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- Lejeune baseball seniors 5A
- 2nd MEB-A 10 years later: Part 7 8A

MCT Academics Chief’s initiative brings digital learning to Marines



Photos by Lance Cpl. Ginnie Lee

U.S. Marine Corps SSgt. Joshua R. Derrick, academic chief, Marine Corps Training Battalion, School of Infantry-East, poses for photos at Camp Devil Dog, North Carolina, May 5. Derrick built an online classroom for Marines in Marine Combat Training in order to enhance the students' learning experience.

BY LANCE CPL. GINNIE LEE

Marine Corps Installations East

U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Joshua R. Derrick, academic chief, Marine Combat Training Battalion, School of Infantry-East, presented a new digital classroom for the students attending Marine Combat Training that caught the attention of Gen. David H. Berger, commandant of the Marine Corps, and Sgt. Maj. Troy E. Black, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, during their visit to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune on April 22.

Because of Derrick's initiative, Marines will now be encouraged to bring their own communication devices to the training classroom as this class will be accessed through the Marines' personal phones and tablets. Upon arrival to MCT, Marines will establish a Ma-

rine Net account, enroll in the course, and find all of their online materials needed for the training period.

"The goal of the training materials being digital as opposed to power points in a classroom, is for Marines to be able to learn at their own pace ultimately resulting in better retention of information," said Derrick.

Having access to these training materials will help with the continued evolution of how Marines are trained at School of Infantry – East and in turn enhance the quality of the Marines entering the Fleet Marine Force.

The online course allows the Marines to study the entire MCT period of instruction on Marine Net via the Moodle app on their personal devices and allows a more interactive learning experience through instructional photos and videos. Marines will be able to ac-

cess this course from the time start MCT until the end of their Marine Corps career so they can come back and study any time they feel they need a refresher on the basics.

"SSgt Derrick's ability to innovate and apply advancements in 21st Century learning is right on point with MCDP 7 (Learning)," said Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Troy E. Black.

Derrick is a native of West Columbia, South Carolina and enlisted into the Marine Corps at 17 in 2009. He stood as a nuclear security guard at Kings Bay, Georgia for 2 years. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment where he went on a 9-month-long deployment to Afghanistan from 2013-2014. Upon returning from the deployment, Derrick went from active duty to active-reserves and was stationed

with Force Headquarters Group in New Orleans before becoming a Combat Instructor and now, Academic Chief for MCT Bn on Camp Geiger.

Throughout his Marine Corps career, Derrick has taken advantage of the many opportunities to make meaningful connections with Marines which has propelled him forward in his self-development.

"Some of my inspiration comes from having a really great mentor as someone to look up to and learn from," said Derrick. "Master Gunnery Sgt. Smith was the assistant Marine officer instructor of the ROTC program at Tulane University and he was the most dedicated, professional and humble leader I had ever met. Seeing someone care for people so much and do things he certainly did not have to do just to make sure that his midshipmen were

properly trained and ready to go into the service lit a fire in me and made me want to do the same, even more than I already did."

During his 11-year career, Derrick has received several awards including the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, two Navy Achievement Medals, multiple Marine and Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Month awards and the NCO of the Year award while with Headquarters, Marine Forces Reserve. He conducted over 400 funeral services and was selected to conduct a dignified transfer for World War II veteran, Pfc. James S. Smith who was killed in action in November of 1943 and discovered 73 years later. Impressive records and awards aside, Derrick states his biggest accomplishment is being a good husband and father to his wife, Tara and

his two daughters, Quinn and Alice.

"Staff Sgt. Derrick epitomizes everything the Corps should desire of a staff non-commissioned officer, especially when it comes to learning and training Marines. His ability to think outside the box, research and analyze data, and develop new learning methods is exactly what we need from enlisted leaders," said Sergeant Major Philip McMellon, former Sergeant Major of Marine Combat Training. "SSgt Derrick has always been a leader that wants to make his unit and Marines better through continuous learning. Being innovative, creative and communicating his ideas up and down the chain of command are strengths that aid Derrick's ability to affect change in the way we learn and remain mission ready."

Division Marines conduct live-fire assault drills



Photo by Lance Cpl. Alize Sotelo

U.S. Marines with second platoon, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, provide suppression during a support by fire at Camp Lejeune, May 5. The range utilizes automated targets to engage mortars, snipers, machine gunners and infantry riflemen for a more realistic combat situation.

2d AABn completes a raid rehearsal at Onslow Beach



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Parsons

U.S. Marines with 2nd Assault Amphibious Battalion prepare to board AAV-P7A1s for a raid rehearsal. 2d AABn conducted multiple maneuvers to rehearse protocol on land and at sea at Onslow Beach, Camp Lejeune, May 6.

2nd Intel Bn Marine recognized for fundraising amid COVID-19

BY CPL. STEPHEN CAMPBELL

II MEF Information Group

The leadership of 2nd Intelligence Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, recognized U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Zeelie Scruggs, an intelligence specialist with the battalion, with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal at Camp Lejeune, N.C., May 8, 2020.

She earned this honor for her volunteer service to the local community during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from March to April 2020.

As people began distancing themselves from one another, she turned to the one thing that still connects everyone, the internet. Scruggs created a non-profit food drive via a Facebook fundraiser. She also personally donated food and other items from her own pantry to immediately support those most in need.

“Her selfless spirit has positively impacted the lives of hundreds of community members, and she has made a lasting impact on our Corps and our nation’s commitment to the needs of our local community,” said First Sgt. Nathan Reed, the company first sergeant of 2nd Intelligence Battalion, II MIG. “Scruggs’ remarkable volunteer work and diligent efforts to help others proudly reflects her military service, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, and the United States Marine Corps.”

As of May 8, the fundraiser has received just more than \$1000 in monetary donations. The majority of the donations received came from her friends and family as well as other Marines. Her principal focus of effort was toward those who are most at risk for contracting COVID-19, senior citizens.

“It was just a need that I saw, and I knew I needed

to help because I was able to help,” said Scruggs.

She also expanded her efforts by devoting her energy to local families who were struggling to maintain a standard of living brought on by the outbreak.

Scruggs originally came up the idea to start a food drive a couple months ago after noticing families she personally knew were struggling to buy groceries by being out of work. She was organizing her pantry and realized she had a lot of extra groceries and essential goods, so she offered them to the struggling families.

“From there I noticed there was an even greater need,” said Scruggs. “I went to the grocery store, bought some groceries, and made a Facebook post telling people to let me know if they needed them. It just grew after that, and numerous people reached out to me saying they also knew families that needed supplies.”

After receiving numer-

ous replies to the post, Scruggs explained that she wondered how many donations she could receive to help out as many families as she could, and so was the beginning of a non-profit food drive.

According to Towle, she personally spent more than 40 hours gathering, assembling and delivering 100 bags consisting of food and necessary supplies.

She also personally delivered 35 of the bags to senior citizens and families in need, and delivered another 55 bags to families at a halfway point. In some instances, she would drive up to 20 miles, one-way.

While picking up, transferring and delivering the groceries, Scruggs wore gloves and a mask to ensure she didn’t put anyone at risk. She also limited exposure by not entering the residences.

This wasn’t Scruggs’ first volunteer effort which would explain her keen eye toward those in need.



Photo by Cpl. Stephen Campbell

U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Zeelie Scruggs, an intelligence specialist with 2nd Intelligence Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, is presented a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal at Camp Lejeune, May 8. Scruggs earned this medal for her volunteer service to the local community during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from March to April.

Growing up she volunteered with her local church and schools, helped with other food drives, and volunteered for after school programs with children as well as with senior citizens in assisted living homes.

“If I could expand this fundraiser I absolutely would,” said Scruggs. “This is something I love doing. Being able to help people

knowing where my next paycheck is coming from whereas they may not know when they’ll see a check is reason enough for me to continue doing this.”

Although the fundraiser has slowed down, she mentioned that she happily continues to grab a few extra things at the grocery store in case anyone requests her support.

OFF-LIMITS

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

CAMP LEJEUNE REGION:

Atheas Attics at 420 Eastwood Rd., Wilmington.
Bell Auto Salvage II at 136 Abbots Branch Rd., Hubert.
Best Exxon at 2945 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville.
Club Phoenix at 209 East 5th St., Greenville.
Dash-In at 1316 Hargett St., Jacksonville.
Drive Thru Mini Mart at 2729 Commerce Road, 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.
Highlands Tobacco aka Piney Green
Tobacco at 835 Piney Green Road, Jacksonville.
Highway 24 Tobacco at 1448 Highway West Corbet Ave. Jacksonville.
Hubert Tobacco at 393 Hubert Blvd., Hubert.
J&N Grocery at 1142 Beulaville Highway, Richlands.
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.
Moe’s Mart at 2105 Belgrade-Swansboro Rd., Maysville.
Nash Market at 237 New River Drive, Jacksonville.
OJ’s Tobacco and Vapor at 8900 Richlands Highway, Richlands.
One Stop Shop at 501 Corbin St., Jacksonville.
*Precision Motor Sports at 1321 Lake Cole Road, Jacksonville.
Price is Right Lawn Design in Jacksonville.
Reid’s Mart at 461 Hubert Blvd., Hubert.
Sahara Hookah Lounge at 917 North Marine Blvd., 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)
Speedy’s Drive Thru at 357 Henderson Drive, Jacksonville.
Sun House Vapor and Tobacco at 2840 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville.
Super-Fast Drive Thru Mini Mart at 1005 North Marine Blvd., Jacksonville.
Tobacco at 521 Yopp Rd., Unit 106, Jacksonville.
Tobacco Leaf at 343K Western Blvd., Jacksonville.
Triple C Diesel Performance and Mobile Repair
602 Richlands Highway, 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
MCIEAST Hotline - 451-3928 www.mcieast.marines.mil/StaffOffices/CommandInspectorGeneral/CommandingGeneralsInspectionProgram.aspx
TECOM Hotline - (703) 432-1650 www.tecom.usmc.mil/pages/ig.aspx
Naval Hospital Hotlines - (910) 450-4240 NHCL-IGHotline@med.navy.mil
MARSOC Hotlines - 440-1045/0941 www.marsoc.marines.mil/UnitHome/InspectorGeneral.aspx
New River Hotline - 449-6029.

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Task force Marines certified for deployment during pandemic

BY 1ST LT. HEATHER CHAIREZ

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South

U.S. Marines and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force – Southern Command certified for a crisis response deployment to the Latin American and Caribbean region April 23.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, SPMAGTF-SC elements implemented the social distancing guidance throughout their training schedule and ensured that the lives and safety of the service members remained a priority.

“Marines and Sailors are trained for the unexpected,” said Col. Vincent Dawson, commanding officer of SPMAGTF-SC. “The curve ball that COVID-19 has thrown at the SPMAGTF for pre-deployment training was met with an agile

mindset and flexibility, enabling us to accomplish the necessary requirements for certification.”

Service members wore cloth face coverings when they couldn't maintain six feet of social distancing in public areas and work centers during the certification exercises in accordance with guidance from Headquarters Marine Corps.

The SPMAGTF-SC medical team's Navy corpsmen also ensured and supported the safety precautions when they held sick-call every morning and screened service members for COVID-19 when necessary, while still supporting the ongoing Marines' field training exercises.

“Communication and prevention have been the keys to success for the medical team,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jenna Bentle, a hospital corpsman with SPMAGTF-SC.

“We ensure that the service members are screened for the appropriate symptoms without causing panic, and we continue to be proactive with the prevention of the virus.”

The medical team stepped up their efforts to ensure safety by staffing corpsmen to be on-call around the clock and by posting information posters about hygiene and virus prevention guidelines throughout the living and working spaces, said Bentle.

Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, the SPMAGTF-SC completed a command post exercise, a general exercise, and a final certification exercise – all in preparation for the work they will do during their deployment. The task force is now on standby to rapidly respond and assist Latin American and Caribbean partner nations with a crisis response deployment.



Photo by Sgt. Andy O. Martinez

Sgt. David Mitchell, a military policeman with SPMAGTF-SC, uses a lensatic compass during land navigation training, May 4. Land navigation consists of being able to use skills that can help one traverse through unfamiliar terrain by foot or in a vehicle. These events assist the Marines and Sailors with providing humanitarian aid assistance and engineering projects alongside partner nation military forces in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Photo by Cpl. Benjamin Larsen

Cpl. Pavel Tarkovskiy, a technical engineer with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Southern Command, constructs a roof during a general exercise at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, April 17. The GENEX includes training events such as engineering projects and evacuation control center training scenarios that will help build the SPMAGTF-SC for their final certification exercise.

Wallace Creek, New River fitness centers open for active duty



Photos by Cpl. Karina Lopezmata

Service members exercise at the reopened New River Fitness Center on Marine Corps Air Station New River, May 8. With the safety of Marines, Sailors and families a continuing priority, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River have begun a measured approach to reopen some non-essential services while abiding by Department of Defense, federal, state and local guidelines.

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Marine Corps Southern Command achieves fielding decision after ‘herculean’ effort



Photo by Lance Cpl. Benjamin Aulick

U.S. Marine Sgt. Johnathon Merten, a radio operator with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, conducts a radio check during a long distance, high-frequency communications training event held on Camp Pendleton, California, Jan. 13. This training between 1st MarDiv and 3rd Marine Division allowed both units to train in HF communications over the Pacific ocean. The training helps the units maintain a low electromagnetic signature which allows for distributed operations without detection in the operating environment.

BY MATT GONZALES
Marine Corps Systems Command

In March, the Marine Corps new high-frequency radio received a favorable fielding decision—one year earlier than originally forecast.

The High Frequency Radio II provides Marines with long-range, beyond line-of-site radio communications, supporting every level of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force. The radio system comprises Wideband HF, increasing the data rate to more quickly communicate larger amounts of information.

The HFR II is compliant with the National Security Agency’s Cryptographic Modernization

Mandate—an effort to modernize Information capabilities for the 21st century—and will replace the legacy HFR system.

“HFR II will fill much of the same needs that the legacy HFR systems provide: long-haul communications, and the primary backup mode of communications in a satellite communications-denied environment,” said Leigh King, Marine Corps Systems Command’s project officer for the HFR II.

As King noted, fielding the HFR II aligns with Gen. David Berger’s priorities in his Commandant’s Planning Guidance. MCSC collaborated with key stakeholders to

achieve important milestones and a fielding decision in just over a year—a process the program office initially projected to take much longer.

To accomplish this feat, MCSC changed the program strategy, creating a more efficient schedule.

“The team pulled off a herculean effort and accelerated the acquisition strategy to meet [Combat Development and Integration’s] request to field to III [Marine Expeditionary Force] and 15th [Marine Expeditionary Unit] as quickly as possible,” said John Maurer, MCSC’s deputy portfolio manager for Command Element Systems.

MCSC expects to field

the HFR II this spring, with expected Full Operational Capability in fiscal year 2023. However, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic prevents large crowds from gathering, affecting fielding events. The crisis forced the program office to come up with innovative ways to train Marines to employ the system.

Command Element Systems is exploring the possibility of employing video training and other tools to accomplish the New Equipment Training amid current travel restrictions caused by COVID-19. This method of training will enable Marines to familiarize themselves with the technology without compro-

promising their health.

“In-person training will occur at a later date, when travel restrictions are lifted,” said King.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Decker, MCSC’s team lead for Ground Radios, said his team is delivering a modernized, lethal and sustainable capability to Marines in the HFR II. He said the program office is providing a critically needed, next-generation radio capability today without admiring the challenges of the past.

“The HFR team has been focused on replacing the current long-haul, beyond line-of-sight legacy HF systems with a modernized system that is 10 times faster, smaller and

lighter than the existing HF radios,” said Decker.

Decker commended the Ground Radios Team for not only reaching a favorable fielding decision, but also for providing Marines with a critical piece of equipment that can increase efficiency on the battlefield and save lives.

“The Commandant’s Planning Guidance gave us a clear, common focus, and the team—along with leadership—has accelerated the schedule to essentially add lethality to the MAGTF today,” said Decker. “It’s not simply about moving faster but moving in a disciplined manner to ensure we are agile in our acquisitions and accurate in our execution.”

National Day of Prayer is safely celebrated on Camp Lejeune



Photos by Lance Cpl. Christian Ayers

U.S. Navy Lt. Matthew Dean, the chaplain for Headquarters and Support Battalion, says a prayer during the National Day of Prayer, at the Protestant Chapel on Camp Lejeune, May 7. Marines and Sailors on Camp Lejeune participated in religious activities while adhering to standards set in place to mitigate the risk of the COVID-19 virus.



U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Andrew Martino with Bravo Company, Headquarters and Support Battalion bows his head in prayer.



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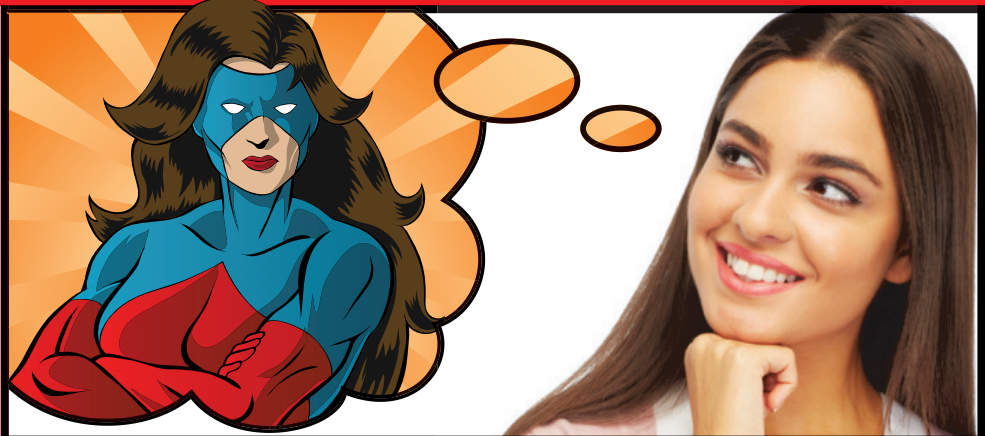
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Give and get back more!



Meet Lejeune High's senior baseball players

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

Honoring Lejeune's spring sports seniors

Lejeune High School spring sports seniors:
It is impossible to fully express the feelings I have for those of you who must come to terms with never getting to put on your LHS uniform for competition again. I wish I could say I understood, and that you'll get your senior season sometime, but unfortunately that's just not reality. So to help ease some of the pain caused by these truly unprecedented times,

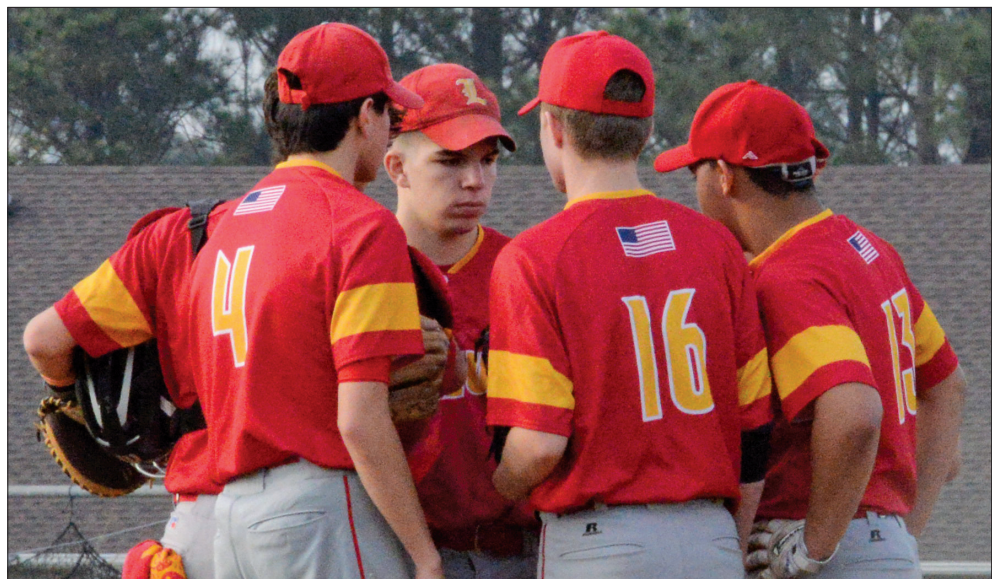
we will be recognizing each of Lejeune High School's spring sports seniors over the next several weeks. We hope this will spread some cheer and Devil Pup spirit by helping you all remember the season and careers you began, but were unable to finish due to uncontrollable, unexpected circumstances.

Part One, Baseball

We begin our recognition of Lejeune High School's spring sports seniors with the baseball team. They opened up their season, and ended it, at Northside-Jacksonville

on March 11, falling by a score of 11-3. It was a day before the announcement was made that the season would be suspended. It was also Coach George Markle's first outing as skipper of the Devil Pups. From going to a team practice and attending the season opener, I could tell the team had a real sense of optimism about it that this was going to be a year of winning, but what unfolded was out of all of our hands.

Enjoy this closer look at Lejeune baseball's three seniors: Chris Quinones, Ethan Skillings and Evan Romero.



Lejeune senior Ethan Skillings, center, listens in during a mound meeting in Lejeune's season opener versus Northside, March 11.



Chris Quinones

- Team Captain
- Four-year varsity player
- Recipient of multiple Student of the Class awards for Web Design and PowerPoint
- Plans to attend Coastal Carolina Community College's Electronics Engineering Technology Program before transferring to East Carolina University
- Favorite LHS memory is hitting the walk off hit against Jones Senior



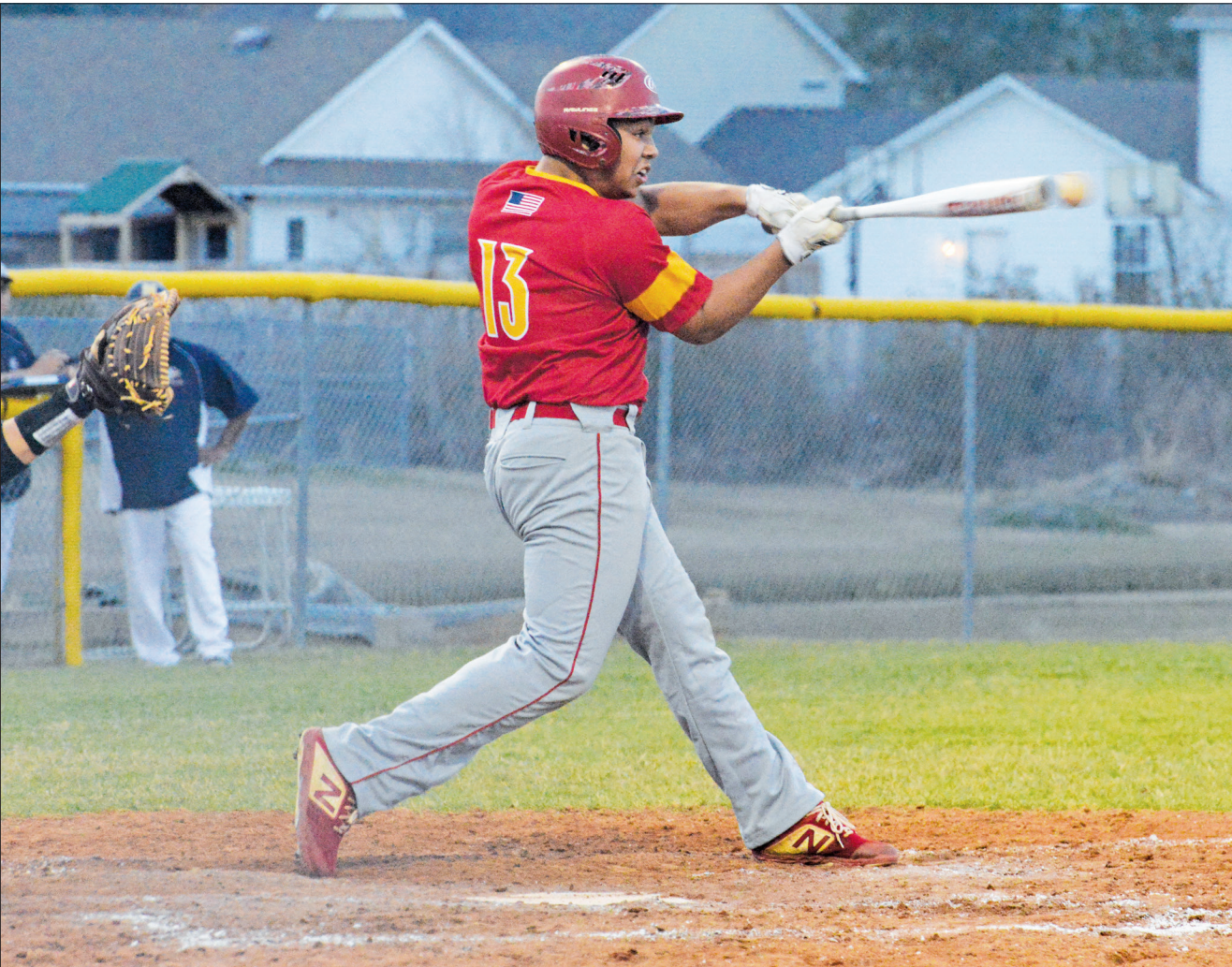
Ethan Skillings

- Three-sport athlete at LHS
- All-Conference football player
- Two-time wrestling regional qualifier
- Football, wrestling and baseball team captain
- Plans to pursue an enlistment in the military and, eventually, a career in law enforcement
- Favorite LHS memory is the 62-0 win over Jones Senior in football in 2019



Evan Romero

- Starting pitcher in Lejeune's lone game of 2020
- Played forward on Lejeune's state playoff basketball team in the 2019-20 season
- Plans to attend Coastal Carolina Community College before touring schools in Washington state
- Favorite LHS memory is winning by a walk off hit against Jones Senior in the 2019 season
- He will most miss his teammates



Lejeune senior Chris Quinones gets a hit in Lejeune's season opener versus Northside, March 11.

Photo by Calvin Shomaker



Lejeune senior Evan Romero pitches in Lejeune's season opener versus Northside, March 11.

Photo by Calvin Shomaker

Onslow high school stadiums light up for senior athletes



Photos by Tina Brooks/Jacksonville Daily News

A scoreboard at White Oak High School lights up to read 20 on May 7 in honor of senior athletes and the spring sports seniors whose seasons were cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All public high schools in Onslow County and Lejeune High School turned on their stadium lights for 20 minutes and 20 seconds for the seniors.



White Oak High School students show their Viking spirit on May 7 as they were allowed to drive by to see the stadium lights lit up in honor of the Class of 2020.

New River Splash goes VIRTUAL



Photo by City of Jacksonville

Two competitors bike in the 2019 New River Splash that was held at at Riverwalk Crossing Park in Jacksonville last fall.

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

The third leg of the 2020 Jacksonville-Onslow Sports Commission (JOSC) Race Series has gone virtual due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Participants in the New River Splash Duathlon & 5k have until June 15 to complete the 5k run to earn 15 series points or the duathlon, a 13-mile bike ride and 5k run, for 25 points. JOSC Executive Director Scott Smith says participants may complete the race wherever

they normally bike and run, ideally a safe place with little traffic. Those who compete in the series throughout the year accumulate points based on where they place. "There is something for everybody (in the series)," Scott said. "I think it's unique, and there are some fun incentives." The top three finishers in each division at the end of the year receive at least one free entry into next year's races as well as a year-end prize. Individuals who complete five of seven races receive a year-end gift, and competitors

that complete all series races get 20 bonus points and a free 2021 race entry. Proof of completion for the New River Splash should be provided via email and social media. The cost is \$15 and 20% of the proceeds go to the United Way of Onslow County's CHEW! Program, which helps feed nutritional meals to local youth. For more information on the New River Splash and the JOSC Race Series, visit www.racejosc.com or find the Jacksonville-Onslow Sports Commission Facebook page.

Sheffield gives back to the Marine Corps

The HITT instructor and former All-Marine wrestler fulfills his passion for helping Marines reach their fitness goals.

BY CPL. GERALDO GUZMAN
All-Marine Wrestling Team

Joe Sheffield is a retired U.S. Marine Corps sergeant and former All-Marine wrestler who helps Marines get better. With the current pandemic, he has found ways to show his commitment by giving lifting demonstrations in video conferences.

"When it comes to wrestling and training, I love him all around," said 1st Lt. Jamel Johnson, a U.S. National Team Member. "He will spend hours with you to help you get better. He never lacks motivation or drive."

Sheffield won two high school state medals in Texas before wrestling in college at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While at UNCG, he was a conference medalist and an Academic All-American. In the summer, he drove to Camp Lejeune and trained with the Marines, which helped him become a two-time University All-American and a World Team Trials placer.

Sheffield's father served in the U.S. Army and inspired him to join the Marine Corps. In 2011, he earned the title of United States Marine, graduating as Honor Grad and receiving a meritorious promotion to lance corporal.



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Bunker

Following MOS school, Sheffield joined the All-Marine Wrestling Team (AMWT), an experience that helped him grow. "Being a Marine was tough, but becoming a Marine Corps wrestler requires more toughness," Sheffield said.

While on the team he became a U.S. Open All-American, U.S. Armed Forces Silver Medalist and U.S. Olympic Trial Qualifier. Since then, he has been a strength coach for World Team Members and an Olympian.

After medically retiring in 2015, Sheffield began helping condition the AMWT before becoming a High Intensity Tactical Training (HITT) instructor. His experience and knowledge in wrestling, Olympic lifting and fitness training have made him a key component in the team's success.

"As a HITT instructor, I love being able to help Marines with their fitness

goals," Sheffield said. "Even though I have an extensive background in fitness training and strength & conditioning, I am always learning and seeking knowledge from others."

His goals moving forward are to continue to work with athletes and develop their skills through fitness. He specifically seeks to improve their Olympic lifts because of its applicability. He also plans to continue his education and development as a fitness coach so that he can continue to do what he loves - giving back to the Marine Corps.

"During this time of COVID-19, I want to give my well wishes to everyone and pray that we will all recover from this and get back to living our lives," Sheffield said.

The All-Marine Wrestling Team can be found on Facebook, Instagram (@AllMarineWrestling) and Twitter (@USMC_AMWT).

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



AMANDA TUNGETT

Sport: Running and Triathlon

Quick Facts:

- NASM Certified Personal Trainer & Performance Enhancement Specialist
- Endurance Sports & Distance Running Coach
- Helps coach Lejeune High School cross country and track athletes
- 1st overall female in 2019 Hope for the Warriors Half Marathon
- Has ran the Boston Marathon and the Marine Corps Marathon



Photo by Jacksonville Daily News

Q: WHAT IS THE KEY TO MAINTAINING A FAST PACE DURING A LONG DISTANCE RACE?

A: It's more mental than anything. You kind of get into a rhythm and you keep the rhythm, like if you are a musician. You breathe with it. You run with it in your mind.

Q: WHAT PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

A: My biggest personal achievement is really just being able to enjoy competition and being able to celebrate other people when they've reached their accomplishments. Also, it's going easier on myself and not getting upset if I'm not hitting the pace that I want to and not being afraid of it.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OR MOST

MEMORABLE RUN YOU'VE DONE?

A: I love the Ainsley's Angels Race. It is such a feel-good race. The feel is so cool, just seeing those riders in their chariots and the Lejeune Marine Corps JROTC boys run with them. It's such a great experience.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TYPICAL MISTAKES YOU SEE PEOPLE MAKING WHEN FITNESS TRAINING?

A: Over training. It's really easy to either get wrapped in numbers or get wrapped up in working hard and start pushing yourself too much and not allowing rest to be a part of the plan.

Q: IS MENTALITY THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF IMPROVING YOUR PHYSICAL FITNESS?

A: Definitely. I person-

ally think it's mental, because somebody can be talented and everything physically is there, but if they beat themselves up mentally or they let a race affect their performance, that can slow a time down or even cause injury.

Q: WHAT IS IT ABOUT RUNNING, ESPECIALLY LONG DISTANCES, THAT REALLY APPEALS TO YOU?

A: When I started running I realized that I felt great when I ran. When I'm running I feel free.

Q: ANY FINAL THOUGHTS?

A: I just want to encourage people to keep working and training. What we are going through right now is temporary. We don't know when racing is going to be back, but it will. Don't give up.

If you'd like to nominate an area athlete for Athlete of the Week, email cshomaker@campjeuneglobe.com. (Nominations must have connections to the local military community.)

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LOCALiQ



PART 7

10 years later, 2nd MEB-A remembers service in Afghanistan



Photo by Lance Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde

Marines from 3rd Platoon, India Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, patrol on the outskirts of Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 14, 2010. The 3/6 Marines and soldiers from the Afghan national army were conducting Operation Moshtarak to eliminate Taliban presence and intimidation from the city of Marjah.

BY PAT GRUNER
Managing Editor

Part 7: Opposition

From May 29, 2009 to April 12, 2010 the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade was deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Over the course of that year, Marines would establish expeditionary installations, train Afghan police and soldiers, take back Taliban-controlled strategic hubs and lay down for posterity new operating procedures for the U.S. Marine Corps.

“Gen. Nicholson and I would go in (to Combat Hospital Bastion) every day and I would see people dying,” said Kael Weston, a teacher at Marine Corps University who served as the political

state department head in Helmand Province to Gen. Larry Nicholson, then commanding general of 2nd MEB-Afghanistan. “British soldiers and Marines. An Afghan boy missing his legs playing with a stump.”

While fighting Helmand’s harsh climate while establishing an operating base was challenging, the biggest threat to the U.S. Marines in Afghanistan was improvised explosive devices (IEDs) placed by Taliban opposition. In 2010, a report from the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization recorded that a total of 539 U.S. troops had been killed in action, and 4,845 wounded in action, from IEDs in Afghanistan from 2001-2010.

“The only paved road around Leatherneck was what we called The Ring Road, and saying it was paved is being generous,” said COL. Al Faxon, the lead engineer for 2nd MEB-A. “It was riddled with Taliban IEDs. We would do our best to keep an eye out for culverts and fresh digging. When you were out, you had to feed information back to the ops people.”

Past U.S. presences in Afghanistan, both in times of peace and conflict, also had an impact on the way combat was conducted between Coalition forces and Taliban opposition.

“Nawa has a vast series of canals that were originally dug in the 50s and 60s by USAID,” said Gus Biggio, a Civil Affairs Marine attached to

1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment in Nawa. Biggio underwent vast research while undergoing a 10 year endeavor to put together a book about the MEB’s time in Afghanistan. “The intention was to make the Helmand River Province very fertile and ensure Afghans could grow their own food. These canals would range from ten meters across to more narrow-like ditches. When they were digging that array of canals, I can’t expect they foresaw U.S. Marines shooting from and being shot at from them.”

The Taliban also employed hit and run tactics meant to sabotage or bog down Marines.

“For our LAV’s and Scouts, most of our contact with the Taliban was harassing attacks

around Khan Neshin Castle, sporadic rocket attacks on Combat Outpost Payne, the castle and the extensive use of IED’s,” recalled retired Master Gunnery Sgt. David VanHorn, who served as logistics chief with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. “One of our convoys was ambushed. I do not remember anything that was sustained kinetically. If I remember correctly, we had two KIA internal to the battalion and one or two attachments, but not sure of how many were wounded. We had a handful for sure.”

Weston believes that the Marines with 2nd MEB-A were aware of the risk inherent to the combat zone. He also knew they were willing to do

what needed to be done.

“If you’re going to be in a horrible place like Helmand, I wouldn’t want to be around anyone but Marines,” Weston said. “Take for instance Sgt. Friend, who approached a small village who thought our guys were Russian because of how long it had been since they had seen outside contact. You surge Marines in and there is no bridge too far for the USMC. It came down to how with us the Afghans were. There were shifts toward the end, but the attitude remained positive. There was a lot of sacrifice in the seven years I was over there (2003-2010). When that kind of sacrifice is going to happen, we sure as hell better be able to answer why it is being made as a government.”



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Philippe E. Chasse

U.S. Marines with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 3, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, along with approximately 650 Afghan soldiers and police officers from the Afghan National Security Force (ANSF), prepare to board CH-53D Sea Stallion and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters at Forward Operating Base Dwyer, Afghanistan, July 2, 2009. The Marines and ANSF partnered for a major operation in the Helmand Province to transition security responsibilities to the Afghan forces. The Marines and ANSF moved into towns and villages along the Helmand River Valley in an effort to secure the population from the threat of the Taliban and other insurgent intimidation and violence.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Tommy Bellegarde

Soldiers from the Afghan national army relax after a patrol in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Feb. 14, 2010.

Good grief, COVID!

BY DIANA ASHE
LCSW

Have you been feeling on edge? Have you been feeling angry or out of control? Have you found yourself withdrawing or avoiding others? Do you feel like you are completely exhausted? There is a reason for that and it is called “Anticipatory Grief.” Anticipatory grief is the feeling one has about what the future holds when we are uncertain. Uncertainty of the unknown impacts our feelings and sense of safety.

Understanding the stages of grief and loss and how to cope during these unprecedented times is important. Kubler Ross’s 5 stages of grief are: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Sadness and Acceptance. If you are like so many others wondering if you yourself are experiencing grief, these are some of the signs to look for and some ideas or skills that can help you to cope during this time.

- Feelings of anxiousness or being on edge
- Feelings of anger and irritability
- Sleeping more or less than you normally do
- Experiencing stomach aches or headaches
- Difficulty concentrating on normal everyday tasks
- Feeling fatigued or low energy
- Withdrawing from friends or family
- Engaging in activities that may be unhealthy in order to cope with the anxiety. Like taking up or increasing smoking, increasing alcohol intake, eating more or not eating at



all or shopping online more.

If you are experiencing or know anyone who is experiencing these feelings; here are some basic and useful tips that can help.

1. Practice Self-Care: Make sure you are eating a healthy balanced diet, staying hydrated, getting exercise daily and getting a good night’s rest.
2. Acknowledge your feelings and don’t feel ashamed or be critical of your emotions as they are valid. Practicing some mindfulness or meditation would be helpful.
3. Build a routine daily that is within your ability to how you are living now.
4. Connect with others using apps like zoom, FaceTime, online support groups, house party to stay engaged.

5. Find ways that help you express yourself through picking up a new or favorite hobby through journaling, dancing, crafting, projects or any other healthy creative outlet.

6. Minimize your time watching and being consumed in social media. Especially, getting caught in rabbit holes to feed that anxiety.

7. Seek counseling with a mental health professional through the use of the Community Counseling Program with the option of face to face or telecounseling options. Additional resources to utilize for telecounseling options are with Military OneSource. For more information about grief, visit <https://www.Dougy.org>.

Child Development Center quilt provides comforting comments



Courthouse Bay Child Development Center employees have sewn scraps of fabric leftover after making face masks to make a COVID memory quilt. Each employee wrote an inspirational comment on the quilt. The quilt is on display in the lobby of the Courthouse Bay CDC.



The power of forgiveness

CHAPLAIN’S COLUMN

BY LT. LUKE E. WILSON

Wounded Warrior Battalion-East

We all have wounds sometimes, not only physical but also emotional and spiritual. Some may be small and relatively easy to get over. But other wounds can be big, serious, and deep. These wounds can become a part of us and impact our life. So what should we do when we are hurt by others? Should we try to get even? Should we forgive? We learn from Scripture to not condemn and we will not be condemned, and to forgive and

we will be forgiven (Luke 6:37). Scripture also teaches us that God will do the judging (Romans 12:19).

Are any of us perfect? No. So there are times when we all need to forgive and be forgiven. So what is forgiveness? It is important to understand what forgiveness is and what it isn’t. Forgiving doesn’t always mean forgetting. Forgiveness doesn’t mean that there are no consequences. It’s not the same as pretending that unacceptable be-

havior is acceptable. If we forgive someone, it doesn’t mean that we no longer feel pain or that we are finished grieving. Forgiveness doesn’t always immediately lead to trust and reconciliation. So, what does it mean to forgive someone? Forgiveness is like a cancelled debt. It means giving up the perceived right to get even, giving up the attitude that “you owe me.”

Forgiveness is really more about the one forgiving than the one being

forgiven. There are many benefits to forgiving others. Forgiveness overcomes bitterness and helps us move beyond pain. Forgiveness can increase our capacity for love and make reconciliation possible. When we forgive someone and set them free, it is like we are really setting ourselves free.

There has been a great deal of research about forgiveness, and not only from a spiritual perspective. Research has shown that forgiveness interventions in counseling are successful in treating many problems, including substance abuse and addiction, anger and depression, and relationship problems. Research indicates that some of the benefits of forgiveness are: 1) happier relationships, 2) better emotional and physical health, 3) lower levels of anger and hostility, and 4) reduction in stress responses and other behaviors related to cardiovascular disease. Forgiving leads to personal growth and progression in many ways.

Forgiveness takes courage and strength. Even though forgiving isn’t the same as forgetting, we try to stop dwelling on the past. We no longer hold it against the other person. We choose to let it go. Forgiveness is a liberating gift we can give to the other person and to ourselves.

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? My hope and prayer is that each of us can remember when we have needed forgiveness from God and others, that we can forgive as we have been forgiven, that we can give to others what has been given to us, and that we can set someone free and in the process set ourselves free too.



COVID-19

All updates involving MCIEAST and NMCCCL will be posted here:

ONLINE

- www.lejeune.marines.mil/
- www.newriver.marines.mil/
- www.med.navy.mil/sites/nhcl/Pages/default.aspx

SOCIAL MEDIA



- @camp.lejeune
- @mcasnewriver
- @NMCCLejeune



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MORE INFO

For additional guidance on COVID-19, please visit www.coronavirus.gov



Onslow County announces limited beach reopenings



BY PAT GRUNER
Managing Editor

North Carolina Executive Order 138 encourages parks and trails to be open, and for citizens to be

outdoors while maintaining proper social distancing. On May 8, Onslow County officials reopened two parking lots and beach accesses at North Topsail Beach. Beach access one at

1795 New River Inlet Road and Beach Access two at 2950 Island Drive will be now open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week. The county also has no plans to change the free

parking policy at the now reopened lots. "We encourage citizens to make use of the beach for exercise, while strictly maintaining social distancing and all CDC recom-

mended precautions," said Chad Ray, Onslow County media and communications specialist, in a press release May 7. The Citizens' Phone Bank remains open from

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at (910)-989-5027. for Onslow County residents who have questions about the impact of COVID-19 in Onslow County.

OCS

ONSLOW
COUNTY
SCHOOLS



UPDATES

OCS to hold VIRTUAL graduation ceremonies

COURTESY STORY

As a district, Onslow County Schools will be moving forward with a two-part plan to honor the Class of 2020.

The first part of the plan includes a virtual portion which will give each student a chance to be recognized, and honor the school's valedictorian, salutatorian and others who would normally participate in a live graduation event. These ceremonies will be recorded and broadcast on the district's YouTube channels at the time the original ceremo-

ny would have occurred. Families will be able to join in a shared graduation experience and loved ones who are not able to be here due to travel restrictions, health concerns, or military deployment will be able to view the graduation ceremony.

For the second part of the plan, principals at each of our high schools will be working with their staff on school-based graduation celebrations for the Class of 2020. These events are still in the planning stages but will allow our graduates the opportunity to receive

their diplomas and other graduation recognitions.

"Proms, athletic banquets, academic recognition ceremonies, arts performances and athletic tournaments are among the many events which are important to all who are a part of our school community," said Barry Collins, OCS superintendent. "They mark transitions from one grade to another, from one school to another and from one stage of life to another. This year, social distancing requirements and limitations on the size of gatherings mean these

types of events will not be possible. We appreciate the continued support and understanding of our community as we look forward to honoring the Class of 2020, bringing the current school year to a successful conclusion, and taking steps to prepare for 2020-2021."

School-based graduation celebrations will involve coordination with staff, students, family, and community to ensure they follow appropriate social distancing guidelines and adhere to limitations on the size of gatherings in place at the time.

Online Kindergarten registration available for Onslow students

COURTESY STORY

Beginning May 11, parents in Onslow County will have the opportunity to complete kindergarten registration online. OCS is working with Scribbles Software to offer the ScribEnroll online enrollment solution. The addition of the ScribEnroll platform allows parents to conveniently complete kindergarten enrollment and schools can more easily manage processes and documentation while tracking and reporting on trends in real time.

The registration site will be housed on the OCS district website at www.onslow.k12.nc.us and any child domiciled in Onslow County who will reach age five on or before August 31, 2020 is eligible for kindergarten.

As part of the kindergarten registration



process, parents will need to submit digital copies (scans or pictures) of the following with their registration:

- proof of birth date (birth certificate)
 - proof of domicile such as a current (within 30 days) electric or water bill showing the parent/guardian name and address
 - copy of the parent/guardian photo ID
- Immunization records and the North Carolina Health Assessment will be required prior to the student's first day but may also be uploaded with the enrollment packet.

Supplemental instruction for OCS students begins June 1

COURTESY STORY

OCS will continue to provide remote learning opportunities through June 9th, the end of the school year. However, remote instruction will transition from core instruction to supplemental instruction beginning June 1, 2020. Supplemental instruction includes extension, enrichment, review, and/or remediation activities which allow students to continue learning independently of a district-issued

device. Supplemental instruction and activities will be provided for all students and be posted on each school's website by May 27. Printed copies will be made available upon parent request.

In response to changes necessitated by the continued school closures, OCS Superintendent Dr. Barry Collins said, You can find the most current OCS COVID-19-related information at www.onslow.k12.nc.us/covid19.

16 area schools among those honored with Purple Star Award Designation

COURTESY STORY

North Carolina is home to a large population of active duty, guard, reserve and veteran armed services members, and the state's public schools reflect that. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has launched the Purple Star Award Designation initiative this school year to recognize the state's strong military presence and its support for military families. The Purple Star designation is awarded to schools that demonstrate military-friendly practices and a commitment to military students and families. Schools in ten districts

and four charter schools across the state have earned the Purple Star recognition for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, Mark Johnson, North Carolina state superintendent, is honoring Harnett County Schools with the Superintendent's Purple Star District Award for having all of its schools qualify for the designation.

Schools across the state applied for the special designation, and schools deemed as Purple Star Schools are those that completed several required activities, plus an optional activity, aimed at ensuring strong support for students of military families. Schools

earning the Purple Star Award were required to have a staff member as a designated point of contact for military students and families, a designated central administration staff member supporting the point of contact in the school and also the provision of annual professional development addressing special considerations for military students and families.

For the optional activities, awarded schools selected from one of five activities, with many of the schools opting for more than one. These include a school-hosted annual military recognition event, such as Veteran's

Day, Memorial Day and a nomination of a student for the Military Child of the Year program. Schools may also have conducted a support project connecting the school with the military community, such as adopt-a-school, letters/care package collections for troops or a school video or slide show of pictures to highlight certain aspects of the school facility on its website as a way to help orient new students transitioning to the area.

Among the schools honored with the distinction, two are in Carteret County, four are in Pender County and eight are Onslow County schools.



ONSLOW
Carolina Forest International Elementary
Dixon Elementary
Jacksonville Commons Elementary
Meadow View Elementary
Northwoods Elementary
Richlands High
Sand Ridge Elementary
Southwest Elementary

CARTERET
Broad Creek Middle
White Oak Elementary

PENDER
North Topsail Elementary
North Topsail Middle
Topsail High
Topsail Elementary

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