



# WINGSPAN



## Vice Adm. Smith visits air station

Various Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities were highlighted when Vice Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Installations Command, visited Naval Air Station Corpus Christi recently. It was his first visit to the installation and South Texas, and he took time to tour the installation, talk to personnel and eat lunch with NASCC's Junior Sailor of the Year, Blue Jacket of the Year, and the Dept. of Defense's top fire and emergency services.

"I know you're doing good things," Vice Adm. Smith said. "You are making a difference."

During his visit, Smith discussed his guiding principles: take customer service to the next level; be brilliant on the basics; make smart business decisions; live a culture of continuous improvement; and represent Navy to the surrounding community.

He added that customer service is extremely important because we don't necessarily have the resources, day-in day-out, that we may need to get the job done of supporting the fleet, fighter and family. That's why it's important to get from good to great.

Both Sailors and civilians, along with base leadership, were pleased to connect with CNIC during the visit.

Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, NASCC thanked his staff, following the visit. "My sincere thanks to everyone for all of your hard work ....



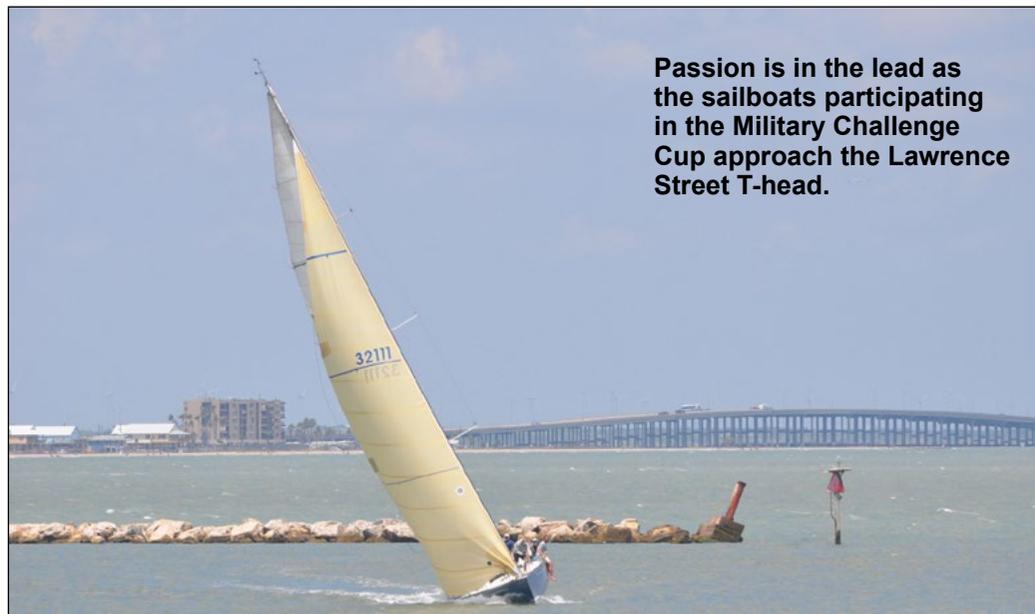
AC3 Matthew Sherwood, NAS Corpus Christi's Blue Jacket of the Year, greets Vice Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Installations Command.

Smith visited the air station recently as part of a familiarization tour.

Your pride and professionalism shows, and I appreciate your dedication. ... the visit went well, and that is due to your efforts!"  
Navy Installations Command, established

in 2003, is responsible for shore installation management in support of the fleet, fighter and family.

## Sailing, fun, camaraderie key to annual Navy Regatta



Passion is in the lead as the sailboats participating in the Military Challenge Cup approach the Lawrence Street T-head.

Sun, fun and wind ... were "main ingredients" this past weekend during the 53rd annual Navy Regatta.

It's a weekend of fun, sailing, camaraderie and community partnership with the military aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, the Corpus Christi Yacht Club and the Bay Yacht Club.

The annual event began in 1962, and it features a Military Cup Challenge and Titanic Cup race, in which team compete in their homemade vessels constructed of anything but boat or aircraft parts.

Rick Bell, a retired Navy master chief who is also a member of both yacht clubs, has been a part of the Navy Regatta for the past 10 years.

"It's a weekend of fun," he said. "It's the best event of the year, working with the

*see Regatta on page 6*



**Construction update**  
-- page 4



**Hero recognized**  
-- page 7



**End of summer bash**  
-- page 9

## Executive Officer's Column



Cmdr. Scott Wilmot  
Executive Officer



strikes, campfire embers that haven't cooled or from any number of other heat producing sources.

Week 3, Hurricane – This is a real possibility for us. If a hurricane struck the installation or made landfall nearby, it has the potential to bring catastrophic damage based on the strength, course and magnitude. Heed warnings from local officials, most importantly don't wait until the last minute to begin preparations.

Week 4, Power Outages – After any major disaster, being without power is a real possibility and something every family should consider. When the power gets knocked out, utility workers will bring critical buildings online first (hospitals, nursing homes, etc.). Make sure you've got a battery operated flashlight, battery/crank powered weather radio, and a battery phone charger available in your emergency kit. Plan for the possibility of being without power for days, if the damage to the power grid is severe enough it could be weeks before power is restored.

Week 5, "Day of Action" – This will focus on communication plans and ways to maintain contact with your family during times of disaster.

Take the initiative to become your best advocate, your safety and that of your family isn't hard to achieve if you take some simple

During the month of September, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi will participate in National Preparedness Month. This month's slogan is "Be Smart, Take Part, Prepare." We will publish information on the NASCC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NASCorpusChristi>) as well as our NASCC Emergency Management Twitter page (@NASCCEM).

Topics will be based around weekly areas of interest:

Week 1, Flood – Flooding can be localized where significant rain has fallen over a very short period of time similar to our base flooding back in late May. It can also include entire areas like when a river or stream floods out a surrounding town.

Week 2, Wildfire – Wildfires typically occur when an area has severe drought conditions, they are usually in remote areas. They can be started by a single cigarette thrown from a passing vehicle, from lightning

## Chaplain's Message



### Suicide awareness, prevention

Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Wame  
Command Chaplain

September is Suicide Awareness Prevention Month. Aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, there will be a BASE-WIDE Awareness Run/Walk - Wednesday morning, Sept. 2, at 7 a.m., a Suicide Awareness Run/Walk will be held starting at the entrance of the Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi. Individuals and units will gather first for a welcome by Capt. Steve Banta, NAS Corpus Christi commanding officer, followed by a moment of silence and prayer led by the chaplain. Participants will then have the option of walking a 1.4-mile route or running

a 5K (3.2-mile) course. There will also be a slightly shorter running route available. Participants will finish in the Catholic Chapel parking lot and receive an awareness sports bottle and prevention gun locks, as well as water and promotional literature. All are invited to participate in this event.

This year, Navy Suicide Prevention Month will launch a new message within the "Every Sailor, Every Day" campaign -- "1 Small ACT." This message encourages simple yet meaningful interactions between peers, leaders and family members to promote cohesion, intervene and save a life, based on Navy's Ask Care Treat (ACT) model. We must ACT when we think a shipmate is having trouble navigating stress. Ask directly, "Are you thinking about killing yourself?" Show them that you care. Get them to Treatment as soon as possible.

There will also be a display of flags located in the front lawn of the Chapel. These flags will represent lives lost to suicide by

steps to prepare ahead of time. Waiting until the last minute is a recipe for disaster, in the middle of an emergency isn't the time to be getting your essential items together.

Be sure to include your family in the preparation process. Family members will be more capable of dealing with the stress of potential emergencies if they are included in the planning/prep ahead of time. Here is a small list of resources available to aid in preparation:

[www.defense.gov/prepare](http://www.defense.gov/prepare) - This is the DoD America's PrepareAthon website.

<http://www.ready.gov> - This government website will show you how to put together an emergency kit and help you make a plan.

<https://www.ready.navy.mil> - The Navy's page showing how to build a kit and make a plan.



active duty members this year. Let's all work to prevent addition flags from being added. Help is always available. The Veterans Crisis Line offers confidential support for active duty and Reserve service members and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

### Worship Services

#### CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel  
Daily Mass Mon-Thurs & 1st Fri: 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mass: 9 & 11 a.m.

#### PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel  
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

#### JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

Congregation Beth Israel, 4402 Saratoga Blvd.  
For worship service times, call 857-8181

#### ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Islamic Society of South Texas, 7341 McArdle Rd.  
For worship service times, call 992-8550

## U.S. national interests require speed, endurance, flexibility, aircraft carriers, air wings

By Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker  
Commander, Naval Air Forces

Today, more than ever, U.S. national interests require the speed, endurance, flexibility and autonomous nature of the U.S. Navy's nuclear powered aircraft carrier, which deploys, operates and is prepared to fight as part of a carrier strike group (CSG).

The CSG provides our national command authority with options, access and forward

presence that allows for a rapid response to a wide spectrum of threats or natural disasters. Even when faced with contested waters and airspace, the composition and maneuverability of a CSG ensures survivability of the carrier while its embarked carrier air wing uses its integrated capabilities to project power, thus enabling the U.S. to continue its role as a key guarantor of peace and stability around the world.

CSGs, typically comprised of a nuclear

powered aircraft carrier (CVN) and its embarked air wing, one guided-missile cruiser, a couple of guided-missile destroyers, and a supply ship, train and deploy as a team with well-established integrated tactics, techniques, and procedures that allow for freedom of maneuver in the global commons. Operationally, the combined strength of the CSG remains vastly greater than the sum of its parts.

see CSG on next page

## Wingspan

The *Wingspan* is published every other week by *The Port Lavaca Wave*, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

The *Wingspan* is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Navy, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, or *The Port Lavaca Wave*, of the products and services advertised herein.

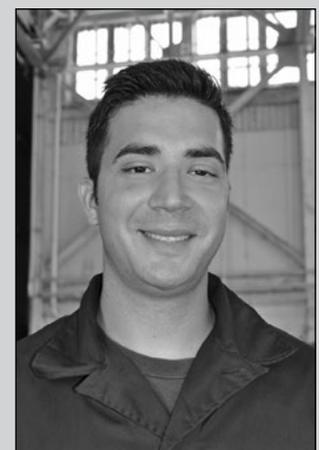
Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher may refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. All editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Public Affairs Office.

Comments, letters, or suggestions should be sent via e-mail to: [nascc-pao@navy.mil](mailto:nascc-pao@navy.mil).

To advertise in the *Wingspan*, contact *The Port Lavaca Wave* at [afrench@plwave.com](mailto:afrench@plwave.com) or (361) 746-4341.

Capt. Steve Banta  
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick  
Public Affairs Officer



This paper is published for people like AMT3 Richard DeLeon, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi. DeLeon is a native of Corpus Christi and has 6.5 years of U.S. Coast Guard service.

**CSG from page 2**

As a complex, joint force multiplier, with command and control and organic logistical capabilities, there exists no comparable way to quickly generate the effects crucial to American diplomatic and economic interests that carrier aviation offers.

Carrier strike groups provide access - access often denied or diplomatically slow to attain through other military and civilian channels. CSGs afford options to deny an adversary's objectives, preserve freedom of action, and assure access for other joint and coalition forces. While political dynamics and host nation sensitivities can restrict the use of land-based aircraft in the initial stages of conflict, CVNs and their embarked air wings can reach nearly any spot on the globe without having to ask permission. We continue to live in a turbulent and unsettled world, and the strategic options and flexibility our CSGs provide remain in high demand by our combatant commanders around the world.

When the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant suddenly and viciously expanded across the Middle East in the summer of 2014, and the President needed immediate options to curb ISIL's advance, the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group was on station in the Arabian Gulf and ready within 30 hours of being tasked.

The Bush CSG was the only strike option on station for the first 10 days of the conflict and remained there for a total of 54 days as the only viable U.S. option until the order

was given to conduct air and cruise missile strikes. Since the beginning of Operation Inherent Resolve, in fact since well before 9/11, CSGs continue to be present in that region of the world, with seamless transitions among those strike groups as they rotate in and out.

The continuous forward presence carriers provide around the world comes with a cost. After nearly 14 years of sustained combat operations, Naval Aviation forces must reset and recapitalize in an effort to ensure readiness in the future. The frequency and extended durations of carrier strike group deployments has accelerated the wear on the force and has led to increased maintenance and repair requirements, resulting in lengthened maintenance availability periods. Deliberate planning and resourcing has Naval Aviation on a path to recover our readiness in the coming months and years, ensuring the carrier force is where it needs to be, when it needs to be there.

The value of stability and security operations is often manifested in what does not occur - such as tensions that are quietly defused and do not escalate into armed conflict. In April 2015, while on station in the Arabian Gulf, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) transited the Strait of Hormuz to the Arabian Sea, joining other forces conducting maritime security operations off the coast of Yemen to ensure vital shipping lanes remained open and safe. Following Theodore Roosevelt's move, an Iranian



The Nimitz-class aircraft carriers USS George Washington (CVN 73) and USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) transit the Pacific Ocean prior to conducting a hull-swap. (Photo by MC3 Chris Cavagnaro)

convoy transiting toward Yemen reversed course, underscoring the stabilizing effect the carrier force can have overseas. As an agent of American diplomacy, CSGs communicate our nation's commitment to maritime security, regional stability and the uninterrupted flow of goods and services that is critical to continued economic prosperity for all nations.

The value of forward presence acts not only as a deterrent, but also enables rapid response to disasters as demonstrated by USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) immediately following the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated Japan in 2011. The carrier produced and delivered potable

water for thousands of displaced families, airlifted tons of food and supplies ashore, and conducted search and rescue operations.

CVNs, working with allies and partner nations, remain ready to save lives, provide immediate relief, and set the conditions for effective civilian response without relying on damaged or inaccessible ports or airfields ashore. In the next few months, Ronald Reagan will return to Japan, replacing USS George Washington (CVN 73) as the centerpiece of our Forward Deployed Naval Forces in northeast Asia and delivering our most capable Nimitz-class CVN to that critical region of the world.

*see CSG on page 10*

Delta

**Locally owned  
Family Operated**

TIRE & WHEEL

*We Really Appreciate  
Your Business!*

*We will*  
**MATCH  
or  
BEAT**  
*Any Competitors Price on  
LIKE Tires or Wheels*

**Two Locations**

**854-4718**  
2424 S.P.I.D.  
At Ayers  
M-F 8:00 - 6:30  
Sat. 8:00 - 5:00

**387-8473**  
N.W. Blvd.  
at Wood River  
M-F 7:30 - 6:00  
Sat. 8:00 - 5:00

6 MO

SAME AS  
CASH W.A.C.

MILITARY and  
SENIOR Discounts

MICHELIN

PIRELLI

BFGoodrich

GOODYEAR

UNIROYAL

Delta Brand For Real Value

**FREE Roadside Assistance • We offer Nitrogen**  
**FREE Re-Balance • FREE Alignment Check**

Se Habla Español

www.deltatire.net

**Dramatically Improve  
Your Smile with the "Super Smile"  
Technique by Dr. Joseph Coniglio**

**Quality Treatment with**

- Reasonable Fees
- Free Initial Exam
- No Down Payment
- Low Monthly Fees

**Less Treatment Time  
Fewer Treatment Visits  
Computer Assisted  
Technology with Fixed or  
Invisible Braces to Shorten  
Treatment Time and Achieve  
the Best Possible  
"Super Smile" with Minimal  
Discomfort and Lower Costs**

**Neighborhood Offices:**

- Corpus Christi
- Kingsville
- Portland
- Rockport
- 5 Points

**Dr. Joseph Coniglio, D.D.S., M.S.**  
Orthodontist  
(361) 993-2333  
5756 S. Staples • Corpus Christi

*Military Provider and most other major insurances accepted*

**HELP...ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY**

**If you are considering a move or know of someone who is - I can help.**



**Lora Marksbury**  
Military Relocation Specialist  
Lora specializes in military relocation. Her 26 years of military life offers a unique insight and understanding of the complexities and frustrations of relocating and home ownership.

**Please call me today.**

Office.....(361) 992-9231 or (800) 825-5050  
Mobile .....(361) 533-8648  
E-mail: lmarksbury@corpuschristi-homes.com



PACESETTERSTEEL REALTORS

5034 Holly Road • Copus Christi, TX 78411



**Construction Update --** Construction of the North Gate is now underway and a modified schedule of operation is in effect. The inbound lane will be open from 5 to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday. From 2 to 5 p.m., the gate will operate with one inbound and one outbound lane. Please be cautious when using this gate due to

close proximity to the construction. Notification of gate schedule is posted on a sign along Ocean Drive at the North Gate. Note: the D Street gate to the flight line is in its final stages of completion. The D Street gate will operate much as before with a sentry for ID verification when it opens. (Courtesy photo)

**REFER  
YOUR FAMILY.**

**REFER  
YOUR FRIENDS.**

**AND UP TO  
\$250\***

**WILL BE YOURS  
TO SPEND.**



ARMY  
MARINE CORPS  
NAVY  
AIR FORCE  
COAST GUARD  
FAMILY

Visit [navyfederal.org/refer](http://navyfederal.org/refer) to share the benefits of membership!

Federally insured by NCUA. Offer valid between 8/1/2015 and 8/31/2015 and can expire anytime without prior notice. \*This offer may not be combined with any other new-member offers at the time of the account opening. Referees must be eligible to join. Any current NFCU member 18 or older may be a referring member. Accounts must be in good standing for credits to be processed. Recruiters are not eligible to refer recruits. \$5 minimum balance to open and maintain savings account and to obtain bonus. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) 0.25%, effective 7/1/2015. Bonus deposited within 14 business days of account opening. Program must be mentioned at time of joining for account to be credited. Fees may reduce earnings, and rates may change. Limit 5 referrals per member. Navy Federal employees and their immediate family are not eligible to participate in this program. Regional restrictions may apply. Recipient is solely responsible for any personal tax liability arising out of this incentive. © 2015 Navy Federal NFCU 13042 (7-15)





**We offer many programs for children of all ages!**

- Parents Day Out
- Sanddollar Prep Academy
- Tumbling

**Summer Camp 2015 (ages 5-12)**

Tiny Tots (ages 2-3) • Open Gym • Recreational Gymnastics (ages 4-12)  
Competitive Cheerleading (ages 4-18)

**Call us or stop by today for more information or to sign up for any of our programs!**

**Southern Coast Gymnastics**

10121 S. Padre Island  
Dr. Suite 101, Corpus Christi, TX  
**(361) 356-3050**  
www.socogym.com

**Upcoming Community Events**

**Wings of Texas Inaugural 5k Run/2 mile Walk**

On September 5th 2015, Wings of Texas will be hosting its Inaugural 5k Run/2 mile Walk. The event will be held at Heritage Park, 1581 N. Chaparral Street, Corpus Christ, TX 78401. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. In appreciation of our men and women in uniform, a \$5 off Coupon Code is offered to all active, reserve, retirees and veteran participants. The cost to participate is \$30 (\$25 with Military Code "15mtmil.") To register, visit <http://mttwingstexas.itsyourrace.com/ParticipantList.aspx?id=5854>:

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Anthony Navarrete at [anavarrete@mtt-wingsoftexas.org](mailto:anavarrete@mtt-wingsoftexas.org). More information on Wings of Texas can be found at [www.mtt-wingsoftexas.org](http://www.mtt-wingsoftexas.org).

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION, EMAIL [AFRENCH@PLWAVE.COM](mailto:AFRENCH@PLWAVE.COM). THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT EVENTS IS 10 A.M. THE FRIDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. UPCOMING EVENTS ARE PUBLISHED AS SPACE PERMITS THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES AS TO HOW MANY TIMES AN EVENT WILL RUN. QUESTIONS REGARDING EVENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ASHLEY AT 361-746-4341.



**WELCOME to the Gulf Coast's Friendliest Airport**

Our fast and friendly service will get you up and ready to go as quickly as possible.

- Newly Renovated Facilities • Pilot Lounge
- No Landing or Ramp Fees • Transient Hangar Rental
- New Private T-Hangar Rental • Enterprise Rental Cars available
- Crew Car • Newly Updated Self Service Fuel system, Jet-A and Avgas

**Working to get you on your way.**  
Calhoun Air Center provides self and full service fuel, tug service, flight planning and a friendly atmosphere.

**Calhoun County Airport, KPKV**  
4876 FM 3084, Port Lavaca, TX 77979  
361- 552-1228 |




**Dragonfly**  
An International Experience

14701 S.P.I.D. CC, TX 78418 • (361) 949-2224

Relax and enjoy dinner at **Dragonfly!**

**Hours:**  
Tuesday - Thursday - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 5 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Friday - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Saturday - 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Happy Hour Tuesday - Friday - 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Follow 'Dragonfly Restaurant' on Facebook 

**Daily Lunch and Dinner Specials!**





Candlewood Suites South is an extended stay hotel that understands your unique needs.

**Stay for a week, a month, or even a year.**  
**We are designed from the ground up - just for you!**

68 Suites with One or Two Queen Beds  
Pet Friendly • Outdoor Heated Pool • Complimentary Laundry Facilities  
Gazebo with Two Built-in Grills, Wet Bar and Big Screen TV  
Fully Equipped Kitchens with Cooktop, Dishwasher, Microwave, Full Size Refrigerator plus Flat Screen TV with Blu-Ray Player in all Suites

CANDLEWOOD SUITES SOUTH  
9225 S. Padre Island Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

**Contact Betty Anderson**  
361-774-0075 • [sales@candlewoodccs.com](mailto:sales@candlewoodccs.com)




**Keep The Sparkle In Your Smile!**

**Tooth-colored fillings • Tooth bleaching**  
**Crowns, bridges and veneers • Partial Dentures**  
**Nightguards • Root Canals • Digital X-Rays & Photos**

**For our dental phobics we offer:**  
**Nitrous Oxide Gas • Conscious Sedation (pills)**

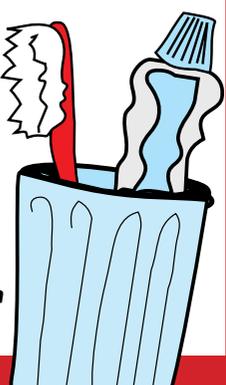
**All the comforts of home including:**  
**Blankets and Pillows • Warm Towels • Personal music by Pandora**

**Now accepting: Metlife • United Concordia • GEHA**

**Anna C. Ashley, DDS, PA**  
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry  
**Schedule your appointment TODAY!**  
**361-991-0102**  
Tuesday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

**5314 Everhart, Suite A • [www.annaashleyddspsa.com](http://www.annaashleyddspsa.com)**

Like us on 





Everyone was ferried out to the sailboats anchored off Sunfish Beach, prior to the Military Cup Challenge. Yacht club members, crew, military and family members enjoyed the sailing and camaraderie of the 53rd annual event. (Photos by Fifi Kieschnick)

## Regatta from page 9

Navy guys and introducing them to sailing.”

Saturday, the boats raced from downtown Corpus Christi to NASCC's Sunfish Beach. That afternoon, the Titanic Cup was held with NASCC's BM2 Mike Pickle's vessel easily sailing through the waters from the pier to Sunfish Beach.

The Military Cup Challenge was held Sunday. Thirty-four vessels, with military at the helm, raced from NASCC to downtown Corpus Christi near the Lawrence Street T-head. Awards were given to the winners in various boat classes.

“It was an awesome opportunity,” said MMCS Shane Eckhart, who was at the helm of Thresher during the Military Cup Challenge. “We're Sailors and we don't sail.

“It is nice that we were sailing and unwinding together, both the community and the military.”



Above, Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer, congratulates BM2 Mike Pickle, center, and YN1 Brian Herrera, for their winning entry in the Titanic Cup.

Pictured left, Thresher, with MMCS Shane Eckhart at the helm, edges out the competition to complete the Military Cup Challenge first in their class.

# Student recognized for beach rescue

Photo & Story by Richard Stewart  
CNATRA Public Affairs

Ensign Robert Lathrop, a Student Naval Aviator assigned to Training Squadron (VT) 31, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal on Aug. 14, for rescuing a swimmer in distress on May 25.

While at J.P. Luby Beach, Lathrop noticed a 14 year-old girl, who was 150 yards offshore, caught in a rip current being swept out to sea. He responded by swimming out to the rough surf to render assistance, finding the girl unconscious and floating below the surface of the water.

Relying on training he received during Navy safety stand-downs, Lathrop took a diagonal approach toward the shoreline and pulled the victim back toward shore. Beach-goers formed a human chain to pull Lathrop and the victim to shore and begin cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). After nearly eight minutes, she was successfully resuscitated and then transported to the hospital.

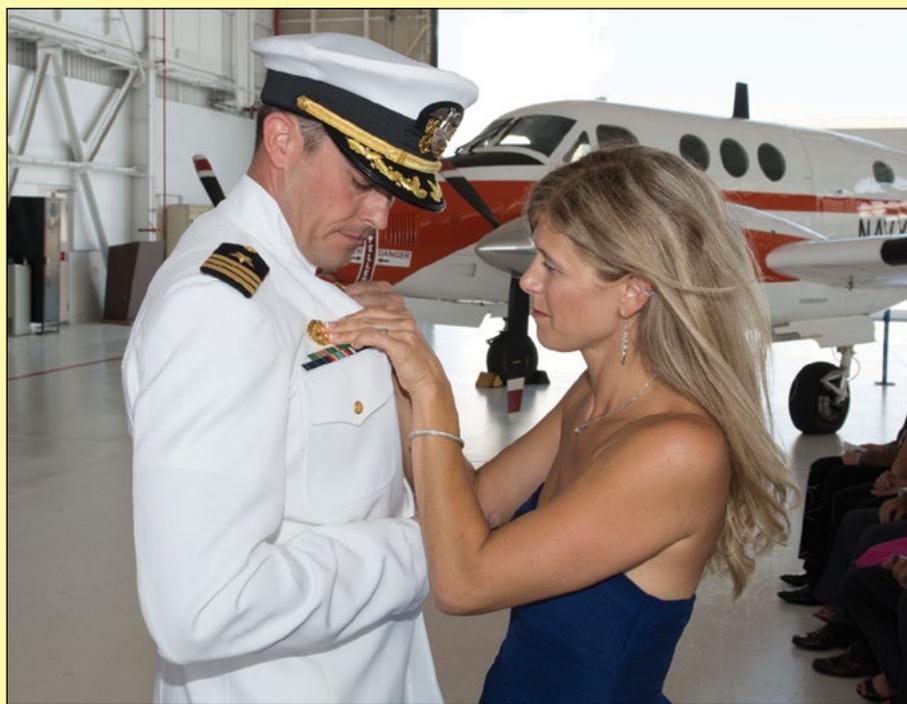
When Lathrop was asked how he felt after the ordeal, he said, "It was physically and mentally exhausting, but after she came about I felt awesome and confident that she would return to her family."

After [the girl] left in the ambulance, Lathrop went back with his son and built a sand castle realizing with a greater sense how important life is, he added.

Cmdr. Samuel Gage, VT-31 commanding officer, praised Lathrop's actions, saying, "VT-31 is very proud of Ensign Lathrop. His actions truly represent the best of what it means to be a 'Wise Owl.' He is a great example of the kind of leaders that are trained here at NAS Corpus Christi and Training Wing FOUR."

Lathrop is scheduled to earn his wings of gold Oct. 16.

Pictured right, Cmdr. Matthew Foster, outgoing VT-31 commanding officer, presents Ensign Robert Lathrop, a Student Naval Aviator, the Navy Commendation Medal for rescuing a swimmer in distress in May.



**Change of command --** Cmdr. Samuel Gage, incoming commanding officer for VT-31, has his command pin attached by his wife Renee during the squadron's change of command ceremony held in Hangar 57 on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Gage relieved Cmdr. Matthew Foster during the ceremony held Aug. 14. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA Public Affairs)



**Bravo Zulu --** Lt. Cmdr. Shannon Harrell presented ABH2(AW) Sidney Miller with his second Navy Achievement Medal recently for outstanding performance while serving at NAS Kingsville and NAS Corpus Christi Hazard Minimization Centers. Miller is under new orders to USS Wasp (LHD 1). (Courtesy photo)



# Sheila Anderson

• Quality Service our Military Personnel deserve •

• Over 21 years selling real estate •

• Wife of retired Gulf War Veteran •

• Experienced in Military Relocation both personally and professionally •

Call Sheila Anderson for all of your relocation needs!

361-445-2403 [www.sheilaandersonsellshomes.com](http://www.sheilaandersonsellshomes.com)



**WILLIAM A. THAU III, P.C.**  
Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve, Ret.

*Former U.S. Navy Lawyer*

- Divorce & Separation
- Child Custody & Support
- Adoption/Guardianship
- Paternity Cases
- Wills & Probate
- Military Law
- Auto Accidents
- Personal Injury
- DWI
- Criminal Defense



9708 S.P.I.D., SUITE A-101 • CORPUS CHRISTI  
(361) 937-5513 • Toll Free 1-877-888-1369

Licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas

Former President of the Corpus Christi Family Law Association (1999-2000)

Selected as a Texas "Super Lawyer" in November 2003, October 2004, and October 2005 issues of *Texas Monthly*  
Awarded the Client Distinction Award for 2015 by Martindale-Hubbell

## CBP P-3 crew disrupts smuggling attempt Cocaine run valued at \$64.9 M stopped at sea

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Air and Marine agents detected a cocaine run resulting in the arrest of three individuals and the interdiction of more than 868 pounds of cocaine worth more than \$64.9 million.

The crew was aboard a P-3 Early Airborne Warning aircraft and operating as part of Operation Martillo when they spotted a go-fast moving in open waters south of Panama, Aug. 6.

Upon detecting the fast-moving vessel, the CBP crew immediately coordinated with Joint Interagency Task Force South. Panama deployed two boats to intercept the go-fast; Panamanian authorities apprehended three individuals and seized the vessel and its cargo – 868 pounds of cocaine.

"Our work with JIATF South and partner nations continue to pay off," said John Wassong, director of National Air Security Operations Center – Corpus Christi. "This case is yet another good example of the importance of the P-3 program. The unique detection capabilities of our aircraft are essential to combatting criminal organizations."

Operation Martillo includes the participation of 15 nations that work together to counter transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in coastal waters along the Central American isthmus. JIATF South, a

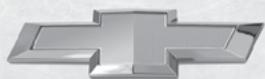
National Task Force, oversees the detection and monitoring of illicit traffickers and assists U.S. and multinational law enforcement agencies with the interdiction of these illicit traffickers.

OAM P-3s have been an integral part of the successful counter-narcotic missions operating in coordination with the JIATF South. The P-3s patrol in a 42 million-square mile area which includes more than 41 nations, the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and seaboard approaches to the United States.

In Fiscal Year 2014, CBP's P-3s operating from Corpus Christi, Texas, and Jacksonville, Florida, flew more than 5,900 hours in support of counternarcotic missions resulting in 135 interdiction events of suspected smuggling vessels and aircraft. These events led to the total seizure or disruption of 126,489 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$9.47 billion.

Local Toastmasters group seeking members. The group meets each Thursday at 4 p.m. at St. Joseph Hall. For more information, contact Luis Mulholland at (361) 214-1510.

## AutoNation Chevrolet Cadillac Corpus Christi



FIND NEW ROADS

Get preferred pricing on our award winning lineup.



AutoNation Chevrolet Cadillac Corpus Christi

AutoNation.com



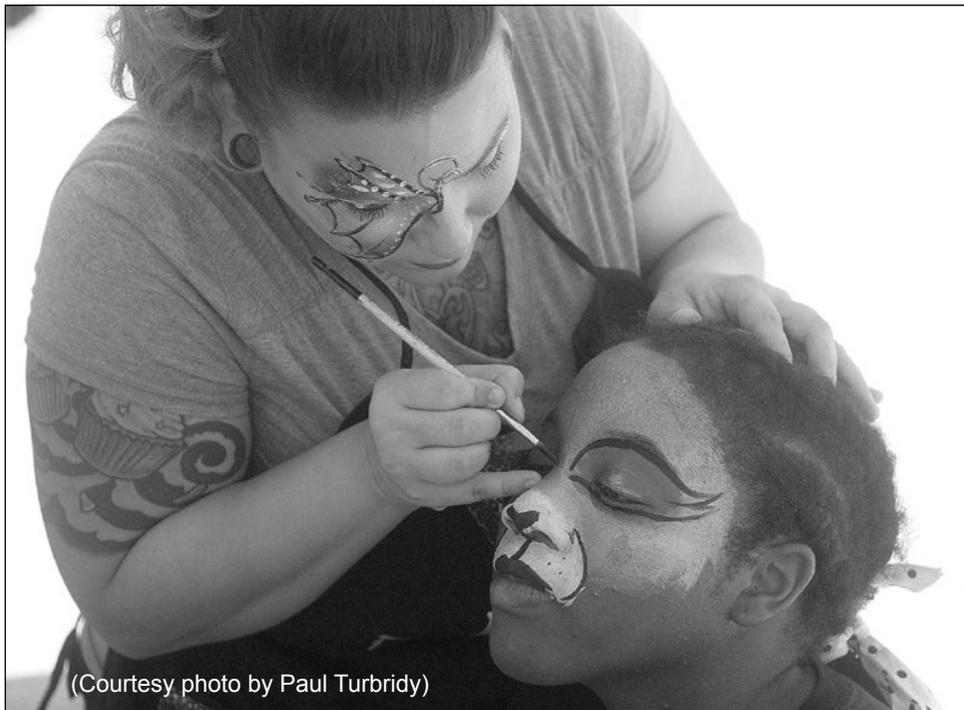
Follow us socially for special offers and discounts

6650 South Padre Island Drive

866-501-3104

STORE HOURS: MON-FRI 8:30AM-8PM, SAT 9AM-7PM,  
SUN 12PM-5PM • SERVICE HOURS: MON-FRI 7AM-6PM,  
SAT 7AM-4PM, SUN 10AM-3PM





(Courtesy photo by Paul Turbridy)



(Courtesy photo by Paul Turbridy)



## End of summer

More than 1,200 people attended Morale, Welfare and Recreation's End of Summer Bash recently. Games and activities for young and old alike were available free of charge. Some of the activities for the youngsters included face painting (top photo), a petting zoo (above), "bull riding" (left), rock climbing (top right), a photo booth (middle right photo), and water activities at Sunfish Beach (far right). (Photos by Laurie Garcia, MWR Marketing)



**We Proudly Support Our Military!**



**Humpal  
Physical  
Therapy  
& Sports  
Medicine  
Centers**

[www.HumpalPhysicalTherapy.com](http://www.HumpalPhysicalTherapy.com)

5026 Deepwood Cir. Corpus Christi, Tx 854-2278  
2150 W. Wheeler Aransas Pass, Tx 758-5199  
114 Lang Rd. Portland, Tx 643-8243  
1811 Broadway (aka Fulton Beach Rd.) Rockport, Tx 729-8777  
(also located in Calallen & Alice)

**Get your  
Upcoming Issue  
of  
Wingspan  
on  
September 10, 2015**

*Servicing South Texas Since 1997*



**TOP GUN  
Paint & Body**

5025 Columbia St  
Corpus Christi, TX 78416  
**361-814-4884 or 361-814-4885**  
[www.topgunpaintandbody.com](http://www.topgunpaintandbody.com)

*Top Gun Paint & Body...  
Where You are The Customer,  
Not the Insurance Company!*

Stop by Top Gun Paint & Body for your **FREE estimate..**

- Full Service Collisions Center
- Air Brushing
- All Insurance Work Welcome
- Auto Diminished Value Also Available
- Custom Painting or Color
- Warranty As Long As You Own The Vehicle
- Major Structure Repairs and Frame Work
- Rental Assistance



**Family Dentistry  
Dr. G.S. Fossum, D.D.S. P.C.**



**dental care in Flour Bluff for the whole family**



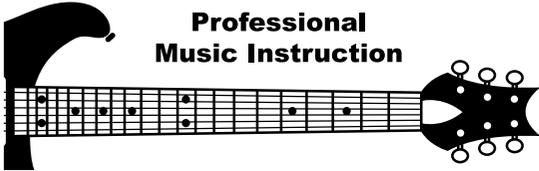
**9301 S.P.I.D.  
Hours by Appointment  
Monday thru Friday  
937-5555**

Tri-Care Provider



**Need Music Lessons?**

**Guitar • Bass • Drums • Piano • Violin • Voice • Cello**



**Professional  
Music Instruction**

- Professional Music Instruction
- Children and Adults of all ages
- University Trained Instructors
- No Contract or Registration Fee
- Gift Certificates Available

**Sunrise Mall Ste. 37C**  
Lower level SPID entrance between Planet Fitness and Sears Auto

**MUSICIAN'S ACADEMY**

**361-993-3428 • [www.MusiciansAcademy.com](http://www.MusiciansAcademy.com)**

**CSG from page 2**

**The Future of Naval Aviation**

Naval Aviation continues to evolve to out-pace threats. A truly innovative ship, the Gerald R. Ford-class CVN will be the nucleus for our future carrier strike groups and a critical enabler of U.S. naval power for the 21st century. A major redesign of the Nimitz-class, Ford incorporates visionary advances in technology resulting in significantly improved combat capability and enhanced service life. Rear Adm. Mike Manazir recently released an article describing the unmatched value of the Ford-class, explaining the carrier's often overlooked return on investment over a lifespan of 50 years, and the ability of the ship to remain survivable, sustainable and relevant while its embarked air wing continues to evolve to keep pace with technological advances and incorporate future capabilities - a characteristic of Naval Aviation that cannot be overstated.

The Ford-class design enables the Navy to operate the carrier with less manpower, saving more than \$4 billion in total ownership costs over the life of the ship when compared to today's Nimitz-class CVNs. CVN 78, the first in the Ford class, is on track to deliver next spring. Historically, the first of any class of ship or aircraft costs more than follow-on platforms, and the significant leap in combat capability, growth capacity for new technologies and life cycle cost reductions that were built into the Ford-class came with an associated initial cost. CVNs 79, 80 and the rest of the Ford-class ships will continue an acquisition strategy that will further drive down cost while delivering unmatched capability for the future. USS Enterprise (CVN 65), the most recently inactivated U.S. CVN, served the nation for 51 years, supporting generations of new aircraft while remaining at the forefront of national defense and providing decades of power projection options to our nation's leaders.

The carrier air wing, as the CVN's "weapons system," must also continue to transform to pace the future threat capabilities of potential adversaries. In order to project power we must first be able to understand the operating environment through intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) efforts and establish local air superiority for our forces to operate. Investments in platforms, payloads, sensors and communications are required to assure access, project power, and enable sea control in the future fight. Each platform assigned to the future carrier air wing will contribute to overall mission effectiveness and lethality by accomplishing a variety of missions.

UCLASS (Unmanned Carrier-Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike) will be the next step in the Navy's revolutionary integration of unmanned air systems into the CSG and will provide the strike group commander with persistent ISR plus time critical

targeting and precision strike capability. The real advantage this system brings to the fleet is its ability to operate in anti-access/area-denial (A2AD) environments and provide increased situational awareness of potential threats ahead of the CSG, essentially serving as the commander's initial "eyes and ears" in contested air and water space.

F-35C Lightning II will be an absolutely critical addition to the CSG's integrated warfighting package with stealth advantages that allow it to penetrate threat envelopes, the ability to detect and fuse information from many sources, and link that fused picture to other CSG aircraft, ships and decision-makers. F/A-18 Super Hornets, with the ability to carry large payloads of advanced weapons will continue to provide lethality and flexibility, and complement the F-35C to provide a very capable high/low mix of strike-fighters that can deliver responsiveness and firepower across the range of military operations.

EA-18G Growlers will dominate the electromagnetic spectrum, providing advanced airborne electronic attack capabilities, screening CVW and CSG assets conducting their missions, and protecting joint forces operating ashore by disrupting enemy communications.

E-2D Hawkeyes have new radars that significantly improve their ability to search for and track targets while providing critical CSG command and control, and coordination of a range of missions, including integrated air and missile defense, and long range anti-air and anti-surface warfare. MH-60R and S helicopters remain a potent combination for defense of the CSG, with MH-60Rs acting as the primary anti-submarine platform in close proximity to the carrier.

Finally, the critical, future logistical connector for the CSG, CV-22 Ospreys will provide organic re-supply and transport services, as well as the flexibility to support other mission areas as required. Although external to the CSG, the integrated capabilities of P-8A Poseidons, working with Triton MQ-4C UAVs, will be key to successful strike group operations, enabling access, providing maritime ISR and conducting critical anti-submarine operations.

Through judicious application of resources and a focused, evolutionary investment strategy, the CVN and carrier air wing of the future will continue to be the primary platform called upon to deliver assured access, power projection and sea control well into the future. Absolutely critical to national security and stability in the 21st century, future CSGs will have the right platforms and new capabilities to operate in highly contested environments when required, while continuing to provide a persistent, flexible, forward-deployed force that will remain a stabilizing presence where it matters, when it matters, in an all too uncertain world.

Join the Texas Veterans Commission Women Veterans Program for

# CONFIDENCE OUTSIDE THE UNIFORM

**AUGUST 31 // 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM // CORPUS CHRISTI**  
 Naval Air Station // Fleet & Family Support Center // 106 51 E St. // Bldg H100  
 To register, call: 361-961-2372  
 Open to women who possess a Military ID (Active, Transitioning, Retired/Veterans, Spouses)



## JOIN US TO EXPLORE:

- ★ giving your confidence a boost
- ★ translating military skills
- ★ readjusting to civilian culture
- ★ searching for a job
- ★ taking the lead in your career

CORPUS CHRISTI AQUATIC ALLIANCE



**Club Estates**  
MARLINS SWIM TEAM



**Club Estates Recreation Center**  
4902 Snowgoose Corpus Christi, Texas 78413

**Come Join Us!**  
**Summer League & USA Swim Teams**

Pool Memberships/SwimAmerica Swim Lessons  
Others teach Lessons, We teach Swimming.

USA SWIMMING  
SOUTH TEXAS SWIMMING

Birthday Parties Available



**Swim Lessons**



(361)991-0402 www.ccmarlins.org **SwimAmerica™**



Mission First... Sailors Always  
Head Air Station Corpus Christi



# Captain's Cup 7 on 7 Flag Football League

- \* Register now until September 16, 2015 at the E-Street Gym, building 102.
- \* League begins September 21, 2015 at 6 pm.
- \* Games will be played on Monday and Wednesday. Single round robin league and double elimination playoff tournament.
- \* This is a Captain's Cup event; teams will receive participation points for their Command.
- \* Retired Military, Dependents and eligible DoD employees  
Cost: \$25 per individual player or \$300 per team.
- \* A mandatory coach's meeting will be held at the E-Street Gym on September 16, 2015 at 6 pm.

For more information,  
please call the E-Street Gym at 961-2401.

## Spread your wings by advertising in the next edition of Wingspan



Wingspan is distributed at over 90 locations on and off base.

This means that your ad has high visibility and readership in the military community and beyond.

Let us help you spread your message today.



For more information,  
Contact: **Ashley Kontnier** at  
361-552-9788 or [afrench@ptwave.com](mailto:afrench@ptwave.com)

# If you care about her... encourage regular check-ups.



**Women's Clinic**  
CORPUS CHRISTI

For Appointment or Information  
**851-5000**  
[www.ccwomensclinic.com](http://www.ccwomensclinic.com)

Obstetrics • Gynecology • Infertility

# 7th ANNUAL FLIP FLOP FESTIVAL

## CODY JOHNSON

### DAMON CURTIS AND THE NOMADS

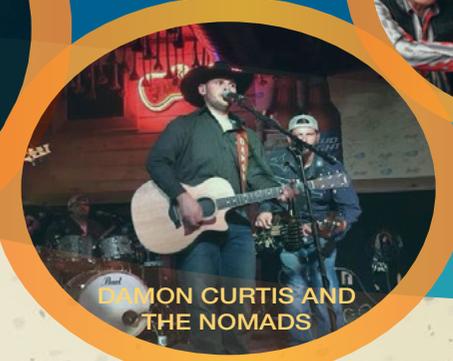
### TX TORNADOS THE SCOTT TAYLOR BAND

### POP ROCKS UGLY CARLA JONES TIPJAR ROMEO

### RIPTIDE BAND SCARECROW PEOPLE SAN TEXAS BOUND



CODY JOHNSON



DAMON CURTIS AND THE NOMADS



TEXAS TORNADOS



THE SCOTT TAYLOR BAND



## PARTY ON THE PENINSULA

Bay Front Peninsula / Port Lavaca, Texas • 501 E. Main, Port Lavaca, TX 77979

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.FLIPFLOPFEST.COM](http://WWW.FLIPFLOPFEST.COM)



Food • Drinks • IBCA Sanctioned BBQ Cook-Off • 5K Fun Run/Walk  
Kid's Sandcastle Contest • Kid Zone • Horseshoes & Washers  
Shopping Vendors • Annual Fling-Flong Contest

SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2015