 University of Maryland graduate and Arabic interpreter with CAG.

The team of Marines find time during the evening hours to cover simple question-and-answer phrases, and when Salzgeber feels the Marines are beyond the basics, she moves onto more advanced words and Iraqi dialect.

"Speaking Arabic, especially with an Iraqi dialect, shows I personally care about your culture, your people and your language," Tietje said. "I'm trying."

While patrolling the streets of Iraq, it's not abnormal to hear "What's up?" in a

thick Iraqi accent or "Shaku Maku," with an unbridled American accent, meaning the same thing.

"Inevitably, we're going to have a cross-pollination of languages," Tietje said. "We've been here too long not to."

English speaking Iraqis are hard to find because the language is mostly taught in colleges. Simple American phrases have been passed down by Marines training Iraqi Security Forces the past few years, but Marines here can easily count on one hand how many Iraqis they know are fluent in English.

"The contractors have a hard time believing you're for them if you only know English," Salzgeber said. "English is an aristocratic language here."

The CAG Marines feel each new conversation is a fresh start with the Iraqi population.

"Even if our relationship is only for five minutes, I want them to know I'm here to help and not be an imposition," said Sgt. Steven Pryor a civil



Photo by Cpl. Eric C. Schwartz

Staff Sgt. Tracy Salzgeber, an Arabic interpreter with Civil Affairs Group, Regimental Combat Team 8, converses in Arabic with Seaman Tyler Ivy. Salzgeber feels learning about Iraqi language and culture is important because, "They have an easier time seeing us as fellow human beings when you break through the language barrier."

affairs noncommissioned officer with CAG.

Marines with CAG know they are not only part of America's 9-1-1 force, but understand they are currently

representing Iraq's largest and strongest tribe each time they meet the Iraqi people.

"Instead of being geared up, faceless Marines, we've become hu-

man beings," Tietje said.

For more information on the ongoing mission in Iraq's Al Anbar province, visit www.iimeffwd.usmc.mil/iimeffwd.

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www.active.com (to register online)

Brain Injury Association of North Carolina

The Right Hand Angels brain injury support group lost a member to brain cancer, Tom Hentze. He had retired from the Marine Corps 3 years before his death. Staff Sgt. Robin Bristow, the leader of the group, describes Tom as "a man who would do anything and everything for others." Tom completed the 5k run in the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina's 1st annual Joggin' for Your Noggin' 5k event at Camp Lejeune in March of 2008.

Help raise awareness & funds to assist survivors and families in NC. The Brain Injury Association of NC is the single statewide organization whose mission is to offer help, hope and a voice for people with brain injuries and their families.

Pre-event Info & Awareness and Safety Program
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BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN

Deployment puts Marine center stage

SPC. MATTHEW THOMPSON
5th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

When Cpl. Kimberly Crawford arrived in Afghanistan five months ago, she discovered being a Marine Corps combat correspondent is a multi-tasking career.

After reporting to the American Forces Network detachment on Bagram Airfield, the print journalist from Camp Lejeune, discovered the skills she knew were not the only skills she would need.

Crawford said, the description for the person they needed was a combat correspondent, but about a week before she got here, she realized the need was for a broadcaster.

"Not many people can walk into a job and hit the ground running, and do what she has done," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeff St. Sauveur, one of the detachment's producers. "She takes everything you throw at her and makes it awesome."

Crawford demonstrated her commitment to becoming a solid broadcaster covering her first solo project, the Super Bowl shown at Bagram. That one story, said Tech. Sgt. Deidre

Hines, AFN Afghanistan's station manager, seen by millions of viewers worldwide, demonstrated how far Crawford had come as a broadcast journalist.

When Crawford first became a Marine, she wasn't interested in being a broadcaster.

"I avoided broadcasting when I was at the Defense Information School," Crawford said. "I didn't think I would like it, (I) didn't see the artistic view, but (then) I saw the video camera wasn't much different from a still camera."

Crawford not only had to learn how to use a video camera and broadcast editing equipment, she also had to lose her accent. Something she describes as a cross between Southern and upstate New York.

She remains humble despite the praise she has been given by her coworkers. "They have all helped me out. They were nice and patient and made it fun to learn," she said smiling.

"We count on her, depend on her and we know she will get the job done," said Senior Airman Thomas Kennedy, one of the producers working with Crawford. "It's been remarkable working with her."



Photos by Spc. Matthew Thompson
Cpl. Kimberly Crawford, a combat correspondent stationed at Camp Lejeune, reviews the days top news stories prior to the newscast.



Photo by Cpl. Jason D. Mills
Cpl. Adam Harb takes aim at a target on the ocean's surface. Two snipers from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit sniper platoon participated in, and won, a sharpshooting competition against two British Royal Marine Commandos snipers while aboard the USS San Antonio.

USS IWO JIMA, RED SEA

26th MEU snipers dominate

Snipers compete head-to-head with British Royal Marines

CPL. JASON D. MILLS
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

It's not easy to hit a small target bobbing along in the current as your helicopter shudders around you 200 feet in the air. Add the pressure of international competition and things can get really difficult.

Two snipers from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's sniper platoon participated in, and won, a sharpshooting competition against two British Royal Marine Commando snipers while aboard USS San Antonio, Feb. 5.

Both forces were in the Gulf of Aden supporting anti-piracy operations when they took the opportunity for this good-natured professional contest.

It is unclear who's idea it was to have the competition, the U.S. Marines or the British Royal Marine Commandos, but both groups were more than willing to participate,

said Gunnery Sgt. Jeffery Benkie, sniper platoon sergeant.

"There's two stories to it," he explained, "one is the Brits challenged us and then the other story is the admiral challenged the Brits. So, I never was able to get a solid answer on that one."

The shooters fired on several different targets from a helicopter, each target floating at least 200 yards away and 200 feet below in the current. "The size of the target was probably about a five gallon paint jug," Benkie said.

Each shooter had 25 rounds, Benkie continued, which they could fire from a weapon of their choosing, and the shooters could use any position or support they wanted to, while inside the helicopter. Shooters earned two points if the round struck within a foot of the target, five points for a hit and 20 points if that hit sank the target.

"It's a little different shoot-

ing out of a helo than it is shooting on the ground," explained Cpl. James Gosney, the Marine spotter during the competition, "because you've also got the rotor wash to take into consideration. Nobody really knows what effect that has. So you have to make your corrections based off the first shot."

Gosney and his teammate, Marine sniper Cpl. Adam J. Harb, came out on top 38 to 30.

Benkie explained after the shooters were done firing they got a chance to meet their challengers when the British Royal Marines landed on the San Antonio for a brief meeting and congratulatory handshake.

Gosney said his favorite

part of the event was actual shoot when he had the opportunity to meet and compare weapons with the British snipers.

"We landed after the shoot and talked for about 10 minutes and that was part of the shoot," said Gosney. "You know, in our situation, we don't have a whole lot of chance to talk to people from other countries on our level, and especially other snipers."

"I think they learned a few things from us and we definitely learned a few things from them," Gosney said.

"That was really worth while - (they're) real guys," Benkie added. "It was very informal, but very professional at the same time."

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LIEUTENANT KAREN J SANKES USN, Daughter of Jeffrey & Senny Sankes of Jacksonville NC, graduated with honors from the Naval Postgraduate School on 19 Dec 2008 in Monterey, CA, obtaining her master's degree. Karen is now in the zone for promotion to Lieutenant Commander. Karen, who graduated from Jacksonville High School is also a graduate of the US Naval Academy.

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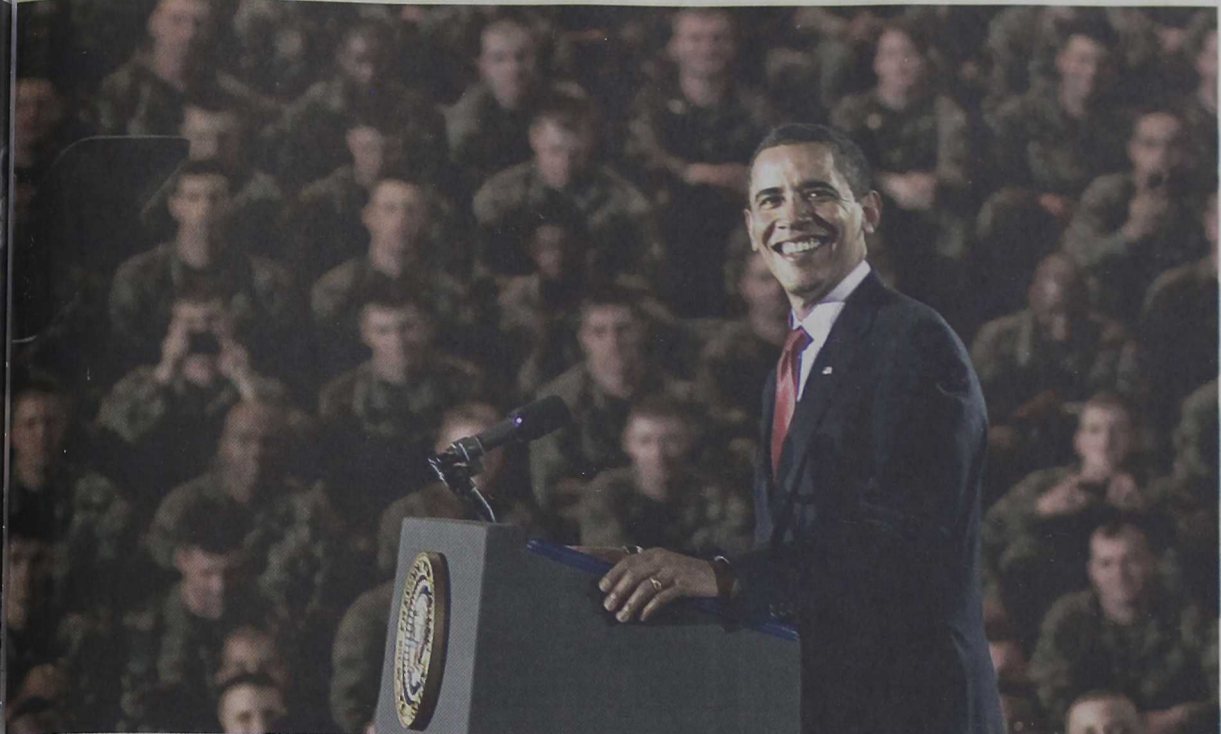
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President Barack Obama greets the Marines and sailors of Camp Lejeune at Goeltge Memorial Field House Friday during his visit.

AMA FROM 1A
 behalf of a more peaceful and prosperous Iraq," he said.
 The drawdown will make clear that Iraq's future is its own responsibility and its success as a nation will rely on the fortitude of the Iraqi people and the ability of its leaders to act responsibly, he said.
 "Iraq is a sovereign country with legitimate institutions; America cannot — and should not take their place," he said.
 The president explained American political, diplomatic, and civil efforts can continue progress and build a base for lasting peace and security, which is no longer to be shouldered fully by the military and certainly not combat arms.
 "You and your families have your duty — now a grateful nation must do ours," he said.
 The president, to great applause, spoke of plans to increase military pay, improve veteran's benefits and the Post 9/11 GI Bill,

and ensure military personnel and their care is not forgotten.
 Against the backdrop of a sea of green combat camouflage utility uniforms, the president closed his speech saying, "Thank you, God Bless you, and God Bless the United States of America. Semper Paratus."
 The crowd erupted in a cacophony as the president waded into the crowd, and it quickly became apparent, even if the press was there for the rest of the world; he was there for the Marines.
 He then headed to visit privately with Marines from Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, home to those wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. After, he conducted a series of media interviews. The president exited the building surrounded by secret service agents and barricades, he traveled past numerous base personnel and military

families and finally boarded Marine One to depart.
 "Each American who has served in Iraq has their own story," he said somberly, just minutes earlier. "Each of you has your own story. And that story is now a part of the history of the United States of America — a nation that exists only because free men and women have bled for it from the beaches of Normandy to the deserts of Anbar; from the mountains of Korea to the streets of Kandahar."
 These words rang true for the Marines, even after the lights had been dismantled and the media had packed up, shipped out and the president was gone.
 "I'm hopeful for where this is all going and it's great he is defining a direction for us," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Junkin, a corpsman with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit's command element.



President Obama signs autographs Friday during the presidential speech at Camp Lejeune.

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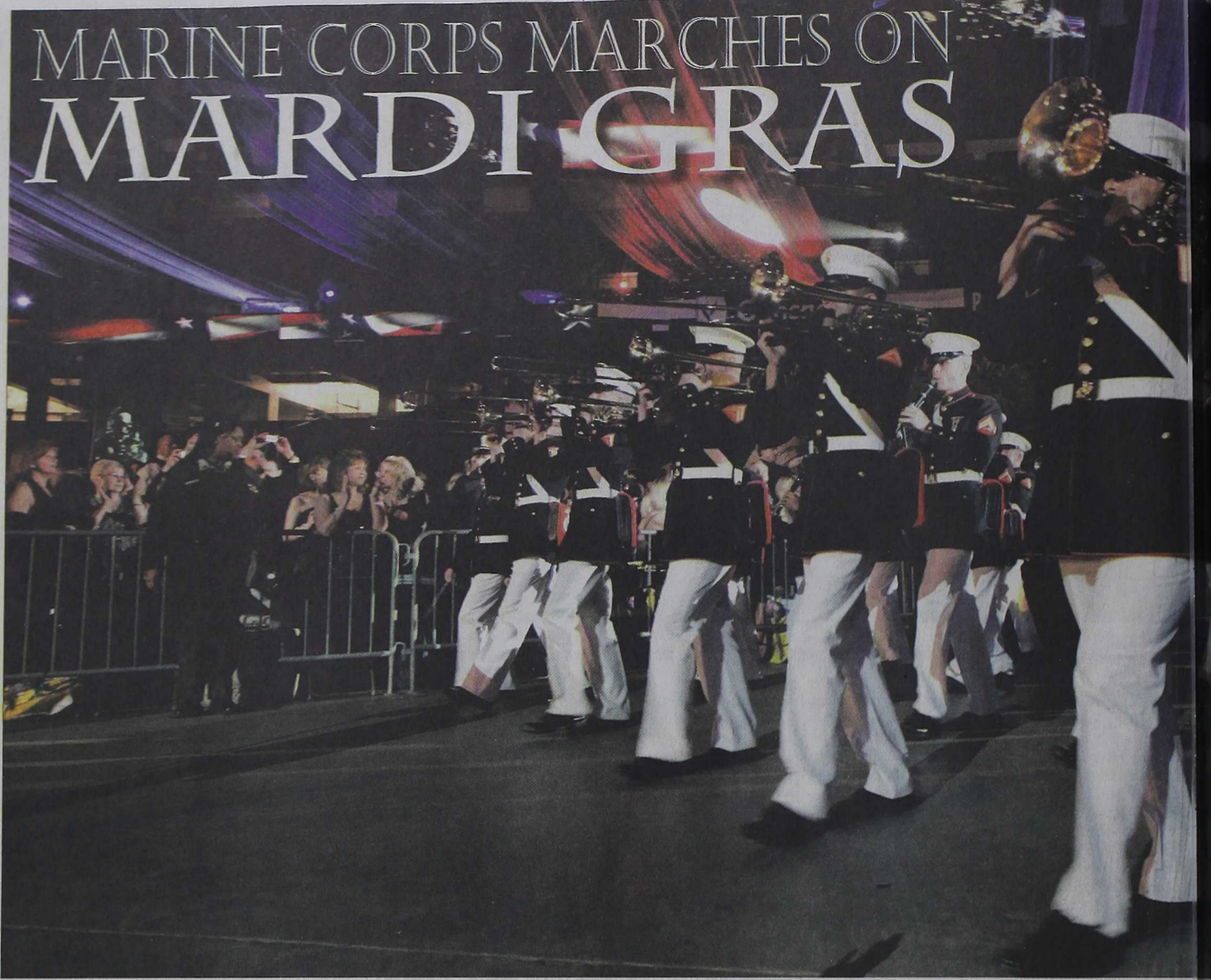
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MARINE CORPS MARCHES ON MARDI GRAS



The Albany Marine Band, marches in the Louisiana Super Dome, in downtown New Orleans, following their playing of the national anthem and leading the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans to perform in four parades, of equalling more than 20 miles throughout the week. Three different Marine Corps bands were needed to meet the needs of the more than 2 million people who attend the Mardi Gras parade.

NEW ORLEANS

Display of pomp, circumstance

Albany's Marine band performs throughout New Orleans for hundreds of thousands, ends performance at Super Dome

CPL. PATRICK FLEISCHMAN
Marine Corps Base

Starting Feb. 18, hundreds of thousands of people descend on New Orleans, the traditional home of Mardi Gras, to party in the streets and watch more than 30 parades.

The Marine Corps Logistics Command Albany Marine Band led the way for four of those parades.

Mardi Gras, which means "Fat Tuesday" in English, is the final day of a celebration starting Jan. 6 with the Feast of the Epiphany and ending midnight on the Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday.

This year Mardi Gras falls on Feb. 24, and Albany's band had the honor of leading the days most historic parade - Zulu.

"I don't know how they get this all together, it looks like chaos to me," said Cpl. Jacob Fetherol, a trombone player for the band. "This

is my second time doing this and it's still full of surprises."

Boosting its already famous status, this year marks the 100th anniversary of Zulu, the oldest African-American Mardi Gras parade krewe.

Beginning in 1909, the Zulu krewe is known for their colorful parades and the beautifully adorned coconuts thrown by krewe members. These coconuts are considered some of the most valuable "catches" of Mardi Gras.

"This was a great experience, it's motivating to play in front of such a large crowd," said Lance Cpl. Benito Hajar, a trombone player for the band.

The Zulu parade wasn't the only celebration for the band.

The band also led Hermes, Proteus and the famous Endymion, one of the largest parades with celebrity guests of honor Kid

Rock and REO Speedwagon, ending with a lavish party held at the Louisiana Super Dome in downtown New Orleans.

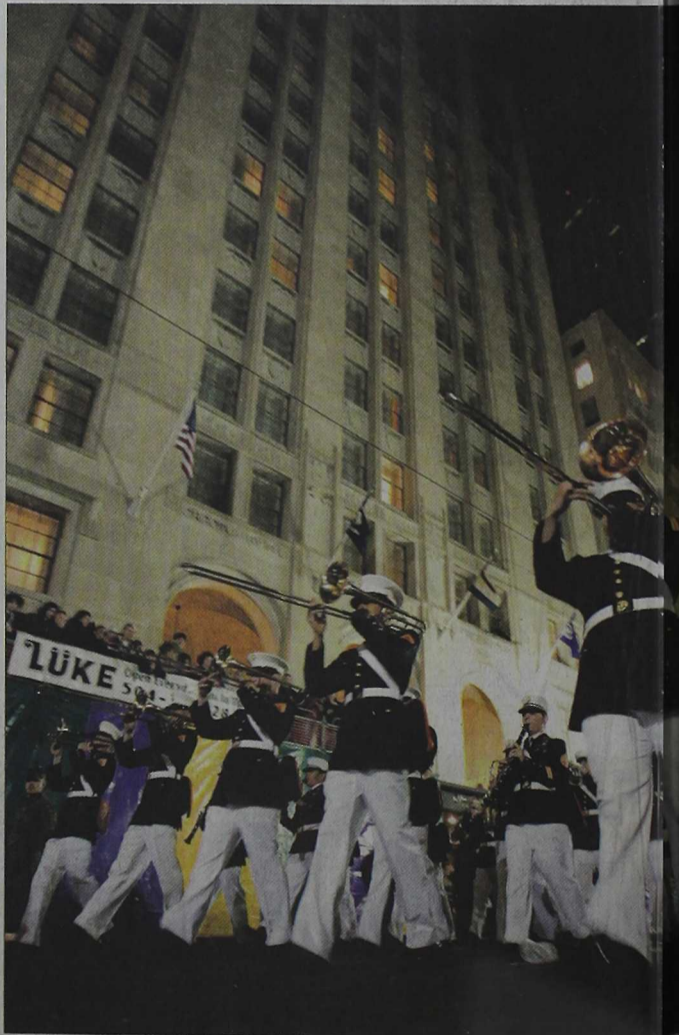
To a roar of applause and cheers the band played the national anthem and the Marine Corps hymn to kick off the party.

"What a performance they put on," said Daniel White, an attendee of the party. "It gave me chills."

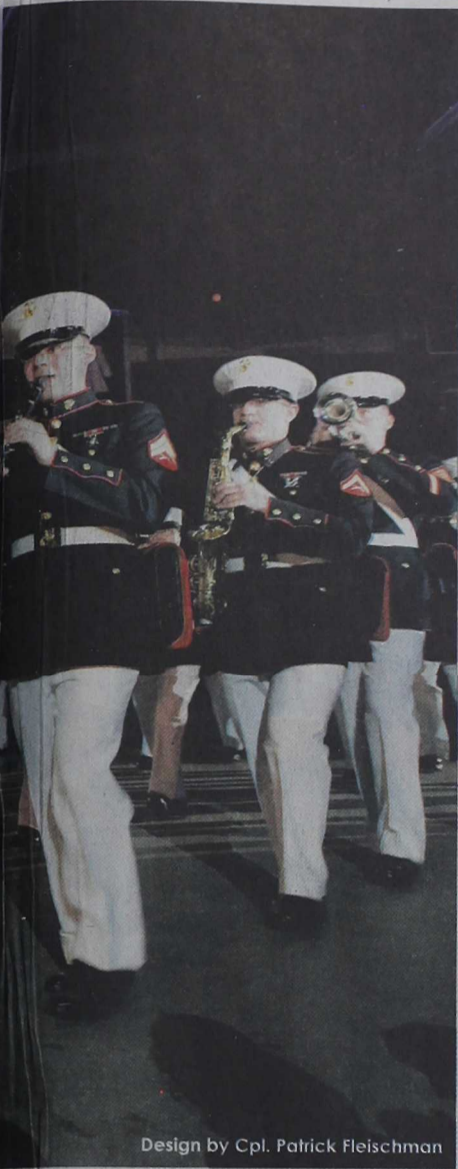
The Marines also enjoyed time away from playing and visited the French Quarter.

"We usually do a lot of small gigs, and there isn't a lot to do, but this was a great change of pace," said Cpl. Steven Gamet, a tuba player for the band. "We're Marines, we're getting paid to be at Mardi Gras, what more could you ask for."

Marching more than 20 miles for the four parades, the band showed it isn't a parade without the Marine Corps band.



Photos by Cpl. Patrick Fleischman. (Above) The band passes through the heart of downtown New Orleans during the parade Endymion, Feb. 21. Endymion is known for being one of the largest parades on Mardi Gras due to its celebrity guests of honor and lavish party held at the Louisiana Super Dome. (Left) Albany's band leads the parade Hermes, which is known for its secretive nature. The Hermes parade consists of 668 males all wearing costumes that are color-coordinated in a manner that benefits the individual floats.



Design by Cpl. Patrick Fleischman

...ding the Mar... on, Feb. 21. The 51 members of the band went to New Orleans to perform at the needs of the during Mardi Gras.

Photo by Cpl. Patrick Fleischman



...ve) Marines providing security for the band also handed Marine Corps stickers and trinkets to people along the parade route. (Below) Band members warm up before they march in the Mardi Gras parade Proteus, Feb. 23.

Photos by Cpl. Patrick Fleischman

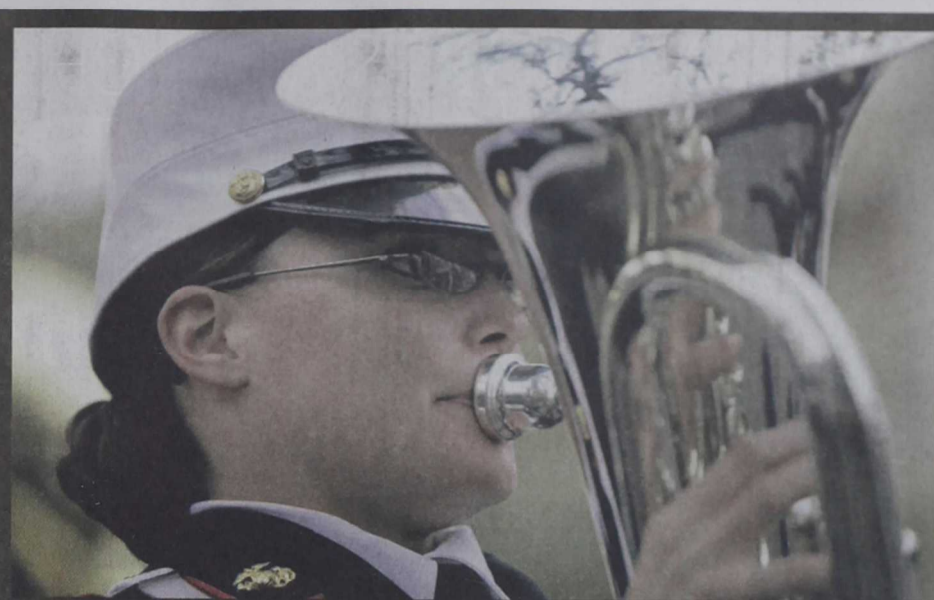


Photo by Cpl. Patrick Fleischman

Lance Cpl. Jessica Hall, a euphonium player, Albany Marine band, marches in the Mardi Gras parade Proteus, Feb. 23. Hall has been with the band two months before taking on this difficult performance.

NEW ORLEANS

Marine's first big gig

Being the new girl in the band can be tough when faced with an event as large as Mardi Gras

CPL. PATRICK FLEISCHMAN

Marine Corps Base

A first performance can be stressful for any new musician.

When the musician's first performance is marching in the largest parades of Mardi Gras things can get interesting.

Lance Cpl. Jessica Hall, a euphonium player for the Marine Corps Logistics Command Albany Marine Corps Band, experienced this first hand after checking into the band two months ago.

"I heard stories about these parades from everyone in the band, anything from flying beads and drunks, to heat and late-night parades followed by early morning parades," said Hall. "I didn't know what to expect coming here, I just passed my memorized music test, and it's something you do when you first get to the band."

Hall was surprised by how she hasn't been as nervous marching in Mardi Gras as she was in her first small performance, which was for a local Martin Luther King parade with a few hundred people.

"It was only a short one mile parade, but it really helped with getting me used to this," she said. "I still feel a little behind the curve, but I want to be better."

Being the newest person in the band comes with a lot of pressure, said Hall.

"You come into the Marine Corps with everyone having high expectations of you, and the band takes that to another level," she said. "I want to put on the best show I can because I'm representing the band and the Marine Corps when I'm in any event."

Hall has come a long way, said Sgt. Adam Jaworsai, the euphonium section leader. It can be difficult because of the distractions, but Hall has been doing well in the parades.

“ I heard stories about these parades from everyone in the band... ”

Lance Cpl. Jessica Hall, Albany Marine Band

This improvement wasn't without work.

Ensuring everyone was ready, the band practiced for more than 40 hours and marched seven mile routes around base to prepare for the often more than five mile routes of Mardi Gras, she said.

The longest Mardi Gras parade for the band was Endymion, one of the largest parades with celebrity guests of honor and a lavish party held at the Louisiana Super Dome in downtown New Orleans.

Following the five and a half mile parade, the band performed the national anthem and the Marine Corps Hymn at the Super Dome.

"I was feeling tired, but once we got in there I was so hyped up I didn't even notice," she said. "Playing at the Super Dome was my favorite part so far. I felt like we were rock stars with all of the lights and fireworks."

Hall didn't get to this point in the Marine Corps like many Marines. She had completed her master's degree in secondary English education, and was teaching when

she was recruited for the band.

Working with the band in the school, Hall became familiar with the recruiter who visited to speak with the students, she said.

Joining the Marine Corps band was similar to joining the circus, she said.

"I auditioned for the spot, got it, and now I'm traveling around playing at interesting places for tens of thousands of people," said Hall.

Mentioning the practice she'll be doing for the next band performance in San Antonio in April, Hall was already thinking of her future.

"I have some ideas of where I want to go, but it's already been such a fun experience."

"She has an awful lot of potential to go as far as she wants in the band, and I hope she does," said Jaworsai.

With each turn of the buses wheels, as it pulled away from New Orleans, Hall's experience at Mardi Gras came to an end. Although this is the end of a great experience, her time with the band is just beginning.



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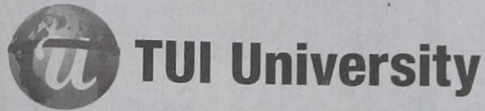
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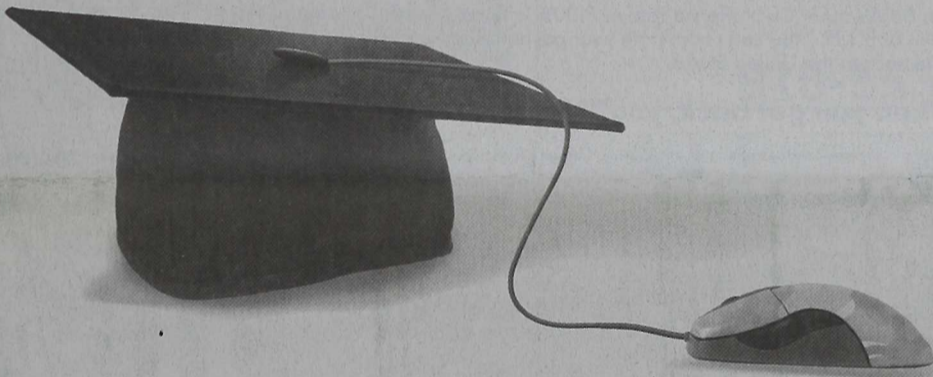
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26th MEU detachment returns from Iraq

CPL. JASON D. MILLS
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

"It's game time, you know?"

Nearly six months ago Lance Cpl. Rachel Myers, CH-53E Super Stallion air frames mechanic with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264 (Rein.), said these words in anticipation of what was ahead.

Having just arrived in Iraq she and the rest of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Black Knights had no idea what lay in their future, but were ready for anything.

Myers and more than 50 fellow Marines returned to the USS Iwo Jima Feb. 18, just in time, as the MEU prepares to redeploy back to the U.S. During their six-month mission, they supported Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, conducting operations based in Al Asad.

"I honestly didn't know what to expect, it was my first time there," Myers explained. "I knew there was going to be a lot of dirt, I expected a lot of dirt, and that expectation was

fully met."

"I thought it was going to be uncomfortable living in Al Asad, but when we got out there it was like going to any other base," added Cpl. Daniel Templin, CH-53E air frames mechanic.

While in Iraq, the detachment transported personnel, cargo, fuel, food and water, said Gunnery Sgt. John Dyer, CH-53E detachment staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge. They also conducted remote ground refueling for other aircraft, assumed a new battle station, and conducted raid operations.

Without those resupply missions the troops on the ground and in the air would not have been able to stay in the fight for as long as they did, he explained.

"The use of the aircraft was employed to support ground forces, vehicles, and in many different ways that you can employ the CH-53E," Dyer said.

Even though the living conditions were better compared to what they may have expected, the Marines didn't have much time to enjoy them.



Photo by Cpl. Blake

Black Knights with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 (Rein) refuel their CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter alongside an American tank in Iraq, Nov. 30, 2008. The Marines spent nearly six months supporting operations in Iraq transporting personnel, cargo, fuel, food and water as well as conducting remote ground refueling for other aircraft, conducting raid operations and other duties. "For me personally it was just the deployment of a lifetime," said Maj. Scott Wadle, the HMM-264 CH-53E detachment commander.

"In 189 days, I put in over 3,000 hours of work on those aircraft and I broke it down and it came out to 15.88 hours a day," Myers said.

Their hours were long, but were far from unnoticed.

"For me personally it was just the deployment of a lifetime," said Maj. Scott Wadle,

the HMM-264 CH-53E detachment commander. "One of the things I enjoyed the most, quite frankly, was just being able to watch my Marines do, what

they do and do it so well.

The 26th MEU departed Camp Lejeune on the tail end of its deployment.

HEROES FROM 1A

Ernesto Trevizo, an infantryman with Haerter's platoon, "how they stood their ground and saved our lives and were honored with the Navy Cross."

The Marines later took family members for lunch at the Camp Lejeune Officers' Club, where they continued the process of remembering Haerter and Yale and paying tribute to what they, and the country, owe them.



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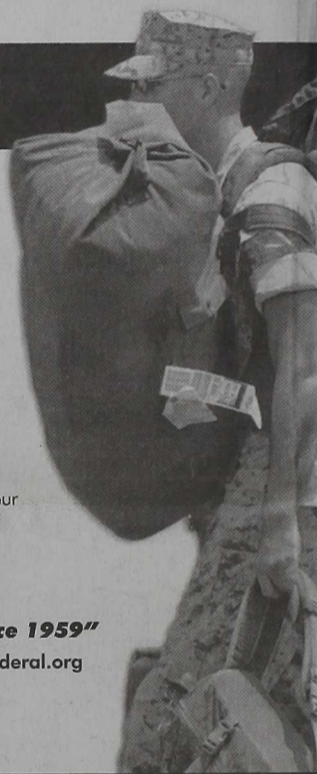
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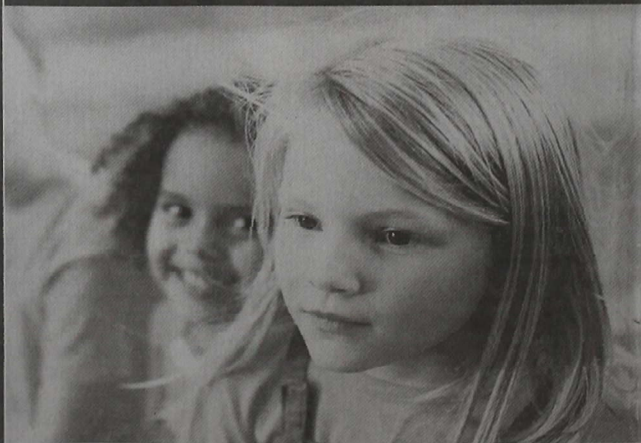
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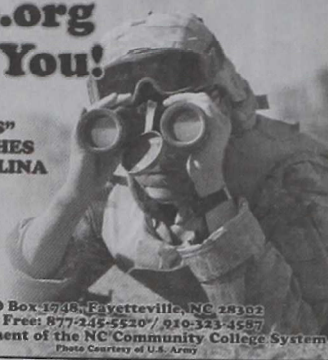
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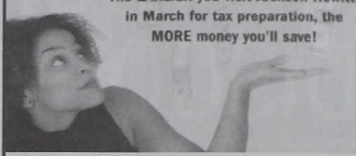
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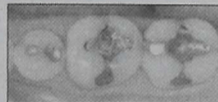
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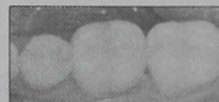
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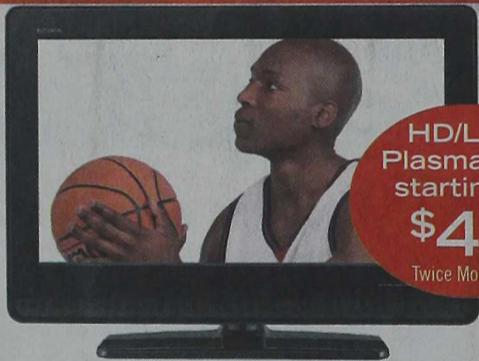


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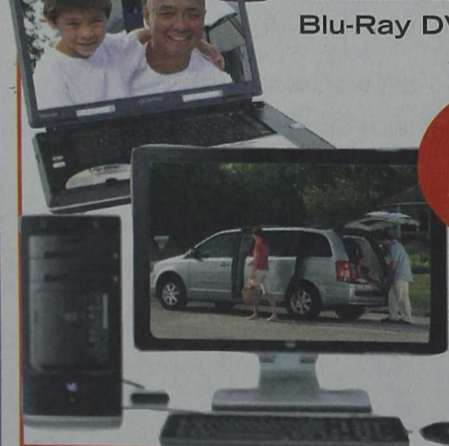
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Camp Johnson ROLLS PAST Truck Company B



Photo by Jamie Cameron
The defense underneath the basket was tough during the game pitting Truck Company B (white uniforms) against Camp Johnson.

JAMIE CAMERON
Assistant managing editor

Due to ongoing renovations, the hoops team from Camp Johnson doesn't have a gym to practice in, but that hasn't stopped it from making its presence felt during Camp Lejeune's intramural basketball season.

Camp Johnson beat Truck Company B handily; to the tune of 61-45, during the first game of the night at Goettge Memorial Field House, Monday.

With its obvious size advantage in the middle of the court, Camp Johnson opened the game with an effective inside-out offense that put a premium on finding the open shooter.

In spite of trailing from the outset, Truck Co. B stayed close with high-percentage shots from the post, especially relying on Cameron Burrell underneath the basket.

After establishing a slim, 16-13 lead midway through the first half, Camp Johnson went on a run, thanks in large part to McCarthy Daphney's imposing presence in the blocks and Michael Vega's flashy drives to the hoop. At several points, Camp Johnson extended its lead to seven points, only to see Truck Co. B come back to close the gap.

By the time the halftime whistle blew, Camp Johnson was right back to its 3-point lead.

"We came out ready to play and got off to a good start," said Camp Johnson's coach, Ronald Jones. "But we let them back into it late in the first half."

To build on the halftime lead, Jones called upon Jeremy Craig to come off the bench and provide an offensive spark to start the second half. The undersized shooting guard responded with three 3-pointers in the opening minutes, and the Camp Johnson lead ballooned to 39-30.

Truck Co. B never got within five points after Craig's opening barrage, and the game settled into a back-and-forth affair against equally talented sides. Gabriel Jones and Arnell Rivers took on much of the scoring load for Truck Co. B, while Vega continued to impress for Camp Johnson.

With the game nearly out of reach, Truck Co. B decided to send Camp Johnson to the foul line in the hope of gaining back enough ground to make a last ditch effort in the final minute, but the strategy backfired thanks to the steady shooting hand of Camp Johnson's Donald Wallace. Wallace went 8-for-8 from the charity stripe in the final 90 seconds of the game, giving Camp Johnson the comfortable victory.

"We are a veteran team, but we're still trying to find the right chemistry," said Jones. "I tell my guys not to get caught up in the way our opponents are playing; to just play their game and use their heads out there."

Photo by Jamie Cameron
Camp Johnson's Michael Vega gets the jump over two Truck Company B defenders. Camp Johnson won the intramural game, 61-45.

Keep watch on changing conditions



Lejeune Outdoors

With Jamie Cameron

I got a firsthand lesson in the finicky nature of the Atlantic Ocean in winter last Saturday.

I have a pal who captains a 61-foot head boat out of Hatteras on the Outer Banks. Sometimes, I go out there to help him during nature cruises and fishing charters as a deckhand.

Our trip this weekend was a seabirding cruise, not fishing, but the lessons learned remain the same. As I drove across the Albemarle Sound the night before the trip, the flags were whipping with a stiff southerly breeze. By the time I reached my buddy's house in Frisco at 10 p.m., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecast had the wave heights at six feet and the wind blowing at 15-20 knots.

I have admitted in the past that I am indeed one of those unfortunate souls who occasionally suffers from seasickness. As I crashed out on the living room couch, I had an uneasy feeling I would be spending most of the next day retching over the side of the boat.

After a sleepless night of worry, I rose to the sound of the captain cursing his computer in the next room. The forecast had just been updated to project a southeast wind at 10-15 knots, swinging to the

northeast later in the day. With so much south wind over the previous day and a half, we had every reason to expect a wet and bumpy ride.

By the time we left the dock at Hatteras Landing Marina at 6:15 a.m., I was able to allow myself a little sliver of hope against the doomsayers. The wind on the soundside was light and variable, and the water was calm.

On our way through the inlet, the Stormy Petrel II had to slow down for the big ocean swell rolling over the bar, but once we made it out of the main channel, the seas were quite manageable for a vessel of her size.

We spent the day offshore, looking for seabirds, dolphins, whales and other marine life, and had no problems at all with the 3- to 5-foot swells and a 2-3-foot chop. The wind stayed mostly out of the south, and seemed to lean more towards the lighter end of the forecast. Of course, there was rain, and plenty of it at times, but rain is easily managed with a good set of oilskins and rubber boots.

It started to get interesting around 2 p.m., when we were still some 17 miles from the inlet. Visibility was deteriorating, but I thought it was just the rain at first. Pretty soon,

we came to realize we were getting fogged in, despite the persistent breeze. I have never experience fog and wind together — I didn't know it was possible. I guess I'll have to do some research to learn more about the atmospheric conditions that allow wind and fog to coexist.

Regardless of why it happened, it did, and for anyone who has been in a boat socked in with thick fog, the experience is quite disconcerting. You cannot see the waves until right before they affect the boat and, you start to worry about other vessels with captains who may not be quite as vigilant with their radar screens as you might like.

The fog only lasted 20 minutes or so, but it was replaced by a freshening breeze from the east-northeast that kicked up

the ocean in no time. In the space of an hour, the crew of the Stormy Petrel II and her passengers went from enjoying a fairly comfortable ride, to bucking a mounting ocean and heavy rains.

With things going the way they were, our captain did the prudent thing and cut our journey short. The run back to the dock was miserable, but I shudder to think what we would have faced if we had decided to stay out just a little while longer.

Whenever you plan a boat trip, do so with the utmost caution and respect for the sea. Conditions can change at the drop of the hat, so make sure your electronics are in working order and there is someone on land who knows your intended course, and when you expect to be home.

Stay safe out there.



Have you been on an outdoor adventure lately? Share your photos, send them to jamie.cameron@militarynews.com

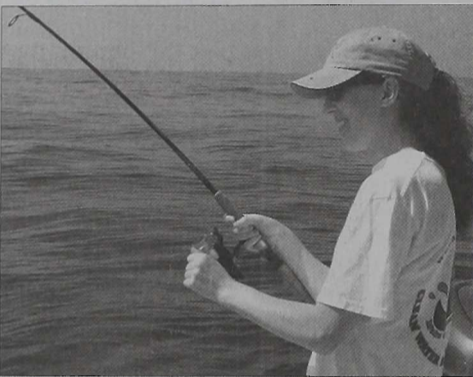


Photo by Brian Degan

Don't get lulled into complacency by a calm ocean. Conditions can change at the drop of a hat so be prepared with the necessary safety measures.

TIDE TABLES FOR NEW RIVER INLET

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

	THURSDAY	
High tide	8:13 a.m.	8:33 p.m.
Low tide	2:04 p.m.	2:23 p.m.
	FRIDAY	
High tide	8:48 a.m.	9:11 p.m.
Low tide	2:44 a.m.	2:55 p.m.
	SATURDAY	
High tide	9:26 a.m.	9:53 p.m.
Low tide	3:27 a.m.	3:31 p.m.
	SUNDAY	
High tide	10:07 a.m.	10:40 p.m.
Low tide	4:14 a.m.	4:11 p.m.
	MONDAY	
High tide	10:54 a.m.	11:34 p.m.
Low tide	5:06 a.m.	4:56 p.m.
	TUESDAY	
High tide	11:48 a.m.	
Low tide	6:05 a.m.	5:51 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY	
High tide	12:36 a.m.	12:53 p.m.
Low tide	7:13 a.m.	6:55 p.m.

SPORTS ON STAP

Fishing tournament

The first event of the 2009 Gottschalk Marina Team Bass Tournament Series is scheduled for Saturday. The Spring Splash invites 2-person angling teams to fish for large-mouth bass on the New River and its tributaries. The cost to register is \$70, and there is a guaranteed payout of \$1,000 in prizes to the top teams. For more information, call 451-8307.

Bulldog Challenge

Marines at the Military College of South Carolina invite service members and civilians to participate in the 13th annual Bulldog Challenge, scheduled for Saturday at The Citadel in Charleston. The challenging team event takes place over a six-mile course with an array of obstacles to overcome. For more information, visit www.activemilitary.com and search 'Bulldog Challenge'.

Run for the Warriors

Registration is open for the 2009 Run for the Warriors 10K, 5K and 1-mile Fun Run aboard Camp Lejeune, May 16. To register online, go to www.hopeforthewarriors.org. For more information, call 546-1120.

Intramural volleyball sign-ups

Players and coaches are needed to field at least five teams for the intramural volleyball league. A coaches meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 6 p.m. at Goettge Memorial Field House aboard Camp Lejeune. For more information, call Antonio Warner at 451-2061.

Tackle football game

The East Coast Marine All-Stars Football Team has scheduled a game against the Jacksonville Raiders, a semi-professional team. The game is set to take place March 14 aboard Camp Lejeune at Liversedge Football Stadium. Kickoff is 7 p.m. There is no admittance charge. For more information, call 451-2061.

Fishing trip

Registration opens March 15 for the 2009 Military Appreciation Day, Morehead City Event, which includes deep sea fishing at no cost to active duty military, National Guardsmen and reserves. Boats will depart May 30 from Morehead City, and there will be plenty of family activities for those left on shore to wait for the anglers' return. When the fishing fleet gets back to the dock, there will be a Southern style cook-out and live music for everyone. To register, go online to www.MilitaryAppreciationDay.org.

Youth baseball, softball registration

The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department will conduct registration for youth baseball and softball leagues, starting March 29, from 1-5 p.m. at Dixon, Trexler, and Southwest middle schools, Summersill and Morton elementary schools. For more information, call 347-5332.

PHILADELPHIA

Eagles move on without stalwart, Brian Dawkins

ROBB MAADDI
Associated Press sports writer

Brian Dawkins hadn't officially signed with the Denver Broncos when some Eagles fans began ordering No. 20 orange jerseys.

If there ever was a player who can get the local die-hards to turn on their beloved Iggles or simply root as hard for another team, it's Dawkins. His departure leaves a huge void in the Eagles' secondary and a bigger hole in the hearts of the Philadelphia faithful.

Angry fans flooded the phone lines of talk-radio stations when news broke Friday that Dawkins was in Denver. They grew madder over the weekend when it became official that the seven-time Pro Bowl safety had joined the Broncos.

A caller to one station Sunday suggested fans should purchase Dawkins' new jersey and wear Broncos orange to Lincoln Financial Field when Denver visits Philadelphia this year.

"I'm the biggest Eagles fan, but I'm rooting for Denver to win the Super Bowl because I love that guy," the caller said.

Radio host Ike Reese, a linebacker and special teams standout with the Eagles from 1998-2004, criticized the organization for letting Dawkins become a free agent.

"This wasn't about Brian's playing ability or the Eagles wouldn't have even offered him a contract," Reese told listeners. "This was about money, the bottom line. The Eagles wanted him back on their conditions and they didn't think he would go out there and get a better offer."

Dawkins, who turns 36 in October, signed essentially a two-year, \$9 million deal with Denver. The Eagles reportedly offered him less guaranteed money over two seasons.

Dawkins agonized over his decision to leave after 13 years in Philadelphia. The Broncos made him feel more welcomed.

"I was not just a want for them," he said. "They felt more like it was a necessity for me to be here. That's something that every player wants to feel from an organization."

This Eagles' regime led by owner Jeffrey Lurie, president Joe Banner and coach Andy Reid has a history of letting popular veteran players go elsewhere. Dawkins joins a list that includes Troy Vincent, Bobby Taylor, Duce Staley, Hugh Douglas

and Jeremiah Trotter. Bookend tackles Tra Thomas and Jon Runyan both are free agents and could be next to leave.

But Dawkins was different. He was the face of the franchise, an inspirational player, role model and solid citizen who combined Hall of Fame credentials with outstanding leadership skills.

It was assumed the Eagles could easily satisfy Dawkins with a fair contract because they have a ton of money available — the team reportedly is \$48 million under the salary cap. Neither side would discuss any of the negotiations, but Dawkins obviously received a better deal from the Broncos.

All the hard hits and big plays Dawkins provided over the years could be replaced. He's on the down side of his career, though he earned another trip to Hawaii last season. Second-year pro Quentin Demps is highly regarded and steps into the starting spot on the depth chart.

But Dawkins' presence in the locker room might be missed most. Teammates had tremendous respect for Dawkins, a deeply spiritual person who was a mentor for younger players.

"It's definitely a loss to the team and a loss to me personally," guard Shawn Andrews said. "If I had to pinpoint one guy since I've been in Philadelphia that I respect as a husband, a father, an athlete, a football player, it would be Dawkins. He will be dearly, dearly missed."

Andrews missed training camp last year while battling depression. Dawkins was there for him when he returned to the team.

"He helped me a lot by saying he went through the same thing in the past," Andrews said. "It's tough in many aspects of the whole situation. He's going to be missed."

Dawkins is quiet and humble during the week, but his alter ego emerges on game days. He transforms into an energetic, highly emotional player who can hardly contain himself when he runs out during pregame introductions. He shakes, gyrates and looks like he's having an out-of-body experience when he comes out of the tunnel, and maintains that intensity until the final whistle.

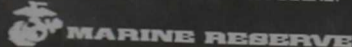
"It's amazing," Andrews said. "The fans from the 50-yard line to the nose bleeds, they feel his energy. It's like everybody has a piece of Dawk on his shoulder."

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Boxing camp diary: Training days

AMIE CAMERON
staff managing editor

When All-Marine Boxing Team coach Ron Simms decided to hold a six-day camp for novices, he did so with a purpose.

"I'd like to see if we can find some people to fill in some of our lighter weight classes," said Simms. "Maybe the people who never really thought about boxing, but might like to give it a try."

By all accounts, I was not the kind of camper Simms was hoping for — 33 years old, 15 pounds overweight and afraid of getting hit in the face (or anywhere else for that matter) — but the coach and his fighters were gracious to a fault as I huffed and puffed through the first Marine Corps Installations-East Boxing Training Camp at Camp Lejeune.

The Feb. 23-27 event drew six campers, including yours truly, and dozens of inquiries from wannabe boxers across the base.

"Every time we get a little public attention, people start calling me, asking me to join the team," said Simms. "I even get calls from civilians in Jacksonville who want to know why there isn't a boxing program for them."

Unlike those people, I know boxing is not for me. It is an incredibly demanding sport that requires strength, stamina, speed, balance and fearlessness — attributes I do not possess. But, as the sports editor for the Globe newspaper, I felt the camp offered a rare opportunity to glimpse a nap-shot of the dedication it takes to be an All-Marine boxer. Admittedly, my participation was limited to three out of the nine training sessions. I excused myself for newspaper responsibilities, mostly as a cover story so I could nurse my broken body back at the office.

After our first morning introduction and Simms' explanation of his goals and expectations, the campers and the nine team members for the camp, a warm-up jog around the sea 3 Gymnasium, and then two sprints around the plyometric exercise circuit.

According to Simms, plyometrics are exercises designed to develop explosiveness and strength — two very important requirements for anyone who dreams of stepping into the ring. Our circuit included lots of



Members of the All-Marine Boxing Team show training camp participants the different counterpunches to throw in the ring. Photo by Cpl. Bryce C.K. Muhlberg

jumping, punching and abdominal work. Each participant was paired with an All-Marine boxer, and I was lucky enough to find myself under the guidance of Andre Ramirez, the sixth-ranked amateur featherweight in the nation.

Aside from feeling awkward and slow, my first trip around the circuit was a success. The trouble began at the start of the second round, which, according to my wobbly legs and burning paunch, would be more about survival than finishing with style.

I gratefully declined to show up for the afternoon session, muttering vaguely about the looming newspaper deadline, and limped out of the gym to my cushy office chair.

The next morning I returned, ready to take on the plyometric torture again,



All-Marine Boxing Team coach Ron Simms shows Jamie Cameron the proper way to wrap his hands prior to donning the gloves. Photo by Cpl. Bryce C.K. Muhlberg

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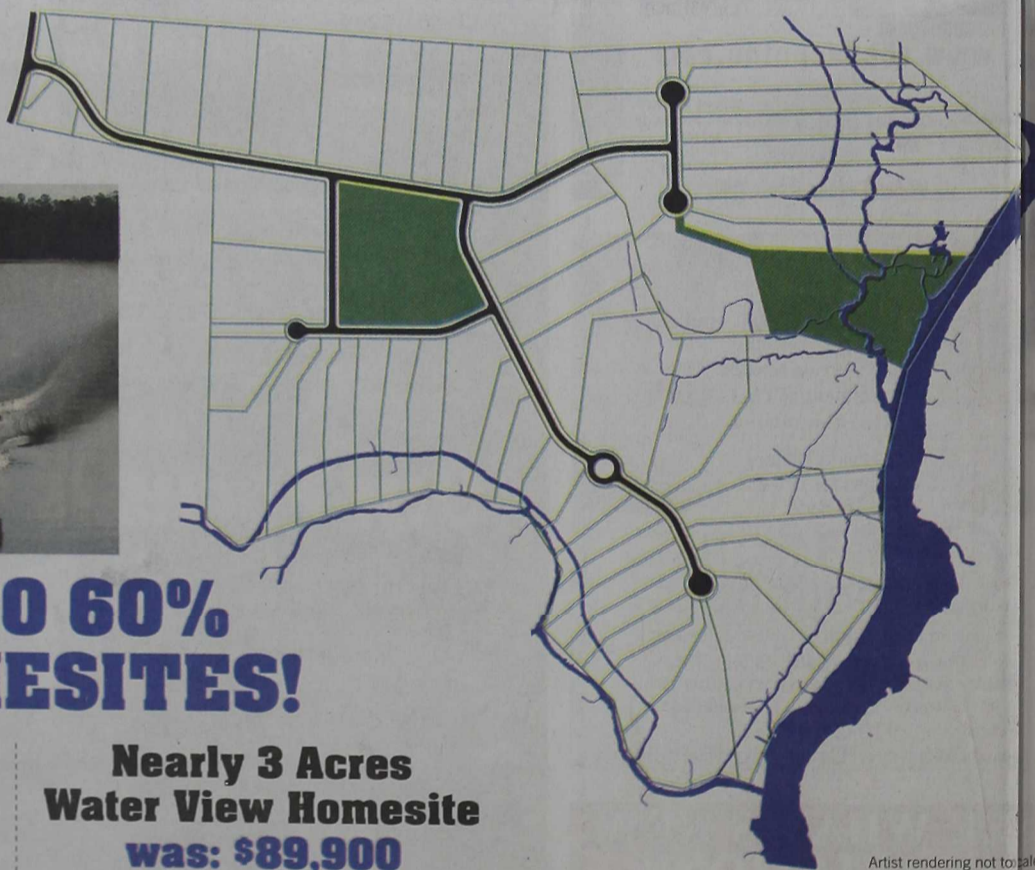
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BOXING FROM 3B

ly to find the training schedule had us out instead for brisk, three-mile run and complimentary wind sprints finished last).
 "How do you feel?" asked Bryant Tune, a rising star the amateur heavyweight division.
 "I feel old," I said.
 Tune responded with a grin. "You're only as old as you feel."
 Again, I begged off the afternoon workout (deadlines, deadlines, deadlines, you know).
 Wednesdays at The Globe are indeed deadline days, I used the legitimate excuse to skip a day of training rest my weary body and aching muscles that had not been used in years.
 For my third and final workout, I joined the camp for a daily boxing workout and was paired with Jimmy Aleszczyk, a 152-pounder who has been with the All-Marine Team for the past three months. Aleszczyk proved to be a patient, thoughtful mentor as he put me through the paces for 12 rounds of throwing jabs, hooks and footwork. Despite my youthful instructor's kindness, the only thing that kept my rubber band legs and lead weight arms from sitting after the 10th round was Coach Simms' threat echoing in my head, "If anybody has to stop before we finish, you're all going to do the whole workout over again." I hope my fellow campers will appreciate the agony I went through to keep that from happening.
 As I reflect on the experience (and continue to apply eating pads to my aching body every night) I know I made the right decision to live a day in the life of an All-Marine boxer. These men have more determination and dedication in their pinky fingers than most folks have in their entire bodies. Better yet, they are gracious in their willingness to share their expertise with anyone who cares to try to keep up with them.
 I know I speak for everyone aboard Camp Lejeune when I wish them the utmost success as they represent the Marine Corps in future boxing tournaments across the country and around the globe. I can think of no finer way to carry the Marine Corps flag into competition.

Wrestlers descend on Area 5 Gym, Camp Lejeune for All-Marine tryouts

JAMIE CAMERON
 Assistant managing editor

As the home of the All-Marine Wrestling Team, Camp Lejeune is the grappling epicenter of the Corps. Starting Feb. 11, the Area 5 Gymnasium took on an even higher significance as the site of the 2009 All-Marine Wrestling Tryouts, in preparation for the Armed Services Wrestling Tournament.
 Around 20 hopefuls from around the Corps are focused on making the team,

which will travel to Mountain Home Air Force Base, outside Boise, Idaho, to take on the best of the rest of the service branches March 13-16. The team is scheduled to leave Camp Lejeune March 11. But first, the Marines need to find out who among them will come out on top to represent the Corps.
 "We have some new guys and some veterans," said All-Marine head coach Dan Hicks. "Barring any major injuries, I think we're going to be pretty tough."
 Many of the athletes trying out for the team come straight from the

All-Marine Team based aboard Camp Lejeune. Others are here representing bases in Okinawa, Kansas City and Iwakuni, according to Hicks.
 "We have some pretty tough wrestlers, some former high school state champions and some guys who went on to wrestle in college," said Hicks. "It's a really good group of guys to represent the Marine Corps."
 Wrestling-offs started Monday to fill out the nine weight classes heading to the tournament. The final roster will be announced today.

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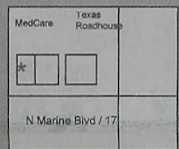
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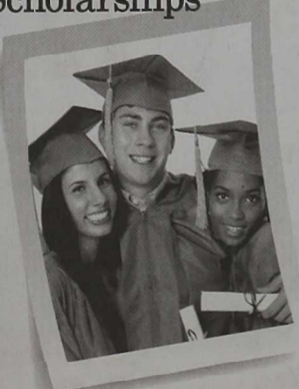
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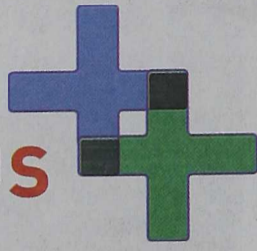
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\$347.69*
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THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2009

Midway Park cleans up its act, goes green

New houses built environmentally friendly

By KATIE MATHISON
Marine Corps Base

Green is in and the Marine Corps is no exception to the environmentally friendly trend. The new Marine Corps Communities and Actus Lend Lease program is creating a more environmentally friendly Midway Park. The major transformation already begun as the first phase of 537 new homes are being built.

The new houses are all Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified. LEED certification is a rating system used to promote design and construction of high performing sustainable homes.

The project aims to be environmentally friendly in every way possible. The environmental consciousness begins with the homes being built. As much material as possible will be recycled from the old homes. The concrete, wood and everything salvageable from the homes will be reused.

Recycling takes the burn off of local landfills, said Lynn, deputy project manager of Atlantic Marine Corps Communities, said. It reduces the amount of material used to transport waste.

The new construction will build on the previous infrastructure of the site. Midway Park will keep existing road patterns and help with infrastructure, Lynn said. This allows AMCC to save trees and minimize dust and noise. The homes will be highly energy efficient.

"The homes focus on water and energy efficiency," Lynn said. "They will contain dual flush toilets and more efficient shower heads

SEE MIDWAY 3C ▶



2nd CEB Marines PERFORM ROUTE SWEEP TRAINING



LANCE CPL. BRIAN M. WOODRUFF
2nd Marine Division

When Marines patrol onto grounds previously untouched by combat boots, they can't assume the soil is safe from dangers such as enemy traps, weapons or improvised explosive devices.

From vast desert plains to rigid mountainous terrain, foot patrolers can cover these areas from end to end safely with the expertise of 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. 2nd platoon, Company C, performed sweeps for mines and other hazardous materials during a route clearance exercise, Feb. 25.

The training was a refresher course for Marines to

relearn how to check areas for mines, weapon caches and other hidden dangers that are likely to be encountered in a combat zone.

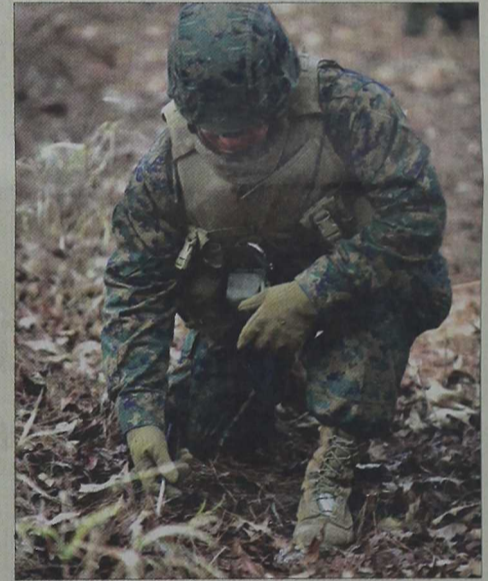
Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Murabito, a platoon sergeant with 2nd platoon, said he feels the training is absolutely necessary.

"This kind of training is extremely important because of all the unmarked minefields in other countries," said Murabito. "We don't know if certain areas could be a danger to our Marines or even civilians."

During the training, Marines from the squad provided an outer perimeter security, while one Marine examined an area of terrain with hazard-finding instruments.

Lance Cpl. Brian C. Williams, a combat engineer with the battalion, used an

SEE TRAINING 2C ▶



Photos by Lance Cpl. Brian M. Woodruff
Top, Lance Cpl. Brian C. Williams, a combat engineer with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, adjusts an advanced metal detector during a training exercise, Feb. 25. Above, Williams, boxes off a possible mine for probing during a training exercise. Right, a combat engineer with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, probes the ground for a possible mine. Marines with 2nd CEB used the training to practice searching for mines, improvised explosive devices, and other dangerous material.



Photo by Cpl. Katie Mathison
Lance Cpl. Richard Foster, a corpsman with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, looks at an exhibit of medical devices used during the Revolutionary War in Burgaw, Feb. 21.

MP invades battleground

By KATIE MATHISON
Marine Corps Base

Almost 233 years ago, one of the most significant battles leading up to the Revolutionary War took place just outside of Burgaw.

Marines and sailors from Camp Lejeune and Camp Johnson had an opportunity to glimpse into the everyday lives of the colonial people during a Single Marine Program trip to the Moore's Creek National Battlefield, Feb. 21.

The battle took place Feb. 27, 1776, when approximately 500 Loyalists, mostly Scottish Highlanders, expected to find a very small band of American Patriots. Little did they know the Patriot forces were much larger than the Loyalists expected, and they were prepared for their arrival.

In preparation for the Loyalists, the Patriots sabotaged Moore's Creek Bridge, by removing planks of wood on one side

SEE BATTLEGROUND 2C ▶

New signs signal new chance for Crime Stoppers

CPL. BRYCE C.K. MUHLBERG
Marine Corps Base

As you have driven to work around Jacksonville, Camp Lejeune or New River recently, you may have noticed the old camouflage Crime Stoppers signs being torn down and new reflective gray and red Crime Stoppers signs going up.

"Crime Stoppers is a joint venture between the city of Jacksonville, Onslow County, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, and all of their police departments, to make the community more aware of their ability to keep an eye out and protect themselves," said James E. Harris, a crime prevention specialist with the Provost Marshal's Office physical security department. "More importantly, it encourages people to call in crimes, who normally wouldn't have called them in."

The program and its Marine Corps and civilian supporters placed large signs throughout bases, stations, Jacksonville and the Onslow community in the past. The old signs were large and visually appealing, but used camouflage as a background for the text, which looked good, but were too well camouflaged to catch attention, Harris said, with a chuckle.

"The new signs are easier to see," said Todd Chapman, a worker with Lejeune Sports Services, who made the signs. "I think we live in a safe

area, but I believe in this program. It's people looking out for each other, and that's a necessity nowadays."

Chapman and Harris have worked with the Provost Marshals Office to replace many of the signs. Chapman said it has been a great experience.

"I love working at the sign shop and it's been great working with the different people involved in this program, because it is so important," Chapman, a Sneads Ferry resident, said.

Harris said the Crime Stoppers program, and those involved in it, play a much larger role.

"We hold a Crime Stoppers meeting once a month, because it is that important," said Harris. "We provide materials to commands to place at barracks, on company bulletin boards and to give to the Marines."

Crime Stoppers allows anonymous persons the chance to receive up to a \$2,500 reward for calling 938-3273 and reporting a crime. The number connects the caller directly to the Jacksonville Police Department. If the crime is happening on a base or station, the JPD will forward the information directly to the PMO on either base.

Over the last month the Crime Stoppers program has received 36 calls with 29 tips, four of the tips resulting in a reward. Interestingly,

SEE CRIME 2C ▶



Photo by Cpl. Bryce C.K. Muhlenberg
Todd Chapman, a worker with Lejeune Sports Services, erects a new version of the Crime Stoppers sign, Feb. 26. Crime Stoppers allows anonymous persons the chance to receive up to a \$2,500 reward for calling 938-3273 and reporting a crime.

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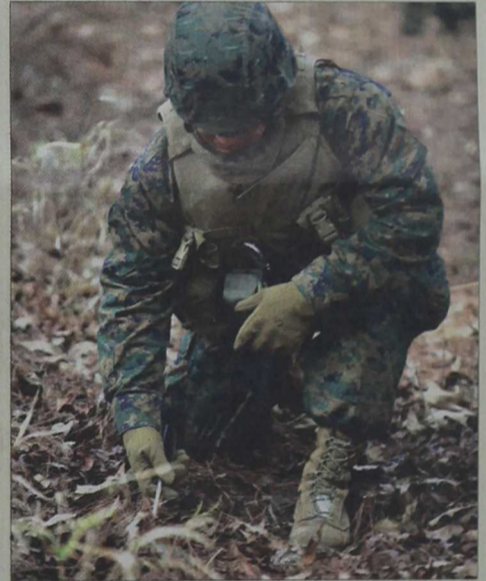
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SEE MIDWAY 3C ▶



Photo by Cpl. Katie Mathison
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...ORE'S CREEK NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD, N.C.

AMP invades battleground

KATIE MATHISON
Corps Base

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SEE CRIME 2C ▶



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Todd Chapman, a worker with Lejeune Sports
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2nd Supply Battalion, IED defeat training builds confidence

LANCE CPL. MEGHAN J. CANLAS
2nd Marine Division

When Operation Iraqi Freedom first began, improvised explosive devices were an expected and daunting threat. The threat of IEDs harming Marines is still present, but it is now reduced. What has changed in the past five years? Training.

"During my first tour in (2004) IED training was part of stability and sustainment training," said Gene Pollock, a retired Marine and IED defeat instructor at the Engineer Center of Excellence at Court House Bay. "In (2005) the training was a two-hour DVD. Since then, a lot has changed."

After Pollock's 20 years in the Marine Corps infantry, he took a job teaching Marines how to properly prepare, maneuver and defeat IED threats based on the current threats seen in Iraq.

The Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization identifies trends seen in Iraq and passes the information down to the Engineer

Center of Excellence so they can accurately train Marines.

"We've had entire units change their (standard operating procedures) based on the training they've received here," Pollock explained. "Knowing what the current trends are and adjusting the training really helps. We're also putting guys on the ground and giving them a chance to do some practical application before they deploy."

The instructors can simulate almost every type of threat seen in Iraq. Using smoke machines, carbon dioxide and even ordnance shells found in country, the instructors set up real situations to test the Marines' preparedness.

After completing the training, the Marines feel a greater sense of assurance in their ability to properly respond to IED threats.

"We get out there and learn how to spot IEDs with hands on training, going over (immediate action) drills and physically getting out and performing checks," said Cpl. Gary S. King II, Security Company, 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

"Our job is to provide security for cargo going from base to base and make sure the vehicles don't get touched," King explained. "It gives us confidence to know what to look for, how to spot them and what to do when we spot them. It makes a difference being confident that you can do your job."

King deployed from August 2007 to March 2008 to provide convoy security out of Al Asad Air Base, Iraq and said the training helped keep his squad safe from IED attacks.

"We had no IED explosions," the 24-year-old said. "We spotted all the IEDs we came across."

King said the training he received during his first deployment helped him feel prepared and now, as he prepares to deploy a second time, it's his responsibility to teach Marines, who haven't deployed, what he's learned from his experiences.

"It's my job to teach them as much as they can learn before we go over there so they can do their jobs and feel confident in the training."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Meghan J. Canlas. A Marine with Security Company, 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group surveys the area around a known improvised explosive device during training. The Security Co. participated in a considerations for movement in an IED environment on Feb. 23-24, before providing convoy security in their upcoming deployment to Iraq's Anbar province.

TRAINING FROM 1C

advanced metal detector to check for mines or IEDs.

The Marines who provided security for Williams gave him a wide area of protection for two reasons — it gave him a large area to scan at once, and a wider area of security also keeps other Marines outside of a potential blast radius.

Halfway down the path, Williams signaled to the back of the formation as he boxed off a small area. A Marine ran up, probing the soil, checking for what Williams believed may have been something harmful.

After finding the way was clear and the area was safe, Williams moved further down the path, making sure to be thorough.

To ensure the combat engineer are thorough, the Marine Corps fields several different tools to help in their mission.

The first tool in the combat engineer's belt is the ANPSS-14, the advanced metal detector that uses ground penetrating radar to sense the density of objects underneath the earth.

The reason this piece of equipment is so special is because some mines are made mostly from plastic and have no way of being detected by a modern metal detector.

While the ANPSS-14 has the capability to be used as just a metal detector, the Marine Corps still uses the older model ANPSS-12, which is solely a metal detection unit.

Williams said that both models are fielded because there may not be enough advanced systems for every Marine to use one.

While similar to a commercial unit, the ANPSS-12 is extremely powerful and can detect amounts of metal that weigh less than a gram.

As the Marines finished the exercise, they went over briefly what they had done right and what could have gone better.

"This is going to give them the opportunity to say, 'that looks out of place,'" Murabito said. "It's going to get them through dangerous areas safely."

Williams said that going through it multiple times helped Marines get a better feel for it.

"This training is a great refresher for everyone, including the people that have been in the fleet for a while," Williams said.

With powerful tools and intense training, the Marines of 2nd CEB hope they can be the first Marines people call when they need to move through areas safely. Since their efforts have saved countless lives in the past and will continue to in the future, they said that is something worth training for.

BATTLEGROUND FROM 1C

and covering the remaining side with lard, which forced the alists to cross slowly in single file. When the attack began, slid off into the water including the commanding officer, shocked and leaderless, the Loyalists surrendered.

The victory ended British authority in the colony and influenced North Carolina to be the first colony to vote for independence.

In celebration of the decisive victory, the battlefield was formed into a park, with marked paths to read as you walk a scene from 1776. There were camp fires with handcrafted pots cooking beef stew and peach cobbler. A blacksmith was fanning his coals to heat up a piece of iron he was turning hook to hang pots over the fire. There were weapons and music demonstrations from both the Patriot and Loyalist camps.

For the service members it was a great opportunity to glimpse of living history and to see the transformation of fighting from the last 200 years.

"It is amazing to see how much tactics have changed then, and I am glad," said Pfc. Luke Peterson, a student at Motor Transportation Mechanic School aboard Camp Lejeune. "I can't imagine standing in a line wearing a bright-red coat day we try to camouflage and sneak up on someone rather than meeting in an open field."

The SMP members were surprised by the trip. The service members knew they would get to see weapons demonstrations but were surprised to also see the differences in daily life.

"Originally the poster said it was a re-enactment, but it's more of a living history," said Seaman Richard Foster, a member of the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion. "I really enjoyed it. I really liked watching them cook over the fire and the costumes they were wearing."

CRIME FROM 1C

17 of the tips were concerning narcotics, three about missing persons, four about robbery, one about murder, one about larceny and three labeled other by the Provost Marshal's Office.

If you would like to participate in the Crime Stoppers program, call the 24-hour hotline at 938-3273.

A Crime Stoppers barbecue fundraiser is also slated to be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 26 in the Jacksonville Mall parking lot off of Western Boulevard. Pork, baked beans, coleslaw and hush puppies are on the menu and will be sold for \$6 per plate during the event. For more information or ticket purchases, call 347-4007. Tickets may also be purchased at the event and deliveries will be made for orders of 10 or more meals.

Traffic Safety Reminder

- Pedestrians always have the right of way when crossing a road.
- Pedestrians must ensure the right of way is given before crossing.
- Walk or run on the left side of the roadway facing traffic, at least six feet from the edge of the roadway.
- Joggers or walkers must not impede the flow of traffic.
- Use sidewalks and crosswalks when available.
- Joggers or walkers must wear reflective gear from evening to morning colors and during reduced visibility.

For more information, contact Base Safety at 451-5903.

Off-limits establishments

The following businesses are designated by the base commander as "off-limits"

Bell Auto Salvage II	136 Abbits Branch Rd., Hubert
Botta Booms (A.K.A. Private Dancer)	3054 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville
Carland	2911 Routs 17/ G.W. Highway Tabb, V.A.
Cash-N-Advance	2235 Lejeune Blvd., Jacksonville
Centennial Enterprises, Inc.	1489 East Thousand Oaks Blvd. Suite 2, Thousand Oaks, CA (Headquarter's Office)
Club Mickey's	4441 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville (Closed)
Doll House	Highway 258 West, Jacksonville
Easy Money Catalog Sales	233-F Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Fantasies	4951 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Illusions	Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Jacksonville Speedway Auto Parts (A.K.A. Raceway Auto Parts & Raceway Used Auto Parts)	401 Blue Creek Elementary School Road
Joshua Experience/Club Access	200 Golden Oak Court, Virginia Beach, V.A.
Laird's Auto and Truck Repair	1197 Piney Green Rd., Jacksonville
Par Tech (A.K.A. Military Circuit of Jacksonville)	487-A Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Playhouse	6568 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Pleasure Palace	Highway 17, Jacksonville
Private Pleasures (A.K.A. Carriage House)	5527 Highway 258, Jacksonville
Reflection Photo	353 Western Blvd., Jacksonville
Smitty's R&R	Highway 17, Jacksonville
Southern Comfort	2004 Highway 172, Sneads Ferry
Student Assistance Company	244 South Randal Road, Suite III Eglin, I.L.
Talk of the Town II (barbershop is not off limits)	114 Texie Lane, Jacksonville
Tender Touch (A.K.A. Baby Dolls)	Highway 258, Jacksonville
Veterans Affairs Service	Jacksonville

Hotline numbers to report fraud, waste, abuse and corruption

Department of Defense	800-424-9098
Inspector General, Marine Corps	703-614-1348/1349/1698
Camp Lejeune (Recorded line)	451-3928
Hearing impaired	451-2999
To report business fraud	451-3928

Need directions to a local business?
Visit our Yellow Pages online at
CampLejeuneGlobe.com

AroundBase

Sports for Soldiers road race

Sports for Soldiers, a University of North Carolina at Wilmington student veterans organization, has scheduled a road race to benefit the Fisher House. The Fisher House provides free or low-cost lodging for veterans and military families undergoing treatment at military medical centers. Registration for the April 4th 5-kilometer Fun Run/Walk is ongoing. The \$10 registration fee includes a T-shirt. For more information, e-mail mlh3698@uncw.edu.



University of North Carolina Wilmington Watson School of Education Information Night

March 9, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Coastal Carolina Community College
Fine Arts Auditorium

Come meet with representatives from UNCW's Watson School of Education to learn about:

- Master of Education in Elementary Education: Cohort starting in Summer, 2009 or Fall, 2009
- Bachelor of Arts Degree in Middle Grades Education: New extension program in Onslow County for licensure in grades 6-9
- Master of Arts Degree (M.A.T.) in Middle Grades Education: New program for "licensure-only" students who already have a 4-year degree
- Master of Science in Instructional Technology: New online program in applied information technology that can be tailored to one's career goals
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Instructional Technology: Online program designed for those wishing to develop knowledge and skills in applied information technology for use in any learning setting

MIDWAY FROM 1C

USS IWO JIMA, ARABIAN GULF

More than a name change: 26th MEU first unit to implement new Family Readiness Program

GUNNERY SGT. BRYCE PIPER
26th Marine Expeditionary Force

More than a name change, Part 1 discussed implementation of the new Family Readiness Program. In Part 2, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit commander Col. Mark Desens described the change as a paradigm shift from former programs. And Family Readiness Officer Kelly Cotton described some of the things the FRP can do for a unit.

The right person for the job

Desens says one of the keys to a successful program is hiring the right FRO. May 5, 2008, the 26th MEU hired Kelly Cotton. It was a difficult choice from among several well-qualified people, said Desens.

"The most important quality commanders should look for in a FRO," explained Desens, "is a love for Marines, sailors and their families. Then lots of positive energy and common sense. We can get you the training, though experience is nice. These are hard things to draw from the (hiring) processes. The 26th MEU is fortunate to have hit the jackpot with our FRO, Kelly Cotton."

"I think a FRO with experience in military life is a plus," agreed Janice Capdepon, wife of the MEU's executive officer and involved with family readiness for more than 28 years. "If they have walked our walk, they truly understand. I think someone who has no knowledge of Marine Corps life may have a harder time adjusting. I'm not saying all military spouses would make the best FRO, but it does help."

The right training for the person

"Training has been developed and appropriately tailored for all positions related to the new Family Readiness Program," said MEU Executive Officer Lt. Col. Wes Capdepon. "The newly hired FROs attend courses ranging from Family Readiness Officer Training to Lifestyle Insights Networking Knowledge and Skills for Teens. These courses provide the

FRO with the professional education to operate the full spectrum of Family Readiness Programs."

"All in all," Capdepon continued, "the Family Readiness Team has 12 courses of instruction available, and with a little imagination they can seek additional professional instruction."

No stranger to deployment and Marine Corps life, Cotton is the wife of a Marine captain with 2nd Marine Division. Still, the command felt it imperative she saw deployment, not just from the family's perspective but also from the Marines'. During the predeployment training period, Cotton traveled with the Command Element to several training exercises, including Realistic Urban Training in Indiana during June 2008 and aboard USS Iwo Jima during the Composite Training Unit Exercise in July.

"The experiences at RUT and COMPTUEX were incredible in so many ways," said Cotton. "First, it was just plain awesome to be there first-hand and experience it myself. Second, it really helped me to understand the Marine's perspective (there really is very little living space aboard ship) so that I could better help family members understand that perspective. Third, it gave the Marines an opportunity to see me as a true part of the staff — I was here to do a job — and it was crucial that the Marines trust me to do my job, which was to assist their families while they were in the field, on a ship exercise or deployed, as well as while the Marine was home."

"Given her professional education and practical experiences," Capdepon asserted, "she can better relate to families and their experiences through her own."

Still room for volunteers

A key element to family readiness was, and is, the hard work and dedication of volunteers, said Capdepon. The work of every FRO is made lighter by Family Readiness Assistants and Morale Support Volunteers. Trained to provide information and referral, these Marine spouses and

family members support the FRO, doing everything from directing families to resources to assisting at family events.

"The Corps did ask a lot of its volunteers, but the heart of a volunteer knows no boundaries," said Linda Desens, wife of the 26th MEU commander. Linda said she's been involved in family programs for as long as she can remember, including fundraising activities, family events and as a Key Volunteer and KV Advisor as her husband moved up the ranks. She's currently Family Readiness Advisor to the MEU and has worked tirelessly with Cotton as the unit transitioned to the new program.

"Volunteers willingly gave of their time without complaining. It is a special calling to serve our families. However, because of the extent of the responsibilities involved, the program needed to be formalized."

"Given the high operational tempo of the current times, our families are challenged more than ever," Linda continued. "We have to keep in mind that our volunteers are family members who are going through these challenges like everyone else."

"Taking care of the families is one of our top priorities as a command team," said Linda. "There are so many family members who share this same passion. They give of themselves as Family Readiness Assistants, Key Volunteers in the old program, and as volunteers in our military and local community. The time they give to our families touches so many in ways that most of us will never fully realize. Most of them have young children of their own too and are balancing deployments like the rest of the unit. They never complain, but ask, 'What else can I do to help?' I like to think of them as our 'posse of angels' — they're unstoppable!"

A new role for the CO's spouse

A major paradigm to break for the new program is the role of the CO's spouse, said Linda.

"In the old program," Linda ex-

plained, "a lot of responsibility was delegated to the commander's spouse to ensure a strong and vibrant Key Volunteer Network within the command. The new family program offers the commander's spouse a unique opportunity to support the program in a true advisor role should they choose to be a part of the program. Given their experience as a military spouse for so many years, commanders' spouses have a lot to offer. They understand the programs that are available to the families; they understand from firsthand experience how tough deployments are; they have created valuable networks through their years in the Marine Corps that can benefit the families; and they probably understand more than anyone the commander's intent."

"Times have changed too," said Linda. "Many commanders' spouses have professional lives or are trying to keep up with the increasingly demanding schedules of their children. The new family readiness program allows them to still be an integral part of the program, but also offers them the opportunity for a more balanced schedule."

"I am thrilled by the support that the Commandant of the Marine Corps has directed towards the Family Readiness Program," said Linda. "Gen. Conway has made the Family Readiness Program one of his priorities and it is evident in all the positive changes that are taking place."

"The changes that have been instituted will make the program stronger than ever before," Linda said. "The program now has paid staff, communication systems, and training that will make the program more robust and even better able to support our families. Furthermore, programs and training are being implemented through Family Team Building to further enhance the new program."

Editor's note: Continued in the final installment, **More Than a Name Change Part 4**, which discusses accomplishments of the new program and lessons learned by the 26th MEU.

to conserve water. They will also have Energy Star insulation to conserve energy and heating and air-conditioning units that are more environmentally friendly. In addition, the LEED homes will feature dual pane windows that reduce the amount of heat let in from the outside and all homes will feature Energy Star appliances, which use 20 to 30 percent less energy.

The homes are not only extremely energy efficient, but they also have a great benefit for the families who live there. The homes are much larger than the previous homes in Midway Park.

"They are larger homes," Lynn said. "They are 1,600 to 1,700 square feet. Currently the houses are about 800 feet. We are going to double the size almost, with most three bedrooms and some four bedrooms. All of these homes are for junior enlisted. It is quite an upgrade from what we've got."

AMCC did not just increase the size of the homes. They also planned ahead for the special needs of the injured Marines and sailors returning to Camp Lejeune.

"Ten percent are (Americans with Disabilities Act) homes, so they will have handicapped access," Lynn said.

Marines are expected to be able to begin occupying these homes, by early 2010. The excitement about the new homes is not limited to the Marines.

"We're thrilled to be able to provide these homes to the junior enlisted and their families," Lynn said. "We're really looking forward to turning over the first homes and getting people in these things."

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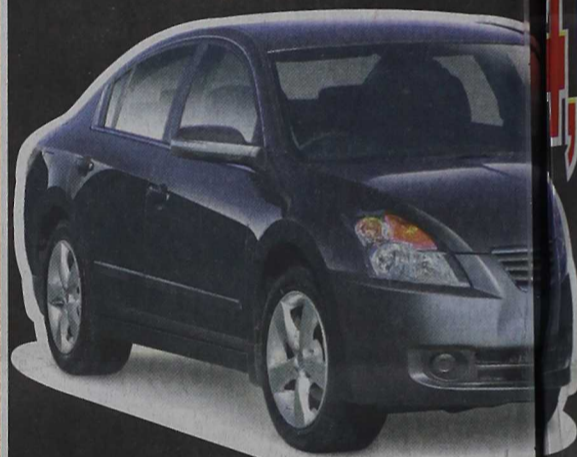
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Read Across America celebration comes to Camp Lejeune

HEATHER M. OWENS & CPL. PATRICK M. FLEISCHMAN
Carolina Living editor & Marine Corps Base

All across Camp Lejeune and America, children and adults gathered to read together Monday.

The impetuous was the start of Read Across America, a program sponsored by the National Education Association, with the objective of encouraging children to read in the company of caring adults.

The celebration falls during the week of March 2 each year, the birthday of beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss, who was born Theodor Seuss Geisel during 1904.

Were Dr. Seuss, author of such classic children's books as "The Cat in the Hat" and "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," alive today, he would be 105 years old.

Camp Lejeune Dependent Schools invited guests to read to children this week. On Monday, Congressman Walter B. Jones, of North Carolina's 3rd District, read "Woodrow, the White House Mouse" by Peter W. Barnes and Cheryl Shaw Barnes to second graders at Tarawa Terrace II Elementary School.

"I want to thank you for being so attentive. You are the next leaders of America, and I want to thank you again for letting me come read to you," Jones told the children.

TT II students also paraded through their school wearing costumes of their favorite characters. That afternoon, community members read to students in their classrooms.

The Cat in the Hat made a special guest appearance in each classroom at DeLalio Elementary School Monday.

At 4 p.m., children and parents gathered at the Harriette B. Smith Base Library for a Dr. Seuss birthday party. It

was the second year the library had the event, and the party was packed. Children were treated to party games, readings from three Dr. Seuss books and refreshments, including a giant blue and orange sheet cake featuring Dr. Seuss character Horton the elephant.

Jacob Wiley, 9, and his sister Joelene, 6, were among the party guests. "My favorite book of Dr. Seuss' is 'Oh the Places You'll Go.' It has many different places you can choose to go, you can choose to go to the bad side of you or the good side of you," said Jacob.

Wiley said he and his sister often come to the base library to get books or attend events. A dedicated reader, he said his favorite books are adventures.

"If it's an adventure book like Indiana Jones, you can think like Indiana Jones. You can get into the book and get out when you are done," he said.

A few party-goers were dressed as their favorite characters, including one girl who was dressed as a doctor and wore a stethoscope around her neck.

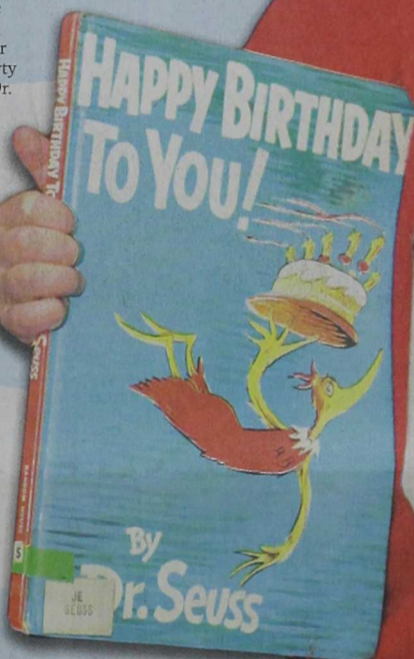
Jayden Cruse, 6, who attended the party with her younger brother Dylan, 2, was dressed as Dr. Seuss character Thing 1. "This is Thing 1," said her mother, Krissy. "Thing 2 had an ear infection. He's bummed (he could not come)." Krissy made the costumes over the weekend for Jayden and her friend Chaz Matthews, who was to be Thing 2, to wear to the TT II parade of characters.

"We read a lot. I think 'Fox in Socks' is our favorite. We even have videos of Dad reading Dr. Seuss with the kids before he deployed," said Krissy. Jayden and Dylan's father is Sgt. Josh Cruse of II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Library employees Judy Bradford, Fran Bing and Nicole Austin planned the party. Brad-

ford said she considered the event a success as so many children and parents attended and had fun.

She noted that the Marine Corps Air Station New River library, as well as the public libraries around town, had



scheduled their Dr. Seuss parties for the same time and still interest was high for the Lejeune event, which was just one of many events the library holds to promote children's reading.

"We try to have programs that are fun and innovative to get kids excited about reading. Research shows if we get children interested in reading early, they will become life-long readers and it will help them for the rest of their lives," she said.

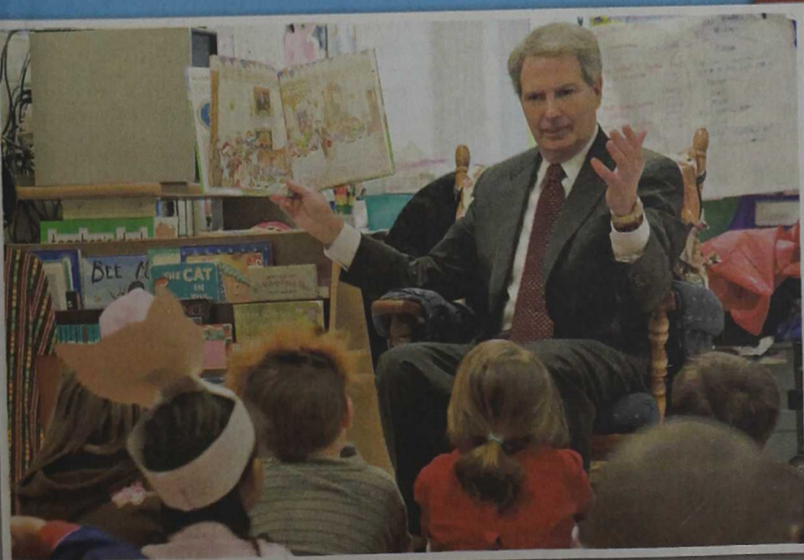


Photo by Cpl. Patrick M. Fleischman

Congressman Walter B. Jones, North Carolina 3rd District, reads "Woodrow, the White House Mouse" to children at Tarawa Terrace II Elementary School Monday. After reading to the children, Jones spoke with local media. "These children have moms and dads serving their country and for me it is my way of saying thank you to them for their service," he said.

Photo by Heather M. Owens
Jayden Cruse, 6, dressed as Dr. Seuss character Thing 1 for the Harriette B. Smith Base Library's Dr. Seuss birthday party Monday. Approximately 60 children and adults attended the birthday party.



MovieReview

From the front row with Reinhild Moldenhauer Huneycutt

'Inkheart': Magic of written words comes alive on silver screen

Playing at the Camp Lejeune Theater

"INKHEART" (PG)

"Inkheart" is a fantasy adventure saga based on the bestselling 2003 young adult book by Cornelia Funke all about the magic of the written word.

The rather complicated plot tells the story of a father and his daughter who are sent on a quest through-out worlds both real and imagined.

Through their passion for books, they are caught up in a dangerous world where every story ever written is just waiting to become real. The characters of the literary works they read about in books come suddenly alive.

Brendan Fraser ("Journey to the Center of the Earth," "The Mummy") stars as Mortimer Folchart, who shares his passion for books with his 12 year-old daughter.

Eliza Hope Bennett ("Nanny McPhee") plays Meggie, his daughter, who shares the extraordinary gift of her father in bringing the characters from books to life when they are read aloud.

However, danger looms

Iain Softley ("The Skeleton Key," "K-Pax," "The Wing of the Dove") directed this wildly entertaining, fantasy-packed action film about the power of words and love.

"Inkheart" is a heart-warming family tale with heavy special effects. It is a joyride for romantics of all ages, especially the younger audiences, who might be inclined to pick up a book and read.

Playing at the Jacksonville Theater

"CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC" (PG)

"Confessions of a Shopaholic" is a comedic look at a girl who is running wild with a credit card.

Isla Fisher ("Definitely, Maybe," "The Wedding Crashers") stars as Rebecca Bloomwood, the credit card happy heroine. She is kind of a screwball, funny, exciting, fashionable and adorable.

Living in the glamorous world of New York City, Becky has only one major problem; she is good at shopping and has a huge craving for clothes, and now, hopelessly addicted to it, she is drowning in a sea of debt.

Becky dreams of working for her favorite fashion magazine, which is run by the chic Alette Naylor, played by Kristen Scott Thomas ("The Golden Compass") but has trouble getting her foot in the door.

Ironically, she snags a job as an advice columnist for a financial magazine published by the same company.

Under-qualified for the job at hand, Becky finds herself in way over her head. But when her column becomes an overnight success, turning her into an instant celebrity, her compulsive shopping and spending habits threaten to destroy her love life and derail her career.

Trying to keep it all from spiraling out of control,

Becky is ultimately forced to re-evaluate what is really important in life.

Hugh Darcy ("Beyond the Gates," "King Arthur") co-stars as the debonair Luke Brandon, Becky's boss and love interest.

Krysten Ritter ("What Happens in Vegas," "27 Dresses") plays Suze, Becky's best friend and roommate.

Joan Cusack ("Martian Child") and John Goodman ("Speed Racer") appear as Becky's parents, Jane and Graham Bloomwood.

Also starring are John Lithgow ("Dreamgirls") as Edgar West; Leslie Bibb ("Iron Man") as Alicia Bilington; and Lynn Redgrave ("The Jane Austin Book Club") as the Drunken Lady at the Ball; and Wendy Malick ("Racing Stripes") as Miss Korch, the shopaholic group leader.

Novelist Sophie Kinsella's bestselling series, Confession of a Shopaholic, is the basis for this romp through Manhattan.

Style icon Patricia Fields ("Sex and the City," "The Devil Wears Prada") is again hard at work to transform the character into a fashionista.

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer ("Pirates of the Caribbean") took a break from his many super-action fares and Television hit series, trying his talented instincts on a chick flick.

With the help of director J.P. Hogan ("My Best Friend's Wedding," "Muriel's Weddings," "Proof," "Peter Pan"), the exuberance of Becky's addiction is made into a hilariously funny movie.

"Confession of a Shopaholic," however funny it may be, is also a cautionary tale, especially in our sinking economic climate.

Editor's note: Ms. Huneycutt is the Public Affairs Assistant at the Base Public Affairs Office.

GamingIntel

Finding fun in mystery

BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

What's up when a millionaire named Phil T. Rich goes missing?

I'd be tempted to say he was whacked for having a silly name. However, when the suspects include an actress named Emmy Daynow, an Italian chef name Manny Cotti and clock nut named Justine Time, the mystery has to go much deeper. Or perhaps not.

You can look into the case for yourself with "Mystery Case Files: MillionHeir," an E-rated seek-and-solve game by Big Fish Games for the Nintendo DS.

During your investigation, you'll visit each suspect and examine several screens packed with all sorts of odd junk. You'll be asked to find several items, sometimes in plain view and sometimes needing a flashlight or X-ray machine.

After you find most of the items on your search lists, you play a little mini-game that concludes the investigation for that person. After you've found all of the clues for all the suspects, you can solve the case.

You can also play quick games outside of the campaign or play seeing games with up to four of your friends.

The game offers hints for the unobservant, as well as the ability to ratchet up the difficulty by activating a time limit on searches. But it's still not a difficult game.

Hard-core gamers, or even medium-core DS fans, are likely to find the game a little slow and silly. However, kids and those who still enjoy finding Waldo are likely to find it addictive.

Platform: Nintendo DS
On the Web: www.nintendo.com/mcf

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STREET FIGHTER PG-13 • DTS • DLP
2:15 • 4:45 • 7:15 • 9:45

MADEA GOES TO JAIL PG-13 • DTS • DLP
1:00 • 3:30 • 6:10 • 8:45

FIREBIRD R • DTS • DLP
1:25 • 4:15 • 6:35 • 9:00

FRIDAY THE 13TH R • DTS • DLP
2:00 • 4:30 • 7:00 • 9:30

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC
PG • DTS • DLP 1:20 • 3:55 • 6:10 • 8:45
(1:20 & 8:10 PLAYS ONLY MARCH 6TH THRU 12TH)

CORALINE 3-D PG • DTS • DLP
NO DISCOUNT PASSES 1:30 • 4:00 • 6:30 • 9:00

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU
PG • DTS • DLP 1:00 • 4:00 • 7:00 • 10:00

TAKEN PG-13 • DTS • DLP
1:45 • 4:10 • 6:35 • 9:00

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS
PG-13 • DTS • DLP 1:30 • 4:30 • 7:10 • 9:50 (NO 1:50 SHOW ON MARCH 7th)

PAUL BLART: MALL COP PG • DTS • DLP
1:45 • 4:05 • 6:25 • 8:45

GRAN TORINO PG-13 • DLP
1:15 • 4:00 • 6:45 • 9:30

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TODAY "Gran Torino," R, 7:30 p.m.	TODAY "Frost/Nixon," R, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY "Bride Wars," PG, 6:30 p.m.; "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," PG-13, 9:15 p.m.	FRIDAY "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," PG, 6:30 p.m.; "Inkheart," PG, 9:15 p.m.
SATURDAY "Bride Wars," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "The Unborn," PG-13, 6:30 p.m.; "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," PG-13, 9:15 p.m.	SATURDAY "Hotel for Dogs," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "Inkheart," PG, 6:30 p.m.; "Underwater 3: Rise of the Lycans," R, 9:15 p.m.
SUNDAY "Bride Wars," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "Defiance," R, 6:30 p.m.	SUNDAY "Hotel for Dogs," PG, 3:30 p.m.; "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," PG, 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY "Not Easily Broken," PG-13, 7:30 p.m.	TUESDAY "Bride Wars," PG, 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY "Gran Torino," R, 7:30 p.m.	WEDNESDAY "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," R, 7:30 p.m.

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For information on concerts, festivals, special events and classes up and down the Carolina coast, check out What's happenin' Carolina each week. To add your event, e-mail heather.owens@militarynews.com. Space is limited to availability.

Hidden Talents craft classes March
The Hidden Talents Craft Store at Hadnot Point is offering several classes during March. All classes take place between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The classes are: Thursday: Basket class, no fee; Friday: Stamp A Stack birthday cards, \$25 fee; March 12: Bob Ross painting class, \$40 fee; and March 24: scrapbooking class, \$25 fee. For more information, call 451-2658.

Saturday Walk-in Veterinary Clinic March 14, 8 a.m. - noon
The Base Veterinary Clinic, which is located in Tarawa Terrace, has planned another Saturday walk-in clinic. Services provided include vaccines, microchips, heartworm tests and feline leukemia tests. No sick calls, please. Bring all previous health records on your pet. Military identification required for services. Bring your pet in on a leash or in a carrier. Appointments for vaccinations and sick call are available by calling 450-1607.

Arbor Day celebration March 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
An Arbor Day celebration is scheduled at the Jacksonville Mall. Come out and visit Smokey the Bear. There will be free trees while supplies last. For more information, call 347-5332 or visit www.onslowcountync.gov/parks.

Guardian Ad Litem training Tuesday
The North Carolina Guardian Ad Litem program seeks volunteers to train as court appointed advocates for abused and neglected children. Training begins Tuesday. For more information, call 346-5335 or visit www.gal4kids.org.

American presidents and their first ladies March 13, 7 p.m.
Husband and wife acting and writing team, William and Sue Wills of the national touring company "Presidents

of the Pets Week

Photos courtesy of the Onslow County Animal Shelter

This pretty kitty is looking for a new friend. He is a gray and white American shorthair and is about 7 months old.
Pet ID # A025178

This little girl is a brown and white pit bull terrier. She is about 7 months old and needs a new home.
Pet ID# A025316

The Onslow County Animal Shelter is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 7 p.m., Friday from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. To see more photographs of pets available for adoption, visit www.petsharbor.com. For more information, call the Onslow County Animal Shelter at 455-0182.

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Some say the hardest job in the military belongs to the military spouse.

Deadline for entry is Sunday, **March 31, 2009!**

Active duty spouses are the unsung heroes who maintain the home-front during lengthy deployments, selflessly give back to their communities and provide moral support for friends, family and their loved ones serving in harms way, at home and abroad.

All nominees, finalists and the Spouse of the Year will be recognized by the business and military community at an awards luncheon hosted by Landmark Military Media of North Carolina, proud civilian publishers of The Globe and Rotovue, at the Camp Lejeune Officer's Club on Thursday May 21st.

While service members are rewarded for superior job performance with medals, promotions and ceremonies, military spouses generally only receive a kiss and a "thank you" from their significant others.

Landmark Military Media of North Carolina is proud to host the 2nd Annual Heroes at Home, 2009 Military Spouse Awards! Nominations will be accepted from all branches of the Military serving Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, New River Air Station, Cherry Point Air Station and the surrounding Military bases located in Eastern North Carolina through the end of March.

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St. Patrick's Day dinner, dance: Event planned to delight folks, raise money for good cause

HEATHER M. OWENS
Carolina Living editor

Men and women of Jack-o'-lantern, never fear, there is plenty to do in town for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day holiday. The scheduled event is sure to please those who like good food, drink and fun. Those who wish to support the United Service Organization and the military members they support, especially want to participate. Jacksonville's USO center is scheduled a St. Patrick's Day party for March 14 at the Ballman St. location. The fundraiser is open to the public and is set to feature a traditional Irish dinner, as well as the opportunity to dance the night away to live music. Ticket options come in three denominations: dinner and dancing are \$25 per person, advance tickets for the entertainment portion of the evening are \$10 and dance tickets purchased at the door are \$2. Tables with eight chairs may be reserved in advance with the purchase of dinner tickets. The dinner is set to include corned beef and cabbage, or roasted chicken with vegetables. An included selection of desserts and a bar will also be available. After dinner, which takes place from 6 to 7 p.m., the entertainment portion of the evening will commence.

The Shelby Taylor Trio, a local group featuring Shelby Taylor, her daughter Wanda Reynolds, and their friend Janet Westerman, will take the stage.

The trio have been popular performers at local venues, such as the Festival of Trees and other festivals, during their 15 years together.

"They are a tight harmony group and are very well liked," said entertainment producer Chris Parr. "Without exaggeration, they are just as good as the old-timey McGuire Sisters, only they don't have the McGuire name."

Parr, a military veteran and proprietor of TV and Radio Productions, volunteered to produce the evening's entertainment to assist the USO and bolster the many programs they provide for service members and their families.

"I'm enthusiastic about it because I feel I am doing something to help. The USO is a nonprofit organization, and they survive on donations. The needs of the USO continue despite the economy," said Parr, adding that he appreciates the comfort, friendliness and "home away from home" atmosphere the USO provides service members.

The Shelby Taylor Trio will begin their set with some popular Irish tunes and then launch into their main repertoire of classic songs of the 1950s.

A regional favorite, The Four Knights Band, which

actually consists of seven musicians and singers, will headline the evening.

Price said The Four Knights are sure to please. In fact, the party was pretty much planned around their availability.

"A St. Patrick's Day party sounds like a lot of fun. We heard the band and they sounded really good. That got us excited for the possibilities," said Price.

The band performs a diverse range of songs, from beach favorites to country classics and even some selections from the fabulous 1950s, said Parr.

"They have a varied list and they have been very popular throughout the area for many years," he said. "They were highly recommended to me."

Parr has produced numerous entertainment events over the years, including the Stars of the Armed Forces variety show and events which served as fundraisers for nonprofit organizations, he said.

"We pride ourselves on presenting good, wholesome family entertainment. You could bring your daughter or grandma or anyone in-between to one of our events," said Parr.

Editor's note: Dinner and dance tickets may be purchased in advance at the USO or by calling 238-2280 or 650-9518. Tickets purchased at the door will only include the entertainment portion of the evening.

Extreme service members, families prep for quest

HEATHER M. OWENS
Carolina Living editor

You have seen the concept on reality television. Now it is time to experience the phenomena up close and personal.

Marine Corps Community Services is planning an amazing family event to get service members and their families in touch with the many community services available to them.

Marine Corps Exchange authorized patrons are encouraged to sign up for Marine Corps Community Services' X-treme Adventure to take place April 13, rain or shine.

They will, however, need to pass the first hurdle toward being accepted as candidates.

"The first leg of the race is to get to the MCX between March 9 through 13 to be one of the first families to sign up," said Melissa Kenward, MCCS marketing specialist.

Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Slots for 30 teams are available. Each team may elect a captain.

Authorized patrons, including active-duty military, retired service members and military family members, may sign up in groups of four.

Groups may be comprised of friends, families, co-workers or other affinity units of authorized patrons.

Each team must pay an entry fee of \$50. Participants must be age 10 or older.

Teams will begin their full day of activities April 13 at 8 a.m. What will

happen next is being kept largely under wraps.

"This is going to be a fun way to experience the services and programs of MCCS and become familiar with the facilities on base," said Kenward.

Kenward said that participants should wear comfortable clothing. They will also want to dress for the weather of the day and be prepared to spend time both inside and outdoors.

Other than that, participants should just prepare to have fun, she said.

The day's events will include physical activities at a variety of locations around



Camp Lejeune.

Unlike television's version, participants will not be expected to beg their own transportation from venue to venue.

Kenward said that safety considerations are paramount, and participants will be shuttled between events.

However, like the real deal, teams will be given clues throughout the day to help them complete their mission.

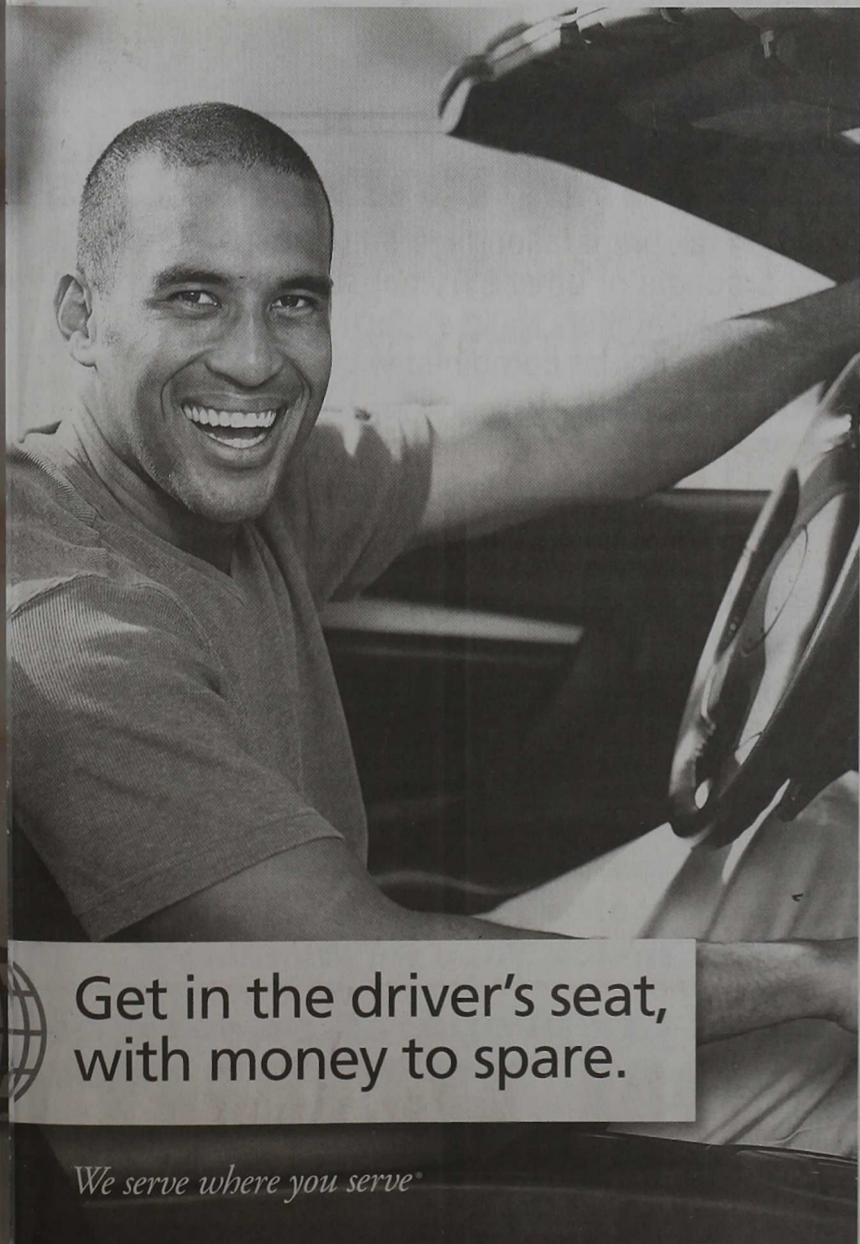
The rewards could be as exciting as the adventure itself.

"We have extreme prizes, but we can't tell you what they are," said Kenward. "You will just have to show up to find out."

Editor's note: For more information regarding MCCS' X-treme Adventure, call 451-1440 or visit the Web site at www.mccslejeune.com.

Read Across America Week

March 2 - 8 is national Read Across America Week. Camp Lejeune Dependent Schools will observe the week by inviting guest readers to the schools. Col. Richard P. Flatau Jr., base commanding officer, has officially recognized the celebration and requests Camp Lejeune citizens and community partners to encourage children to make reading a lifelong practice.



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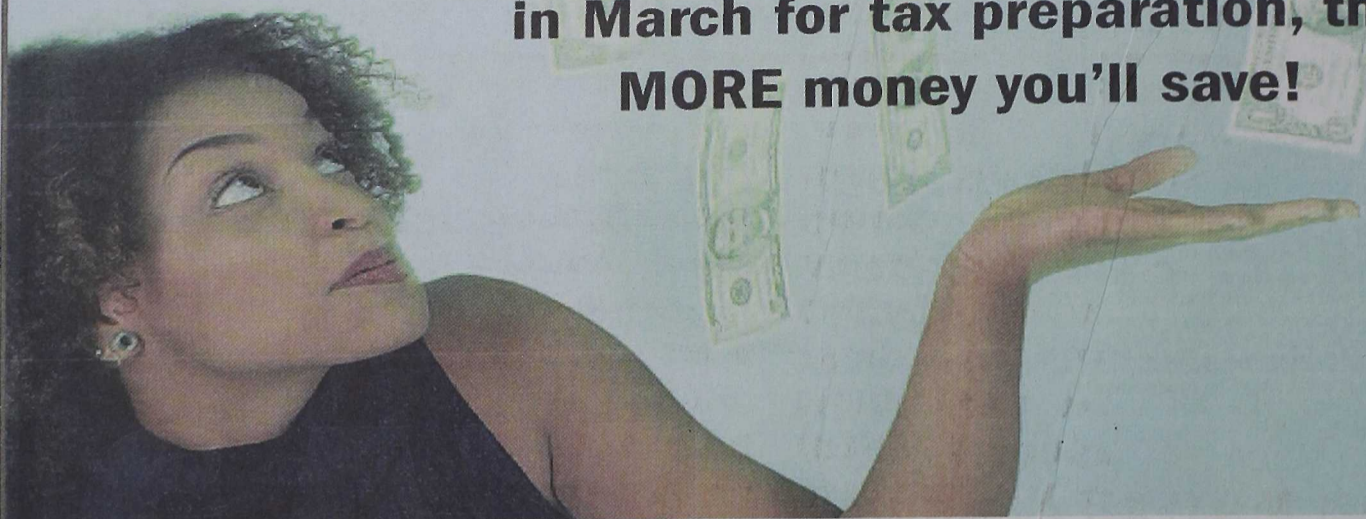
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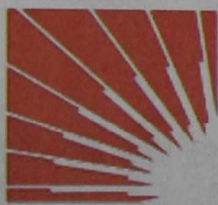
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