

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 13 No. 29

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

July 22, 2011



Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot

SAN DIEGO – Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 Marines transformed an athletic field at San Diego High School to house nearly 1,000 homeless veterans July 15. The squadron spent a week constructing tents for sleeping, dining, showering and various legal and counseling services to support the 2011 San Diego Stand Down.

## MWSS-373 ‘Stands Down’ with homeless vets

**Cpl. Lisa M. Tourtelot**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

SAN DIEGO – With rows of large green tents, cots, tables and American and military flags, the San Diego High School athletic fields looked more like a forward operating base for Marines than baseball and physical education facilities for students.

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 transformed the fields to house more than 1,000 homeless San Diego veterans and family members for the 2011 San Diego Stand Down July 15, during which

participants received three days of sheltered sleep, good meals and access to free medical, dental and counseling services.

Ron Stark, Stand Down’s organizer, explained that the event is meant to be a retreat from homelessness for the participants.

“It’s an opportunity for them to regroup and prepare to re-engage life,” said Stark, a local San Diegan and Navy veteran.

Marine units have offered logistical assistance since the early years of Stand Down’s inception in 1988, explained Stark.

“This is a good way for Marines to get involved with other veterans,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Hahn, a radio chief with MWSS-373 and a Phoenix native.

Hahn added that the Marine volunteers bring something extra to the execution of Stand Down.

“We have a ‘get it done’ mentality,” said Hahn. “No matter what our limitations are, we’ll accomplish the mission.”

The Marines displayed their can-do spirit by assembling 67 large tents

GO TO **HOMELESS**, PAGE 3

## MAG-16 rides for safety, fun

**Sgt. Deanne Hurla**  
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

SAN DIEGO – Marines from squadrons under Marine Aircraft Group 16 took off under the warm California sun for a group motorcycle ride July 15.

The ride promoted motorcycle safety and the importance of following the rules of the road.

Sports bikes, cruisers and touring bikes were separated into groups mixing the experience levels of Marines, and though most were experienced riders, for some it was their first group ride.

“This is my first time on a group ride like this,” said Cpl. Adrian Jones, a power plants technician with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 and a Fort Worth, Texas, native. “On group rides you have to look out a lot more. You use a lot more of your ‘sixth sense.’ You can relate it to the Marine concept of watching out for the guy to your left and right and knowing what’s going on to help keep yourself and everyone else safe.”

Each rider took responsibility for the safety of the group. Pointing out road hazards and watching for hand signals passed

GO TO **MOTORCYCLE**, PAGE 3



Sgt. Deanne Hurla

Marines from squadrons under Marine Aircraft Group 16, start their engines before a three-hour, round-trip group motorcycle ride here July 15.

MCAS Miramar  
Website

www.miramar.usmc.mil



RANGE COACHES GET MARINES ON TARGET

Carlos Hathcock Range coaches train and oversee Marines during rifle and pistol qualification. For full story see page 4.



OSPREYS TRAIN WITH RECON FOR FUTURE DEPLOYMENTS

Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 aid 1st Reconnaissance Battalion Marines during helicopter training. For full story see page 5.

REACH US



EDITORIAL  
(858)-577-6000

## FLIGHT JACKET

# HMX-1: Marine Corps' first helo squadron

### Cpl. Alexandra M. Vazquez

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Throughout the last 60 years, dozens of helicopter squadrons have activated, deactivated and transitioned to new aircraft, but only one has been around since the beginning of Marine Corps helicopter aviation – Marine Helicopter Squadron 1.

The squadron activated out of Marine Corps Air Station Quantico, Va., on Dec. 1, 1947, to develop rotary-wing technology following the end of World War II.

During the squadron's early years, the Marines operated the Sikorsky HO3S-1 helicopter

and the Piasecki HRP-1 helicopter. HMX-1 made the first helicopter ship-to-shore movement when they moved troops from the deck of an aircraft carrier in May 1948.

During the Korean War, HMX-1 helicopters were used as battlefield observation and for medical evacuations in the Battle of Pusan Perimeter. They also participated in the Chosin Campaign as liaisons between units.

In 1957, HMX-1 transported former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and began its more than 50-year career as the president's personal helicopter.

The squadron used the VH-34 Choctaw for the first presidential helicopter and replaced it several times throughout the years. Today the Marines fly the VH-3D and the VH-60N WhiteHawk.

The squadron has four main missions including providing transportation of the president, vice president, members of the president's cabinet and foreign dignitaries; providing helicopter support as directed by the commandant of the Marine Corps; providing planning, execution and reporting for independent operational test and evaluation of helicopters; and providing support for the commanding general, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, for student demonstrations.

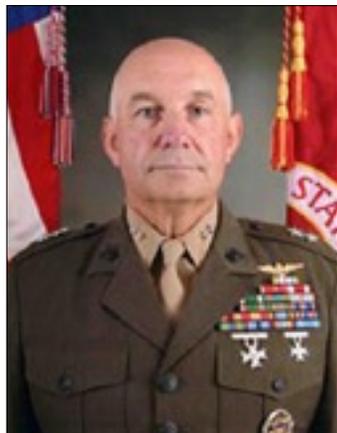


## Santa surprises VA hospital veterans



Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo

SAN DIEGO - Sgt. Anthony Rivas "Santa," a supply administrator with the Reserve Support Unit Air Station West and a Murrieta, Calif., native, presents Weston Houseman Jr., an Army veteran at the Veteran Affairs San Diego Healthcare System hospital, a Marine Corps blanket and an American flag during the Christmas In July event here July 15. Marines with RSU Miramar visit military veterans to boost morale and offer tokens of appreciation for veteran's military service.



### Maj. Gen.

**Thomas L. Conant**  
Commanding General  
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



**Col. Frank A. Richie**  
Commanding Officer  
MCAS Miramar

**Maj. Jay Delarosa**  
Public Affairs Director

**Gunnery Sgt. Steven Williams**  
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**Sgt. Justin M. Martinez**  
Internal Information Chief

**Sgt. Deanne Hurla**  
Editor

**Cpl. Alexandra M. Vazquez**  
Layout and Design Specialist

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The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office. Comments or questions should be directed to 858-577-6000.



## Religious Services

*The Chaplain's Office, located in Building 5632 on Bauer Road, coordinates regularly scheduled services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, call (858)-577-1333, or visit [www.miramar.usmc.mil](http://www.miramar.usmc.mil).*

### Sunday:

9 a.m. Protestant  
Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Protestant  
Children's Worship

11 a.m.  
Roman Catholic Mass

### Religious Education/Sunday:

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.  
Catholic CCD Children K-12

10 a.m. Protestant  
Adult Bible Study

### Weekday Worship Service:

Mon. – Fri. 11:30 a.m.  
Catholic Mass

Mon. 6:30 p.m. Contemporary  
Praise and Worship Service

Wed. 7 p.m. Baptist Service

### Study Groups:

Mon. 7 p.m.  
Night Bible Study,  
Classroom in the Chapel area

Tues. 6 a.m.  
Morning Prayer Service  
and Study Group

### Islamic Worship Service:

Fri. at noon.  
Located in the Chapel or visit  
[www.icsd.org](http://www.icsd.org)

### Jewish:

Jewish Outreach at  
(858) - 571 - 3444  
[www.jewishinsandiego.org](http://www.jewishinsandiego.org)

**HOMELESS,**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that would provide safe housing and administrative facilities for the participants over the course of the event. MWSS-373 also provided tables so the various agencies could provide much-needed services and more than 900 cots.

The Marine volunteers stuck around for the weekend to help wherever participants and volunteers needed them, as well as to socialize with the homeless veterans who do not often get to spend time with active duty service members, explained Stark.

“It evokes memories of their military time,” said Stark. “Here, they get a handshake and a welcome home.”

In addition to logistical support from MWSS-373, Naval Medical Center Balboa provided free medical and dental care. Other local agencies provided a myriad of services, from employment counseling to hair cutting and hygiene facilities.

After the event, the Marines disassembled the makeshift structures and turned the fields back into traditional high school athletic areas.

Stark hopes that either through legal or emotional counseling, or by simply being in the presence of fellow veterans and active duty service members, the homeless veterans will find the support they need.

For more information about Stand Down, visit [www.vvssd.net/standdown.htm](http://www.vvssd.net/standdown.htm).

**Legoland's welcome home surprise**

Cpl. Steven Posy

SAN DIEGO - Three year-old Dain Sparks embraces his father Staff Sgt. Jesse Sparks, an airframe quality assurance representative with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, and his mother, Megan Sparks, at Legoland theme park in San Diego July 14. After returning from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, Sparks excited his son with a surprise homecoming visit at the theme park.



Sgt. Deanne Hurla

SAN DIEGO - Motorcycle cruisers, sports bikes and touring bikes were all brought out for a Marine Aircraft Group 16 motorcycle ride July 15. Approximately 60 Marines from squadrons under MAG-16 participated in the three-hour ride. The ride promoted safety and taught Marines how to ride in a large group.

**MOTORCYCLE,**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from the lead rider were vital factors.

“You can only give them so much training, then they have to go out and ride,” said Sgt. Maj. Don W. Gallagher, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing sergeant major and a Great Falls, Mont., native. “Riding the back roads is one way to train them ‘outside the wire’ to be a defensive rider. You are not going to be able to prevent anything, but you have to be safe.”

Learning is more than giving briefs, it’s showing the Marines how to ride safely in a large group and still be enjoyable, explained Maj. John Gilbert, director of safety and standardization for MAG-16 and a Napa, Idaho, native.

It is good for the younger guys to see how to execute a ride this size safely and it still be enjoyable, Gilbert continued. This is something they might want to do on a regular basis and get their buddies out here in the future as well.

Though MAG-16 is the first to complete a ride this size at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Gallagher says he hopes other units will follow suit.

“Today was a good turn-out,” he said. “I’m proud to see them here talking it up and having a good time.”

At the end of the day, the nearly 60 Marines had completed a three-hour ride safely and without incident.

“I think everyone is happy and had a good time,” said Gilbert. “We definitely want to see more participation next time and hopefully make this a quarterly thing.”

# Coaches walk the line, bestow the basics



Cpl. Christian Morales, a Carlos Hathcock Range rifle block instructor and a Chicago native, checks off the names of Marines as they are distributed ammunition before firing weapons here July 14. As many as 200 Marines visit the rifle range each week for rifle qualification.

**Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Erica DiSalvo**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Pistol and rifle range coaches start each day with a long drive out to the dry and desolate area of East Miramar.

Although rifle and pistol range instructors' jobs vary when it comes to daily routine, each provides lessons of instruction and coaching for Marines qualifying on the range.

Rifle instructors begin each morning with a formation at 6:30 a.m. followed by the raising of the range flags and break down of ammunition. Afternoons are filled with instructors walking the firing line to assist Marines with any command confusion, hot brass to skin incidents and to maintain weapons safety.

Although pistol instructors do not have a formation, their day begins just as early and jumps right into setting up targets upon arrival, distribution of ammunition as well as teaching the proper shooting techniques.

Marines must attend a three-week training course to become a range coach.

"You become an instructor after any Marine completes the Combat Marksmanship Course and has a qualifying firing score of either expert or sharpshooter," said Cpl. Chad M. Lewison, a Carlos Hathcock Range rifle block instructor and a Las Vegas native.

The secondary step in this billet is a one-week long Combat Marksmanship Training Course to become a range block. A range block instructs range coaches more in depth on how to watch for cycle-of-operations problems, focus on basic marksmanship principles as well as shadow range coaches for any other problems that may occur.

Each coach will hold either a six-month or one-year billet at the range, after being sent from their original units through the Fleet Assistance Program as instructor openings occur. Each week approximately 25 range coaches and block instructors train hundreds of Marines who visit Carlos Hathcock Range to qualify with the M-9 pistol and M-16 A-4 service rifle.

# MARINES PUT THUMBS IN THE AIR: HITCH OSPREY RIDE

**Story and Photos by Pfc. Kevin Crist**

COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

Marines with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 spent the day training with Marines from Bravo Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton July 15.

Marines with 1st Reconnaissance Battalion are preparing for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where they may need to utilize the MV-22B Osprey assets.

The day's training focused on flying the reconnaissance Marines to an objective as quickly as possible to get the job done faster, explained Capt. Arturo Guzman, a pilot with VMM-161 and a San Diego native.

Riding on the Osprey helps 1st Reconnaissance Marines familiarize themselves with the aircraft, explained Sgt. Paul A. Herrera, a crew chief with VMM-161 and an El Paso, Texas, native.

While the 1st Recon Marines are training to get on and off the aircraft, the crew chiefs also have to teach them safety techniques while in flight.

To ensure passenger safety the crew has to consider if passengers are having sinus problems or sickness because the high rates of ascent and descent heighten the chances of their sinuses rupturing, explained Guzman.

This training helps to refine the Marine's tactics, techniques and procedures, explained Guzman.

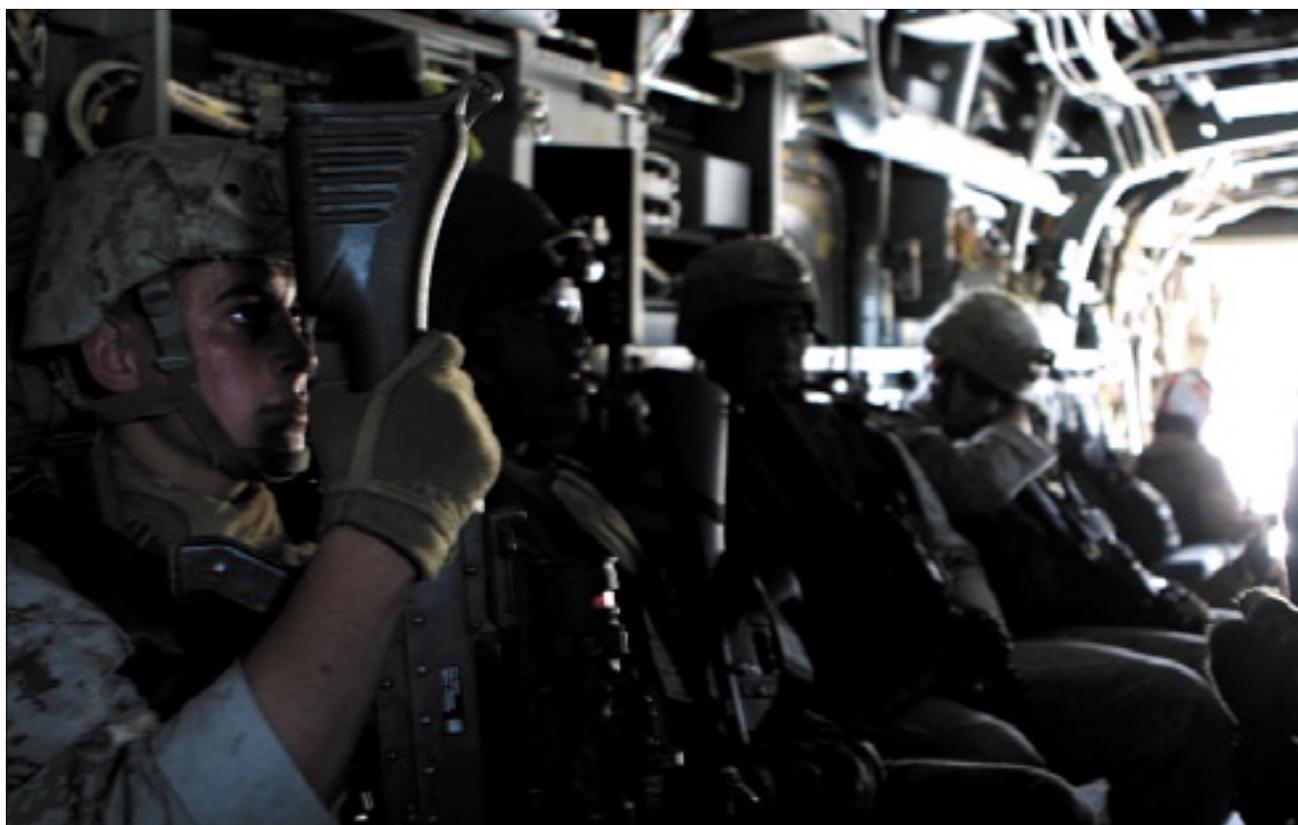
"It's a new type of war every time we go out there," said Herrera. "The enemy is getting smarter and now it's not hand-to-hand or rifle combat; more tactics are being developed to mitigate the risks of coming in contact with the enemy."

Capt. Colin Kiernan, the platoon commander of Bravo Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and a Woodstock, Ga., native, explained that helicopters and now MV-22B Ospreys are the primary vehicles used for troop insertions in Afghanistan, and training helps improve coordination between ground troops and aviation squadrons.

"To get with the ground combat element and employ their tactics with our aircraft is what we train for," said Guzman. "That's definitely something I look forward to."



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – An MV-22B Osprey with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 flies to drop off Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, at their objective here July 15. VMM-161 trained to refine their skills of quick take offs and landings.



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, prepare to exit an MV-22B Osprey here July 15. Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 partnered with 1st Recon to train on expediently entering and exiting the aircraft in a tactical manner for future operations.



MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with Bravo Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, rush into an MV-22B Osprey here July 15. Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 161 partnered with 1st Recon to train on expediently entering and exiting the aircraft in a tactical manner for future operations.

## FRIDAY 22      SATURDAY 23      SUNDAY 24      MONDAY 25      TUESDAY 26      WEDNESDAY 27      THURSDAY 28

<p><b>“How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk or Jerkette”</b> 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. The HUB 858-577-1615</p> <p><b>Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Budget for Baby Class</b> 1 – 2:30 p.m. L.I.N.K.S. House 858-577-1807</p>	<p><b>Open Cockpit Events</b> F-5, F-18, CH-46 &amp; T-34 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Aviation Museum - 693-1723</p> <p><b>Stress Management I</b> 1 – 3 p.m. Counseling Center 858-577-6585</p> <p><b>6th Annual Flying Leathernecks Black Tie Gala</b> 5:30 p.m. Aviation Museum/O Club 693-1723 for tickets</p>	<p><b>SHOP MCX</b> <i>New Year! New look - Back to School</i> July 27 - Aug. 9</p> <p><i>Check it Out – Back to School 2011</i> July 13 – 26</p> <p><i>Back-to-School Essentials</i> July 13 – 26</p>	<p><b>New Parent Support Program Baby Boot Camp</b> 9 am – 4 p.m. L.I.N.K.S. House 858-577-9812</p> <p><b>Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Meetings</b> 6:30 p.m. Counseling Center 858-577-6585</p>	<p><b>Taco Tuesday All Day</b> 858-693-1543</p> <p><b>Air Hockey Tournament</b> 858-577-6171</p> <p><b>*Autograph Signing/ Car &amp; Truck Display with NASCAR Driver Robby Gordon</b> 4 – 6 p.m. Marine Mart</p> <p><b>Beyond the Brief: Safe &amp; Sound at Home</b> 858-577-6306 to register</p> <p><b>First-Time Homebuyers Workshop</b> 858-577-6228 to register</p>	<p><b>L.I.N.K.S. Mentor Training for Marines</b> 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. L.I.N.K.S. House 858-577-4918 to register</p> <p><b>CPR Certification Class</b> 858-577-6195</p> <p><b>Military Divorce Assistance Group for Men</b> 858-577-6585</p> <p><b>Creating Financial Freedom</b> 858-577-6585</p> <p><b>Career Resource Center, “Federal Jobs &amp; Applications”</b> 858-577-6710</p> <p><b>S.U.I.T. Yourself Series Session 4</b> 858-577-4473</p>	<p><b>Coffee Social for EFMP Families</b> 858-577-4668</p> <p><b>Fish &amp; Chips Special</b> 858-693-1543</p> <p><b>*101 Days of Summer Nutrition Game Show</b> 858-577-7963</p> <p><b>Stress Management II</b> 858-577-6585</p>
<p><b>WEEKLY EVENTS...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Complex Marine Teen training Tues. &amp; Sat. 858-577-4128/4129</li> <li>• Deployment support for preschoolers, elementary and teenagers Mon. through Wed. 858-577-4588</li> <li>• QOL Golf: Two Hours After Twilight free Golf for Active Duty 858-577-4155</li> </ul>		<p><b>MCCS FREE PRIZE GIVEAWAYS...</b> ITT/Travel Office: Legoland Gift Pack <i>Winner will be drawn on July 31</i> <i>Stop in and fill out an entry form today!</i></p>				

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**NASCAR MEET & GREET AND AUTOGRAPH SIGNING**  
NASCAR Meet & Greet and Autograph Signing at Marine Mart on Tuesday, July 26 from 4 – 6 p.m. Meet NASCAR Driver Robby Gordon. Come check out the #7 NASCAR and view his off-road racing truck as well. In addition there will be Speed Energy Drink sampling. Call 858-577-6365 for information.

**101 DAYS OF SUMMER NUTRITION GAME SHOW**  
Are You Smarter Than a Dietitian? If so, stop by the Bob Hope Theater for the 101 Days of Summer Nutrition Game Show on Thursday, July 28 from 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Get Your Annual Nutrition Training and Earn Most Participation Unit Points for 101 Days of Summer. Call Julie Burks at 858-577-7963 to be a contestant or for more information about this challenge.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get help paying for childcare Visit the National Association of Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies website at [www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org) to see information on eligibility for assistance to pay for and find childcare services. Contact 1-800-424-2246 for information.

ICE ready for use The Interactive Customer Evaluation set up for Miramar is ready for use. ICE is the internet version of the “Customer Suggestion Box.” It collects feedback on services provided by installations throughout the Department of Defense. To submit a suggestion, visit the ICE website at <http://ice.disa.mil>.

**Important Phone Numbers**  
**Victim Advocacy 24-hour Hotline**  
858-864-2815

**Eagle Eyes**  
877-356-EYES (3937)

**Military One Source**  
800-342-9647

**D-Stress 24-hour Hotline**  
877-476-7734  
(All calls are strictly confidential)



**WHAT'S PLAYING... AT THE BOB HOPE THEATER**

**Fri. July 22:**  
Kung Fu Panda 2 (Not 3D) (PG) 6:30 p.m.  
The Hangover 2 (R) 9 p.m.

**Sat. July 23:**  
Kung Fu Panda 2 (Not 3D) (PG) 1 p.m.  
The Conspirator (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.  
\*Priest (Not 3D) (PG-13) 9 p.m.

**Sun. July 24:**  
X-Men: First Class (PG-13) 1 p.m.  
\*Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (Not 3D) (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

**Wed. July 27:**  
Super 8 (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

**Thurs. July 28:**  
Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG) 2 p.m.  
Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (PG) 6:30 p.m.

\*Indicates Last Showing