

The Globe

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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020



- Virtual combat convoy simulator 3A
- Semper Fit Virtual Run 5A
- 2nd MEB-A 10 years later: Part 5 8A

Installations implementing Corps' suspension of Trusted Traveler Program

Drivers and passengers required to show credentials effective April 25

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST

In accordance with a directive from Headquarters Marine Corps (MARADMIN 262/20), the Trusted Traveler Program will be suspended effective Saturday, April 25, until further notice. All personnel--drivers and passengers--will be required to present a DoD identification card or credential (DBIDS or visitor pass) to the sentry for validation when entering MCB Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. Marine Corps made the decision to temporarily suspend the use of the Trusted Traveler Program which authorized DoD personnel to escort

guests onto an installation without requiring them to have a visitor pass.

Authorized DoD personnel must now request installation access for their visitors either through email or at the installation's Visitor Center. The MCB Camp Lejeune Visitor Center is located at Bldg. TT-13, adjacent the Wilson Gate on Wilson Blvd. and the MCAS New River Visitor Center is located at Bldg. AS-187, adjacent the Main Gate on Curtis Rd. The MCB Camp Lejeune center is open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the MCAS New River center is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

When the Visitor Centers are closed, individuals

will not have to go to the Holcomb Boulevard Main Gate at Camp Lejeune to obtain their paperwork. MCAS New River sentries will process and issue the visitor pass on site after running a background check. Expect delays.

For information on obtaining a visitor pass to MCB Camp Lejeune, please visit <https://www.lejeune.marines.mil/Base-Access/Sponsored-Visitor-Form/>.

To obtain a visitor pass for MCAS New River Visitor Center, please stop by the visitor's center or call 910-449-5513.

There is no change to the access policy for contractors and vendors accessing the installation. Contractors and vendors should con-

tinue to use the Contractor Vetting Office to gain access. Please visit <https://www.lejeune.marines.mil/Base-Access/Contractors/> for more information.

To read MARADMIN 262/20, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xvQz8>.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Christian Ayers
U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Griffen Blocker, a food service specialist with 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, scans an identification card while performing his duties as a gate guard at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, April 7. The gate guards on MCB Camp Lejeune have implemented health safety measures including wearing facemasks and gloves in order to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.



Photo by Cpl. Benjamin D. Larsen
Sgt. Brian Pham, a combat engineer with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Southern Command, levels a slab during a command post exercise at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, April 10. The Marines and Sailors of SPMAGTF-SC use the training opportunity of the CPX to both show their capabilities in a controlled environment and prepare for the upcoming mission. SPMAGTF-SC is poised to conduct crisis response, theater security cooperation, and general engineering training alongside partner nation militaries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Marine task force prepares for crisis response deployment to Central, South America



BY 1ST LT. HEATHER CHAIREZ

U.S. Marine Corps Forces South

Marines with the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Southern Command conducted their command post exercise, or CPX, at Camp Lejeune, from April 6 - 10.

The exercise was a part of the SPMAGTF-SC's pre-deployment training evolution where Marines and Sailors from the command, aviation, logistic, and ground elements had the opportunity to rehearse and develop a strategy in response to simulated crisis response scenarios.

"It was awesome to see each element come together to display an astound-

ing level of team work," said Maj. Eric Guterrez, the task force future operations officer. "We all were able to lean on each other through past experiences in the Marine Corps, and it helped to guide our way forward throughout the exercise."

During the exercise, Marines and Sailors trained in a safe environment while allowing the SPMAGTF-SC leaders to observe their capabilities. The task force had the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to perform and react to similar, real-world tasks that will better prepare them for their upcoming deployment in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

"The logistics element

was able to accomplish training that will assist to their partner nation infrastructure improvement projects, while having the unique capability of setting up lightweight water purification systems to create potable water," said 1st Lt. Delmari Tyndale, a detachment officer with the SPMAGTF-SC.

A top priority of SPMAGTF-SC is being able to rapidly respond and provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the case of a natural disaster.

"The exercise was an overall success due to the fact that we exceeded mission requirements at the same time as becoming more prepared for the upcoming deployment," said Guterrez.

Marine Corps cancels semiannual PFT in response to COVID-19

BY LANCE CPL. ANDREW CORTEZ

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

The Marine Corps recently cancelled the semiannual physical fitness test for 2020 in response to the global coronavirus pandemic.

The change was announced in Marine Administrative Message 260/20, released April 23.

Marine units around the world have continued mission essential training in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak. But safety is also a big part in the Marine Corps, and units have had to make significant changes to remain operational

while mitigating the spread of disease. Because of social distancing restrictions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, some requirements for the PFT will not be able to be executed.

"Marines, the PFT requirement for this semi-annual period is cancelled in accordance with COVID-19 prevention guidelines," said U.S. Marine Gen. David H. Berger, the commandant of the Marine Corps. "Our fitness to fight remains a priority and I expect each of us to continue to maintain our fighting condition."

Marines who have not conducted a PFT prior to the message being re-

leased will not be required to complete one for calendar year 2020.

The message suspended circumference measurements for Marines currently on the Body Composition Program. Make-up combat fitness tests for Marines who were on light or limited duty at the end of 2019 will also be suspended.

Training representatives will enter a "Code 9" within the Marine Corps Training Information Management System for Marines who haven't taken a PFT for the calendar year. The notation will make reference to the MARADMIN.

For more information, visit [Marines.mil](https://www.marines.mil).



Photo by Pfc. Kerstin Roberts
U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Nicholas Davies and Cpl. Easter William complete the crunches portion of the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) with Corporal's Course 393-18 at Lake O'Neil on Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 26, 2018. Marines are required to complete a PFT, which consists of a timed 3-mile run, pull-ups, and crunches for maximum repetitions within a two-minute time period before graduating Corporal's Course.

Task force Marines purify water during command post exercise

SPMAGTF-SC trains on Camp Lejeune before deployment

BY 1ST LT. HEATHER CHAIREZ
U.S. Marine Corps Forces South

300 U.S. Marines and Sailors with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force – Southern Command are preparing for their upcoming deployment to the Latin American and Caribbean region. They are equipped with many capabilities, but one of the most important to their mission is their water purification feature.

Six water purification technicians provided clean drinking water to the task force of Marines and Sailors during their command post exercise, or CPX, in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, from April 6 - 10.

“It is very important to provide clean drinking water,” said Lance Cpl. Brandon Drapela, a water support technician with SPMAGTF-SC. “The support to CPX has mainly been used to keep our Marines alive and well, prevent heat casualties and provide food services.”

The Marines trained on the water purification systems that could potentially be used to provide potable water during future humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, an effort that could reduce human suffering in a stricken community.

“The technicians used lightweight water purification systems to pull salt

water from Mile Hammock Bay to be purified through a reverse osmosis process, and then disseminated the newly potable water across Camp Lejeune to CPX participants,” said 1st Lt. Delmari Tyndale, a detachment officer with SPMAGTF-SC.

The filtered water was used for food services to create hot meals, engineer project support and as drinking water to re-supply Marines and Sailors at different training locations.

“The systems can be assembled by two to four Marines in 45 minutes, and it takes as little as an hour to create 240 gallons of potable water,” said Tyndale.

A top priority of SPMAGTF-SC is being able to rapidly respond in the case of a crisis in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility. Exercises, such as the CPX, give the SPMAGTF-SC Marines the opportunity to become proficient with their equipment, enhancing their response capability.

Lance Cpl. Joseph Sacco, a water support technician with the task force, said his team is committed to supporting the efforts of partner nations to help increase regional collaboration for crisis response.

“We will be there to provide water to the civilian populace to continue our mission of building relations with partner nations,” he added.



Photos by Sgt. Andy O. Martinez
Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jenna Bentle, a hospital corpsman with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Southern Command, reviews her medical bag during a command post exercise at Camp Lejeune, April 7. The CPX increases readiness and challenges SPMAGTF-SC command and control, communications and timely decision-making capabilities through simulated real-world scenarios. SPMAGTF-SC will be deployed into the Southern Command area of operation to provide crisis response preparedness efforts, security cooperation training and engineering events to help strengthen relations with partner nations throughout Central and South America.



Lance Cpl. Joseph Sacco, a water support technician with SPMAGTF-SC, checks recently purified water's chlorine level using an ultrameter device.



Marines with SPMAGTF-SC prepare to operate a TRAM 724KR to move equipment.

OFF-LIMITS

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

CAMP LEJEUNE REGION:

Atheas Attics at 420 Eastwood Rd., Wilmington.
Bell Auto Salvage II at 136 Abbots Branch Rd., Hubert.
Best Exxon at 2945 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville.
Club Phoenix at 209 East 5th St., Greenville.
Dash-In at 1316 Hargett St., Jacksonville.
Drive Thru Mini Mart at 2729 Commerce Road, Jacksonville.
D's Drive Thru (AKA: Raul's Drive Thru) at 226 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville.
D's Quick Mart at 2840 Highway 258 West, Richlands.
Expressions at 419 South College Rd., #39, Wilmington.
Express Way at 1261 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville.
Golden Dragon (AKA) Tokyo Asian House at 1850 Wilmington Highway, Jacksonville.
Highlands Tobacco aka Piney Green
Tobacco at 835 Piney Green Road, Jacksonville.
Highway 24 Tobacco at 1448 West Corbet Ave. Jacksonville.
Hubert Tobacco at 393 Hubert Blvd., Hubert.
J&N Grocery at 1142 Beulaville Highway, Richlands.
Karen Huffman's Cleaning Jacksonville.
King's Tobacco Drive Thru at 1796 Gum Branch Rd., Jacksonville.
Laird's Auto and Truck Repair (U-Haul Rental) at 1197 Piney Green Rd., Jacksonville.
MB Super Discount at 800 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington.
Moe's Mart at 2105 Belgrade-Swansboro Rd., Maysville.
Nash Market at 237 New River Drive, Jacksonville.
OJ's Tobacco and Vapor at 8900 Richlands Highway, Richlands.
One Stop Shop at 501 Corbin St., Jacksonville.
*Precision Motor Sports at 1321 Lake Cole Road, Jacksonville.
Price is Right Lawn Design in Jacksonville.
Reid's Mart at 461 Hubert Blvd., Hubert.
Sahara Hookah Lounge at 917 North Marine Blvd., Jacksonville.
Saint Thomas Custom Homes at 3560 McArthur Rd., Broadway.

Smart Buy at 375 Jacksonville Mall, Jacksonville. (currently not open, but has history of reappearing)
Speedy's Drive Thru at 357 Henderson Drive, Jacksonville.
Sun House Vapor and Tobacco at 2840 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville.
Super-Fast Drive Thru Mini Mart at 1005 North Marine Blvd., Jacksonville.
Tobacco at 521 Yopp Rd., Unit 106, Jacksonville.
Tobacco Leaf at 343K Western Blvd., Jacksonville.
Triple C Diesel Performance and Mobile Repair
602 Richlands Highway, Jacksonville
Veterans Affairs Service Jacksonville. (This is a private organization not affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Outpatient Clinic, nor Onslow County Veteran Services.)

MCAS CHERRY POINT AREA:

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

OFF-LIMITS ROADS:
Catfish Lake Road

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

Hotline numbers to report fraud, waste, abuse and corruption

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

To report crimes on and off base

To report crimes on and off base, you can call the Crime Stoppers anonymous hotline at 938-3273 or text your tip to TIP4CSJAX + your tip to 274637.

- Cash rewards up to \$2,500 for information deemed of assistance to law enforcement.
 - Caller never reveals his/her identity
 - Reward is collected through code system

Help keep Marine Corps bases and Onslow County safe!

The
Globe

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2nd Maintenance Battalion virtually trains with combat convoy simulator



U.S. Marines with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, participate in a convoy simulation. The combat convoy simulator is an immersive virtual training environment for convoy operations that includes basic procedures for driver, gunner and passengers in tactical scenarios.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Scott Jenkins

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Justin Dunton, right, and Cpl. Steve Vasquez dismount from a vehicle simulator meant to train for live combat scenarios.

Diversity of Experience: a voyage through the ranks

BY SGT. GLORIA LEPKO
2nd Marine Division

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Paul Croom II didn't always dream of becoming a Marine. Although he grew up in a military family, the service lineage stood only as a model of character, not a professional path to follow.

Croom's mother enlisted in the Navy as an air traffic controller, and later became one of the Navy Staff Judge Advocates who tried the legal case that inspired the movie *A Few Good Men*, and his father was a multi-instrument musician in the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Band.

"Ever since I was little, I remember going to my dad's band rehearsals and grabbing any instrument out of the band locker," Croom remarked. "I would sit down next to that instrument's section, listen to what they were playing, and just figure out by ear how to reproduce the sound on whatever instrument I held."

His curiosity helped shape the future of his musical career. As a teenager he had many musical endeavors, but focused mainly on marching band and his love for the oboe. He entertained the idea of forgoing marching band until his father gave him some life-shaping advice.

"You have three months until the high school's band camp starts. Plenty of time to learn alto (saxophone)," the elder Croom recommended. "Do marching band for a year. After that, if you don't like it, no big deal."



Oboe

By the time he graduated high school, Croom received a full tuition scholarship to the University of Colorado (CU) as an oboe major, which required two years of successful college marching band participation. But, according to Croom, the CU marching band did not use oboes, as it was not a compete ensemble, and he had no desire to march with another instrument.

Unexpectedly, a fellow music major and friend introduced Croom to the mellophone, a distant cousin of the French horn. Just as with many instruments before, Croom picked up the mellophone and enthusiastically began to sharpen his skill.

"From that moment on, I was hooked," Croom said eagerly.

Croom continued to study music and as graduation approached, he realized he needed to look for a job. Unsure of what career path to pursue, Croom entered the US Army's Delayed Entry Program, with orders for duty as an oboist with the US Army Forces Europe Band in Heidelberg, Germany.

While awaiting a ship date to Army basic training, Croom found himself at a civilian drum and bugle corps competition in Allentown, Pennsylvania. There, he encountered "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. Fascinated with the

idea of playing the mellophone for a living, Croom exited the Army's pipeline and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

"It wasn't so much about the Marine Corps itself," explained Croom. "It was the fact that I wanted to play the mellophone for money and the only place I know of that you can get paid to play is the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps."

Signing the paperwork was easy for Croom, but his parents were wary of their son enlisting in the Corps, though Croom says his parents respected his decision to enlist.

"My transformation definitely began the moment the first Drill Instructor campaign cover stepped onto our dark bus in South Carolina," remembered Croom. "Striving to truly become one of these pro-

fessionals at arms became my singular objective."

Upon graduation from boot camp and follow-on training he began his service at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. He travelled with the Commandant's Own and performed in the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Belleau Wood, France, in 2002.

"I remember seeing then-Commandant General James L. Jones narrate the ceremony in both French and English," said Croom. "I was in awe, and thought that looked like the most awesome job to have."

He quickly progressed through the ranks and won a meritorious Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) board early in his career.

"Winning the board was so humbling to me," Croom expressed. "Now

being an NCO and understanding everything the NCO creed stood for, I wanted to be a Marine for the foreseeable future."

In 2002, Croom was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program, commissioning months later. Croom then looked to become a judge advocate like his mother, but lacked the requisite commissioned time in service. He decided to explore the world of public affairs while he accrued enough time-in-service as an officer to apply for the law program.

Not long into his time as a public affairs officer, Croom endured a moment in his career that changed his life forever.

Story continues on
4A

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Graphic by Sgt. Gloria Lepko

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Paul Croom II poses for a photo illustration highlighting the diversity of his Marine Corps Career. Lt. Col. Croom began as an enlisted Marine in the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, and eventually commissioned as a public affairs officer, then lateral moved to an intelligence position. Over the last 20 years, Lt. Col. Croom faced experiences in his career that forged his path towards the accomplished destination at which he now resides.

In 2005, then-1st Lt. Croom deployed to Al Anbar, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the public affairs officer for Regimental Combat Team 2. While escorting civilian news reporters during Operation Matador less than two months into his tour, Croom’s vehicle ran over what was later identified as three anti-tank mines stacked on top of each other. The detonation killed six Marines inside the assault amphibious vehicle (AAV), and left Croom and several others with severe burns.

In the midst of the chaos, Croom noticed the capabilities of one reporter which changed his view of public affairs, and sparked a new purpose for his career.

“I had managed to exit the burning AAV and was applying first aid to one of the Marines,” Croom stated. “I looked up and I saw Solomon Moore of the Los Angeles Times, one of my civilian embedded reporters, on his satellite phone filing a story about the event almost in real time. Yet, for us as Marine Corps Public Affairs, it would end up taking several layers of review and many days to get the story out.”

Croom was medically evacuated back to the United States to recover, and eventually returned to duty as the public affairs officer for the 4th Marine Corps Recruiting District in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Croom made it his mission to fix the lack of responsiveness and relevance in his job field. He dedicated his time and effort to the cause, but unfortunately ran into more obstacles than he imagined.

The years 2007 and 2008 saw the height of the surge in Iraq, a military endeavor that produced visceral reactions among some American demographics. Minority recruiting and black officer recruiting in particular were exceedingly difficult during this time. As an African American officer with a Purple Heart and Combat Action Ribbon, Croom’s commander explicitly tasked him with reaching young, college-educated minorities in the District with a propensity to serve.

Among other duties as the District PAO, Croom was responsible for coordinating educator workshops at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. At one particular workshop, then-Capt. Croom noted that at least half of the educators were African American. As political conversation ensued, he used this occasion to encourage more black representation in the Marine Corps.

“At dinner, they asked me how, as a black man, I can sleep at night serving in a military fighting ‘illegal’ wars,” said Croom. “I couldn’t have scripted a better opportunity to explain to them that my job as an officer is to lead my Marines and ensure they have everything they need to succeed and accomplish the mission. Service is ag-

nostic of politics. Period.”

According to Croom, his candor was largely well-received.

“So many of them had black students who were struggling to square their strong desire to serve with their equally strong political opposition to the Iraq War,” Croom recalls. “An overwhelming majority of the educators told me my response to their question provided them a credible way to answer their students’ concerns.”

Unfortunately, one individual deemed his statement inappropriate, and reported the discussion to Croom’s command. Although his District commander backed his actions, Croom faced serious repercussions from higher echelons. Ultimately, Croom decided to move into another MOS.

Croom submitted a lateral move package and transitioned to the intelligence specialty in 2009. Over the course of the next five years, he deployed for combat operations to Iraq as the intelligence officer for 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, and then to Afghanistan as the intelligence production and analysis officer for Task Force Leatherneck (2d Marine Division). During this period, he also served as the Air Combat Intelligence Officer, Assistant Chief of Staff G-2 and Senior Intelligence Weapons and Tactics Instructor for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan.

In the fall of 2013, then-Maj. Croom was selected for the Marine Corps Personnel Exchange Program. He attended the six-month Basic French Course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. Departing as the honor graduate, he reported to French Land Forces Command in Lille, France. He immediately put his language skills to use in 2014 when the 2d Marine Division Band performed at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Battle of Belleau Wood commemoration at the American cemetery in Aisne-Marne, France. As a French linguist, Croom was responsible for translating and narrating the band’s performance program in French, just as he observed General Jones years before.

“It’s humbling how it all comes back full circle,” Croom reminisced. “I remember being a part of this ceremony as a junior enlisted Marine. And then I got to go back and do it again 14 years later as an officer.”

Nearing twenty years of service, Croom preaches staying true to yourself during times of tribulation creates a strong and better Marine Corps.

“To anybody that cares to listen, I say ‘control the controllable, influence what you can, and forget about the rest,’” Croom advises. “Take the time to set up the domino pieces how you want them, and then put your plan into action. Stay Semper Fidelis—always faithful—to your goals, and the chances are better that things will fall your way.”



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Get active with the Semper Fit Virtual Run

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

Between now and May 31 individuals on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River are invited to do the Semper Fit Virtual Run, a challenge to run, walk or bike at least three of 10 courses on base ranging from 2.4 to 13.5 miles for a free Grand Prix Series event t-shirt.

"We just want to encourage people to get out and exercise with the social distancing in effect," said MCCS Le-

jeune-New River Fitness Branch Head Mary Troja. "What better way than to go out and utilize what we already have out there and get people moving."

Participants should use a route tracking device or app and photograph proof that you completed the course. Proof of completion must be provided via cell phone or smart-watch in order to earn the free shirt that can be picked up at Wallace Creek after reopening.

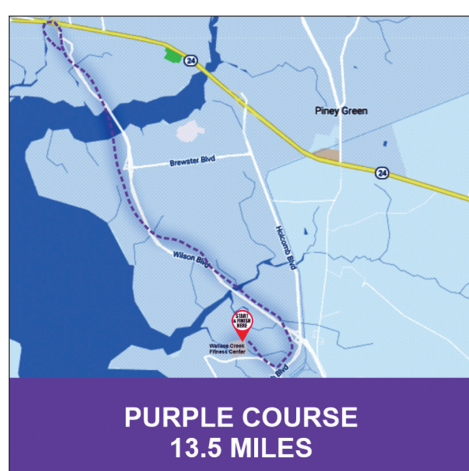
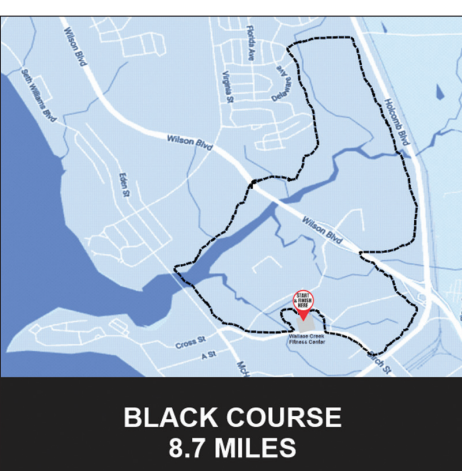
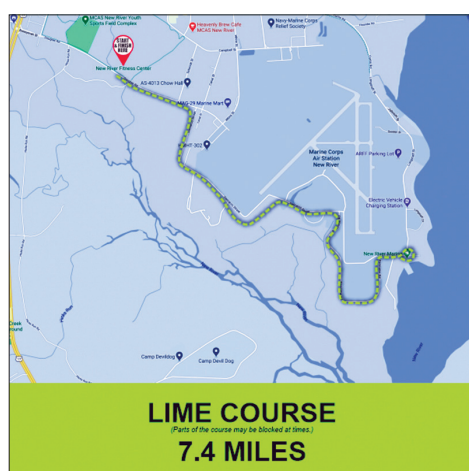
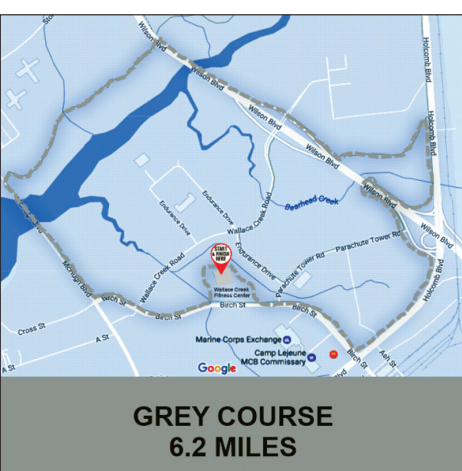
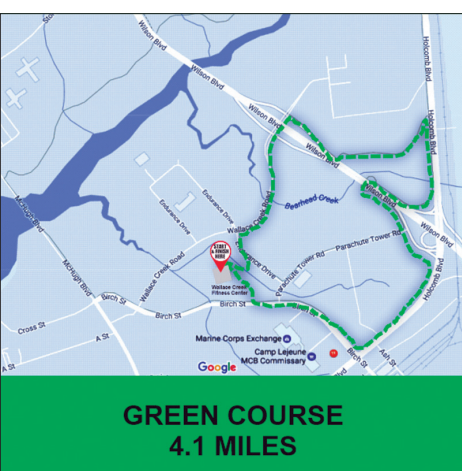
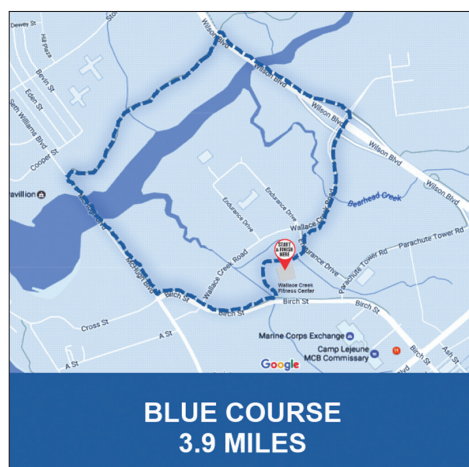
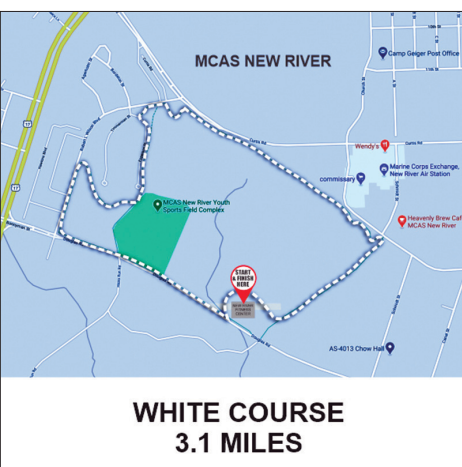
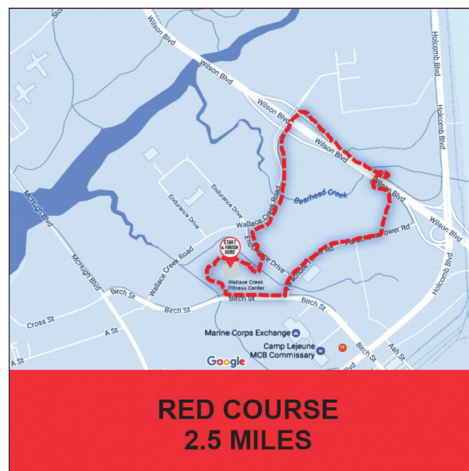
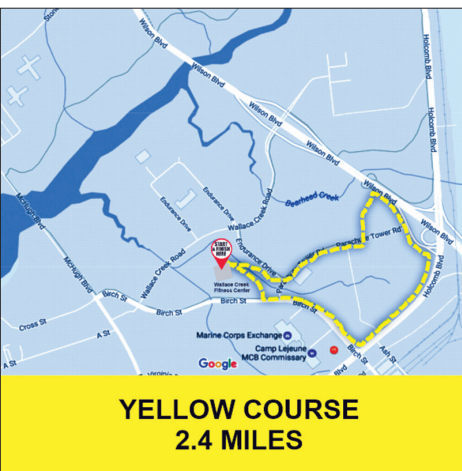
A Grand Prix Series event shirt will be awarded for every three courses

completed with no limit on the number of shirts earned. Each course only counts once towards the t-shirt prize so mix up your route selection. The courses, which start and finish at Wallace Creek or New River Fitness Centers, are pet, kid and stroller friendly.

All course options are viewable online at www.camplejeuneglobe.com/sports or on the Facebook event page from MCCS Lejeune-New River.

For further information, contact lejgrand-prix@usmc-mccs.org.

COURSE OPTIONS:



High school sports done for school year



Photo by Calvin Shomaker

Lejeune High School freshman Kilala Stone, second from right, leads an all Lejeune heat in the 100-meter dash during a home meet against Croatan, March 12. Stone took first with a time of 13.6 seconds in what was Lejeune's second and final track meet of the spring 2020 season.

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

The announcement that high school athletes, coaches and parents across the state were bracing for was made on April 24

after Gov. Roy Cooper announced students won't be back in a classroom for the remainder of the school year. That means no more high school sports this spring, per the North Carolina High School

Athletic Association.

The spring season had just begun for most teams when the NCHSAA first suspended athletic activities on March 13. The state basketball championships are also canceled.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



DENIJAH JOHNSON



Photo by Columbia College Athletics

Sport: Basketball
School: Columbia College
Class: Junior

Quick Facts:

- All-Conference Defensive Team
- Conference Player of the Year nominee
- Graduated from Lejeune High in 2017
- Scored 1,000th point in 2019-20 season
- 1st Team All-Appalachian Athletic Conference
- Averaged 18.3 points and 10.6 rebounds last season



Q: HOW DID LEJEUNE PREPARE YOU FOR COLLEGE?

A: Teachers at Lejeune don't baby you. We have higher expectations being a DODEA school ... They had a lot of college prep courses, too. I was involved in a college prep course that helped me get ready for college as well. Then I had personal relationships with some of the teachers, and they would just give me personal life lessons.

Q: YOU HAD A GREAT JUNIOR SEASON AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE. WHAT WAS CLICKING FOR YOU?

A: I was in a slump my freshman and sophomore years at C.C. and I kind of just got over it in a sense. I was like 'I got to start putting my all into where I am at currently and stop thinking about all the outside factors.'

Once I started really focusing on C.C., our basketball program and really being a better player that's really what boosted everything. It was a huge jump in stats for me personally just from me being more focused on getting better, helping my team and improving myself.

Q: WHAT'S YOUR MINDSET HEADING INTO YOUR SENIOR SEASON AT COLUMBIA?

A: I just have my own personal goals. I feel like I've been very overlooked in a sense, especially after this year. I feel like I still have a lot of points to prove, and I've got a lot of goals towards awards and just personal stats, because I feel like my team is overlooked and I want to speak for them. So I have a role for our team to give my

school a name as well as myself a name, because I still feel like we don't have that.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER COLLEGE?

A: I am not so sure. I have a lot of aspirations. I am in school for criminal justice right now, but I don't feel like I'm going to go down that track because I like to be around kids, and I really like to be around athletics. I really want to involve myself in basketball, whether it's playing overseas or coaching.

Q: ANY FINAL THOUGHTS?

A: It's hard to come out of Lejeune (as an athlete) I feel like, but if you have that talent and you have the motivation you'll get somewhere athletics wise if you just work for it.

Coach's Corner:

Ray Colley

Colley talks outstanding athletes, teaching philosophy and more in our latest Coach's Corner Q&A session.



School: Northwoods Park Middle in Jacksonville
Sports coached: Boys soccer, basketball and track

Quick facts:

- Graduated from Lejeune High in 1989
- Teaches Health and P.E.
- Also serves as assistant athletic director

Q: What was it like playing soccer for Coach Francisco Blanco at LHS?

A: He is just a great mentor, a kind-hearted man. He knew the game so well and taught us all how to play the game the right way. He was always a guy you could go to with anything.

Q: Would you say that your teachers at Lejeune were more than teachers?

A: Yes. They were always looking out for your best interest. I don't think I had a single teacher at the high school who I thought was there just to collect; I thought they were there to invest in all of us ... They understood what being a military dependent is like, and it definitely paid off.

Q: What's something you try to teach your students and players?

A: I want my players and my students to know that being a good person is going to benefit them more in their life than just being a good athlete or being a good student. To always do the right thing is the biggest thing that we teach in our P.E. department. It's all integrity. We want the kids to do what they're supposed to do when nobody else is looking.

Q: Who are a couple of the standout athletes you've coached?

A: Cjay Sparks, a Jacksonville graduate who played soccer at N.C. State, and Tymir Brown, a current Jacksonville High School football player.

Q: Are there any up-and-coming athletes you expect big things from?

A: Amaree Barber, an eighth grade basketball player who will be a freshman at Jacksonville. He played in the FAB 40 Showcase with Derrick Benbow Jr. from Brewster Middle and was the third leading scorer ... He is just an unbelievable court leader. His vision is great. If he saw something in a game he would come say, 'Hey, Coach, they are giving me this. Can I take it?' So he wants the coach's input, and I think that says a lot.

Q: How did being a military child help you?

A: It taught us to be adaptable to different situations. It's discipline. We were taught discipline coming up, at school and everywhere. It just taught us to be able to adapt to different situations.

Q: What's your favorite sports team?

A: Maryland Terrapins.

Sports on TAP

For more information on games, tryouts, special events and exercise classes around MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, check out Sports on Tap each week. To add your activity, call (910) 451-7421. Availability is limited to space. To add your event to our website calendar, visit www.camplejeuneglobe.com.



Bulldog Open Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 3, Paradise Point Golf Course, MCB Camp Lejeune

Kick off the 2020 Grand Slam Series with the Bulldog Open. Register by May 1. Cost is \$25 plus cart and greens fee. The 36-hole tournament will be stroke play with gross and net scores. The event is open to the public, though players must have a USGA handicap. Play begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday. For more info call (910) 451-5445 or visit www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/golf.

Monday Night Par 3 Series

Mondays beginning June 1, 5:00 p.m., Paradise Point Golf Course, MCB Camp Lejeune

Golf pro staff will pick the course each week and will shorten each of the nine holes to the length of a Par 3. Scoring format will differ each week and may include the following: combined score, scramble and alternate shot. Cost for the event is \$20 per person, which includes your cart and greens fee as well as entry into the prize fund. Register each week by Monday at 5:00 p.m. Competition is open to all skill levels as well as the public. For more info on this event visit www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/golf.

Hunt to catch passes for Lenoir-Rhyne

BY CALVIN SHOMAKER
Sports Writer

Swansboro High School's top wide receiver from last season is headed to Division II title contender Lenoir-Rhyne University this fall. Joel Hunt joins the Bears after totaling over 1,100 yards receiving in 2019 and setting single-season school records in receptions with 63 and receiving touchdowns at 14.

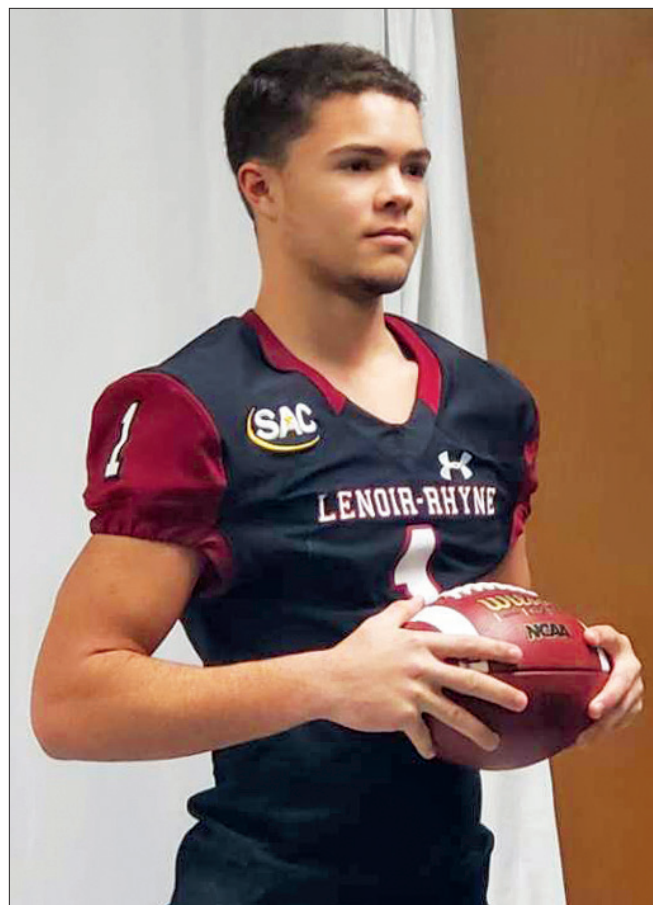
After a 6-1 start, the Pirates finished the season 6-5, but it was a memorable year for Swansboro and its senior class.

"It was the leadership," Hunt said about the difference maker in 2019. "We knew it was our last year so we did it for each other, and we really listened to the coaches."

Hunt, whose father served 20 years in the U.S. Navy, said that once he visited the LRU campus in Hickory, North Carolina he knew it was a good fit.

"It really just felt like home," Hunt said. "I had a great bond with all the players there. They really just welcomed me in."

Over the past two years, Lenoir-Rhyne has been one of the nation's best Division II teams. Since 2018, the Bears have gone 25-3 and made the national quarterfinals twice. Most recently, they were upset 43-38 by No.



Courtesy photo
Swansboro High School senior Joel Hunt poses for a photo in a Lenoir-Rhyne uniform during a recruiting trip. Hunt caught 14 touchdown passes in 11 games for the Pirates last fall.

20 West Florida, the 2019 champion.

Hunt is one of four freshman receivers out of 27 total recruits for LRU. He hopes to step in at the slot receiver position in a new offense that will help get the Bears over the hump in the playoffs.

"I just want to keep the tradition going of success there and continue to be

the top in the nation, win conference championships and help my team out to be the best that they can be," Hunt said.

At least three other Swansboro seniors are expected to make their collegiate debuts this fall - RJ Belk (Methodist), Grant Russell (NC Wesleyan) and Brendan Lawson (undecided).

Sports Talk

with Brian North

Job title: News and sports anchor

Station: WCTI News Channel 12, New Bern

- Joined WCTI in 1998
- Graduate of James Madison University
- Born and raised in upstate New York



Photo courtesy of WCTI

Sports Talk is a Q&A series in which sports writer Calvin Shomaker talks with people who work in sports media.

CS: What are some high school sports matchups you look forward to?

BN: Anytime you have county rivalries that's a big deal. Jacksonville and Northside is a newer rivalry, but that's developed into a really nice rivalry. Jacksonville-White Oak has always had great games in soccer, basketball and football through the years ... Anytime you get those county rivalries together it's really cool. In Craven County, it's the same deal. You have three quality teams in Havelock, New Bern and West Craven. When those three teams get together it's always high quality football ... I don't know how many other counties in the state or in the country have three county teams that all have guys playing in the NFL right now.

CS: Who are some of the more standout athletes from this area?

BN: Eastern North Carolina has had so many great athletes that have gone on to college and pro careers. Kendrick Burney and Deunta Williams were guys (from Jacksonville) who went on to play at North Carolina and had really good careers. We've had a ton of guys in the NFL from around these parts ... Pharoh Cooper, Bruce Carter, Montario Hardesty, Mike Hughes, Andre Brown (and) Marcus Jones.

Then you've got NBA guys - Bam Adebayo, Ky Bowman, Brandon Ingram and Reggie Bullock. In baseball, there's Lonnie Chisenhall, Adam Warren (and) Rookie Davis ... The list goes on and on. You start thinking about it and you're afraid you're going to forget somebody, but when you have time to reminisce

the names keep coming up and they're all just really great. ... The athletic talent that has come out of this area in the 22 years I've been here has been ridiculous.

CS: Have any predictions on what sports will be like when they return?

BN: I think you are going to see extreme caution (and) extreme circumstances, but I think within a year or a year and a half things will be back to kind of normal. I am curious to see what the new normal is going to be, because things are going to change. Some of the things we did in life will not be the same going forward ... I am curious as to how it is going to go, but I think after a while we will eventually get back to where we were. It will be different in some form, but I'm curious as to how they are going to get to that point.

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**USA TODAY
NETWORK**

LOCALiQ

PART 5

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



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Philippe E. Chasse

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

BY PAT GRUNER
Managing Editor

Part 5: Wing support shrinks the battlefield

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

Out of his 34 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, Col. Trey Meadows, chief of staff, 4th Marine Division, vividly recalls his time with the 2nd MEB-A as being one of the most

interesting. It was also one of the most exhausting.

“Being a very small ad hoc staff, to do something of this magnitude... After a year of that I was worn out.”

In 2009, Meadows was a lieutenant colonel serving as the executive officer (XO) of Marine Heavy Helicopter Training Squadron 302 and slated to take command of Heavy Helicopter Squadron 336. As 2nd MEB-A formed, Meadows was instead sent to be the operations officer for Marine Aircraft Group 40, the eventual air support element of the MEB.

“All the department heads were O-5’s,” Meadows said. “That small handful of lieutenant colonels ran the MAG for a year... we came together in early 2009 and within a few weeks of forming we

were off to Afghanistan.”

The aviation element of 2nd MEB-A was essential in a region like Helmand, the largest province in Afghanistan.

“Helmand is enormous,” Meadows said. “Being able to get north to south, as well as to Kandahar where we could link with Rhino (the primary operation point for U.S. troops in Afghanistan), required aviation.”

Laying down the groundwork to sustain an aviation element was a challenge. British allies at Camp Bastion initially provided runways for aircraft, but on the Leatherneck side there was little to start with.

“The runway was bare,” Meadows said. “We started working in GP (general purpose) tents and laying down Marston matting.

When we were finished we had full blown hangars and work tents.”

Meadows was part of the Aviation Combat Element (ACE) alongside Col. Kevin Vest, who served as the group’s commanding officer. Aircraft included AC-130s, FA-18 Hornets, Harriers and helicopters such as Bell UH1-N Twin Huey and AH-1W Super Cobras.

“We provided logistical support with our B-52s and Deltas, as well as close air support with other helicopters,” Meadows said. “We spanned that area to enable Gen. Nicholson to control the region from a ground combat element... everything we do as aviators is in support for that GCE to locate, close with and destroy the enemy.”

MAG-40 also provided transport for Afghani leaders and civil affairs Marines to conduct key leader engagements with tribal elders.

“We had Marines supporting the CAGs and women Marines with female engagement teams out to support as well,” Meadows said.

The ACE would play an important role at the Battle of Marjah in 2010, which Meadows recalls as “an absolutely enormous air assault.” The assault flight leader was Phillip Deeble, a captain at the time.

“He was a rising star in the 53-Echo community and a fantastic Marine aviator,” Meadows said. “The coordination between Army, Navy, Marines and Brits to move that strike force

in Marjah was incredible,” said Meadows. “It was a long night for me and I am sure Col. Vest would say the same. We watched from our tent and waited to see if it went off. It did.”

For all the trials the Marines faced, Meadows says that he would not trade the experience for anything.

“It was a broadening, career defining experience,” Meadows said. “I mainly recall the professionalism of the entire staff. We had some true rock stars.”

NOTE: Next week’s edition will focus on obstacles Marines faced in Helmand Province. If you or someone you know was part of 2nd MEB-A, contact Pat Gruner at pgruner@campjeuneglobe.com.



Courtesy photo

Marines construct a runway out of Marston matting at Camp Bastion in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 2009.



Photo by Sgt. Samuel A. Nasso

Cpl. Clayton Rice, an airframes mechanic for Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, Marine Aircraft Group 40, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, checks the hydraulic systems on an AH-1W 'Super Cobra' helicopter, Jan. 23, 2010.



Courtesy photo

Marines conduct refueling on an AH-1W 'Super Cobra' prior to an aerial reconnaissance mission.



Shelter in place: Wisdom of a generation

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

BY LT. CMDR. MICHAEL GRIGGS

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune



The phrase “shelter in place” has become familiar to all of us. Obeying appropriate guidelines for this is a good thing. It gives us protection, but it also causes changes in our thinking, planning and behavior. Some have complained how it has radically complicated and changed their lives. Now that we’ve had some practice and gained just a little bit of perspective, some people talk about how much their life has become simplified and de-stressed due to “sheltering in place”.

Shelter is a basic need of humanity, but to appreciate this small interruption in our regularly scheduled chaos maybe we need the wisdom of a generation that has already lived through likened hiccups. I give you two people, a 93 year old Marine that was in WWII and the Korean conflict, and an 85

year old lady that worked for the government for 50 years before retiring at 80 years of age.

I met Abe on Easter Sunday. He was quick-of-step, humorous and had great stories he shared with us with the candor and charm of a motivational speaker. As he carried us from story to story with vivid historical details reflecting he had lived through during that stage of history, his eyes sparkled and he gained energy in conversation. As current restrictions were mentioned he simply gave absolutely no credibility to them. He was too busy enjoying life in the moment to see being sheltered in place as worth even a negative footnote. I admire that kind of wisdom.

The 85 year old lady is my mother. God spoke to her from heaven through music during our first week of being sheltered

in place. She was at home doing her enjoyables like sitting in the outdoor swing, listening to birds sing, enjoying sunshine and open country living.

A song came to her mind and would not leave her, “Sheltered In the Arms of God” by Dottie Rambo. As is her way, she sang that song all day long. She told me, “I understood that God was telling me ‘When we are sheltered in place we are being Sheltered in the Arms of God.’” Thank you Jesus for a Mother that will hear your voice.

Psalms 26: 5 states, “For in the time of trouble He will hide me in His pavilion; in the shelter of His tabernacle He will hide me. He will set me up on a rock.”

Real wisdom sees obeying “shelter in place” as one of God’s ways to provide His protection for us.

“So let the storm clouds rise,
the dark clouds rise, they
won’t worry me.
For I’m sheltered safe within
the arms of God.
He walks with me, and none
on earth can harm me.
***For I’m sheltered in the arms
of God!***”

ON SLOW
COUNTY
SCHOOLS



OCS supports students, families, staff amid state wide school closures

BY PAT GRUNER
Managing Editor

Governor Roy Cooper issued an executive order closing all North Carolina Public Schools for face-to-face instruction through the end of the academic year, April 24. The decision comes in light of concerns related to COVID-19. North Carolina is the 37th state to cease face to face instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Barry Collins, superintendent of Onslow County Schools, believes the measure is important in maintaining safety.

“Schools are essential to our community, and we understand

Governor Cooper’s decision to close schools to face-to-face instruction for the remainder of the current school year is disappointing,” Collins said. “This means our students will be missing out on many of those things which traditionally mark the end of our academic year. However, we understand the need to prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff and families.

Remote learning will continue in Onslow County, as will programs like Student Nutrition Hubs and Technology Repair sites which support students and families in their remote learning goals.

“District staff will be review-

ing the governor’s most recent order and guidance from the State Board of Education to determine the impacts of this unprecedented closure,” Collins said. “As we review (Cooper’s) decision, every step will be taken to provide maximum support and ensure minimal negative impacts to our students, staff and the larger school community. We appreciate the tremendous effort our staff are giving to provide remote instruction, meet our students’ nutritional needs and address their social and emotional learning. The school district remains committed to continuing support for our school community during this challenging time.”

COVID-19

All updates involving
MCIEAST and NMCCCL
will be posted here:

ONLINE

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

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MORE INFO

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

NEVER MISS A BEAT by visiting our website for all your military, sports and community news locally and globally.

Find local
news with
ease.

Always know what's
happening in Camp
Lejeune, New River and
Jacksonville. Plus, get
coverage on numerous
other military locations.

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The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Globe' website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: HOME, NEWS, SPORTS, CAROLINA LIVING, BASE INFORMATION, CONTACT US, VIDEO, and PHOTO GALLERIES. The main content area is titled 'This Week's Top Stories' and features a large article about 'Camp Lejeune Post Office takes precautions to ensure safety during mailing procedures'. To the right, under 'Latest News', there are several smaller articles including 'U.S. Marines conduct the Advanced Infantry Marine Course in Okinawa', 'Thriving amid adversity', 'OCS resumes nutrition hubs following spring break', 'Sports Talk with Matthew Sokol', '10 years later, 2nd MEB-A remembers service in Afghanistan: FET's break barriers, make history', 'Semi-annual PTT cancelled due to COVID-19', 'Athlete of the Week: Malachi Borders', and 'Swansboro guard signs with Methodist'. At the bottom, there is a 'GALLERY' section with links to 'Camp Lejeune Post Office takes...', '2nd MLG Makerspace 3-D prints masks', 'Charlie Battery keeps the rounds', and 'OCS resumes nutrition hubs following...'. A 'NATIONAL' logo is also visible in the bottom right corner.

Coronavirus safety: Practicing cooking precautions while staying at home

From the

American
Red Cross

AMERICAN RED CROSS

During the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, people across North Carolina are under stay-at-home orders and practicing social distancing. And for many of people, this means more time in the kitchen cooking meals.

Yet cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Since February, in the beginning months of the outbreak, the American Red Cross serving Eastern North Carolina responded to 209 home fires, affecting 250 families and 715 people. The Red Cross is helping by providing financial assistance for food, clothing, lodging, and other essentials. In addition, the Red Cross can provide health, mental health, and spiritual care to support recovery.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Moreover, unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires, and a Red Cross survey shows that roughly 70 percent of people have left the kitchen while cooking.

The good news is that kitchen fires can be prevented. The Red Cross and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina encourage families to follow these simple safety tips:

- Keep an eye on what

you fry! Stay in the kitchen and never leave cooking food unattended. If you must leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.

- Clean the stove and the area around it before turning on the heat.

- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the stove. Move items that can burn, such as dishtowels, bags and boxes, away from the stove, and avoid wearing loose clothing while cooking.

- Turn pot handles to the back of the stove to avoid spills.

- Use a timer to remind yourself that the stove or oven is on. Always check the kitchen before going to bed or leaving the home to make sure all stoves, ovens and small appliances are turned off.

- When frying food, turn the burner off if you see smoke or if the grease starts to boil. Fires can start when the heat is too high. Carefully remove the pan from the burner.

- Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen. Contact your local fire department to take training on the proper use of extinguishers.

IF A COOKING FIRE OCCURS

If a pan catches fire, don't move it. Slide a pan lid or cookie sheet on top

of the pan to put out the fire. Turn off the heat. Keep the lid on the pan until it is completely cooled. Never try to stop a grease or oil fire with water — it will fuel the fire.

If something catches fire in the oven, keep the door closed. Call 911 so firefighters can make sure the fire didn't spread to the walls. If a fire occurs in the microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave if you can. Don't use it again until a repairman checks it.

If the kitchen catches fire, make sure everyone gets out and meets at your household's designated meeting spot. Once outside, call 911 and stay out. Never go back inside a burning building.

GRILLING SAFETY

Now that spring has arrived, many people cook family meals on the backyard grill. Because grilling fires spark more than 10,000 home fires on average every year, follow these safety tips:

- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use. Don't add charcoal starter fluid when coals have already been ignited.

- Never grill indoors — not in your house, camper, tent or any enclosed area.

- Keep the grill out in the open, away from the house, deck, tree branches

or anything that could catch fire.

- Use long-handled tools especially made for cooking on the grill.

TEST SMOKE ALARMS AND PRACTICE YOUR TWO-MINUTE DRILL

Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half and having a home fire escape plan further increases the odds of survival. In fact, fire experts say that you have as little as two minutes to escape a burning home before it's too late.

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them monthly. Place them inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas.

- Create and practice your home fire escape plan until everyone in your household can get out in two minutes or less. Include at least two ways to escape every room. Select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home, such as your neighbor's home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard, where everyone knows to meet.

FIND COVID-19 SAFETY UPDATES

Visit redcross.org/coronavirus for more information on COVID-19 safety. Blue Cross and Blue

Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) is a statewide Home Fire Campaign partner with the American Red Cross. In 2018, Blue Cross NC committed to support the installation of 36,000 smoke alarms in homes across North Carolina over three years and has been a critical partner in mission delivery to end home fire deaths.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional

support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org/enc or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCrossENC.

GONE CAMPING

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