

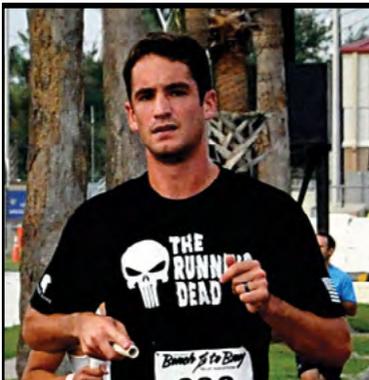
# WINGSPAN



Vol. 19, No. 11

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

May 30, 2013



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## Cmdr. Dave Dargan retires

by Rod Hafemeister

After 26 years in uniform, it was all over in less than an hour on the hanger deck of the USS Lexington Museum.

Cmdr. Dave Dargan was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal, his family was recognized – and then, with a final piping ashore, it was time to greet friends, shipmates and co-workers time.

And by his own admission, the best part: eating cake.

“I like cake!” Dargan said, adding that one of the benefits of being NASCC executive officer was that he attended a lot of functions where there was cake.

The Lex served as an appropriate venue for Dargan’s retirement; both he and the presiding officer, Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt, Chief of Naval Air Training, had early in their careers.

Dargan says now he will be spending time with the family who sacrificed often for his career.



Cmdr. Dave Dargan, former executive officer of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, is ‘piped aboard’ for his retirement ceremony May 23. *More photos page 9.* Photo by Bob Torres

## Don’t let Hurricane Season catch you unprepared.

by Rod Hafemeister

The Atlantic Hurricane Season starts June 1, and it appears we should be ready for anything.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, climate factors that strongly control Atlantic hurricane activity are expected to come together to produce an active or extremely active 2013 hurricane season.

These are:

A continuation of the atmospheric climate pattern, which includes a strong west African monsoon, that is responsible for the ongoing era of high activity for Atlantic hurricanes that began in 1995;

Warmer-than-average water temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea; and

El Niño is not expected to develop and suppress hurricane formation.

For the six-month hurricane season, NOAA’s Atlantic Hurricane

*Hurricane continued on page 7*



Hurricane Katrina filled much of the Gulf of Mexico as it approached landfall in 2005. Forecasters are predicting seven to 11 Atlantic hurricanes this year, with three to six possibly becoming major hurricanes with winds of 111 mph or higher.

NOAA photo

# Skipper's Column

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

Hurricane season starts June 1 – are you ready?

I'm not asking is your department or organization ready; that's a command responsibility for me and tenant commanders, and I know we are all taking those preparations

seriously.

I'm talking about you and your family; do you know what you would do if we had a moderate storm and told people to shelter in place? If a major storm approached, and we ordered people to evacuate?

The time to think about that is now, while you have the time to think, discuss and prepare.

As a command, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi recently did just that.

As a tabletop exercise, we simulated a direct hit on the Air Station by a Category 5 hurricane, the strongest category.

While we cannot predict exactly what such a strike would do, we have a pretty good idea: between the winds and the storm surge, anything left standing would be severely damaged and likely unusable for an extended period of time.

The most useful part of the exercise was at the end, a morning spent discussing everything from how many people could we support immediately to how do we account for people, reimburse for expenses, and find useful jobs for those who may have to remain away from the Air Station for months.

What I'm suggesting is that you go

through a similar process for yourself and your family.

What would you need to do before a storm hit? What would you need if you sheltered in place and found yourself without power or other utilities for several days?

What would you need to do, need to take, if ordered to evacuate? Where would you go? What about pets?

When and where would you send your family? You do not have to wait for an evacuation order, but you will not be reimbursed for expenses unless and until that order is given.

There are a lot of places to help you brainstorm, including our own website, the Ready Navy site and FEMA.

Use them – it's a lot easier to consider difficult decisions calmly when they are "what if?" than it is under the pressure of "what now?"

For links, see page 7.

# Plan Now, Before It's Too Late

# Wingspan

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**Commanding Officer**

Capt. D.M. Edgecomb

**Public Affairs Officer**

Robert D. Torres  
Robert.Torres1@navy.mil

**Editor**

Rod Hafemeister  
rodney.hafemeister@navy.mil

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# Chaplain's Message

Guest Editor, Rod Hafemeister

No, I haven't joined the Chaplains' Corps – but Ye Olde Editor is making a special guest appearance to introduce the new priest for NAS Corpus Christi.

As you know, Chaplain Mensah left earlier this month, and a shortage of Catholic chaplains means the Navy doesn't have one to assign here right now.

So for the interim, we have a contract priest, Father Gerard Sheehan.

Who has an interesting background: Originally from New Jersey, he was the oldest of eight children and a star athlete.

Then, at the age of 21, he became involved in the charismatic movement.

"God just put it in my heart – who is going to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves?" he said.

So he joined a missionary community, the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.

That led to a couple years in a seminary then six more years in one in the Philippines, where he was ordained a priest in 1985.

He remained in the Philippines another 13 years as a priest, ministering to people in the remote islands of the north, travelling by outrigger canoe.

"They were very primitive islands, no running water," he said. "There were four islands, with about 20,000 Catholics on each; about 30 villages."

In 1998, he was elected to a leadership position in the Society and joined its community in Robstown.

Among his duties, he served as pastor of St. John's and then pastor of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Robstown.

When the Air Station Religious Program's Office asked the local bishop if there might be a priest available, Sheehan volunteered.

# Meet the New Priest

"I figured I could handle a part-time job," he said.

From now until at least until the end of September, he'll be holding services and be on the Air Station Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. (Details for the new fiscal year are still pending.)

Sunday's will be Confessions and Rosary at 8 a.m., with Mass at 9 and Fellowship after. Wednesday – Friday, Mass will be at 11:30 a.m.

Stop and see him sometime.



Sheehan

# Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

Well, as I predicted, there have been a few glitches with the new website.

It went live, quietly and without fanfare, the evening of May 20. And a fair amount of it was broken.

We (and every other CNIC

base) spent much of the last week figuring out the things we didn't understand about it before it actually went live, then working to fix those things that were out of date or simply missing.

Among other things, it has a different URL (that http:// address thingie) than the old one, but they seem to now have the redirect working properly.

Still, if you use the website at all, you might want to update your bookmark.

I managed to get the previous issue of the *Wingspan* online; link is low on the homepage. I'm working to improve that this week, and to start loading the archives of the last five years.

We also are updating the emergency management section, especially the hurricane prep stuff.

I think the new site will be an improvement, but there's definitely going to be a learning process. Please bear with us.

In other news, the All Hands Club has

# Updates and Stuff

expanded its service hours.

The bar now is open 2:30 – 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Other special events and changes will be announced when finalized.

And as you probably know, the Base Pool has not opened, and will not for at least awhile.

Leak problems that have plagued the pool in recent years have reached the "must be repaired" stage – and repairs must be done by divers while the pool is full of water. We'll keep you posted as more information is available.

Finally, the entrance to Pass & Tag has changed, which should be obvious to anyone looking. Follow the guard instructions and you'll be fine.

# Worship Services

## CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel  
Daily Mass Wed-Fri: 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.  
Religious Education: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

## PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

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

## JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

Temple Beth El (4402 Saratoga Blvd.)  
Friday at 7:30 p.m.  
(with dinner to follow)  
For further information call  
Temple Beth El at 857-8181

## ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Islamic Society of South Texas  
(7341 McArdle Rd.)  
Jumah Service – 1:30 p.m.  
For other worship service times, call 992-8550

## Navy Lodge Corpus Christi receives 2012 Hospitality Award

Mary Meccics, General Manager, Navy Lodge Corpus Christi, holds the 2012 Hospitality award flanked by Command Master Chief Rick Mathis (left) and NASCC CO Capt. Dave Edgecomb during a May 20 awards ceremony for Navy Lodge personnel. The Hospitality Award is presented to the Navy Lodges that are rated the highest by guests in a variety of areas of guest service. Other 2012 Hospitality Award winners were Navy Lodge Fort Worth for the medium category and Navy Lodge Bethesda, Md., for the large category. Meccics received the award from Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi (Ret), Chief Executive Officer, Navy Exchange Service Command, in April.

Photo by Bob Torres



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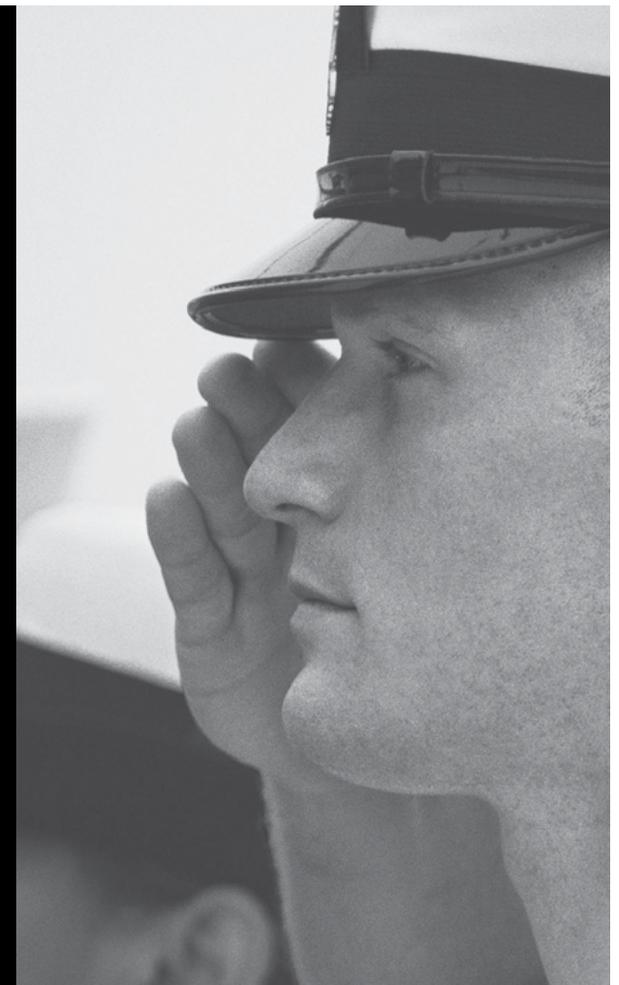


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# CNATRA Staffers run Beach to Bay for son of a fallen comrade

by Lt. John Supple, CNATRA PAO

Like many runners, six officers from the Chief of Naval Air Training Wardroom ran in the May 18 Beach to Bay Relay Marathon for an important cause.

The team wore shirts with "We've got Zach's Back" on the back and raised more than \$500 for Zachary Koontz.

The Team consisted of the Chief of Staff, Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Training, Capt. Michael Tatsch; Aeromedical Safety Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Tom Jones; Staff Judge Advocate Lt. Cmdr. Mary Murphy; and Public Affairs Officer, Lt. John Supple.

Koontz survived a car crash last month in the San Antonio area that killed his parents and two siblings.

Zach's father, Kenneth Koontz, was a flight instructor in South Texas before the family moved to Brackettville, Texas.

Also killed in the April 13 crash were Zach's mother, Melissa, and sisters Madison and Marley.

According to the San Antonio Express-News, the family was returning home from San Antonio, where they had been to take part in a UIL competition, where Madison was singled out for her performance in a one-act play.

Police charged a Carrollton truck driver with four counts of intoxication manslaughter after he allegedly barreled down the wrong

way on U.S. 90 West around midnight, slamming head-on into the SUV carrying the Koontz family.

The truck driver, Ruben Galindo, 60, was uninjured.

He was jailed on the four counts of intoxication manslaughter. Bail was set at \$1 million, according to arrest records.

How long Galindo had been traveling the wrong way wasn't known, but police had received several calls about the semi traveling the wrong way, according to the paper.

Whether the family even saw Galindo's semi in the dark stretch of U.S. 90 near the Loop 1604 exit wasn't known.

But just before midnight, the two vehicles slammed head-on into each other; the impact crushed the Koontzes' Ford and sent the tractor-trailer onto its side and sliding into a fence.

**CNATRA's 'We've got Zach's Back' team in the annual Beach to bay Relay Marathon: Left to right, standing: Cmdr. Michael Tatsch, Lt. Cmdr. Mary Murphy, Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth, Lt. John Supple; Kneeling: Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Jones and Lt. Cmdr. Pete Walker**

Photo from CNATRA PA



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## 'Grass is Greener' on the Gulf Winds Golf Course

Story and photo by Bob Torres

As the sun rises in the East, mowers, saws, edgers and shovels are already being used on the now-green grass of the Gulf Winds Golf Course on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

"Since we began using effluent water (in May 2012), and hired a new Golf Course Superintendent (Shane Zucher), the golf course has taken on amazing results," said MWR Golf Course Director Jim Day.

"We've replaced new grass on the greens, tee boxes and on some of the fairways. Shane initiated new landscaping ideas and, with the effluent water making our grass greener, we're in a lot better shape than we were a year ago. "We're averaging 80 rounds a day. And the MWR Guest Card program has increased 12 percent since last year."

Day says that he thinks the golf course has become one of the premiere courses in the area, surpassing local municipal courses.

"The difference really, is in our pricing," Day said. "We price on a tiered rate; E-5 servicemembers and below are charged \$10 for weekday greens fees. On weekends, the fee jumps to \$11 per round."

There are also more economical rates on the Air Station course for E-6s and above, DoD civilians and Navy League members, guests and MWR card holders. There are also rates for Juniors (18 and under after 1 p.m., weekends and holidays).

By comparison, the rates at Oso Golf

Course and Gabe Lozano courses are now close to \$40 on weekends.

Other programs include Punch Cards with special pricing, Senior Monthly Cards and Monthly Unlimited Play Cards, and Twilight Fees, where golfers can play from 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at discounted rates. For instance, DoD Civilians/MWR guests and Navy League members can play for \$8.50

"We are seeing more rounds of golf being played," Day said. "The course is improving so we're getting more people playing. The overall condition of the course has improved and it shows."

Not having to pay a "burdened" rate for water, which was very cost-prohibitive, to water the course has been a huge difference.

The Air Station has a year-by-year agreement with the City of Corpus Christi on the cost for effluent water; the current agreement goes through May 2014.

A benefit in using effluent water is that there are "cleansing" chemicals used that actually are an improvement over potable water in nutrients for the grass.

In this case, "the grass IS greener" on the golf course.

"We are open from 7 a. m. to 7 p.m. every day except Christmas Day," Day said.

"We've got programs that we work with to let more people enjoy coming here. On Tuesday afternoons, we have a 'Par-3' course where driving tees are set up at around 170 yards, and there are nine holes set up to

play.

"We have a Wednesday afternoon Public Works League, where anyone from Public Works can come and play, we have a Gulf Winds Golf Association (GWGA) tournament on the third Saturday of the month, and we have an MWR tourney twice a month, the first Friday and last Saturday of the month. And we welcome other entities to host their own tournaments."

There is a Certified Golf Instructor available for lessons; he can make arrangements throughout the week for private or group instruction.

There will be a three-day Youth Clinic in June, for kids 8 to 11-years-old, with instruction provided through the Gulf Winds Pro Shop.

Other improvements are coming.

"We'll be getting more golf accessories, new carpets, an overall refurbishment in the dressing room areas and new lockers," Day said. "We'll be getting a bigger selection of golf shoes and if you need new golf clubs, they can be ordered and you get them tax-free."

The Gulf Winds Snack Bar has also been revamped and the daily standards have been joined by other items on the menu for a better selection of breakfast and lunch favorites. Eating in or ordering food "to-go" is easier and faster for snack bar shoppers

Whether you're a "scratch" golfer, or just like to get out and hit, the Gulf Winds golf course can cater to your needs.



MWR Golf Instructor Tim Hofstetler shows Edward Garza a better way to putt at the golf course. Sometimes it's the little things that help make golf a pleasure to play. A saying is, 'You drive for show but putt for dough.'

# ChampionCorpusChristi.com



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## COR: What does it mean and what should you do at each level?

from NASCC Emergency Management

Once again, it's hurricane season in South Texas – and time to start thinking about what you would do in the event of an approaching storm.

One of the tools you have is the COR, a method of rating the relative probability of a severe storm within a certain time period.

On Monday, May 28, NASCC went to COR V, the first level of preparation for hurricanes.

COR stands for Condition of Readiness. The levels start at V (5), the normal “know what you’re going to do if a storm comes” state that starts with the beginning of the Atlantic Hurricane Season on June 1. It remains the minimum COR throughout hurricane season, which officially ends Nov. 30.

Lower numbers indicate a condition of increased readiness and are based on the likelihood that “destructive force winds” – defined as sustained winds greater than 50 mph – will arrive within so many hours.

These are the COR levels, with general guidance on what to do; officials may give additional instructions as warranted:

Before an impending emergency (**Condition V**), Command expects all personnel to have completed the following:

- Plan several escape routes that lead well inland.
- Get the proper insurance for your residence. The government will not reimburse you for hurricane damage to your household goods in military quarters.
- Gather all important insurance and identification papers and put them in a waterproof container/bag.
- Choose someone well outside the affected zone (preferably out of the state) that everyone in your family can contact should you get separated.
- Ensure your vehicles are in good working order.
- Update your evacuation information with your chain of Command. Login to NFAAS to update your Personal / Recall information.
- If you live near a river, beach, inter-coastal waterway, in a mobile home, or in a flood plain, you should plan to leave.
- If you live away from any large bodies of water, on high ground and in a very sturdy house, you might consider staying depending on the category of the storm.

*What to do if you are staying:*

**Condition IV – Hurricane forecasted to strike within 72 hrs.**

- Clear debris around house
- Secure loose equipment/boats
- Stock up on non-perishables
- Prepare the items on your Disaster Supplies checklist



- Review shelter locations/evac routes
- Ensure you have propane and fuel for vehicles
- Move valuables upstairs or store inside closets
- Have adequate CASH on hand
- Follow instructions from official sources only
- Notify family of your emergency plans
- Backup your hard drive.

**Condition III - Hurricane forecasted to strike within 48 hrs.**

- Check with your chain of command for specific orders
- Board up your house, if necessary
- Check medical supplies
- Expectant mothers (37+ wks) consult with doc
- Gather water containers, clean bathtubs (to collect water)
- Tune in to radio/TV

**Condition II - Hurricane forecasted to strike within 24 hrs.**

- Board windows, close shutters, blinds, and drapes
- Containerize water, fill bathtub
- Set refrigerator to coldest setting and pack with extra water containers
- Set brakes, put antenna down, close windows and doors in car, park away from trees and poles
- Stay off roads
- Evacuate to shelter, if needed
- Tune in to radio/TV

**Condition I - Hurricane forecasted to strike within 12 hrs.**

- Stuff towels around doors and windows
- Conserve water
- Stay indoors, avoid windows
- Bring in pets and put in a room with no windows if possible
- If you lose power, disconnect or turn off all appliances
- If you smell gas, find where the gas line enters the house and turn the small valve clockwise
- Tune in to radio/TV

The current Condition of Readiness status is posted on various displays around the base and on the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi public website: [www.cnic.navy.mil/CorpusChristi/index.htm](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/CorpusChristi/index.htm).

**Hurricane continued from page 1**

Season Outlook says there is a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 7 to 11 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher).

These ranges are well above the seasonal average of 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

"This year, oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the Atlantic basin are expected to produce more and stronger hurricanes," said Gerry Bell, Ph.D., lead seasonal hurricane forecaster with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

"These conditions include weaker wind shear, warmer Atlantic waters and conducive winds patterns coming from Africa."

NOAA cannot predict how many of those will make landfall.

But Navy Region Southeast recently pointed out that eight of the 10 costliest hurricanes in U.S. history occurred between 2004 and 2012 – and all 10 impacted bases in the Navy Region Southeast area of responsibility.

Although it's been years since a major hurricane hit the Corpus Christi area, most observers says it's not a matter of "if" but simply of "when?"

So it's a good idea to get ready now – and we've included some resources to get you started.

## Hurricane Preparedness Resources

- **Command Info Line:**  
1-877-378-8373
- **American Red Cross:**  
1-877-272-7337
- **Navy Marine Corps Relief:**  
361-961-3482.
- **NASCC Emergency Management:**  
[www.cnmc.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas\\_corpus\\_christi/om/emergency\\_management.html](http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_corpus_christi/om/emergency_management.html)
- **FEMA Website:**  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- **NFAAS Website:**  
<https://navyfamily.navy.mil>
- **Disaster Assistance:**  
[www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)
- **City Of Corpus Christi:**  
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- **CNIC Preparedness:**  
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# Beach to Bay 2013



The 2013 Beach to Bay Relay Marathon, an annual Armed Forces Day event, began May 18 with NASCC CO Capt. Dave Edgecomb giving the start signal. Not long after, the first runners came through the Air Station Main Gate for the longest single leg of the race - handing off to a teammate at the Ocean Drive Gate. Photos by Bob Torres



# Cmdr. Dave Dargan Retires



Cmdr. Dave Dargan was presented a Meritorious Service Medal by Rear Adm. Leavitt and a gift from the wardroom by new Air Station XO Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, who later relieved Dargan of the 'Watch.' Then it was time for final farewells – and of course, cake.

Photos by Bob Torres and Rod Hafemeister





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## What's Happening

You are invited to attend "An Awesome Gift" dinner, Tuesday, June 4th, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Miller's Bar-B-Q, 6601 Weber Rd. Special guest Marsha Inman will demonstrate a creative approach to "Gift Wrapping For Less". Talented vocalist Susan Popelka will do some "waping" of her own. After dinner, Marsha Inman returns as inspirational speaker and shares "The Perfect Gift". Please don't miss this one! Dinner price \$13.50 per person, inclusive. Door prizes awarded! Reservations appreciated by May 31st, but walk-ins are always welcomed! Come early at 6:30, to chat and get acquainted with new friends! For information and reservations, call Linda at 779-5038 or Dr. Yvonne at 854-2440. Sponsored by Christian Business and Professional Women's Club of Corpus Christi.

**Saturday, June 8th Portland Animal Care Team (PACT) Garage Sale - ONE DAY ONLY - 7:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.** at 1603 Cheyenne Street, Portland, TX. 100% of the proceeds go to benefit the Animals at Portland Animal Control. Too many terrific money saving items to list. No clothing. HELP the Animals. FMI [PACT78374@gmail.com](mailto:PACT78374@gmail.com) Please LIKE us on face book: [www.facebook.com/pact78374](http://www.facebook.com/pact78374)

Starting June 11, two new classes will be offered free to the public. "Your Health Your Life" is a 7 week long series of classes.

**"Healthy Food, Healthy Families" Classes**, with AgriLIFE Extension

Tuesdays, June 11 - July 25, 1:00 - 2:00pm  
Classes will focus on budgeting healthy, tasty foods into a grocery list; How to improve your family diet; and Healthy food substitutions. Demonstrations on easy to prepare, inexpensive and healthy foods will be offered.

### Diabetes Awareness Classes

Thursdays, June 11-July 5th, with the Corpus Christi Health Department  
Thursdays, July 11- July 25, with the Healthy Living & Advocacy Center  
1:00 - 2:00 pm

During the first 4 weeks, classes will teach participants the differences between Type 1 & Type 2 Diabetes; The basics of high blood pressure and cholesterol and how they affect diabetes and each other; and What the levels/numbers of cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugars mean.

During the last 3 weeks, self-management classes through the "Journey For Control" program will be taught by community healthcare workers from the Healthy Living & Advocacy Center.

**Location:** Palacio Residencial, 1757 Gollihar Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78416 To register for classes or for more information, please call (361) 442-2224, Ext. 21

**BENEFIT FOR USO ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12** - The 2012 Taste of the Coastal Bend is Wednesday, June 12 at 6pm at the Solomon P. Ortiz Center and will benefit the local USO and the military personnel and families it serves. The event features food and drink sampling from over 30 area restaurants, live music, door prizes and a silent auction. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale at Clear Channel Radio, 501 Tupper Lane or at the USO Center at NAS Corpus Christi. Call 361-289-0111 ext 125 for more information

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by Tina Konwerski

host a Vacation Bible School on **Monday, June 17 through Thursday, June 20 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM.** For kids entering Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade (Fall 2013). Registration forms available from the church (361-749-0884 or islandintheson@yahoo.com or www.islandintheson.org). Island in the Son UMC is located at 10650 Highway 361 on Mustang Island, between Newport Pass Road and Beach Access Road #3.

"Lunch's On Us!" **FREE SUMMER 2013 FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM -June 17-August 9, 2013** The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department will sponsor the "Lunch's On Us!" **Summer 2013 Food Service Program.** Lunch and afternoon snacks will be provided at over 25 sites from June 17-August 9, 2013. This program is **FREE** of charge for all youth ages 1 to 18.

No pre-qualifications or proof of income are needed. Registration in the Summer Youth Recreation Programs is not a requirement to participate in the Summer Food Program. Lunch will be served from 11am-12pm and an afternoon snack from 3-4pm, Monday-Friday. **All sites will be closed July 4, 2013.**

For more information, call the **Summer Food Hotline at 826-3467** or visit [www.ccparkandrec.com](http://www.ccparkandrec.com).

Below is the list of participating sites:

Ben Garza Gym 1815 Howard St.  
Casa De Mañana 4702 Old Brownsville Rd.  
Collier Pool (Tuesday-Friday) 3801 Harris Dr.  
Del Mar College 101 Baldwin Blvd.  
Garcia Arts Center 2021 Agnes St.  
Joe Garza Recreation Center 3204 Highland Ave.  
John Paul High School 3036 Saratoga Blvd.  
La Armada Family Resource Center 1455 Southgate Dr.  
Lantana Square Apartments 5802 Academy Dr.  
Lexington Manor Community Center 3102 Ray Ellison Dr.  
Lindale Recreation Center 3133 Swantner Dr.  
LULAC Village Apartments 1417 Horne Rd.  
LULAC West Park Apartments 10702 IH-37  
McKinzie Family Resource Center 2842 McKinzie Rd.  
Molina Neighborhood Center 614 Horne Rd.  
Navarro Family Resource Center 160 N. 19<sup>th</sup> St.  
North Side Manor Apartments 1401 N. Alameda St.  
Oak Park Recreation Center 842 Erwin Dr.  
Oso Recreation Center 1111 Bernice Dr.  
Samuel Place Apartments 4315 Carroll Ln.  
Solomon Coles Recreation Center & Gym 924 Winnebago St.  
South Pointe Apartments 5725 Curtis Clark Dr.  
Treyway Apartments 2022 Treyway Ln.  
Wiggins Family Resource Center 2320 Buford St.  
YMCA 417 S. Upper Broadway St.  
YWCA 4601 Corona St.

This program is grant funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture. For information about the wide-variety of programs and services offered by the **Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department**, please visit [www.ccparkandrec.com](http://www.ccparkandrec.com). We invite you to **Live. Learn. Play!**

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## Gutierrez honored

Capt. William R. "Bill" Davidson, acting commanding officer, presents the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2nd award) to Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Adrian Gutierrez for meritorious service as preventive medicine technician, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi from November 2009 to June 2013.

photo by HM2 Jacob L. Welch



## Leveraging credit cards to strengthen your credit score

by Raleigh Miller, NFCU

A strong credit score can be an integral part of staying financially secure, whatever the economic climate.

But for many U.S. servicemembers, determining exactly what has an impact on their score can be a daunting task.

One thing is for sure: credit cards can and do impact your credit score – positively or negatively – depending upon how you use them.

In fact, credit cards can be one of your best friends or your worst enemies when it comes to your score.

So, how can you make your plastic work for you in the quest for strong credit?

Below are some tips on how to use your cards to strengthen or maintain your credit and avoid some pitfalls that may lower your score in a hurry.

**Manage your debt to credit ratio:** Closely watch your credit card balance relative to your credit limit, called your "debt to credit ratio." Experts differ about the ideal ratio, but all agree that keeping your debt below 30 percent of your available credit line is key to ensuring your credit score isn't negatively impacted. Check your statement regularly to make sure that your credit line hasn't been reduced by your card company, thus raising your debt to credit ratio.

**Consider a balance transfer:** If you're trying to pay down your balance, explore the option of a balance transfer. A balance transfer at a low rate makes it easier to pay down your balance, improving your debt to credit ratio as your balance decreases. Keep an eye out for balance transfers with no fees, zero percent interest during the introductory period and a low rate after the intro period expires. Know that the APR on these offers can jump to above 20 percent after the introductory window.

**Make all your payments on time:** Timely payments establish a track record of reliability and boost credit. If possible, set up automatic monthly payments along with text and email alerts to remind you of your due date.

For controlled spending and easy

qualification, go with a secured card: If you're wary that a new credit card may make it more difficult to control spending, secured cards may be a great solution for you. They're also a good option if you have little to no credit or your credit standing is below average. Secured cards require that you provide an up-front deposit, which then equals your credit line. Because secured card limits cannot exceed what you have deposited and tend to be lower than other cards, they help you control your spending. Secured cards also aid you in establishing a track record of on-time payments.

**Be smart about opening and closing accounts:** As a general rule, avoid closing any card accounts. Having a higher average age on your credit accounts positively impacts your credit score. Beware not to open a large number of credit cards in a short span of time – doing so can indicate to lenders that you are overly eager for credit.

**Pay down your balance as much as possible each month:** Fully paying your balance helps you maintain a healthy debt to credit ratio. If it's not possible to pay down your entire balance, try to at least pay down some portion to manage your debt and minimize interest payments.

**Maintain some level of activity:** Make regular purchases with each of your cards, even if minimal. Complete inactivity can lead to the account being closed. Your credit can even be adversely impacted by inactive cards before the account is shut down.

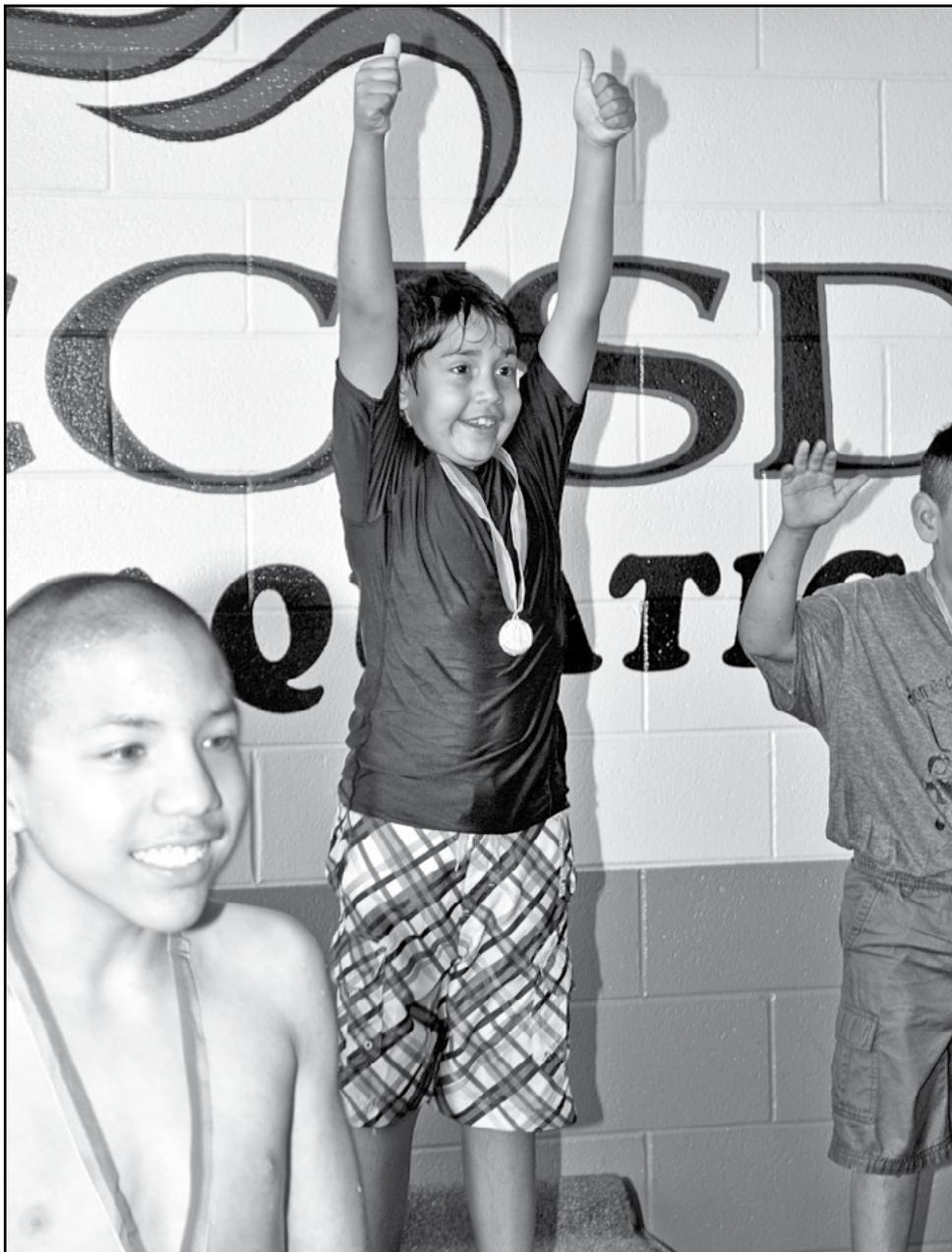
**Don't rely on debit or prepaid cards to build credit:** Debit and prepaid cards are great additions to your wallet for convenience. However, these cards draw on available funds from an account instead of a line of credit. So using them will not boost your credit.

Keeping these tips in mind, you can move forward with a sense of confidence about how to put your cards to work for you. Just remember that credit cards are one of several tools in your toolbelt when it comes to building that solid credit score.

# VT-31 Wise Owls help Special Olympics Swim Meet - May 3



Cmdr. Todd Copeland (left), commanding officer of VT-31, XO Cmdr. Matthew Foster and Lisa Foster help present awards at a May 3 Special Olympics swim meet. The 'Wise Owls' turned out in force to assist with the meet - and give the kids a sense of accomplishment. Photos courtesy VT-31



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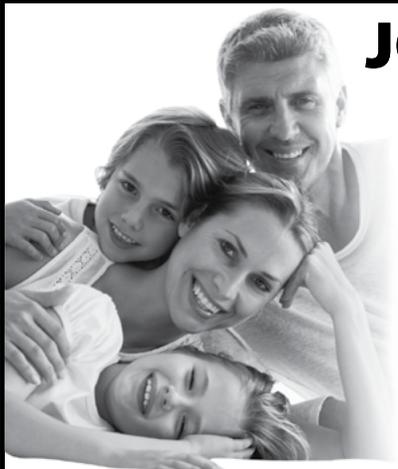


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## Coast Guard promotes Lt. j.g. Whyte



Newly promoted Coast Guard Lt. Mark A. Whyte (left) with Capt. Samuel Creech, USCG Sector Corpus Christi/Air Station Commander. Whyte was promoted in a May 9 ceremony.

US Coast Guard photo

## Recently at the Courthouse

Courts-martial in Navy Region Southeast recently heard the following cases:

At a general court-martial convened on board NAS Pensacola, a Hospitalman was found guilty of assault and driving under the influence and was sentenced to 446 days confinement, reduction in rate to E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

At a special court-martial convened on board NS Mayport, a Fireman was found guilty of larceny and sentenced to five months confinement, reduction in rate to E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

At a special court-martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, an Airman was found guilty of unauthorized absence and wrongfully using oxycodone, a Scheduled II controlled substance and sentenced to 94 days confinement, reduction in rate to E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

At a special court-martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a First Class Petty Officer was found guilty of fraternization and living with a married woman who was not his wife and was sentenced to 45 days hard labor without confinement, 45 days restriction, reduction in rate to E-4, forfeiture of \$1,000 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.

*Courts-martial in Navy Region Southeast are tried with few exceptions at NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport, and NAS Pensacola. Therefore, the location of where a court-martial described above was convened does not necessarily correlate to the command that convened the court-martial. Adjudged sentences may be modified by pre-trial agreement or clemency.*

At a general court-martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a Corporal was found not guilty of committing indecent conduct.

At a special court-martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a First Class Petty Officer was found guilty of committing indecent conduct and sentenced to 110 days confinement, reduction in rate to E-3, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

At a special court-martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a First Class Petty Officer was found guilty of false official statement, larceny, and knowingly executing a scheme to obtain monies owned by or under the custody or control of a financial institution and sentenced to 60 days confinement and reduction in rate to E-5.

At a special court-martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a Third Class Petty Officer was found guilty of false official statement, wrongfully using amphetamines, wrongfully possessing amphetamines and methadone, a Schedule II controlled substance, and larceny and was sentenced to one year confinement, forfeiture of \$1,010.00 pay per month for 10 months, reduction in rate to E-1, and a Bad Conduct Discharge.

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**BENEFIT FOR USO ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12** - The 2012 Taste of the Coastal Bend is Wednesday, June 12 at 6pm at the Solomon P. Ortiz Center and will benefit the local USO and the military personnel and families it serves. The event features food and drink sampling from over 30 area restaurants, live music, door prizes and a silent auction. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale at Clear Channel Radio, 501 Tupper Lane or at the USO Center at NAS Corpus Christi. Call 361-289-0111 ext 125 for more information

**Are you or someone you know legally blind and looking for a job?** Call South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind at 883.6553 or visit us at www.stlb.net.

**Donate Plasma. Earn up to \$100 this week. Donate today!** Talecris Plasma Resources, 4244 Ayers Street, Corpus Christi (361)855-0310 grifolsplasma.com

**REAL ESTATE For Sale, For Lease or For Rent is a PAID Classified ad for everyone.** Go to www.DJYoungPublishing.com. Select PAID AD ... you will be able to enter your debit/credit card info and then type in your AD EXACTLY as you would like to see it in print.

**Need Music Lessons? Guitar – Bass – Drums – Piano – Violin – Voice – Cello** Professional Music Instruction for Children and Adults of all ages. University trained instructors. O contract or registration fee. Musician's Academy, Sunrise Mall, Suite 37C 361-993-3428 www.MusiciansAcademy.com

**PERMANENT MAKE UP - Wake Up Beautiful:** Lip Liner, Full Lips, Eyeliner, Eyebrows, Eyelash Enhancements, Beauty Marks, Corrective Color. FREE Consultation. Helen White Electrologists. Laser & Permanent Make up. 361-991-6152, Gulfway Center, 6040 SPID, #5, Corpus Christi.

**Social Security Disability Applications & Denials:** Depression, Anxiety, Back/Neck, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Heart. Mark A. DiCarlo, Attorney at Law. NO fees unless you win. NO Charge for initial conference. 361-888-6968 mark@markdicarlo.com 722 Elizabeth Street, Corpus Christi.

**To ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS in the Classified Section of this newspaper:** go to www.DJYoungPublishing.com SELECT PAID Classified. You will be asked for your credit/debit card information. Enter the ad exactly as you would like to see it in print. Classified ads are ALL words, no photos or pictures.

## CLASSIFIED

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Starting June 11, two new classes will be offered free to the public. "Your Health Your Life" is a 7 week long series of classes.

**"Healthy Food, Healthy Families"** Classes, with AgriLIFE Extension Tuesdays, June 11 - July 25, 1:00 - 2:00pm

Classes will focus on budgeting healthy, tasty foods into a grocery list; How to improve your family diet; and Healthy food substitutions. Demonstrations on easy to prepare, inexpensive and healthy foods will be offered.

### Diabetes Awareness Classes

Thursdays, June 11—July 5th, with the Corpus Christi Health Department

Thursdays, July 11– July 25, with the Healthy Living & Advocacy Center  
1:00 - 2:00 pm

During the first 4 weeks, classes will teach participants the differences between Type 1 & Type 2 Diabetes; The basics of high blood pressure and cholesterol and how they affect diabetes and each other; and What the levels/numbers of cholesterol, blood pressure and blood sugars mean.

During the last 3 weeks, self-management classes through the "Journey For Control" program will be taught by community healthcare workers from the Healthy Living & Advocacy Center.

**Location:** Palacio Residencial, 1757 Gollihar Street, Corpus Christi, Texas 78416

**To register for classes or for more information, please call (361) 442-2224, Ext. 21**

**Every Friday and Saturday night...** Majic 104.9 DJ Tony Mendoza at the Tequila Rose Night Club! Playing the BEST in Tejano, C&W, Top 40 and Oldies. 5931 Weber Road in Weber Square Shopping Center, Corpus Christi.

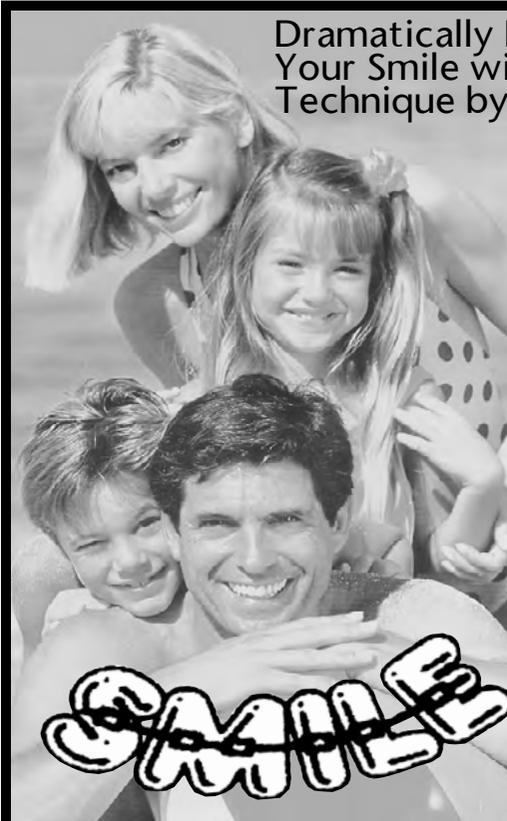
**NURSES ON WHEELS,** providing Home Health Care Services – please contact our office for more information 361-814-1669.

**Every Wednesday: Citizenship Classes** from 4:00 PM - 05:30 PM at Janet F. Harte Public Library, 2629 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi, TX. 78418 Former teacher helps students study for Citizenship Exam. Just bring a note pad and pen/pencil to take notes. FMI (361) 937-6569

**Do you need to learn English?** You can learn in a variety of ways with the help of the CCLC. We have classes for beginners and classes that are more advanced. We have some volunteers who can help you individually. You can also come to our classroom to use our computers and to practice at your own level. Call (361) 826-7086 to begin. We will make an appointment for you to register and to evaluate your level. Based on your level, your academic needs, and your schedule, we will recommend an individual tutor or a class. The study times will vary depending on the situation. We are a non-profit organization, and get no money from any government. So, we request a \$20 registration donation per semester. There are scholarships available. No one is turned away for lack of resources

**PLACE YOUR Classified ad to run in BOTH Wingspan** the NAS CC newspaper and **FLYING K** the NAS Kingsville newspaper by going to www.DJYoungPublishing.com Non Business Ads are FREE to Active Duty, Retired Military, and DoD Personnel associated with either base. Real Estate for RENT, for LEASE or for SALE is a PAID ad for everyone. Business Ads are PAID ads for everyone one... PLACE YOUR PAID ad at www.DJYoungPublishing.com Ads run for two issues (a total of four weeks). No refunds issued on classified ads.

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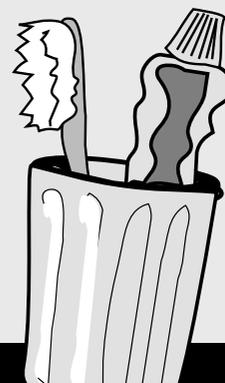
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