

CAMP LEJEUNE RECIPIENT OF THE 2017 COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S ANNUAL AWARD FOR INSTALLATION EXCELLENCE

# The Globe



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## Make a Hole: Marines perform Urban Breaching

Marines maneuver through an urban breaching range at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 20. Marines from both 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion and 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, conducted the training to further improve proficiency in creating and using explosive breaching charges as well as improve unit cohesion.

**LANCE CPL. LEYNARD KYLE PLAZO**

2nd Marine Expeditionary Force

Accompanied by the sounds of boots stomping over mud and dirt, orders were screamed and received. An explosion as loud as thunder rang as a squad of Marines charged their objective.

Marine combat engineers with 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion and infantry assaultmen with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, blasted through barriers during

an urban breaching range at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 20.

"Engineers and assaultmen share a lot of similar tasks and skills," said Sgt. William Collins, chief instructor of Engineer Training Area 9 and 10, with 2nd CEB. "This training gave the assaultmen and the combat engineers time to work together and get to know each other."

As soon as the sun rose over the horizon, Marines began conducting tactical maneuvers and familiarizing the new combat engineer Marines

with urban style demolitions.

"A lot of the Marines arrived here within the past few months and they picked up information fast and had a lot of speed and intensity, which is what it takes to do this sort of thing," said Collins.

The Marines consolidated into three squads before constructing various explosive charges with each charge having its respective purpose and explosive power for the range.

"For most of the Marines, this is their first time handling live demolitions," said Cpl. Ca-

bel Thomas, a squad leader with 2nd CEB. "The biggest thing for them is getting hands-on experience and having a better understanding of how to do urban breaching."

As the day carried on, Marines performed back-to-back breaches on multiple targets using various explosive charges and tactical maneuvers.

"One of the most important parts of this training is getting the chance to stand there, feel the blast and the pressure and being able to push through to the objective," said Collins. "We make our

training as realistic as possible and allow the Marines to move freely while using their own tactics and formations."

2nd CEB conducts urban breaching ranges on a regular basis to sustain their proficiency and improve unit cohesion.

"We fight all over the world and we have to be able to adapt not only with the movement of the infantrymen, but also within an urban environment," said Thomas. "You never know what's going to happen or what kind of situation you'll be in."

Photo by Lance Cpl. Leynard Kyle Plazo

## TBI Treatment The invisible scars of war

**LANCE CPL. NICHOLAS LUBCHENKO**

MCB Camp Lejeune

The Department of Defense has had more than 350,000 traumatic brain injuries since the year 2000 according to Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center. In response, the Intrepid Spirit Concussion Recovery Center offers a holistic, integrated, interdisciplinary, patient and family-centered TBI recovery program.

The DVVIC and ISCRC hosted an open house during Brain Injury Awareness Month to inform active-duty service members, medical providers and commanders of the services offered at the Naval Medical Center Camp Lejeune ISCRC on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 23.

"Brain injuries are the invisible wounds of war," said Navy Capt. Tom Johnson, director of the ISCRC. "Once they can be seen, identified and treated the vast majority of service members who come here return to full duty."

The ISCRC maintains a wide range of service providers within their program, including a neurologist, speech and language pathologist, behavior health and art therapists, among others.

"We have staff with a vast array of talents," said Johnson. "All of them collocated in the building here. This allows them to communicate with each other and with the patient on a regular basis to coordinate care and make it as effective as possible."

The ISCRC on MCB Camp Lejeune is the only Navy Facility on the East coast to offer this type of TBI recovery program.

"The services we offer here are unique to Camp Lejeune," said Navy Capt. Tom Johnson, director of the ISCRC on Camp Lejeune. "There is only one other Intrepid Spirit in the

Navy and that's at MCB Camp Pendleton."

"We have seen service members who were extremely debilitated by problems with mood, headaches, memory and sleep who really thought their career was ended. However, after completing treatment here, had full recovery," said Johnson. "When dealing with TBIs, about 95% of our service members return to full duty."

"There was a senior-enlisted, special-forces individual who had been on many deployments that came to our clinic who was extremely frustrated because over the years he had suffered several TBIs," said Johnson.

"The only options he was given was medical retirement or narcotics. In participating in our program, he was able to take advantage in not just the traditional rehabilitative and pharmacological modalities, but also Alpha-Stim, yoga and acupuncture. The combination of these therapies, along with others, allowed him to get pain control without narcotics. He was able to remain on full-duty and continue his career. He was able to become reacquainted with his wife and kids because he wasn't dealing with chronic pain or sedated by medications."

Along with a hope to increase staff and treatment options, Intrepid Spirit hopes to expand their research into the causes and treatment for brain injuries.

"With our research, we would like to be able to identify the mechanism of injury after a blast exposure and improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment," said Johnson.

Johnson said he was grateful to have the opportunity to help his fellow service members and encourages everyone to be aware of the risks TBIs impose.

"If you have or think you have sustained a brain injury, seek medical attention," said Johnson.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Silvers

Lance Cpl. Roger Solomon, left, and Lance Cpl. Joseph Campana, right, conduct quality control and final checks for an F/A-18C prior to takeoff, Feb. 13, at the Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base in Korat, Kingdom of Thailand, during Exercise Cobra Gold. VMFA-251 returned to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, March 14, after a six-month deployment Indo-Asia-Pacific Region.

## Thunderbolts return to Fightertown

**LANCE CPL. TERRY HAYNES**

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort

Marines and Sailors of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 returned from a six-month deployment March 14.

The squadron was deployed to the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region in support of the Unit Deployment Program. The goal of the UDP is to promote interoperability and combined capabilities with partner nations throughout the region.

"I've learned a lot of useful things during this deployment," said Lance Cpl. Matthew Reyes, an aircraft maintainer with VMFA-251. "This training has definitely helped us prepare for the stress that comes with being deployed. I've been doing the same job that I always do, but being in that environment with a whole different operational tempo has helped me sharpen my skills when it comes to my job."

While deployed, the Marines and Sailors participated in exercise Cobra Gold

where they trained with Royal Thai military personnel. Cobra Gold is an annual international exercise that seeks to strengthen joint operation capabilities and to improve capacity with different activities, including security enhancing techniques and responding to large-scale natural disasters. As a part of Marine Aircraft Group 31, the exercise allowed them to partake in training that can't be conducted while aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

"This was the longest I have ever been away from home," said Cpl. John Leonard, a maintenance administrator with VMFA-251. "Being on this long deployment was really challenging, but our command really stepped up to the plate and took care of us by helping us stay in touch with our families. Thanks to the leadership of this squadron, we were able to successfully complete the mission."

Marines of MAG-31 and the families of the deployed Marines and Sailors made signs and banners for their returning loved

ones. They lined up on the flight line and greeted the Marines and Sailors as they made their way to the squadron's hangar.

"It's been a long six months being apart from my husband," said Emily Ellis, a Marine spouse. "The first week was awful, but we were able to talk a lot so it made the deployment much more bearable. It's the best feeling in the world having him back. I'm so proud of him and thankful he's home now."

As the remainder of VMFA-251 returns to MCAS Beaufort, the squadron is beginning to transition back into a training mindset.

"The Marines worked hard on this deployment and deserve a well-earned break," said Staff Sgt. Dustin Chevront, an aviation ordnance technician with VMFA-251. "You can tell everyone is a lot closer knit after the deployment. I think we'll be able to build on the knowledge we gained from this deployment so we can maintain mission readiness and succeed in the future."

# Obtain your REAL ID easily on base

## PRESS RELEASE

MCB Camp Lejeune

Long lines are now a thing of the past, thanks to a new agreement between Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, who have partnered to ease the process by providing a full-service RV on base beginning April 3.

A REAL ID is a single form of identification that meets higher security standards. Although REAL IDs are not currently mandatory, by October of 2020 it will be a requirement to travel on commercial airlines and access federal facilities including military bases or nuclear power plants without a secondary form of approved identification.

Service members and their dependents, as well as retirees and civilian service employees will be able to obtain a North Carolina REAL ID at the DMV RV, located at Hadnot Point Plaza parking lot near the corner of Holcomb Boulevard and Molly Pitcher Drive. Appointments are required and

will be available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the first full week of each month from 8-11 a.m. and noon - 5 p.m. Individuals can schedule an appointment online at <http://www.lejeune.marines.mil> and click on the REAL ID button. Appointments should take approximately 20 minutes.

Several establishing documents will be required at your appointment.

This list can also be downloaded at <https://go.usa.gov/xnhjW>.

The cost for a REAL ID is the same as a regular or duplicate driver's license/ID. However, if you already have a valid driver's license or ID and want to upgrade for a REAL ID, the fee is \$13. All fees can be paid via a cash, check, credit or debit card. If you have questions about fees, visit <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/fees/?s=LF>.

After you have submitted your documentation, taken a new photo and paid the fee, your REAL ID will be mailed to you in approximately 15-20 days.

The DMV RV will also provide all of the same services you would receive in a driver's license office, with the ex-



Courtesy photo

ception of road tests. Individuals will be able to take written tests, vision tests, and apply for a new/replacement driver's license or ID.

If you have further questions on how to obtain your North Carolina REAL ID, visit <https://ncrealid.gov>.

For more information on REAL ID for other states/territories, secondary identification and the REAL ID Act of 2005, please visit <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>.

The REAL ID Act does not affect Marine Corps installation access for individuals who already possess an approved-access credential, i.e. DOD ID card, dependent identification card, military retiree card, MCESS credential, or RAPIDGate credential.



Photo by Cpl. Andre Health

Marines participate in the Marine West Exposition's Military Battle Challenge, Feb. 7.

## Military Battle Challenge coming to Camp Lejeune

CARL S. EY

Special to The Globe

The Military Benefit Association will host the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Military Battle Challenge competition April 11th and 12th at Goettge Memorial Field House in conjunction with the Marine South Exposition.

The Military Battle Challenge is a unique fitness and ability-based military action competition designed for the U.S. Armed Forces.

"The Military Benefit Association is thrilled to sponsor this fast-moving, military-relevant action sport for our Marines. After a great February event with the Marines at Camp Pendleton, MBA is excited to be teaming with Marine South to see how the 'Lejeune Marines,' handle the course," said Roy Gibson, MBA director of outreach. "This is competition with a purpose that combines fitness with military-skills and builds unit camaraderie. The Marines will have a great time again and get in a good workout as well!"

The Military Battle Challenge is a team or individual competition and is open to Marines and all service members stationed at MCB Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River.

"We are incredibly proud of our Marines and very supportive of their mission set. This event showcases the future of the Marine Corps expeditionary force capabilities," said Mike Regner, national chairman of the Marine Corps League Exposition Committee.

Marines can run the battle challenge from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. Teams of four may register toward winning a first, second and third prize. Additionally, the competition will recognize both male and female Marines individually with prizes for the top three times.

The Battle Challenge is the newest competition created by On Target Challenge, producers of the internationally renowned Firefighter Combat Challenge. The Battle Challenge simulates a highly relevant series of nine battle-field-like skills required to be successful under physically challenging circumstances. Dubbed "Competition with a Purpose," the battle challenge incorporates the cargo net climb, a knotted rope descent, wall surmount, ammunition resupply, low crawl, Jerry-Can shuffle, marksmanship tasks and a service member-down rescue task.

"Not only is it relevant to training, but it is a ton of fun," said Gibson.

Held since 1993, the Marine South Exposition is an annual exposition, which showcases the latest innovative displays, trailblazing computer simulations and state-of-the-art technology systems and equipment designed specifically for the U.S. Marine Corps.

Competitors may sign up to run the course on the Battle Challenge website at <http://battlechallenge.org>.

## Marine South Exposition to reveal new military expeditionary technology

ALEX HETHERINGTON

Emerald expo.com

Marine Corps Installations East and the Marine Corps League is hosting the 27th Marine South Exposition at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune April 11th and 12th.

The expo provides Marines and other military and civilian defense personnel with opportunities to interface with manufacturers, showcasing the best and newest hardware produced for military personnel worldwide.

"We are incredibly proud of our Marines and very supportive of their mission set," said Mike Regner, national chairman of the Marine Corps League Exposition Committee. "This event showcases the future of the Marine Corps' expeditionary force capabilities."

This year's expo will feature four events: The Military Battle Chal-

lenge, the Improvised Explosive Device Gaming and Modeling Environment, the Amphibious Assault Vehicle Survivability Upgrade and a briefing on immersive mobile technology.

The Battle Challenge is a high fidelity and ability-based military action fitness competition comprised of infantry job-related tasks and marksmanship skills, allowing side-by-side individual and team competition against the clock on a mirrored course.

The I-GAME is an unclassified government owned simulation platform used for training company level dismounted counter-IED tactics, techniques, and procedures.

The AAV SU will build upon the existing hull. The upgrades include buoyant armor, blast-mitigating seats and spall liners. They will also include fuel tank protection, automotive and

suspension upgrades to keep both land and sea mobility regardless of the added weight. The mobile technology briefing will include augmented and virtual reality, which is providing new platforms from which training and education is designed, delivered and executed.

The Marine South Exposition is one of the largest multi-day annual events taking place at MCB Camp Lejeune, home of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. The show hosts more than 100 exhibitors and approximately 4,000 attendees. The opening ceremony will begin at 9:45 a.m. April 11 and the exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The hours on April 12, will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Show location is the Goettge Memorial Field House parking lot. Exposition details and updated schedules can be found at [www.marinemilitaryexpos.com](http://www.marinemilitaryexpos.com).

## TRICARE

### Educational Briefings

- **Who:**  
Open to all TRICARE beneficiaries
- **What:**  
TRICARE educational briefings with the latest and most up to date information
- **When:**  
Thursdays @ 1:30pm (1330)
- **Where:**  
Joseph "Randy" Reichler Reception Center (JRRRC)  
Bldg. 60 Room 143  
Molly Pitcher Road  
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542
- **Why:**  
Educating our beneficiaries on TRICARE options, transferring benefits, dental coverage, how to enroll, recent changes, and much more!

The MCIEAST Photo Studio is enforcing the requirement for Marines to be in proper uniforms, as prescribed by MCO P1020.34G.

Command photos will not be taken of Marines wearing only partial uniforms (i.e. 'top half' of Service A).

Changing rooms are available.

# OFF-LIMITS

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

Atheas Attics at 420 Eastwood Rd., Wilmington.  
 Bell Auto Salvage II at 136 Abbots Branch Rd., Hubert.  
 Club Phoenix at 209 East 5th St., Greenville.  
 Dash-In at 1316 Hargett St., Jacksonville.  
 D's Drive Thru (AKA: Raul's Drive Thru) at 226 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville.  
 D's Quick Mart at 2840 Highway 258 West, Richlands.  
 Expressions at 419 South College Rd., #39, Wilmington.  
 Express Way at 1261 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville.  
 Golden Dragon (AKA) Tokyo Asian House at 1850 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville.  
 Karen Huffman's Cleaning Jacksonville.  
 King's Tobacco Drive Thru at 1796 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville.  
 Laird's Auto and Truck Repair (U-Haul Rental) at 1197 Piney Green Rd., Jacksonville.  
 MB Super Discount at 800 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington.  
 One Stop Shop at 501 Corbin St., Jacksonville.  
 Price is Right Lawn Design in Jacksonville.  
 Saint Thomas Custom Homes at 3560 McArthur Rd., Broadway.  
 Smart Buy at 375 Jacksonville Mall, Jacksonville. (currently not open, but has history of reappearing)  
 Tobacco at 521 Yopp Rd., Unit 106, Jacksonville.  
 Tobacco Leaf at 343K Western Blvd., Jacksonville.

**Veterans Affairs Service** Jacksonville. (This is a private organization not affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Outpatient Clinic, nor Onslow County Veteran Services.)

**MCAS Cherry Point Area:**  
 98 Cent Only Store  
 (Big Daddy) Wesley's Grocery  
 Coastal Smoke Shop  
 Expressions  
 Friday's Night Club (AKA: Club Insomnia, Club Classics, Infinity Lounge)  
 Flyers at 400 Fontana Blvd., Havelock.  
 H&D Express (AKA: Citgo)  
 Nadine's Food Mart  
 Tobacco Outlet (Havelock and New Bern)  
 Tobacco Shop & Gifts (Beaufort and New Bern)  
 Tobacco Town  
 Tobacco Shop (Newport and New Bern)  
 Twin Rivers (Not the mall)  
 White Sands Convenience Store

**Off-limits Roads:**  
 Catfish Lake Road

\* Identifies a new business added since the last update of the Bulletin.

## Hotline numbers to report fraud, waste, abuse and corruption

II MEF Hotline - 451-5555 [www.iimef.marines.mil/UnitHome/CommandInspectorGeneral.aspx](http://www.iimef.marines.mil/UnitHome/CommandInspectorGeneral.aspx)  
 MCIEAST Hotline - 451-3928 [www.mcieast.marines.mil/StaffOffices/CommandInspectorGeneral/CommandingGeneralsInspectionProgram.aspx](http://www.mcieast.marines.mil/StaffOffices/CommandInspectorGeneral/CommandingGeneralsInspectionProgram.aspx)  
 TECOM Hotline - (703) 432-1650 [www.tecom.usmc.mil/pages/ig.aspx](http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/pages/ig.aspx)  
 Naval Hospital Hotlines - (910) 450-4240 [NHCL-IGHotline@med.navy.mil](mailto:NHCL-IGHotline@med.navy.mil)  
 MARSOC Hotlines - 440-1045/0941 [www.marsoc.marines.mil/UnitHome/InspectorGeneral.aspx](http://www.marsoc.marines.mil/UnitHome/InspectorGeneral.aspx)  
 New River fraud, waste and abuse Hotline - 449-6029.

# The Globe

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# Marines, woodpeckers share the high ground

At Camp Lejeune, an endangered species thrives amidst simulated battles

**DANIEL CHAPMAN**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Service External Affairs

Above the distant din of 50-caliber machine gun fire and Cobra attack helicopters, John Hammond, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, hears the unmistakable sound of a red-cockaded woodpecker. He is approaching Combat Town, where Marines routinely assault a mock Iraqi village at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

It is an incongruous spot for an endangered bird to make its home – the middle of a war zone where artillery boom and tanks prowl. Nothing, though, seems out of the ordinary to Hammond.

“They do co-exist, absolutely,” said Hammond, who previously worked as the base’s endangered species coordinator. “The woodpeckers get along well with Combat Town. As long as they can find their groceries and a place to stay, they’re fine.”

Under a new, unique and far-reaching state-federal partnership, the woodpeckers’ health and well-being is inextricably tied to the Marine Corps’ mission at Lejeune. An agreement between the military, the USFW Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the state of North Carolina allows Camp Lejeune to expand training through prime woodpecker territory. In return, the so-called Recovery and Sustainment Program, or RASP, should boost the woodpecker population across eastern North Carolina.

The timing is propitious: the USFW Service is currently deciding whether to de- or downlist the woodpecker or keep it as an endangered species. A decision is expected later this year.

The official RASP rollout is planned for April at a nearby state wildlife management area whose woodpecker population should grow considerably due to the agreement. Through Friday, natural resource officials from military bases around the country will gather in Norfolk, Virginia to share conservation success stories. RASP, and the wily woodpecker, should figure in those discussions.

“The base isn’t going to grow any more land, but we still need areas where tanks can run through, that we can shoot live fire,” said Chip Olmstead, Marine Corps Installations East Range and Training deputy director, who manages the firing ranges and training areas at Camp Lejeune. “People might think that live fire and woodpecker habitats are mutually exclusive, but this program shows we can work together without jeopardizing either one.”

## Waiting for the ruckus to subside

Camp Lejeune sprawls more than 156,000 acres along the New River and the Atlantic Ocean, an ideal spot for Sailors and Marines – and red-cockaded woodpeckers. The birds thrive on the base’s extensive longleaf pine forests which once covered 90 million acres in a swath stretching from Virginia to Texas.

Timber, turpentine, agriculture and urban development decimated the longleaf forests. Today, commercial plantations of fast-growing loblolly or slash pine predominate. Maybe 4.5 million acres of longleaf remain.

The USFW Service lists 31 threatened or endangered species that depend upon the fire-resilient trees

including the eastern indigo snake and Cooley’s meadowrue, a perennial herb. The red-cockaded woodpecker joined the endangered list in 1970, one of the first federally protected species.

The smallish black and white bird (with barely visible red marks on the male’s head) requires living pines for roosting and nesting. They seek resinous trees where the sticky goo deters snakes and other animals from crawling into their cavities. They prefer older pine trees, like longleaf which can live up to 300 years. Federal lands, military bases in particular, are about the only place to find old-growth longleaf.

Blue-banded trees, signifying woodpecker cavities, surround Combat Town. The birds flit from tree to tree when the low-slung, dun-colored collection of modified shipping containers isn’t under attack. When Marines on patrol approach the town, the birds hunker down or fly away and wait for the ruckus – tanks, trucks and blanks, not bullets – to subside.

“Woodpeckers are not, necessarily, averse to people or noise,” said Craig Ten Brink, Camp Lejeune Environmental Management Division wildlife biologist and endangered species specialist. “If we start losing RCW habitat around Combat Town, some of those clusters might blink out. But, if we continue to maintain a good habitat, I imagine most birds will stick around.”

The woodpecker’s listing, at first, proved a formidable foe for the Marines. Training across the pine forests and pocosin swamps of Camp Lejeune – and other southern bases – could have been threatened. Camp Lejeune, by virtue of its location and mission, became ground zero for the bird’s recovery.

Most of eastern North Carolina had been cleared of longleaf for agriculture development or loblolly plantations. Live-fire exercises burned thousands of acres over the years leaving a fecund understory of wiregrass and bluestem prized by RCWs.

In 1986, only 32 woodpecker clusters remained on Camp Lejeune. (A cluster is a bunch of trees with RCW cavities; each cluster contains maybe three or four birds.) A circle 200-foot wide was painted white around each cavity tree to warn Marines away from the birds’ homes.

USFW Service and the military developed a plan to save the woodpecker and allow artillery, small-arms and armored-vehicle training at Camp Lejeune. Each RCW population milestone would be rewarded with fewer buffered trees and more room to train. The ultimate recovery goal: 173 clusters.

In 2011, Camp Lejeune tallied 100 clusters. Ten Brink says 128 clusters currently call the base home.

## Growing the species

The dirt road just a few



Red-cockaded woodpecker in flight.

miles below Camp Lejeune runs arrow-straight through the past, present and future of conservation forestry.

On one side stands row upon row of near-identical 20-foot high loblolly pines awaiting, one day, the woodcutter’s blade. On the other, a mishmash of various-sized longleaf pines interspersed with wiregrass, fetterbush, bigleaf gallberry and other plants that mimic a historically natural eastern forest.

The Bear Garden tract is part of the 47,700-acre Holly Shelter Game Land owned by North Carolina along the Northeast Cape Fear River. Fish and Wildlife, the Nature Conservancy and others expect to turn much of the wildlife management area into a longleaf pine forest that woodpeckers – and song birds, migratory birds, quail, turkey and deer – love. RASP money will make it happen.

“Usually, restoration projects are rarely over a few thousand acres and this project will be maybe 10 times that amount,” said Casey Phillips, the coastal RASP forester for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. “This is a large-scale partnership with dedicated funding which is somewhat novel.”

Today, about 45 clusters of woodpeckers dot the game lands. RASP aims to add 60 more to Holly Shelter and nearby Stones Creek Game Lands by, eventually, translocating the birds from other wildlife areas, like the Croatan National Forest. First, though, Holly Shelter must be transformed into RCW-friendly habitat.

The Navy has secured perpetual conservation easements on 15,000 Holly Shelter acres. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will manage the conservation fund and ensure that the tract is properly cared for to boost RCW clusters.

The Navy aims to set aside roughly \$19 million for an endowment to manage the property for years to come. The wildlife commission, with new equipment and staff funded by the military, will regularly burn the land, plant wiregrass and other woodpecker-friendly habitat and monitor RCW populations.

“We’ve got the knowledge and tools to restore the habitat, so RASP gives us a lot of confidence that we can grow up the species here again,” said Hammond. “It will just take a lot of time because we need older, larger pine trees for the woodpeckers.”

An added benefit: RCW habitat will boost the already popular hunting grounds.

“We’re located near Wilmington and Jacksonville. Raleigh is just a stone’s throw down the road,” said the commission’s Phillips. “There’ll be a tremendous response from wildlife – deer, quail, turkeys – as the young forest transitions to older forest.”

Camp Lejeune benefits too. The 60 clusters at Holly Shelter and Stone Creek allows the Marines to reduce their original on-base woodpecker goal of 173 clusters to 113 clusters – an amount the installation has already surpassed.

“Marines and red-cockaded woodpeckers both like the high ground, so we’re both fighting for the same turf,” said Olmstead. “The Marines need to get from the ship to the shore and maneuver, to Combat Town. It’s a capability we’re lacking now. RASP gives us a lot of flexibility to develop this capability.”

Lejeune can now expand into RCW territory to enlarge training areas, but it won’t curtail woodpecker recovery efforts on base, despite the addition of the game lands. RASP is the military’s insurance policy in case woodpecker trees or clusters are harmed.

“What’s cool about the program is that it allows certainty for training on base that probably wouldn’t have happened,” said Ten Brink. “While it lowers the recovery goal on base, it expands the landscape that we devote to recovery of RCWs.”



Matt King with the Nature Conservancy sets a prescribed fire.



Eastern indigo snake on a pine tree.



Bear Garden tract.



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# Microsoft Software and Systems Academy opens at Camp Lejeune

**LANCE CPL. NATHAN REYES**  
MCB Camp Lejeune

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune welcomed Microsoft's Software and Systems Academy during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at John A. Lejeune Education Center, March 21.

MSSA provides transitioning service members and veterans with career skills required in today's growing technology industry.

"This opening is extra special to us," said Danny Chung, Microsoft Military Affairs chief of staff. "Not only is it on a Marine

Corps base, but this fulfills our first milestone of completing 14 MSSA campuses across the nation from coast-to-coast. What that means is more and more transitioning service members are going to have the opportunity to set themselves up for a meaningful career after their service in the Marine Corps or any other service."

The curriculum is an 18-week training course for careers in cloud development, cloud administration, cybersecurity administration or database and business intelligence administration. Program graduates gain an

interview for a full-time job at Microsoft or one of their hiring partners.

"We believe the skills, talents and the drive that people learn in the military can be directly applied to the kind of workers we need," said Frank Shaw, Communications Microsoft corporate vice president. "At the same time, we can give them a career in something that is really meaningful."

MSSA at MCB Camp Lejeune is a reflection of the need to provide service members with training and certifications before they transition out of

the military. The course is one of the few industry programs that train active-duty service members for technology jobs. Programs such as these help the industry overall and help the U.S. build a stronger workforce to compete on the world stage.

"It's about the students," said Jim Steadman, Camp Lejeune Education Branch manager, Marine and Family Programs. "The Marines. Our mission is you."

For more information on MSSA visit: <http://military.microsoft.com/training/mssa>.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Nathan Reyes  
From left to right: Frank Shaw, Mary McCreedy, Dr. John Watret and Jim Steadman welcome Microsoft's Software and Systems Academy to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at John A. Lejeune Education Center, March 21. MSSA is an 18-week training course for service members and veterans to learn the skills for careers in the technology field.

## 2018 Marine Corps Trials



Photos by Sgt. Matthew Callahan  
French athlete Audrey Mallet gives her all during the women's 100-meter race as part of the 2018 Marine Corps Trials track competition at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 20.



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Henson



(Above) Royal Marine Connor Moore races down Holcomb Boulevard during the 2018 Marine Corps Trials cycling competition at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 18. The Marine Corps Trials promotes recovery and rehabilitation through adaptive sports participation and develops camaraderie among recovering service members and veterans. It is an opportunity for RSMs to demonstrate their achievements and serves as the primary venue to select Marine Corps participants for the DOD Warrior Games, June 1 through 9.  
(Left) Staff Sgt. James Dunaway prepares to throw his shot during the 2018 Marine Corps Trials field competition at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 20.

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# THE BLUE DEVILS FINISHES UNDEFEATED

**MATTHEW SOKOL**  
Sports Writer

There is a new champion of the Intramural Basketball league in 2018 and that team is the Blue Devils from the 2nd Supply Battalion as they defeated the Elite team from the 8th Communications Battalion 66-63 on March 22 at the Goettge Memorial Field House on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

The game came down to the last 10 seconds as the Blue Devils drained the last free-throws to secure their title. The Blue Devils "posted a perfect season."

The Elite team only trailed by three points going into halftime and lost by the difference of one three-point shot. Jauvaurion McCray led his squad in scoring with 21 points, scoring 14 of them in the first half.

For the Blue Devils, Gian Avedesian had a team-high of 18 points while nailing two shots from beyond the arc. The point guard led the team in scoring, attributing the success to the solid use of the fundamentals of basketball. Avedesian acknowledges the help of his teammates led to the team's victory.

"We kept the season undefeated and we had a great team chemistry," said Avedesian. "We played well as a team tonight and got a lot of open looks along with a lot of hard-core defense. It didn't matter who we were playing, whether it was someone 6'8 at 200 pounds or someone who was 5'11 — we

never changed our game."

For the Blue Devils, the head coach of the squad is power forward Ronald Hart. The team went undefeated in the regular season and according to Hart, it took cooperation between each member of the unit to get the job done.

"It means a lot to us this season and we came together as one team," said Hart. "We had our trials and tribulations in the beginning of the season because we had two teams. We picked the team that had the most chemistry and we got the job done."

The lead between the two teams flipped back and forth throughout the second half. Hart connected on a three-point shot of his own, drilling it from long range.

"It was great coming out on top because of operational tempo," said Hart. "We know that 2nd Supply Bn., has some of the top athletes on the base so we are going to continue to (win) here in intramural sports and the Commanders' Cup Series."

The playoffs show who can handle the pressure and the Blue Devils, showed just that. The game came down to the wire and they now have bragging rights as the 2018 Intramural Basketball league champions. They have earned 15 points in the Commanders' Cup Series after their first place finish in the league.

For more information on the Commanders' Cup Series, visit [www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/)



"We know that 2nd Supply Bn. has some of the top athletes on the base so we are going to continue to (win) here in intramural sports and the Commanders' Cup Series."

- Ronald Hart

# A little party never killed anybody



## SPORTSIDE WITH SOKOL

Matthew Sokol  
Sports Writer

Recently, I attended a fitness class at Wallace Creek Community Center on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune called Dance Party. Let me say that this was one of the coolest and most intense workouts that I have ever been in. When people hear about a cardio class, they think of running on a treadmill or elliptical. Dance Party class is good exercise and a lot more fun.

This class stands out because it provides you exercise, but also makes you feel like you are at a party. Strobe lights are gleaming across the room and the blasting of the music makes for a good time. The song selections were on point boosting everyone's energy sky-high. This class is a great tool for weight loss and building muscle endurance.

What really stands out about this class is the type of moves that are required to do well. The legs, arms, central core and back were all used. I felt tired after only 20 minutes of "partying". It was non-stop action from the moment class started until the moment the cool down stretching period at the end began.

The music never stopped in the class meaning there really wasn't any breaks. This

only meant there was more time to improve the body.

The class grabbed my attention because of the excitement. This energy was stirred up by the class instructor Angela Cerca, who kept the class on their toes from the start until the end.

"I honestly would just like to mention how much my life has changed since becoming a group fitness instructor," said Cerca. "I have benefited from it in many ways from weight loss to gaining energy. (This class has helped me be) more outgoing, having self-confidence, and (leading to having) such an amazing group of people in my life."

The song selections made you want to keep on dancing. After each song, the body might be a little more tired, but the soul just wanted the class to continue.

Imagine dancing and working out to some Bruno Mars, yes that is just a minor part of the song selections that came on in the Dance Party class.

This class would be a great one to take if you are into dancing and enjoy a good cardio workout. Cardio doesn't always have to be running around on a track or treadmill. Classes like Dance Party are designed



Photo by: Desiree Nelson

Class participants follows the instructions of Dana Motley in Dance Party Class at the Tarawa Terrace Fitness Center, 2015.

to be fun and there is no doubt that this succeed.

What truly stuck out about this class was that everyone there had a common interest. They all enjoyed dancing. People with the same interest coming together for a dance party at the fitness center makes for a good pitch to someone who has never been to the class before.

Class participants all contained the same happy expression on their face during the class. The entertainment isn't

something that someone would want to miss.

For more information on fitness classes, visit [www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/groupexercise/](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/groupexercise/)

**Editor's note: Sport-side with Sokol is a weekly commentary series providing readers with a range of information about sports. Facts not attributed are purely the opinion of the writer.**



## Sports on TAP

### Acro Beginners (ages 5-12)

Today, 3:15-4 p.m.

Does your child have an interest in ballet or tumbling? Acro beginners class is being offered at the Tarawa Terrace Community Center Building TT44. For more information, call 450-1687.

### Dodgeball Tournament Registration, Monday, 8 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Do you have a passion for dodgeball? This event is available to service members and is part of the Commanders' Cup Series. Registration closes on April 20. For more information, visit [www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/sports/cc/](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/sports/cc/)

### Jacksonville-Onslow Hall of Fame induction April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Former United States All-Marine boxer Leon Spinks is being inducted into the Jacksonville-Onslow Hall of Fame. For more information on getting tickets, call 347-3141, ext. 225

### Get Golf Ready - Adults (5-week session) April 22, 4-5 p.m.

Do you want to improve your golf game? Participants will learn techniques to improve their golfing skills. The class is open to the public. For more information, call 451-5445.

For more information on games, tryouts, special events and exercise classes around Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, check out Sports on Tap each week. To add your activity, email [msokol@camplejeuneglobe.com](mailto:msokol@camplejeuneglobe.com) or call 451-7419. Space is limited to availability.

To add your event to our website calendar, visit [www.camplejeuneglobe.com/calendar](http://www.camplejeuneglobe.com/calendar).

# Firing into good times at the pistol range

MATTHEW SOKOL  
Sports Writer

When you walk into the Pistol Range on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune located on Piney Green Road, you are greeted by the Marine Corps Community Center employee hands out the ear protection and that is when the shooting begins. On the range, there are targets set up in front of the tables. For safety purposes, no one is allowed to step past the tables.

The range is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays for eligible patrons who are 18 years old and up.

Mark Stewart is the recreational assistant at the Pistol Range and is with the patrons when they are shooting making sure the safety regulations are being upheld.

"Most of our customers know about the range from word of mouth. There are two urban legends about the range," said Stewart. "One of them is that you can't have firearms on base, (you can). The second is that they think it will

be like a Marine Corps range where the range safety officer yells and screams at people (which isn't true)."

There are two other facts about this pistol range that make it unique. These two facts are that the case type and rate of fire are not prohibited on base, according to Stewart — something that is not necessarily true at every pistol range. Both aluminum and steel casings are allowed at the Pistol Range.

"There are less restrictions (at our range) than out in town and the range is very clean," said Stewart. "The range does not have wait times and the RSO is knowledgeable in marksmanship."

Four members from the 2nd Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison company came out to the range: Sgt. Christopher Arconti, Corporal's Cristian Zendejas, Ryan Garst and Dillon Elrod.

"I really like the setup of the pistol range and spending time with my fellow Marines," said Zendejas. "We are doing it on our time and we ar-

en't being stressed to get our shots out in a certain amount of time."

The low cost is partly what makes the pistol range attractive to service members.

To enjoy a day on the range, it cost \$10 dollars to shoot.

"I feel more comfortable here on base," said Zendejas. "I can just have more fun out here and it is all for a good price."

"I just was trying to experience the range on base here and I saw the price for it compared to the ones out in town," said Garst. "It is so much cheaper to shoot on base and it is more convenient to come out here. It was a good bonding experience with everyone being (centralized) at Camp Lejeune."

Another aspect about the pistol range that Stewart mentioned is that it can be scheduled out for a unit. It can be a way for a unit to bond together while working on their marksmanship skills.

For information on the pistol range, call 451-3889.



Cpl. Cristian Zendejas shoots on the Pistol Range on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 24.



Sgt. Christopher Arconti shoots on the Pistol Range on Marine Corps Camp Lejeune, March. 24.

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# The 47th annual Camp Lejeune Intercollegiate Golf Championship



Photos by Matthew Sokol

Will Snyder tees off during the 47th annual Camp Lejeune Intercollegiate Golf Championship in the second round of the tournament at Paradise Point Golf Course, March 23. The final round of the tournament was canceled due to inclement weather.



Players in the 47th annual Camp Lejeune Intercollegiate Golf Championship competed in the yearly tournament at Paradise Point Golf Course March 22 through March 25.

This year, 29 intercollegiate teams competed in the tournament.

The Camp Lejeune Intercollegiate Golf Championship is a 54-hole event which dates back to 1972, when the first intercollegiate championship was held.

For more information about the Paradise Point Golf Course, call 451-5445.

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# Devil Pups girls' soccer in it together on the pitch

Building friendship off the field, tearing down obstacles on the field in 2018

**MATTHEW SOKOL**  
Sports Writer

Lejeune High School girls' soccer team recorded their second win of the season defeating Jacksonville Christian Academy on March 26, 3-1. The Devil Pups (2-4-1) are rebuilding the team every year. The three captains on the team this year are Kayla Tomlinson, Ingrid Bjoernstadbraaten and Sarah Norris.

Leading the team at the helm is Charles Teegarden, head coach for girls' soccer at LHS.

JCA (0-2-1) have now dropped two games in a row after their first road contest of the season.

Communication and learning from one another are two important tribulations that the girls are currently working on. "We are still teaching fundamentals and formations, but we are trying to get the girls to play as a team," said Teegarden. "We don't have 10 years together like most so we are trying to learn to play soccer along with one another as a team."

Teegarden has been teaching at LHS for nine years and has been

coaching for a total of 30 years.

"As we do in most years and most sports here at Lejeune, we start over every year," said Teegarden. "This year, we have 10 returning players from last year and 16 new players in our program. We started the season off with a good start winning the Jamboree. We entered and won the scrimmage we played."

According to Teegarden, having the girls on the team coming and going can make it difficult to build team cohesion. However, the Devil



The Lejeune High School girls' soccer team gets set for their game against Jacksonville Christian Academy in a non-conference game before the pitch at Brewster Middle School, March 26.

Pups recorded their first home win against JCA.

"We have not gotten to the place that we can compete with the talent pool and established 2A teams that we have to face in our split 1A/2A conference," said Teegarden. "This (process for the team) will take time."

The harder the competition for the team, the more challenges that arise for the coach and the players. However, adversity isn't something that has stopped these ladies from improving during practice and on the field.

Bjoernstadbraaten is a senior goalkeeper. She is from Norway bringing her game to the United States coming to LHS in her sophomore year.

"I think we have progressed a lot as a team and I am excited to see our results to see how much progress we have made," said Bjoernstad-

braaten. "We are a small school and we play a lot of bigger schools so the best thing is to stay positive. When we are playing bigger schools, it is fun because you learn a lot during those (matches). Communication is always key (during these games) and since we are a small school, a lot of people are moving."

Communication is a task that takes time when players are constantly moving. Team building is a work in process.

Tomlinson is in her junior year for the Devil Pups. Learning the fresh faces is what Tomlinson is working on to improve in-game performance.

"This season so far I think we have really come together as a team a lot better and we get to learn how each other play," said Tomlinson. "I am looking forward to getting to know my teammates and how we can improve from here. Since

we are a military school, a lot of people transfer in and out."

Norris is a junior and she appreciates the teammates she has this year.

"You get to watch everyone grow (throughout) the season," said Norris. "Our greatest strength is our diversity and having this many people from different backgrounds has really helped us a lot."

The ladies at LHS and Teegarden are working together to find the winning recipe for 2018.

The next game for the Devil Pups is today as they travel down to their rivals, Dixon High School with the kick at 6 p.m. They are seeking their first win on the road for the 2018 campaign.

For more information on LHS athletics and upcoming sporting events, visit [www.dodea.edu/LejeuneHS/athletics.cfm](http://www.dodea.edu/LejeuneHS/athletics.cfm).



The Devil Pups huddle up before their game against Jacksonville Christian Academy in a non-conference duel before the pitch at Brewster Middle School, March 26.

Photos by Matthew Sokol

# Coming together in the 2018 Beat the Bridge Run

**MATTHEW SOKOL**  
Sports Writer

Coming out for a great cause and supporting the local community is what the Semper Fi Fund Beat the Bridge Run was all about on March 24 at New Bridge Middle School in downtown Jacksonville. The opening ceremony started at 7:45 a.m. with the colors presented by Lejeune High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC. The one-mile run began after that at 8 a.m.

The majority of the runners took off at 8:30 a.m. with participants from the Wounded Warrior Battalion and Ainsley Angels leading the way.

This was the fourth year that retired Sgt. Maj. Mackey came out to participate in the event.

"I come out to support my fellow wounded warriors and I am a retired wounded warrior," said Mackey. "I like the camaraderie that comes out of this race and a lot of wounded warriors or their families come out to participate. They do this because the Semper Fi Fund has been very helpful to a lot of these families."

A second retired Marine who participated in the run was Jorge Olalde. "This is my second time doing this race and I am essentially doing this to inspire my children along with my wife who gave me the right tools to succeed," said Olalde. "I think people like to come out to this race because of the competitiveness between all of us."

Olalde was one of many service members that came out for the race whether still in the Marine Corps or as a retired veteran.

"I think the run is one of those things where the Marines can put all of their might into it



Race participants take off to start at New Bridge Middle School in the Semper Fit Fund Beat the Bridge Run in Jacksonville, March 24.

Photos by Matthew Sokol

and see other service members alongside them building the camaraderie (together)," said Olalde.

According to Christine Ingraham, race director, there were 13 teams that competed in the event.

The 10th Marines team were the recipients of the Bridge Cup Trophy, and have won it for the last three years.

"When we started the race we really wanted

to show off the beautiful waterfront areas of downtown Jacksonville," said Ingraham. "We are the only race that crosses over the old bridge and one of the few 10k races in Jacksonville. We offer three distances and our one mile is over before the 5K and 10K start. That allows children to participate in the one mile and then hop in strollers for the 5K or

10K."

Korin McClendon from the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Southern Command came out to participate in the run with his fellow service members.

"This is my first time participating in this race and I like that it is for a good cause," said McClendon. "I know the wounded warriors are here this weekend. It is

good to do the race for those who either have been injured or aren't with us anymore. Everyone is just rallying around each other and give the support for a

good reason."

For more information on the Semper Fi Fund organization and future events, visit [www.semperfund.org](http://www.semperfund.org).



Runners start off the 10K/5K portion of the run at New Bridge Middle School in the Semper Fit Fund Beat the Bridge Run in Jacksonville, March 24.



Erik Hrudka finishes the 2018 Semper Fi Fund Beat the Bridge Run at New Bridge Middle School in Jacksonville, March 24.



# MEGGAHUNT

## provides families on Camp Lejeune with Easter fun

**CHRIS DEWITT**  
Lifestyles Writer

**B**right-colored eggs, vivid baskets and a large bunny can only mark one thing—Easter is here. Families will be celebrating by attending religious services, strolling in parks or just having a hearty dinner together. For the families on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Easter celebrations started with the annual mEGGahunt, held Sunday at Russell Marine and Family Center. Originally scheduled to be held outdoors at the Russell Ball Field, the center provided a way for the event to continue despite the rain clouds. For families in attendance, the event was no less special.

“We have been coming here with our granddaughter for the last four years,” said Theresa Anderson, event attendee. “It is a family tradition to bring her to take pictures with Gunny Bunny.”

Children were able to collect eggs, win prizes, get their faces painted and play an assortment of games, while parents were able to meet with local family resources.

“We are here to introduce ourselves to military families who haven’t heard of us and enjoy this time with them,” said Gisella Mancilla, American Armed Forces

Mutual Aid Association spouseslink ambassador.

In addition to Easter, the support of military families served as the theme for sponsors and vendors present as well as attendees themselves. Some were attending while awaiting for the arrival of a deployed family member.

“Dad is coming home soon to us,” said Katherine Knoll, parent and military spouse in attendance. “He is scheduled to come back shortly but got delayed. We are still coming here today to have fun and remember he is on his way to us very soon.”

The mEGGahunt gave people a chance to gather to enjoy the activities and fellowship with other families present. Both seasoned mEGGahunters and those new to the outing found the festivities enjoyable.

“This is our first year attending,” said Capt. Chris Pfeiffer, who attended with his wife Allison and their children. “Our kids have enjoyed it a lot, especially the egg hunting and games.”

Many service members volunteered at the event and ran the face painting stations and games.

“It is about seeing the kids smile,” said Cpl. Danni Traveno, one of the volunteers. “I enjoy running the games, so I can see the kids have a great time.”

For more information, visit [www.mccslejeune-nwriver.com/community](http://www.mccslejeune-nwriver.com/community).



# 'A Wrinkle in Time' is a ball of confusion

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"A Wrinkle in Time" (PG)

Lots of young readers have been waiting for a film version of the Madeleine L'Engle book "A Wrinkle in Time." There might be even more adults, those who have read it as kids since its publication in 1962. Actually, this is the second time Disney has made the film; the first was a TV production shot in 2003, but not shown until 2004, then buried on the ABC schedule and not seen by a wide audience.

This version, with a cast of newcomer youngsters and established adult actors, boasts a bigger budget and has no qualms about regularly deviating from the book. Remaining at its center is the 12-year-old protagonist Meg (a great performance by Storm Reid) who, though once a happy little girl with an interest in science that she shared with her brilliant dad (Chris Pine), has gone glum and is just getting by in school. This all started after her dad, a world renowned physicist, vanished four years earlier leaving her and her younger brother Charles Wallace (Deric McCabe) and their mom (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) to helplessly wonder what happened.

A knock on their door one rainy night introduces the first of the film's oddball characters, the chatty, ditsy Mrs. Whatsit

(Reese Witherspoon), a stranger who makes herself at home. That knock also brings on the first of the film's incoherencies and, following in the book's often confusing path, fails to explain what's going on. The too-cute, shrill-voiced (and sometimes hard to understand) Charles Wallace knows Mrs. Whatsit well, though no one else does. Who is she and what does she want? Sorry, no explanation.

The next day, Calvin (Levi Miller), an acquaintance of Meg's, shows up for reasons he can't understand and when the three kids pass by an abandoned house, Wallace insists that they go inside, where only he knows another weirdo, Mrs. Who (Mindy Kaling), whose dialogue consists of other people's words, as if she's memorized "Bartlett's Familiar Quotations."

A few moments are spent on a flashback of mom and dad doing a presentation on quantum physics and inter-dimensional travel and being ridiculed by their peers, then it's back to meeting another odd woman, Mrs. Which (Oprah Winfrey), who materializes in the sky, floats earthward, and ends up being 30 feet tall when she alights. And, yes, the little kid knows her, too.

"Who are you?" asks Meg.

"I am a part of the universe," says Mrs. Which, with much solemnity.



Stock Photo

One of the women (I couldn't keep track) follows that up with, "We believe your father is alive, somewhere out in the universe. We're here to help you find him."

It's around there that the film's bottom falls out. Amidst cheesy visual effects (a major disappointment in a Disney project) after the women and the kids "tesser" to another world, there's some unspecific stuff about a "force of darkness" that's either holding Meg's father or

will become a threat to the world, and blatant messages about jealousy, patience, despair, and good judgment. It's really difficult to follow any linear storyline.

An enjoyable appearance by an obviously improvising Zach Galifianakis as The Happy Medium makes for a brief reprieve in the confusion, at least until it's clear that his character makes very little sense. Then the women announce that they're losing their powers and

the kids must continue on their own. Wait, why are they losing their powers? I just don't know. Neither will anyone understand why the kids stumble into a suburban neighborhood that's populated by the casts of "Village of the Damned" and "The Stepford Wives."

This is a movie for very young viewers who will be satisfied with its bright colors and visual effects, but won't wonder about what's going on. It's a case of disjointed, slapdash film-making.

The preposterous conclusion, in which all is right with the family and the world and the universe, is unearned.

**Editor's note: Reviews provided by Content Now, a media news service. The opinion of the writer, does not constitute the views or endorsement of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Marine Corps, or GateHouse Media.**

## MOVIE SCHEDULES

CAMP LEJEUNE Bldg. 19 McHugh Blvd.	MIDWAY PARK Bldg. 4014A in Midway Park	NEW RIVER Bldg. AS240 Curtis Rd., Air Station
<b>FRIDAY</b> "Game Night" R, 6:30 p.m. "Black Panther" PG-13, 9:20 p.m.	<b>FRIDAY</b> "Red Sparrow" R, 7 p.m.	<b>FRIDAY</b> "A Wrinkle in Time" PG, 6 p.m. "Annihilation" R, 8:30 p.m.
<b>SATURDAY</b> "A Wrinkle in Time" PG, 3:30 p.m. "Red Sparrow" R, 6:30 p.m.	<b>SATURDAY</b> Free Showing: "Paddington 2" PG, 11 a.m. "Peter Rabbit" PG, 2 p.m. "Black Panther" PG-13, 5 p.m.	<b>SATURDAY</b> "Game Night" R, 6 p.m. "Black Panther" PG-13, 8:30 p.m.
<b>SUNDAY</b> "Peter Rabbit" PG, 3:30 p.m. "Annihilation" R, 6:30 p.m.	<b>SUNDAY</b> "A Wrinkle in Time" PG, 2 p.m.	<b>SUNDAY</b> "Red Sparrow" R, 2 p.m. "Peter Rabbit" PG, 5 p.m.

**MCCS** WE'RE PROUD TO SERVE YOU  
\*Movies are subject to change without notice. For movie times, call 449-9344.

Tickets and concessions open 30 minutes prior to movie time.  
Pricing: \$4 Adults, \$3 Children  
For 3D movies: \$5 Adults, \$4 Children

## What's happenin' CAROLINA

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, email [cdewitt@campjeuneglobe.com](mailto:cdewitt@campjeuneglobe.com) or call 451-7421. Space is limited to availability. To submit your event for our online calendar, visit [www.campjeuneglobe.com/calendar](http://www.campjeuneglobe.com/calendar).

### Pinwheel Planting Friday, 3 - 5 p.m.

Join the Family Advocacy Program of Camp Lejeune to plant pinwheels at the Russel Marine and Family Center to symbolize the reported incidences of child abuse and neglect from the previous year in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Open to all authorized patrons. For more information, call 451-6060.

### All Ranks Easter Sunday Brunch Sunday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Celebrate Easter Sunday at the Marston Pavilion on Camp Lejeune with brunch for the entire family. Easter egg hunts will be held for assorted age groups and a visit from the Easter Bunny will be featured. The costs for the meal are as follows: Adults (ages 12 and up) is \$23.95, children (ages 4 to 11) is \$10.95 and children 3 and under is free. For more information, call 449-9700.

### State of the Child Breakfast April 13, 8 - 11 a.m.

Join the Onslow County Partnership for Children for their 16th annual State of the Child Breakfast. This is a community wide event to publicly discuss the health and welfare of Onslow County's children. The Event will take place at the Onslow Government Complex in Jacksonville. For more information, visit [www.onslowkids.org/events\\_page](http://www.onslowkids.org/events_page).

### Princess Manner's Mother-Daughter Tea April 14, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join Princess Manners' for a fun time of fellowship, tea and discovering the book of Esther. The event will take place at the L.I.N.K.S. Bldg., Tarawa Terrace I on Camp Lejeune. Open to mothers and their daughters in first through fifth grades. RSVP by April 6. For more information, call 252-646-4551.

### Career Fair April 18, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

MCCS Lejeune-New River's Transition Readiness program will host a career fair at Marston Pavilion on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. This event is for those who are seeking employment as they transition out of military service. More than 100 employers will be present to discuss open positions and requirements. Be prepared for possible on-site interviews. For more information, call 451-3212.

# Save-A-Pet

Adopt a new friend today, save a life

Photos by Onslow County Animal Shelter



My name is Harriet and I am a female, white and brown hound mix. The shelter thinks I am about 2 years old.

Pet ID# 37720615



My name is Stoick and I am a male, brown and black domestic shorthair mix. The shelter thinks I am about 9 months old.

Pet ID# 38072394

The Onslow County Animal Shelter is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To see more photographs of pets available for adoption, visit [www.onslowcountync.gov/AnimalServices](http://www.onslowcountync.gov/AnimalServices). For more information, call 455-0182.

# Credit management class helps service members build, use credit wisely

**CHRIS DEWITT**  
Lifestyles Writer

When you hear “check your score,” what are you thinking of? Perhaps your mind jumps to the stats of a game you missed last night. However, scores do not just relate to sports. They also relate to a number that has a major impact on your financial status—your credit score.

Your credit health can affect the interest rate you pay for your house and car as well as determine if you qualify to get financing for these purchases.

With such important implications, the Marine Corps Personal Financial Management Program on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune will be holding a credit management class at the John A. Lejeune Education Center for service members and their families to assist in making informed credit decisions.

“Many service members are granted incredibly high credit limits when they get a credit card for the first time, likely because the lenders know these individuals have steady income to make repayments,” said Corrinne McKenna, MCPFMP personal financial manager.

“When service members have credit limits of \$10,000 or more as their very first interaction with credit, it can create a recipe for disaster. Often, individuals

hit their credit limit within one year from graduating boot camp. This can affect them down the road when they are trying to obtain or maintain a security clearance if their debt-to-income ratio is 30 percent or more.”

As McKenna highlighted, some of the financial situations that service members can come across can be potential pitfalls. To help navigate around these obstacles, the class will cover topics including how to check and read credit reports, what a credit score is and how it is determined and how to improve credit.

“A fairly large amount of people are unfamiliar with the differences between credit reports and credit scores,” said McKenna. “Credit reports are essentially a history of anything you’ve ever done with credit—who you’ve borrowed from, how much you’ve borrowed, your balances, whether you’ve paid on time, if you have anything in collections, etc. The credit score is a three digit number that grades the health of that report. If the report is the high dive, the score is whatever the judges hold up on their score cards after viewing the dive.”

If the high dive racks your nerves, McKenna suggests some practical ways to “impress the judges.” The three biggest factors to remember are to pay



Stock Photo

on time, keep your balances low and show many years of good credit use. Try to never miss a payment, or max out your cards and establish some form of credit when you are young.

For young credit builders, a good recommendation is to open a secured-card with your bank and only use it for your weekly haircuts, then pay it off

at the end of each month.

You can also obtain your credit report and accompanying score on sites like AnnualCreditReport.com, myFICO.com and CFPB.gov. Practical tools and information such as the ones described are what the class strives to offer participants.

“The goal of the class is to help eliminate the mystery

around reports and scores,” said McKenna. “People should attend to learn how to get the best scores possible because this will give them the best odds of getting a good deal when the time comes to buy a home and get a mortgage.”

For more information on the MCPFMP, visit [mccslejeune-nwriver.com/finance](http://mccslejeune-nwriver.com/finance).

## Tips for playground safety as spring approaches

**COURTESY STORY**  
Metro Creative

Playgrounds provide places for children to run, laugh, play, and share experiences with their friends. Playgrounds also are instrumental in fostering social connections among children and providing places to exercise.

Although playgrounds are much safer than they used to be, that doesn't mean children cannot get injured when playing at modern playgrounds. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, playground-related trau-

matic brain injuries are still a major threat and emergency departments treat more than 20,000 children ages 14 and younger for playground injuries each year. Broken bones, abrasions and even strangulation can occur on playground structures. However, many injuries can be prevented by following established safety guidelines:

### Adult supervision

The childhood safety resource Kids Health notes that adult supervision is a key component of preventing playground injuries. Adults can ensure that kids do not engage

in unsafe behavior when using playground equipment. Adults can also help kids gauge distances on equipment, help them get up and down from climbing structures and help make sure that older kids do not test limits too much. Simply having parents or other caregivers nearby can tame behavior.

### Safety guidelines

Advocating for children's safety on playgrounds means checking to see if equipment is deemed safe by various watchdog organizations. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is one of these groups. Over

the last 35 years, innovations in technology have led to new playground equipment and surfacing requirements. Some safety guidelines include proper signage and labeling, sight lines that enable adults to keep track of children throughout the playground and safe surface materials, which include engineered wood fiber, pea gravel, sand, shredded rubber mulch, wood chips, and organic mulch.

### Maintenance

Proper maintenance can keep equipment in safe working order. Tripping hazards, such as rocks or tree stumps,

should be removed from the area. Metal or wooden swing seats should be replaced with soft seats. Sharp edges should be made smooth, and all platforms should be in good repair with working guardrails. Hardware should be checked and never protrude. The cushioned surface should extend at least six feet beyond the equipment. Additional coverage may be needed, depending on how high a slide is or how long a swing is. Materials should be replaced if they are worn out.

### Age-appropriate

Children should use

only the equipment recommended for their age groups and ability levels. The CPSC says that preschool-aged children should only use ladders that are less than or equal to 60 inches high. Older children can use arch climbers, chain or cable walks. Age guidelines should be clearly posted on the equipment to help adults ensure their kids play on equipment that is right for their ages.

Enjoying fresh air and fun is part of visiting the playground, but parents should always emphasize safety when their youngsters are playing.



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# Marine Spouse of the Year: Mrs. Jolynn Lee

**STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER O'QUIN**  
 II Marine Expeditionary Force

Service members are often recognized for outstanding leadership and volunteerism in the community while their spouses support them from the sidelines.

However, on May 10, in Washington, District of Columbia, Jolynn Lee, wife to Maj. Jeffrey Lee, Marine Air-Ground Task Force 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, will be recognized for her own contributions and volunteer service when she receives the 2018 Marine Spouse of the Year Award by Military Spouse Magazine.

"I'm just stunned," said the mother of four who sees her work as second nature. "I know that all military spouses are amazing. No matter what, whether we do or don't have (this honor) we're going to get up and keep doing what we're doing."

Jolynn attributes much of this distinction to the work she has done as co-director for the Camp Lejeune Reboot Combat Recovery Program, a non-profit organization that helps veterans, first responders and their families recover from traumatic events in the line of duty.

"I wouldn't be up for this award if it wasn't for my husband, he's the one in uniform," said the Princeton, Kentucky native.

As co-director of CL-RCRP with her husband, Jolynn is responsible for much of the work that

goes into administration, logistics, training and community relations.

"War and conflict wounds the soul," added Jolynn. "I can never understand what they've been through, I've never put boots on and gone where they've gone. But, I can learn and help others learn how to better support our (families) and live a healthy life-style."

Carolina, Jolynn's daughter, saw the impact her mother was making and on behalf of friends, nominated her for the award. She drew from her firsthand experience and understanding as both a military child and also a Marine spouse.

"I wanted to tell people about the good work she's doing," said Carolina, who is expecting her first child. "Growing up in a military household and watching my mother raise all of us while my dad was gone, really made me aware from an early age how a spouse is the other half of a Marine's successful career."

As Carolina builds a family of her own, she is seeing more and more how difficult it can be to do things on her own.

"It has made me realize what it takes to be that anchor," said Carolina. "I wanted others to see that too."

The Lees have been married for 24 years, and during that they have experienced the challenges and responsibilities that come from both enlisted and officer communities.

"Love is a verb. You have to always act and give into your marriage and work through the



Jolynn Lee and husband Maj. Jeffrey Lee, Marine Air-Ground Task Force planner for 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, share a meal with their children and grandchildren in their home at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 10. Jolynn will be recognized as Marine Spouse of the Year by Military Spouse Magazine on May 10 in Washington, District of Columbia.

hardships together," said Jeffrey. "She keeps me motivated, keeps me steady and pushes me so I can be out doing my job without worrying (about) the home front."

The two will start a new chapter of their lives in the coming months as Jeffrey retires and they settle into their volunteer work with CLRCRP.

Jolynn's award now places her in the running at the national level with Military Spouse of the Year for the entire Department of Defense.

"I'm extremely proud of the amount of effort she puts into the family," said Jeffrey. "I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for her."



The Lee family holds hands in prayer before dinner in their home at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 10.



Jolynn Lee, top center, wife of Maj. Jeffrey Lee, top left, is joined by her family for a group photo in front of their home at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 10. Jolynn was declared Marine Spouse of the Year by Military Spouse Magazine and will accept her award on May 10 in Washington, District of Columbia.



## JCMC Welcomes



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# Spring Break activities for families in search of fun

**CHRIS DEWITT**  
Lifestyles Writer

Spring Break is right around the corner. The week-long hiatus from hitting the books and catching the bus will last from April 2 through 6, coming right off the heels of the upcoming Easter holiday season.

With this break coming up, you might be looking for ways to have some fun with your kids, keep them productive as well as keep them safe. To help assist in your search, the following are some activities families can engage in during Spring Break:

**Holidayz Program**

This program, held by the Jacksonville Commons Recreation Center, provides an active and safe environment for students during teacher

work days and holidays on the school calendar.

The program lasts from 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Be sure to provide your student with a lunch and two snacks each day. For more information, call 938-5312.

**Preschool Story Times**

Keep your preschooler's young mind active during the break with story times promoting early literacy awareness at the New River Air Station library and Tarawa Terrace Community Center.

The New River

Preschool Story Time will take place April 3 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and the Tarawa Terrace Preschool Story Time will take place April 4 from 11 – 11:30 a.m.

Both are open to authorized patrons and their children up to 5 years of

age. Crafts will also be available with each story time. For more information, visit [www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/libraries](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/libraries).

**Free movie screenings**

The Camp Lejeune Base Theater will host a free advanced screening of the new action-adventure flick "Rampage" rated PG-13 on April 7, with doors opening at 6 p.m. For more information, call 451-2785.

The Camp Johnson Library will host a free matinee with the movie "Paddington 2" rated PG on April 8 at 2 p.m. For more information, visit [www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/libraries](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/libraries). Both are open to authorized patrons.

Whatever activities you decide to engage in, have a safe and fun Spring Break.



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# God is love: he loves you & shows it



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

**Lt. Brian Gibbons**  
Combat Logistics Battalion  
2nd Marine Logistics Group

One of the most basic, but powerful truths you can and should tell yourself is, "God loves me." God loves you personally because that is who he is. The very core essence of God is love. *1 John 4:8* says, "He who does not love does

not know God, for God is love." For this description to be God's very essence implies that love is not something the Almighty is desperately looking for himself. He is love. It's who he is. He owns love.

This idea is encouraging

because it is a reminder that God is self-sufficient. He delights in having fellowship with the human beings whom he created.

Unlike our human nature, he does not "need" something from us. God is not "needy" and he has never been lonely as there has always been fellowship between the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, *Gen. 1:26; John 15:9*.

What does this have to do with our everyday life and fellowship with God? Consider this: if

we thought that God was lonely and love is not his very essence, then how could we expect God to love us unconditionally?

Furthermore, this is why we also have what we need spiritually to love everyone, including our enemies. Consider how this truth gives us a perspective of confidence and peace knowing that God's love is always with us.

He showed his love to us by dying on the cross and we experience this love daily as his spirit lives within

us. God's spirit is love, so we have a special gift that forgives us, rejuvenates us and continues to grant us guidance for the path ahead.

May you be encouraged today with these few ideas that are only a small part of the treasure chest of the statement "God is love."

**Editor's note: The Chaplain's Corner covers everything faith related. Facts not attributed are purely the opinion of the writer.**

**Camp Lejeune Passover Schedule**

**First Seder:**  
March 30, 6 p.m.  
**Services:**  
March 31, 10 a.m.  
**Second Seder:**  
March 31, 6 p.m.

All events will take place at Bldg. 67. RSVP required.

For more information, call 388-5483 or email: [Yonina.creditor@usmc.mil](mailto:Yonina.creditor@usmc.mil)

# Entertainment & Recreation

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### Holy Week Service Schedule

**1 April, Easter Sunrise Service @ 2<sup>nd</sup> MLG Amphitheater 0645**

Denomination	Chapel	Service	Time		
<b>Protestant</b>	Mainside Protestant Chapel	30 March: Stations of the Cross	1130		
		1 April: Easter Sunday Services	0830		
		Liturgical Communion Service Contemporary Service	1030		
	Courthouse Bay Chapel	1 April: Easter Sunday Service	1000		
		Tarawa Terrace Chapel	1 April: Easter Sunday Worship Service	1030	
	Camp Johnson Chapel	25 March: Palm Sunday Service	0830		
		1 April: Easter Sunday Service	0830		
	Camp Geiger Chapel	1 April: Easter Sunday Service	1000		
		<b>Orthodox</b>	Camp Johnson Chapel	1 April: Palm Sunday, Liturgy	1000
	2 April: Monday, Presanctified Liturgy		1800		
4 April: Wednesday, Sacrament of Holy Unction	1800				
5 April: Holy Thursday, Divine Liturgy The 12 Passion Gospels	1000 1800				
6 April: Holy Friday Vespers Holy Friday Matins	1500 1800				
7 April: Holy Saturday, Divine Liturgy Great and Holy Pascha, Divine Liturgy	1000 2300				
8 April: Paschal Vespers	1300				
<b>Latter Day Saints</b>	Camp Geiger Chapel		1 April: Easter Sunday Service	0900	
			<b>Catholic</b>	St. Francis Xavier	2, 9, 16, 23 March: Living Stations of the Cross
	25 March: Palm Sunday			0800 & 1100	
	26, 28 March: Daily Mass	1145			
	29 March: Holy Thursday	1800			
	30 March: Good Friday	1800			
	31 March: Easter Vigil	2000			
	1 April: Easter Sunday	0800 & 1100			
	1 April: Easter Egg Hunt	1200			
	Camp Geiger Chapel	1 April: Easter Sunday Catholic Mass		1115	
<b>MCAS New River</b>	<b>Roman Catholic @ MCAS NR Chapel</b>	Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent @ 1800 followed by a soup supper			
		29 March: Holy Thursday- Mass with washing of feet	1800		
		30 March: Celebration of the Lord's Passion with distribution of Holy Communion	1500		
		30 March: One hour of Adoration	1600		
		31 March: Easter Vigil Mass	1900		
		1 April: Easter Sunday Mass	0900		
		<b>Protestant</b>	1 April: Easter Sunrise Service @ MCAS O'Club w/ breakfast	0630	
			1 April: Contemporary Easter Experience @ Chapel Annex	0915	
			1 April: Easter Sunday Service @ MCAS NR Chapel	1100	

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OUTDOOR SIRENS

FROM YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COWORKERS



# Marine Spouse Kickball Association teams up with United Way of Onslow County to kick out child hunger

**CHRIS DEWITT**  
Lifestyles Writer

**H**ave you ever been hungry? The answer to that will probably be yes. Whether it is the end of the day hunger pains or the ravenous appetite after a good workout, hunger is a common human experience. However, imagine you cannot easily remedy the hunger with a simple walk to the pantry or market. Imagine being a child with limited means to provide anything for yourself.

Child hunger is an issue. According to figures from feedingamerica.org, approximately one in six children in the United States experiences an unstable supply of food. For these children, school is often the main source of food they receive.

To help address this issue, the Marine Spouse Kickball Association partnered with United Way of Onslow County to run a donation drive to support the Children Healthy Eating on Weekends program on March 22 to gather goods to help children fighting hunger in the Jacksonville community.

"We wanted to give back to the community and meet the needs of the kids here," said Marti Herrera, Marine Spouse Kickball Association commissioner.

Donations from the drive went toward providing children, assisted by the CHEW program, with packs filled with food they can take home when

not in school. Volunteers also came out to receive, organize and label the donations.

"The CHEW program works with 10 schools here in Jacksonville," said Shelly Kieweg, United Way of Onslow County director of community impact. "The program is largely sustained due to donation drives like this, so we try to have them as often as we can."

The issue of child hunger persists throughout the school year, but worsens with the onset of breaks, holidays and summer break. The CHEW program seeks to provide a sustainable source of nourishment for each child in need.

"There are 400 spouses giving to CHEW for this donation drive," said Herrera. "We divided them into twenty-three teams and made it a competition for our association."

Kieweg highlighted that there are more than 5,000 children in Onslow County struggling with hunger. Hunger in children can cause them to be less attentive in class and more susceptible to behavioral issues.

"We have already donated over 5,000 items thus far," said Shannon Lonergan, Jacksonville Commons Middle School 8th grade teacher. "That is about enough food to sustain the kids in the CHEW program for two weeks."

United Way of Onslow County accepts donations for its CHEW program year round. For more information, visit [www.uwonslow.org](http://www.uwonslow.org).



"We wanted to give back to the community and meet the needs of the kids here."

- Marti Herrera





# GIGANTIC TENT EVENT

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STK# 8047P

**\$13,699**

**2016 TOYOTA CAMRY**



STK# 13862PB2

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**2014 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY**



STK# 8056P

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STK# 41319A

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STK# 41331A

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**2015 RAM ROCKY RIDGE**



STK# 41742A

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**2016 MAZDA 6**



STK# 41826A

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