



WINGSPAN



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President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mexico's President Manuel Ávila Comacho arriving at N.A.T.C., Administration Building. (File photo)

Early days of Aviation Training Department

From The Yearbook, 1940-1941

When does the shooting start?

Internationally? Nobody knows. That's the question, however, that puts the punch and purposes into the job the Navy has undertaken in building and operating one of the world's largest aviation training stations in record time right here in Corpus Christi.

The mission of this station is to train young men to defend their country in the air and thereby preserve peace as long as it is tenable and to assure victory in war. Conduct of all phases of that training plus the control of all aircraft operations from the station is the function and direct responsibility of the Aviation Training Department. It is composed essentially

of the primary, basic, instrumental and advanced training squadrons, ground school and the cadet regiment.

Selection of Present Site

There is unanimity of opinion as regards the fact that the location for this huge training station was well chosen. The glamour of Texas itself and all of its glorious traditions is a real and living thing; it cannot help but have a very marked and favorable effect upon the training given here. If one must needs learn the manly art of self-defense, where better than the land of heroes who are never beaten to the draw and where no cry in the world electrifies a soul so much as that of "Remember The Alamo!"

Geographically, too, the location has all

of the essentials required. There is suitable terrain and ample room in the back-country for landplane operations of all kinds; Corpus Christi and Aransas Bays provide protected water operating area for seaplane training; the Gulf is near for aerial navigation and gunnery; the city of Corpus Christi is conveniently close, and, lastly, access to the station for ocean-going vessels is practicable to provide.

Plans for Building

Large developments of most any kind usually grow over a period of time during which original purposes change somewhat, compromises incident to conversion from one design to another must be accepted, and addi-

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WASPs – nation's forgotten elite female aviators

Story and photo by Eric Lobsinger
NASCC Public Affairs Office

She is among an elite group of women – aviators – the first women in history to fly America's military aircraft. They are true trailblazers for those who would follow decades later ... and it was an accomplishment her own children didn't discover until more than three decades later.

Maxine Edmondson Flournoy was among a group of women who served as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, known as WASP, during World War II.

She was born in 1921 in the city Wheaton, Mo., a small, mid-western town of approximately 300 people that has barely doubled in population to fewer than 700 today. Her parents both hailed from Stella, Mo.

Her father was a dentist and her mother a homemaker. Her family remained in Stella

until her parents divorced when she was 12, when her mother moved the family to Columbus, Kan.

She said she doesn't recall anything significant about growing up during the "Roaring 1920s" or the Depression in the 1930s.

"I can't think of anything of interest," she quipped. "I just grew up. Things seemed normal. Things were just the way they were."

Although her family never seemed to have much money, she said that's just the way things were then, and it didn't seem strange to her. She remembered her mom feeding people who would come by the house and ask for something to eat, but she didn't find it unusual at the time.

After graduating from high school, she decided to continue her education and

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Maxine Flournoy then and now.

Command Master Chief's Column



CMDCM(SW)
Jeffery Tidwell

Howdy! It is good to be the leader. After all, all we have to do is give direction and let the front-line supervisors handle it. Just sit back and watch the team, you know, work.

The reality is, leaders are put in positions of responsibility because we have labored to gain a higher rank. However, with that responsibility comes greater freedoms and rewards.

We, as leaders, must direct, guide and mentor. We are expected to keep the mission moving in the right direction because, as leaders, it is what we must do.

It is easy, as a leader, to assume that teamwork is the responsibility of your juniors. The team is the group of people you direct, right?

Leadership does not exist separately from teamwork. Work will get done, but it will not be as effective if you isolate yourself from the team.

By taking part in some of your team's work, you will find a new level of empathy. You will see more accurately what is, and is not, working within the group. It will become clearer to you that adjustments may need to happen to make the team more effective.

Engaging in the day-to-day toil of your team will help you find a new motivation. The aforementioned empathy will motivate you to listen more closely to your team because, after all, you are a vested member now.

It is also possible that your cooperation in the team's work will motivate the members in your section to work a little

bit harder. The uptick in work should not be simply because of your proximity but because the service members see you are putting in an honest effort.

Finally, working alongside your team, not above it, fosters respect – not just the “I respect the rank ...” type of respect but a genuine admiration of your abilities, your leadership and you as a human being.

Hopefully, you all have had a chance to work for leaders who were not afraid to get their hands dirty and work shoulder-to-shoulder with their teams.

Teamwork is something that exists in every hard working unit, but do not allow your “leadership” to be the reason you are not an active member of the team. Contribute, get your hands dirty and earn a little respect from your juniors.

Additionally, this cannot be a one-time thing. A random visit just makes your juniors suspicious.

Be engaged; be consistent and, finally, be part of the team ... not above it.

Wingspan

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Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

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Eric Lobsinger
Editor



This paper is published for people like MA1 Tommy Dover, who serves as a watch commander with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's security department. A native of Blacksburg, S.C., he has served six years in the Navy, the past two at NASCC.

Chaplain's Message



Confidential communication to chaplains

Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Wame
Command Chaplain

(Portions taken from Confidential Communication to Navy Chaplains Fact Sheet by Navy Chaplain Corps)

“By patient, sympathetic labors with the crew, day in, day out, and through many a night, every chaplain I know contributed immeasurably to the moral courage of our fighting men; none of this appears in statistics.

“Most of it necessarily secret between pastor and confidant. It is for that toil, in the cause both of God and country, that I honor the chaplain most.” – Fleet Admiral Chester A. Nimitz, USN

For many of you reading this article, sharing sensitive information with a chaplain may never be a reality you're faced with. But for some, knowing that communication with a chaplain is absolutely confidential may make all the difference.

In fact, there are so many misconceptions about confidential communication within the military that the Navy Chaplain

Corps launched a campaign in the summer of 2013 to increase awareness across the fleet.

Two and a half years later, many are still under the opinion that there are certain things a chaplain MUST report. The reality is this: What you say to a chaplain in confidence stays between you and the chaplain – unless you decide differently. You hold the key to who hears your story.

Although confidential communication has always been standard practice, SECNAV Instruction 1730.9 made it official in 2008. Confidential communication with chaplains is a privilege of service members and their families, and chaplains are bound by this confidentiality, even to the grave.

Sound serious? I can assure you that my obligation to keep confidential communication confidential is not taken lightly. Additionally, information conveyed to a religious program specialist or a chaplain assistant for further communication to a Navy chaplain is also considered confidential.

Another very common misconception is the thought that you must be religious or of the same religious conviction as that of the chaplain. This is not true!

Although I am always ready and willing to offer faith-specific guidance, any member, regardless of religion, can enjoy confidential communication with the chaplain.

While chaplains are not bound by mandatory reporting requirements in DoD or DoN, chaplains will always assist in guiding an individual to the appropriate resources. I expect conversations to be open and honest. I understand that sensitive subjects are often extremely difficult to talk about; you are not alone.

Masking an issue or manufacturing a different reality will only complicate matters. For this reason, chaplains stand ready to receive all communication with open hearts, open minds and the highest standard in confidentiality.

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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.



Wingspan



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WASP from page 1

attended Joplin Junior College, where she earned her pilot's license in 1941 through the civil pilot training program.

While attending the college, she met a friend who was doing something interesting.

"I listened to a girlfriend who was in the program, and she told me she did stalls and spins and cross-country," recalled Flournoy. "And, I decided 'I want to do that too,' so I applied and was accepted into the WASP program."

The training, she said, "was very good ... very thorough." And, it afforded her an opportunity to fly different types of aircraft.

In 1943, as a member of class 43-W-8, she headed to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, where she underwent her primary, basic and advanced flight training. While there, she trained on, and flew, the Fairchild PT-19, the BT-15 Valiant and the T-6 Texan.

"We trained in the same ones the male cadets were training in," said Maxine, of the grueling six-month training program. "It was exciting. I was flying ... and that's what I wanted to do. I liked everything about it."

Although the program provided women pilots an opportunity to serve their nation, she said that there were challenges in that not everyone supported it.

"I think some liked us – and some thought we should be home in the kitchen," she recalled, with a grimace."

After completing the program, she moved



Maxine Flournoy in 1943. (Courtesy photo)

on to Hondo Army Air Field, Texas, where she worked at a navigation school.

"It was a demanding course," she said. "They (male students) had to be accurate when they were flying across the Atlantic."

She served at Hondo for the remainder of her time in the program. Among the highlights while there, she said, was co-piloting the long-distance graduations flights

to Los Angeles. The flights afforded her an opportunity to visit with her mother, who had relocated to California.

One of the benefits of having female pilots flying military aircraft, she said, is that witnessing female pilots in action was a strong motivator for their male counterparts.

"They used us for psychological purposes," she said. "The B-26 was an airplane

that pilots were afraid of – they called it the 'flying coffin.' So, they would check some WASPs out on the B-26 and send them to the B-26 transition school.

"They would then line up all of the male cadets on the flight line to await the arrival of some VIPs. So, in comes the B-26 – and the only people who would get out were WASPs. The men were so shocked, they would say: 'Well, if a woman can fly it, then we can too,'" she said, with a chuckle.

As much as she enjoyed flying and serving her country, she was very disappointed when the WASP program was discontinued in December 1944.

"They did away with our program; it didn't pass the Senate," she said. "They disbanded us after that – before the war was over. It was really a bad deal for us."

She said she heard various reasons as to why the program was discontinued.

Regardless of the reason, she said she was very disappointed because once she returned home; she didn't really have anything to do there.

Unlike their male counterparts, the women of the WASP program did not receive the benefits their male counterparts received, such as the G.I. Bill. The WASPs who were killed in the line of duty were not even authorized to be buried with the U.S.

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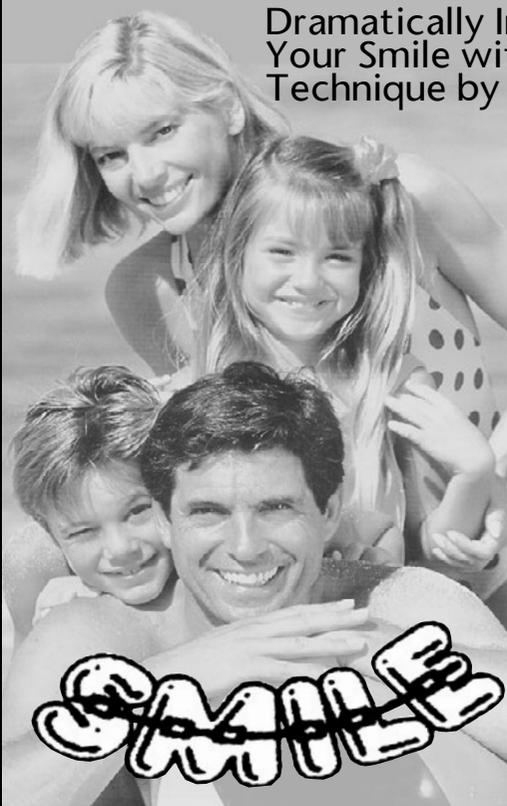
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We will sit down with you or talk on the phone and chat about your tastes, your price range and what neighborhoods appeal to you most. Using that information our agents search through our database of properties and find the three to four apartments that most closely meet your criteria. After that our agent will drive you around your ideal neighborhood and guide you through the selected apartments.



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Health clinic to host town hall

NHCCC Public Affairs Office

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi will host a Town Hall meeting Wednesday, March 9, 6 p.m., at the Catalina Club.

This forum is open to all TRICARE Prime active duty, retirees and family members enrolled to the clinic as well as beneficiaries authorized to use the clinic's pharmacy.

The meeting will offer beneficiaries an opportunity to meet face-to-face and speak with the commanding officer and his subject matter experts from Medical Home Port, the pharmacy and ancillary services.

Everyone who attends will get the opportunity to have their voices heard about their concerns as well as to ask questions about access and services.

Healthcare specialists will also elaborate on some of the superb services offered by NHCCC and features that have already proven useful as well as convenient for patients and their family members, such as:

- RelayHealth – Secure messaging with health care team
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Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi

our pharmacy helping reduce the number of doctor's visits as well as making medication pick up easier.

- Customer Kiosks – Providing an array of interactive services and assistance for you and your family.

The value of Navy Medicine is measured through the great work of our staff in delivering safe and effective care for you and your family, and we appreciate your confidence in our patient-centered health care. Let us

know about your experience by sharing your comments here: https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=1122&dep=DoD.

Also, sign up for RelayHealth – convenient secure messaging to your healthcare providers. Register for your account now! <https://app.relayhealth.com/Patients/Registration.aspx?bid>.

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Training from page 1

tions sort of grow “like Topsy.” Here the time factor has been very short and the objectives definite. Plans were carefully drawn in the Navy Department for a modern plant and equipment for the purpose at hand, and then it was built. With due regard to the price that must always be paid for speed, such planning and construction is economical and, most important of all, efficiency in operation of the completed plant is best served thereby.

Organization of Training Personnel

Now, the building of the station is one thing, and the operation of it for training purposes is another. The plan for the organization of the Aviation Training Department was to train a small nucleus of key personnel for each division of the Department at Pensacola, move this group to Corpus Christi a month or two before actual operations were to begin and then build this force up as rapidly as possible with officer, enlisted and civil personnel drawn from all available sources. Supplies, equipment, and aircraft were scheduled to arrive shortly before the students – and then training was to begin.

It all worked out according to schedule, but it would be somewhat in error to say there were no difficulties – there was mud, sweat and tears, and a lot of it! But the department grew, and on July 31st there were in it a closely knit total of 357 officers, 978 cadets, 1,407 men and 14 civil service employees.



The eighth plane merges into the center of the formation. (File photo)

We still have a long way to go to get fully “grown” as regards eventual numbers.

Significant timeline events

Jan. 30, 1941: was moving day for the three airplanes (GB, NN and JFR) from Cliff Maus Airport to their permanent home on the air station.

Feb. 5, 1941: The aviation training department moved from the temporary administration building at Landplane Hangar 5-6.

March 1, 1941: First personnel inspection of the station was held by Capt. A.D. Bernhard, USN.

March 10, 1941: The training school office moved to its permanent quarters in the present administration building.

March 12, 1941: The station was commissioned.

March 20, 1941: First class of aviation cadets were sworn in – 52 all told.

April 7, 1941: First ground school classes started.

May 5, 1941: First student flight instruction. Ens. W.C. Seago was pilot of first regular instruction flight with Aviation Cadet R. B. Bernard as student passenger.

June 5, 1941: The chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics inspected the station.

June 7, 1941: Rodd Field was dedicated and Lt. Comdr. T.T. Tucker placed in command.

July 9, 1941: Cabaniss Field was dedicated and Lt. Comdr. G.L. Richard placed in command.

July 10, 1941: The first fatal airplane accident on the station occurred when Ens. L.J. Shudde A-V(N) USNR was killed and Aviation Cadet Donald Leshner USNR seriously injured in a crash of a primary landplane.

July 10, 1941: Entry rate of aviation cadets reached the full load schedule of 150 every two weeks.

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Upcoming events

Whooping Crane Festival 2016.

Feb. 24-28, 6 a.m., daily. The Coastal Bend is the only spot in the United States where the endangered Whooping Crane can be viewed at close range, and the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce celebrates this astonishing natural wonder with an annual festival honoring these grand birds.

Corpus Christi Junior Idol Finals.

Feb. 26, 7 p.m., and Feb. 27, 7 p.m., TAMU-CC Performing Arts Center, 6300 Ocean Drive. Each night, the top 10 males and top 10 females compete. Winners of both contests are selected by audience vote. Cost is \$10 general admission for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12. All proceeds fund scholarships and student programming needs for the TAMU-CC Department of Theater and Dance.

Kids Stuff: The Amazing Butterfly.

March 21, 2 & 3:30 p.m., 8545 S. Staples St., Corpus Christi. Kids will learn about the fascinating world of butterflies and their unique anatomy in an interactive skit performed by The Butterfly Lady, Brenda Dziedzic, author of *Learn about Butterflies in the Garden*. FREE for members! Non-members free with General Admission. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (361) 852-2100.

Corpus Christi Festival of the Arts.

March 27-29, 1521 North Chaparral Street, Corpus Christi. The Festival of the Arts, hosted annually during the last weekend in March. For more information, call (361) 883-2787

South Texas Botanical Garden & Nature Center 'Big Bloom' mega plant sale.

April 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Butterflies, bromeliads, orchids and plumeria will delight guests as they shop for a bountiful array of plant varieties and unique vendor items and explore eco-activities at the annual BIG BLOOM Plant Sale on South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center grounds. BIG BLOOM means DOLLAR DAY, when visitors may shop and enjoy the Botanical Gardens and Nature Center for just \$1 each.

For additional community event information, visit sites such as the following: www.events.caller.com, www.visitcorpuschristitx.org/events, www.business.corpuschristichamber.org/events/calendar, www.lonestarcalendar.com/localevents/corpuschristieventcalendar.



More than two dozen volunteers came together Feb. 20 in support of Eagle Scout Jack Hodges' project to beautify the Catholic Chapel grounds. (Photos by Fifi Kieschnick, NASCC PAO)

Eagle Scout helps spruce up chapel area



Eagle Scout Jack Hodges (left) provides direction to a volunteer during a beautification project at the Catholic Chapel.

One Eagle Scout who wanted to give back to the community led a community service project at the Catholic Chapel this weekend.

Jack Hodges, who has been attending the Catholic Chapel aboard the installation since he was eight days old, said he wanted to give back to this church which has done so much for him.

The Flour Bluff High School student led 25 to 30 volunteers in beautifying the grounds around the Chapel as his project.

Volunteers ranged from members of his Boy Scout Troop 16, Flour Bluff High School classmates, military volunteers and family members.

The 17 year-old collected 39,000 pounds of stone, 1,900 sq. ft. of weed-block, 30 cubic feet of edging stone, much, 10 concrete benches and mulch.

The volunteers cleaned-out the bedding surrounding the chapel, put down weed-block, laid edging stone, arranged stone and mulch in various gardens and positioned stoned benches.

Hodges is the son of retired RP1 John Hodges.



Volunteers labor on a rock garden during a beautification project at the Catholic Chapel.



Marcus Perez, 6, who hails from Freer, Texas, visited Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and enjoyed a day touring the base as the Pilot of the Day. Marcus was joined by his parents, Marcus and Cynthia Perez. Marcus is a patient at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, where he is undergoing treatment for acute Leukemia. His mom said he is in remission for now but is still undergoing numerous medical procedures. Everywhere Marcus went, his smile was infectious. As each person would finish talking to him and describing what he was seeing, he provided a "Thank You Sir or Ma'am" to each person along with a hand shake. Lt. Cmdr. Caleb Booher, VT-35, served as his escort for the day and AC2 Candice Flesner provided a tour of the tower and the radar section. "I am having a lot of fun," said Marcus. "I really liked the guns and the planes." His father also showed everyone a photo of the 41-point buck young Marcus recently hunted. Marcus (above) has a cat-bird seat as he peers out the tower at the flight line. Later in the day, he enjoys a treat (center) as he meets the firemen at the NASCC fire station. Richard Puentes III (below) shows Marcus where to push to sound-off the fire truck's siren.



Pilot for the Day



Lt. Cmdr. Caleb Booher and Marcus (top right) check out the flight line from the tower. Earlier, the two enjoyed a more close-up view along with Marcus parents, Marcus and Cynthia Perez. Prior to the tower, AC2 Candice Flesner (below) shows Marcus how the air crew tracks planes in the radar section. The day concluded as Marcus had the opportunity to play with a hose of truly epic proportions as fire fighter Richard Puentes III shows him how much water the firehose can spray.



WASP from page 3

flag draped over their coffins. In fact, the government did not even cover their funeral expenses.

In all, 38 of the 1,102 female pilots in the program lost their lives: 11 in training accidents and 27 in the line of duty.

Eventually, she was hired as a pilot in Alice, Texas, working for a commercial company that bought and sold oil field equipment. While with the company, she flew throughout Texas and portions of Oklahoma.

"I was able to get some good use out of my training," she said with a chuckle, having obtained a commercial rating and a multiple-engine rating during her time with the WASPs.

It was there that she met her husband of 57 years, Lucien Flournoy, a petroleum engineer. The couple joined in matrimony on June 29, 1947, and remained together until his passing.

After giving birth to her first child, Mary Anne (Guthrie), she gave up piloting for the next two decades. She and her husband had two more daughters: Betty (Fields) and Helen (Pope). She also has 11 grandchildren ... with the 12th on the way.

Her children didn't know of her flying exploits until later in their lives. Once the program was disbanded, all records pertaining to the WASP program were classified and sealed for 35 years.

Thus, even her own children did not realize their mother's pioneering contributions

until the records were unsealed in 1977.

"The people in World War II never talked about it with their children," said Mary. "They (the children) never heard anything about it, really, until the grandchildren started hearing about it in school. We never heard of WASPs."

Mary it was somewhat surreal when she heard about their exploits and her mother's accomplishments.

"Nobody talked about it ... because nobody knew about it," she exclaimed. "It wasn't in text books. So, here we are, in our retirement years, and all of a sudden – they (women pilots) are 'famous.' But when we were growing up, they weren't."

In the 1960s, after watching her children grow beyond adolescence, Maxine revived her passion for flying – this time aboard a Cessna 337 that she and her husband purchased.

"She started flying a lot when I was in high school," said Betty. "One she started flying again, my dad always had her in airplanes – and they were always twin engines."

Betty and Mary both took flying lessons



Maxine Edmondson Flournoy, along with daughters Mary Anne (Guthrie), Betty (Fields) and Helen (Pope). (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

as they enjoyed their mother's renewed flying enthusiasm. Although neither ended up with a license, both said it was a wonderful opportunity to gain insight on the mother's passion.

More than three decades after her service, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation granting full military status for the WASPs, and he appointed Maxine to the World USO board that same year.

In 1984, the members of the WASP program were awarded the World War II Victory Medal, and those who served more than one year were also awarded the American Theater Ribbon/American Campaign Medal.

Maxine would go on to serve as the president of the WASP Association, the Order of the Fifinella, from 2000 through 2002.

Later, in July 2009, President Barack Obama signed legislation awarding the WASP members the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award. Maxine was among those who traveled to Washington in March 2010 to receive the award.

At the time, Flournoy said she did not realize she was a trailblazer for women's rights. But, as she looks back now, she realizes what she did was very important.

"We paved the way for all of them (female pilots)," she said. "We have reunions with them (today's female military pilots), and they come up and thank us for paving the way for them. I guess we did."

For future female pilots, she said her message is a simple one:

"I encourage them to continue," she said. "Even if it is really hard ... just go ahead and do it."

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Upcoming Community Events

NAMI Family to Family Course

The National Alliance on Mental Illness has formed an affiliate chapter in Corpus Christi and is offering its first education and coping skills program beginning March 5. A NAMI National signature program, the Family to Family course is taught by trained family members and is free to families of a loved one challenged with mental illness. The course is scheduled for 12 weeks on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Bayview Behavioral HealthCare, Wooldridge Rd. Register quickly at namigreatercorpuschristi@gmail.com, with name, email, and phone number or call Jim and Diane Hall at 361-867-1245. Class size is limited to 20. For more information on NAMI Greater Corpus Christi, visit

www.namitexas.org/nami-greater-corpus-christi/.

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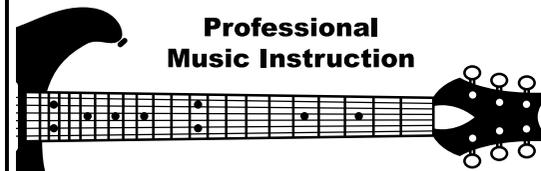
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Bravo Zulu



Olga Pemberton, CNATRA's N4 General Business ACQ specialist, was awarded a certificate in recognition of her 25 years of civil service during an awards ceremony at CNATRA Headquarters Feb. 9.



Therrell Garner, CNATRA's N6 IT specialist, was awarded a certificate in recognition of his 15 years of civil service during an awards ceremony at CNATRA Headquarters Feb. 9.



Deborah Felgenhauer, CNATRA's N7 Curriculum Integration, was awarded a certificate for being selected Civilian of the Year during an awards ceremony at CNATRA Headquarters Feb. 9.



MACS Phillip Croshaw recites the Oath of Reenlistment as he signs up for four more years of service with the Navy Feb. 17 at the Catalina Club. The 18-year veteran will soon be moving to Coastal Riverine Squadron at Little Creek-Fort Story, Va. (Photo by Eric Lobsinger, NASCC Public Affairs Office)

News Briefs

Youth Activities Center hosts Spring Eggstravaganza

Join MWR for the Spring Eggstravaganza on March 26, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the park across the street from the Youth Activities Center. The free event includes inflatables, balloon sculptures, face painting, egg coloring, caricature artist, egg hunt, golden egg and prizes, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Free food and drinks will be served. Don't forget your basket or bag for the egg hunt. For more information, call the Youth Activities Center at 961-2355.

Join the Sexual Assault Awareness Run

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi Army Depot and Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22 will host a unit run at the Naval Health Clinic in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month on Friday, April 1. The schedule of events include: Formation at 6:45 a.m.; proclamation signing and chaplain addresses joint formation at 7 a.m.; start time of 7:15 a.m.; event completed by 8 a.m.. The order of the unit formation is: Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard. Each individual unit will carry its unit guidon at the front of their individual formation. Family members and civilians are invited to participate in the 2.4 mile run. An alternate 1-mile run/walk course will be available. For more information on the Sexual Assault Awareness Run, call Ruben Ramirez at 961-5464 or email at ruben.g.ramirez.civ@mail.mil.

Teen employment training available

Base teen employment training opportunities are available through "Helping Teens with Career Development" with the Youth Activities Center, Bldg. 1756.

The schedule includes: Resume Building Workshop, Feb. 17, 6-7 p.m., free, at the Youth Activities Center; Interview Skills Workshop, March 2, 6-7 p.m., free, at the Youth Activities Center; MWR Job Fair, March 15, 3-7 p.m., free, at the Catalina Club; American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Certification, March 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$35, at the Youth Activities Center; Working with School Age Children, March 25, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., free, at the Youth Activities Center; Money mailers, May 11, 6-7 p.m., free, at the Youth Activities Center. Pre-Registration is required and space is limited. For more information, contact the Youth Activities Center at 961-2355.

Grab your hat and read with the cat

The Library and Resource Center will celebrate Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday with a special Dr. Seuss story time, March 2, 3:30-5 p.m. at the library, located in Bldg. 1872, Midway Street. For more information, call the Library and Resource Center at 961-35742376.

More coffee choices available at library coffee shop

Need your cup of coffee to get your day started or to get you through the day? The Coffee Shop, located inside the Library & Resource Center, Bldg. 1872 (on the corner of Midway Street and Ocean Drive), is open to serve a full line of "We Proudly Brew" Starbucks: Espresso, Latte, and/or Cappuccino. The shop also offers tea, including Tazo and Chai. For those who are hungry, breakfast sandwiches, muffins, healthy wraps and salads are available. The Library Coffee Shop is open Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call the Library Coffee Shop at 961-0368.

NEX automotive service centers offer special on tires

NEX Car Care Centers are featuring a special on tires. From Feb. 24-March 1, NEX customers will receive no interest and no payments on any tires priced \$299 or more when using a MILITARY STAR® Card. The MILITARY STAR® Card offers many benefits, including 10 percent off the first day's purchases (up to the customer's credit limit), no annual fee, low interest rate and 24-hour customer service, including online access. MILITARY STAR® Card applications are available at any NEX. The application can be processed the same day at the NEX customer service desk.

CREDO marriage enrichment retreat open for April 15-17

Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Outreach Southeast will host a marriage enrichment retreat April 15-17 at Camp Zephyr alongside Lake Corpus Christi. All expenses are paid. Participants must provide their own transportation to and from retreat site. Registration closes April 1. To register, or for more information, contact Steven Arndt at steven.k.arndt.ctr@navy.mil or call 961-3786 or 961-5011.

Vehicle registration required on base

Base employees and residents are required to register all vehicles operated on the installation at the Pass and Tag Office. Although vehicle decals are no longer required, base registration is still required. For more information, contact Pass and Tag at 961-2376.

Register for upcoming elections

Register now and request your absentee ballots at FVAP.gov. For those more infor-

mation on registering to vote, visit FVAP.gov now to complete a registration application and request an absentee ballot for the presidential preference primaries and State primaries. February: New Hampshire, South Carolina and South Carolina; March: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia. To register and request ballots, applicants must complete the Federal Post Card Application using the FPCA online assistant at fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots, or fill out the PDF at fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca2013.pdf or pick up a hardcopy version from the unit voting assistance officer. For more information, visit FVAP.gov or call FVAP at (703) 588-1584, or (800) 438-VOTE or email vote@fvap.gov. On NASCC, contact the unit voting assistance officer or visit the NASCC voting assistance office, located near the chaplain's department on the 5th deck of NHCCC.

Registration open for Miracle Mile

Registration is open for the Miracle Mile, April 9, 9 a.m., at the Texas State Aquarium. The Miracle Mile is a new aspect to Tour de Cure in the fight against diabetes. More than 29 million Americans are living with diabetes today, and 86 million more are estimated to have pre-diabetes. Children are encouraged to bring their bikes and helmets to Tour de Cure (child must be accompanied by an adult at all times). There, they will enjoy a day of physical fitness and celebrations of health and hope for a cure. They will be gifted with goodies for their participation. For more information, visit diabetes.org/coastalbentour.

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And the winner is ... Corpus Christi Army Depot earned bragging rights as the Intramural Sports Program Champions 2015 for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer, NASCC, and Command Master Chief Jeffery Tidwell, joined Army Col. Billingsley Pogue III, commander, CCAD, along with Kresten Cook, CCAD deputy to the commander, and Sgt. Maj. Steven Odom, as CCAD presented the Captain's Cup recently for the unit's demonstrated athletic prowess. On hand for the award presentation were (listed alphabetically): Ken Ausdemore, Joseph Belt, Marcos Betancourt, Dara Dalton, Mike Gutierrez, Zack Hoffmaster, Robert Janosek, Leo Rodriguez, Mykkie Scott, Dave Sullivan, David Sullivan, John Torres, Kass Varner, Erin Zimmer. (Photo by Kiana Allen, CCAD)

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CASA of the Coastal Bend is making an urgent plea for the community to step up and speak up for Children who are victims of abuse and neglect. In 2015 741 children which equates to about 30 classrooms - right here in our local community found themselves in foster care. Why should I step up and speak up? Simple these children are the future of the Coastal Bend and each child deserves a dedicated CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate who will commit to finding them a safe, permanent and forever home. CASA volunteers get to know the children and speak to everyone involved in the children's life, including their family members, teachers, doctors, lawyers, social workers, and others. The information the CASA volunteer gathers and their recommendations help the court make informed decisions.

Voices For Children



CASA holds 6 trainings a year
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www.casaofthecoastalbend.com
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Next Training Dates:

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May 17th, 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th, 26th - 5:30P to 9:30P (T,W,TH)
July 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 22nd - 9:00P to 1:00P (W,TH,F)



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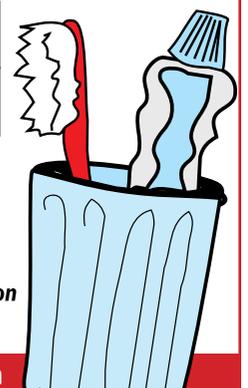
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