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THE GLOBE

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March 10, 2005 / Vol. 67 No. 10

Marine South
Expo takes
place at
Marston
Pavilion |
April 6 and 7

Marine
Military
Expos

inside this week

MED FORCES BOXING

Marine Corps boxers took the four championships in Armed Forces boxing tournament in Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Read more about the men and women who are writing the next chapter in the illustrious history of Marine boxing on 1B.

MCRS KICKS OFF

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society's annual drive begins March 1. Read more on 1C.

CURRENT PERKS PROGRAM

Parents can shop a little in March and save their sanity in April through a Jacksonville Mall program for free childcare available to all military families. For more information about this program, turn to 3D.

News Watch

MONTHLY DEATH TOTALS DECLINE

The monthly death total of U.S. service members dropped in February in comparison to the previous even months. Fifty-eight troops died in February, which was four less than in July. As of March 4, the total death toll came to 1,502 Americans since the beginning of the war in March 2003. This decrease may be due to increased attacks by insurgents on Iraqi citizens or, as senior military officials said, the war may be entering a new phase. The military has improved abilities to electronically jam remotely detonated bombs and has received a higher volume of intelligence tips.

POSSIBLE BONUS INCREASES

The Marine Corps has a proposed plan that will increase the maximum bonuses offered to enlisted Marines by \$5,000. The plan would increase the bonuses for Marines in Zone A to \$35,000 and those in Zones B and C an additional \$5,000. The deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve makes the decision, which is not anticipated until this summer. The plan for increase would not take effect until the new fiscal year if approved.

MORE DRILL INSTRUCTOR SUSPENSIONS

Three more drill instructors were suspended, bringing the total to eight suspended and one on administrative duty, in conjunction with the death of a recruit in February during a swim qualification exercise at a training pool on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. The situation is currently under investigation.

BE A POSTER MARINE

Marine Corps Recruiting Command and J. Walter Thompson, the Corps' advertising agency, will be screening for the next Marine Corps television commercial and other advertising opportunities. Motivated Marines are encouraged to participate in the casting calls on March 28, from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; March 29, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; and April 1, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., at the Recreation Center, Building 62, second floor, above Andy's. Call 451-7433 for information.

Camp Lejeune offers motorcyclists free classes to receive safety license

CPL. ELSA M. PORTILLO
Marine Corps Base

Their pipes can rattle the still air, their chrome reflects places gone by and the upcoming spring weather beckons for adventures to be had - but wait, there's one thing missing to get that iron horse rolling: a class from Coastal Carolina Community College.

Anyone wishing to feel the freedom of riding a motorcycle aboard Camp Lejeune must first successfully complete a motorcycle safety course from the college, in which students will earn a card verifying completion, which riders must carry.

A motorcycle safety course is mandatory per Marine Corps Order 5100.19E for all motorcyclists aboard Camp Lejeune. According to Mark Scott, traffic safety specialist, Base Safety Office, the course is free of charge for all Department of Defense personnel and service members under active-duty orders attached to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and its tenant activities.

This class not only ensures that motorcyclists aboard Camp Lejeune are within Marine Corps regulations, but it also gives riders an understanding of proper safety guidelines and follows the Motorcycle Safety

Foundation's curriculum.

Coastal Carolina Community College offers both a beginner and experienced course for participants. Parties interested in receiving a voucher or to enroll in the beginner course must have the following items: a military identification card, a learner's permit or motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license and a driver improvement card if under the age of 26. For the experienced course, enrollees must have all of the above and the ownership, registration or the loan of a motorcycle.

Once participants receive a voucher from the Base Safety Office and have all the above listed items, they can schedule a class at the college and begin to learn how to safely operate a motorcycle.

Beginner classes are held nearly every weekend and begin on Fridays with classroom instruction. The instructors teach all students, ranging in age, gender and skill level, the basic mechanics of a motorcycle along with proper safety precautions. One student came to the class with her husband, who had a permit and wanted to obtain his license, with virtually no experience except having ridden approximately 30 years prior.

"I definitely think this is a good class to take. They teach you a lot of safety measures and maneuvers that anyone needs to know if they are on a motorcycle," said Carlella

Carlyle, a registered nurse and Richlands, N.C. resident. "I think it'll definitely save your life."

On the second day, students went outside to put their classroom knowledge to the test. Students began by learning how to walk their bikes and graduated to switching gears and taking curves. While some students were gathering confidence in their newfound skills, others felt they just needed a refresher after having been deployed or not riding for some time.

"I still have a license, but I just bought a bike and I'm just trying to make sure I'm safe when I'm riding it. I don't want to dump my bike, so I need to get back to the basics," said Chief Warrant Officer Jim Pappas, motor transportation officer, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. "It's been like 15 years since I've been riding. I wouldn't consider myself experienced. I used to ride but I wanted to get back to the basics. I didn't want to go a level above where I think I am."

The course continued the next and final day for additional classroom instruction and testing and then went on to more practical application time, culminating in the students' final examination.

See SAFETY | 5A



Design by
Eva Bravo
Photos by
Cpl. Elsa Portillo

Larson praises unit's success

CPL. C.J. YARD

2d Force Service Support Group

CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq — "We came here to make this country a better place. That's exactly what we did," said Col. Ted Larson, commanding officer of Combat Service Support Group 15, 1st Force Service Support Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

As I MEF turns over command and control of Operation Iraqi Freedom to II MEF, the major component of U.S. forces in Iraq, the mission to support the Marines and sailors fighting the Global War on Terrorism is turned over from CSSG-15 to 2d Force Service Support Group's Combat Service Support Detachment 29.

"I am very proud of everything you have accomplished," said Col. Bob DeStafney, commanding officer of CSSD-29, speaking to a formation of CSSG-15 Marines. "You came to help rebuild a nation and have performed tremendously. Now it is our turn to pick up where you left off."

CSSG-15 successfully completed more than 1,500 re-supply convoys, conducted numerous humanitarian assistance missions handing out food and supplies to nearly 30,000 people, and were also a makeshift mortuary affairs unit that collected and gave a traditional Islamic burial to more than 535 anti-Iraqi forces. The Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based CSSG-15 also supported the election workers by providing them a safe place to live and transportation to and from election sites and provided security for the election ballots.

The combat service support group was formed from 74 different units and came together very well, according to their commanding officer.

"It was awesome to see these Marines come together the way they did," said Larson, a 31-year veteran hailing from Mystic, Conn. "No matter what, convoys rolled and they got done what needed to be done."

One major highlight for CSSG-15 was their Surgical Shock

See LARSON | 7A

4th MEB (AT) deploys to Iraq



Sergeant Enrique Alcantara, Company A, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), hugs his son Aaron before deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Company A deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, to provide security for the U.S. Embassy. This is Al Battalion's first deployment since its inception in the late October 2004.

Travel card data lost, no criminal activity trace

JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Approximately 900,000 Defense Department employees may be affected by Bank of America's loss and the possible compromise of government travel card information, Pentagon officials said Feb. 19.

The General Services Administration and Bank of America notified DoD that GSA "SmartPay" travel cards are affected. Officials said Bank of America has been monitoring the affected accounts and there has been no evidence of fraud or misuse of the accounts.

Bank of America is sending letters to affected employees. "Information regarding travel card program accounts for individual card holders has been lost, and it is possible that that information has been compromised, though we don't believe that is the case," said Teresa McKay, the Defense Department's deputy chief financial officer.

The U.S. Secret Service is conducting the investigation, with help from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. Officials said that although there has been no evidence of criminal activity, release of details on the circumstances of the loss could jeopardize the investigation.

See LOST | 7A

Morning strikes keep Marines alert

LANCE CPL. PAUL
ROBBINS JR.

2d Marine Division

HALABISAH, Iraq — The residents of the small city of Halabisah, Iraq, slept comfortably in their homes during the quiet early morning hours of March 1, unaware of the silent force closing in around them.

More than 200 Marines and corpsmen with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team-1, assisted by Iraqi Security Forces, successfully initiated and completed Operation Peninsula Plague in the small city just outside of Fallujah.

The 72-hour operation marked the first offensive strike for 3/4 since their arrival in Iraq in early January.

"The purpose of the operation was to disrupt enemy activity on the peninsula, prevent the enemy from regrouping and to capture key enemy leaders," said Capt. Michael J. Bissonette, 36-year-old intelligence officer for 3/4.

The operation began with a cordon of the entire city where tanks, light armored vehicles and Marines blocked the entry and exit points.

Once the blocking units were in place, a convoy of more than 100 Marines and Iraqi soldiers pushed into the city



One of 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team-1's Marines, Cpl. Paul B. Worley, laughs with Iraqi children after sharing hot tea and freshly baked bread in Halabisah, Iraq, during Operation Peninsula Plague March 1.

toward their intended targets.

"We cordoned off the area, targeted known cells and searched the locations for weapons caches and enemy forces," said the Brockport, N.Y., native.

The Marines and Iraqi soldiers struck quickly at their specified targets, maintaining the element of surprise and capturing their targets without resistance.

"We received no contact and no casualties," said Maj. Matt O. Watt, the battalion's 33-year-old operations officer. "That's always a good thing."

The quick morning strikes, coupled with the exhaustive search of the city using metal detectors and the keen eyes of combat engineers, resulted in an effective disruption of enemy activity.

"We have prevented them from regaining their balance in the city," Bissonette said.

This was accomplished by the recovery of more than 30 rifles, two medium machine guns, dozens of rocket-propelled

See STRIKES | 7A

WEATHER

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
H 54°F L 34°F	H 55°F L 37°F	H 61°F L 43°F

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Man on the street

What leadership trait do you think is most important?



"Integrity, it's all you have at the end of the day."

Warrant Officer Bryan Mingus,
2d Maintenance Battalion
Charlotte, N.C.

"Integrity, it is the foundation of all the traits."



Sgt. Maj. Joseph Balton
3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment
Gillette, Wyo.



"Integrity, if you lose your integrity you lose them all."

Master Sgt. Sara Gross
II MEF Headquarters
Savannah, Ga.

"Tact, at any rank you need to know how to talk to Marines above and below you."



Sgt. John Pluchino
8th Transportation Support Battalion
Denville, N.J.



"Initiative, a Marine with initiative will always accomplish the mission."

1st Sgt. Rodolfo Graham
Brig Company, Marine Corps Base
Brooklyn, N.Y.

U.S. flag deserves 'heartfelt' respect

Guest Commentary
MASTER SGT. STEVEN NELSON

Most of us have heard of, seen or participated in the new policy regarding the rendering of honors to colors while in civilian attire. It requires that we now place our hand above our heart instead of standing at the position of attention. For those of us who have been in the Corps for quite a while, this will be an unusual change, but not unwelcome. It takes me back to grade school, remembering how we recited the pledge of allegiance. More recently, the change reminds me of last July.

Last summer, when I went on leave back to the great state of Wisconsin, my family and I flew into Chicago, rented a car and drove north. We could have easily flown into Milwaukee or Green Bay, but there were two big reasons we chose not to do so. The first reason was that my cousin lives in Chicago and I wanted to visit with him and catch up. Also, it just so happened the Cubs were playing my Brewers the day after we flew in. The next day we were sitting about 12 rows behind first base. It was a beautiful, sunny July day and were set for a classic contest.

When the ballpark organist's fingers were warmed up, the public address announcer asked the entire crowd to stand for the playing of our national anthem. He didn't have to ask me twice. As the first bars of "The Star Spangled Banner" were belted out, everyone around me immediately put their hands over their hearts and began to sing along. That is, everyone except me. I just stood at attention, facing the flag, the way I was taught my first day of boot camp.

My cousin, halfway through the song, whispered, "How come you're not singing or putting your hand over your heart?" He knows I'm a Marine, so I'm sure he thought not doing either was an unusual choice for someone in the armed forces. I quietly whispered, "I'm supposed to stand at attention." Whenever I'm in those situations in civilian attire, not only do I look out of place, but I feel out of place.

However, that will no longer be the case because higher headquarters recently changed the policy regarding rendering honors to colors while in civilian attire. Now, with my right hand, I can feel my heart pick up the pace during the "rocket's red glare" portion of the anthem.

There are still a few situations that need a final ruling, such as being indoors in uniform but uncovered or if you're part of a working party in uniform and uncovered. But rest assured, we will receive further guidance on that soon. Overall, I'm glad the Marine Corps is implementing this policy, because now I can do more than just "stand there" while the national anthem is played. The policy also covers morning and evening colors and when being passed by or passing by the colors, such as in a parade on the streets of Anytown, U.S.A.

Some of you may be of the opinion that standing at attention during the rendering of honors to colors is what sets us apart. When I first heard about the policy change, that was my opinion as well. It was actually pretty cool to be the only guy in a crowd of civilians doing something different during the national anthem and then explaining to them why I was standing at the position of attention. But after weighing the pros and cons, I would much rather have my hand on my heart, because that's what being a Marine is all about - having the heart to serve our country and to do what very few people in this nation have chosen to do or even would want to do. Whenever I'm at any event that kicks off with our national anthem, my blood races and I get goose bumps during the song.

Think of the brave men who fought at Fort McHenry throughout the night of Sept. 13, 1814, with Old Glory waving above them, making it through the night, and inspiring Francis Scott Key to pen the poem that later became our national anthem. With our new policy, I will now get to feel my blood racing through my heart, especially during the second to last line: "Oh say does that star spangled banner yet wave." I believe it's a change for the better and will enable all of us to feel a little bit more proud of what we do and those we do it for.

Master Sgt. Nelson is the public affairs chief at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

Sempertoons by Staff Sgt. Wolf



Take charge in life

Guest Commentary
MASTER GUNNERY SGT. BILLY D. STEWART

My mind often ponders previous periods of leave I have taken in the past. Particularly significant is the November leave I spent in my home state of Illinois with my father. A common bond we have always shared is bow hunting for whitetail deer. My father and I consider this a way of life on the "hillbilly farm."

During archery season, we spend hours hunting, both in the morning and evening of each day. The time I spend in the woods not only relaxes me but provides a time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It allows my father and I to spend much needed quality time together. Of course, the third and most evident reason that we hunt is to feed our family and friends throughout the year. This experience is one that few individuals will understand unless they experience it first hand.

The difference between my family and many others is the fact that outdoor life is a life filled with a deep sense of respect and responsibility. All seasonal and wildlife activity around the farm, woods and house is second nature to my family. Nature is both a provider of wise counsel for our minds and sustenance for our bodies.

I certainly have no problem with nourishment while I am at home. Our family very rarely buys meat of any kind and just recently started buying eggs after years of emptying the hen house every morning. Beef, pork, deer, wild turkey and fresh water fish fill three deep freezers located on the back porch and in the shed behind our house. While this may seem appalling to some, do not misconstrue our lifestyle for anything else than what it truly is; the responsibility of taking charge of what we have been blessed with on this earth.

My family takes this responsibility very seriously. It's quite a coincidence that I witnessed the act of "taking charge" everyday while on leave. At times it feels like my father is the commanding officer. He controls the roost and makes sure we remember the policies and standards while hunting and working around the farm. Throughout the daily routine, he ensures that we are trained and understand how to get the job done well and safely. Some members of my family don't always like it, but know it is for the best.

In a strange way, does this sound familiar? I thought so. Many of these situations reminded me of what the Corps expects of its leaders.

On my last trip home, I was lucky enough to see a large number of deer in their natural habitat. One special afternoon, a "10-point" mature male buck snorted and came trotting through the forest with authority. He was not alone. He also was pushing a young "six-point" buck directly in front of him.

If that wasn't enough, a small doe shortly came into view at his immediate flank. It was clear that the big buck had an agenda planned for that evening. As he grunted and strutted, things began to make sense. In his own unique way, he assigned a mission to the two smaller deer just by his presence.

The smaller buck and doe became very alert while the "10-pointer" fed upon the forest floor and shined his massive antlers on a large sapling for approximately 15 minutes. It was clear that they had become his lookouts while he browsed. When he was finished, he then gave a signal by moving on in another direction. The other two

deer quickly followed his lead and moved on. There was no mistaking that he was in charge that day.

I couldn't help comparing that big buck to a senior corporal taking charge of a fire team, either on patrol or on liberty. Although the "10-pointer" only had a couple of deer under his charge, he remained in control and commanded the whole time.

During the last night of hunting, sunset came late. I was hunting a few hundred yards from a lake. In the distance, I heard the sound of geese coming behind me. I had clear vision through the trees and I lifted my eye hoping to get a good look at them as they passed by. As the geese made their approach, I could not believe my eyes. Although I have seen geese before, this time proved to be something I'll never forget. The geese flew over in a "V" formation that sported more alignment than a recruit platoon during final drill. They were perfectly staggered and looked better than a squadron of Marine fighters during a flyby.

The most impressive part was that one lone goose was clearly in charge. It was off to the left of the formation and honking constantly as though he was calling cadence and commands. After a few more honks, the formation negotiated a U-turn and flew straight over my father. We were both so impressed, we talked about it on the way out of the woods and to the truck that night. It reminded me again of a sergeant or staff sergeant controlling a platoon of Marines while conducting close order drill with strict precision and commands, proving that the situation was well in hand.

Finally, what is a farm without farm dogs to maintain order? At our house, Bobby has always been in charge. He recently passed away but will never be forgotten. He was a rat terrier that spent the last 15 years of his life as a cattle dog, sow chaser and watchdog. Although he was somewhat small, he made up for it with tenacity and heart. Although Bobby was worn out and passed his prime, he still could be seen patrolling the area around the house, chasing the younger dogs and cats away from mischief, as well as anyone he viewed as an intruder.

At the same time, it was evident that the other animals still respected Bobby because of his strong presence. Arthritis plagued Bobby's joints and my dad gave him medicine every morning to ease his pain. Bobby stepped up to the plate, took charge of his post and maintained good order and discipline. His dedication reminded me of the "ole gunny," nearing retirement, that has lived the word "leadership" in every aspect of life and continually preserves the standard for his Marines to follow. Taking charge is not an option for him, but a way of life.

Not to worry, you will have plenty of opportunities to take charge while you wear the coveted eagle, globe and anchor. You may find yourself like that big buck and his small fire team of deer. Or maybe you're in charge of the direction of a large number of Marines just as the goose giving commands to a "flying V" formation. Perhaps like Bobby your presence will set the stage for good order and discipline.

Examples of leadership will manifest in our everyday lives: I guarantee it. Learn from them and as Marines, strive for leadership opportunities whether in or out of uniform, at work or on liberty, in garrison or in the field. Remember, someone will always be in charge. Where there are two Marines, one is in charge. When you find yourself as that someone, make sure you step up. This is what you asked for. Semper Paratus.

Master Gunnery Sgt. Stewart is the aviation supply chief at the Pentagon.

THE GLOBE

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Lejeune Deployed

Deploying to Iraq
Brings Becker
brothers togetherCPL. C.J. YARD
Service Support Group

MP TAQADDUM, Iraq yful fighting, taking care h other and the warrior run deep in the Becker , according to the eldest ungest of three brothers. e trio of boys joined the e Corps, following in the ps of their grandfather, a colonel.

nnery Sgt. Mathew C. r, the 35-year-old compa- gunnery sergeant for any A, 2d Military Police ion, augmenting 1st Service Support Group (ard) and his youngest er, Lance Cpl. Kyle er, a heavy equipment or with 8th Engineer ort Battalion, 2d Force ce Support Group (ard), met up in the barren landscape of Iraq after years of not seeing each

Kyle said that he always looked up to his brothers for guidance when he was growing up. Joining the Marine Corps as they did seemed like a natural decision for him.

Their other brother, Cpl. Andy Becker, who was recently deployed to Afghanistan with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, for Operation Enduring Freedom, is part of the Security and Stability Operations training staff at March Air Reserve Base in California.

Even though Kyle and Mathew's home base is Camp Lejeune, they have missed each other due to deployments and various duty assignments. However, Mathew's absence has given Kyle the opportunity to assist his brother's family.

Kyle, who hails from McCurdyville, W. Va., spent time with Mathew's wife, Kim, their boys, Seth and Shane, and daughter, Olivia, before his recent deployment.

Right now, it's Mathew's

See **BROTHERS** | 9A



Lance Cpl. Dustin S. Curran carries rations for an Iraqi man at a humanitarian assistance site in Fallujah, Iraq. Curran was part of a detachment of Marines from Company B, 2d Transportation Support Battalion, which was tasked to man two humanitarian assistance sites in Fallujah.

Ready for return
Camp Lejeune unit nears end of tour in IraqSTAFF SGT. JIM GOODWIN
1st Force Service Support Group

CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq — After more than seven months of running supply convoys, collecting and burying enemies killed in action, and providing humanitarian aid to Fallujans, several hundred Camp Lejeune Marines are leaving Iraq.

More than 200 Marines from Company B, 2d Transportation Support Battalion — a unit of military truck drivers, mechanics, and heavy equipment operators — are returning to North Carolina this month.

The unit arrived in Iraq last summer for duty with the Camp Pendleton-based 1st Force Service Support Group.

The first of Company B's seven platoons — Maintenance Platoon — left Feb. 26 for Kuwait, where they will spend several days before flying back to the States.

These Marines have spent more than half a year serving in war-torn Iraq. Their arrival in Kuwait will be the first time in a long time many of them have been outside a combat zone. Soon, they will return to their family and friends — and regular lives — in the United States.

"[The deployment] went by fast," admits Lance Cpl. Jeremy B. Carr, a Chauncey, Ga., native who says the first person he wants to see when he gets home is his mother.

"I knew it was going to come, but not this soon," said Cpl. Robert P. Warf, a 21-year-old Lewisburg, Tenn., native and vehicle mechanic. Warf said he'll be home just in time to celebrate his second anniversary with his wife Lindsey.

Although he's looking forward to going home and seeing his family, Carr said the past seven months have brought him closer to his fellow Marines.

"You get close to the people you live with in a tent for seven months," said the 21-year-old.

After loading green sea bags, backpacks and other military and personal gear into the back of a 7-ton truck, Warf and the more than 20 Marines of Maintenance Platoon — all wearing their body armor and Kevlar helmets — boarded a bus, which took them to the base air terminal, where they waited for their flight to Kuwait.

As Company B Marines are leaving, thousands more from Camp Lejeune are just arriving. The 1st FSSG is being replaced by Marines and sailors from the 2d Force Service Support Group, as part of a regularly scheduled changeover of Marine forces.

"We're out! We're out of here!" screamed one Marine while he waited in line before boarding the bus.

The other Marines hooted and hollered in response.

See **RETURN** | 9A



Colonel John T. Larson thanks Company B, 2d Transportation Support Battalion, following an awards ceremony at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, Feb. 25.



Marines from Maintenance Platoon, Company B, 2d Transportation Support Battalion, board a bus at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, Feb. 27.

Marine Expeditionary Unit earns Special Operations Capable designation

Successful training proves unit ready to support Global War on Terrorism

CAPT. WILLIAM F. KLUMPP
26th Marine Expeditionary Unit

The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit has earned the designation "Special Operations Capable," having successfully completed its Certification Exercise Feb. 25.

The CERTEX, conducted Feb. 14-25 in and around Camp Lejeune, tested the MEU's proficiency in a wide range of missions it may be required to conduct once deployed. These missions include non-combatant evacuation operations; helicopter, mechanized and motorized raids; embassy reinforcement; humanitarian assistance; and the tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel.

The CERTEX also marked the final phase of the MEU's pre-deployment training period.

The scenario-based exercise pitted the 26th MEU and the broader USS Kearsarge Expeditionary Strike Group against a terrorist organization seeking the spread of violence and instability within a designated area of operations. The Marines of the MEU were called upon to conduct raids on sites of terrorist activity while simultaneously reinforcing a U.S. embassy, and ultimately evacuating American citizens and select third country nationals from the area.

A highlight of the CERTEX operations involved a long-range raid conducted by Company E, Battalion Landing Team, 2d Bn., 8th Marine Regiment. Forces launched by helicopter from the USS Kearsarge just after nightfall and were inserted at a location aboard Fort Bragg, N.C. From there, they conducted an assault

on a terrorist bomb-making facility and weapons cache.

With AV-8B Harriers and helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron - 162 (Reinforced) providing close-air support, Company E cleared the objective, destroyed the enemy weapons and explosives, and returned to the strike group with two enemy detainees and a recovered American hostage.

Confident in the MEU's combat readiness to deploy in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Col. Thomas F. Qualls, 26th MEU commander, pointed out that the unit is "poised for continued rapid development."

"We now have a baseline qualification that will provide a springboard

See **DESIGNATION** | 9A



Marines from Battalion Landing Team, 2d Bn., 8th Marine Regiment, Amphibious Assault Vehicle Platoon move into position at the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's forward operating base at Onslow Beach during the MEU's Certification Exercise.



Saluting

AND THOSE WHO GIVE SO MUCH

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910-326-1801 Highway 24, Swansboro

Around the Corps



Staff Sgt. Carl Lorio, Company E, 2d Bn., 25th Marine Regiment, scans the terrain of central Norway near the start of Exercise Battle Griffin 2005. The Marines of Company E will spend a week in the field conducting humanitarian assistance training.

Marines brave cold, dangerous conditions in Norwegian exercise

MASTER SGT. PHIL MEHRINGER
Marine Forces Europe

HAIA, Norway — The depth of the snow near the field training area during Exercise Battle Griffin stands nearly 2 meters. The temperature is a crisp, steady, 12 degrees Fahrenheit — brrrrr!

Although the sun is lengthening its daily routine in and around central Norway, dangerous conditions are extreme. Teams have been out testing the snow and electronic transmitters have been issued to all land force participants in case of an avalanche.

In these conditions, just getting to the training ranges is a success.

The Marines of Marine Air Ground Task Force 25 assembled near the city of Trondheim in preparation for the 180-kilometer road march to the field-training site near the town of Bodo. The 1,200 Marines arrived in Norway, departing from 31 cities and 20 states to support the exercise. They married up with equipment stored in caves in the region, spent a few days adjusting to the climate, and started the drive.

The Command Element for MAGTF 25 is Headquarters Company, 25th Marine Regiment, led by Col. Joseph L. Osterman, based out of Worcester, Mass. The bulk of the Ground Combat Element is 2d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment with Marines from Company D, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance in support.

The Aviation Combat Element consists of six F/A-18s from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112 and two KC-130s from Marine Aerial Refueling Squadron 234. Supporting units belong to Marine Air Control

Squadron 23 and Marine Air Support Squadron 6. Combat service support is provided by Marines from 4th Force Service Support Group.

"We must take every opportunity to capitalize on the multinational dimension of the exercise to improve interoperability, while ensuring that safety is paramount," said Osterman. "No training objective is worth unnecessary risk and the loss of personnel and equipment."

For the next several weeks, the area of Bodo, Norway, will play host to nearly 10,000 military members from 15 nations, participating in an exercise testing a multinational task force's ability to respond to humanitarian crises in a cold weather environment. There will be several more thousands of military persons at sea, conducting simulated embargo control and mine operations.

The scenario developed for the exercise is similar to what NATO forces experienced during the Kosovo campaign. Ethnic tensions boil to a point and the UN delivers a Security Council resolution to send NATO troops to establish security and stabilize the area.

"My intent is to maximize our training opportunity in a joint and combined environment, focusing on MAGTF doctrine and the full spectrum of warfare," added Osterman.

Battle Griffin is a Norwegian invitational exercise conducted yearly, rotating from different regions of the country. The exercise concluded Wednesday, when the Marines retrograded to their stateside-based units.

For additional information about the Marines participating in Battle Griffin, log on to www.battlegriffin.no.

Engineers ready for any task

CPL. JAN M. BENDER
1st Marine Division

CAMP HADITHA DAM.

Iraq — Whether it's stringing out miles of concertina wire and fortifying checkpoints or busting down doors and clearing houses, the 28 Marines of 2d Platoon, Company C, 4th Combat Engineers Battalion currently attached to 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, have hit any task put in front of them.

Starting off their deployment as Marines who are stereotypically thought of as heavy equipment operators, wood and metal craftsman or demolition and mine experts, the battalion they were supporting, who was in dire need of more infantry assets, quickly realized just how flexible the engineers could be.

"Little by little they created their own mission here," said Lt. Col. Greg D. Stevens, the commanding officer of 1/23. "They are sort of a 'Jack of all trades.' The engineers have been invaluable, they've proven themselves by doing everything from rewiring things here at the dam to providing dismounts for [main supply route] security and raids."

"You would be hard-pressed to find a smarter bunch of guys," said Stevens, a native of Aliso Viejo, Calif. "They bring a lot to the battlefield."

The Marines of 2d Platoon were activated out of Lynchburg, Va., in June 2004 and met up with the Marines of 1/23 during their pre-deployment training at

March Air Force Base and Marine Corps Air Ground Training Center at Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

For Capt. Gary W. Bilyeu, the executive officer for Weapons Company, 1/23, the engineers were a welcomed asset as well.

"For us they've been the go-to-guys when we need any kind of extra security or dismounts. With all our other infantry elements already tasked out, we are limited," said Bilyeu, a native of Sanger, Texas. "They do as much work as anybody here at the Dam. Not only that, but they are good at it."

For the engineers platoon commander, it was no surprise that his crew came to play such a major role in 1/23's overall mission.

"Traditionally, engineers have three main jobs: mobility, counter-mobility and survivability," explained Staff Sgt. Harry "Butch" H. Dreany, the platoon commander of 2d Platoon. "However, being division engineers, rather than out of a combat service support element, we can roll with the infantry elements seamlessly."

Their track record speaks for itself.

During their tour, the small team has completed more than 100 provisional infantry missions (acting as dismounts), 30 survivability missions (constructing field fortifications, bunkers and fighting positions), 20 mobility missions (breaching obstacles

See ENGINEERS | 5A



A stack of munitions that the engineers found in a buried weapons cache during a security patrol sits wired with C-4 and detonation cord ready to be destroyed.



Corporal William S. Smith skirts along the edge of a small farm inside a palm grove in Barwana, a small river town along the eastern bank of the Euphrates River.

Medical, veterinary care team visits Wajir, Kenya

SGT. CHAD SWAIM
Combined Joint Task Force
Horn of Africa

KHOROF-HARAR, Kenya — Service members from Combined Joint Task Force — Horn of Africa and Kenyan Army medics treated thousands of people and tens of thousands of animals last week in the remote Wajir region of Kenya.

Care was provided by personnel from 96th Civil Affairs Battalion as well as several volunteers from Camp Lemonier during the medical and veterinary civic actions programs.

The events were separated with the MEDCAP lasting four days and maintaining a stationary position, while the VETCAP lasted five days and moved to a different location in the region every day.

Service members treated more than 21,000 sheep, goats, camels, donkeys and cattle. They sprayed and injected while the animals thrashed about, stirring up large clouds of dust as they tried to break free. They treated each animal with de-wormer and a multi-vitamin injection. The veterinarians provided on-site care for injured and sick animals. "The veterinarians have to go where the animals are, which is essentially the watering holes at the various villages around Khorof-Harar," said Maj. Mark Anthony Ehinger, mission commander, Khorof-Harar MEDCAP/VETCAP. The veterinarians are also looking for any signs of endemic diseases like brucellosis in the animals, according to Ehinger.

While the animals were treated, 96th CA medical personnel, Kenyan Army medical personnel and Camp Lemonier volunteers were busy treating more than 3,000 people at the Khorof-Harar clinic.



Commander Robin Wilkening, surgeon, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, examines a local child.

Battered old trucks packed full and with people hanging off of every available handhold kept pulling up to the MEDCAP site. The truck drivers are encouraged to bring in pregnant women, children and the elderly, according to Ehinger.

Those treated suffered from a host of medical maladies such as abscesses, infections and injuries. "Because of the number of people we are seeing, we can't really provide more than immediate care. So we try to diagnose the basic things, gastrointestinal distress, skin fungus things of that nature," said Ehinger. Medics are also looking for endemic diseases like Tuberculosis, according to Ehinger.

Even though most of the locals only spoke Somali, numerous interpreters helped medical personnel process, diagnose and treat the local villagers. "This is a very wonderful thing you are doing

here," said Yussuf Abdi Shiekh, local resident. "Thank you from my heart."

During this evolution, volunteers were involved in all aspects of the operations. Of the 47 CJTF-HOA personnel on the ground during this evolution, 10 were volunteers.

"I wanted to get outside the wire and help other people," said Lance Cpl. David Swinney, operations clerk, CJTF-HOA. "I would advise others to do it. Go for it, it's awesome."

The volunteers helped increase the amount of patients and animals that could be treated by the MEDCAP/VETCAP. "We could not do an operation of this size without volunteers, and it's a credit to their various armed services that they come in and work as hard as they do," said Ehinger. "We really appreciate not only their efforts, but the efforts of the people in the rear who pick up the slack while they're gone."



Lance Cpl. David Swinney, operations clerk, tries his hand at injecting sheep with multivitamins.

Career | Education

MCCS reservists gain insight into combat

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES
Press Release

Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Community Services employees who have served in Iraq that experience has given them a new perspective on serving active duty members and their families.

Called to duty as a result of Sept. 11, 2001, Troja, fitness facilities director, and sister Best, marketing manager, have not only provided services to those who serve our country, but also have served our country themselves.

Troja has spent most of the last three years deployed to Iraq. Troja is a member of the 5th Air Force Reserve and has served 17 years in the military, with four years in an active-duty capacity. Best, also a member of the 5th Air Force Reserve, has served more than 15 years in the military, 15 with the Naval Reserve and less than one year on active-duty since Sept. 11.

According to Linda Nilsen, administrative personnel assistant, "We have many MCCS employees who are a part of the Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force Reserves."

The time spent as an active-duty service member has had an impact on Troja and Best, as they perform their duties as MCCS employees. "I am now able to empathize with a service member as well as the families," said Troja. "I have experienced the long, hot, and stressful days in a combat zone."

Troja says her active-duty service gave her opportunities to talk and listen to the service members while they are facing conflict and stress. "They are put into a totally different environment - living and working with people they don't know. It affects people in several ways and we need to be able to recognize when they have had too much," said Troja.

MCCS exists to serve Marines, sailors and their families wherever they are stationed. MCCS programs and services provide for basic needs, such as food and clothing; social and recreational needs; and even prevention and intervention programs to combat societal ills that inhibit positive development and growth. Many of these services are free or offered at a low cost.

"The services and programs MCCS offers are very important. They help the service member prepare to go to war and feel confident that his/her family will be safe and taken care of," said Troja.

"MCCS offers a lot of free services to the military not available outside the gate such

as gyms, fitness centers, fitness trainers, counselors and many other services. MCCS is always looking for and coming up with new programs for military families to participate in while the member is deployed. Events are planned for when the active duty members return from deployment," added Best.

"We are here for the troops. Our ultimate goal is to keep our customers happy so they return to our events and activities," said Best.

Since Sept. 11, 83 percent of those serving in the reserve capacity have been called to active duty. "MCCS is here to provide support to our service members. This support extends to situations when that employee is called to active duty to serve our country," said Nilsen.

When a nonappropriated fund DoD employee is called to active duty that employee is granted rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act. The Federal employee is placed on a military furlough for the duration of their orders.

"Their job is being reserved for them. Upon returning to federal civilian service, the employee is granted certain employment restoration rights. The one thing we do not want to happen is for that service member to worry about how they are going to support their family when they return," said Nilsen.

"Not only are they entitled to the benefits under USERRA, but for those MCCS employees who participate in the health and dental insurance program through our plans, MCCS will pay their premiums while they are on active duty," said Nilsen.

In addition, Executive Order 13223 allows employees returning to federal civilian service five days of excused absence with pay. According to the Order, the five days off are to "aid in their readjustment to civilian life."

MCCS has a policy that grants those employees who are in the reserves 15 working days per year with pay to cover training requirements. "This is MCCS's way of helping those who serve our country," said Nilsen.

"Our mission is to take care of our service members and when those service members are also MCCS employees, we want to ensure that they know that when they return, they have a job to come home to. This is just one way we can help them stay focused on their mission," Nilsen said.

ENGINEERS

CONTINUED FROM 4A

and reducing mines or unexploded ordnance) and 15 counter-mobility missions (emplacing obstacles that will control or deny enemy movement).

"We've had quite a good [operational tempo] for a platoon, usually multiple missions daily," said Dreany, a native of Fredericksburg, Va. "So far we've been here for 185 days and completed over 180 missions."

But their deployment has not been without its hardships and difficult days.

In the early morning hours of Jan. 26 while attached to Weapons Company, 1/23, and acting as breach team in support of a high value target raid, one of the platoon's humvees was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire. The ambush left four Marines dead and four others critically wounded, all engineers.

Their original tight group of 36 Marines was torn at the loss of their brethren, but with the Iraqi elections just a few short days away and mountains of work ahead of them, there was little time to mourn their loss.

Duty called and the emotionally downtrodden engineers were forced to put it all aside and answer. "Basically the only break they had was the

hour-long memorial service held for those lost," recalled Staff Sgt. Michael C. Sprano, the platoon sergeant of 2d Platoon. "Even after the pain of losing them, we had to get up and do the same job."

And they did just that, as they worked around the clock to build up and fortify election sites in the towns of Haditha and Al Haqlaniyah.

"We built 12 bunkers and had to fortify each one with 250 sand bags. I remember at one election site alone we laid over 6 [kilometers] of concertina wire," said Cpl. Joseph A. Rouleau, a fire team leader with 2d Platoon. "It hurt. Everybody's mind was off somewhere else after the memorial service, but when you stay busy it kind of helps you keep your mind off of it."

After three days of operating full throttle with little or no sleep, the physically and mentally exhausted Marines were given a few hours off on election day, but as soon as the polls closed, the engineers saddled back up to tear down everything they had just constructed.

The leadership of the platoon said their triumph over this test of mettle could be attributed to the small unit leaders of the company.

"There was an enormous

amount of work to be done and no time," said Sprano, a native of Annandale, Va. "It required our Marines to not only step up, but jump up, and they have done so."

For Rouleau, who had to fill the position of his best friend and assistant squad leader after his death, it was personal.

"Yeah I had to step up, but everybody had to step up. It took a lot from our young Marines," said Rouleau, a native of Chillicothe, Ohio. "We called it the engineers' crucible. It was tough, but we all pulled together."

Since their loss, the Marines of the platoon have pulled together as a team to shoulder their load of missions, without the luxury of extra personnel to ease the burden.

Their dedication and tenacity has not gone unnoticed by the Marines they support.

"They are versatile, they can step outside of their [Military Occupational Specialty] in any direction. We've used them for just about everything," said Sgt. Daniel W. Dance, the platoon sergeant for Mobile Assault Platoon 4, Weapons Company, 1/23, RCT-7, and a native of Austin, Texas. "When you put the engineers up to bat, there is not a seed of doubt in anyone's mind they're going to hit a line drive every time."

SAFETY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

The instructors, now acting as third party examiners for the Department of Motor Vehicles, began official testing. Once students successfully complete their road test, they receive a card verifying the fact and can then go to the DMV to obtain their motorcycle license. Students must still take the eye and written examination, but they have already completed their road test and need not take it again.

The experienced rider course is basically the same, having classroom instruction along with practical application; however, the total class time is only 11 hours. These students already have their motorcycle licenses and therefore only receive a card verifying they have taken the safety course.

Riders having completed the course are now in accordance with MCO 5100.19E as far as the safety course is concerned; however, there are other guidelines to follow.

"Riders must have a reflective vest not just a strap," said Staff Sgt. Donald H. Albers, chief traffic scene investigator, Provost Marshal's Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. "I see many people riding with their [physical training] reflective belts and that is not acceptable. Also, when wearing a vest, it should go over themselves and the backpack, not just the backpack."

Both MCO 5100.19 and Base Order 5560.2L state the following: motorcyclists must wear a safety helmet that meets the standards of the Snell Memorial Foundation, the American Standards Institute, the Department of Transportation, or the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; eye protection may consist of either shatterproof glasses, goggles, or a face shield attached to the helmet; a Motorcycle Safety Foundation reflective vest

must be worn, including the black mesh variety, and must also include two 1-inch reflective strips which extend either from rear to front hem or from side to side on both front and back; clothing must cover the legs and upper torso and arms; and footwear must consist of any hard sole shoes.

No tennis shoes or open toe shoes are authorized.

The implementation of these safety measures should be done whether on or off base, according to the orders. They help to keep the cyclist safe and assist other drivers to see them more clearly.

Now that all the requirements are covered, the most important rule is this - implementation.

Therefore, when imagining yourself in that stylish helmet riding on the highway to a weekend full of fun, remember all the steps it took to earning your right to ride and keep those safety rules in check.

Milestones

GRADUATIONS

1D MEDICAL SERVICE TECHNICIAN

Seaman Christopher R. Gostel (honor graduate)
Seaman Apprentice Matthew G. McDonald (super doc award)
Seaman Maranda D. Persinger (top motivator award)

COMPLAIN AND RELIGIOUS PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Seaman Kyle C. Mallard (honor graduate, top motivator award)

RETIREMENTS

WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

1st Sgt. Rodolfo Graham replaced 1st Sgt. Glenn W. Hill at Brig Company, Marine Corps Base, North Carolina. Hill plans to spend his retirement working at Circuit City in Wilson, N.C.

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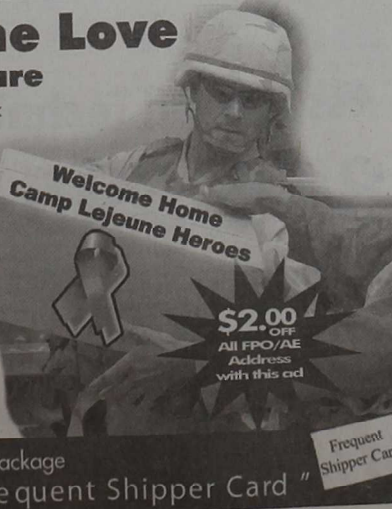
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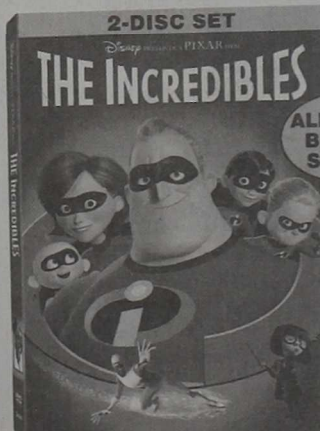
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Eye exams are pivotal in a healthy lifestyle

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION
Press Release

Eye health is intrinsically linked to overall health.

Thus, Save Your Vision Month, celebrating its 77th year this month, has taken on a greater prominence in the health world with its emphasis on "Healthy Eyes, Healthy People."

Your eyes are often the best windows to your health. By looking into your eyes, your optometrist can tell a lot about your general health. For example, did you know that some systemic and chronic diseases, especially diabetes, can often be detected

by an optometrist during a comprehensive eye exam?

Since more than 33 percent of people with diabetes don't know that they have it, an eye exam can be the only clue to detecting this potentially life-threatening disease. By dilating the pupil, your optometrist can see inside your eye using an ophthalmoscope, which lights and magnifies the blood vessels in your eyes.

Changes to these blood vessels can signify various stages of diabetic retinopathy. Left untreated, it can cause blindness. For those suffering from diabetes without knowing it, the detection and treatment of this disease can mean

relief on many levels.

Other eye diseases, like glaucoma, may cause vision damage and eventually blindness without the patient ever experiencing any symptoms.

During a comprehensive eye exam, your optometrist measures the pressure within your eye and examines the optic nerve in the eye, thereby determining the existence of glaucoma.

Save Your Vision Month raises awareness among the general public and targets at-risk groups to remind them of the need for regular, comprehensive eye examinations to detect eye health problems, general health issues, and vision difficulties.

Leaders must enforce traffic safety rules

DEREK NELSON

Ground Warriors Magazine

The V-150 armored vehicle, also known as a "commando armored personnel carrier," can bulldoze barricades, trees and stumps. It can climb 3-foot-high obstacles and 60-degree grades. It can plow through deep mud, snow, water and ditches. Yet, you can tip it over while making a U-turn on a flat, dry road. All you have to do is exceed the speed limit by 10 miles per hour and turn sharply.

Then, assuming nobody is wearing seat belts, and two of the people are standing or sitting where they really don't have to be, all hell will break loose. Four-wheel drive and armor plating and extra gas tanks aren't going to help anyone survive.

This chain of events killed two Marines who were part of a five-man team in a Security Forces company. They had been riding in a V-150 to the location where they changed crews when their shift was over. The driver sped into a U-turn at 26 miles per hour - 11 miles per hour above the normal speed limit for patrols, much less for making U-turns. That is fast enough to overturn a humvee, which is comparatively more stable. A lance corporal in the nearest security tower said he heard the tires "whine." After skidding at least 50 feet, the V-150 toppled over on a driveway apron in front of a bunker.

The team leader had been sitting on top of the right front seat's folding backrest, with his head and upper body out of the front hatch, and his feet on the bottom of the seat. The machine gunner had been standing up facing the rear, with his head and upper body through top center ring mount. Both were pinned under the 10-ton vehicle. Rescuers raced to the scene of the mishap and extracted the gunner first. He didn't have a pulse and wasn't breathing, so they started CPR. It took nearly 10 minutes to jack up the V-150, brace it, and extract the team leader. Like the gunner, he did not exhibit vital signs.

The driver and the other two Marines escaped with minor injuries.

Although there were problems with how the unit trained, there were licensed and supervised vehicle operators. No one could plead ignorance. In initial company training, one of the study packets addressed vehicle safety. It said, in part, that the speed limits were 5 mph in bad weather, 15 mph for normal patrols, and 25 mph for drills and incidents. It also mandated keeping on the headlights and wearing seat belts. There had been a Standard Operating Procedure that contained detailed guidance about the V-150, including the fact it didn't corner very well; however, this SOP no longer was enforced.

The V-150 is powerful and capable, but driv-

ing it poses some challenges. As the intro to the operators course said, "The Commando is probably the heaviest and vehicle you will ever operate and have full control of in your entire life. It is absolutely mount that you understand everything about vehicle in order to protect your life as well as lives of your fellow Marines."

The mishap showed the tragic difference between understanding a theory and putting it into practice. The Marine who was driving the mishap hadn't operated the V-150 weeks; he had joked about that fact earlier in the day. And he was inexperienced; he only had two hours behind the wheel during training and had driven on just 10 other assignments temporarily had been suspended from duties at one point but had had no remedial training afterward.

There was no excuse for not wearing seat belts, a bad habit that was widespread in the unit. Most Marines didn't wear them. Most supervisors didn't enforce the rule, not only made things worse in terms of vehicle safety, but also sent the message that perhaps precautions and safety procedures were mandatory. Some Marines said seat belts were "rapidly deploying," which is, in true.

During a car wreck, for example, the seat belt keeps you from rapidly deploying through the windshield. It is hard to imagine how rapidly a vehicle can deploy during a routine patrol. Furthermore, it couldn't take more than a second to release a seat belt. Nevertheless, after the wreck, observers saw widespread compliance with seat belt rules and little enforcement at the local unit.

The question also arose as to whether it was necessary for the gunner to be upright in the hatch during routine patrols in the vehicle. That position may not be necessary, even during a tactical situation, especially in cases when a third person had not been identified or located.

One post-mishap recommendation was the unit write and publish a detailed SOP for motor transport. As we've seen, bits and pieces existed, but they were minimal, particularly terms of safety and risk management. The lack of an accurate, comprehensive SOP meant that people who operated, supervised and dispatched vehicles had crucial gaps in their knowledge.

You can't just put up signs that list a speed limit and that say, "Wear your seat belt." Leaders and supervisors must enforce the rules, clearly and consistently. Here's a few simple questions: Do vehicles have speedometers that work? Can someone with sense and supervisory authority glance over, check the speed, and tell a driver slow down? If not, why not?

Health & Safety Briefs

TRICARE DENTAL PLAN

Is your family signed up for the Tricare Dental Plan? United Concordia handles the enrollment process. Enrollment is easy but must be initiated by the sponsor by completing a TDP enrollment form. Forms are available by calling United Concordia at 1-888-622-2256, by accessing the Web site at www.ucc.com or by visiting any of the base dental clinics. To verify enrollment, call customer service for United Concordia at 1-800-866-8499, 24 hours a day, Monday-Friday.

MAN-TO-MAN PROSTATE GROUP

The Man-to-Man prostate cancer, information, education and support group will meet the third Saturday of the month at 8 a.m. at the Onslow Memorial Hospital cafeteria for breakfast. For additional information, call Robert Kimbrough 347-6289.

DRIVER VOLUNTEERS WANTED

At least 10 volunteers are needed to drive a parking lot shuttle at the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital. The shifts are four hours long, and volunteers must have a valid driver's license. The program is scheduled to begin in March. Call 450-4596 or 451-2173 for more information.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT TESTIMONIALS SOUGHT

The Navy is seeking testimonials from 18-to-25-year-old sailors and Marines who have been in car or motorcycle wrecks and who have been saved by seat belts or helmets. We also want to hear from those who were injured because they weren't wearing proper safety equipment, and who have learned a lesson about the importance of protective gear. We would like them to share their experiences so others can learn the consequences of their actions when it comes to vehicle safety. Those interested should contact Fred Klinkenberger at fred.klinkenberger@navy.mil or 757-444-3520, Ext. 7314 (DSN 564).

TOBACCO CESSATION CLASSES

Tobacco cessation classes are offered to all active-duty service members, family members, retirees, and Department of Defense civilian personnel. For more information or class enrollment, call 451-3712.

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35	11,462	22,924	34,386	45,847	57,309
40	18,460	36,919	55,378	73,838	92,296
45	28,729	59,458	89,186	118,915	148,644
50	47,879	95,757	143,635	191,514	239,392
55	77,109	154,217	231,326	308,435	385,543
60	124,185	248,369	372,553	496,737	620,921
65	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 800,000	\$1,000,000

Assumes a 10 percent return that is compounded annually.

Individual Retirement Accounts An individual retirement account lets you build wealth and retirement security. The money in the IRA grows tax-free until you retire and are ready to withdraw it. You can open an IRA at a bank, brokerage firm, mutual fund or insurance company. IRAs are subject to certain income limitations and other requirements you will need to learn more about, but here is an overview of what they offer.

are used for qualified postsecondary educational expenses, such as room, board and tuition. The money contributed to an education IRA is not tax-deductible.

401(k) Plans

Many companies offer a 401(k) plan for employees' retirement. Participants authorize a certain percentage of their before-tax salary to be deducted from their paycheck and put into a 401(k). Many times,

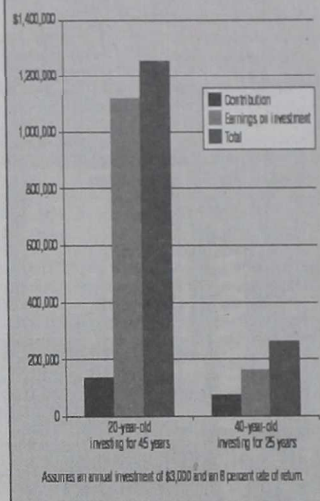
401(k) funds are professionally managed and employees have a choice of investments that vary in risk. Employees are responsible for learning about the investment choices offered. By putting a percentage of your salary into a 401(k), you reduce the amount of pay subject to federal and state income tax. Tax deferred contributions and earnings make up the best one-two punch in investing. In addition, your employer may match a portion of every dollar you invest in the 401(k), up to a certain percentage or dollar amount.

As long as the money remains in your 401(k), it's tax-deferred. Withdrawals for any purpose are taxable, and withdrawals before age 59½ are subject to a penalty. Take full advantage of the retirement savings programs your company offers - and understand thoroughly how they work. They are great ways to build wealth.

Qualified Plans

If you're self-employed, don't worry. There is a retirement plan for you. A qualified plan (formerly referred to as a Keogh plan) is a tax-deferred plan designed to help self-employed workers save for retirement. The most attractive feature of a qualified plan is the high maximum contribution - up to \$35,000 annually. The contributions and investment earnings grow tax-free until they are withdrawn, when they are taxed as ordinary income. Withdrawals before age 59½ are subject to a penalty.

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Invest in an IRA:
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Maximize Your IRA

Tax year	Individual	Married couple with one spouse working	Catch-up contribution (50 or older)
2002-04	\$3,000	\$6,000	
2005-07	\$4,000	\$8,000	
2008	\$5,000	\$10,000	
2002-05			\$500
2006 and thereafter			\$1,000

ARSON
CONTINUED FROM 1A

trauma Platoon, said arson. "We had a 95 percent survival rate," he continued. "We provide level two care for Marines and sailors who come in wounded and then get them to a higher echelon of care. Those sailors did some awesome things for the wounded."

Although CSSG-15 was the general support unit for all of I MEF, they relinquish their responsibilities to three combat service support detachments divided amongst the II MEF area of operations. The changeover between the units should not be a problem, according to DeStafney.

"Combat Service Support Detachment 29 will

provide general logistics support to II MEF and other units in the area of operations. In addition to maintaining the general supply support and material distribution hub here, CSSD-29 brings tremendous intermediate maintenance capability with us," said DeStafney. "We'll also provide transportation support via ground convoys and our Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group. Our Military Police Company will execute route and convoy security missions, and conduct customs inspections for II MEF."

"[Combat Service Support Group 15] has set the table for us to succeed," DeStafney continued. "All we have to do is pick up where they left off and continue to make life in Iraq

better."

As CSSG-15 prepares to return to the United States and Combat Service Support Detachments 25, 28 and 29 begin their tour in Western Iraq, DeStafney praised the Marines of CSSG-15.

"You were a stud group of warriors, Marines," said DeStafney. "Two nine, you have to step up and fill those shoes and continue to raise the bar. I know we can do it. CSSG-15 is a superb unit and I'm confident we'll be able to maintain the momentum they established. For the last several months, we've trained extremely hard for this deployment, in California and North Carolina. We're committed to success here and are happy to follow up on CSSG 15's initiatives."

LOST
CONTINUED FROM 1A

"Indications right now are that it is an accidental event," McKay said. "The bank has been monitoring the accounts involved from the onset, and to date, there has been no indication of fraudulent activity."

The information is personal cardholder information - names, Social Security numbers, addresses and account numbers - on magnetic tape. The loss occurred in late December. GSA notified DoD on Jan. 19.

"The bank is in the process of notifying cardholders of the situation," McKay said. "They will be given a special customer service number that has been set up by the bank specifically for this purpose. If [card-

holders] have any questions, they can contact the bank. If they would like, they may request that the bank cancel the card and reissue a card to them."

McKay added that consumers should always keep an eye on any credit accounts they have. "It's always prudent for any cardholder to monitor their monthly statements [and] dispute any charges they may question, and also it's important for all of us to get a credit report at least once a year and look at the content of that report," she said.

Bank of America has set up a hotline for those affected. The number is 800-493-8444. "If you are an affected cardholder, you may contact Bank of America for information on obtaining a free credit report," she added.

STRIKES
CONTINUED FROM 1A

grenades and rockets, nearly 10,000 rounds of ammunition, large amounts of money, weapons manuals, Mujahedeen propaganda and improvised explosive device materials, according to 35-year-old Gunnery Sgt. Dewayne E. Walters, platoon sergeant for 4th Combat Engineer Battalion.

"We definitely put a dent in the enemy's ability to attack us," said the Richmond, Va., native.

Marines also captured 18 members of anti-Iraqi forces during the operation, including "trigger pullers," facilitators and leaders, according to Bissonette.

"We expected to find leaders [of anti-Iraqi forces] in the city," Watt said, "and we were successful in doing so."

Already crippled by the assault on Fallujah in November of 2004, enemy forces continue to be kept off balance by 3/4's operations in and around the city, Bissonette said.

"The enemy can not mass considerable combat power, but they will continue to be a nuisance in the foreseeable future," he added.

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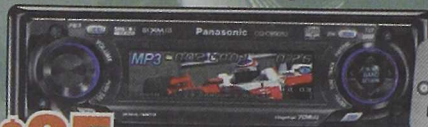
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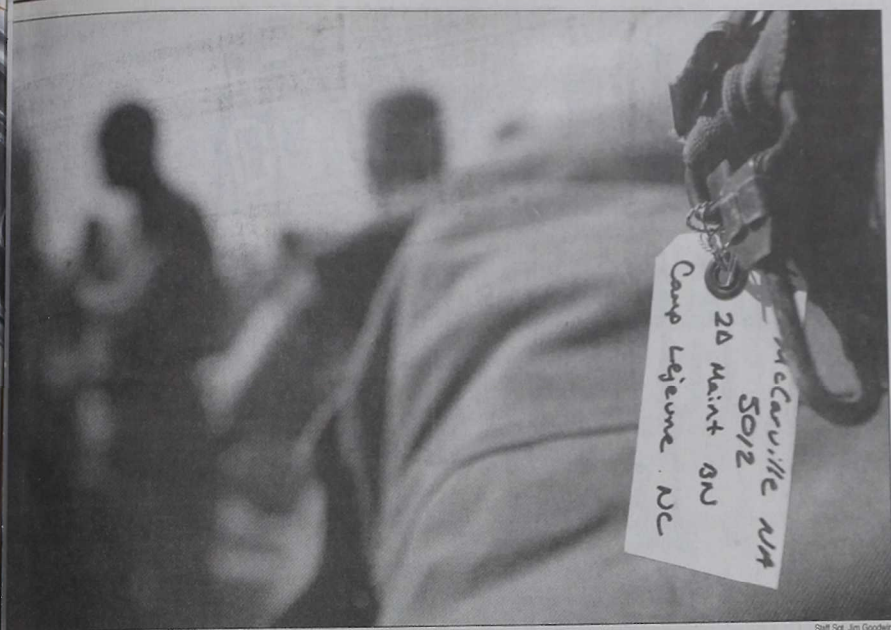


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Staff Sgt. Jim Goodwin

More than 200 Marines from Company B, 2d Transportation Support Battalion - a unit of military truck drivers, mechanics, and heavy equipment operators - are returning to Camp Lejeune this month. The unit arrived in Iraq last summer for duty with the Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based 1st Force Service Support Group.

TURN CONTINUED FROM 3A

hope [the Iraqis] realize we did. We were here to them, not to hurt them," Warf, reflecting on his achievements before the bus.

In the past seven months, Marines of Company B charged with convoying supplies across Iraq's roadways to military bases, repair shops and man a U.S. military terminal at Camp Qadisiyah, Iraq. They made more than 100 supply convoys traveled more than 1,000 miles on Iraq's dangerous roadways to deliver supplies from fuel, water, food to amenities to U.S. military bases and outposts.

located in Iraq's Al Anbar province, where cities like Fallujah are located, which has been a hot bed of insurgent activity throughout the Marines' deployment.

Following an awards ceremony for nine 2d TSB Marines, Col. John E. Wissler, commander of the incoming 2d FSSG, and sailors who are facing 1st FSSG, told Company B Marines they had the standard for the people in the battle supply distribution field.

"How's the motivation out there?" asked Wissler, surrounded by more than 200 Company B Marines.

"Ooh-rah!" the Marines roared in response.

"It should be damn high," said Wissler. "You probably don't realize the impact you've made here and won't until you get home. You leave Iraq a much better place by your contribution."

In addition to delivering thousands of tons of supplies to U.S. military forces throughout western Iraq, Company B was also tasked with a variety of other jobs during their deployment.

During combat operations in Fallujah, Company B Marines augmented a full-time military mortuary affairs detachment to assist with the collection and burial of more than 460 enemies killed in action.

"We'd convoy out into the city and [Iraqi] guides would take us to the location of the bodies," said Sgt. Saleem A. Byrd, who drove military vehicles on convoys into Fallujah.

After locating and loading the bodies on trucks, the Marines transported them back to the temporary mortuary east of Fallujah for proper processing, said Byrd.

With combat operations still ongoing inside Fallujah, Company B Marines provided security while collecting the remains, as infantry Marines fought insurgents often only a block away. They also had to be wary of the last-ditch efforts of insurgents, who rigged the dead with IEDs.

Along with learning about the health concerns involved with handling the cadavers,

using body bags, processing and registering remains and grave sites, the Marines also had to deal with the mental fatigue of viewing and handling decomposed, charred or otherwise mutilated bodies.

Although Company B was not involved in direct combat in Fallujah, they did receive occasional enemy small arms fire while driving in and out of the city, according to Maj. James R. Hensien, Company B's commanding officer.

"It was not uncommon for the Marines to receive two to three round bursts of [enemy] fire," said Hensien.

Immediately after completing their mortuary duties in December, Company B manned two humanitarian assistance sites in the city through January, assisting more than 39,000 returning civilians as the local government began allowing civilians back into the combat-devastated city.

Byrd, a 27-year-old native of Philadelphia, was part of the detachment of Marines who spent 12 hours a day, seven days a week, handing out bottled water, boxed rations, hygiene kits and blankets to returning Fallujans.

"It felt weird going from dealing with the deceased to giving out help to the living," said Byrd, who leaves Iraq in

several weeks. "Between the mortuary part and the humanitarian assistance projects, it makes me feel lucky as an American. Other people have it hard."

During Iraq's national elections in January, Company B coordinated the movement and transportation of more than 800 Iraqi elections officials from Camp Taqaddum to various polling sites throughout Iraq.

Driving at night, the Marines manned machine guns and other crew-served weapons mounted on humvees to provide security for the election workers during the convoys to the polling sites.

With the elections over, Company B is back to convoying supplies, coordinating passengers and cargo on military flights, repairing vehicles, and providing heavy equipment support for construction projects - at least for a few more weeks, until the last of the company's Marines set foot in Kuwait and eventually fly home.

"You're a damn fine outfit and you should be proud of that," added Wissler to the Marines.

Lance Cpl. T.J. Kaemmerer, a 1st FSSG combat correspondent, contributed to this report.

BROTHERS CONTINUED FROM 3A

turn to take care of his little brother for the short time they'll be together here. Kyle has just arrived for duty in Iraq, while his brother is packing up to go home and be reunited with his family. Military policemen from Company B, 2d MP Bn., will replace the elder Becker's unit as the Camp Pendleton, Calif.-based 1st Marine Expeditionary Force turns over command and control of western Iraq to the Camp Lejeune-based II MEF as part of the scheduled rotation of troops.

Today, they are together. Standing outside the elder Becker brother's building, they reminisce of years past, growing up together, serving in Iraq and of their family.

Kyle said they have always had a strong relationship, but he did catch a lot of grief from his older brother.

"Yeah, it was more like he was picking on me and beating me up when I was younger," said Kyle.

"He was a punk when he was younger, but he's turned into a great Marine and an even better brother. Besides, we're happy when we're punching and beating each other," commented Mathew with a playful jab to Kyle's ribs.

The two were engaged in some brotherly hand-to-hand combat, much like what would occur even if they had not been separated for two years, when one was injured.

"He split my eye open here the other day in front of my Marines. I was bleeding all over the place," said Mathew, as he explained the warrior spirit of his little brother.

Mathew said he felt no apprehension about his brother being deployed to a combat zone.

"He's a warrior; it runs in the family," said Mathew, a native of Portland, Ore. "I've been here three times now and Andy was in Afghanistan; now it's [Kyle's] turn to step up to the plate."

Mathew's Military Police

Company has spent the past seven months providing security for military supply convoys on Iraq's dangerous roads. His unit also supported last November's combat operations in Fallujah, helping reclaim the city from heavy insurgency during Operation Al Fajr.

"I've been giving him advice about how to be successful out here," said Mathew. "I told him to keep his eyes open for [improvised explosive devices] and take care of his Marines. He's a good Marine and I know that he will do awesome things out here. He can think outside of the box and attack a problem from the side, top, bottom or go right through it."

Mathew's time here has come to an end and he is returning to Camp Lejeune soon. He said he is looking forward to seeing his family again.

"I heard those guys had a family reunion while I was out here," said Mathew, who works on the opposite end of Camp Taqaddum, a former Iraqi military airbase now occupied by U.S. forces, from his brother.

"We did get together, but we were thinking of you the entire time," said Kyle to his brother in a reassuring tone about the reunion he missed.

According to Mathew, Kyle did a good job helping his wife take care of his kids. "He was out there turning wrenches with my boys who race motocross; they're already asking about him. They miss him."

With Mathew's deployment knowledge being passed to Kyle, they said they are thankful for their time together and their commands have been very helpful, allowing the brothers to be together as much as possible before they go their separate directions again.

"I'm just happy that I can pass on the knowledge that I have about being out here to my brother before I go home," said Mathew.

DESIGNATION CONTINUED FROM 3A

for further tactical growth," he said.

Qualls stated that the certification is also evidence that the MEU can still achieve SOC qualification, regardless of the resource constraints posed by the ongoing Global War on Terrorism.

As the 26th MEU continues preparations for deployment in March, the unit is ready to support operations in Iraq, Afghanistan or the Horn of Africa. "As we sail into the 5th Fleet area of responsibility, we will be ready for whichever one has our name on it," said Qualls.

To follow the 26th MEU through their coming deployment, logon to www.26meu.usmc.mil.

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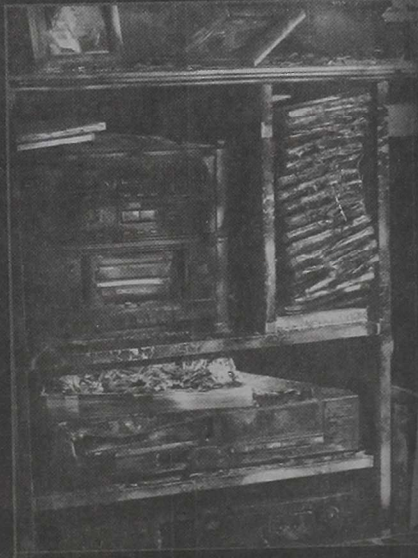
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All-Marine boxers score big in armed forces tournament



BRIAN BERGER
Lejeune Sports Editor

The Marine Corps has pro-
duced some of boxing's great-
est legends. Ken Norton,
Carmen Basilio, Leon Spinks
and Gene Tunney are just a
few of the Corps' boxers who
ultimately rose to the highest
levels of the sport. Today, a
new generation of fighters
adds its own mark to that
legacy. In the Armed Forces
Tournament last month,
Marine boxers took home four
championships and six silver
medals.

Marine boxers have also
achieved success in the North
Carolina Golden Gloves as
they set their sights on the
Nationals in Colorado
Springs, Colo., this week. In
the shadow of the Rocky
Mountains, the boxers will
compete to earn the nation's
top rankings against top ama-
teurs.

Success is typical for the
All-Marine boxing program
and despite deployments and
the fast-tracking of several

young boxers into the lime-
light, the achievements con-
tinue without interruption.

"With the young team that
we took to the Armed
Forces this year, I must
say I was really pleased
with their competitive-
ness," head coach
Robert Michael said.

"Overall, our box-
ers did extremely
well. A lot were
fresh to the
scene and really
stepped it up,"
All-Marine captain
Johnnie Ed-
wards added.

Fighting in
front of a predom-
inately Army
crowd and in an
unusually small
ring, the All-
Marine team never-
theless stepped up
and delivered some
serious blows to the
competition.

"I'm an inside
fighter," Natosha

Eyer said, "and the small ring
forced my competition to
fight my fight."

"For someone like me that
moves around a lot, you have
to be really conscious of the
ropes," Laura Barrow said,
noting that touching the ropes
results in a one-point deduc-
tion.

Barrow recently returned
to the ring after deployment in
Iraq, where she had her gloves
and a punching bag, but the
lack of other equipment and
dry air made training difficult.

"In the small ring, it's hard
to box and show your skills,"
echoed Jackie Saye. "It favors
street fighting and slugging it
out. You

can't give
u p
ground."

Saye stunned the crowd
when he knocked down
Army's Corey Stewart despite
having received two standing
eight-counts.

Marine Corps boxers Saye,
Eric Canales, and Roberto
Castillo won their weight
classes at Armed Forces
Tournament, and will repre-
sent the United States at the
CISM world military boxing
championships in South
Africa later this year.

Another boxer, Natosha
Eyer also won her weight
class. Currently, the CISM
does not include women's
sports.

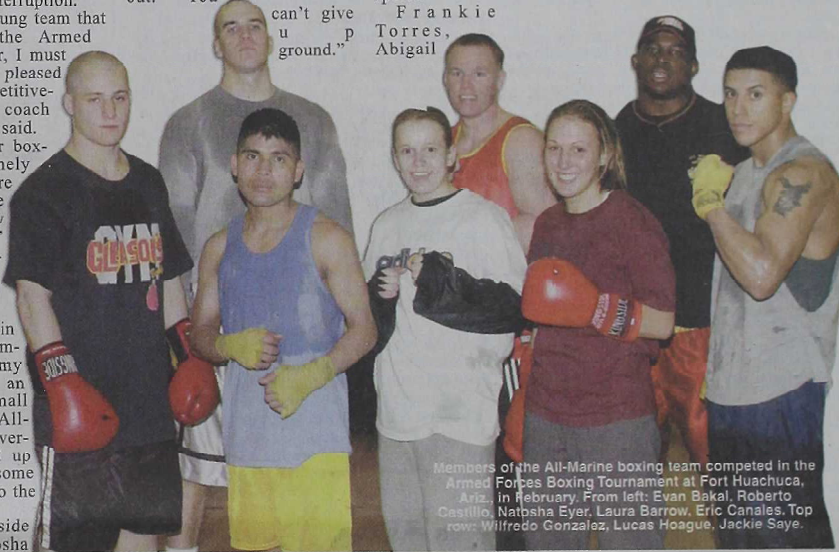
Frankie
Torres,
Abigail

Chavez, Laura Barrow, Evan
Bakal, Wilfredo Gonzalez,
and Lucas Hoague won silver
medals at the Fort Huachuca,
Ariz. tournament.

Eyer outpointed Air Force
Senior Airman Celsa Reyes,
F.E. Warren Air Force Base,
Wyo., 43-34. Canales stopped
Army Spc. David Gallegos at
the 1:05 mark in round three.
Castillo was unopposed.

"I'm disappointed my com-
petition never showed up. I
was ready to fight," said
Castillo. "I'm very focused on
nationals now."

See BOXERS | 5B



Members of the All-Marine boxing team competed in the
Armed Forces Boxing Tournament at Fort Huachuca,
Ariz., in February. From left: Evan Bakal, Roberto
Castillo, Natosha Eyer, Laura Barrow, Eric Canales. Top
row: Wilfredo Gonzalez, Lucas Hoague, Jackie Saye.

Athletes shine in Special Olympics



Ruth Hochstrasser and law enforcement officers pose on their fourth day in Japan. Hochstrasser was one of 10 athletes from
around the world chosen to participate in the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the 2005 Winter Games.

BRIAN BERGER
Lejeune Sports Editor

Ruth Hochstrasser returned to
Jacksonville from Japan last week
after a 200-mile journey from the
capital city of Tokyo to Nagano in
the "Japanese Alps." For many, the
opportunity to take in the culture
and sights of Japan from the capi-
tal on the bay to the villages in the
mountains would be the trip of a
lifetime. For Hochstrasser, it was
also an opportunity to experience
the pride of carrying the torch for
the Special Olympics World
Winter Games.

Hochstrasser, an accomplished
athlete, was one of 10 selected for
the torch-carrying honor for the
Winter Games, held every four
years, which closed Saturday.
Nearly 1,900 athletes from more
than 80 countries participated in
the games, which were also
attended by Japanese Crown
Prince Naruhito, Japanese Prime
Minister Junichiro Koizumi,
Special Olympics founder Eunice

Kennedy Shriver, as well as
10,919 volunteers.

Competing at Nagano, the site
of the 1998 Winter Olympics, was
the opportunity of a lifetime for
many participants, but moments to
shine and excel in sporting com-
petitions exist much closer to home
for the 1.5 million children and
adult athletes with intellectual dis-
abilities who train year-round and
compete in 26 Olympic-type sum-
mer and winter sports.

Team USA at the Winter Games
was represented by 200 athletes,
including two from North
Carolina, alpine skiers Anne
Kessler and Talmak Boyd, who
won silver and gold medals,
respectively. Team members met
last December at a five-day train-
ing camp in Copper Mountain,
Colo., before meeting up again in
Los Angeles for the trip across the
Pacific for the first Special
Olympics games in Asia.

"Just by being named to Team
USA, these athletes all have
earned gold medals in state com-

petition and thus have proven they
are winners both inside and out-
side of the sporting arena," said
Chris Hahn, chairman of the Team
USA management team. "We cele-
brate not only the honor of those
achievements, but also demon-
strate our pride in their being such
deserving ambassadors of the
United States at this world-class
sporting event."

Hochstrasser has competed in
numerous athletic events in North
Carolina and Onslow County, and
won a gold medal in the 40-kilo-
meter cycling race, and silver
medals in the 15-kilometer and 25-
kilometer cycling events, at the
2003 World Summer Games in
Dublin, Ireland. She has given
speeches on behalf of Special
Olympics and is currently training
for the North Carolina five-on-five
basketball tournament this month
in Greenville, N.C.

Children and adults with intel-
lectual disabilities who participate

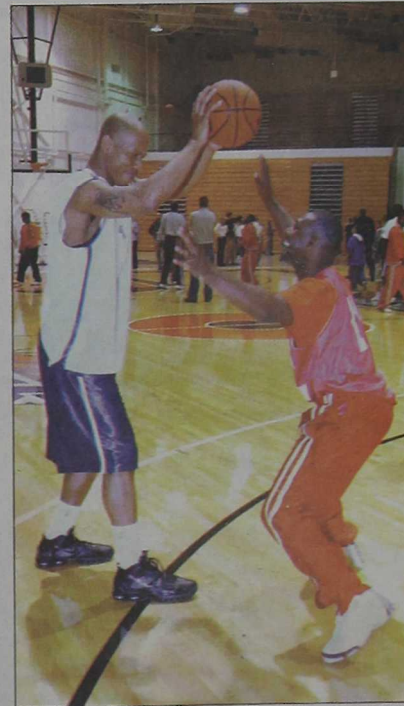


Brian Berger



Courtesy of Special Olympics North Carolina

Left: Craig Lendino, a bronze
medalist in the state golf com-
petition, trains year-round.
Above: Athlete Ruth
Hochstrasser poses in Japan.



Courtesy of Charlotte Bobcats

Charlotte Bobcat Keith Bogans works with an athlete during a
Special Olympics basketball clinic.

See OLYMPICS | 4B

Committee again fails to elect Hodges into Baseball Hall of Fame

ONCE A MONTH

JOHN GUNY



For the second straight election, the last was in 2003, the Veterans Committee failed to elect anyone to baseball's Hall of Fame.

None of the 25 candidates eligible received the necessary 75-percent of ballots cast to be elected, USA Today reported. Wade Boggs and Ryan Sandberg, chosen by the Baseball Writers Association of America in January, will be inducted July 13 in Cooperstown, N.Y.

The late Gil Hodges, a Marine veteran, and Ron Santo, the top vote-getter in 2003, again led this year's list of old-timers, but each missed by eight votes, with 60 needed for election.

"Election to the Hall of Fame has always been difficult, as evidenced by only one percent of those privileged to play baseball in the major leagues enshrined in Cooperstown," said Hall of Fame chairman Jane Forbes Clark. "The Veterans Committee process gives players a second chance for consideration, but one must be reminded that each player on the ballot was considered for up to 13 years by the baseball writers."

Hodges, who died in 1972 from heart disease, batted .273, drove in 1,274 runs and won three Gold Gloves during 18 years in the majors. He managed the Washington Senators (1963-67) and the New York Mets (1968-71), guiding the Mets to a World Series victory vs. the Baltimore Orioles in 1969.

He played 2,871 games for the Dodgers from 1947-57, Los Angeles Dodgers from 1958-61 and New York Giants in 1962-63. He hit 379 homers, 14 of them grand slams, and played catcher-first base in 39 World Series games in seven seasons.

During his career, Hodges made 1,921 hits, including 295 doubles and 48 triples, scored 1,397 runs and stole 63 bases. He played 1,908 games on first base, 79 in the outfield, 64 as catcher and 32 as third baseman.

Hodges was also a recipient of the Bronze Star for Marine duty in the South Pacific, where he played ball with the 16th AAA Bn. on Kauai and Okinawa in 1944 and '45.

"The fact no one has been elected in its first two elections since being reorganized leaves doubt as to the value of the Veterans Committee," said USA Today.

The Veterans Committee, which considers

players overlooked in BBWAA voting, plus managers, coaches, umpires and executives, was reconfigured in 2002. The committee now consists of all living Hall of Fame members (40) and all winners (87) of the Spink Award for writers and the Frick Award for broadcasters.

The Veterans Committee hasn't elected anyone since 2003 when the previous group chose ex-Pittsburgh second baseman Bill Mazeroski and Billton Smith from the Negro Leagues.

Under the new format, the Committee votes on former players every other year, and candidates from the composite ballot every four years. The latter will not be considered again until 2007.

Players on the ballot for the first time this year were Jim Kaat, Sparky Lyle, Luis Tiant and Tom Seaver.

But the Hall of Fame will honor broadcaster and Marine vet Jerry Coleman.

They would have the conversation and it would always be the same. Ted Leitner would tell Marine vet Jerry Coleman that he was going to be honored by the Baseball Hall of Fame and Coleman would say he wasn't.

"He always told me it would never happen," Leitner said. "He said that if it were going to happen, it would have happened a few years ago."

It happened. When the phone rang at mid-morning and Hall of Fame President Dale Petrosky identified himself, Coleman said he immediately realized what had taken place, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported.

After 41 seasons as a broadcaster, 32 with the Padres, Coleman was named winner of the Ford C. Frick Award, given each year to a broadcaster who best fits the criteria of longevity, continuity with a club, honors such as national assignments and popularity with fans. He will be honored during Hall of Fame weekend July 29 through Aug. 1 in Cooperstown.

He will be the fourth Marine broadcasting yet ever to be honored, along with Jack Brickhouse, Ernie Harwell and Bob Murphy.

At a Petco Park news conference he attended with his wife, Maggie, the 80-year-old Coleman, who celebrates great plays with cries of "Oh, doctor!" and "You can hang a star on that one!" said he was shocked and thrilled.

"I'm surprised. I never even dreamed of it," Coleman said. "I think if you hang around long enough, something good is going to happen. And I've been hanging around a long time."

Mr. Guny is an independent journalist and retired intelligence officer who has written two books about Marines and football.

roundup

NCAA Men's Basketball

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina's players and coaches each took a turn at the top of a ladder, celebrating their Atlantic Coast Conference title by cutting down the net.

While certainly not unprecedented, the scene was a bit normal for the end of the regular season.

"I'm big on letting kids celebrate," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "We will be criticized for it. Somebody's not going to like it and that's just part of it. I think it's OK in college athletics to let kids celebrate."

Williams did the same for the majority of his nine conference titles at Kansas, and needed only two seasons to bring the tradition to North Carolina.

Freshman Marvin Williams converted a three-point play with 17 seconds left to cap an 11-0 game-clinching run and give the second-ranked Tar Heels a 75-71 victory over No. 8 Duke on Sunday.

North Carolina (26-3, 14-2), playing without the ill Rashad McCants for the fourth straight game, won its first ACC regular-season championship since 1993, the same year of its most recent national title.

"It's been a long journey," said senior Jackie Manuel, one of three players left from an 8-20 team three years ago. "To be honest, I didn't really know if we could do it. You really appreciate the highs when you've been at the bottom and seen the worst."

Sean May had 26 points and 24 rebounds to record his eighth straight double-double for North Carolina. His final rebound was the most important.

After J.J. Redick missed a long 3-point shot that would have won it for the Blue Devils, teammate Daniel Ewing had a final chance from just inside the arc.

But his shot was short, and May leaped high for the career. He cradled the ball in his hand while the clock ran out, then heaved it into the stands. Hundreds of the 22,125 fans, the largest crowd ever at the Dean E. Smith Center, rushed the court to celebrate the Tar Heels' third victory over their Tobacco Road rival in the past 16 meetings.

"I've never experienced anything like that, and it's something I'll never forget for the rest of my life," May said. "For me, it feels good, because I've never beaten them. Finally, to get an opportunity, it feels good."

Shelden Williams had 25 points and six blocks for Duke (22-5, 11-5), which played without guard Sean Dockery for the third straight game. Redick scored all 17 of his points in the first half.

"We have to close the chapter in this book, the regular season, and our guys were in every ballgame," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I'm proud of them."

The Blue Devils broke from a tie at 64 with a 9-0 run capped by a 3 by Lee Melchionni with 3:07 left. That was his fifth 3 of the second half.

"I love the competitiveness of our team when we were down nine inside 3 minutes," Roy Williams said. "I told them that if they were to make a total commitment to every possession on the defensive end and every possession on the offensive end, we would still have a chance still at the end."

Jawad Williams stopped the Tar Heels' drought with a tip-in and Marvin Williams added two free throws to make it 71-68. On the other end, DeMarcus Nelson missed the front end of a 1-and-1, and May powered inside for a three-point play to cut the margin to two.

"We played hard and pushed hard for the majority of the second half," Shelden Williams said. "All of a sudden, we got a little cushion and lost off some, and had a few turnovers. Carolina was able to convert on those and got the momentum."

Later, North Carolina point guard Raymond Felton had a chance to tie it, but his runner from the lane rattled around the rim before bouncing out. Then Ewing, the lone senior on the court for the Blue Devils, lost the ball near midcourt, and Felton grabbed it and quickly called a timeout with 27 seconds left.

"That was probably the play of the game," May said.

Felton drove to the basket and was fouled by Nelson. He swished the first free throw to make it 73-72.

His second bounced high off the rim, and after a brief scramble for the ball, Marvin Williams grabbed it and quickly shot over Duke walk-on Patrick Johnson. The shot banked in as he was fouled, and his free throw capped the furious rally.

"You've got to have the mentality to go down," Melchionni said. "We shot one in the last 3 minutes with a nine-point lead, but it's unacceptable. You can't do that in a game."

KEITH PARKINS, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Chris Paul's second basket hardly seemed to be his last shot of the game.

The sophomore hit a buzzer-beating 11-foot fourth-quarter 'Waka Forest' just before Carolina State 55-53 on Sunday night, the Demon Deacons in contention for a second in the NCAA tournament.

He also had hit Wolfpack star Julian Wright below the belt in the first half, a shot that Paul's one game suspension.

Either way, the forty-point guard was a source of attention.

Paul finished with nine points and nine rebounds for the Demon Deacons (26-4, 13-3) in the Atlantic Coast Conference, who have won 10 games and tied the school record for wins overall and in conference play.

Raissa Grey added 13 points and a clutch 3-pointer to set up Paul's final shot, allowing Demon Deacons to overcome a determined by a team desperate to improve its 7th season.

Waka Forest shot just 29 percent in the second half, going without a field goal for 10 minutes but still pulled it out on Paul and Grey's big shot.

And on the same day top-ranked Illinois (31-1, 16-0) defeated Kentucky, No. 6 Duke and No. 7 Kansas lost, the Demon Deacons saw an opportunity.

"We saw everybody losing earlier," Grey said. "We thought that might've opened the door for us to win. We saw a No. 1 seed and gave chance right here to make a move up. I think everybody knew that and that's why we're here today."

With the Wolfpack (17-12, 7-9) leading 55-53, Grey nailed a 3 right in front of the Waka Forest bench with 12.8 seconds left. Ewing Ainsworth answered with a hurried 3-pointer that fell short of the rim and out of bounds, giving Demon Deacons the ball with 4.2 seconds left.

Paul did the rest. He rebounded the ball from Vytas Danculius, who sent it right back. Paul swished through the retreating Wolfpack defenders, bounced off a bump from Ainsworth and launched a fadeaway shot from about 12 feet.

The ball swished through the net at the buzzer, sending the Demon Deacons onto concert celebration and giving Paul the last word on a night in Raleigh.

In a play that set the tone the rest of the night, Paul gave Hodge a harsh parting gift on his last shot, hitting him with a low blow during a foul underneath the basket. Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the year, fell to the court with 12:48 in the first half.

With Hodge lying on the ground, his older brother, Steve, walked onto the court to see if Julian was OK, and to yell toward Paul on the Wake Forest bench. Steve Hodge walked off the court, and arena security soon instructed him to leave the court area.

Once Hodge got up, he angrily yelled and gestured toward the Demon Deacons' sideline on his way back to the bench.

Paul said the two were just tangled up. "I don't believe I popped him," Paul said. "I was just the best of the game. I've got too much respect for him to try to pop him on senior night."

When told that replays showed him hitting Hodge, Paul responded, "I haven't seen the replay."

Wake Forest, which finished second in the league standings thanks to North Carolina's win against Duke earlier Sunday, plays Friday in the quarterfinals of the ACC tournament.

"He punched me in the groin and the ref saw it," Hodge said. "I got suspended for that (and) I never played that day."

Wake Forest coach Skip Pomeroy said he didn't see the incident. N.C. State coach Herb Sendek said he had reviewed replays of the incident, but declined comment.

"I think the replay is going to have to speak for me tonight," he said. Later, after viewing the tapes, Pomeroy levied the one-game suspension.

A few minutes after returning to the game, Hodge was whistled for a technical foul when he gave Paul a shove after he was fouled him in the post.

From there, Paul was booed loudly every time he touched the ball, and N.C. State fans began chanting "Dirty Deacons."

N.C. State had several chances in this one, but went just 9-for-22 from the free-throw line, including a miss from Tony Hefelfel with 24.1 seconds left that allowed Grey to tie the game with his 3.

The loss could prove damaging to their Wolfpack's hopes for a fourth straight NCAA bid. N.C. State was ranked as high as No. 12 and started 10-1 this season, but lost nine of its next 12 games in a season full of injuries and unfulfilled promise.

Blas Estemirov scored 19 points to lead the Wolfpack.

—Aaron Board, Associated Press

Letter to the Editor

Guest Commentary
LANCE CPL. ALAN M. KRESEL

I hold no credentials in sports except those of being a fan. I am also not a professional writer so if this sounds like rambling, it's because it is, but I'd like to respond to some of the articles I've read in THE GLASS lately and learned about through other sources.

NASCAR: I know that this is the South and NASCAR is treated like a religion, but I would rather watch paint dry. Jeff Gordon winning the Daytona 500 was a good thing just so I could watch all the NASCAR fans get angry and throw things.

Baseball: Barry "BALCONY" Bonds and Jason "The Juicer" Giambi both took steroids and did it willingly. You Barry, steroids do help you, that's why they're called "performance enhancing." The Red Sox winning the World Series has cast a black cloud over the sport. Most of the people sporting these red "B" hats probably didn't even see Red Sox gear before the World Series. Even though they did win, we all know that they were not the best team in either the World Series or the ALCS.

NCAA Football: The season ended two months ago and I still find it amusing that people think Auburn actually stood a chance against

USC. Face it, USC was easily the best team in America and they were going to steamroll whoever was placed in front of them. Be prepared for lightning to strike twice.

NCAA Hoops: All of you ACC fans get ready for some disappointment. Duke is probably the only team that stands a chance of getting past the Sweet 16. Oh, and yes Illinois is for real. Very Real. Don't let the Ohio State game fool you.

NFL: The free agency period just started, there's been a lot of action with more to come. Randy Moss in Oakland simply means that now he'll underachieve on a bad team instead of a mediocre one.

NHL: Again, I know that this is the South and not many people follow the sport. It is really unfortunate from a fan's perspective that they are not playing hockey right now. I am getting tired of rewatching last year's Stanley Cup Finals (which were absolutely incredible, by the way). My advice to the NHL is this: 3.5 billion dollars is a lot of money. Take a look into the value to all parties involved and not just from the financial side.

Let me stress that these are only opinions and should be treated as such. Until next time, remember: "There is no I in team... but there is ME."

Lance Cpl. Kresel is a guest columnist and a frequent contributor to THE GLASS's "Beat the Experts." If you would like to submit an article for consideration, e-mail: brian.borger@johndaynews.com

BEAT THE EXPERTS!

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N.C. State & Florida State	Wolfpack	Wolfpack	Seminoles	Wolfpack	Seminoles
Miami & Virginia	Cavaliers	Hurricanes	Cavaliers	Cavaliers	Hurricanes
Penn State & Pittsburgh	Panthers	Wildcats	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
Texas A&M & Kansas State	Aggies	Aggies	Aggies	Wildcats	Aggies
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Washington & Holy Cross	Crusaders	Beavers	Crusaders	Crusaders	Crusaders

Think you have what it takes to beat the experts? Call Lejeune Sports editor Brian Berger at 405-7421 or e-mail: brian.berger@johndaynews.com.

NCAA Hoops Roundup

Beware the dark horses of March



THE VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

BRIAN BERGER



"Beware the Ides of March." The soothsayer's warning to Julius Caesar before his assassination evokes a dark mood and sense of foreboding. This weekend's ACC men's basketball tournament in Washington, D.C., wraps up Sunday, two days before the Ides, but the conference's top-ranked teams would be wise to study a little history and beware the dark horses that occasionally charge through the tournament and leave chaos in their dust.

Last year, the calvary rode in on turtles as the Maryland Terrapins, after a season of struggling with an inexperienced lineup, ran through No. 3 Wake Forest and No. 2 N.C. State before beating top-ranked Duke in the title game.

In 2003, No. 7 North Carolina toppled No. 2 Maryland. In 1997, eighth-ranked N.C. State defeated top seed Duke en route to the conference championship game. Sixth ranked Georgia Tech knocked off No. 1 seed North Carolina in the 1993 championship game.

For the Terrapins last season, a strong showing in the ACC Tournament was crucial for the

team to earn a spot in the Big Dance. Bubble-riding teams like Maryland have that added motivation, and potential advantage, over the top-ranked teams that have already earned a spot and at most are playing for a better seed or regional assignment in the NCAA Tournament.

And while history shows that a dark horse can play its way into the Big Dance, it also shows that a top team can damage its position in the tournament with a lackluster conference tournament appearance.

N.C. State was a No. 3 seed in the Phoenix region of the 65-team bracket after losing to the Terrapins last year, but a better showing in the ACC Tournament could very well have earned the Wolfpack a No. 2 seed closer to home. The Demon Deacons, who earned a No. 4 spot in East Rutherford, might also have fared better with the NCAA selection committee with a more impressive ACC Tournament showing.

The nature of the selection process, with a committee choosing 34 at-large teams, is not scientific. Sometimes it leads to a lot of head scratching. In some households, items not bolted to the ground have become projectiles when the homeowner's alma mater failed to make the cut.

Most of the 34 at-large bids are already determined by this

point in a season, and 31 teams earn automatic bids by winning their conference's championship, but there are always about 20 teams that linger in "bubble" status until Selection Sunday. Each of these teams can guarantee a spot by winning their conference tournament, and conversely, a team can do irreparable damage by going out early. The stronger the showing, the less praying the school and fans have to do in the moments leading up to the bracket announcements.

Live television has made it possible in recent years to witness the celebrations, or stunned silence, that occur when a bubble team does or doesn't hear their name announced for the 65-team field.

The consolation prize for those teams that fail to make the Dance is a trip to the NIT tournament.

Fans of North Carolina, Duke, and Wake Forest are assured that their teams have already earned high seeds in this year's NCAA Tournament, but the Blue Devils and Demon Deacons must win some games to earn a No. 1 seed.

Georgia Tech, Maryland, Virginia Tech and N.C. State will probably need to impress the selection committee with a strong ACC Tournament to make the Big Dance. And Virginia, Clemson, Miami, and Florida St. probably need to win the conference tournament to dance.

“

And while history shows that a dark horse can play its way into the Big Dance, it also shows that a top team can damage its position in the tournament with a lackluster conference tournament appearance... One thing is certain, we can expect the unexpected. History tells us anything can happen in March.

”

With all these teams having so much at stake, the Big Three would be wise to stay focused and aware that they have been targeted. Wake will not be helped by the suspension of star guard Chris Paul, who must sit out the Demon Deacons' ACC quarterfinal game on Friday for hitting N.C. State's Julius Hodge below the belt last weekend.

One thing is certain, we can expect the unexpected. History tells us anything can happen in March.

What's really good about losing?

JIM LITKE
Associated Press

Forget for a moment whether losing builds character. Think of it a practical matter instead. Is a team that's used to winning more likely to win after a loss, assuming there's enough season left, and the next time out, and the time after that?

Because after four months and 29 straight wins, it's no longer a philosophical question to Illinois coach Bruce Weber. After surviving a handful of close scrapes and plenty of laughs, his team got at 65-64 in the last game of the regular season Sunday at Ohio State on a 3-pointer with 5.1 seconds left.

"Everyone says a loss will help," Weber said. "We'll find out." The good news is that the Illini will get the chance, beginning today at the Big Ten Conference tournament and continuing on into the NCAAs. And the really good news? Despite the loss, and no matter what happens in the conference tourney, they'll stroll into CAAs enjoying all the perks of a top seed. And if that wasn't consolation enough, Weber stated the obvious: "I'd rather lose now," he said, "than three weeks from now."

A week ago, Weber was the king of all he surveyed. The Illini had already whipped Gonzaga and Cincinnati on neutral turf, destroyed Wake Forest at Assembly Hall in Champaign, and beat conference brethren Michigan State and Wisconsin, home and away, and Weber came down squarely on the side of those who believe losses have no educational value. He joked that he was running low on fresh material for his pre-game talks and a loss would certainly change that. But in terms of usefulness, Weber said he'd take the "W" every time.

Coaches at the top programs always say that, because winning is practically a way of life. There are enough moments in a season when rattling a team's ego or loosening a choke collar come in handy, to be sure. But in the next breath, those coaches argue they're teaching the same lessons all the time, and if a loss drives the point home more effectively than a win, their kids weren't listening from the start.

The counter argument, like so many others in college basketball, originated with the late Al McGuire. But it had more to do with probability than serendipity. The longer a winning streak lasted, the Marquette sage reasoned, the sooner his number was bound to come up. Then again, even during his national championship season, McGuire was never at a loss for material.

"I don't believe in looking past anybody," he said about preparing for one of the patsies on his schedule. "I wouldn't look past the Little Sisters of the Poor after they stayed up all night."

History, unfortunately, won't settle the debate. Last season, Stanford didn't lose until its final regular-season game, then came back to win the Pac-10 tournament and got upset in the second round of the NCAAs. Saint Joseph's went one better, staying perfect until Xavier grounded the Hawks in their conference tourney. Saint

Joseph's bounced back to reach the East regional final, but went no further.

As omens go, their fate didn't augur well for Illinois. The Xavier coach who beat the Hawks last season was Thad Matta, who just happened to be working the Ohio State sideline Sunday.

Only seven teams have won the national championship with perfect records since the first tournament in 1939, which means 59 have done it with one loss or more. The first team to go unbeaten wire-to-

wire was San Francisco in 1956, and UCLA, under coach John Wooden, accomplished it a staggering four times in nine years. The last to do it was Indiana in 1976. The last to get through the regular season unscathed was UNLV in 1991.

The Rebels were trying to defend their national championship that year and rolled to 34 straight wins before losing 79-77 to Duke in the NCAA semis at the Final Four in Indianapolis. The next day, former Indiana basketball star Quinn Buckner sat in a restaurant a few blocks away and couldn't get a bite of food near his mouth before a fan came up for an autograph or a handshake.

It had been 15 years since the Hoosiers' perfect season and Buckner was working the tournament for CBS. But inside that basketball-mad state, he was, and would always be, the point guard on the 1976 team. Yet every time someone brought it up, Buckner slipped in a plug for the 1975 team that went unbeaten before losing the regional final to Kentucky.

"The '75 team was better," he said, ruefully shaking his head. "We shot better. We were deeper. We played better defense. There wasn't anything that team couldn't do."

"That," he added, "is why I try to keep that memory alive."

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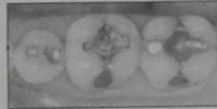
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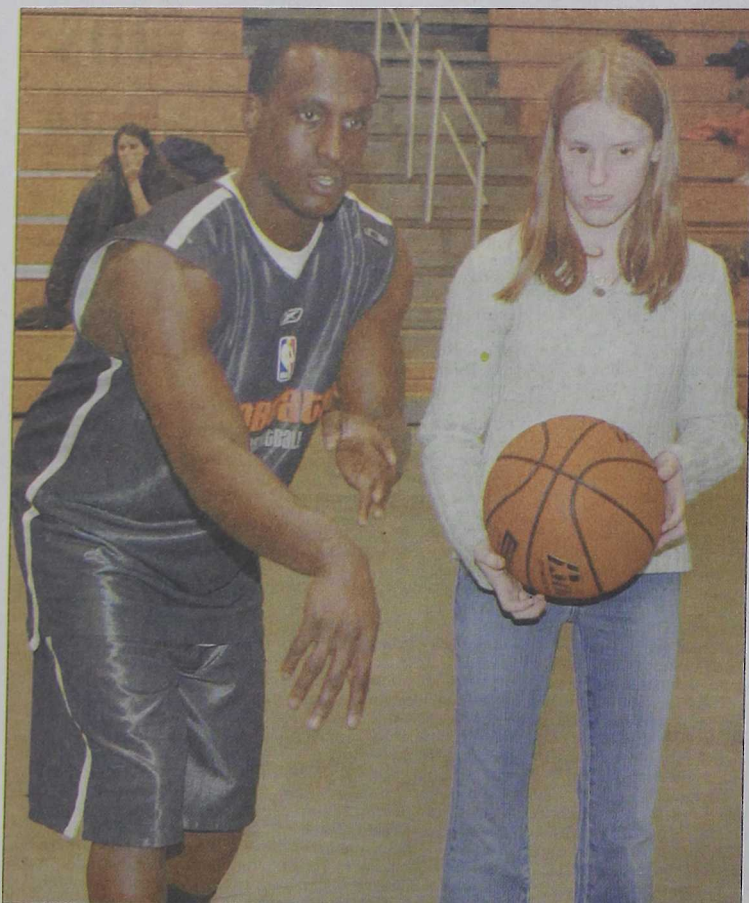
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DRIVE SOBER



Charlotte Bobcat Brevin Knight teaches shooting technique during a Special Olympics basketball clinic. The state basketball tournament, featuring 5-on-5 and 3-on-3 competitions, as well as individual skills contests, will take place at multiple venues in Greenville, N.C., March 18 to 20.

OLYMPICS CONTINUED FROM 1B

in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image.

They grow mentally, socially and spiritually and, through their activities, exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm, enjoy the rewards of friendship and ultimately discover not only new abilities and talents but "their voices" as well, according to the organization.

North Carolina is home to the largest program in North America and fifth largest in the world.

The 2005 basketball tournament in Greenville, March 18-20, will feature competition among more than 1000 athletes from across the state in three-on-three, five-on-five and individual skills events. Competition venues are: East Carolina Student Recreation Center, C. M. Epps Middle School, Boyd Lee Park, D.H. Conley High School, E.B. Aycock Middle School, J.H. Rose High School, Minges Coliseum at East Carolina University, Pitt Community College and South Central High School.

The athletes will play nearly 100 games of basketball on Saturday, March 19 alone, culminating in medal rounds the following day.

Volunteers are needed to fill positions such as announcer, court assistant, venue support, volunteer registration and cheer team. Businesses, civic organizations, churches and youth groups are encouraged to get involved or form teams and be fans in the stands at the tournament, cheering on the athletes as they go for the gold. All volunteers will receive a free T-shirt and position-specific training. Interested individuals should call the SONC Volunteer Hotline at 800-843-6276, option 4.

In Jacksonville, a track and field competition will take place April 15, with opening ceremonies scheduled for April 14. Additionally, athletes train and compete in cycling, bocce, bowling, golf, swimming and other sports. Onslow County Special Olympics welcomes those who are interested in coaching athletes in these and other sports.

"I'd be happy to talk to anyone who wants to coach," said Dot Hochstrasser, area coordinator for Onslow County. "People who want to help with fundraising, volunteer coordinating, working with families, public relations: we have lots of opportunities for those individuals who want to help but don't want to coach. There are a lot of people in this community with expertise, and some with talents they're not even aware of, that would serve Special

“

People who want to help with fundraising, volunteer coordinating, working with families, public relations: we have lots of opportunities for those individuals who want to help but don't want to coach. There are a lot of people in this community with expertise, and some with talents they're not even aware of, that would serve Special Olympics real well.

Dot Hochstrasser

Olympics real well.”

Hochstrasser, Ruth's mother, noted that Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River have been a great source of volunteers and facilities for the Onslow County Special Olympics. Gunner Sgt. Cynthia Bray, stationed at Camp Lejeune, serves as Volunteer Coordinator for Special Olympics. Hochstrasser also noted that Jacksonville Police Department, especially Officer John Ricker, and Sheriff Brown have been very supportive of Special Olympics in the area.

The opening ceremonies for the track and field games in April will feature local law enforcement officials, as well as a color guard from the Camp Lejeune Junior ROTC, and music from local DJ Jockey DJ Finnesse. Dot Hochstrasser encourages people to attend both the opening ceremonies, April 14, and the competition, April 15, which are free to the public.

"The athletes love to be clapped and cheered for," Hochstrasser said. "People who have never before get hooked, and no money can replace the people get by being a part of the Special Olympics."

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Tiger regains No. 1

DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)— It took Woods six months to return to No. 1 in the world.

The hardest part might have been the final 18 holes on the back nine of the Ford Championship at Doral during a dramatic 18-hole playoff with Phil Mickelson on Sunday.

There was that 3-wood that he caught a hole in, although it still traveled some 290 yards in the air before settling 25 feet behind the hole on the 603-yard 12th hole for an eagle, giving Woods his first lead of the tournament. Then he holed a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole, and ended an explosive all-around with a 6-foot par putt.

It gave Woods a 63-66 weekend, the low by a winner in tournament history. And he needed every shot.

"The whole day, we were going at each other," Woods said. "It was fun to be a part of that."

Better yet were the results. Woods held off a gritty performance by Mickelson to win the Ford Championship, giving him his second victory of the year, a third GT sports car for his caddy and a ranking that means more to others than to him.

"The ranking will take care of itself with time," he said. "So far, I've gotten two this year, which is a nice start."

Mickelson had a chance to put Woods away until he missed a 10-foot birdie putt on the 15th, and a 5-footer for par on the 16th. Woods already had made bogey.

As usual, Lefty kept everyone in suspense the very end.

With Woods 6 feet below the cup for par, Mickelson had a 30-foot chip from behind the 18th green. It was so good that even Woods was certain it was going in.

Mickelson crouched as the ball got closer, seemingly ready to give another version of his Masters leap when it fell. Only it didn't.

The ball dipped slightly into the low side of the cup before spinning out, and Mickelson stared in disbelief.

"I knew I was playing well enough to win," Mickelson said. "I believe I should have won, certainly could have won, and I just hope that the next time we get out and play, we both play well again and get in the top group. Because this was fun competing with him."

Woods calmly rapped in his par putt to finish at 24-under 264, breaking by one shot the tournament record previously held by Jim Furyk in 2000 and Greg Norman in 1993.

Vijay Singh closed with a 66 to tie for third with Zach Johnson, meaning the only way Woods could return to No. 1 in the world was by winning.

He had to endure some wild swings in momentum, but wound up a winner.

"What a day," Woods said in utter relief. "It's not like we went out there and slopped it around and shot 73s and 74s. We both played really good golf."

Woods lost his No. 1 ranking in much the same way he got it back.

He went head-to-head with Singh outside Boston on Labor Day, and the big Fijian stared him down to win by three shots and end Woods' five-year reign atop the world ranking.

Woods was in the final group Sunday against Mickelson, who was coming off dominant victories in his last two stroke-play tournaments and had been atop the leaderboard the last 10 rounds.

The atmosphere felt like a major. Woods and Mickelson lived up to the expectations.

They each made a career-high 27 birdies for the week. It was only the second time they had played against each other from the final group, and Mickelson is now 0-3.

There was give-and-take from the start. Woods twice missed 8-foot birdie putts early in the round, but he avoided a two-shot swing on the fourth hole when he got up-and-down from the rough and Mickelson missed a 5-foot birdie.

But it was the back nine that kept everyone buzzing.

No one else reached the 12th green in two shots all week. Woods did it twice on the weekend.

His 25-foot eagle putt slipped in the left side, and Woods took two steps to the right and threw a huge uppercut in celebration. Most guys would have buckled having given up a two-shot lead in the final round to a clutch putt like that.

Not Lefty. "I loved it," Mickelson said. "I think he was playing at his best, and that's what I wanted - a chance to compete against him at his best."

Mickelson offered his best in return. First, he hit a 3-iron from 242 yards into 6 feet on the par-3 13th for birdie, then 7-iron to 6 feet on the next hole for birdie to tie for the lead.

But the putter failed him down the stretch, especially on the 16th when Woods had already made bogey and was fully expecting to go to the 17th tee trailing by one.

Instead, they were tied, and Woods seized control with his 30-foot putt.

It was only the second time they had played against each other from the final group, and Mickelson is now 0-3. He was two shots back and lost at the 2003 Buick Invitational, and he was one shot behind Woods and finished third at the 2001 Masters.

Mickelson anticipates another chance - soon.

"I thought I was playing better than anybody," he said. "And this is a great slap in the face, because I'm going to come out and work harder."

Panthers surprise fans with offseason moves

JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—

The Carolina Panthers signed offensive lineman Mike Wahle and cornerback Ken Lucas to long-term contracts on Thursday, the most aggressive single day of free agent acquisitions in franchise history.

Wahle, who spent seven seasons in Green Bay, signed a five-year deal worth about \$25 million. Lucas, a three-year starter in Seattle, signed a six-year contract. Terms on Lucas' deal were not immediately available, but his signing bonus was believed to be \$13 million.

The Panthers didn't have to work very hard to sign either player. Both Wahle and Lucas made Carolina their first and only recruiting visit and came in hoping to get quick deals.

Lucas said he desperately wanted to join Carolina's vaunted defense to play behind Julius Peppers and Kris Jenkins.

"I knew before I even got off the plane that I wanted to sign with Carolina," Lucas said. "Anybody in the NFL knows that the Carolina Panthers have the most talented D-line in the NFL. If I had to choose between Seattle and Carolina, I would have easily chosen Carolina."

Wahle said winning a Super Bowl is his top priority and he believed he had a better shot at

doing that with Carolina. The Panthers were the 2003 NFC champions, but lost to New England in the Super Bowl.

"When I found out [the Panthers] were interested, I immediately was hoping this was going to be a one-stop deal," Wahle said. "I knew I wanted to come here. I think this team is going to be good for a number of years."

"I have been in this league seven years and I have never been to a Super Bowl and that is real important to me. This team, I think we're going to be in a good position."

The Packers were forced to release Wahle earlier this week in a salary cap move. Considered one of the top free-agent offensive linemen, he can play guard or tackle.

The Panthers said they will start Wahle out at left guard. But because he is capable of playing anywhere on the line except center, both sides are willing to move him around to find the best fit.

Wahle has started 83 of 97 games in his career, including 64 straight.

Lucas was Seattle's second-round draft pick in 2001. He started 47 games and has 11 career interceptions.

Lucas had six picks last season, tying him with Carolina cornerback Chris Gamble for most in the NFC. Now, he may push Gamble out of a starting job.

Panthers coach John Fox said Lucas will start for Carolina, and Gamble and Ricky Manning Jr. will have to battle for the other slot.

"As far as corners in the NFL, I think I am one of the most complete corners there is. I can do a little of everything," Lucas said. "By me playing in a small market, a lot of people don't know about me. I have a lot to prove."

Gamble was a first-round draft pick last season, and Manning is best known for his three interceptions against Philadelphia in the 2004 NFC championship game.

The signings are unusual for the Panthers, who have traditionally sat back during the first few days of free agency as teams frantically pursue new talent. Carolina has made a habit of waiting until the signing period calms down a bit, then combing through the leftovers.

Also Thursday, the Panthers said they were still optimistic they can re-sign linebacker Mark Fields. Originally thought to be an easy negotiation, Fields said he would sign for \$2, he instead became a free agent.

Carolina general manager Marty Hurney said he didn't know of any visits that Fields has lined up with other teams.

Also, Fox said the Panthers would like receiver Ricky Proehl to play another season and are waiting for Proehl to decide if he wants to retire or not.

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Main Side

The Globe | Thursday, March 10, 2005 | www.militarynews.com/globe

Brooks encourages physical fitness | 2C



Quick Shots

LEJUNE WINS AWARDS

Results from the 2004 Environmental Awards Competition have been announced and Camp Lejeune has won in two categories: Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Stewardship. This annual program recognizes Navy and Marine Corps individuals, units, ships and installations for their exceptional environmental stewardship. Congratulations Camp Lejeune.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Military Retiree Health Care Town Hall meeting is scheduled for April 21 at 2 p.m. in classrooms A and B of the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital, hosted by Capt. Richard C. Welton, commanding officer of the Naval Hospital.

REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ON DEATH

There is a \$25,000 reward for information concerning the death of Christopher James Fretz, who was a student at the Horry-Georgetown Technical College, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He was killed on Feb. 9 outside of his home on 8th Avenue North. To report information, call the Horry County Crime Stoppers at 843-248-5000 or the Horry County Police Department at 843-248-521.

INJURED SUPPORT PROGRAM

Marine For Life offers more than support for those exiting the Marine Corps; it also has available the Marine For Life Support Program. This program provides direct assistance for injured Marines and sailors who were injured while serving with Marines, and their families, from the time of injury until their needs are met. For more information, logon to www.M4Lusmc.mil.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

All Marine Expeditionary Force Safety, in conjunction with Base Safety, is coordinating additional Motorcycle Safety courses. Coastal Carolina Community College currently offers these courses; however, there is a backlog of approximately two months. In order to accommodate additional courses, an accurate count of Marines needing both courses is necessary. For more information, call 451-4288.

INFO TECH SHOW

The annual Camp Lejeune Information Technology Show is scheduled for Wednesday at Marston Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will demonstrate the latest and fastest computers and related accessories and is a forum where IT users, buyers and planners can discuss requirements and future IT challenges with federal sales representatives. For information, call 888-282-2262 or e-mail info@atc-expo.com.

MONSTER HOUSE

The Discovery Channel's *Monster House* is looking for service members to feature. Visit www.monster-house.tv or e-mail monster-house@origprod.com for casting information.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society annual fund drive kicks off

CPL. SHARON E. FOX
Marine Corps Base

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society's annual fund drive begins March 17 and ends April 14. This event is Navy and Marine Corps-wide and is the only fund-raiser conducted where 100 percent of the donations provided are used to support Navy and Marine Corps service members.

The NMCRS is a volunteer organization with more than 3,000 volunteers and is celebrating 101 years of helping Marines and sailors through interest-

free financial aid.

Donations are needed because more than \$31.4 million was provided in financial assistance last year worldwide and only \$7.6 million was received in donations, said retired Master Gunner Sgt. Patrick J. Kelly, senior counselor at the NMCRS branch here.

The NMCRS provides financial assistance through interest-free loans or grants in areas of emergency leave, basic living needs, essential vehicle repairs, car payments, car insurance, dental cost share for dependents, and

lodging, food and travel for families of casualties.

Education assistance is available for spouses and children of active-duty service members and retirees. Non-financial assistance areas include the Visiting Nurse program, Budget for Baby class, Well-Baby program and Food Locker.

In the Visiting Nurse program, nurses make hospital or home visits to clients in the interest of improving their quality of life by promoting understanding of information about the individual's health issues. Visits are

frequently made to new mothers and infants, to patients recovering from surgery, and to those with chronic health problems.

The Budget for Baby class is a two-and-a-half-hour seminar open to Navy and Marine families who are expecting a baby or who have just had one. Its purpose is to make service members and their families aware of the increased living expenses that come with a new baby, and to discuss effective ways of making adjustments to

Sec FUND | 2C

'Return of Jet Service' | Albert J. Ellis Airport



Lance Cpl. Matthew K. Hacker



Lance Cpl. Matthew K. Hacker

Above: A CRJ-700, the newest 70-seat regional jet in service with U.S. Airways, lands at the Albert J. Ellis Airport and continues through a stream of water from a fire truck during a celebration event titled the "Return of Jet Service" that took place Friday. The event focused on the return of jet service, as opposed to propeller planes, to the airport in December 2004 after a decade without jets. Additionally, the airport celebrated a rapid expansion of jet service to six flights per day as of Feb. 6, including the CRJ-700. It is anticipated that the rapidly expanding jet service will spur significant passenger demand at the airport. Remarks by key local and state officials at the event highlighted the importance and significance of jet service to Onslow County and the surrounding area.

Left: Managing Director of Corporate and Consumer Affairs for U.S. Airways, Deborah Thompson, speaks about the "Return of Jet Service" celebration event at the Albert J. Ellis Airport main lobby.

Hardware store opens on base

LANCE CPL. MATTHEW K. HACKER
Marine Corps Base

The General Services Administration and Marine Corps Base officials have decided to divide Serve Mart Building 1606, and create a 21,292-square-foot Super Hardware Store, which is scheduled to open March 23.

The hardware store will offer more than 3,000 shelf items including plumbing, electrical and painting supplies plus various sizes of metal and pipe. Serve Mart will continue to carry administrative supplies, cleaning supplies, various forms, safety items and certain clothing items.

Items from both stores will only be purchased via government credit cards. The hardware store will be under GSA's control for six to eight months, or until they can acquire the proper amount of data to average out a monthly sales quota, according to Staff Sgt. Billy Wilson, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Serve Mart since January 2003.

"After that, GSA will sell everything to a vendor and they will set the standards," said Wilson.

The vendor will own everything, manage the staff and operate the run from there on out, according to Wilson.

Overall, the Super Hardware Store will provide an ideal supply of inventory and easily ordered items to give all properly authorized service members and base workers the opportunity to purchase any needed hardware items.

Perdue visits Onslow County



Lance Cpl. Shane W. Suzuki

Lieutenant Gov. Bev Perdue poses with a "World War I Flying Ace Snoopy," which was provided by the White House Commission on Remembrance to the armed services as a goodwill gesture and a means of injecting some humor into otherwise mundane or stressful daily routines. The commission is a Congressionally-funded office supporting events and activities that honor the service of Department of Defense personnel. Perdue toured base and surrounding areas to provide support and promote North Carolina's essential military bases. "I anticipate a full morning seeing the essential military training being performed every day at Camp Lejeune," Perdue said. "Lejeune is a critical Marine base and I'm proud of the way the community has a history of support for the Marines and their families."

Bargain hunter's paradise

Store offers uniforms, clothes at good prices

LANCE CPL. SHANE SUZUKI
Marine Corps Base

Hidden behind the base library, an unassuming white building provides a place for young families, penny-pinching Marines or anyone looking for a bargain.

The Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Wives' Club Thrift Shop offers the chance for anyone on base to save money on practically anything, including uniform items, baby clothes, civilian clothes, books, toys and household goods.

The store is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then again from 5 to 8 p.m. on Monday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

"We have tons of uniforms and accessories," said Patty Morin, vice president of the SNCO Wives' Club. "I see Marines buying things from the store across the street and spending all their money. We are here to help them."

The store is the main fundraiser for the SNCO Wives' Club, and allows them to donate money and supplies to many community services including the United Service Organization, Young Marines, Boy and Girl Scouts of America and the Salvation Army.

"We are able to help a lot of groups and this year we haven't had to turn away anybody," she said. "We give a lot to the Salvation Army. Once a week they bring their truck here, and once a week we send it out full."

However, the club's main program is the SNCO Wives' Club Scholarship, which gave



Lance Cpl. Shane Suzuki

Katie Kuhrie, a volunteer at the Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Wives' Club Thrift Shop, sorts through donations and looks for items that can be used in the store or be given to other charitable groups.

away a top prize of \$1,500 last year. The scholarship is open to service members and their dependents. Applications can be picked up at the thrift store and are due by April 15.

"This year, we will have at least \$25,000 in scholarships to hand out, and it's all been raised one nickel and dime at a time," said Morin. "Any military dependent can come by the thrift store and fill out the application essay."

The club uses the store to raise money and supplies for all their activities. In addition to the scholarship, the club sends toys to Iraq for children that are victims of the war.

"Every month, we send over toys and dolls to some Army medics who hand them out to kids they see," she explained. "The community has been so generous; we just try and help out where we can."

Completely staffed by volunteers, the thrift store is always looking for people to donate their time and help the club. Anybody can volunteer to work at the store, they just need to call and apply.

"All kinds of people work here, SNCO wives, new Marine wives, officers' wives," said Morin. "It's not a snooty thing here."

While raising money for the scholarship remains a priority, the store and its mission mean a little more to the volunteers who work there.

"It's personal for me," Morin said. "I was once the poor wife of an E-1. I know what it's like. The store is for that young person who needs something like a coat or jacket for their child. There is so much bad going on in the world these days. We just want to be a little piece of good for the Marines here."

Trainer leads by example

LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER S. VEGA
Marine Corps Base

To some people, fitness trainers are often looked upon as carbohydrate-counting, over-energized instructors who love nothing more than leaving their clients in a physically exhausted puddle. Such is not the case for Tina Brooks, lead personal trainer at the French Creek Fitness Center.

While performing an assessment on a client, Brooks noticed he had a continual irregular heart rate and recommended a physician examine him. After two abnormal results from two separate electrocardiograms, the physician noticed an irregular heartbeat and placed the Marine on light duty, restricting him from performing any forms of physical training.

"Before a client begins working out on a program here, we have them go through an assessment to make sure they are physically okay," said

Brooks. "Its reasons like this we have these assessments. We want to make sure we know all about the client before we start working with them."

The Marine came to the facility with his command to help prepare for an upcoming physical fitness test.

During the assessment, each Marine was examined through a series of different physicals to determine blood pressure, body composition and cardio workout.

While conducting a manual blood pressure reading, Brooks realized the client had an abnormal heart rate. To verify the reading, Brooks also examined the Marine during a cardio workout and found his heart rate to have the same irregular beat.

"Tina catching this proves her thoroughness and devotion to her job," said Tanya Ruck Hewitt, personal training and workshops coordinator. "She is the reason our trainers are the best around. Other fitness centers might miss things of this

sort, but because of Tina, these things aren't overlooked here."

Brooks, a Gaylord, Mich., native, first started looking into health and fitness while she was a scuba instructor in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"There was something about the exercise physiology that got me interested in being a fitness trainer," said Brooks. "So I started looking into what I would need to do to achieve my new goal."

After attending all the appropriate classes, Brooks received her first job managing two fitness centers in Sigonella, Sicily, for four years.

"Out of all the different places I have worked, I would have to say that French Creek is

the best facility I have ever worked at," said Brooks. "The programs here are excellent. Trainers on other bases don't

have the knowledge the trainers do here."

The center has six personal trainers who work on various cases, catering to each client's main focus and athletic abilities.

"The trainers here aren't just your average personal trainers," said Hewitt. "They care about who they work with

and they establish somewhat of a friendship with the client. But more importantly, they find out what the client wants to work on and they go from there. Here you are not just a body; you're everything."



Tina Brooks is the lead instructor at the French Creek Fitness Center.

Main Side Briefs

MARINE 4 LIFE PROGRAM

The Marine Corps is looking for employers interested in hiring Marines returning to the Jacksonville area after serving on active duty. Prospective employers are invited to join an online network managed by the Marine 4 Life program, which helps Marines make the transition from the Corps to the community. For more information, contact Sgt. Dana M. Hamm at dana.hamm@m4l.usmc.mil or 371-4153, or apply via the Marine For Life Web site www.M4L.usmc.mil.

MARINE SOUTH 2005 MILITARY EXPOSITION

More than 3,000 Marines and civilians are expected to see air and ground equipment currently in service and equipment now being developed for tomorrow's Marine Corps. The exhibits of more than 110 leading defense contractors are expected this year and will be staged at the Base's Marston Pavilion, April 6. Marine families are invited to attend the exposition from noon to 3 p.m., April 7.

MCCS ONE SOURCE

Permanent Change of Station moves are a fact of life for the Marine Corps family. MCCS OneSource offers relocating assistance, brought to you in partnership with Marine and Family Services. There is no cost associated with using this service, and best of all, it's available anytime of day, where ever you are. So get in touch with us today. We have consultants who speak Spanish and offer simultaneous translation into more than 150 other languages. Phones are 800-346-9188, En español, llame al 800-375-5971 or call collect 484-530-5908. For more information on relocation, visit www.mccsonesource.com.

FUND CONTINUED FROM 1C

spending and saving habits.

The Well-Baby program provides families of newborns with important information to keep up-to-date with check-up appointments and general baby care.

Some NMCRS offices also operate food lockers, which help feed clients when providing financial aid is not practical or appropriate. They are stocked with limited quantities of essential items, packed to provide nutritionally balanced meals for families.

Besides much of the financial help and informational programs the society provides, our counseling services are also offered at no cost, said Kelly.

Last year, there were 40,000 emergency financial cases and 15,000 non-financial cases Navy and Marine Corps wide, said Kelly. Locally, more than 2,400 cases received more than \$968,000 in financial assistance.

More than 21,000 Marines and sailors were serviced at Camp Lejeune through classes and direct contact from the Visiting Nurse program.

With thousands of service members and dependents seen at each of the more than 300 offices worldwide, donations and volunteer assistance is sincerely valued and appreciated by the NMCRS.

"We're looking forward to a successful fund drive this year," said Kelly. "[NMCRS] takes pride in knowing that all the money put into our funds goes directly back to the troops when the need it."

Donations can be made to the NMCRS at any time, but forms for the fund drive can be obtained and turned in through your Equal Employment Opportunity representative.

For more information about the NMCRS, please contact the Camp Lejeune office at 451-5346.

Courts-Martial

Corporal James A. Tune, School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base, was convicted at a special court-martial of unauthorized absence and failure to go. He was sentenced to confinement for 60 days, forfeiture of \$923 and reduction to private first class.

Corporal Peter M. Maloney, 2d Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, was convicted at a special court-martial of dereliction of duty. He was sentenced to forfeiture of \$100.

Lance Cpl. Isaac B. Holloway, 6th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, was convicted at a special court-martial of unauthorized absence. He was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 75 days, forfeiture of \$1,646 and reduction to private.

Private first class Earl J. Phenex, 8th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, was convicted at a special court-martial of unauthorized absence and leaving the scene of an accident. He was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 100 days, forfeiture of \$2,250 and reduction to private.

Private first class Robert P. Vauter, Headquarters a Support Battalion, School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base, was convicted at a special court-martial of unauthorized absence. He was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 55 days, forfeiture of \$1,646 and reduction to private.

Private first class Jason L. Thomas, Headquarters a Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base, was convicted at a special court-martial of unauthorized absence. He was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 60 days, forfeiture of \$1,646 pay and reduction to private.

Private Jason L. Domenichello, 2d Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, was convicted at a special court-martial of wrongful use of cocaine. He was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 30 days and forfeiture of \$823.

Private Jesus Hernandez, Marine Corps Engineer School, Marine Corps Base, was convicted at a special court-martial of unauthorized absence terminated by apprehension. He was sentenced to a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 60 days and forfeiture of \$1,646.

Classified Line Advertising, Call 910-347-9624 ★ Open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Trader Ads are FREE
for active duty military,
retirees and their
family members.

THE GLOBE CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising Deadline,
Thursday, 11 a.m.
One week prior
to publication.

★ Fill out the coupon in this section or go to www.militarynews.com/globe and click on "place a trader ad" ★

Real Estate For rent

2 SINGLE ROOMS \$350/ea in new home, incl house privileges, util, All-channel TV. Sneads Ferry 910-279-0853.

2 STORY HOUSE Sneads Ferry, Escoba bay, 1.5 mi to back gate, built in 2000, 4BR/2.5BA, wood floors tile bath, irrigation system, ceiling fans, fireplace gas logs, community dock pool, stables, tennis courts, 1 block from boat dock water view. \$269,900. 327-0670.

OFFICE SPACE

EMERALD DR. OFFICE SPACE: 500 S.F. with closet & private bath. Building shared with Real Estate Co. \$400. Bluewater GMAC 1-800-786-9285 • 1-952-354-5921

2BR/1BA-333 Holly Shelter Road \$450. & 360 Holly Shelter Road \$495. No Pets. 346-6882/346-9427.

2BR/1BA Duplex, Hunter's Creek. Newly Remodeled, Gas Fireplace, W/D Hookup. Very Nice. Less than 2 mi to CLNC. Available 3/5. \$600/mo. No pets. 252-223-5564.

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NORTHERN
VIRGINIA?
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SPECIALISTS
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MILITARY REBATES!
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2BR/2.5BA Hunter's Creek 1059 West Pueblo Dr. \$600/mo April 4/1. 202-271-1200.

3BR/1BA Richlands at city limits close highway 258 & Gumbrell Rd., super markets, restaurants, schools, medical clinics, etc. This home comes w/fenced in yard. Quiet community central H/A \$600/mo \$600/dep. Pets welcome. 389-4581.

3BR/2BA/W w/1 acre pasture & shed w/tack area. Lease, deposit, & ref req. \$450/mo. Call 347-4022.

Real Estate For rent

FOR RENT - Hunters Creek. \$475/mo. Very nice 2BR/2B, fenced backyard. Pets neg. 340-2678.

4BR/2BA Avoid front gate traffic custom in Hubert. Fr. dining, fenced yard, pets OK. \$850/mo 340-6800.

HAMPSTEAD apt 2BR, W/D, \$600/mo, 703-9018.

HUBERT Great Home for rent \$650/mo, fenced yard, 358-0461.

ABAR
RENTAL PROPERTIES, INC.

Homes For Rent
BR/BA Rent
991 W. Pueblo 2/2 \$550
1825 Blue Creek #2 2/1.5 \$495
5 Cherokee Dr 3/2 \$795
476 Foy Lockamy 3/2 \$450
1977 W. Beardsville 2/2.5 \$550
819 Jim Blake Rd. 2/1 \$350
2046 Foxhorn Rd. 3/2 \$650
1311 Blue Creek Rd. 2/1 \$425
527 Elm St. 2/1 \$425
506 Woodhaven Dr. 3/1.5 \$650
315 Collins 3/2 \$450
46-D Sophia 2/2 \$450
245-B Lakeside 2/2 \$500

Other 1, 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms available
347-4049
Email: abar@biznet.cc.com
Website: www.abarents.com

INDIAN WELLS Hunter's Crk, 1000sqft, 2BR/2BA, fenced in yard, 10 min to Camp Lej, front gate, \$595/mo, 850-206-8524.

LARGE 2BR/2BA cent H/A, W/D, quiet area, no sec dep, \$375/mo 324-6937.

LARGE MEETING ROOM SPACE up to 100 people 353-1701 or 330-1122.

NORTHWOODS 3BR, completely renovated, close to all bases, schools, shopping, great neighbors, \$600 455-9827.

ROOM FOR RENT 5 min from beach 30 min to Camp Lejeune, incl lights, water & basic cable \$300-2900.

ROOM FOR RENT looking for responsible M. to share 3BR apt. util. incl, \$300/mo 455-5699/382-5587 after 6pm.

ROOM FOR RENT no more field days, close to base, \$150 per mo, payday call before its to late. 327-2707

ROOMS FOR RENT in large house off Gumbrell Rd. Pets Neg. \$300 util incl Available now. 324-5735

Real Estate For rent

SWANBORO 3BR/2BA, close to base, beach, Old Swansboro, garage, W/D, fire place, big yard, large deck, \$650/mo. 326-5980.

Manufactured
Homes For Rent

3BR DOUBLEWIDE 1 acre fenced pasture with shelter. Some restrictions apply. Lease & deposit, \$450/mo. 347-4022.

Lease Purchase Option
4 Bedroom in the
Hubert/Swanboro area.
Good credit history
required.
910-471-2181

3BR/2BA DOUBLEWIDE Blue Creek Rd, LG fenced lot, storage shed \$600/mo, \$600/dep, ask about pets 347-7246.

DOUBLEWIDE-97 Redmond, 3BR/2BA LR, DR, Den, Kit, Laundry, Appliances included. Good Cond. Why rent when you can own for less than BAH. 526-1266.

Hubert
New 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath
doublewide near side gate.
Free lot rent, cable, & HBO
package. \$412 per mo.
910-471-2181

FOR RENT-Mobile home, 4 mi from Camp Lejeune. Call 358-0751.

MOBILE HOME near Geiger & MCAS, 2BR, w/deck & storage building, water, sewer & garbage free. \$210/mo 910-934-3422/346-5484.

Real Estate
For sale

113 SIDNEY LANE Williamsburg Plantation, 3BR/2BA, vaulted ceilings, fans, sprinkler & alarm, wood swing set, landscaped, fenced yard, deck 554-1713.

3BR MOBILE HOME not in a park, carpet, all elec, close to all bases & schools, shopping, private. \$400 455-9827.

3BR/2BA HOME FSBO on 1.68 acres, MEA w/ garden tub, open floor plan, 6x16 shed, great location, all appliances incl., 14935sqft, \$93,000. 546-6185.

DISTRESS SALE-Bank Foreclosures, FREE List of Bank-owned properties. Receive a FREE Computerized printout. Visit: www.christinapitz.com or call 545-7582 EXIT Homeplace Realty.

GROVES POINT 3BR/2BA, den, living rm, family rm, dining rm, 1800 sqft, 1 acre lot, wooded, New wood floors, stove, w/d, Water access, boat storage, 2 car garage, shed, Spa tub in master ba. \$128,000. 329-0670/431-2735.

Real Estate For sale

NORTHWOODS-Parkwood Est2400+sqft, 4BR/2.5BA colonial. Hardwood floors. Fireplace. Deck. Fenced yard. 2-car garage. Easy walk for kids to Parkwood Elem. \$225,000 545-6043.

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Swansboro
4 Bedroom, 2300 sqft
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3BR/2BA MOBILE HOME 2yrs old, on rented lot off white oak river, garden tub, all appl, nice area, boat ramp access, dock for fishing, storage bldg outside 14935sqft, \$45,000 325-0729.

28x68 Horton \$30,900 c/c
1998 14x76 3/2
\$15,600 c/c
Mansion Homes
910-353-2538

96 FLEETWOOD-single wide, 3BR/2BA fenced back yard, front deck, Elec appl. Great Cond. Located in the Hubert area close to back gate. 526-3538.

I need your trade!
Local investors will trade your
singlewide for a doublewide land
home package. Several packages
to choose from. Call for details.
910-471-2181

96 OAKWOOD-DW, like new 4BR/2BA, 581 from MCAS. \$50,000. 358-0751.

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LAND HOME
3 & 4 Bedrooms available in Haws Run, Briarclark Rd, Swansboro, & Hubert! All VA certified! 0 Down programs available! Seller pays all closing costs! Mansion Homes 910-353-2538

SINGLE WIDE 96 Commodore, 3BR/2BA, Great Cond., incl. appl. Assumable loan. It's a must see 353-4873.

Appliances

2000 RHEEM-3 Ton 12 Seer heat & air works fine asking \$975 353-3199 after 6pm or iv msg.

FAN/LIGHT-Over the Range White Virtually brand new \$20. 353-1869.

FREE FREEZER-w/Family pk Steak, Seafood, Chicken. 30%-40% Military Discount. EBT & Visa. Phil the Meat Man. 389-5408.

GE CHEST FREEZER-15 CUFT asking \$80 353-3199 after 6pm or iv msg.

GE Electric Range, new never used, White \$300 353-3104

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MICROWAVE-White Works fine \$25 353-1869

STOVE-like new, Hotpoint \$125 989-1111 ask for Robert.

WASHER & DRYER-Large Capacity. 4 yrs old, good cond, \$150 set, will sell separately. 353-0523.

WASHER-X-large Works. \$50. 353-1869.

WASHER/DRYER SET-3mo old, deploying, must sell very nice very new you can save hundreds \$400. 539-2505

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\$18,487**BRAND NEW 2005 CHEV**
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\$10,797

Images are stock photos and may reflect a different trim level and show different optional equipment from the described vehicle. All prices include all available rebates. Prices plus tax, tags & \$299 admin. fee WAC. Hurry! Limited time offer. See dealer for details.

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'01 CAVALIER 1538BT/SP7867	\$104/mo.
'02 Daewoo LANOS 1535AP/SP7867	\$104/mo.
'00 ECLIPSE ST511AP1/SP8650	\$119/mo.
'02 Kia OPTIMA 1533AP/SP8657	\$123/mo.
'01 Olds ALERO 1400BT/SP8867	\$123/mo.
'02 Pontiac SUNFIRE 1510AP/SP9457	\$134/mo.
'02 Dodge STRATUS 1504BP/SP9900	\$143/mo.
'01 Chevy BLAZER 1457CT/SP10400	\$153/mo.
'02 Saturn SL 1525AP/SP10467	\$154/mo.
'01 Chevy S-10 SP220AT/SP11400	\$172/mo.
'00 Mazda 626 1507BP/SP11400	\$172/mo.
'03 Ford FOCUS ST225/SP11467	\$173/mo.
'02 Pontiac AZTEK ST613AT/SP11867	\$181/mo.

TRUCK's/SUV's

'04 Chevy MALIBU 1490AP/SP12857	\$199/mo.
'02 Chevy S-10 ST627AT	\$10,900
'02 Chevy BLAZER 1500AT	\$12,367
'04 Ford RANGER ST367AT	\$12,967
'02 Dodge RAM 1500 ST458BT	\$13,367
'02 GMC SONOMA 1499AT	\$13,367
'00 Ford EXPEDITION ST636AT	\$14,367
'02 Dodge DURANGO ST255AT	\$17,367
'03 Silverado 1500 SC179AT	\$18,367
'04 Dodge RAM 1500 1551AT	\$18,367
'04 Saturn VUE ST263AT	\$18,967
'04 Chevy COLORADO ST146AT	\$22,367
'04 GMC SIERRA 1500 SC23AT	\$22,367

SEDAN's/VAN's

'01 Ford F-150 1524AT	\$23,367
'04 GMC ENVY XUV ST480AT	\$24,967
'03 Silverado 2500HD	\$33,367
'04 GMC SIERRA 3500 SC116AT	\$35,900
'03 Hummer H2 1548AT	\$38,967
'02 Saturn SL 1528AP	\$8967
'04 Dodge STRATUS ST557AP	\$11,967
'04 Pontiac GRAND AM 1527AP	\$12,967
'04 Chrysler PT CRUISER 1547AP	\$13,367
'03 Dodge CARAVAN 1519AT	\$13,967
'04 Chevy MONTE CARLO 1533AP	\$14,967
'01 Olds AURORA ST302AP	\$14,967

4 Impalas to choose from!!!

'04 Chevy ASTRO 1488AT	\$15,367
'03 Dodge NEON 1534AP	\$16,367
'05 Chevy MALIBU ST311AP	\$16,367

SPORT

'05 Chevy IMPALA 1554AP	\$18,367
'03 Mitsubishi ECLIPSE	\$11,967
'03 Ford MUSTANG ST285AT	\$16,967

3 Mustangs to choose from!!!

'02 Acura TL 1509AP	\$18,367
'02 Lincoln LS 1520AP	\$19,367
'03 Infiniti G35 SEDAN 1529AP	\$22,967
'02 BMW 3 SERIES 1506AP	\$24,367

LUXURY

'02 Acura TL 1509AP	\$18,367
'02 Lincoln LS 1520AP	\$19,367
'03 Infiniti G35 SEDAN 1529AP	\$22,967
'02 BMW 3 SERIES 1506AP	\$24,367

IMPORTS

'03 BMW 3 SERIES 1505AP	\$27,367
'04 Cadillac DEVILLE 1543AP	\$27,367
'98 Mercedes SL CLASS ST350AT	\$27,967
'05 Cadillac CTS 1537AP	\$30,367
'03 Honda CIVIC 1442CT	\$12,367
'04 Nissan SENTRA 1530AP	\$15,967
'03 VW PASSAT ST452BP2	\$17,967

RV

'01 Chevy EXPRESS CUTAWAY	\$23,400
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**Partial Listing
Many Others
To Choose From!****This
could
be
you!**

Auto Miscellaneous

01 VW PASSAT-Bik. fully loaded, low miles, exc cond. Take over payments ONLY. 285-9346.

3" SUSPENSION-lift. brand new torsion lift for all 88 and up GM truck, and SUV, will fit 34" tires. \$250 324-6297



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327 5B0 ENGINE just rebuilt, acid tanked, bored 40 over, heads resurfaced, all new eng parts, shorty headers & more extras \$1,000 OBO 330-3275.

4 UNIROVAL TIRES-Tiger Paw. Size 215/65R-16, Like New. \$160 327-1066

4x10 FLATBED TRAILER-w/rampgate exc cond, \$850 Call 346-8796.

76-87 CHEVY TRUCK PARTS New & used body parts for 1/2 & 3/4 ton. Stepside bed, 8ft Fleetside bed after 5, 938-4904.

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82 CHEVY 3/4 ton truck parts. Axles, Tranny & transfer case in good shape. Many good body parts. Bad motor. after 5pm. 938-4904

94 RED FORD MUSTANG-V6. good cond. New tires. \$3500 OBO. 219-9778

96-00 HONDA CIVIC-4dr full body kit \$300, fiberglass quest front end polyurethane avenger side skirts & rear bumper. Call Brian 545-3353/353-8222.

97 DODGE RAM-1500 factory suspension incl front coil springs, all shocks, control arms, & rear leaf springs. Good cond \$50 353-5087.

98 MUSTANG GT HOOD great cond black will fit 94-98, small chip in front lip from small rock. \$250 OBO. 345-5047.

ALLOY WHEELS w/TIRES For Dodge Ram 16" factory wheels & Goodyear Wrangler tires RT/S P265/75R16, Great Cond \$350 Will include spare tire w/set \$400 353-5087.

BEDLINER for small pickup. Great shape. \$25 OBO. Call 324-7098

DANA 44-8 lug \$450 OBO, 203 transfer w/ granny 4spd \$450, +more. 376-0245/324-6297 iv. msg.

ENGINE locked-up 90-Chevy Astro Cargo Van Trans is still good a/c, good tires, \$200 938-7605.

F250/350 leveling kit, will fit diesel & gas, incl new 2.5" leaf packs, shocks, & hardware \$370 324-6297

GROUND EFFECTS FRONT Will fit Chrysler Cirrus, Chrysler Sebring, or Dodge Stratus. Combat style, Red, Mint cond. 346-8820.

JASPER 383-Stroker motor. Complete. Ready to be dropped in an run. Fully dressed. Serious inquiries only, Call after 5pm. 938-4904.

LEER TRUCK COVER red, fits Chevy S10, brand new, \$400 324-3232/381-5662.

LIFT KITS for GM & Ford trucks, perf parts, chips, and programmers for all diesels & gas engines, steda lowering kits & more! 324-6297.

RIMS & TIRES-17in Bones style pacer Rims and tires. Practically new. Paint dot still visible on tires. Had on a GMC Jimmy for less than 1mo. 1st \$600 takes them. Universal lug pattern. 526-9900.

RIMS & TIRES off a f 150 tires in exc. condition size 235-75-15 \$160 for the tires & rims. 381-6741.

RIMS-17" Ford Mustang stock rims off 98 Mustang GT M/M cond 1 rim chipped on edge \$500 OBO 346-5047.

STAIGH AXEL CONVERSION SET Ford Dana 60 King Pin 1 Ton Front Axel and a GM Corporate 14 Bolt 1 ton Rear Axel. Completely restored. \$2000 554-1221.

STEEL WHEELS & TIRES-93' Honda Civic DX factory wheels 13" & tires, 4x100 bolt pattern. Brand new spare tire also incl \$30 353-5087.

TIRES & CHROME RIMS-177 Bone Style SUV, like new, used barely 1mo on 01 Jimmy. \$700 OBO 526-9777.

TIRES-4 UniRoyal, Tiger Paw, Size 215/65R-16, Like New \$160 327-1066.

TOOL BOX/HITCH Tool box for small truck \$40. Class III hitch for S-10/15 \$40 324-1184.

UTILITY TRAILER-12x6 w/ramp. Heavy duty steel & treated boards on floor. Only 5mo old. Have title in hand to transfer. Asking \$900. 938-4567/iv msg.

Automobiles

***01 CHRYSLER SEBRING** white, all leather int, automatic, sun roof, 23K miles, 4dr, CD Player, well maintained, very clean, 1 owner & exc cond, \$11,000. 843-884-7226 or 843-343-9731.

00 DODGE DURANGO SLT Fully loaded w/custom built fishing rack on front grill. 96K exc cond. \$8,900 OBO. Day 301-619-2706, Evening 301-865-8043.

00 HONDA ACCORD EX-138K, looks runs great \$8500. 781-248-0967.

00 TOYOTA COROLLA-134K, 4dr, auto, AC, PW, PL, PB, maint records, \$6000 382-4166.

01 CHEVY CAVALIER silver, 2 dr auto, CD, AM/FM, AC/H, great cond, around 55K \$6000 OBO 203-414-9172.

01 CHEVY EXPLORER LTD Conv Van. High top, 51K, 5.9 V8, Loaded, leather, 13" tv, VCR/DVD & more. Exc cond, \$18,500. 347-8845.

Automobiles

01 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT Quad cab, all power, leather, cassette/cd, V8, tow pkg, bed liner, needs nothing, \$10,500 OBO 546-1311

01 FORD EXPLORER sport, 44K on V6, 4x4, new tires, new brakes, service UTD \$13000 938-3044.

01 Z71 CHEVY SUBURBAN 86K, clean, 11th, 3rd row seat, DVD, CD, all pwr, \$19000 OBO 548-4319.

02 CHEVY S-10 Ext cab pickup. Only 13K & in exc cond. Valued at \$13,465. Price reduced to \$11,800. Call 970-580-9156.

02 CHEVY S-10 Ext cab, LS trim, aluminum alloy wheels, 6cyl, CD, matching cap & bedliner, 12K, \$12695 LIKE NEW 347-5371.

Automobiles

Automobiles

02 FORD EXPLORER Sport, Red 16K, Manual, Practically new Tow package & roof rack. \$12,000 OBO 353-4618.

02 GRAND AM GT-4 dr. like new We will give you \$1000 to take over payments. Day 451-5600, Evening 252-223-2008.

02 PONTIAC GRAND AM loaded, 45K, willing to give free oil change brakes & tires w/purchase, have orders must sell as soon as possible \$10,000 381-8680 between 0800 to 2100

03 NISSAN 350Z Enthusiast, Blk, aerodynamic pkg, Z-kick plates & floor mats, 6 spd, 20K, \$26,000, 219-4590.

03 NISSAN SENTRA GXE exc cond \$10,000 OBO. 382-0685.

Automobiles

Automobiles

03 TOYOTA COROLLA S sport pkg body kit, fog lights, rear spoiler, alloy whls, PW, PL, alarm, blk, still under warranty \$10,500 381-0758.

03 TOYOTA TUNDRA base model, 3.4L V6, 2WD, auto, Phantom Gray Pearl, PS, AC, AM/FM/CD, bed liner, 16K, ext 70K warr. \$14000 355-1952/382-7530.

03 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLS 25,600 mi, FACTORY WARRANTY, red, manual, leather, sunroof, heated seats, pwr locks, pwr mirrors, \$15,000, 252-635-1141.

04 SUZUKI XL-7 23K, blk, tan int, PW, keyless entry, PL, AC, looks good runs good, \$45-3353/353-8222.

Automobiles

Automobiles

72 CHEVY PICKUP Standard, 3 on the column. Runs good, body in okay shape, 358-0461 or email kperk@ec.rr.com.

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1 p.m. There will also
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ormation, call Yarel
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ANUAL SPRING CRAFT FAIR

e Annual Spring Craft
ir will be at the Marston
villion, April 2 from 9
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m noon to 4 p.m. It is
e and open to the pub-
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contact Laurie at 451-
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those who lost their
es Tuesday at 7 p.m. in
e Jacksonville Commons
ountain Area. For more
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CCS PROPERTY AREHOUSE "YARD" SALE

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erty warehouse "yard"
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108 on the corner of
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AMERICAN GIRLS TEA PARTY

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t the main library in
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ormation, call 455-7350.

MUSIC OPEN HOUSE

Coastal Community
College will host a Music
Open House Tuesday
rom 7 to 8:30 p.m. in
odenhamer Auditorium
or students interested in
music major. For more
ormation, call 938-6281.

TEEN JOB FAIR

The Teen Job Fair offers
volunteer opportunities for
ages 13 and up and
employment opportunities
for ages 16-18. The work-
shop will take place March
23, from 10 a.m. to noon
at the Family Member
Assistance Program
Center in Building 2475
aboard Tarawa Terrace.
For more information, call
450-1676.

St. Patrick's FESTIVAL

Graphic Design by Ena Bravo
Courtesy Photos

The green isle brings Irish arts and culture alive

HEATHER CARUSO
Carolina Living Staff Writer

Plans have been made for a jolly ole' time filled with all the commodities that make an Irish holiday Irish at the 14th Annual St. Patrick's Festival. A sea of little leprechauns and festival-goers clad in green will fill the streets around the Emerald Plantation shopping center in Emerald Isle this Saturday.

"The festival is really the kick off to the spring season here in Emerald Isle and we invite others to join us in what has become a ritual of spring here," said Alesia Sanderson, event director. It has become a ritual for many others as well, with 15,000 people attending the small town's festival last year to enjoy the food, fun, shopping and music.

Irish culture overflows with music, as does the festival, which kicks off Friday at 7 p.m. with a free concert by national country recording artist Jeff Bates who sings *Long, Slow Kisses* and *I Wanna Make You Cry*.

The festival organizers pride themselves in having something for everyone, including several genres of music performing on three different stages all day Saturday. The Gold Stage will showcase Settle and Sammy O'Banion with Mardi Gras as well as two bands, Irish Culture Society and Jennifer Licko, who will put a jig in your step. The Emerald Stage will feature renowned talent as well, with Pamlico Joe, Pauline Smith and Kitty West.

Young festival-goers will dazzle crowds as they entertain on the Gold Stage in the Little Leprechaun contest at 11 a.m. and will be amused with kiddie karaoke and a DJ for children on the Shamrock Stage. These small-bodied fellows won't be cranky souls mending shoes of the other fairies, but rather charming boys and girls ages 2-5 dressed in Irish getup. The little leprechauns will surely put a smile on your face as they present themselves on stage to answer a simple question or two the adorable way they do.

Children wishing to participate in the contest must register by noon on Friday. Children will be broken into 2 to 3-year-olds and 4 to 5-year-olds age categories, and the crowned Mr. and Mrs. Leprechaun of each division will win \$50 savings bonds.

Music won't be the only thing filling the air. The festival wouldn't be complete without the traditional Irish dish corned beef and cabbage and other delicious foods including shrimp burgers, Mediterranean cuisine, funnel cakes, fried peanuts and many more delectable eats. If an Irish pub is more your style, you can socialize in the atmosphere of the beer garden.

The Port City Pipes and Drums will parade throughout the day with bagpipes in hand, adding a special Irish musical backdrop as shoppers move in and out of arts and crafts booths featuring only handmade or hand-authenticated items. The young and old can race to the top of a climbing wall, take a drive on the wild side in a simulated NASCAR ride and enjoy the amusement park.

While down in Emerald Isle, you may want to take a scenic run along Ocean Drive in the 8K road race sponsored by Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation Department. The course will begin at 8 a.m. and contestant ages vary from 13 to 76 years old.

"The main attraction is the fact that it is a family festival and there is something for everyone," said Sanderson. "It is just a jovial day for all."

The festival is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with Jeff Bates kicking off the event Friday at 7 p.m. For detailed information about the road race and Little Leprechaun contest, logon to www.emeraldisle-nc.org.

Country singer
Jeff Bates will perform
Friday at 7 p.m.

Concert is free and
open to the public.

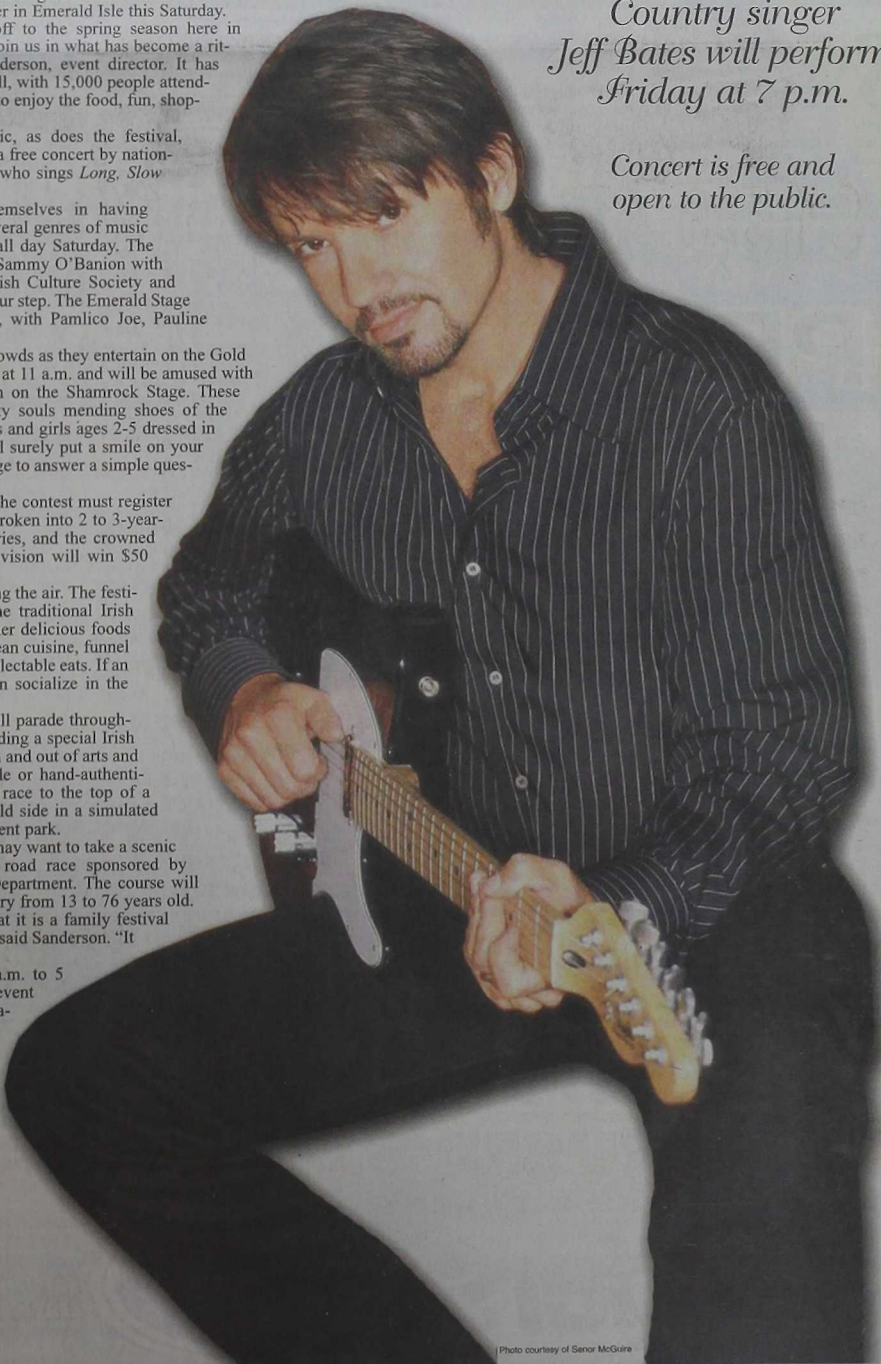


Photo courtesy of Senor McGuire

Come join us!

What:
14th Annual
St. Patrick's Festival

When:
Friday and Saturday

Where:
Emerald Plantation
Shopping Center

LCTV-10 | Guide

7:30 a.m.	Shooting Gallery (Hollywood Stuntwomen)
8 a.m.	The Morning Report
8:30 a.m.	Air Force News
9 a.m.	Your Corps
9:30 p.m.	Army Newswatch
10 a.m.	The Flying Marines
10:45 a.m.	This is Medieval Times Myrtle Beach
11 a.m.	Inside R/C (Heli Jamboree)
11:30 a.m.	Marine Security Guard Battalion
Noon	The Morning Report
12:30 p.m.	Pacific Report
1 p.m.	Navy-Marine Corps News
1:30 p.m.	Battleship North Carolina
2 p.m.	Pentagon Channel On Assignment
2:30 p.m.	Pentagon Channel Studio 5
3 p.m.	The Citadel
3:30 p.m.	Shooting Gallery (Hollywood Stuntwomen)
4 p.m.	The Morning Report
4:30 p.m.	Air Force News
5 p.m.	Your Corps
5:30 p.m.	Army Newswatch
6 p.m.	The Flying Marines
6:45 p.m.	This is Medieval Times Myrtle Beach
7 p.m.	Inside R/C (Heli Jamboree)
7:30 p.m.	Marine Security Guard Battalion
8 p.m.	The Morning Report
8:30 p.m.	Pacific Report
9 p.m.	Navy-Marine Corps News
9:30 p.m.	Battleship North Carolina
10 p.m.	Pentagon Channel On Assignment
10:30 p.m.	Pentagon Channel Studio 5
11 p.m.	The Citadel
11:30 p.m.	Shooting Gallery (Hollywood Stuntwomen)
Midnight	The Morning Report
12:30 a.m.	Air Force News

Pentagon Channel keeps leathernecks in the know

LCTV-10

CPL. MATTHEW W. LYMAN



It's time for another week of outstanding programming on Lejeune Cable Television-10. This week we'll continue to keep you updated with programming from the Pentagon Channel. *Navy Marine Corps News*, *Your Corps*, and *Studio 5* are just some of the programs that will keep you in tune with what's happening in the military community.

We'll also continue to keep you informed on what's happening around Camp Lejeune with our very own morning show, *The Morning Report*. Our hosts, Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Riggs and Chief Warrant Officer David Stephens, will talk about issues on and off base and throughout the Marine Corps. Our weather team will also keep you up-to-date about tropical storms, hurricanes and those ever-present Carolina rains. So be sure to watch *The Morning Report* live everyday at 8 a.m.

In addition to enhancing Department of Defense communications with the 1.4 million active-duty service members, the Pentagon Channel will provide members of the National Guard and Reserve and civilian employees of the Department of Defense more timely access to military information and news. The Pentagon Channel television service is available 24/7 and is accessible to all stateside cable and satellite providers.

But that's not all we offer. Viewers can also keep up on local area happenings by

watching our message screens and tickers. We keep you on top of sports, national, international, business and entertainment news.

This week, we'll give you a look into the storied history of Marine Corps aviation in *The Flying Marines*. This program will show you the air superiority and fierce reputation that the Marine Corps fought to attain and fights to maintain. In World War II, the Marine Air Wing took to the skies in their Hellcats, SBD Dauntlesses, and Corsairs to do battle with Japanese Zeros in the Pacific. Marines piloted Panther jets in response to Gen. Douglas MacArthur's call for air power over Inchon to destroy the enemies' supply structure. You'll also get to see Marine aviators fly in Vietnam when one of the most dominating fighters, the F-4 Phantom, could be seen streaking across the sky. So if Marine Corps aviation is one of your interests, you'll want to tune into this fascinating program.

Next, we'll take you on a tour of the great battleship USS North Carolina. You'll find out that during its four years in military service, the USS North Carolina was involved in almost all of the major battles in the Pacific. The USS North Carolina was there at Iwo Jima, where it sat off the coast and fired its 16-inch guns all day. At the end of the day, the USS North Carolina had hurled more than 800 rounds of ammunition at the Iwo Jima coast. The battleship is now on display in Wilmington, N.C.

Shooting Gallery host Michael Bane gives us an inside look at fully automatic firearms.

Allan Samuel, from *Machinegun Tours*, talks about machineguns in the media and how to properly fire a fully automatic weapon. If you tune in to this episode of *Shooting Gallery*,

you're sure to enjoy it.

Along with programming that we age and insert, we also sample programming from the Pentagon Channel. Pentagon Channel broadcasts news and information for the members of the armed forces through programs including:

- Department of Defense news releases
- Military news
- Interviews with top Defense officials
- Short stories about the work of military

That concludes our programming for this week, but now it's time to ask the viewer, a question. Do you ever feel yourself bored, lonely, or just feeling you're ready for a new experience? LCTV-10's has the solution. Our crew of friendly, motivated individuals will give you up on all aspects of the television broadcasting and video production. Have you ever dreamed of being a star in the spotlight or being the behind the scenes, operating state-of-the-art studio cameras and audio equipment? Working at the television station is a great opportunity for anyone interested in the TV business, searching for a resume booster, or simply looking for a good time and make new friends.

LCTV-10 welcomes one and all interested in volunteering their time. It sounds interesting, call 451-1239, mail the producer, Cpl. Patrick McHugh at patrick.mchugh@usmc.mil.

You might be the one we're looking for! And remember, if you or your child needs to get information put on LCTV-10, logon to www.lejeune.usmc.mil and follow the links to LCTV-10.

Corporal Lyman is a combat correspondent with LCTV-10.

Let Constantine's spellbinding visuals, biblical mythology take you on a Academy Award thrill ride

FROM THE FRONT ROW

REINHILD MOLDEHAUER HUNEYCUTT



SIDEWAYS (R)
Sideways is a marvelous offbeat comedy about a trip to the California wine country.

Paul Giamatti (*American Splendor*, *Confidence*, *Paycheck*) stars as Miles Faymond, a divorced middle school teacher and frustrated unpublished novelist. He is also an opinionated wine snob and an overachieving neurotic.

Thomas Haden Church (*3000 Miles to Graceland*, *George of the Jungle 2*, *The Badger*) plays his

altar bound friend, Jack, a has-been actor and washed-up TV star who will soon be getting married to a young, beautiful and wealthy woman.

Miles takes Jack on a last bachelor getaway, a brief tour of California's wine country. They embark on a wine tasting tour, eating good food, enjoying the beautiful scenery, and pondering questions about their directions in life. However, Jack believes that this trip is his bachelor party and is determined to sow his wild oats.

Jack seduces Stephanie, a motorcycle-riding wine pourer who likes to party, played by Sandra Oh (*Under the Tuscan Sun*, *The Princess Diaries*).

This leads to an opportunity for Miles to begin a relationship with

Maya, a demure waitress, played by Virginia Madsen (*American Gun*, *Full Disclosure*).

Director Alexander Payne (*About Schmidt*, *Election*, *Citizen Ruth*) is working with a great ensemble cast and created an understated perfection with this brilliant film.

As in his previous films, he co-wrote the screenplay with Jim Taylor, adapting a novel by Rex Pickett. The movie was filmed in California's breathtakingly beautiful Santa Ynez wine country.

Sideways is a poignant, hilarious and discomfiting examination of the hearts of men. This is a moving, character-driven, old-fashioned film that is one of the year's best and has already received numerous awards and accolades.

Sideways is currently playing at the Midway Park theater.

Note: *Sideways* recently received the prestigious Academy award for best screenplay. The film also garnered the top prize at the Independent Film Awards.

CONSTANTINE (R)

Constantine is a supernatural thriller based on the popular and graphic British *Hellblazer* comic series.

A master magician like misfit is walking a thin line between good and evil. Traveling the world

investigating the supernatural, he is enlisted by a police detective to help solve the mysterious suicide-like death of her twin sister.

Keanu Reeves (*The Matrix*, *Sweet November*, *Hardball*) stars as John Constantine, a hard-boiled, paranormal detective and amateur exorcist. He has been to hell and back and travels the world investigating supernatural mysteries.

Rachel Weisz (*Confidence*, *Runaway Jury*, *The Mummy*, *Enemy of the State*) plays a skeptical cop who seeks Constantine's help while investigating her twin sister's death.

Does her death have something to do with a mysterious group called "The First of the Fallen?" What is it about Constantine that puts him in a position where he is making deals with representatives from both heaven and hell?

The search leads the duo into Los Angeles' demon-filled shadows. They also encounter a big bad voodoo daddy by the name of Papa Midnite, played by Djimon Hounsou (*In America*, *The Four Feathers*).

Among the costars are Tilda Swinson (*Adaptation*, *The Deep End*, *Orlando*) as the archangel Gabriel; Shia LaBeouf who plays Constantine's wannabe apprentice; and British rocker Gavin Rossdale as the devil's chief deputy.

Francis Lawrence, a music video director, makes his feature film debut with *Constantine*.

Constantine is currently playing in Jacksonville.

Ms. Huneycutt is the public affairs assistant at the Base Public Affairs Office.

Movie gossip, rumors & more

FEVER PITCH

Those wanting to see Drew Barrymore get a baseball straight to the face should watch the first trailer (www.mtv.com) for this romantic comedy. Note: You must have a high Jimmy Fallon tolerance to survive.

ROLL BOUNCE

Ah, the 70s. A time of soul, stylin' threads, and roller-skating dance-offs. What? You didn't know about the dance-offs? Watch the trailer for this flick to see what you missed. (*Apple.com*)

THE FLASH

The new Flash might be ... Jensen Ackles. Before we're greeted by a chorus of "who?!", let us just say that he's been on a soap opera and Jessica Alba's show *Dark Angel*. (Cinematic Happenings Under Development)

FLORA PLUM

Jodie Foster has conceded that this project is dead once again. She might get the chance to make it at some point in the future, but things just can't seem to come together. (Cinematic Happenings Under Development)

CRASH

We've got the first trailer for the ensemble drama *Crash*, and man, is it a bummer. Life never looked so bleak. (*Movies.com*)

The movie gossip column is brought to you by www.movies.com.

Movie Listings

Camp Lejeune

(Closed for the month of March)

Midway Park

Thursday	Phantom Of The Opera (221)	PG-13	6:30 p.m.
Friday	The Wedding Date (1:29)	PG-13	6:30 p.m.
	Alone In The Dark (1:26)	R	9:15 p.m.
Saturday	Racing Stripes (1:42)	PG	3:30 p.m.
	The Wedding Date (1:29)	PG-13	6:30 p.m.
Sunday	Sideways (2:03)	R	9:15 p.m.
	Racing Stripes (1:42)	PG	3:30 p.m.
	Sideways (2:03)	R	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Alone In The Dark (1:26)	R	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Are We There Yet (1:35)	PG	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	Couch Carter (2:17)	PG-13	6:30 p.m.

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CONSTANTINE R	1:00 4:00 7:00 9:55
CURSED R	1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20
THE PACIFIER PG	12:30 1:15 2:45 3:30 5:00 5:45 7:15 8:00 9:45
HOSTAGE R	1:30 4:10 7:00 9:40
MILLION DOLLAR BABY PG13	3:45 9:20
ARE WE THERE YET? PG13	1:30 7:05
ROBOTS PG	12:30 1:00 1:30 2:45 3:15 3:45 5:00 5:30 7:15 7:45 9:30 9:55
THE HOSTAGE R	1:30 4:10 7:00 9:40
MAN OF THE HOUSE PG13	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
PASSION OF CHRIST RE-CUT UN-RATED	1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
BOOGEYMAN PG13	7:30 9:35
DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN PG13	1:30 2:00 4:00 4:30 7:05 8:00 9:35
BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE PG	12:00 2:25 4:50
HITCH PG13	1:15 4:15 7:10 9:40
BE COOL PG13	1:00 3:45 7:00 9:45

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Mall perks up day for military families

HEATHER CARUSO
Carolina Living Staff Writer

It seems everywhere you turn you will find them. Proud, strong military spouses are waiting in line at the grocery store, sitting in front of you at church, waiting to drop their children off at school, standing in the house next door and working alongside you at work. Many will say that being a military spouse is the toughest and the remedy to that is to keep yourself busy.

Staying busy isn't hard for Tara Fields, a her curious 9-month-old son crawling and. He is a blessing in many ways for her and her husband, especially since he is her days of deployment and the remedy to that is to keep yourself busy.

"I may not be fighting the war myself, my job is just as tough having my hus-

band deployed," she said.

Fields knows every parent eventually needs a break to stay sane and that those sanity breaks benefit you and your child. "It's hard to have someone who constantly depends on you. Sometimes you just need time to yourself whether it's 10 minutes or three hours," Fields said.

Christie Morgan, marketing director for Jacksonville Mall and military spouse, knows from personal experience what it is like having young children while your husband is deployed, which is why she jumped at the opportunity to start the program Parent Perks at the Jacksonville Mall when the Chamber of Commerce brought up the idea.

Parent Perks is a program to let military patrons gain free childcare for the dollars they spend at the mall. In March, if your same-day mall receipts tally up to \$50, you

can stop by the customer service booth with the receipts to receive childcare vouchers. In April, the vouchers can be exchanged for free childcare at participating childcare facilities in Jacksonville. Every \$50 gains you one hour of childcare.

Parents are encouraged to visit the childcare facilities on the list to choose one that they are comfortable using. "We are giving parents options between several childcare providers. Hopefully they will be able to find one that fits their needs," said Morgan.

One great aspect of this program is that the non-military shoppers can get vouchers in the same way and give them to military ID holders who can benefit from them. "Not only is the mall giving to the military, but it gives the community a chance to give to the military too," Morgan said.



Tara Fields stops by the customer service desk to get childcare vouchers for every \$50 she spends while shopping at the Jacksonville Mall. This is part of the Parent Perks program to benefit military ID holders with children.

See PERKS | 5D

Paper and tinsel brighten troops' day

HEATHER CARUSO
Carolina Living Staff Writer

With approximately 17,000 Marines deployed from II Marine Expeditionary Forces, Easter Bunny needs a lot of handmade cards for the "Send A Little Sunshine" program designed to brighten the troops' days of deployment and let them know children are at home rooting for them.

In September, 1st Lt. Brett Hager came home from Iraq with a special memory of a card unlike any bundled in stack of mail from his wife and daughter.

A child had made a card to give a simple message of love and for him. "I just remember it saying that they were proud of us and that they loved us. I think the 'I love you' stands out the most in my memory," said Hager.

"I had to admit, at first, I thought it was a little cheesy when they wrote that they loved me, but then I remembered these were just kids, and were kind of like heroes to me. It did put a smile on my face," he added.

Some of the Marines didn't know what to think of the cards. The Marines with



Joseph Walker, 5, colors an Easter card for troops for the "Send A Little Sunshine" program sponsored by Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department, Onslow County Board of Education and Marine Corps Community Services on Camp Lejeune.

families seemed to better relate to the cards, possibly because it reminded them of their children back home. It made Hager envision future letters he would receive from his baby girl, who was just a few months old when he deployed.

"It was one of the better memories from being out there," said Hager. "Every

Marine, heck every person for that matter, deserves to feel like a hero. I hope that all of the Marines and other service members serving in Iraq get that privilege."

This card, along with others, were passed on to others leaving just a sweet memory for Hager.

The Onslow County Parks

and Recreation Department, Onslow County Board of Education, and Marine Corps Community Services at Camp Lejeune sponsor this program. They received several thousand cards last year and hope to exceed that this year by the 5 p.m., March 17 deadline.

Carol Trott, assistant recreation supervisor, said they

have already had cards arrive from all over the state, even though it is a countywide effort.

"When spring comes, everyone likes to see flowers blooming, but since [the troops] are not able to see that, we thought we would send some springtime to them," said Trott.

Troops don't see many green trees or pretty flowers growing in the Afghan or Iraqi deserts, but the creative sparks in grade school children can help change the scenery with some paper, tinsel and glue.

Many children in this area have a family member that they care about serving in the armed forces, said Trott. "It gives the children an opportunity to do something for the troops."

The Single Marine Program will package the cards and make sure the Easter Bunny distributes them in time for Easter.

All cards must be made with paper and include the designer's name, grade, school and city on the back of the card. Cards should be mailed or dropped off at Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department at 1244 Onslow Pines Road, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540 by March 17.

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Gottschalk Marina's 16th Annual Team Bass Tournament Series

Sat, Mar 12
SPRING SPLASH TEAM BASS TOURNAMENT

Sat, May 14
SUMMER STARTER TEAM BASS TOURNAMENT

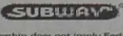
Sat, Sep 10
SEPTEMBER STARTER TEAM BASS TOURNAMENT

Sat, Nov 5
FALL FUN TEAM BASS TOURNAMENT

6:00 a.m. (or safe light) - 4:00 p.m.
\$70 per team
\$15 Late Fee (Day of Event)

Two-person teams fish for Largemouth Bass on the New River and its tributaries. The average prize amount is \$2,500 based on 50 boats. Guaranteed \$1,000 cash prize per tournament. Trophies and cash prizes are awarded for first three places. Sponsor giveaway by drawings, and food and soft drinks provided at weigh-in. ACTIVE DUTY TEAMS MAY PARTICIPATE THROUGH THE USAGE OF UNIT FUNDS WITH PERMISSION OF THE UNIT'S SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICER.

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Camp Lejeune
Youth Sports Office
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Registration deadline:
March 18 at 4:30 p.m.

Teaches basic fundamental skills of hitting, base running, and throwing.
T-Shirts provided to each camper. Proof of age required upon registration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL CAMP LEJEUNE YOUTH SPORTS at 451-2177/2159.

Camp Lejeune Base Theater

WILL BE CLOSED THE MONTH OF MARCH

The Base Theater will be closed the month of March for repairs.

All movies will be shown at the
MIDWAY PARK THEATER.
We are sorry for the inconvenience.

INFO: 451-1759/2785

Family Member Employment Assistance Program Presents

Teen Job Fair Workshop

Wed, March 23
10 a.m.-Noon • FMEAP Center
Bldg. 2475 Tarawa Terrace

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Unnoticed blessings all around us

GLE'S WINGS

LAIN RINGO

As been my experience that times we just don't realize blessings we have in our life tend to see things from wrong or not perfect in it. I look for others to blame troubles. Maybe it would be a good idea to look at what we really have and not what we lack. A story I came across in this thought well. It is *Cracked Pots*. A water bearer in China had two pots, each hung on the side of a pole which he carried on his neck. One of the pots cracked in it, while the other was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the well to the house, the cracked pot would only half full. For 10 years this went on daily, the bearer delivering only half a pot full of water. Of course, the perfect was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it

was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house." The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other cause I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

We each have our things to work on, but it is vitally important to remember that each person we come across is a son, daughter, brother, sister and a child of God. In closing, I would like to share another story that shares this message. It is called, *Twenty Dollar Bill*.

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you, but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the \$20 dollar bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" Still the hands were up in the air. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now, who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air. "My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20."

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the deci-

sions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who do love you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by who we are. You are special - don't ever forget it.

Also, by nurturing the potential within another is giving the great gift of love. Such gifts never go unnoticed. For we are always in the eye of the great beholder, whose arms are forever outstretched to each of us.

As always, it is my hope that this message will help you this week to, "Mount up as on eagle's wings," and renew a little of your strength to keep moving forward and find joy. (Isaiah 40:31)

Until next week, may God bless you and may God continue to bless our great nation. Semper Fi.

Chaplain Ron Ringo is a chaplain at Naval Air Station Lemoore Hospital, holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Counseling, and is a certified trauma specialist.

Students of the week

RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WEEK OF FEB. 21

Mercediz Chaffin
Darius Johnson
Blake Campbell
Bryan Williams
Terrian Davis
Devon Buchanan
Isabel Davila
Abby LaPalma
Yoshamoria Davis
Craig Wilson II
Christian Crawford

PERKS

CONTINUED FROM 3D

Morgan hopes this program will help all military husbands and wives, whether their spouse is deployed or not. Up to three vouchers can be used per day per child, leaving three hours for mom or dad to do whatever they please. Morgan expects a few parents to just want to relax with a good book or run some errands without children asking for attention.

Fields can think of a number of instances when childcare help will be nice while her husband is gone. "It is nice to know that what our husbands do is appreciated by area businesses. It makes you, as a military wife, feel prouder," said Fields.

More information about Parent Perks is available at the customer service counter in the Jacksonville Mall or at www.shopjacksonville-mall.com.

What's happenin'

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

Thursday
10

- Keniculous Fizz at Lucky's in Wilmington - www.luckys-rocks.com.
- Mull Cricket at Lucky's in Wilmington - www.luckys-rocks.com.
- Winterfresh SnoCore Tour at House of Blues Myrtle Beach, S.C. - www.hob.com.
- Tramp's White Lion at Planet Rock in Jacksonville - www.rockdetector.com.

Friday
11

- Gollum at Lucky's in Wilmington - www.luckys-rocks.com.
- Coastal Carolina Community College Concert featuring pianist J-Hsuan Teal and violinist Yang Liu at 8 p.m. For information, call 938-6341.
- The Hughes Brothers From Country to Broadway at the Sampson County Exposition Center in Clinton. For details, call 592-6451.

Saturday
12

- Eight Foot Stide at Lucky's in Wilmington - www.luckys-rocks.com.
- St. Patrick's Day Pet Parade at downtown Morehead City. For information, call 252-808-0440.
- The Independents, The Dangerfields and Black Ice at the Arena Sports Bar in Jacksonville - www.arenasportsbar.net.

Thursday
17

- Clonecycle Chambered at Lucky's in Wilmington - www.luckys-rocks.com.
- Lamb Of God, All That Remains, Lunacy Driven, Natu Sabyerata at Ziggy's in Atlantic Beach - www.ziggyrock.com.

Friday
18

- The Answers and Reason To Ignite at the Arena Sports Bar in Jacksonville - www.arenasportsbar.net.
- Ivy League Destroyed Tradition at Lucky's in Wilmington - www.luckys-rocks.com.
- Solos, Entropy, Trestylz at Ziggy's in Atlantic Beach - www.ziggyrock.com.
- Organ Concert featuring Frederic Delaven at St. Helena's Episcopal Church - www.sthelenas1712.org.

Saturday
19

- Obsidian at the Arena Sports Bar in Jacksonville - www.arenasportsbar.net.
- Syck Heretics Fork at Lucky's in Wilmington - www.luckys-rocks.com.
- Spring Family Fun Day at the Jacksonville Recreation Complex noon-3 p.m. For information, call 938-5317.
- Annual Rotary Club Oyster Roast at the Rotary Civic Center in Swansboro. For information, call 326-6175.



SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Michaels

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Pre-Easter SALE

<p>ALL Spring Label "Silk" Floral Bushes ENTIRE STOCK 50% OFF</p>	<p>Build-A-Basket</p> <p>Easter Collection Bagged Plastic Eggs Reg. 1.99 Each... 2 for \$3</p> <p>Easter Grass Reg. 39¢ Each... 3 for \$1</p> <p>Reg. 1.49... \$1 Each</p> <p>ALL BASKETS 40% OFF</p>	<p>Easter Collection Decor, Decorative Eggs, Picks & Miniatures Project ideas shown. 40% OFF</p>
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<p>ALL "Silk" Greenery • Large Leaf • Mini Leaf • Ferns & Grasses • Vineyard • Simple Elegance 40% OFF</p>	<p>12"x18" Flexi-Foam® Sheets Reg. 79¢ 39¢ Each</p>	<p>Caron® Perfect Match® Yarn Reg. 2.17 1.77 Each</p>
<p>Ceramcoat® 2-oz./60ml Acrylic Paint Reg. 1.22 88¢ Each</p>	<p>12"x12" Pioneer® Post Bound Scrapbook Value Albums Reg. 9.99 6.99 Each</p>	<p>Easter Cookie, Cake & Candy-Making Supplies 25% OFF</p>
<p>Stickers John's Boutique, The Card Connection & Stampin' Essentials. 40% OFF</p>	<p>FREE FAMILY EVENT Build a Buddy with the whole family, Saturday, March 19. Come & go between 10am & 3pm. Fun and easy for all. Sponsored by Crayola.</p>	

<p>Events!</p> <p>DECORATIVE PAINTING Introducing a new One Stroke Rosebud Technique Class. Only 120 plus supplies.</p>	<p>DEMOS Learn a craft in a minute during our daily Craft Time free demos as we celebrate National Craft Month. This week we have fun ideas for kids and families to do together. Cellulacy eggs, room door décor, Fun 4 One and more! Check stores for details.</p>
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<p>Save \$50 Off Any \$100 Custom Framing Order</p> <p>Save \$100 Off Any \$200 Custom Framing Order</p> <p>Save \$150 Off Any \$300 Custom Framing Order</p> <p>Michaels Offer Valid Sunday, Mar. 13 - Saturday, Mar. 19, 2005</p> <p>We're The WORLD'S LARGEST Custom Framer</p> <p>Save \$50.00 off any Custom Framing Order totaling \$100.00 to \$199.99. Save \$100.00 off any Custom Framing Order totaling \$200.00 to \$299.99. Save \$150.00 off any Custom Framing Order totaling \$300.00 or more. Required purchase does not include tax. May not be combined with any coupon, sale or discount in effect. May not be used on purchases made through Michaels.com. Valid at Michaels stores only.</p>	<p>MARCH IS NATIONAL CRAFT MONTH</p>	<p>Any One Regular-Priced Item</p> <p>40% OFF</p> <p>One coupon per customer per day. Coupon must be surrendered at time of purchase. May not be used for price purchases or sale priced items or combined with any other coupon, offer, sale or discount. May not be used to purchase shopping cards, gift cards, gift certificates, in-store parties or class fees. Excludes special order custom hand arrangements and special order custom frames and materials. Excludes purchases made through Michaels.com. Valid at Michaels stores only. Limited to stock on hand. Reproductions not accepted. Void where prohibited.</p> <p>00100 22267 6</p>
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Sunday 10AM-7PM Mon.-Sat. 9AM-9PM
Except where prohibited by law.

Naval Hospital Birth Announcements

Jan. 1 Cole Charles born to Grace and Cpl. Lane Stallsmith
 Jan. 4 Robert George, Jr. born to Latoria and Pfc. Robert Chamblee
 Jan. 4 Brendan Charles born to Rachel and DA Richard McCollough
 Jan. 4 Chloe Marie born to Jessica and Cpl. Walter Stankiewicz
 Jan. 4 Brian Kevin, III born to Maricella and Sgt. Brian Troupe, Jr.
 Jan. 5 Jayson Trevino born to Jennifer and Cpl. Wally Perez
 Jan. 6 Jenah Carolyn born to Caprina and Pfc. Michael Brown
 Jan. 7 Trinnity Esperanza born to Thereasa and Lance Cpl. Emmanuel De Los Santos
 Jan. 7 Clara Ann born to Amy and HM1 Ward Taft
 Jan. 8 Mason Michael born to Felicity and Sgt. Michael Frank
 Jan. 8 Kayce Michael born to Cpl. Tamara and Michael Jones
 Jan. 8 Kylie Rae born to Kristy and Lieutenant Aaron Nelson
 Jan. 8 Kaden Thomas born to Carla and Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Palmer
 Jan. 8 Michael Adam born to Linda and Lance Cpl. Michael Scebbi
 Jan. 8 Shawn Eugene born to Mary and Sgt. Shawn Young
 Jan. 10 William Eli born to Donna and Sgt. Johnny Benson
 Jan. 10 Jordan Miguel born to Gunnery Sgt. Sharon and Jose Lopezramirez Sr.
 Jan. 11 Karlyn Grace born to Tamara and Gunnery Sgt. Carl Parlor
 Jan. 11 Jay Anthony Jr. born to Sonia and Lance Cpl. Jay Torres
 Jan. 12 Michael Orion born to Monica and Sgt. Jason Campos
 Jan. 12 Caleb Thomas born to 1st Lieutenant Amber and Brett Fleming
 Jan. 12 Allyson Marie and Carter James born to Laura and Lance Cpl. James Siepl
 Jan. 12 Dylan Michael born to HNs Chanon and Micah Thompson
 Jan. 12 Evan Andrew born to Trina and Cpl. Fabian Vazquez
 Jan. 13 Tru Destiny born to Rachel and Sgt. Raymond Rust
 Jan. 13 Hoyt Ethan born to Amber and Lance Cpl. Hoyt Whittington
 Jan. 13 Bianca Dominique born to Michelle and Cpl. Michael Euler
 Jan. 14 Julia Kathryn born to Karen and Lieutenant Denis Cox
 Jan. 15 Kaylee Hazel born to Allison and Lance Cpl. Anthony Drew
 Jan. 15 Alessa Marie born to Ericha and Lance Cpl. Joshua Fraley
 Jan. 15 Ashlyn Grace born to Cassie and Lance Cpl. Michael Veal
 Jan. 16 Jaymes O'Neal born to Ashley and Sgt. William Parker
 Jan. 16 Brennan Michael born to Ryan and Sgt. Michael Rote
 Jan. 17 Andrew Archer born to Melissa and Staff Sgt. Michael Allen
 Jan. 17 Nadia born to Imelda and 2nd Lt. Jorge Escatell
 Jan. 17 Benjamin Raymond born to Kathy and Cpl. Aaron Jacobs
 Jan. 18 Kiara Emoni born to Latesha and Pvt. Eddie Blue, Jr.
 Jan. 18 Ava Christine born to Christine and Capt. Thomas Dunn
 Jan. 18 Carmen Denise born to Carmica and Sgt. Lee Green
 Jan. 18 Peyton Christopher born to Jamie and Sgt. Peter Lyons
 Jan. 18 Francisco Manuel born to Ivette and

Lance Cpl. Francisco Sanchez
 Jan. 19 Jeremiah Patrick Talmadge born to Brandy and Lance Cpl. Andrew Couls
 Jan. 19 Gabriel born to Leah and Cpl. Nicanor Martinez Jr.
 Jan. 19 Victoria Lynne born to Vanita and Staff Sgt. George Peavler Jr.
 Jan. 19 Brenden Levi born to Michelle and Lance Cpl. Jason Sainz
 Jan. 19 Christian Anthony born to Lance Cpls. Sherri and Justin Manning
 Jan. 20 Emma Jean born to Heather and Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Cottle Sr.
 Jan. 20 Josiah Israel born to Yarinette and Sgt. Israel Dominguez
 Jan. 20 Alexis Ave June born to Cpl. Jennifer and Lance Cpl. Joseph Ellenburg
 Jan. 20 Samantha Paige born to Cpl. Melanie and Raymond Factor
 Jan. 20 Kendel Anne Carmelita born to Evelyn and Staff Sgt. Del Garrett
 Jan. 20 Eliza Madalyn born to Crystal and Staff Sgt. Jerry Massie
 Jan. 20 Ashley Lynn born to Rachel and Staff Sgt. Jeff Nau
 Jan. 21 Colten Tyler-Dean born to Story and Cpl. Timothy Arnold
 Jan. 21 Autumn Dawn Marie born to Rebecca and Cpl. Douglas Hovest
 Jan. 22 Caitlin Faith born to Cindy and Sgt. Edward Beattie
 Jan. 22 Anthony Christian Joseph born to Heather and Lance Cpl. Anthony Raymond
 Jan. 23 Nathan Edward born to Kelly and Cpl. Kenneth Butler
 Jan. 24 Danielle Amber born to Ambrasia and Sgt. Daniel Tilley
 Jan. 25 Brooke Lynn-Alexandra born to Michelle and Cpl. Erik Armando
 Jan. 25 Nicholau San born to Palin and Staff Sgt. Alexandros Pashos
 Jan. 26 Elena Yamani born to Kathrine and Lance Cpl. Michael Kassa
 Jan. 26 Matthew Bradley born to Sandra and Lance Cpl. Clayton Mills Jr.
 Jan. 26 Joseph Anthony born to Casandra and Lance Cpl. Patrick Murray
 Jan. 26 Rachael Lynn born to Jennifer and Lance Cpl. David Daley
 Jan. 27 Brianna Gail born to Staff Sgt. Robin and Clayton Hogue
 Jan. 27 Tristan Leigh born to Stacey and Lance Cpl. Robert Jordan
 Jan. 27 Izheya Andrew born to Jessica and Lance Cpl. Brice West
 Jan. 28 Sean born to Asalia and Lance Cpl. Miguel Sosa Jr.
 Jan. 28 Breanna Rose born to Cpls. Amanda and William Bernard Jr.
 Jan. 28 Mia Azeneth born to Erika and Gunnery Sgt. Ishmael Castillo
 Jan. 28 Caden Scott born to Kimberly and Capt. Scott Danielson
 Jan. 28 Nicolas Angelo born to Jennifer and Sgt. Jeremy Fanucci
 Jan. 28 Alejandra Alissa born to Crystal and Sgt. Gary Reyes
 Jan. 29 Cameryn Alise born to Lance Cpl. Sherea and Rusty Martin
 Jan. 29 Alivia Jane born to Lance Cpl. Shawna Tepke
 Jan. 30 Angelinia Lelani born to Sarah and Cpl. Jason Gowen
 Jan. 31 Anthony Terrell born to Andris and Lance Cpl. Terry Jefferson
 Jan. 31 John Garfield and Janiya LeeAnn born to Tamika and Staff Sgt. John Koger Jr.
 Jan. 31 Sarah Miles born to Emily and Sgt. Paul Scribner
 Feb. 11 Kinleigh Freedom born to Ashley and Lance Cpl. Pete Slayden

Community and businesses gather at the Business Expo



From left to right: Sylvia Flynn, Karen Salefsky, RBC Centura's "Leo the Lion," Bill Hitch, chairman of the chamber's Business Expo committee, April Bradley and Lisa Lincon from RBC Centura Bank posed at their booth at the 14th Business Expo hosted by the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce March 5. The Business Expo is one of the biggest events of the year with 118 booths featuring a variety of businesses, ranging from restaurants to car dealerships to nonprofit organizations. The food court featured 13 local restaurants with food samples, numerous raffles and prizes, including back massages. *THE GLOBE's* drawing winners for free advertisement were Julie Batchelor from Hobbies in Richlands and Joyful Journeys Travel Agency in Jacksonville. The event's sponsors included Sprint, RBC Centura, News 9, Marine Federal, Coastal Carolina Community College, co-sponsored by Coca-Cola, LeBlond, Onslow Beverage and Beasley Broadcasting.

Baskets of "fun" | Basket Bingo supports charities



Lieutenant Gen. James F. Amos, of II MEF, and Mrs. Bonnie Amos display some of the gift baskets up for bid at Officer's Wives' Club Basket Bingo night at Marston Pavilion March 4. More than 350 people attended the annual community event open to all active and retired military. The event raised more than \$13,000, which is used to support the charitable distribution fund. The fund was set up to provide money for non-profit organizations like local women's shelters and schools and foundations as well as other worthy causes on and off base.

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Inside This week
 BASKETBALL
 might not be the Final Four, but there's plenty of hoops action on Lejeune's sports. Corps ballers are looking for plenty of skills in their quest to be the best. Read more on 1B.

TRADA VISITS MARINES
 Sergeant Maj. John E. Estrada pumped up local Marines before their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Read more on 1C.

Egg Hunt
 Get your Easter baskets ready and be on the lookout for the eggs hunts held throughout the community this Saturday, MCCS's Eggstravaganza. For more information on area egg hunts, turn to 1D.

News Watch
FELLEN WARRIORS
 One Marine died this past week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lance Cpl. Joshua L. Torrence, 20, of Lejeune, S.C., was assigned to Marine Expeditionary Force.

MUSEUM DONATION
 The AT&T Foundation is donating \$100,000 to support the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The AT&T Foundation has supported the military in the past with donations of paid calling cards for overseas service members and those recovering from injuries. The museum is currently being constructed and is scheduled to open in the fall of 2006.

COUGAR VEHICLES ORDER
 Marine Corps Systems Command has ordered additional Cougar vehicles from Force Protection Industries, Inc. which includes the 4x4 explosive ordnance disposal transport and the 6x6 combat engineer and troop carrier. The Cougar is a medium-sized, blast-protected vehicle that can be used for troop transport, reconnaissance, landmine and explosive ordnance removal. The additional vehicles will be used to increase road-clearing capacity and to protect troops under transport.

NMCRS DATE CHANGE
 The annual Camp Lejeune-Marine Corps Society fund drive has been postponed until 1 to allow time for the move into the recently moved Bldg. 14. For information on how you can contribute to NMCRS, call 451-5346.

BE A POSTER MARINE
 Marine Corps Recruiting Command and J. Walter Thompson, the Corps advertising agency, are seeking for the next Marine Corps television commercial and other advertising opportunities. Encouraged to participate in the casting calls on March 28, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and April 1, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Recreation Center, Building 62. Call 451-5346 for information.