

THURSDAY January 31, 2008

> Volume 70 **Edition 5**

ish signs budget gislation into law sident George W. sh signed the longayed and sometimestentious fiscal 2008 tional Defense thorization Act into Monday. Senate passed a 96 billion 2008 defense thorization bill Jan. 22. ncludes a 3.5 percent litary pay raise and visions to improve alth care and benefits wounded troops and erans. oday, I have signed o law H.R. 4986, National Defense thorization Act for al Year 2008," Bush id in a statement eased by the White use. "The act thorizes funding for edefense of the United road, for military nstruction, and for tional security-related ergy programs."
ie fiscal 2008 defense dget has been laden th challenges, from ingress' inclusion of n-defense-related rmarks to its insertion controversial language garding Iraq, Bush nounced Dec. 28 that wouldn't sign the bill til it was revised. stead, the president gned an executive order thorizing a 3 percent ilitary pay raise. The nount was 0.5 percent wer than the 3.5 percent te provided for in the thorization act, but ok effect Jan. 1. l pays and incentives cluded in the thorization act will be troactive to Jan. 1, a fense official said. hite House Press cretary Dana Perino ld reporters Monday. ush was gratified that ongress moved forward ith the budget bill. he bill became law just week before the next adget cycle begins as ush sends his fiscal 2009 equest to Capitol Hill. nat budget proposal, long with a requested 70 billion in emergency ar spending, is expected be delivered to longress Feb. 4. entagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told eporters the president lans to ask for \$70 illion to fund the global var on terror, including perations in Iraq and Ifghanistan, for the first

ndex

onths of fiscal 2009.

And

Lejeune Sports	IB
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22nd MEU completes final deployment hurdle | 7A

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Bush urges programs to

benefit military families

President George W. Bush delivers his State of the Union Address Monday at the U.S.

MV-22 Osprey Brings new capabilities to the Sandbox I 4A



WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush called on Congress Jan. 28 to recontributions service members and their families make every day through better services and laws that let them share unused education benefits and

preference for federal jobs. Addressing both houses of Congress during his seventh annual State of the Union address, the President also urged passage of Dole-Shalala Commission recommendations to ensure wounded warriors receive the services they deserve.

give military spouses hiring

The President acknowledged the great sacrifices military families make as their loved ones serve, and announced new proposals to show appreciation.

"Our military families also sacrifice for America. They endure sleepless nights and the daily struggle of providing for children while a loved one is serving far from home," Bush said. "We have a responsibility to provide for them. So I ask you to join me in expanding their access to child care, creating new hiring preferences for military spouses across the federal government, and allowing our troops to transfer their unused education benefits to their spouses or children."

Bush urged Congress

to approve legislation that allows service members to transfer unused Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to their spouses and children: The G.I. Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans for college, technical or vocational courses and other job training. Currently, the Army is the only service that allows its members to transfer those benefits to their children.

The President said he wants all veterans to be able to transfer benefits they have earned to their spouses and children.

Bush also asked Congress to pass a bill creating new hiring preferences across the federal government for military spouses. Under current law, only veterans themselves are entitled to preferences over others in competitive hiring for federal government jobs.

"Our military families serve our nation, they inspire our nation, and tonight our nation honors them," he

The United States owes that same honor to its veterans, Bush said, particularly those wounded in the war on terror.

He urged Congress to enact reforms recommended by the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded

See BENEFIT, I IA

SMMC: 'Baby NCOs' story an insult to junior Marines

Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent Headquarters Marine Corps Media

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

"I am an NCO dedicated to training new Marines and influencing the old. I am forever conscious of each Marine under my charge, and by example will inspire him to the highest standards possible. I will strive to be patient, understanding, just, and firm. I will commend the deserving and encourage the wayward.

I will never forget that I am responsible to my Commanding Officer for the morale, discipline, and efficiency of my men. Their performance will reflect an image of me."

(Noncommissioned Officers Creed, Headquarters Marine Corps Promotions Branch) words "baby NCO" could be used to ac-

I can remember the day I got promoted to NCO like it was yesterday. Pinning on that extra stripe didn't just mean extra pay or privileges, it meant I'd achieved a rank that is not taken lightly and is highly respected by all throughout the Marine Corps. That promotion will always be one of the proudest moments in my career.

I have no doubt that getting promoted to NCO is as momentous an occasion for junior Marines nowadays as it was for me back when I got promoted. It was for that reason alone that I felt just as insulted as all of the NCOs around the Corps when I read the "Baby NCOs" story in the Marine Corps Times a couple months ago.

Regardless of the story subject, there will never be a time and a place that the

curately describe junior Marines -

Getting promoted to any rank in the Marine Corps is an accomplishment and to insinuate that the Corps' new batch of NCOs is going to be any less deserving than their predecessors is absurd. If anything, Marines of this day and age are just as combat hardened and have as

great a responsibility as their predecessors. Undeniably the Marine Corps Times supported its story with a memo from the Center for Naval Analyses, but even the analysis

didn't show the reader the complete Marine. About half of the Marine Corps is made up of Marines in the ranks of private through corporal; nearly 70,000 Marines are ages 21 and

See JUNIOR, I IA

Col. Flatau accepts command of Lejeune

Heather Owens

Before the change of command ceremony Monday, wherein base commanding officer Col. Adele E. Hodges relinquished her position as commanding officer of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune to Col. Richard P. Flatau Jr., Chaplain Cmdr, Richard E prayed, "This is an emotional day. Give us strength to accomplish what we must do."

With all of the pomp and circumstance inherent to a Marine Corps ceremony, the torch of leadership was passed from one officer to another. Despite the military bearing of all involved, moments of pure emotion did indeed show through.

Maj. Gen. Robert C. Dickerson Jr., commanding general of Marine Corps Installations East, and the reviewing officer for the ceremony, joked, "This is a great day. Though Adele is not smiling much. She was much happier in my office this morning.

As she confirmed in her remarks, Hodges admitted, "This is the moment that I have been avoiding like the plague," adding later, "As I've told many people, this is the best tour of my entire Marine Corps ca-

The 2nd Marine Band, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer Mikel G. Laird, played traditional music, and Marines from Headquarters and Support Battalion stood in formation, during the packed ceremony at Goettge Memorial Field House.

After passing the command colors to

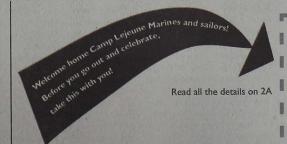


Col. Richard P. Flatau Jr. addresses the audience at the Marine See FLATAU, I IA Corps Base change of command Monday. Patrick Fleishman

Intramural basketball

Marine Corps Combat Service Support School remains unbeaten in intramural tion. Read about the team's latest victory on IB.





Arrive Alive Program



Cab Driver - please deliver this Marine/sailor to the OOD at Bldg. 60 MCB Camp Lejeune for payment of fare. Please provide receipt OOD Phone No: 910-451-3382

What do you like best about Camp Leieune and why?



"The people. The graciousness and hospitality that everyone has shown me has been such a great help.'

Col. Richard Flatau Jr. Commanding officer of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Burke, Va.

"The O'Club because they have great food. I try to eat there at least once a month







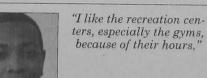
"I'd say the real estate that surrounds it. There are just so many opportunities out there.

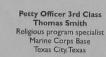
> Sgt.Vina Lee Traffic management specialist Marine Corps Base Detroit, Mich.

"The camaraderie that I have with the troops. It keeps me fired up, being able to reminisce with them.'









Work safe, Stay safe Semper Safe

Because it's deadly, that's why! There are approximately three million workers in the United States today that face extreme risks from uncontrolled energy when servicing machines and equipment. Typical non-lethal injuries include fractures, lacerations, contusions, amputations, puncture wounds, electric shock and falls. The average lost time for injuries runs approximately 24 days! The Occupational Safety and Health Administration estimates approximately 120 fatalities and approximately 28,000 serious and 32,000 minor injuries each year could be prevented if an Lockout/Tagout Energy Control Program was implemented and proper lockout/tagout procedures at job sites were followed

and enforced. The United States Marine Corps' written policy and procedures are clearly defined in Navy Marine Corps Directory 5100.8, chapter 12 and also in the OSHA standard 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.147. Marine Corps personnel, including civilian government employees who could be exposed to hazardous energy sources, shall be instructed in the safety significance of the lockout or tagout procedures. Review the following information to ensure your area of concern is in com-

Personnel authorized to perform lockout or tagout shall receive training commensurate with their responsibilities and requirements of 29 CFR 1910.147 and 29 CFR 1910.333.

Each new or transferred person whose work operations are or may be affected shall be instructed in the purpose and use of lockout/tagout procedures as required by 29 CFR 1910.147.

All equipment and machinery shall be locked out or tagged out to protect against accidental or inadvertent start-up, or operation that may cause injury to personnel performing maintenance, service, repair, or modifications to machinery or equip-

Ensure specific lockout/tagout energy control procedures are developed and maintained for all systems and equipment under their cognizance. NAVMC 11403, lockout/tagout checklist shall be used for this purpose.

Designate in writing a lockout/tagout coordinator(s) who is delegated responsibility and authority for controlling and administering the lockout/tagout program for their unit. Send a copy of this letter to the Installation Safety Manager or Unit Safety Officer.

Specific written procedures shall establish the minimum requirements for lockout or tagout of energy isolating devices. Note a specific Standard Operating Procedures for control of hazardous energy sources must be developed at the shop level for each piece of equipment or machinery before maintenance

The ISM or USO shall cor duct a periodic evaluation to de termine the effectiveness of th entire program at least annu ally. Any deficiencies shall b documented and corrected. Us the NAVMC 11402, lockout/ta gout program evaluation form for this evaluation.

Instructors qualified by th ISM or USO will conduct train ing and prepare a record certify ing that employee training ha been accomplished. Retrainin shall be conducted wheneve there is a change in job assigr. ment, machine, equipment, o process that presents a nev hazard or whenever the annua evaluation or other reason in dicates there may be inadequa

Commanders and Supervi sors: You are responsible fo the safety of your personnel. I is your duty to ensure that a via ble lockout/tagout program is i1 place and in use when required To assist you in your duties, a "Leaders Guide" is provided for your use as a tool to guide you in the right direction. The "Lead ers Guide" is available on the Camp Lejeune, Safety Division "Workplace Safety Information System" Web site at https://in tranet.mcieast.usmc.mil/C12/ Workplace%20Safety%20Infor mation%20S/default.aspx.

For more information contact your Unit Safety Officer or Base Safety Representative.

As Marines, sailors and civi servants we live by our ethos So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, sailors, civil ian employees or family mem bers, and remember SEMPER SAFE!

Sempertoons by Gunny Wolf Before

"Before I show you what came out of the Tasker Meeting Remember I'm just the messenger!"



Report Crime

Call Crime Stoppers 24-hour hotline 938-3273 Caller never reveals his/her identity, pays cash rewards up to 2,500 (information must lead to arrest or apprehension.

Arrive Alive Program saves lives

Cpl. Patrick Fleishman MCB Public Affairs

In a Department of Defense worldwide survey taken every two years, the Marine Corps leads all military services in alcohol

Combating this sue Marine Corps Base's Headquarters and Support Battalion provides Arrive Alive cards to all of its

Marines and sailors and is offering it as an option to any service member who needs safe transportation to Camp Lejeune.

The program provides a card that lists cab companies that will take the Marine back to base where the Officer of the Day at Bldg 60 will provide payment of the fare from a

"It's about a young guy

Call the OOD at 451-3382 for a list of cab companies.

Personnel using this service will repay the OOD for the total cost associated no later than three (3) days after use.

This card can be used by ANY service member aboard Camp Lejeune!

having an option after consuming alcohol, running out of money or having their designated driver becomes the 'least drunk driver' to get back to the base safely," said Col. David R. Leppelmeier, commanding officer of the bat-

The fund of \$160, enough money for a cab ride back from Wilmington or Moorehead City, was created from donations from staff non-commissioned officers and officers.

However, this is not a handout, said Leppelmeier. Marines are expected to pay back the OOD no later than three days after use.

There are no consequences for use of the program if you are 21 years or older, he said. "We had two Marines use it...came back

the next day, and paid the OOD back with out any re-

percussions." Underage drinking is punishable by the Uniform Code of Military Justice and will be prosecuted accordingly, said Leppelmeier. But if a Marine younger than 21 drank, "he already made one bad and discipline-requiring decision [by underage drinking] that night, but if he uses the card it will save him a possibly fatal second bad decision by getting behind the wheel

of a car. If you don't have an Arrive Alive card cut the one from the front page, and put it in your wallet or stop by building 59 and pick one up, it could not only save your career - it could save your life.

Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune Col. Adele E. Hodges

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Safe Marines, sailors play airsoft hard

pl. R. Drew Hendricks

ng is performed.

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A SASE, CAMP H.m.

SMITH, Hawaii — "I need for fire on that tower fire on that tower fire on yells out to ogram at least anni 10w," a Marine yells out to deficiencies shell y deficiencies shall be de and corrected it. ed and corrected list is team members. MC 11402, lopkonta ut for the sniper! Get wet down," Too late, MC 11402, lookouth, but for the smper lown, get down." Too late, ram evaluation to the smper lown, get down." Too late, the smper lown, get down." ram evaluation for he Marine takes a hit right he market had been a hit right he was a hit right had been a hit right ha ors qualified by the his would most likely be of qualified by the his would most likely because a record as the pare a record as the pare of the field. mployee training ha

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or other reason in re may be inadequa-Unlike paintball, this apidly-growing sport uses ders and Superior vi-4's with M-203 grenade are responsible for f your personnel. It aunchers, to the M-249 to ensure that a viasquad automatic weapon.

Marines and sales agout program is in J.S. Marine Corps Forces, Marines and sailors from use when required Pacific have taken to this ou in your duties, a port like ducks to wauide" is provided for a tool to guide youin : alled Double Tap. er, forming an "elite" unit rection. The "Lead.

is available on the here started the unit. These Three corpsmen stationed ne, Safety Division hree, who go by their call Safety Information signs, Los Gatos, El Jefé b site at https://in. and Smooth Operator, have ist.usmc.mil/C12/ spread airsoft fever through-20Safety%20Infor. out the command.

"The corpsmen got me nformation contac fety Officer or Base showed me their weapons. nooked when they first They were so realistic I had es, sailors and civil o try it out," said a Marine live by our ethos. who goes by the call sign El ore you jeopardize Diablo. "I went out and got of yourself, your my own weapon and now nes, sailors, civil ny Marines and buddies s or family mem rom my former unit are nember SEMPER getting involved as well." The unit's founders have



A member of Double Tap low crawls through tall grass in order to sneak up and secure a enemy tower during an airsoft competition held here Jan. 21. Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

been involved in the sport for more than six months. In a short amount of time. they built up their arsenal and became highly competitive in the Hawaii airsoft community.

"We were playing so much, we decided to form a unit," said Los Gatos. "A few of us have been in real combat so it goes hand-inhand with our jobs and previous experiences."

For these service members, airsoft is not just a fun thing to do on the weekends.

You can apply military training in a highly-competitive and exciting sport," said Smooth Operator, "The challenge of having a target, an objective and using basic skills to achieve them makes this sport very appealing."

"It's good times for us because a lot of us came from grunt units and we don't get to do much of that training anymore," Los Gatos added.

According to the members of Double Tap, their combined military experience gives them an edge over their competition.

"Some of the guys we play against have been playing these kind of sports for 20 years. They try to use paintball tactics that don't work in this game," Los Gatos said. "We take the advantage by using basic war-

fighting tactics to bring the fight to them. We dominate lot of the other teams."

The sport is fairly popular in Hawaii, with ranges all across the island. Some of the more popular ones are in Barbers Point, Kuoloa Ranch and Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Japan dominates the airsoft market. Hawaii's close proximity to Japan makes it easier to get more and better equipment here than on the mainland, according to Los Gatos.

Airsoft weapons are powered by batteries and compressed air, and shoot small plastic pellets. Some of the more powerful weaphave a muzzle velocity of 700 feet per second. An M16A2 assault has a muzzle velocity of 3,050 fps.

"Even though the rounds are small they are fired at an fps that is hundreds faster than paint ball," said Los Gatos. "They hurt and leave welts, but cause no serious damage."

The sport has several advantages over paintball, according to Los Gatos and Smooth Operator. But there is one aspect of paintball they wish could be implemented into air-

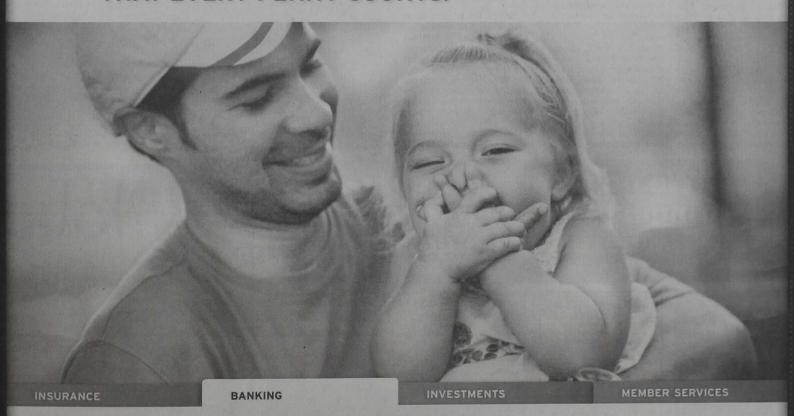
"The only downfall the sport has is, unlike paint-

ons, like sniper rifles, can ball, you have to use the honor system," El Diablo said. "If your opponent won't go down, you just keep shooting him until he

The sport has a lot to offer military members, according to Double Tap. Besides combat training, physical conditioning and good, old-fashion fun, it can help keep Marines out of trouble.

"A lot of Marines waste a lot of money and time on dumb stuff, like getting wasted on the weekends, El Diablo said. "This sport is a much healthier and better way to spend your time and money.





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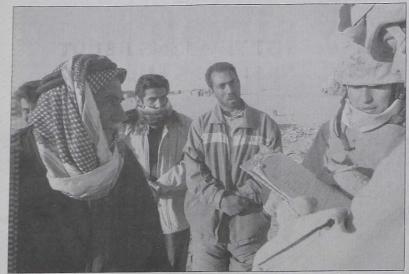
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The Marines of Marine Wing Security Battalion 372 gather information from residents of the Sahl Hawran during a census, Dec. 27. Marines gathered demographic information including each resident's physical characteristics, the location of their homes and family

MWSB 372 performs census for Iraqi village

Cpl. Ryan Jackson 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

AL ASAD, Iraq — The Marines of Marine Wing Security Battalion 372 have more to look out for than themselves and each other; the local Iraqis are relying on them to watch their backs, too. They help support one local Iraqi village by patrolling through also to ensure they have the means for survival.

The Marines of Company A of '372 conducted "Operation Abacus," a census in the local Iraqi village of Sahl Hawran, to better understand the makeup of the males identification cards,

Sahl Hawran is a village near Al Asad with four tribes made up of approximately 300 people.

The village, which is made up mostly of children and people under the age of 17, relies on the town of Baghdadi for most of its support. MWSB-372 interacts with the locals of Sahl Hawran frequently to help them frequently to help them with any issues they might be having, from medical support to school supplies. Their goal is to determine if the Iraqis need support from the Marines or if they have issues that must be addressed with the Iraqi government. The Marines of '372 are moving away from providing them with

their necessities and encouraging them to be more

government. With this mission, we are going up there to get an idea how many women and children live there," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Aaron Johnson, MWSB-372's intelligence officer. "Most of our missions focus on the males so we don't have a good idea of how many women and children there are and who is married."

The other goal of the mission was to enroll as many citizens in the Biometric Automated Toolset system as possible to get them identification cards, which will grant them access to other villages in the area. The BAT system documents personal demographic data on individuals and captures biometric information for positive identification use, such as photos, fingerprints and iris scans.

"The residents have found it difficult to access certain areas such as main supply routes on their way to Baghdadi, which is controlled by other military units," said Sgt. Robin Moore, a BAT operator and badging non commissioned officer in charge for MWSB-372. "This military unit has mobile handheld devices, which can view the profile of those en-rolled, making access to Baghdadi for employment and purchasing life sus-

taining items possible."
The people of Sahl Hawran rely on the town of Bagdhadi for their fuel and food rations. Since security has gotten tighter in Iraqi cities and villages, the people of Sahl Hawran no longer have access without identification. So, the Marines of '372 ensured they would receive identification badges to have access to the town and the resources within.

"It's important for them get into Bagdhadi so they can address issues with their local government like freshwater and fuel needs as well as pow-er support," said Johnson,

Approximately 60 people were enrolled in the BAT system. After the initial information was documented and recorded, 372 returned to pass out their

Johnson believes keeping a trusting relationship with the villagers will ensure the safety of the residents of Sahl Hawran and the service members on Al

Asad.
"We have a very good rapport with these people," said Johnson. "When we first went to Sahl Hawran it was more of a neutral environment. We've been building a relationship with these people though; we patrol in that area a lot and interact with them. Now, we've established a very positive relationship with these people."

MV-22 'Osprey' brings new capabilities to the sandbox

II MAW (FWD) PAO 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

AL ASAD, Iraq The Marines of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 arrived at Al Asad to support air operations in the Al Anbar province on Oct. 4, 2007.

The 'Thunder Chickens' took over the entire range of combat medium lift assault support missions in support of Multi-National Forces - West from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 to include battlefield circulation, raid and Aeroscout operations, helicopter/tiltrotor governance, Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel alert and casualty evacuation alert, flying everywhere within MNF-West throughout the battlefield from Baghdad to Al Qaim providing an operational capability over distance and time has effectively collapsed the battlespace. The squadron has completed more than 2,000

ASRs in the first 3 months of the deployment, keeping approximately 8,000 personnel off dangerous roadways and accruing approximately 2,000 flight hours. They have accomplished every mission and met every schedule while maintaining an average mission capable availability rate of 68.1%.

The New River based MV-22 squadron has experienced a higher operational tempo while deployed, with the squadron completing missions and accumulating flight hours at a sustained rate well in excess of anything they've done before.

"The area of operations has, in a number of ways, highlighted the performance of the aircraft," said Lt. Col. Paul Rock VMM-263's commanding officer. "Our area of operations is large and the aircraft's speed and range has been much appreciated by many of the folks the squadron has supported. In addition, the precision navigation and situational awareness systems in the aircraft have enhanced our ability to perform such tasks as desert landings in brownout conditions.

In brown out conditions, the MV-22's unique hover coupled capability significantly increases the safety of troops in the execution of combat missions enabling the Ground Combat Element to be safely and precisely inserted on the desired combat coordinates. No other helicopter or aircraft in the inventory has this unique operational capability and safety enhancement. It reduces and mitigates risk while significantly increasing both Ground Combat Element



Cpl. Victor Fernandez, an avionics technician with Ma rine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263, checks electrical wiring on a nacelle, Jan. 13. Fernandez troubleshoots power supply issues as part of the aircrafts daily maintenance. Cpl. Ryan Jackson

and aircraft survivability.

Cpl. Bob Cowan, a crew chief with VMM-263, believes the aircraft has performed better than expected. The normal wear and tear of the desert hasn't been as harsh on the bird as originally expected.

"The aircraft has performed better than expected," said Cpl. Daniel Stratman, a '263 crew chief. "We haven't had to replace any major parts like prop boxes or anything; the main problem out here is getting the parts for this aircraft. We can fix just about anything, the only thing that slows us down is getting the parts."

As a new aircraft, the supporting logistics system is new and this deployment provides valuable maintenance and logistics lessons learned that will enhance support of the aircraft in the

The squadron, which was the Marine Corps' first Tiltrotor squadron, has been training for this deployment since they stood up in March of 2006. Aside from the normal pre-deployment and Desert Talon training, the unit has completed two deployment-for-training operations to practice landings in brown out conditions and they also completed training with infantry Marines practicing inserting troops during raids and other ground

We had some snags at the beginning, but we've learned from our mistakes, said Cowan, a Cookeville, Tenn. native. 'We've done the training back in the rear, but performing the missions out

See OSPREY, 11A

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LEARN THE ANGIENT At the uso Monday Night Starting February 4th. Beginners Class is from 6:00 to 7:20 PM. Intermediate Class will be from 7:30 to 8:50 PM. The last day to join us will be February 11th. The cost is \$35.00 for 8 weeks. EST DANGING

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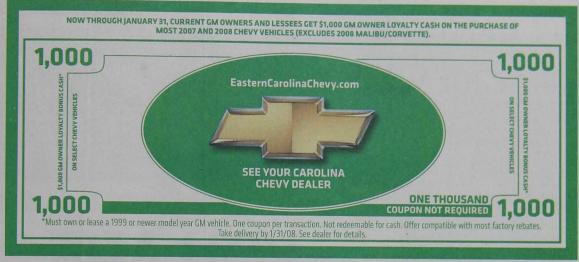
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Gargoyles make FOB Mudaysis feel like home for Task Force Hammer

Sgt. Zachary Dyer 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD)

AL ASAD, Iraq — It has been said that Marines can do more with less. If need be, they can take what little they have and accomplish great things.

That is exactly what a small group of "Gargoyles" from Marine Wing Support Squadron 473 did when they took charge of Forward Operating Base Mudaysis in Southwestern Iraq in support of Task Force Hammer as they provided security for pilgrims during the Hajj.

"Ultimately our mission here is to provide Task Force Hammer with a safe and relatively comfortable place to come back to after they conduct their missions," said Maj. John Giese, the FOB commander with MWSS-473 "It's a base of operations so they can plan, refit and then head off to their next mission."

When the Gargoyles arrived, the FOB consisted of old Iraqi bunkers surrounded by an earthen berm. The "Gargoyles" immediately set out to improve what they had, and build what they needed, according to Giese.

"When we came, it was a pretty austere location," explained Giese, a Long Beach, Calif., native. "The only thing that existed at the time was the outer perimeter berms that you see, and these bunkers. Some of the things that we did immediately upon getting here was to stand up communications, putting in all the utilities to make sure we could run power to the camp, putting in all of the billeting, putting in the shower and laundry services, and upgrade all the perimeter security positions.

The Marines of MWSS-473 have a myriad of responsibilities aboard Mudaysis, and they are all essential to support the Marines of Task Force Hammer.

"Our responsibility is to provide life support and basic logistical support to Task Force Hammer and the other organizations that are supporting the Iraqi army during the Hajj," said Giese. "With that said, we have supported upwards of 950 personnel on the FOB with basic life support, to include billeting and hot meals for breakfast and dinner."

"Everything that we do here is what we refer to as aviation ground support, or AGS," added Giese. "We do it at Al Asad, however, we can pick up and go on the road and set up an expeditionary camp anywhere to support both ground and aviation units."

One of the biggest services, and the favorite of most Marines on the FOB, are the hot meals that the Gargoyles serve for breakfast and dinner at Chesty's, the dining facility at Mudaysis. Chesty's serves approximately 1,400 hot meals each day, according to Gunnery Sgt. Rodrigo Marquez, the mess hall chief with the "Gargoyles."

"Things have gone pretty well," said Marquez, a Fresno, Calif., native. "From the first meal we've tried to maintain the standards and keep the bar high. We haven't dropped behind yet. We want to leave here with the impression that the first meal was as good as the last."

The airfield at Mudaysis can handle any aircraft from something as large as a Marine KC-130 Hercules that brings cargo in, all the way down to the AH-1W Super Cobras and UH-1N Hueys that provide close air support to the Marines of the task force. The Marines attached

to MWSS-473 provide air traffic control for the airfield and are responsible for taking care of the runway.

Convoys carrying personnel, cargo and equipment regularly come through the FOB. The "Gargoyles" are responsible for storing and issuing all that equipment.

They also provide the fuel for all those vehicles and aircraft. With two 50,000 gallon bladders of fuel, the Marines can take care of any convoys and aircraft as well as the needs of the mechanized units that belong to Task Force Hammer.

"We at least hit 1,000 gallons a day, and that's on a slow day," said Lance Cpl. Zach Baitinger, a bulk fuels specialist with the "Gargoyles" and a Bridgeton, N.J., native. "It all depends on if we have convoys coming in, or a lot of aircraft."

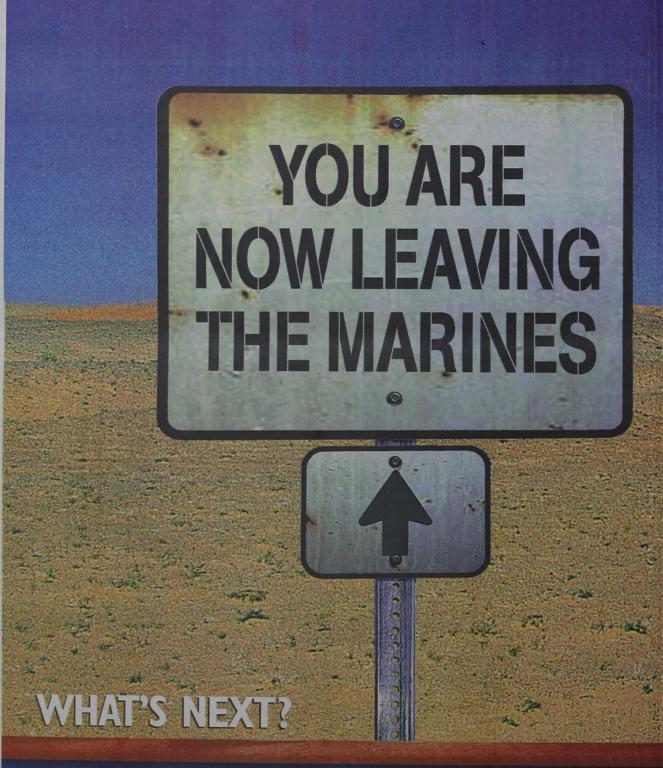
Even though the FOB is remote compared to Al Asad, the Marines of MWSS-473 have kept the morale high and enjoy tackling the problems they encounter in the desert, according to Gunnery Sgt. Merle D. Frailey, the company first sergeant for MWSS-273.

"They're doing good," said Frailey, a Kopperl, Texas, native. "A lot of them were volunteers to come out here. None of them really want to go back to Al Asad. When you're at Al Asad, I don't think you really see the impact you're contributing. But when you're out here,

you get to see every day exactly how your work is affecting the mission out here." For their part, the Marines of Task Force Hammer appreciate the efforts of the Leathernecks from MWSS-473.

"Everyone back here on the FOB has done a great job of supporting the mission," said Maj. Mark List, the Task Force Hammer commanding officer. "I couldn't say enough good things about MWSS-473's support, they have done a phenomenal job of basically making this FOB out of nothing. The only thing here were the bunkers and the sand. The day-to-day function of this camp is all on MWSS-473, and they have done a fabulous job for us."





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Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) wash equipment in Rota, Spain, Jan. 17 to ensure compliance with agricultural inspections required prior to returning to the United States.

Story and photos Cpl. Peter R. Miller 22nd Marine Expeditionary Un

USNS ROTA, Spain — With the final agricultural inspections of the USS Gunston Hall and Ponce over and done, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) Marines and sailors aboard the USS Kearsarge recently completed the final wash down and inspection of the unit's assets in Rota, Spain, Jan. 17. They filled the wash-racks here to complete the operation and in doing so, the unit marked its final hurdle before beginning the trans-Atlantic voyage home.

The unit was able to complete their final wash down and inspection in only two days due

to round-the-clock shifts and many long hours spent cleaning while still at sea. During the trip from the unit's most recent operation in Israel, Marines and sailors piled into the lower decks of Kearsarge to clean all types of gear including weapons, communications equipment, tents and containers. Prior to entering the Suez Canal, members of the Aviation Combat Element, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 261 (Reinforced), cleaned aircraft atop the ship's flight deck.

The Marines cleaned "all the equipment they had," said Sgt. Justin Bradley, asquad leader with Weapons Platoon, Company I, Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment. They cleaned and polished everything from 7-ton

trucks and humvees to potable water nanisters. "Everything that has touched foreign and

"Everything that has touched foreign soil will be cleaned," said Bradley as he supervised the cleaning of unit's many shipping containers. "We don't want to bring anything that may be foreign to the United States back, any parasites, germs, or anything of that nature that could damage our own agricultural processes."

"The wash down is pretty much the colminating event as far as the home leg is concerned," said Bradley. "It's always the last major operation before returning home."

USS Kearsarge and embarked elements of the 22nd MEU (SOC) began the voyage west Jan. 19. The unit left Camp Lejeune July 31, 2007.

A Marine with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) washes a 7-ton truck in Rota, Spain, Jan. 17. On the right: Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) move an equipment container in Rota, Spain, Jan. 17 to ensure compliance with agricultural inspections required prior to returning to the United States.







Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capalite) clean equipment prior to returning to the United States. The 22nd MEU (SOC) is finishing a scheduled sirmonth deplayment as the theater reserve force for Central Communit's area of operations.

Injured Marine's return to hospital provides hope, inspiration

Pfc. Bryan Carfrey

WASHINGTON - A former hospital patient returned Jan. 17 to give backpacks and words of encouragement in support of

wounded service members. Klay South, 31, and his Veterans of Valor organization made visits to hospital and physical therapy ooms at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Medical Center

South, accompanied by country singer John Kiger, shared war stories and presented backpacks put together through dona-tions to Veterans of Valor.

backpacks tained iPods, video games and athletic gear which included athletic pants that open on the side. The pants were especially well received.

The backpacks just phenomenal. One of the best things in there were the side opening sweatpants, because in my case I have gun shot wounds in my legs and the doctors have to continually check them," said Lt. Col. Keith Schuring.

The visits were a surprise to the patients and many weren't aware the Veterans of Valor would be stopping by.

"I was surprised by the visit and the bag. I had just gotten finished with my physical therapy and was asked to hang tight. The bags are just great, it's something that is cer-tainly needed," said Cpl. Jimmy Kinsey.

South drew upon personal experiences in designing both the bags and the trip to the wounded warriors. He spent many days in surgery and nights in thought through his time at the hospitals.

I was turning a corner in Fallujah in November of 2004 when I was shot point blank in the face with an AK-47, " said the Frank-lin, Indiana native. "Some-times I felt like there was no light at the end of the

South had between 40-50 surgeries to reconstruct his face and jaw, he said. During his own long road to recovery he realized help for wounded veterans were needed and he wanted to do something.

That had been a former patient and wounded war-rior was also well received by the recipients of the gifts. South was able to sympa-thize with the feelings the patients were experiencing and offered his advice on how to get through the re-

Avoid

delays

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"We have had visitors like Donald Rumsfeld and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. But when Sgt. South came in it was like a breath of fresh air. A Marine that has been in combat, a Marine that has started such a great program as Veterans of

Valor, it's just wonderful to see someone stepup and take charge like he has be-cause he has lived this life. He knows what it's like to be in this position," said Schuring.

Schuring was also impressed a young Marine spearheaded the organization and talked highly of

cers in the Marines. "What Sgt. South has done with Veterans of Valor speaks volumes of the NCO corps. We have the strongest NCO corps in the world - bar none," said

Schuring.
The Veterans of Valor was offiorganization

cially launched on Oct. 4, 2007 after raising \$21,000 through donations and fund-raisers. The quest for

donations never stops We are constantly looking for new ideas for fundraisers and doing ground work to get donations," said Janet South, Klay's

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slowing down with his newly founded organization

"My main goal right now is to do everything I can for Veterans of Valor," he said As long as there is a need I'm going to supply it.'

To make donations to organization visit www.veteransofvalor.org.



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sk Force 2-7, which is sed out of Fort Stewart, L, work with Iraqi police establish tactical checkints throughout the city. Cpl. Adam Johnston

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RCT-2: Reflects on hard tought successes

LEJEUNE, - After more than months of hard work tireless dedication, Marines and sailors of gimental Combat Team nave finally reached the verbial end of the tunand returned home. edless to say, the light is sfully blinding.

Their deployment, in port of Operation Iraqi edom 06-08, began on eve of Dec. 30, 2006. T-2 officially "took the ht" from RCT-7, which is ed out of Marine Corps Ground Combat Center entynine Palms, Calif., Jan. 20, 2007, during a nsfer of authority cerony at Camp Ripper, Al

ad, Iraq. The RCT-2 Headquar-'s element, approximate-368 Marines and sailors ong. The base itself is loed in the western region Al Anbar province.

Col. H. Stacy Clardy III, T-2 commanding offi-; is responsible for more an 6,000 Marines, sailand soldiers under his mmand. RCT-2's area of eration, AO Denver, enmpasses 30,000 square les and half a million ople. It's roughly the size the state of South Caro-

When I arrived here in nuary [2007], this AO is one of the most dangers places in Iraq – now it's t," Clardy said in a recent ess briefing. "If I were to aracterize our situation re in western Al Anbar, would simply say that we,

now winning. And for winning is peace."



Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, paddle toward the shore of an island on the Euphrates River during an "island hopping" operation. Cpl. Adam Johnston

happen overnight. Through the course of 2007, Iraqi Security Forces have steadily improved, inching closer and closer to self-sufficiency. AO Denver currently has 5,200 Iraqi Police, several hundred highway patrolmen and 4,200 Iraqi Army soldiers.

"The Army brigades have grown 200 percent in the last seven months," Clardy said. "The Iraqi Police have also grown by 40 percent. This growth and improvements in Iraqi Security Forces highlights the commitment by the tribes to their own future alongside coalition forces and the Iraqi government."

Such a drastic increase in ISF numbers is directly attributable to a fundamental change in mindset by the local sheiks, and therefore, tribes.

can nonestly say that the Iraqi leaders get it," Clardy said. "And by 'it,' I Success, however, doesn't mean they know the only

Staff Sgt. Thomas R. Johnson, a platoon commander with Company C, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 2, walks away from a truck the

ity is through a legitimate century." tocused the needs of the people and driven by the rule of law. They're tired of war. They their Iraqi counterparts. Nesir (Eagle Eye), Opera-

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way to peace and prosper- want to move into the 21st Six regimental-sized op-

company found, which was rigged with a detonation trigger and believed to be intended

as a vehicle borne improvised explosive device, Cbl. Ryan C. Heiser

the Marines

of RCT-2 stepped up to N.C.-based regiment's tour the plate in support of of duty: Operation Ean

tion Shura Nasir (Police Victory), Operation Harris Ba'sil (Valiant Guardian), Operation Mawtini I, II & III (My Homeland) and Operation Fajr Jadeed (New Dawn).

As a result, there's been dramatic change in the historical enemy activity of AO Denver; an overall 75 percent reduction in enemy incidents throughout the past 10 months.

"Right now, we see a ratio of 80 percent [improvised explosive device] finds and 20 percent IED attacks. Most of the caches we're finding now are old and crusty. The enemy's IEDs have gone from what we would consider military-grade ordnance, down to homemade explosives."

Formerly known as the "Wild West," the "Anbar awakening" has been wellpublicized in the media. Some see the province as a model for the rest of Iraq. The question is: Can it be replicated?

Though progress has been made on RCT-2's watch, Clardy cautions the American public against claiming victory just yet.

"Make no mistake about we are still at war, Clardy said. "Al Qaeda still exists in AO Denver, if only through their minions. These extremists are committed to their illegitimate extremist views and undermining the path to peace. They are still driven to harm Americans and Iraqis alike.

RCT-5, which is based out of Camp Pendleton, Caerations were conducted lif., will continue the fight are led by Col. Patrick J. Malay. RCT-2 returned at the end of January.

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Host Nation Training seminar informs Al Anbar's small business owners

Lance Cpl. Charles E. McKelvey, Il Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq - Host Nation Training seminars were recently held for local small business owners of Fallujah and Ramadi Jan. 9 and 22 with the goals of informing and further enabling Iraqi-owned businessmen and vendors to compete for government

Taking advantage of the newly-renovated Fallujah Business Development Center and the Ramadi Business Center, the Marine and civilian team passed valuable information through a bilingual presentation aimed to expand the small business vendor base of Al

"The course was very successful," said Maj. Christopher Madeline, contingency contracting officer, II Marine Expeditionary Force (fwd). "Part of the success was due to the eagerness of the audience to do business with the US Government. The Fallujah course was a model example, and with that success I had my fellow instructor and Host Nation Business Advisor, Haidar Hadi, conduct additional training in Ramadi."

Hadi was provided to MNF-W's Regional Contracting Office from the Joint Contracting Command- Iraq to increase awards and dollars obligated to Iraqiowned businesses in Al Anbar through educating and training.

"One of the main focuses of the course was to educate and train the Anbari businessmen on how to find solicitations that we put on the inter-

net," said Madeline. "We taught them how to register on the Web site www. rebuidling-iraq.net and where to search for solicitations, which satisfy coalition forces requirements.

Solicitations range from simple commodities and supplies to services and construction requirements valued over a million dollars. There are many requirements for every size business to submit a bid. Iraqi-owned businesses, that have been trained and educated, have an advantage of winning contracts according to Madeline. This training complements JCC-I's Iraqi First Program, where Iraqi-owned and registered companies are given every reasonable attempt to received awards.

The course also taught the businessmen what information is important and what they should include in their response when submitting bids. It also provides them with the contracting officers email address in case they have additional questions.

Although these were just the first two courses held, the numbers are already impressive. A total of 135 Sheiks and businessmen attended the courses held in Fallujah and Ramadi. Awarding contracts to small businesses will enable them to grow their business, thereby creating more jobs and stimulating the economy.

"This is something that is catching on fast," said Madeline. "There are future plans to visit other population areas of Al Anbar such as Al Qaim, Hit, Habbanivah, and Annah.'

Small office byte off huge savings

CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND QUANTICO, Va. - They might be just a handful of people, yet each year their Marine Corps Systems Command office saves the entire Corps tens of millions of dollars. Under Product Group 10 Information Systems and Infrastructure, their enterprise-wide reach has sped computer support to the front lines to keep the latest software at warfighters' fingertips.

In place since 2001, the Marine Corps Software Enterprise License Management System program is still a relatively new concept to the Marine Corps. Yet, it packs the clout of almost 300,000 individual computer licenses to provide and maintain cut-rate, up-to-date online service for military and civilian keyboarders alike.

Enterprise licensing is "a relatively simple approach, but it works," said Teresa Hardisty, MCSELMS team leader. She smiled when she compared MCSELMS' success to "buying at Costco prices instead of 7-11. People understand that by buying in bulk, you get a discount."

Quite a sizeable discount at that, dating from the program's birth in 2001. Before then, when Marines needed computer software, their work sites bought the programs in "one-sies and twosies," as Hardisty described the acquisitions at that time, such as they were.



Staff Sgt. Alfred Hickman and Sgt. Sandro Kitzmann woon a computer outside in Camp Fallujah, Iraq. Softw. that Marines now use on their government comput cost the government much less because of successful forts by the Marine Corps Software Enterprise Licer Management System. Lance Cpl. Evan Eagan

New to her office in Product one-person office serv Group 10 back then, having come from a logistics background, she received a request for a software purchase and thought others in the command might have similar requests. She sent out a command-wide message, and the response was overwhelming.

By the time the order was placed, there were 283,000 identified licenses throughout the Marine Corps for just this one set of products. Buying in bulk rather than just one or two at a time, the Corps has realized \$50 million in cost avoidance, and as new software products are added the total continues to rise. Soon after MCSELMS' inception, Hardisty was no longer a

only MCSC customers. day, she leads a team four contractors that quires computer softw and maintenance acr the Corps.

In its current form, 1 SELMS is a centrali project office providing enterprise contract vehi negotiating competit contracts and providing information and supp Web site. The team a ships software packages programs and Marine Co units that require produ updates and support vices worldwide for tact and non-tactical use.

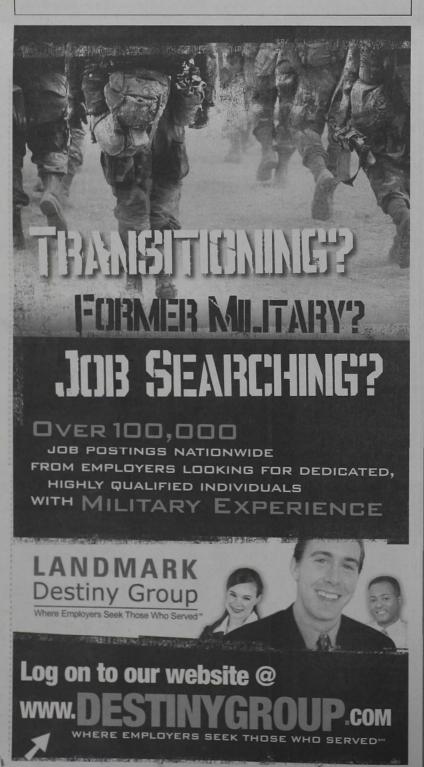
Early on in the mass quisition process, Hardi

See SAVINGS,

Retired Military Breakfast

There will be a breakfast for retired and active-duty military at the Ball Center on Camp Lejeune, Feb. 23. Social Hour begins at 7 a.m. with a breakfast at 8 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Keith J. Stalder, commanding general, Il Marine Expeditionary Force. All retirees and active duty are welcome to attend. For more information, call retired Sgt. Maj. George Meyer at 938-1610.





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ENEFIT, from IA

rriors to ensure they able to "build lives hope, promise and gnity."

The president created the nmission in March to cont a comprehensive review the services returning unded warriors receive. commission, co-chaired former Sen. Bob Dole and mer Health and Human vices Secretary Donna alala - both of whom atded tonight's address eased its findings in July. Some of the commission's ommendations have been into effect already, but ers require legislative ac-



President George W. Bush receives a standing ovation during his 2008 State of the Union address Monday at the U.S. Capitol. Joyce N. Boghosian

tion. Measures already tak- eral recovery coordinators to cuperation; en or in the works include:

· Hiring of the first fed- members through their re-

help guide wounded service

• Establishment of a pilot program establishing a single comprehensive disability exam to replace separate exams in the Defense Department and Department of Veterans Affairs;

· Creation of a new National Center of Excellence for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury in the Washington, D.C., area;

· Efforts to create a single Web portal so wounded service members and veterans can track their medical and recovery records, get information and apply for benefits and service

· Proposed regulations to update the disability schedule for traumatic brain injury and burns; and ..

· Use of special authorities to retain the best health professionals working at Walter Reed Army Medical Center until it closes.

The president said he remains committed to the well-being of America's men and women in uniform and is keeping his commitment to provide for veterans.

'America is a force for hope in the world because we are a compassionate people, and some of the most compassionate Americans are those who have stepped forward to protect us," he said. "We must keep faith with all who have risked life and limb so that we might live in freedom and peace.

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Sandro Kitzmann w

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below. It's these young, junior Marines - through the mentorship of the Corps' great staff noncommissioned fficers - who will be carving out the future of the Marine Corps for all to follow.

As the senior enlisted Marine in the Corps, I have witnessed the great things the Corps' small-unit leaders are doing both on and off the battlefield. I have seen Marine NCOs serving in combat in billets

one, two, even three ranks higher than their rank dictates and in some cases, officer billets. I've witnessed junior Marines barely old enough to vote and definitely not old enough to drink, make splitsecond decisions on the battlefield that saved the lives of many of their fellow Marines.

I've read countless award summaries describing heroic acts by Marines wearing the very rank the Marine Corps Times insulted.

I've seen severely wounded

Marines more concerned with not letting their fellow Marines down by leaving the battlefield, than they were with receiving life-saving medical treatment. I've visited numerous hospitals where Marine NCOs struggled to rehabilitate themselves in order to simply walk 10 feet after surviving an IED blast in Iraq.

And sadly enough, I've said a silent prayer for the more than 300 Marine NCOs who have given their lives during Opera-

tions Iraqi/Enduring Freedom. I'm confident that in five, 10

or 15 years, it will be Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Jason Dunham or the more than 30 junior Marines who have received either the Navy Cross or Silver Star who will grace the pages of Marine Corps history books. These are the kinds of Marines that are going to be filling the future ranks of the Marine Corps, regardless of what

some reporter wants to imply. So when I read a story that mentions anything but praise for the thousands of Marine NCOs around the globe, I feel it is my duty to speak out - it is the right thing to do. I will never sit idle and let anyone speak negatively about the Marines serving in the Corps.

The Corps is extremely proud of the Marines serving today and I'm especially proud of the junior Marines who, as I once did, strive to achieve the rank of NCO - one of the best ranks in the Marine Corps. I trust that when promoted, each new NCO will take the NCO Creed to heart and will never let the Corps down.

maintenance acr ATAU, from IA

atau, Hodges was awarded the Legion of Merit for her my accomplishments as the base commanding officer

eived under Hodges' leadership, including two Secretary the Navy Environmental Awards and the Department of fense Fire Safety Award. It also noted that Hodges had eived the Department of Defense Education Activity Inillation Commander Excellence Award for her sustained pport of the seven Domestic Dependent Elementary and

"Col. Hodges has definitely left her mark here at Camp jeune," said Elizabeth B. Thomas, assistant superinten-nt of Camp Lejeune Dependent Schools, who attended ly on in the mass; e ceremony. "People will talk about her tour here for on process, Hardia ars to come. The support and recognition that she gave Camp Lejeune Dependent Schools was phenomenal. iring these stressful times, it is even more important for r staff to know that they are making valuable contribu-ns in support of our military families."

> Flatau is the 54th commanding officer and the second onel to command Camp Lejeune. He comes to this posin from U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command, Norfolk, a., where he was formerly assistant chief of staff for the riation Logistics Command. Flatau supported Operation store Hope in Somolia while serving with the I Marine speditionary Force and also served in Operations Southn Watch and Iraqi Freedom.

kes the cake" in its presentation of official ceremonies. The Flataus have three children, a son and two

"We welcome Col. Flatau and his family," said Thom-. "It is exciting that he will have three children in our wyour time is hools. This affords him the opportunity to have first-hand x preparation nowledge about the excellent quality of our schools. I look rward to continuing the strong relationship between the

amp Lejeune, a base where he has never previously been eduction you ationed. He said that he will take some time to learn bout the functions of the base and listen to those in the mmand. "Taking command of Marines is a great, great tax return, loonor but it is especially an honor to take command of this Because a oried place," said Flatau after the ceremony. "I'm honed to be a part of Camp Lejeune and I look forward to we know you etting to know the Marines, sailors, Coast Guardsmen and civilians here."

m January 2006 to January 2008. The award citation mentioned all of the honors the base

condary Schools associated with the base.

In his first official words as commander of the Marine rps Base, Flatau said to those assembled, "Your wel-me to me has been overwhelming. My family and I are excited to be here.

Flatau's wife, Marcia, said she enjoyed attending the ange of command. "It's really touching and it's really spiring, I have to admit it. I love watching all of the cerony, pomp and circumstance.

Though she was raised in a Navy family and is herself the Navy active reserves, she said the "Marine Corps

and ask you ise and the schools." be sure that For his part, Flatau said he is pleased to command

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SAVINGS, from 10A

said "the big hitters" (major users) of the software helped build the business case for new enterprise agreements that offer benefits across the Marine Corps. Up until that time, Marines with personal computers needed separate licenses for each program they needed to use. The individual costs added up quickly, not to mention the price tag for individual maintenance contracts that had to be renewed when one specific user replaced another.

Hardisty's team works with industry experts, the Marine Corps' Chief Information Office and the Department of Navy to get the best deals and claim new licensing agreements that state, 'Unlimited within the Marine Corps."

The concept of enterprise licensing, as Hardisty explained, is based on industry best practices including the Department of Defense's Enterprise Software Initiative and focuses on reducing the total cost of ownership. Enterprise licensing offers pre-negotiated pricing for license and maintenance support, including the ability to predict out-year maintenance costs and reduce the administration management footprint.

The Marine Corps constantly upgrades its systems, and we want to keep current," Hardisty said. "We can capture the entire community and keep them upgraded at all times with maintenance support. Securing maintenance for our software upholds the value of our initial investment.'

While holding down costs and shrinking the administrative footprint, the MCSELMS program has made its own welcome mark all the way to the front lines, thanks to the team's handson and fast response.

We centrally manage the software and have the ability to ship on demand," Hardisty said. "Just last week, we earn the warfighter's trust."

a Marine called us [Jan. 23] with a software requirement for his Saturday departure to Iraq. We were able to provide the media with keys within a day. He couldn't have gone to the front that fast without MCSELMS."

The heart of the MCSELMS operation, Hardisty said, is the program's information and support Web site at https://mcselms.mcsc.usmc.mil. It acts as a catch-all for enterprise software questions or problems.

The site includes vendor-specific software descriptions, software pricing and the Marine Corps' policy concerning procurement of enterprise software offered through various contracts. Also on the Web site are order forms, ordering instructions, funding document templates and information technology procurement waiver links.

"With MCSELMS," Hardisty said, "we can always deliver the software faster to the Marines, and that's where

OSPREY, from 4A

here is different, so we've ironed out the wrinkles."

The Marines of the squadron have kept their heads held high throughout the deployment and have done well at keeping the 'Osprey' mission ready.

"Our Marines are doing great; it's incredible to watch them work," said Sgt. Maj. Robert VanOostrom, the unit's sergeant major. "The weather is get-ting worse everyday ... but they have to ensure a certain amount of aircraft are prepared to fly every day. The amount of time and energy they put in every day to make sure the aircraft fly, is incredible."

Almost every service member has heard of the new aircraft, but most Marines haven't even seen the aircraft fly, not to mention fly in it. Now, many service members are getting their first flight in the Corps faster, farther traveling and heavier lifting aircraft.

"In North Carolina you see the 'Osprey' flying every single day and it's just another aviation platform. VanOostrom. "It's ironic to see the individual Marine who gets on the airplane for the first time and sees what it can do and says 'This is the coolest thing I've ever seen.'

The 'Thunder Chickens' have transitioned from a trained squadron to an experienced combat squadron that has completed every tasking and succeeded in maintaining the deployed operations tempo. VMM-263 has flown five Aeroscout missions, one raid, more than $1,\!400$ combat sorties and maintained an average mission capable readiness rate of 68.1 percent during their current deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

Third party ticketing on or off base

Officers and staff noncommissioned officers who observe unsafe driving behavior among suspected Marines and sailors on or off base are expected to report such behavior using the following procedures:

- 1. Do not commit unsafe/unlawful acts to get a license plate or vehicle description.
- 2. Record the vehicle license plate, state, vehicle description, driver description, alleged traffic offense, time and location.
- 3. Send an e-mail requesting a complaint form to Master Sgt. Scott Coyle from your official government address. You may also use the following Web site to send in a complaint: www. lejeune.usmc.mil/mcb/3rdparty.pdf.
- 4. Provost Marshal's Office will use this information to take appropriate action.

pate in ensuring base safety.





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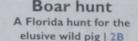
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then you

rmed Forces oxing

FEATURING

he Marines aboard amp Lejeune are cheduled to host the 008 Armed Forces Joxing Tournament Jonday, Tuesday and hursday. The ac-jon will take place at joettge Memorial Field louse, starting at 7 nm. For information, all 451-3636.

Camp Lejeune arsity soccer ryouts

lervice members who vish to tryout for the 008 Camp Lejeune arsity soccer team ust call head coach Intonio Warner at 451-1061. There will be an rganizational meeting day at 6:30 p.m. at oettge Memorial Field louse. Tryouts start

dult soccer eague

he Onslow County arks and Recreation epartment is acceptng teams for its 30nd-over 7-on-7 soccer eague. The deadline enter is Feb. 8. For nore information, call 47-5332.

CKARD

Camp Lejeune Lunning Club he Camp Lejeune unning Club invites ou to join and start etting recognized for our efforts. Sign-up at ny area fitness cener or call the fitness rogram coordinator at 51-7002.

Vomen's ntramural rograms

he Intramural and arsity Sports Office board Camp Lejeune s interested in ejuvenating women's orts programs here. ports available at the atramural and varsity vel include basketball, olf, rugby, soccer, ennis and volleyball. Active-duty Marines ind Navy commanders and personnel re encouraged to participate. For more nformation, call 451-2710.

Youth wrestling club

The Lejeune Lions Youth Wrestling Club is open to youngsters ages 6-16 with an interest in the sport of freestyle wrestling. Sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Area Gym, across from the Mainside Post Office. The program is free. For more information, call 151-3762

& more...

Baseball players sought The Coastal Carolina

ounters Baseball Federation is open to players more than 19 years of age. Teams are being formed for this new adult league all over Eastern North Carolina, including a squad, which will represent Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Players coaches are needed to fill out the team. For ore information call Christopher Smith at 52-622-4201 or e-mail gonehuntin@ec.rr.com

MCCSSS hoops stays unbeaten



Jamie Cameron

The big bangers of Marine Corps Combat Service Support School remained undefeated as they handed II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Reserve Integration Division its first loss of the Camp Lejeune intramural basketball season. "Triple S" won the game 67-58 to

improve its record to 3-0. The Jan. 24 contest took place at Goettge Memorial Field House.

From the opening jump, II MEF H-RID utilized its quickness to jump out to an early lead. Point guard Peter Wilson consistently slipped past the Triple S defense to receive long

forced by an active man-toman defense that clogged the passing lanes.

In spite of their troubles getting the ball down court, the Triple S start-ers calmly weathered the storm and found their offense form midway offense form midway through the first half.

Post players Robert Brooks and Jasper Brown passes and open lay-ups. Brooks and Jasper Brown Most of H-RID's early started to dominate the points came off turnovers offense boards, allowing

Triple S to climb back into the game. With his team down by one, Triple S head coach Michael Rubio sent in Jeremy Craig off the bench and got immediate results. Craig sank consecutive 3-pointers the first two times he touched the ball, giving Triple S a lead they would not relinquish for the rest of the

down wasn't helping us, so we decided to run with [H-RID]," explained Rubio. "They were killing us with the fast break, but we got more aggressive. When we started grabbing rebounds, they couldn't run on us."

As he watched his team give up a lead and quickly fall behind by 10 points,

See BASKETBALL, 5B

Ready for tournament season? You bet your bass

Sgt. Steven King Marine Corps Communi

Since the Mesolithic period in human history, the activity of fishing has been practiced by people of all civilizations. Seafoods were very important to the survival of societies, so basically, if the fish weren't bitin' ... neither was anyone else. It's easy to see how the fishermen, who consistently netted the largest catches, soon became very popular within the society and how this rapidly evolved into friendly competition between fishermen. You can be sure of one thing, if a competition exists with the reward of prizes nd bragging rights among peers, Marines will want to participate in it. They will have the opportunity to do so when they sign up for the 19th Annual Team Bass Tournament Series taking place at the Gottschalk Marina aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune March 8, May 10, Sept. 6, and Nov. 1.

The tournaments will begin at 6 a.m. (or safe light) and conclude at 4 p.m. Two-person teams will fish for largemouth bass on the New River and its tributaries. The average prize will be \$2,500 per tournament based on 50 boats showing up and participating. Trophies and bragging rights along with the cash prizes will be awarded for the first three places. The sponsors for this series of aquatic amusement, which include B&L One Stop Tackwhich include B&D One Stop Tack-le, Sports Trophies Plus, Andy's and Subway, will host giveaway drawings for the participants. Food and soft drinks will be provided at

'A day of fishing is better than a day at work. These tournaments



The fishing action on the New River will start in earnest March 8 with the first leg of the 19th Annual Team Bass Tournament Series aboard Camp Lejeune. Courtesy photo

are always fun for everyone and are a great way for fishermen to meet and network. I already have people coming to me anxious to sign up for the first tournament in March, so I can see already that its going to be another good season," said Cameron Brooks,

marina manager.
The Team Bass Tournament Series is open to the public. Ac-

tive-duty teams may participate through the usage of unit funds with the permission of the unit's special services officer. A \$70 fee gets your team a place in the tournament if you register in advance. The entry fee increases to \$85 if you register on the morning of the tournament, Registration for each tournament begins 30 days before the tournament,

so you can register starting Feb. for the March 8 tournament. Registration forms are available both marinas aboard Camp Lejeune and at the Marine Corps Exchange Annex in the Sporting Goods department. Registration forms are also available online at www.mccslejeune.com/marinas. For more information, call



Lejeune Outdoors

column, but you need to bear with me just this once, for I have

successfully ended a quest.

Though I've been fishing all of my life, I didn't start hunting until about seven years ago. It always appealed to me, but growing up in eastern Massachusetts in a non-hunting family made things tough. It wasn't until I was living here in North Carolina that I was able to find a mentor to guide me through

the learning process.

I started out deer hunting and gradually added on other

things like doves, turkeys and most-recently ducks. It was a trip to South Carolina back in 2004 that set me on my current course - the one to bag a wild boar.

Let's get something straight right up front — here in their North American range wild boar are merely ancestors of domestic pigs, a few generations removed. A pink, hairless piggy from the local farm will quickly revert back to its wild ways if given half the chance and its wild-born offspring will exhibit the physical characteristics we associate with wild pigs; long wiry hair, long snouts, big shoulders and narrow hindquarters. Oh yeah, don't forget the teeth; long curved incisors that extend beyond the gum line in the males. Wild pigs came over to the New World with the Spanish explorers who colonized Mexico and parts of the Gulf Coast. They have since been a constant part of the Southern landscape, most-especially in Florida and Texas, but more recently expanding their range into North Carolina and beyond.

I met my first wild pigs on that South Carolina hunting trip and, even though they were partly what we were after, I was completely flabbergasted by the small herd that roared into my little clearing in the woods and then took off without giving me an opportunity to take a shot. I bagged the biggest deer my life on the trip, but I couldn't get those hairy

black hogs out of my mind.

A few months later I received an invitation to join a group on a wild boar hunt here in North Carolina, just a few hours away where a small population of them was thriving in Johnston County. Everyone in our party of four saw or heard wild pigs on the hunt. I watched 11 little piglets march right under my stand and spend

Cameron bags his 'Moby Dick' ... sort of



After four years in pursuit of the wild boar, Jamie Cameron finally tagged his trophy. Nate Bachele

most of the afternoon munching on corn. I kept waiting

most of the afternoon munching on corn. I kept waiting for big daddy to arrive, but he never did.

The next spring, my uncle and I returned to the hunting camp in South Carolina to combine wild turkeys and hogs on the hit list. This was the first time I ever fired a shot at a hog — I missed. We ended up without a turkey or a hog after three full days in the woods.

Last winter, I organized a group of hunting buddies to go back to Johnston County. I was the only one with any wild pig experience and I was the only one to go home pig-less, and the legend continued.

Finally, a friend with Florida connections organized a hunt down near Okeechobee — the wild

boar epicenter of the continent. Less than two weeks ago, we all drove down to Tampa with permission to hunt a 3,000-acre orange grove infested with hogs.

We hunted with the local boys at night with "hog" dogs and we hunted with the landowner during the day, spotting and stalking herds of pigs as they fed on oranges. I even managed to miss a 40-yard "gimmee" shot on a nice-sized piggy standing broadside. The landowner told my 7mm short-action ultra magnum was awfully big to be missing from 40 yards. He sounded disgusted.

Finally, on our last day to hunt, we hired a guide to run us out on one of the massive cattle ranches in Southwestern Florida. There I exorcized all the demons from the last three years with a 150-yard shot on a nice 80-pound sow. She's no trophy, but she'll be great on the grill and will always be my first wild boar ... er, sow.

Cano and Yankees in close to 4-year dea

NEW YORK - Robinson Cano and the New Yo Yankees were nearing agreement Thursday on a \$ million, four-year contract, a departure from the tear stance against giving multiyear contracts to you

The 25-year-old second baseman, eligible for sala arbitration for the first time, could become a free age after the 2012 season.

He provided a spark when he joined the Yankees ea in the 2005 season and batted .297 with 14 homers a 62 RBIs, finishing second to Oakland reliever Hust

Street in voting for AL Rookie of the Year.
Cano was an All-Star the following season, when he w
third in the AL with a .342 average. He struggled ea last year — his batting average was .234 on May 17 — l wound up batting .306 with 19 homers and 97 RBIs. After making \$490,800 last season, Cano ask

\$4.55 million in arbitration and was offered \$2

Tide tables for **New River Inlet**

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

Today				
High tide	2:04 a.m.	2:10 p.m		
Low tide	8:44 a.m.	8:06 p.m		
Friday				
High tide	3:03 a.m.	3:13 p.m		
Low tide	9:47 a.m.	9:05 p.m		
Saturday				
High tide	3:59 a.m.	4:11 p.m		
Low tide	10:41 a.m.	10:01 p.m		
Sunday				
High tide	4:50 a.m.	5:01 p.m		
Low tide	11:28 a.m.	10:53 p.m		
	Monday			
High tide	5:35 a.m.	5:47 p.m		
Low tide	5:37 a.m.	5:42 p.m		
Tuesday				
High tide	6:16 a.m.	6:29 p.m		
Low tide		12:46 p.m		
Wednesday				

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All-Marine wrestling team try-outs

Friday

The deadline for applications to try-out for the All-Marine wrestling team is Friday. Trials will be held Feb. 11- March 13 aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Applications can be found online at ways were messaged. line at www.usmc-mccs.org/sports or at any Semper Fit athletics office. Poten-tial participants must have command endorsement stating the Marine will be made available to attend all events if

Women's varsity basketball tryouts
Through Feb. 26
The Camp Lejeune women's varsity basketball team is looking for new players. Anyone interested in trying out for the team should contact head coach Lee Williams at 910-330-4716 or Varsity Sports programer. Dennis Rautmann at 451-2710. The team is scheduled to conduct tryouts and practices, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6.30-8 p.m. at the Camp Geiger Fitness Center gym.

Nutritional education

Tuesday, March 4 Semper Fit Health Promotion The Semper FR Health Fromotion program includes upcoming classes on nutrition education, scheduled to take place Feb. 5 and March 4. from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Classes are free to all 1D cardholders. To register, call 451-

Team Bass Tournament Series

March 8
The first leg of Gottschalk Marina's 19th annual Team Bass Tournament Series is scheduled for March 8. Two person teams fish for largemouth bass on the New River and its tributaries. The average prize purse is \$2,500, based on 50 boat entries. Trophies and cash prizes are awarded to the top three places. Active-duty teams may participate through the use of unit funds, with permission from the unit's special services officer. For more infor-

Adult coed soccer

March-April The Carteret County Parks and ation Department's coed soccer league is open to anyone past the age of 18 interested in enjoying the game of soccer. Sportsmanship, teamwork and having fun are stressed to all participants. Games are scheduled to be held starting in March at Freedom Park. For more information, call Carteret County Parks and Recreation Athletics Supervisor Drew Short at 252-808-3749 or e-mail him at drews@carteretcounty.gov.org.

Tennis clinics

Ongoing
The Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation
Department is scheduled to sponsor several winter tennis clinics Mondays and
Fridays with Tony Pereira. For information, call 252-354-6350.

Running club

High tide

Low tide

Ongoing registration

The Camp Lejeune Running Club is free to anyone who wishes to earn a little extra credit for their exercise program. Record your training miles at any area fitness center and receive at any area tribes center and recepts a free performance t-shirt after 500 miles. Starting March 4, track workouts will be held every Tuesday, from 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. To learn more, call 451-7092 or e-mail craisno@usmc-

Mixed martial arts and combat fitness classes

Ongoing

Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit presents Brian Stann, a Marine and mixed martial arts professional fighter. Stann is instructing the new program, which combines MMA, yoga therapy and Combat Fitness to help veterans deal with combat stress. For more information, call 451-0826.

Yoga and pilates classes

Ongoing

Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department sponsors weekly yoga and pilates classes, taught by certi-fied instructors. The classes focus on basic yoga postures and exercises for students who wish to strengthen their foundational skills. Call 252-354-3424 for information.

Heroz football post-season

Heroz Sports Bar has announced its football season hours of operation. They are scheduled to be Monday - Thursday 5 p.m. - midnight, Friday 5 p.m. - 2:30 a.m., Saturday 12:45 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. and Sundays 12:45 p.m. - midnight. For more information, call 450-6468.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

1:21 p.m

6:55 a.m.

12:24 a.m.

Ongoing
Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Sports presents Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instruction, scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday nights, from 7:30-9 p.m. Classes are provided by Club Jiu-Jitsu of Jacksonville. Sessions take place in Bldg. 1742, adjacent to the Protestant Chapel on McHugh Boulgard. Bidg. 1/42, adjacent to the Protestant Chapel on McHugh Boulevard. Each training session includes 15 minutes of warm-ups and drills, 15 minutes of technique work and one hour of sparring. For more information, call 581-0077 or go online to www.clubjiujitsu.com.

Crystal Coast Canoe and Kayak Club

Ongoing
The Crystal Coast Canoe and Kayak
Club welcomes new members interested in pursuing the "quiet" water
sports. The club is scheduled to meet
the first Wednesday of every month at
7 p.m. in the Emerald Isle Community
Center. The goal of the organization Center. The goal of the organization is to bring people together in the common interest of canoing and kayaking and enjoyment of paddling sports in coastal North Carolina. For more information, go online to www.ccck.org.

Semper Fit Mobile Exercise Unit

Ongoing Call 451-0826 to reserve the Mobile Exercise Unit and its nationally certi-

Intramural lacrosse

Ongoing
Camp Lejeune's Semper Fit sports
program is seeking Marines and sailors interested in playing intramural lacrosse. Anyone interested in being a part of this first-time league should call Bob Ferst at 267-456-5258.

ankees time Pro-Bowler Michael Strahan thankful for second shot at Super Bowl

AST RUTHERFORD, New sey — After 15 seasons in NFL, Michael Strahan is nkful for second chances.

no and the New Yes missing training camp missing training camp missing training camp arture from the teast is going to get another shot r contracts to yes Super Bowl ring with the York Giants.

an, eligible for sales I think last time we went it decome a free are that we were almost hapthinking we won the Super 7 with 14 homers of his feeling before a 34-7 loss dand reliever Humber Baltimore Ravens in Jan-he Year.

ne Year.

g season, when he buttimore that the ultige. He struggled en thing is to win it," Strahan
234 on May 17—b 1. "So now I am happy, but
ers and 97 RBIs.

m not overjoyed and jumpseason Communication of the struggled entropy in the stru season, Cano all up and down and all those up as offered in grant focused on all those ng whatever we have to do to , and to be honest with you, I handling everything early.

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Inlet

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5:42 p.m

6:29 p.m 12:46 p.m

-Jitsu

Services Sem-

Brazilian Jiu-d for Tuesday

n 7:30-9 p.m. lub Jiu-Jitsu

take place in ne Protestant levard. Each

5 minutes of nutes of tech-of sparring. 581-0077 or

Canoe

llub

The first thing Strahan has done is to take care of his ticket requests for the game against the New England Patriots Sunday in Glendale, Arizona.

In an open announcement to his friends, Strahan said if his friends haven't asked him for tickets

asked him for tickets yet or help getting a room in the Phoenix area they can forget about it. He also has no intention of hanging out with friends next week.

Strahan and receiver Amani Toomer are the only Giants left on the roster from the Super Bowl seven years ago.

Both veterans have told teammates to ignore the hype, the dis-tractions and the parties, noting those are the things to be enjoyed in the years when your team doesn't play for the championship.

"Giving that up now is worth

it a million-fold if you win the game," Strahan said. "That is my message to those guys. And once it kicks off, it is just a foot-ball game. All that pressure of it being the Super Bowl — and I love when they kick it off and all

the flashing lights — but we are still the only ones that can control what happens on the field. As long as you don't let those things get to you and you are relaxed and play football, it is just a

In talking about his second chance, Strahan noted that former teammate

Tiki Barber, who retired after last season, recently sent him a text message congratulating

him on getting back. Barber had no regrets this week about calling it quits after 10 seasons.

was close to retiring, said he would have gone crazy if he had left and the Giants went to the

Super Bowl.
"If I quit, and we went to the Super Bowl and won, I'd be holding somebody hostage until I get a ring, after all these years," Strahan quipped

Strahan does have some mixed

emotions about the game.
One of his closest friends is
Patriots veteran linebacker Ju-

nior Seau, who is also seeking his first NFL championship. "I text him all the time throughout the entire playoffs and throughout the season and I see him in the offseason," Strahan said. "It is one of those things where I wish he gets a ring but at the same time I need mine. One of us will have to suffer.

The 36-year-old Strahan has had an outstanding season for someone who was thinking of re-tiring. His nine sacks were the third best on the team. He also limited opponents to an average of 97.7 yards rushing.

He has played even better in the playedls, recording 22 tark-les and a sack in three games. He also has had six quarterback hits, seven hurries and a forced

Strahan has not decided whether he will play next season. Winning a title would make the NFL's active leader in sacks (1411/2) think hard about his future

"At that point I think I would probably have everything I have ever imagined in football," he said. "I have done everything individually; this is like the ul-

timate team goal.
"To win the Super Bowl, that would definitely cap off a career. You can look at it and go, 'I can end like [John] Elway or I can end like [Jerome] Bettis," and all those things, which is every-body's dream, but to be honest with you, I don't know if this is my last year or not."

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SKETBALL, from IB

RID head coach Billy olmes drew a technical ul he intended to use to focus his squad with just ur minutes to go in the alf. The tactic worked, as RID stormed back to tie game at 34-34, thanks a timely 3-pointer from cure Servic lson before the buzzer. Unfortunately for H-

ID, the momentum they ined in the final min-es of the first half did t carry over into the sec id. Triple S opened with 10-0 run in the first 2-1/2

0 and Up

HOURS:

inutes, thanks in large int to the inside duo of rooks and Brown.

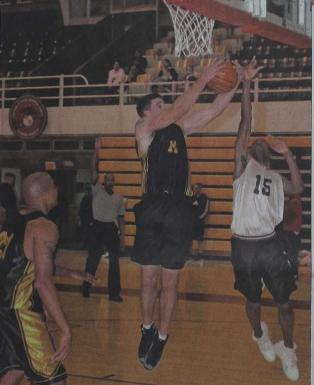
"We couldn't sustain ieir run," said Holmes the Triple S offense. nstead of playing [man-man] and pressing the ill full-court, I probably aited too long with the me defense. By the time made the change it was o late to get back in the

While Triple S saw ofnsive production from ery player on the court, RID tried to match their ponent's output with the dividual efforts of the guards — the straty did not work. Triple cruised to a comfortable cruy and Rubio now the talkon the memory. oks to keep the momen-

m going.
"At full strength, we're ry deep and have a lot of perience," he said. "We atch up well against all e other teams in the ague. I think we have a ance to go undefeated."

Mon. - Sat At right, Brian Hunter of II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Reserve In-10 AM- 7 PM tegration Division collects a ebound as Terrence Tyson of Marine Corps Combat Ser-te Support School challeng-the play. In the photo at far right, Hunter splits the deense of Robert Brooks (left) nd Jasper Brown (right). The ams went into halftime tied at 34 apiece, but MCCSSS took control of the game in the second half by streaking out in front on a 10-0 run.









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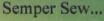


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Lejeune 'fight night' preparations continue

Tickets for Camp Lejeune's first professional-sanctioned Mixed Martial Arts fight night are heduled to go on sale Feb. 29.

Fight promoter Monica Sanford of East Coast hampions, in conjunction with Marine Corps community Services Semper Fit Special Events, preparing for the March 28 event, scheduled to the held on base at Goettge Memorial Field House. "It's really coming together now," said Sanford. The fight card is set with four professional bouts and six amateur bouts and we have a list of ceeprities who plan to attend." Almost all of the wheduled fights include active duty or former service. cheduled fights include active-duty or former sericemen. The event has been sanctioned by the Inernational Sports Combat Federation.

The VIP list already includes Miss North Caro-ina, Jessica Jacobs and Jens Pulver of Ultimate

Pulver, who holds a 22-8 MMA record, was the rst Ultimate Fighting Championship lightweight rele-holder. He currently fights as a featherweight

itle-holder. He currently fights as a featherweight with World Extreme Cagefighter.

"Our VIPs are really excited to come down and isit the Wounded Warrior Barracks the morning before the fights," said Sanford. "We are excited to bring this to the Marines who don't get a chance to to to the 'bling' of Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Holywood, but who love this sport." A portion of the proceeds from the event will be distributed among the United Services Organization of Jacksonville. he United Services Organization of Jacksonville, Younded Warrior Barracks and Ronald McDonald

General admission tickets are expected to sell or \$25. Ringside seats and access to the VIP Room will be available at \$60. To find out the latest infornation, go online to www.myspace.com/ecfights.

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Maj. Gen. Terry G Robling, the commanding general of the 3 Marine Aircraft Wing, Brig. Gen. Angela Salinas, the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Maj. Gen. Michael R. Lehnert, the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West, and Lt. Gen. Samuel T. Helland, the commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, gathered at the 3rd annual Buick Invitational Military Luncheon Jan 22. During the luncheon, members of the Century Club of San Diego and General Motors expressed gratitude to the service members. Lance Cpl. Austin Goacher

Local military recognized at Buick Invitational luncheon Lance Cpl. Austin Goacher MCAS Miramar

LA JOLLA, Calif. -

Hundreds of service members stationed throughout the San Diego area gath-ered at the Hilton Hotel here Wednesday for the Buick Invitational Military

Appreciation Luncheon.
During the luncheon,
members of the Century
Club of San Diego and General Motors expressed gratitude for the protection

service members provide.
"The entire General Motors family is proud to be able to host an event like this," said Larry Peck, the marketing manager for the Buick motor division of GM. "We are strong supporters of the military and this is a great event.

meal, the club and GM showed videos of their current projects aimed at

helping the military.

"A large part of our philanthropy is working with the military," said Jeff the military," said Jeff Byroads, the century club

General Motors show-cased the "Thanks a Million" program, designed to send letters and notes to deployed troops, which sent more than 500,000 letters from the general public overseas.

"Some of the warriors who were here today had just returned from combat and others will be going to combat soon," said Corky Lenox, the military appreciation committee chairman. "We wish them all well, along with their families because few people realize how tough it is for them."

Also at the luncheon were members of the Profession-al Golfers' Association in-cluding Frank Litlighter, Jerry Kelly and others. "Every year we do this

we are reminded why we do what we do to honor our troops," said David Pilsbury, a member of the PGA tour. "We host 20 tournaments across the country where we invite. Americans to give money to homefront charities."

Homefront charities focus on the families of troops and the stateside service members, explained Pilsbury.

"People feel a responsi-

bility to give back to these

young men and women who have subordinated their interests for the good of the country," said Pilsbury.

After the meal, retired Lt. Col. Jerry Coleman, a member of the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame and a former Major League and a former Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year, spoke to the service members about his time in the Marine Corps.

"Your service years are where you grow up and you will never forget them," said Coleman.

During the Buick Invita-tional, the groups worked together to provide a military appreciation pavilion. Active-duty service members and their families were able to attend the event for free as well as have access



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999 Onslow Beach bridge repairs The Onslow Beach Bridge is scheduled or maintenance start ing March 10 through March 31 and again May 27- June 30. During the first period, the bridge will be operational but osed to vehicle and foot traffic from 10 p.m. intil 6 a.m. each day For information, call 451-5519.

Bomb squad defuses toughest situations

Pfc. B.A. Curtis 2nd Marine Logistics Group

Not only do Marines help fending the nation overseas, they are also constantly working to keep our citizens safe on our own shores. Here in North Carolina, one group of Marines is playing a key role in keeping the state safe.

The hard-charging Marines of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 8th Engineer Support Battal-ion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, have a lot weighing on their shoulders as they conduct what is arguably one of the most dangerous

jobs in the Marine Corps.
The EOD Marines are responsible for disarming improvised explosive devic-

es, clearing ranges of explosives and destroying unused explosives. They are also tasked with a lesser known mission; they provide support to the Camp Lejeune "bomb squad" in responding to bomb threats for Onslow County, N.C. and eight of its surrounding counties.

The unit is often tasked with responding to off-base threats to support the surrounding commu-nity's law enforcement agencies that do not have bomb squads
"It's very beneficial for a

community to have a military EOD team present in their area," said a team leader with EOD Com-pany, 8th ESB, 2nd MLG, whose name will also not

See BOMBS, 2C



Sgt. Christopher A. Matute, explosives ordnance disposal technician, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, carries a simulated improvised explosive device as part of bomb neutralization training Sept. 23 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Matute wears a four-piece bomb suit consisting of 85 pounds of Kevlar. The suit is designed to protect the wearer from heat and fragments during an explosion. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver



Lance Cpl. Gary Babb, a machine gunner with Mobile Anti-Armor Platoon 2B, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, takes cover behind an abandoned vehicle here Jan.

Weapons Company assaults MOUT town

Lance Cpl. Joshua Murray

watched the windows. streets and rooftops of the Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility, knowing danger could strike at any moment. Sniper threats, improvised explosive devices and hostile crowds plagued the streets as these Marines worked

as these Marines worked their way through various scenarios here Jan. 23.

These Marines, nick-named the Warlords, of Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Reg-iment, 2nd Marine Divi-sion, II Marine Expedition-ary Force, bombarded the ary Force, bombarded the MOUT facility during the first day of the Battalion's Field Exercise in prepara-tion for a deployment to

Iraq.
"We discuss the mission we discuss the mission with platoon leaders and platoon sergeants," said Brian Walsh, the mission manager of the MOUT facility. "After discussing the mission, we tailor the town for each unit."

Various scenarios lurked

icking Iraqi lifestyles and activities. Nearly 60 Iraqi role-players roamed the streets, giving the Marines a chance to practice their cultural skills.

"This tests the squad leader's abilities to handle

leader's abilities to handle situations and pass orders to negotiate their way through scenarios," Walsh said.

The MOUT facility is comprised of four streets, also called lanes. Different obstacles challenged the Marines' abilities to investigate and stop individuals tigate and stop individuals who would cause harm by

any means possible.
"It's good training being able to be in a place with these surroundings,' said Lance Cpl. Gary Babb, a machine gunner with the battalion. "They do such a good job with pyrotechnics, and there is something different in

every corner.
The Warlords conducted an after action review of the previous events after pass-ing through each lane. They received valuable lessons on

See MOUT, 2C

Mack Mckinney Awards honor service, dedication

Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Hermesman Marine Corps Base

Sywnayk's Scarlet and both active-duty and retired to congregate and socialize, it is also a one-of-a-kind museum full of Marine Corps and Navy memorabilia.

In keeping with the mu-seum's tradition and history, Sywnayk's recently hosted an historic award presentation. The C.A. "Mack" McKinney award is presented to those in the military and civilian community who have demonstrated professionalism, dedication and service to our country and its military. Civilians, who receive the award have demonstrated strong support for the military community and its families. This year, Lt. Col. Timothy A. Maxwell was the military recipient of the McKinney award. As an instrumental figure in the evolution of the Wounded Warrior battalion, Maxwell has had a major effect on the Marine Corps, and now his

ideas are spreading through the entire U.S. military. "To receive an Award with

[Mack McKinney's] name on Sywnayk's Scarlet and Gold Traditions is not only a gathering place for Marines, lot of awards in my career and this is the best one I have ever gotten."

On the civilian side of the award ceremony, Army Master Sgt. Matthew H. Daily (Ret.) was given the award for his work in the Noncommissioned Officers Association. Dailey is the associate director of Military Affairs for the

"I met Mack in the 1980s," said Daily. "I never expected this to happen."

McKinneyenlistedintheMarine Corps at age 17 in 1942 and served the Marine Corps honorably for almost 30 years. He retired as the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps in 1971.

McKinney's service to the Corps didn't stop when he retired. For the next 34 years he spent his time improving the recruiting, retention and readiness of the Armed

See AWARDS, 3C

AnySoldier.com supports Wounded Warriors Lance Cpl. Brian Lewis Il Marine Expeditionary Force

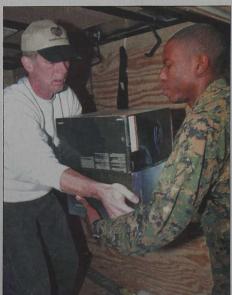
Marines with the Wounded Warrior Barracks, Wounded Warrior Battalion-East, Wounded Warrior Regiment, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, received a surprise visit Jan. 14, from Marty Horn, president of www.AnySoldier.com, a Web site dedicated to providing support and care packages for service members.

Horn and Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Scott Remington, the support team director for the organization, arrived at the bar-racks with a trailer full of entertainment products and other donated items to show their appreciation for the wounded Marines

and sailors.
"Since the beginning, we have wanted to do something for the troops who have paid the price of combat, and for their families," said Horn.

The wounded warriors'

See SUPPORTS, 3C



Marty Horn, president of AnySoldier.com, a Web site dedicated to providing support for service members, hands video game systems to Sgt. Terrell Mc-Clain, a Marine with Wounded Warrior Barracks, Wounded Warrior Battalion- East, Wounded Warrior Regiment, Manpower and Reserve Affairs. The organization visited the Wounded Warriors Jan. 14 with boxes of donations for their efforts and sacrifices. Lance Cpl. Brian Lewis

larine donates 2/3 of liver, saves mother's life.

Marines put their lives on the line in battle so that millions around them don't have to. They've been doing this for 232 years, and continue to this day, to sweat, bleed and fight to ensure the safety of this

Putting one's life on the line for another ruting one's life on the life for another is a selfless act that comes straight from the heart. For Lance Cpl. Nathan J. Williamson, a warehouse clerk with Supply Company, 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, being a live organ donor allowed him to save his mom's life and live to see hor again.

live to see her again.
On July 10, 2007, in an act of unconditional love, Williamson underwent an eight-hour surgery to remove two-thirds of his liver, while his mother waited nervously in a nearby operating room to have her

liver replaced with her son's.
"The hardest part about the surgery was "The hardest part about the surgery was not knowing if my son was okay," Williamson's mother said. "He wanted to do this and I knew I needed the surgery. Without the transplant I [could've] died. Knowing that he was willing to do this for me made him my hero. He was saving my life."

Two years before the surgery, Williamson's mother began suffering from primary biliary cirrhosis, a disease that destroys the liver's bile ducts at a slow rate. When the ducts are damaged, bile builds up in the liver and begins to destroy it. "My mom was always tough while she was sick," Williamson said. "She came to

almost all my sports games in high school and nobody could ever tell she was ill.

After graduating from high school, Williamson joined the Marine Corps and soon after began working in his new job. Nearly a year after stepping on the infamous yellow footprints, Williamson received a message that would change his life forever.

"One day after work I got a voicemail from my family about mom, so I called the hospital and found out that she wasn't do-ing well," Williamson explained. "They said



Lance Cpl. Nathan J. Williamson stands with his mother before undergoing a liver transplant surgery July 10, 2007 in Pittsburgh, Pa. Williamson donated two-thirds of his liver to save his mother's life. Williamson is a warehouse clerk with Supply Company, 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group. Cpl. Mikaela M. Bravo-Cullen

they needed somebody to be tested as a live donor and because I have the same blood type, there was a higher chance of me being

"When I found that out, I told everyone I wanted to be tested," Williamson continued. "I remember [going] home in June for a three-day process that included blood work and [Computerized Axial Tomogra-phy] scans to test if I could be a donor."

Along with having a compatible blood type, one of the requirements for being a liver donor is to be physically fit. As a Ma-

rine, Williamson had no problems meeting the required physical fitness standards.

'I remember when they stuck a long needle in my abdomen to do a liver biopsy, I clenched up and the needle bent because my abs were so strong," Williamson said. "Once the testing was over they determined that I was a perfect match.'

Being a perfect match made Williamson's decision to donate his liver come easily as his only concern at this point was doing his part to save the woman who gave "People keep asking me how long it me to make the decision to donate my er," Williamson said. "I didn't think to about it because she's my mom.

According to Dr. Kusum B. Tom, a tri plant surgeon at the Thomas E. St zl Transplant Institute in Pittsburgh, the institute has an average of 25-35 a dit live liver transplants and 12-20 pedia live liver transplants each year.

"I've been working at the [institute] six years and I've seen only a few ser members as live liver donors," Tom s Williamson was our first Marine live 1

donor."
Williamson's direct supervisor, Maer Gunnery Sgt. William H. Wharton, the suff non-commissioned officer in charge of Sprace Constitutes. age Operations, Supply Company, 2nd Sply Battalion, 2nd MLG, knows his Marvery well but feels Williamson's bravspeaks volumes about his personal chara and what he represents as a Marine.

"This says a lot about his mental c age," explained Wharton. "It's very nobl a vibrant young man who is just in the pr of his life, whose personality radiates e gy and enthusiasm, to sacrifice his Ma Corps career for the sake of his mother."

While Williamson appreciates the sport from his Marine Corps leaders, knows he would not have been able to through the surgery without the supported his family and friends.

"Support helps with anything you Williamson said. "Our family is so tigh knit that there was a lot of support. So of them stayed so long at the hospital tey were asked to leave. One of my friends e in tried hiding in the closet because he di it want to go.

Nearly six months after his transplat operation, Williamson is working hart to return to full duty through determination and a commitment to self improvement

"He ignites the human spirit," Whar added. Like all Marines, he exemplies the mental courage to risk his own lifein order for others to enjoy the liberties tat we so richly cherish.'

30 years of selfless service: Marine awarded Legion of Merit

Cpl. Eric C. Schwartz

Salt and peppered hair and a lifetime of priceless experience is given to those who've served 30 years of duty in the Marine Corps, but for those few of the few and proud who excelled beyond the rest are rewarded for their effort. Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Jack Pursel, previously the II Marine Expeditionary Force maintenance chief, stood proud as Lt. Gen. Keith J. Stalder, commanding general of II MEF, awarded him the Legion of Merit Medal to culminate 30 years of outstanding service.

"This man has been a great leader and I am proud to have served with him," Stalder said while addressing Pursel's family and fellow Mories. low Marines.

Pursel started as an infantry assaultman, later cross-training into the maintenance field. He soon married and continued to improve his work ethic so he could embody the Marine Corps into every facet

of his life.

"My husband believes in the Corps and the founding principles of the Corps," Pursel's wife said "I recall when we were first married he told me 'I love you but you need to understand the Marine Corps cames [inst!" Pursel's wife. Corps comes first!" Pursel's wife said, "I didn't understand that at the time, but I came to learn that he had such a sincere dedication to the Corps."

to the Corps."

Pursel was the Combat Service
Support Battalion maintenance
chief at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was appointed the billet of the CSSB sercent, maior and attached to Task Force Tarawa in March 2003. Pursel stood up to the request and became the CSSB Sergeant Major successfully earning a Bronze Star

Living up to the task of a sergeant major was not an easy one. Pursel became the representative of his enlisted Marines and their actions reflected directly upon

"You hope that you're a great enough leader to bring out the best in them and hopefully I did that," the local Jacksonville, N.C. native said.

Pursel led by example as a Marine and this did not go unseen by his family and especially his son who plans on attending Officer Candidate School this summer.

"Jack is a leader and a man of his word," Pursel's wife said. "He's hardworking, consistent, honest, disciplined, practical, logical, and



Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Jack Pursel (left), previously the II Marine Expeditionary Force maintenance chief, proudly stands next to Lt. Gen. Keith J. Stalder, commanding general of II MEF, with Pursel's Legion of Merit Medal citation for years of outstanding service. Pursel recently retired with 30 years of dedicated service to the Corps. Cpl. Eric C. Schwartz

thorough in everything he does," she said. "Our son has had these qualities instilled in him from birth as daily 'active living' examples."

According to the Legion of Merit

qualifications, Pursel earned the award for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of out-standing service because of his excellent leadership during his Marine Corps career. He doesn't believe the award was given solely because of his own actions, but because of his Marines' performance.

"You don't do it on your own," Pursel said. "Either your Marines make you look good or they don't."
Pursel credited his Marine Corps

success to those he led from stateside to combat. He felt that if he taught his Marines how to do things the right way, they would get the job done. His method of leadership has followed him throughout his career and it didn't go unnoticed. "He dared to do things differently," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Robert Boyd, the II MEF communications chief and long-time friend of Pursel.

The maintenance field where he met and befriended

Boyd. "Maintenance "Maintenance chiefs usually stay in their field, but he's done quite a bit out of his Military Oc-

cupation Specialty," Boyd said.
Pursel protected the American
embassy in Moscow while on Marine Security Guard detail in his

younger years. Afterward, he went to the Electronic Maintenance Company in Okinawa, Japan, balancing between civilian contrac-tors and the Marine Corps' needs. tors and the Marine Corps' needs. MSG duty and working with government contracts maintaining military electronic systems made Pursel an excellent candidate for future success in his career.

"He was a self-driven, determined Marine even as a staff sergeant," Boyd said.

Pursel's determination to be an excellent leader sent him to II

an excellent leader sent him to II MEF as the maintenance chief.

"He was my right hand man."

Pursel didn't give up his drive for success while working as the maintenance chief for II MEF. He made sure he was directly involved in every maintenance issue for his Marine Expeditionary Force

"If there was anything dealing with radio, cryptological or elec-tronic maintenance, Pursel had

Pursel left the Corps as an excellent Marine earning the Legion of Merit Medal and also blazed a trail for other Marines in his field to earn the same success with his leadership traits.

'He's done 30 years," Boyd said "You can't ask anymore than that. We appreciate his service to his country and we will miss him."

MOUT, from IC

their strengths and flaws during these reviews. Thir and Marine leaders and civilian contractors who run the cility answered any questions the Marines had.

"I'm learning how to interact with the Irqi people," said Pfc. Joshua Osborne, an assaultrin ^{fo} with the battalion. "It's bringing the team cleer ^{lat} together and gives us a better understanding of whato expect in Iraq.

Actual Iraqi-American role players including a town m or, civilians and police officers lived life in relative peace. Marines got a great chance to see some of the events they witness overseas and learned about customs and courtesis a culture far different from their own.

"A variety of scenarios are set up around the town fi weddings to funerals" Walsh said. "There are hostile crow rocket-propelled grenade attacks, vehicle borne IEDs snipers. All of these situations will better prepare the J rines for their upcoming rotation in Iraq.

Some Marines knew the town like the back of their ha while others experienced their first time at the MOUT fa ity. The instructors still came up with ways to challenge more experienced Warlords' leadership abilities. One Mar

says there is no such thing as being too prepared.
"You can never get enough training," said Lance Cpl. Cll
Newman, a machine gunner with the battalion. "We know to here we're making mistakes that in Iraq we can't afford to

The whole pattalion will rotate through the MOUT & ity over the five-day exercise. Each company's mission determine the challenges they will encounter, preparing Warlords for their future deployment to Iraq.

BOMBS, from IC

be disclosed. "To maintain a civilian bomb squad is very pensive. We have all the tools and equipment we need a keep our Marines well-trained by deploying to Iraq and o mantling IEDs

"We respond to any kind of ordnance on base or ordna that may have found its way off base out into town," s Staff Sgt. Nicholas A. Chaplin, an EOD technician w Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune EOD. "If it has to with a piece of ordnance or any home made explosives, handle it."

The ordnance disposal Marines respond to off-base or during off-duty hours, nights and weekends as a way dispose of those "big" surprises that farmers find on Wo

War II-era farms from time-to-time.
Gunnery Sgt. Michal A. Pickartz, an EOD technic
with EOD Company, 8th ESB, 2nd MLG, explained a unic big" situations in which a farmer from the Onslow Cour N.C. area found a 3.5 inch "Bazooka" round dating back fr WW II, buried in one of his fields.

Pickartz explained that the farmer contacted the local l enforcement agency who identified the item as an explos threat and contacted the unit. Within a short amount of tin

EOD techs responded and secured the piece of ordnance. Pickartz says that this kind of a situation has been a co mon occurrence in the past due to the ever-changing landsca of the base. Many of the areas that have become farmlan and privately owned property were once military training ranges and impact zones

The platoon sergeant of 1st Platoon, EOD Company, ESB, 2nd MLG, whose name will not be disclosed, explain that if there is a possible explosive threat off base, the E0 Marines will not respond until it is identified as an explosiby external law enforcement.

Once identified, an EOD team will be sent to the scenario Upon arrival to a scene with a potential bomb threat, the sponding EOD team identifies the threat, accesses the situ

once the EOD team thereines the threat, accesses the sittion and decides the best way to dispose of the threat.

Once the EOD techs have a grasp on the situation they have multiple ways to safely dispose of, or dismattle an explosive device, including multiple robots, among other up-to-date technologies

Chaplin added that EOD teams respond to more than off-base situations a yea

The Marines of EOD Company, 8th ESB, 2nd MI will continue to provide excellent support to the MC Camp Lejeune EOD team in assisting the state of Nor Carolina with disposing of all possible explosive threa that may harm its citizens.

SUPPORTS, from IC

eves widened as the truck ecision to donate myl televisions, video game aid, I didn't think by systems, kitchen applitelevisions, video phi-he's my mom, systems, kitchen appli-ances, and laptop comput-tress were quickly unloaded the Thomas E. Star the Thomas E. Star un average of 25.35 ad gathered.

The things they brought will only reinforce unit cohe-will only reinforce unit cohents and 12-20 pedate its each year. ing at the [institute]

will only reinforce unit cohesion," said Cpl. Brandon D. Love, noncommissioned officer in charge, driver section. "It is always great to see Marines come togetner, out estain H. Wharton, Mas pecially when they can relate officer in charge of Sy Horn felt very pleased at the outcome of his efsections with the system of the control of the system of the control of the contro rines come together, but es-

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EOD Company, a disclosed, explain t off base, the EO

Iraq.

forts. He had spent a long time soliciting businesses to donate money to the cause. Instead of giving the money to the Marines, he decided it would be bet-

he decided it would be better to buy things the Marines could enjoy.

"I think it is fantastic.
Marty went well above and beyond what he should have," said Sgt. Jason Simms, operations sergeant for the Wounded Warrior Barracks. "We can't begin to express our gratitude for what he has done for us."

Horn's contribution was

Horn's contribution was appreciated by the senior Marines, who praised him.

"Marty Horn is indeed a true patriot and is no

doubt one of the biggest in the country," said Lt. Col. Robert J. Nash, communications officer, 2nd Marine Logistics Group. "Marty has now clearly gone above and heaved his gone above and beyond his already 'above and beyond' status by soliciting businesses and corporations to

contribute."
Horn is humbled by the appreciation, but doesn't plan to let this event be

the end.
"This is wonderful, absolutely awesome," Horn said. "This is only the beginning. We don't want this to be the first and last, but the first



From the left, Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Ihor Sywanyk (Ret.), Sgt. Maj. Joe Houle (Ret.), Sgt. Maj. Mike Rooney (Ret.), Army Master Sgt. Matthew A. Daily (Ret.), Marine Corps Lt. Col. Timothy A. Maxwell and Sgt. Maj. Paul Siverson (Ret.), all stand together during the presentation of the C.A. "Mack" McKinney Awards Friday night at Sywanyk's Scarlet and Gold Traditions. The McKinney Awards are awarded annually to members of the military and community who show great support for the military and their family members. Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Hermesman

AWARDS, from IC

Forces. He petitioned Congress for military compensation and benefits packages. In 1987, McKinney was appointed a member of the Veterans Administration

Committee on Cemeteries and Memori-

als, a position he held until 1993. NCOA recognized his accomplishments and established the award in his name. All recipients have proven themselves through selfless and inspirational acts and this year's award winners have carried on in that tradition.

Speak up and be heard at the MCCS town hall meeting

Wonderful things happen when peo-ple talk face-to-face. Deals are struck, decisions are made, plans are hashed out and obstacles are cast aside when open dialogue begins. Whatever the job may be, it usually gets done when people come together. Since Marine Corps Community Services under-stands this, they will host a town hall meeting Feb. 6 at 7 p.m at the Russell Marine Family Service Center (Building 40) on Brewster Blvd aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

You may ask yourself, "Why do I need to attend this town hall meeting?" There are two answers to that question and they are both quite sim-ple. The first reason is because everyone in the room is going to be talking about you ... sort of. It's your quality of life programs everyone will be discussing. MCCS doesn't exist for the sake of MCCS; it exists to serve you — the Marine, sailor, retiree and military

family member.

The second "C" in MCCS stands for "community." German sociologist Ferdinand Tonnies said a community is a tight and cohesive social entity within the context of the larger society. We are all Americans but what makes us different from the others is our dedication to the protection of our coun-That common dedication creates a bond and makes us a community. A community must communicate in or-

der to survive. That will take place Feb. 6. The second reason you need to can-

That communication

cel your plans and come to the town hall meeting is because the next great idea to hit Camp Lejeune might just be stuck in your brain. You probably have brilliant ideas, but the only people you share them with are either your spouse or your friends. To be brought to fruition, your ideas need to be heard by the individuals who make the deciby the individuals who make the decisions. This is of a growing importance due to the fact thousands of people that will be moving to the Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville area in the next couple of years. You have the ability to bring positive change that will not only affect those who currently some only affect those who currently serve and live aboard Camp Lejeune, but the

future residents as well.

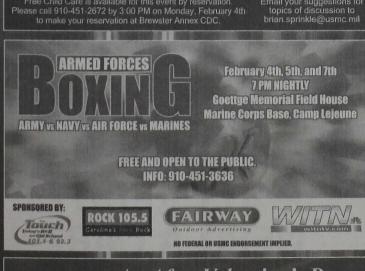
The Interactive Customer Evaluation system is brilliant, and whoever thought of it was a genius, but sharing your opinions online or over the phone is not the same as getting face-to-face. You already possess the ideas; now MCCS is providing the platform for you to express what you think. Don't miss this opportunity. MCCS will also be providing free child care that evening for those who wish to attend the meeting; just call 451-2672 for more info. You can also help MCCS set the agenda by letting them know ahead of time what you want to talk about. Call 451-2524 or send an e-mail to brian.sprinkle@usmc.mil with the subject matter you wish to discuss at the town hall meeting. The ICE sys-tem is also still available if you wish to alert MCCS of the topics that you wish to talk about at the meeting; just visit MCCSLejeune.com and click on the town hall meeting link.



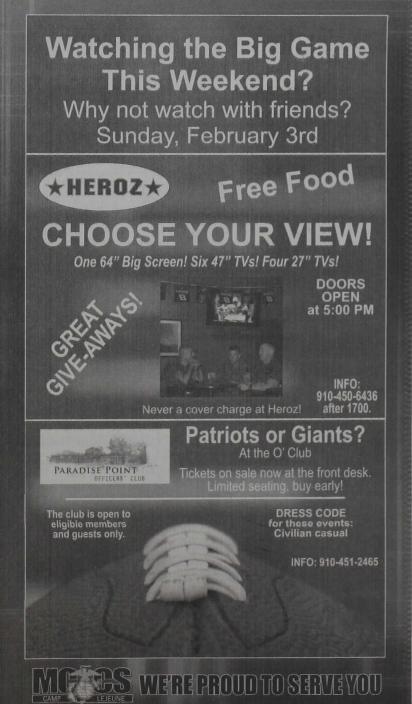
MARINES THE FEW. THE PROUD.

MCCS EVENTS AND INFO

Let **your** voice Please join us at our next Marine Corps Community Services be **HEARD!** Town Hall Meeting! Russell Marine & Wednesday, February 6th Family Services Center at 7:00 PM Free Child Care is available for this event by reservation. ease call 910-451-2672 by 3:00 PM on Monday, February 4th to make your reservation at Brewster Annex CDC. Email your suggestions for topics of discussion to brian sprinkle@usmc.mil









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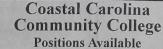
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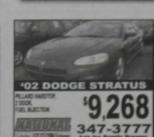






















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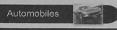
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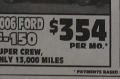
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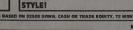






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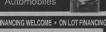
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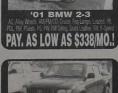
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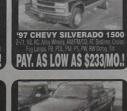
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540 **Expires 2/29/08** Not to be used with any other offer.

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Lejeune Happenings

I.N.K.S. Navy Day ne Marine Corps amily Team Build g's Lifestyle Insights tworking Knowledge kills program has cheduled a L.I.N.K.S. avy Day event for eb. 12 from 9 a.m. to oon at the Midway ark Chapel. This free vent is an opportunity r new Navy spouses network and think ore about their future s a Navy spouse. The egistration deadline is 'eb. 7. For more infor-R DOOR lation or to register, all 451-1299.

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'he Museum of the farine has named tol. Bruce Gombar, retired Marine, as s interim executive irector. Gombar has erved as a member of he Museum's Board of Directors since 2001. ombar succeeds Jim Villiams, who has erved as the Musem's executive director or the past 18 months. Villiams, a retired Maine who resides with is family in Havelock, as accepted a mangement position with he Defense Logistics gency at nearby Chery Point. The Museum f the Marine will be cated near Jacksonille's Beirut Memoial. Celebrating Comnunity, Corps and the arolinas, the 40,000 quare foot Museum the Marine will be a rominent destination long a planned Marine orps Heritage Trail, unning from Northrn Virginia to Parris sland, South Carolina. number of North arolina host comnunities and installaions, all of which have layed a prominent ole in the history and ontinuing evolution of the Marine Corps, vill be featured among he Museum's displays. The Museum of the Marine is scheduled to pen in 2010. For more

DWC Scholarsnips
The deadline to submit applications to the Camp Lejeune Officers' Wives' Club Scholarhip Committee is rapidly pproaching. Applications graduating high chool senior and depenent spouse scholarships oust be postmarked by eb. 27 to be considered or award monies. Camp ejeune OWC scholarhips are awarded for cademic excellence and nerit. To qualify, the aplicant must reside and/ r attend school within a 00 mile radius of Camp ejeune. Other criteria lso apply. For more inormation, interested parties should contact ceasa Wahlgren, Camp ejeune OWC Scholarhip chairperson, at 325-1150 or e-mail her at ahlgren26@gmail.com.

nformation about the Museum of the Marine,

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also a corpsman with nd Medical Battalion,

serving utensils for

Soup Kitchen provides more than just a hot meal to those in need

Story and photos
Heather Owens
Carolina Living editor

As Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." a me by what we give.
For a group of hearty Jacksonville residents, who volunteer at the Onslow Community Ministries soup
kitchen at 600 Court Street
in downtown Jacksonville, serving a hot lunch to folks who cannot afford one is their way of giving back to

the community Approximately 15 to 20 volunteers are required each day, Monday through Friday, to staff the Court Street site and its two mo-bile kitchens. This small army of folks serve about 450 people a delicious lunch each weekday.

"Some of those volunteers have been coming for 10 to 12 years, and

some come three times a week or more," said Remy Stitt, soup kitchen director. "My volunteers are very important to me. I could not do it without them.

Robert Medlin, a retiree of both the Navy and the civil service, is one of those dedicated volunteers. He and his wife Norma have been coming to the soup kitchen for the last eight years. They began their service there as members of the Base Protestant Chapel in 1999 and just kept on.

"We just like to help the people who need help," said Medlin.

New volunteers are encouraged to join the old crew at the soup kitchen in preparing, serving and cleaning up after meals. In fact, three corpsmen from Company B, 2nd Medical Battalion. had their first opportunity to volunteer at the soup kitchen last week

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Borg-strom, Petty Officer 3rd Class George Turk III and Seaman Brad Farber, all veteran volunteers for other charities, such as the Onslow Community Ministries Christmas Cheer program and the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots program, lent their skills to making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to

accompany the soup.
"I feel that if I can defend the country, I can also give back to the commu-

nity," said Farber.

Borgstrom agreed. "There are times when we're operational and we're busy,

when we're operational and we're busy, but then there are times when we have time off and this is what we should be doing with that time," he said.

"I think volunteering — not just for a military member — but for anybody, just keeps you grounded in knowing that not everybody has what they need," added Turk.

Volunteers are welcome to just show up.

Volunteers are welcome to just show up at the soup kitchen at 8 a.m. any week-day to lend a hand. Groups who want to help out are encouraged to call ahead to

help out are encouraged to can ahead to let Stitt know they are coming.

The bulk of the volunteer work takes place from 8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. with the production of sandwiches and cooking the hot meal. After 9:30 a.m., many of the volunteers are free to leave while a few stay behind to help serve the meal and clean up afterwards.

Due to rising expenses, such as in the price of gasoline and maintenance for the two lunch trucks, Stitt said the soup hitchen a property and the soup the soup of the soup of the soup that the soup the soup that very much in need of donated resources Groups and individuals are encouraged to give items such as paper and plastic kitchen supplies, canned goods and gas cards to help run the operation.

Supplies may be dropped off at the soup kitchen from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Monetary donations or gas cards may be sent to: Soup Kitchen, Attn: Remy Stitt, 600 Court Street, Jacksonville, NC 28540.

For those interested in making a life by giving back, Stitt said their generos-ity is very much appreciated. "It's not just a soup kitchen, we try to make it like a nice restaurant for the people we

serve," said Stitt.

The command of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Commuand their families to give back to the com-munity through volunteer service. To learn more about Operation Noble Heart and vol-unteering, visit the MCCS Web site at www. mccslejeune.com/onh. To learn-more about the soup kitchen, call 347-3227 or visit www.onslowcm.org.

'The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep;' perfect family movie experience



From the front row

Playing at the Camp Lejeune Theater

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP" (PG)

"The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep" is a fantasy adventure which takes place in 1940s Scotland.

A boy discovers an egg near a loch and takes it home to nourish and later becomes friendly with the mythical creature which emerges from it

According to the legend, the creature, better known as a "wais supposed to be the Loch Ness Monste

Alex Etel ("Millions") plays Angus MacMorrow, the young

Scottish boy who finds the enchanted egg.

Taking it home, he soon finds himself face-to-face with an amazing, playful and mysterious creature, he

Angus begins a journey of discovery, facing his greatest fears and risking his life to protect a secret which

would give birth to a legend.

Emily Watson ("Miss Potter," "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride") stars as Angus mother, Anne MacMorrow, the

housekeeper of a great estate.

In need of a handyman, she hires Lewis Mowbray, played by Ben Chaplin ("The New World," "Murder by Numbers'), who Angus entrusts with his secret and who aids him the care of Crusoe.

Costarring are David Morrissey ("Basic Instinct 2") as Captain Hamilton; and Geraldine Brophy ("King Kong") as Gracie

Jay Russell ("Ladder 49," "Tuck Everlasting," "My Dog Skip," "End of the Line") directed this winning Scottish fable, adapted from the novel The Water Horse, written by Jok King-Smith ("Babe"). The screenplay was written by Robert Nelson Jacobs ("Flushed Away").

"The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep" is a heartwarming and magical story about a bond that is deeper than friend-ship and reminds one of the now classic "E.T."

Exceptional films for children are rare, but this is a

perfect family movie experience, with a combination of humor, heart and pure excitement. "The Water Horse" will take you on a wonderful fantasy ride.

"P.S. I LOVE YOU" (PG-13)
"P.S. I Love You" is an endearing and romantic little story about marriage, friendship and love.

A grieving young widow discovers that her late hus-band has left a list of tasks revealed in several messages, intended to ease her out of grief and transition her to a new life.

Hilary Swank ("Freedom Writers," "Million Dollar Baby,"
"Boys Don't Cry") stars as Holly Kennedy, a beautiful and
smart young woman, who is married to the love of her life.
Gerard Butler ("Beowulf," "300," "Phantom of the Opera")

costars as Gerry, her passionate and funny Irish husband.
When a grave illness takes Gerry's life, Holly is devas-

tated and does not want to go on living.

However, Gerry has planned ahead and wrote Holly a series of letters that will guide her through her grief.

The first message arrives on Holly's 30th birthday in the form of a cake accompanied by a tape recording. Gerry is telling her to get out and have fun.

In the following weeks and months, more motivational letters are delivered in the most unusual ways, sending Holly on new adventures

With Gerry's guiding words and the support of her friends

Holly encounters touching and hilarious experiences that help her into a new beginning of life.

There are also two other adorable men in Holly's life: Harry Connick Jr. ("Hope Floats") as Daniel, the infatuated barman; and Jeffrey Dean Morgan (televisions "Grey's Anathur as an Irish dude Holly meets on her trip to Ireland

omy") as an Irish dude Holly meets on her trip to Ireland. Among the talented costars appearing are also Lisa Kudrow ("Analyze That") as Denise, Gina Gershon ("Man About Town") as Sharon and James Marsters ("The House on Haunted Hill ") as John, Holly's con-

cerned and supportive best friends. Kathy Bates ("Misery") plays Patricia, Holly's disapprov-

Director and writer Richard LaGravenese ("Freedom Writers," "Paris Je T'aime," "Living Out Loud") has adapted this sappy story from the bestselling novel by Cecelia Ahern.
"P.S. I Love You" is poignant, but too sweet and a very

predictable movie which might make you laugh and cry at the same time. Enjoy it as long as you see it as a charming fairy tale-like encounter

Playing at the Midway Park Theater

"THE GOLDEN COMPASS" (PG-13)

"The Golden Compass" is an adventure fantasy tale about a world which encompasses animal kings, witches, huge polar bears, and all sorts of stunning beings. This exciting adventure is set in an alternative world

where people's souls manifest themselves as animals.

Newcomer Dakota Blue Richards stars as Lyra Belacqua, the heroine of this tale, a 12-year-old girl who starts out try-



Alex Etel stars as Angus and Emily Watson as Anne in the fantasy of 'The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep.' movies.co

ing to rescue a friend kidnapped by a mysterious organization known as the Gobblers.

She travels to the arctic north, journeying into a stunning

fantasy world where she must unravel a sinister mystery.

In the process she winds up on an epic quest to save not only her world, but ours as well.

Nicole Kidman ("The Interpreter," "Cold Mountain," "Moulin Rouge") stars as the mysterious and mesmerizing

Mrs. Coulter who hinders Lyra's progress.

Daniel Craig ("Casino Royale," "Munich") costars as the dashing adventurer Lord Asriel, Lyra's uncle and benefactor.

Eva Green ("Kingdom of Heaven," "Casino Royale") plays Witch Queen Serafina Pekula; and Sam Elliott ("Thank You for Smyking") is Lee Secretary at Towan appraisant.

for Smoking") is Lee Scoresby, a Texan aeronaut. Ian McKellen lends his voice to the ice bear warrior, Iorek

Byrnison, the exiled king. Director Chris Weitz ("About a Boy," "American Pie"), who also collaborated on the screenplay, achieves a major accomplishment on bringing this fantasy extravaganza, based on the 1995 best-selling novel by Phillip Pullman, to life.

The Golden Compass is the first book of Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy which could eventually develop into another epic movie series like "The Lord of the Rings."

The other two books in this trilogy are The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass. "The Golden Compass" is a lavish and stunning ef-

fects-heavy adventure that will appeal to young and old

Playing at the Jacksonville Theater

'Rambo" is an adventure thriller and fourth sequel to the Rambo series (1982 "First Blood," 1985 "Rambo: First Blood II," and 1988 "Rambo III") about the character created by Sylvester Stallone

Sylvester Stallone reprises his role of Vietnam veteran John Rambo, who has survived many life-threatening ordeals. Now retreated to northern Thailand, he is living a solitary and peaceful life in the mountains and jungles.

When a group of human rights missionaries search him out and ask him to guide them into Burma, a hotbed of military conflicts, to deliver medical supplies, he reluctantly agrees.

When the aid workers are captured by the Burmese army, Rambo must make a decision as to venture alone into the war zone to rescue them.

Rambo assembles a group of mercenaries and leads them up the Salween River to a Burmese village where the group allegedly went missing.

The leaders of the group of Christian aid workers are portrayed by Julie Benz ("George of the Jungle 2") as Sarah Miller and Paul Schulze ("Zodiac") as Michael Burnett. Costarring are Graham McTavish (HBO's "Rome") as

Lewis; Ray Gallegos ("American Wedding") as Diaz; Jake LaBotz ("Ghost World") as Reese; Matthew Marsden ("Resident Evil: Extinction") as Schoolboy; and Ken Howard ("Michael Clayton") as Reverend Arthur Marsh.

Sylvester Stallone again directed, produced and wrote the

screenplay for this movie and is making a comeback with

this old war hero.

Stallone, who also created the highly successful and love Rocky Balboa character, was one of Hollywood's most pow ful and beloved action icons and directed, produced, wrote starred in numerous blockbusters over the past decades.

"Rambo" is a very popular and successful movie ser which always includes strong graphic, bloody violen grisly images and rough language, and is therefore

This film, like last year's "Rocky," is a final attempt Stallone to lay the Rambo series to rest. How many of loyal fans are still around remains to be seen.

"MAD MONEY" (PG-13)

"Mad Money" is a comedy about three female employ exact of the Federal Reserve who plot to steal money that is ab qued The three fairly ordinary women work at the Federal

serve Bank and form an unlikely friendship when they cide upon an extraordinary plan of a bank robbery.

Diane Keaton ("The Family Stone," "Something's Go Give," "Father of the Bride") stars as Bridget Cardigan v is down on her luck and about to lose her home since husband Don, played by Ted Danson ("Our Fathers"), lost his job of 30 years due to cutbacks. Bridget is forced to enter the labor market with little we

experience and no skills. Having trouble finding a job, only option is to take a position as janitor with the Fede Reserve Bank in Kansas City.

Queen Latifah ("Hairspray," "Beauty Shop," "Chicag stars as Nina Brewster, a hard-working single mom rais

two kids, whose job is to shred old money at the same bar Katie Holmes ("Batman Begins," "First Daughte costars as Jackie Truman, a free spirit with a caref attitude and a doofus of a husband, who moves the money cart around.

When the three get acquainted and become friends, the conclude that the system underestimates their talents a that their dreams might never be fulfilled.

Knowing that the bank shreds over a million dollars even day, they devise a plan to smuggle some of that old curren out of the most secure bank in the world.

As they eventually accumulate a huge pile of cash, it loo like they might have pulled off the perfect crime, un an unexpected misstep occurs

Now the three women have to figure out how to sti one step ahead of the law.

Among the cast are also Stephen Root ("No Country Old Men") as Glover; Christopher McDonald ("Rumor I It") as Bryce Arbogast; Adam Rothenberg as Bob Trumand Roger R. Cross ("World Trade Center") as Barry, bank's security guard who has eye for Nina.

Callie Khouri ("The Devine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sist back")

hood"), who also made a name for herself writing and p ducing "Thelma and Louise," directs this American adap tion of the British hit comedy "Hot Money"

"Mad Money" is a mildly funny caper with three lad ving the time of their lives doing the crime of their live

Ms. Huneycutt is the Public Affairs Assistant at the B Public Affairs Office.

Pets of the week: Save a life today.

The Onslow County Animal Shelter is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 7 p.m., Friday from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. To see more pictures of pets available for adoption, visit www.petharbor.com.



Pet ID# A013801



Pec ID# A013715

For more information, call the Onslow County Animal 455-0182

MIDWAY PARK CAMP LEJEUNE THEATER **BASE THEATER** TODAY TODAY Old Men" R PG, 7:30 p.m. FRIDAY FRIDAY "PS. I Love You," PG-13, 6:30 p.m.; Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story; R. 9:15 p.m. "Free for Single Marines and The Chipmunks," PG, 3:30 p.m.; Golden Compass," PG-13, 6:30 p.m.; Legend," PG-13, 9:15 p.m. SUNDAY nipmunks," PG, 3:30 e Wilson's War," R, 6:30 p.m. TUESDAY PG, 6:30 pm. TUESDAY The Heartbreak Kid," R, 11 a.m. *Free Showing*: "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story," R, 7:30 pm. WEDNESDAY Golden Compass," PG-13,

ALL STADIUM SEATING STRANGE WILDERNESS ROLP UNTRACEABLE ROLP CLOVERFIELD PG13-OLP MAD MONEY PG13-OLP FIRST SUNDAY PG13-OLP BUCKET LIST PG13-OLP NATIONAL TREASURE 2 PG-DLP AM LEGEND POIS-OUP

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story Time schedule

Preschool Story Time meets at Tarawa Terrace Community enter every Wednesday at 10 a.m. On Thursdays at the Main brary, ages 2 to 3 meet at 9:30 a.m. and ages 4 to 6 meet at 0:30 a.m. for theme-based stories and crafts. Family Story Time held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Harotte B. Smith Library and at the Camp Johnson Library the irst Saturday of each month at 2 p.m.

Poetry Open Mic Night

The Poetry Open Mic Night for adults is scheduled to take lace at the Main Library, Feb. 28 at 6:30 p.m. This event is coponsored by Onslow County Public Library. Come share your work, read from your favorite poets and meet other local poets.

Free movie nights

Camp Johnson: Serenity (PG-13), Feb. at 6 p.m. Main Library: Stardust (PG-13), Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. Tarawa Terrace Community Center: Ratatouille (G), Feb. 29

Kindermusik

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Melissa Russell will lead newborns through 7-year-olds in acibrary. Call 451-3026 to register.

the past decades. cessful movie ser nic, bloody violen

The Main Library will be offering a Manga art class for ages 10 to 18, Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. with instructor Jana Guitar. Students vill be taught the basic shapes used to draw Manga characters. Ill supplies will be provided for free and resource materials will be available for check out. For more information or to register, and 451,3026

Teen Chocolate Party
Teens in eighth through 12th grade are invited to join us in reating chocolate candy arrangements. All supplies will be promoney that is abounded free. Space is limited. Call 451-3026 to register.

USO receives new entertainment equipment



Back in 1978, Jose Saco, a retired Marine and current sales representative for the Officer Equipment Company out of Quantico, Va., stopped by the United Service Organizations for a cup of coffee and a game of pool. Since then, he has not forgotten the organization which brings a bit of home to service members stationed around the world. Saco, a long-time USO volunteer, recently went to his boss and told her the USO of Jacksonville was in need of some modern entertainment equipment. She agreed and the company donated \$2,000 to the USO to purchase two 32-inch, flat-screen televisions; a Wii game system with a sports package comprised of bowling, tennis, boxing and baseball games; two Xbox 360 systems and two entertainments stands for the game systems. Best Buy of Jacksonville also jumped on board to provide additional discounts and their "Geek Squad" installation expertise. The result was unveiled Jan. 24 at the USO at 9 Tailman St. Pictured above from left to right are Saco; Harold Rowland, director of the USO; Michelle Fritter of Best Buy; Robert Robinson, a USO patron; and military spouse Ayralynne Steuart. Kelli Huffman

Marines, spouses asked to evaluate MCCS Youth programs

Marine Corps Community Services

Headquarters Marine Corps will conduct a brief online survey to help Marine Corps leadership better understand and assess Marine and family member perceptions of the Marine Corps Community Services Children, Youth and Teen program.

The online survey is open to Ma-rines and spouses with children and will gather feedback on the effectiveness, quality and satisfaction with the Children, Youth and Teen Program.

The survey will be accessible at www.usmc-mccs.org/surveys

Feb. 1 - 24 and consists of multiplechoice questions, which take about 15 minutes to complete. Responses will be kept confidential and all answers will be reported in the aggregate. Beginning Friday, e-mails containing the survey link will be distributed directly to approximately 8,000 active-duty Marines with children, who have es-tablished e-mail accounts, requesting survey participation. Marine spouses and Marines with children who do not receive the electronic notification are also eligible to complete the survey and can do so by going directly to the survey Web site.

The survey is part of a larger process

Program. In May 2008, headquarters installation program mangers will take part in a rigorous process of documenting the current program and conducting benchmark analysis of our Sister Service programs, and other ci vilian support agencies with the goal of developing a plan for improving program effectiveness.

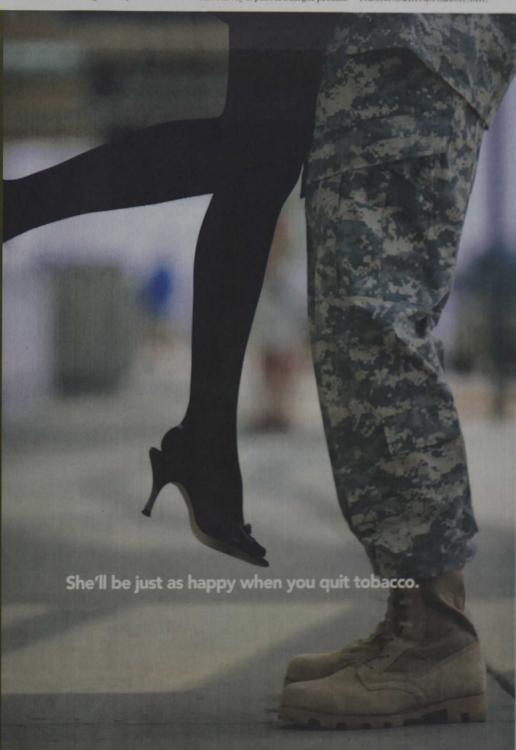
For more information about the survey contact your local MCCS Marine Corps Children, Youth and Teen director or the survey project officer Nancie Sullivan at 703-784-9517, DSN 278-9517, or e-mail Nancie.Sullivan@usmc.mil.

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Wilmington observes Black History Month

Cape Fear Coast Convention and

Visitors Bureau

North Carolina's Cape Fear Coast is among the most historically significant African-American regions in the U.S. African-American ancestry is traced back to the 1700s, and although much of the important history left no visible landseveral historical sites still exist, such as the Cape Fear Museum, Bellamy Mansion and Thalian Hall, as well as churches, cemeteries, homes and historical markers. Dur-

nistoricai markers. Dur-ing February, festivals and special events will celebrate Black History Month. Feb. 3: Salute to Af-rican-American Music and Literature: Tangria Jazz Trio. 3:30-4:45 p.m. Sheryl Mebane and the jazz trio Tangria will perform and talk about the relationship between jazz and African-American litera-ture. The event is free and will take place at the New Hanover Public Library, Main branch, 201 Chestnut St., Wilmington. 910-798-

Feb. 11: Jamaica Kincaid: "Coming of Age in a Small Place." 7 p.m. Ca-ribbean-American novelist/ essayist Jamaica Kincaid's "Marica Kincaid's long essay, "A Small Place," is among the most outspoken critiques of British colonization in Anglophone literature. There is a small admission charge and the event will take place at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Kenan Auditorium. Call 910-962-3500 or 800-732-3643 or visit www. uncw.edu/presents for more information.

Feb. 7-10: "Ain't Misbehavin" 8 p.m. The prodigious comic and musical soul of 1930s Harlem comes to life in this Tony Award-winning revue. Music by the inimitable Fats Waller. There is an admission charge. The event will take place at Thalian Association Community Theatre, Thalian Hall. For more information, call 800-5232820 or 910-341-3664 or visit www.thalianhall.com. Feb. 2: Lecture: "Art of

Change and Hope: Contemporary Art in West Africa, 2008." The event will take place at 11:30 a.m. and will include a lecture and discussion by Dr. Amy Kirschke, author and UNCW asstistant professor in art history, an expert on African-American, 20th Century, African and con-temporary art. Admission is by donation. Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington. 910-395-5999 www.cameronartmuseum.com

Feb. 9: Minnie Evans Art Exhibit. The event is scheduled to run from noon to 4 p.m. There will be a limited display of Minnie Evans paintings from the collection of Dr. Christian Daniel, who will answer questions. Airlie Gardens, Wilmington. For more information, call 910-798-7700;or visit www.airliegardens.org.

Feb. 10: African Art Illustrated Lecture. 3 p.m. Dr. Kristina Van Dyke, scholar and associate curator for African, Oceanic and Native American Collections for the Menil Collection, presents overview of African art. Admission by donation. Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington. 910-395-5999; www.cameronartmuseum.com

Feb. 11-16: 15th Annual Intercultural Week and Festival. This week-long series of events celebrates the rich diversity of cultures within the community. The week culminates Feb. 16 with an Intercultural Festival featuring international food, dance, music and exhibits. Saturday's festival is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at UNCW's Warwick Center. For more information, call 910-962-3685; or visit www.uncw.edu/intprogs/ outreach.html

Feb. 12: Film Screening: "Life and Debt." This 2001 documentary, inspired by Jamaica Kincaid's essay 'A Small Place,' explores

balization on developing countries. It is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. There will be discussion by Dr. Den-nis Carter and Dr. Yunus Kaya. A \$2 admission fee will be charged. Lumina Theatre, UNCW. 910-962-4279; uncw.edu/stuaff/ presents/lumina.htm

Feb.14-16:FilmScreening: "The Wiz." The event is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Young Women's Christian Association Film Series, an ongoing commitment to help individuals, organizations and compa-nies in the Cape Fear re-gion improve race relations and find ways to eliminate racism through constructive dialogue and meaningful action. February's film is "The Wiz," an urban adaptation of the Wizard of Oz. Jengo's Playhouse, 815 Princess St., Wilmington. For more information, call 910-799-6820 or 910-343-5995 or visit www.ywca-

lowercapefear.org. Feb. 22-24: Civil War Living History Weekend. The 143rd Anniversary of the Battle of Forks Road recreated on the grounds of the Cameron Art Museum. On Friday night at 7:30 p.m., there will be a period dance for re-enactors and the public at Halyburton Park Events Center. Living history demonstrations (Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) by re-enactors include small arms and artillery, encampments, artifact exhibits, period crafts and occupations and kids' activi-ties. Presenters include Professor William B. Gould IV, who will lecture on his book "Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor," which tells the story of one of Wilmington's largest slave escapes. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., UNCW history professor and author of numerous books about the Civil War, will discuss the fall of Wilmington and the Battle of Forks Road. 910-395-5999 Cameron Art Museum, www.cameronar-

Home-grown effort connects home front to troop [

AMERICA

OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

Press release

This February, hearts at home are connecting with hearts overseas through an America Supports You effort to send Valentines to military men and women. Already, America Supports You non-profit organizations are gathering supplies for

February packages and time is running out for troops to get these special messages by Valentine's Day.

The effort is part of the America Supports You program's year-long calendar to

show appreciation for U.S. troops and their families. The calendar, a helpful reminder that can be downloaded into Outlook or iCal calendars, can be viewed online at *AmericaSupportsYou.mil*. "Every February, loved ones exchange

flowers, candy and cards, but for troops overseas who are separated from the ones they love, Valentine's Day can be said Allison Barber, architect of the America Supports You program, a Department of Defense initiative which helps showcase America's support for the troops and their families.

To meet postal deadlines for sending packages overseas, America Supports You home front groups are gearing up now for February activities.

Home front groups planning to send Valentines to troops include Hugs for Soldiers, Inc., My Soldier and Operation Pinecone.

Supporters can access these group other monthly ideas to support the troop and learn about home front groups in the area by visiting AmericaSupportsYou.m and clicking on "Home front groups." Org. nizations sending valentines can be four by clicking on "Letters and Messages."

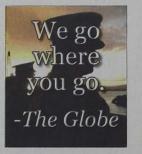
The calendar provides a new idea eac

month for ways to show military me and women su port. Other su gestions included donating to school arships in Marc to help militar families trying plan for educ-tional costs, pa ticipating in Month of the Mil

tary Child ever in April or organizing a local America Su ports You Freedom Walk in September commemorate victims of Sept. 11, 200 and honor veterans, past and present.

America Supports You is an ongoin

nationwide program organized by the D partment of Defense to showcase Amer cans' support for the men and women the Armed Forces and their families. Since its launch in November 2004, America Supports You has welcomed more tha 300 home front organizations and mor than 35 corporations to the program Many America Supports You home from groups demonstrate their support for the troops through letter writing, care pack ages, helping the wounded when the return home, assisting military familie sending an e-mail or kind gesture learn more about how you can suppo military personnel visitthe Web site www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil.





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Lejeune honors new batch of veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam



Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the Marine Corps Base Military Retiree Council honored a new batch of Hardcore Warriors in a ceremony at the command building Friday. Hardcore Warriors are veterans who have served their county during three wars: World War II, Korea and Vietnam. From left to right are, Chief Warrant Of-ficer 4 Donald P. Ivers, ficer 4 Donald P. Ivers, Master Sgt. Herbert M. Kinney, Staff Sgt. Gene W. Cowart, Master Gun-nery Sgt. Raoul Gagnon, Sgt. Maj. James R. Skin-ner, Master Sgt. Reynolds Barron and Master Sgt. James W. Hamilton.

Honor Roll Hardcore Warriors

kind gesture isitthe Web site

Pendants

Creation

ork.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles E. Amodie Master Sgt. Reynolds Barron Master Gunnery Sgt. Clifford F. Bell Master Gunnery Sgt. Steven A. Burek Sgt. Maj. John L. Capehart Staff Sgt. Gene W. Cowart Master Gunnery Sgt. Raoul Gagnon Master Sgt. James W. Hamilton CWO-4 Donald P. Ivers Master Sgt. Herbert M. Kinney Sgt. Maj. Charles G. Koenig Cmdr. Richard "Ole" Olsen Master Sgt. Frank R. Petrowski Jr. Sgt. Maj. James R. Skinner Gunnery Sgt. John E. Stahl Capt. Edgar T. Steward Master Sgt. Eugene T. Vaughn Staff Sgt. William H. Yarnall

Outgoing base commanding officer Col. Adele E. Hodges, in one of her last acts at the helm of the installation, presented the proclamations to the veterans newly-minted "Hardcore Warriors." Above, Cowart receives a hug from Hodges as she honors him for his service. For more photographs from the ceremony, visit The Globe Web page at www.camplejeuneglobe.com.

Heather Owens

66 Tt just brings me back to those days. said retired Marine Staff Sgt. Gene
Cowart after he received the title
of Hardcore Warrior in a ceremony held Friday at the command building of Marine Corps
Base Camp Lejeune. "
"I remamber the model in the said in the sai

"I remember the good times, not the bad times and I remember the good friends," add-ed Cowart, a veteran of the Chosin Reservoir

ed Cowart, a veteran of the Chosin Reservoir in Korea.

The Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune Military Retiree Council implemented the Hardcore Warrior recognition program as part of the 2007 Military Retiree Day in September.

"Its purpose is to express our gratitude and respect for a unique group of warriors; they all served during World War II, Korea and Vietnam [all three]," said Col. Paul W. O'Toole, a retired Marine and member of the Military Retiree Council. "At no other time in our history have the same veterans served in such a sustained and intense conflict."

sustained and intense conflict."
O'Toole explained the intent was to close the program after Sept. 30, but Col. Adele E. Hodges, who relinquished her command of Camp Lejeune Monday, and others desired to keep the program going as they all recognized the importance of honoring these cherished

veterans.

"This is unfortunately my last Hardcore Warrior presentation," said Hodges to the honorees and guests. "I wanted to do it one more time because I knew there were people who need to be recognized."

More than 60 veterans have been identified as Hardcore Warriors. Prior to Friday's ceremony, 44 veterans had been honored at both public events and at private ceremonies in veteran's homes or other special locations.

Seven former service members received the

title Friday and 11 more will receive their proclamation in the following weeks.

Each honored veteran received a framed Hardcore Warrior Proclamation and a special three-dimensional laser art graphic of a service member from the honoree's branch of service.

The laser graphic was created by John Michael Moore of the Lancer Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping veterans and their families.

ganization dedicated to helping veterans and their families.

O'Toole served as the moderator for the ceremony while each service member was called up to the stage to receive his proclamation.

Thus far, one woman, Sgt. Maj. Mary A. Sabourin, has been identified and honored as a Hardcore Warrior and she received her proclamation in a previous ceremony.

Hodges presented the proclamations, laser art graphic and a commander's coin to the honorees. She was assisted by the President of the Military Retiree Council, retired Marine Staff Sgt. George M. Barrows Sr.

"You have borne the risks, endured the hardships and made the sacrifice syou knew were necessary to do your duty in service to our country," read the proclamation in part. "On behalf of a grateful nation, we acknowledge that you are a direct and significant contributor to the preservation of our way of life. This nation is forever in your debt and your fellow veterans and citizens salute you and thank you for being a 'Hardcore Warrior.'"

O'Toole said the proclamation pretty much sums up the enormity of the sacrifice and dedication of veterans who served their nation in the three wars.

"This is truly a great group of veterans."

the three wars.

"This is truly a great group of veterans.

There is a lot of history here. I have spent more time on active duty than most, and I recognize the legacy they have passed to myself and others," he said. "Had they not done their duty as they did, we would not be enjoying the culture and lifestyle we enjoy today."



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- Any period absent from duty due to sickness, wounds or leave
- A person who becomes a prisoner of war or is missing in action
- Assignments on official temporary duty to the combat zone or qualify for hostile/imminent fire danger pay
- Service outside the combat zone if the service is in support of military operation in the combat zone

If pay is considered to be combat zone pay it is excluded from taxation.

The deadline for filing a tax return after military personnel have returned from a combat zone is extended by 180 days after the service member was in the combat zone or had qualifying service outside of the combat zone. If you believe you qualify for excludable combat pay not reflected on your W-2, you need to request a corrected W-2 from the issuer before filing your taxes.

Note: A married spouse may not file as Head of Household while a spouse is deployed, because the only filing status available to spouses of deployed personnel are Married Filing Joint or Married Filing Separately.

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add your event, e-mail heather.owens@militarynews.com. Space is limited to availability.

rtists and Crafters Guild ast Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

Coastal Carolina Artists and Craftrs Guild meets on a regular basis on the st Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in e Northwoods Recreation Building, 261 lenderson Dr., Jacksonville. The CCAC hill promotes arts and crafts by proa networking group giving artists nd crafters the opportunity to exchange eas, educate themselves through periodguest speakers, literature and a venue to dvertise their creative talents. For more formation, call 938-7077.

labitat for Humanity fundraiser riday and Saturday, all day

and Saturday the Fuddruckers in icksonville will donate a percentage of rofits to Habitat for Humanity. For evry \$200-\$999 spent Habitat will receive 0 percent, \$1,000-\$1,999 Habitat will ive 15 percent and for anything over 2,000 they will receive 20 percent. Tell ne cashier you are there to support Habi-

emper Fit nutrition workshop uesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

emper Fit Health Promotion will be ofaring nutrition education workshops ach month during 2008. The next event will take place Tuesday at Bldg, 302 on Hol-omb Boulevard from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This ourse is designed for active-duty military etirees or civilian employees who would ke to know more about their own nutriin goals. To sign up for the course, call

tate of the Community Breakfast

eb. 7, 8:00 a.m.
he Jacksonville/Onslow Chamber of commerce has scheduled its 13th Annual tate of the Community Breakfast, It will e at the Marine Corps Air Station New liver Officer's Club Feb. 7. Breakfast will tart at 8 a.m. and the program will begin t 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 for members nd \$15 for non-members. Reservation orms are available at their Web site and t the Chamber; or reservations can be nade by calling the Chamber at 347-3141, axing to 347-4705 or e-mailing Janet Boven at jbowen@jacksonvilleonline.org.

Concert for preschoolers eb. 7, 9:30 a.m.

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Preschoolers, ages 3 – 5, in the Jacksonville area will have the opportunity to enjoy a ive theatre performance Feb. 7. Timmy and Susana Abell concerts engage the audience from the very first song. Children use their arms for hand motions, their oodies for rhythm and their voices for singing. Children will learn about the bano, listen to the hammered dulcimer, laugh with the dancing man, dance sitting down, daydream with their eyes closed while listening to the penny whistle and sing from their hearts. The show will be held in the southwest High School auditorium in Jackonville. Admission is \$2 Seating space is mited. Call the Council for the Arts at 455-9840 to register your group. Children should be seated by 9:10 a.m.Tickets will pe sold at the door if space is available. If you, or your group, have not registered, please allow extra time to purchase tickets. Care-givers will be admitted free.

Domestic Violence Support Group

Feb. 7 - ongoing
The Community Counselling Center announces that the registration deadline for its upcoming education and empowerment program for present and past survivors of domestic violence will be Feb. 7. The next group is scheduled to start Feb. 8 and last from 10 a.m. through noon. Other groups will start April 18, June 20, Aug. 22 and Oct. 31 with registra-tion deadlines for each ending the day prior to the first session. The goal of the program is to educate participants in a safe and supportive environment. For more information, call the Community Counselling Center at 451-2864.

Flea Market at Marston Pavilion

Feb. 9, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Marine Corps Community Services is planning a flea market for Feb. 9 at Marston Pavilion, located on Seth Williams Boulevard aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Participants are welcome to clean out their closets and make some cash. The event is open to activeduty, retirees, their dependents and civilian employees. Please, no food or commercial products of any kind. Space is limited, so up early. For more information, call 451-1521.

Cheer-leading contest

Feb. 9, 9 a.m.
The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a cheer-leading contest at Jacksonville High School, Squad Registration ends Wednesday. Check in at 9 a.m., and the competition is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. The first 100 to register on a squad will receive a free T-shirt and pizza coupon. Registration is by squad only. The cost is \$8 per squad member. Registration packets and a list of the rules may be picked up from the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department at 1244 Onslow Pines Rd. Free admission for friends and family. For more information, call 347-5332 or visit www. onslowcountync.gov/parks.

Bowl for Your Heart

Feb. 10, 1 - 4 p.m.
The Onslow County Parks and Recreation
Department, Onslow Memorial Hospital and the Bowlarena are sponsoring the "Bowl for Your Heart" program at the Bowlarena. The event is open to the public. The cost is \$3 per person (including shoes and one game).
All proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association. Participants will receive free door prizes. Blood pressure checks will be available. Children 12 years old and under must be accompanied by an adult.For more information, call the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department at 347-5332 or visit www.onslowcountync.gov/parks.

Make your own Valentine candy Feb. 11,5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department, North Carolina Cooperative Extension and Taylor's Piggly Wiggly are sponsoring two free Valentine candy making sessions Feb. 11 at the Onslow County Multipurpose Complex, Highway 258. The first session begins at 5:30 p.m. and the second session begins at 7 p.m. The event is open to children age 5 - 12.Participants must call 347-5332 to pre-register before Feb. 8. For more information, www.onslowcountync.gov/parks

Lunch with the author

Feb. 16, noon

The Sneads Ferry Friends of the Library will

host a lunch with guest Bill Thompson, author of "Sweet Tea, Fried Chicken, and Lazy Dogs" at the Sneads Ferry Community Center.The book is a collection of short stories which views life from the vantage point of a native Carolinian who has had the opportunity to leave the area and return home again. Tickets are \$15 and available at the Sneads Ferry Branch of the Onslow County Public Library or by calling 327-6471.

Youngster's reading group Feb. 21, 6 - 7 p.m. The Harriotte B. Smith Library aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejuene is seeking all 2nd through 5th graders to enjoy their new reading group. The first story to be read is "Tornado" by Betsy Byars. The first 10 children to sign up will receive a free copy of the book (one book per family). Enjoy trivia and refreshments. Registration required. To

register, call 450-3026. Forum Onslow Feb. 22, 8:30 - 10 a.m.

The Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce presents the February Forum On-slow on the topic of "Jacksonville City Inspection Department Opportunities and Challenges." The event will take place at the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 815
New Bridge St. The featured speaker will be Jacksonville City Manager Kristoff Bauer.
Please RSVP to 347-3141 or jbowen@jacksonvilleonline.org

Fashion Show fundraiser

Feb. 24, 1:30 - 4 p.m.

Angels' Voices Speak Up, a local non-profit advocacy organization, is planning its 4th Annual "Love Shouldn't Hurt, Should It?" Fashion Show and Bid for Bachelor event for Feb. 24 from 1:30 until 4 p.m. at Swansboro Middle School. Tickets are \$5 and two non-perishable food items (which will go to the Salvation Army along with \$1 per ticket sold). They are seeking volunteers, models and escorts. Additionally, they are asking for donations of formal wear, Marine Corps Ball gowns or children's clothes for the show. Advance tickets may be purchased at the business office of the Salvation Army on Bell Fork Road, Jesse's Chicago's Own on Western Boulevard and at the

Forget-Me-Not Florist. Contact Cindy at 455-6057 or e-mail angelsvoicesspeakup@yahoo.com or go to www.angelsvoices.org.

Poetry Open Mic Night
Feb. 28, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
The Harriotte B. Smith Library aboard
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune invites
adults 18 years and older to attend its Poetry Open Mic Night scheduled for Feb. 28. Share your work, read from your favorite poets, meet other local poets and get creative ideas. For more information, call 451-

Black History Month event

Feb. 16, 3 p.m.
In honor of Black History Month, the Onslow
County Public Library will host a very special, one-time performance by accomplished
storyteller Joyce Grear as Harriet Tubman.
The event is scheduled to take place at the
Main Library in Jacksonville. Grear has toured
the United States since 1987 captivation audithe United States since 1987 captivating audiences with dramatic interpretations of outstanding African-American heroines. She has performed locally, nationally and internationally, combining storytelling and true histori-cal facts to create a dramatic and compelling interpretation of the life of Harriet Tubman. Attendees are invited to stay after the performance for a question and answer session with Grear. This performance is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. For more information, call the Main Library at 455-7350, extension 242.

7th Annual Cine Noir Festival

March 13-16, various times
The 7th Annual Cine Noir: A Festival of Black Film is set to take place in Wilmington in March. Cine Noir is a four-day, juried and invitational competition and screening of independent films by African-American filmmakers with guest artists, panel discussions, workshops, family cinema (free for ages 17 and under) and more. Genres include featurelength, short subject, animation, documentary and music videos. Sponsored by the Black Arts Alliance. Admission charge. The event will take place at the Cameron Art Museum Reception Hall, For more information, call 910-350-2681 or visit www.blackartsalliance.org





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- 2040 Wilmington Hwy (Food Lion S/C)
- West Park Shopping Center (intersection of Hwy 258 & 53)
- 9103 Richlands Hwy-Richlands (across from Andy's)
- Marine Blvd (inside Wal-Mart)
- 235 New River Dr (corner of Hargett and New River Dr.)

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\$2000 OFF TAX PREPARATION



EXPIRES: 4/17/08 COUPON CODE: EGGPC

OFFER VALID ON TAX PREPARATION FEES ONLY. DOES NOT APPLY TO FINANCIAL PRODUCTS OR OTHER SERVICES. PRESENT COUPON AT THE TIME OF TAX PREPARATION. VALID AT PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS ONLY AND MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. MOST OFFICES ARE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.