

WINGSPAN



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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

November 28, 2013



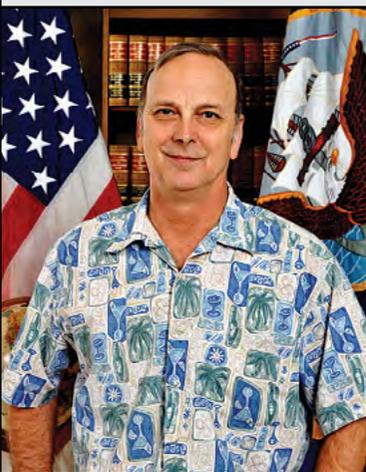
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In Memoriam Doug Lange

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Pilot for a Day brings special joy to young patients

by Bob Torres

She stood tall in her uniform, enjoying the title “Pilot for a Day.” Mattison Dee Mitchell, 10, proudly showed her younger brother, 5-year-old Mason, some of the things being shown to her on her special day.

Mattison, an Oncology patient at Driscoll Children’s Hospital, was selected by the hospital as the November Pilot for a Day candidate at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

The “Pilot-for-a-Day” (PFAD) program is a continuing community relations project between NAS Corpus Christi and the South Texas region through an outreach program with Driscoll Children’s Hospital. The program is managed and sponsored by the “Stingrays” of Training Squadron 35 (VT-35).

Arriving to a sign welcoming her to the Air Station, Mattison was transported to VT-35 for her uniform issue.

She returned with a huge smile, wearing a Navy flight uniform that

had been cut down to fit her. Little brother Mason looked on, initially envious – he didn’t get one too.

The family and escorts proceeded to Hangar 35, where “Mattie” signed for the aircraft that she was assigned.

She read the document carefully, having one of the instructors go over some of the characteristics of the aircraft, ensuring that she knew about some of its special functions.

After looking over the document and making sure the aircraft was flyable, she carefully signed her name.

Moments later she and Mason were sitting in the cockpit of “her” TC-12, looking over the many features of the aircraft’s functions.

Sitting in the left-side seat, Mattie listened as a flight instructor explained the controls and instruments.

She grinned as she manipulated some of the controls.

PFAD continued on page 6



Pilot for a Day Mattison Dee Mitchell ‘flies’ the T-6 Texan II simulator with the help of an instructor. Photo by Richard Stewart

NHCCC honors Veterans Day with school children



Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Color Guard, (left to right) HM3 Demetreus Cooley, HM3 Gilbert Almeida, HN Edward Bell, and HM3 Israel Clark, parades the colors during the Weldon Gibson Elementary School annual Veterans

Day celebration Nov. 8. Staff at NHCCC create and sustain partnerships with various civilian groups through regular participation in community relations programs.

Photo by HM2 (FMF/SCW) Jacob L. Welch

Skipper's Column Happy Thanksgiving

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

Small Business Saturday, it's easy to be distracted.

I know more than a few people who

would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

I imagine many of us will be tempted to get caught up in the holiday buying frenzy.

With Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and

would consider lining up at 1 a.m., Friday morning, outside their favorite department store, in anticipation of the best deals of the year – more fun than flying a T-6 upside down or doing 180 degree autos in a Seahawk helicopter.

And it seems more and more stores are jumping the gun, with sales starting on Thanksgiving day or evening.

Certainly, the economic impact of all those shoppers cannot be underestimated.

But we all know there is more to the holidays than shopping.

So even if shopping is part of your holiday fun, I hope you all have time to sit down with family and friends and take some time to just enjoy their company.

This year has held challenges for many of us.

It's a good time to reflect on the value of friendship and family and enjoy what we have.

For those of you traveling to see friends and family, I wish you safe travels. Please be smart about how you get there.

If you're driving, don't push fatigue. The first time your head nods, pull over and get a cup of coffee.

The second time, pull over and get some sleep.

I think we all have learned how important it is not to drink and drive. So please don't let down your guard. It's not worth ruining the holidays with a tragic accident.

No matter how you chose to enjoy Thanksgiving and the rest of the holiday season, I wish you all the best.

New Years is just around the corner.

Chaplain's Message Holiday Food Baskets

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

With the Holidays come many family traditions.

One such tradition onboard NAS Corpus Christi is the Chaplain Department's Annual Holiday Food Basket program.

Each year, canned goods are collected and baskets are assembled, primarily benefitting junior enlisted families.

These baskets are composed of an aluminum turkey roasting pan filled with various holiday meal items.

There's also a voucher to the Commissary to cover the cost of a turkey or other meat choice, and any perishables.

The baskets are then wrapped and delivered by leadership within the various

requesting departments and tenant Commands onboard NAS Corpus Christi.

Although food donations originated from work centers all over the base, primary funding of the gift cards came from the generosity of loving individuals from both Catholic and Protestant Chapel communities.

Additionally, the commissary served as a major collection point for donated goods and provided gift cards as well.

On basket assembly day, members from the Officer's Spouse Club, Junior Enlisted Association, Chapel worship communities, Ombudsman, and many others gathered in the Protestant Chapel Fellowship Hall to assemble the baskets.

This year, 80 baskets were assembled and distributed, valued at \$3,200.

That's up from the 65 baskets assembled last year.

This is a testament to the generosity and giving that is particularly experienced during this most special time of the year.



Warne

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

ease some of the economic sanctions on Iran in return for Iran halting enrichment of uranium and other nuclear work (again, temporarily) and allowing international inspectors in to inspect.

Essentially, the deal appears to freeze Iran's nuclear program for six months while the international community tries to work out a long-term agreement.

In return, some of the heaviest economic sanctions will eased – but put on standby, ready to impose again if Iran reneges on the

deal. So, we may have a deal to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Maybe. Depends on who is talking about it.

As I write this, the details are still rather sketchy, but it seems the deal is to temporarily ease some of the economic sanctions on Iran in return for Iran halting enrichment of uranium and other nuclear work (again, temporarily) and allowing international inspectors in to inspect.

As someone who has followed Iran and our relations with it since the fall of the Shah, I'll admit I was surprised – and somewhat skeptical.

It's not like the U.S. has great reasons to trust Iran's mullahs – from the embassy hostages to the Beirut bombing to the current conflict in Syria, Iran has often been at odds with U.S. policies and goals.

And it's not like the Iranians have a lot of reasons to trust the United States, either.

You may recall that in September I wrote about the declassified CIA documents detailing the CIA's role in the Aug. 19, 1953 coup in Iran that overthrew a democratically elected government – that was nationalizing the oil industry – removing Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh and installing the Shah as absolute monarch.

And while I'll admit that economic sanctions have occasionally led to good results, I find more historical examples where sanctions failed to accomplish anything.

So I was somewhat surprised to hear that the sanctions on Iran, which to varying

A break through on Iran?

degrees have been in place for years, finally accomplished ... something.

What, exactly, remains to be seen.

But I did catch an interesting report on NPR coming to work Monday, talking about how much the sanctions have hurt the Iranian economy and middle class in the last year or so – and helped get the current less extreme president elected in Iran.

It seems two things happened:

First, the increase in U.S. oil and gas production has both driven down prices and made the rest of the world less dependent on getting oil from Iran.

Second (and possibly related to the first), about a year ago, the European Union signed on to the economic sanctions, cutting off a major market for Iranian oil.

The EU also signed on to sanctions in the global financial markets that basically made it almost impossible for Iran to move money internationally.

Essentially, the international community took away Iran's credit cards and refused to take its checks.

Should be an interesting six months.

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

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Jumah Service – 1:30 p.m.
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Holiday Baskets for Junior Enlisted

Volunteers from the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Officer's Spouse Club, Junior Enlisted Association and Chapel worship communities pack holiday food baskets for junior enlisted families identified by their chain of command. Each basket contains all the makings for a holiday feast including a voucher to purchase a turkey or ham.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



Mine was earned in Okinawa. By my parents.

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NASCC remembers Doug Lange



Friends and co-workers gathered Nov. 20 for a Celebration of Life for Douglas J. Lange, who died Nov. 12. Lange, a retired Master Chief Petty Officer, was the Assistant Ground Electronics Maintenance Officer and Acting Community Plans and Liaison Officer for NAS Corpus Christi. Above left, Lt. Kellen Brumley choked back tears as he spoke of Lange. Center, Eric Lange talks about the joy and positive attitude his father always had and instilled in him. Right, After the service, people gathered for a potluck luncheon to continue remembering Lange.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister

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National American Indian Heritage Month

Members of the NAS Corpus Christi Multicultural Diversity Committee installed a display at the Air Station Commissary honoring National American Indian Heritage Month. From left: Mary Meccics, CS2 Pierre Bowden and BM2 Mike Pickle.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



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PFAD continued from page 1



Pilot for a Day Mattison Dee Mitchell signs for 'her' TC-12 aircraft as she begins her training.

Photo by Bob Torres

Too soon, she left the pilot's seat and was taken to another aircraft.

She took time to take photos with some of the pilots and personnel who had made this trip available, smiling through these few minutes.

It was evident that she was anxious to get to another aircraft.

The group first went to the Air Traffic Control tower where they were shown other aircraft in the air, and Sailors performing their missions as controllers.

"From here, you can see lots of area," Mattie said.

"And the planes that are flying. It's absolutely amazing."

After a short drive, the assembled group went to another site and aircraft.

As a special treat to the assembly, a T-45 Goshawk training jet from NAS Kingsville was parked near her next aircraft, with the jet pilots standing by.

Mattie was wide-eyed as the pilots explained some of the unique characteristics of the jet.

Mattie next got to climb in the cockpit of one of the single-engine trainers used for initial pilot training.

Younger brother Mason was never too far from his older sister as he, too, enjoyed finding out what this aircraft could do.

As Mattie moved to another part of the aircraft, her mother continued.

"Her father had been an aircraft mechanic in the Air Force," she said.

"He got out before Mattie was born, so she never got to see any of this."

Mattie showed no sign of tiring as the group prepared for another part of the visit, a military lunch. Both Mattie and Mason were ready to taste the "military food."

After lunch, Mattie actually got to fly – in a T-6B Texan II flight simulator.

"We've had a full ride," said her mother. "We're very grateful and I know we've been Blessed."

"She can't believe this has all been done for her. She's told me that she feels really special. She feels like a real pilot. She really feels like a part of this."

Twelve Years of Pilot for a Day

The Pilot for a Day program was introduced in August 2001 by George Ruiz, a Calallen Independent School District bus driver and military enthusiast, and became a reality in September 2001.

Since then, more than 120 children have become a "Pilot for a Day."

This remarkable program would not be successful without the overwhelming support VT-35 receives from fellow activities both on and off NAS Corpus Christi.

These include the L3 Paraloft, L3 Vertex, VT-27, NAS Air Traffic Control,

VT-22/CTW-2, U.S. Customs, U.S. Coast Guard, NAS Corpus Christi Flight Deck, L3 C-12 Simulators, T-6 Simulators, NAS Corpus Christi Fire Station, the 86th FTS of Laughlin AFB, and the 2BW of Barksdale AFB Louisiana.

The program has proved so successful that other PFAD programs have expanded outside of NAS Corpus Christi to other Navy bases. These bases (NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, NAS Meridian, and NAS Kingsville) have used VT-35's proven framework to build successful programs tailored to each location.

Registration deadline Dec. 2 All Hands Unit Sports Day — Dec. 5 & 6

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Participants must compete with their units to be eligible to earn points for team awards and register through unit sports representative by Dec. 2.

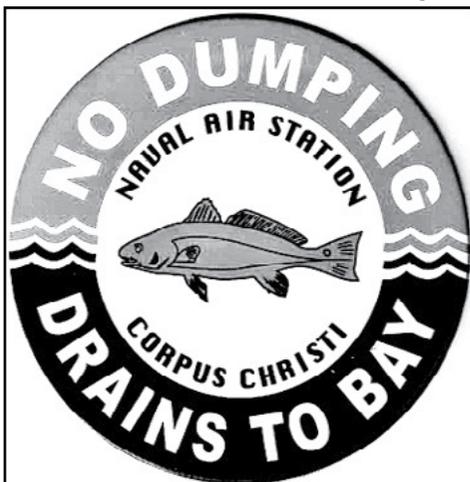
The unit with the greatest overall point total will be awarded the Sports Day Traveling Trophy.

Events will start on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. and will continue all day on Friday, Dec. 6, from 7 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Call 961-2401 to find out who your Unit's Sports Day Coordinator is.

This event is open to all active duty, DoD employees, family members 18 years and over and contractors assigned to NAS Corpus Christi.

Civilian employees wishing to participate during duty hours must obtain supervisory approval in advance and use annual leave, compensatory time or any other appropriate leave available.

Protect Our Bays



Storm drains aboard Naval Air Station Corpus Christi all empty into surrounding waters.

NASCC has a permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination system to operate our municipal separate stormwater sewer system.

The permit requires an annual Base Clean Up project and requires minimizing trash, garbage and debris going into storm sewers – including grass clippings and cigarette butts.

If we see debris or an oil sheen coming from our outlets, we must report it to regulators.

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Marine Corps Birthday



Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Steven W. Busby, commanding general Third Marine Aircraft Wing, came to NAS Corpus Christi to be guest speaker for the Winging ceremony Nov. 14 (above) and guest speaker for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball Nov. 15. (right) Busby and Col. David Krebs, commanding officer MATSG-22, honor the colors at the Ball. Photos by Hugh Lieck

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Awards



(left) At the Nov. 14 awards ceremony, NASCC commanding officer Capt. David Edgecomb presented (l.) Lt. Larry Somers with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. (above, l. to r.) Edgecomb recognized MASA Ambrielle Murray as Blue Jacket of the Quarter, ET2 Timothy Meek as Junior Sailor of the Quarter and ET1 David Adams as Sailor of the Quarter.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister

Awards and Achievements

Winging — November 15



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: Alex Harris, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain; Cmdr. Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer, VT-31; Cmdr. R. Scott Kramarik, Commanding Officer, VT-35; Col. David Krebs, USMC, Commanding Officer, MATSG-22; Maj. Gen. Steven W. Busby, USMC, Commanding General Third Marine Aircraft Wing; Capt. Rex Curtin, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: 2nd Lt. Gert Andreas Barring, Royal Norwegian Air Force; 1st Lt. Jonathan Warren Estry, USMC; 1st Lt. Gray Patrick Gish, USMC; Ensign Jaris Brian Judd; 1st Lt. Jared Hayes Juntunen, USMC; 1st Lt. Zachary Kane McKenna, USMC; Ensign Corey Lee Middleton; 2nd Lt. Ole Joergen Dahl Moe, Royal Norwegian Air Force; Ensign John Patrick Mullaney; Ensign Christopher William O'Connell; Ensign Christopher William Sheehan Jr.; 1st Lt. Alisa Lorraine Sieber, USMC; Ensign Joseph Blake Stanfield; 1st Lt. Ryan Allen Webster, USMC; Ensign Thomas James Whiting; Capt. Jeremiah Robert Wood, USMC.



Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi Junior Sailor of the Year

Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, NHCCC commanding officer, presents the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd Award) and the 2013 Junior Sailor of the Year (JSOY) plaque to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Fleet Marine Forces) Janelle L. Garza for professional achievement while serving as leading petty officer, Customer Relations Department from October 2012 to September 2013. Garza trained 72 staff in customer service protocols, while monitoring more than 1,400 interactive customer evaluation submissions. She oversaw the completion of 550 customer service certificates and 43 commanding officer response letters, increasing satisfaction by 11 percent. These actions and other positive contributions led to her selection as JSOY.

Photo by HM2 (FMF/SCW) Jacob L. Welch.



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NASCC Civilians of the Quarter



Capt. David Edgecomb, commanding officer Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, recognized (top) Shane Zercher as Senior Civilian of the Quarter and (bottom) Christopher Bryson as Civilian of the Quarter at the Nov. 14 awards ceremony.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister

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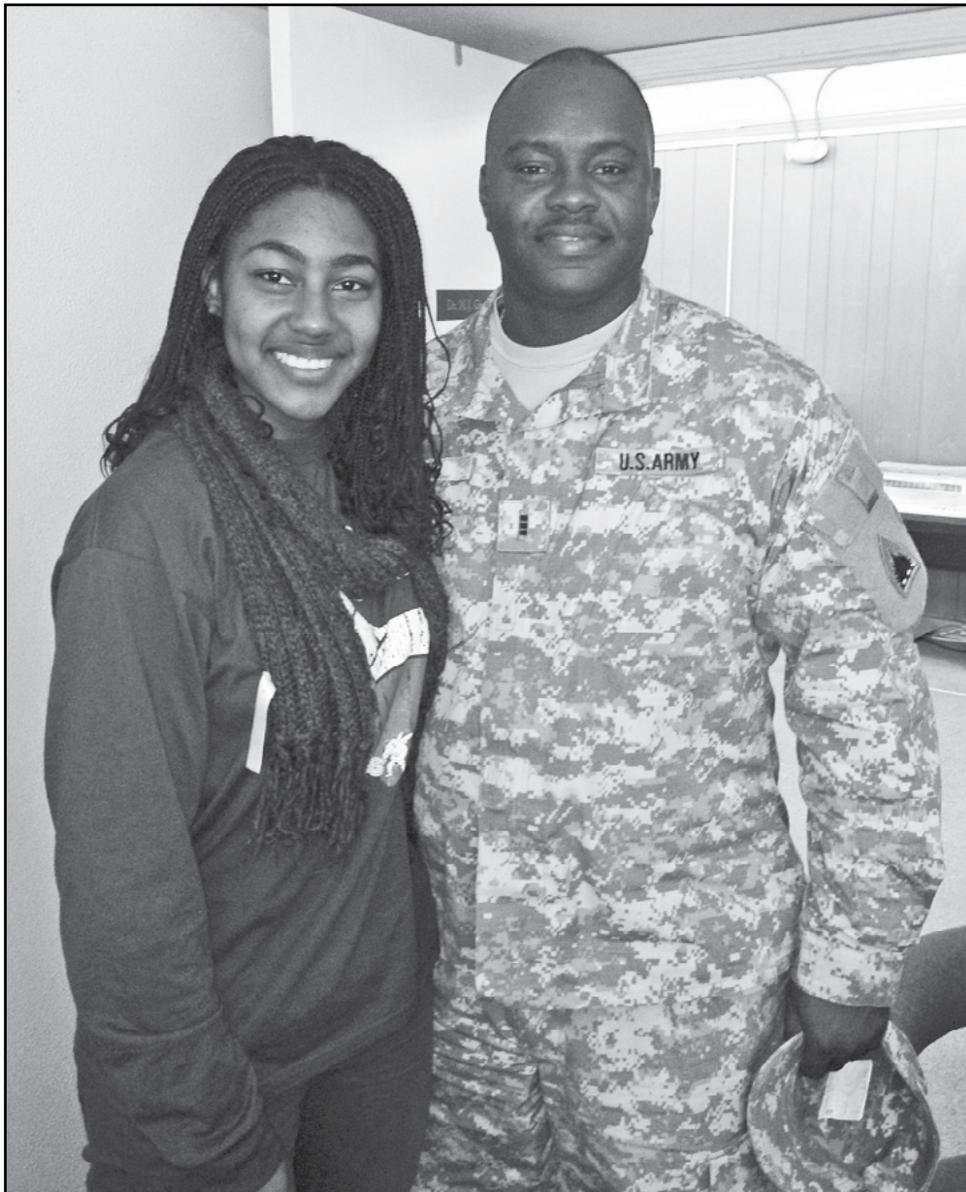
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Daughter of local Army officer awarded four-year scholarship



Flour Bluff High School volleyball player and scholarship recipient Lauren Long and her father, Army CW3 Rendell Long.

Story and photo by Mary Jane Garza, NASCC School Liaison Officer

Lauren Long, the daughter of local service member, has signed a four-year scholarship to a Division I university, Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

She is the daughter of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rendell Long, assigned to Corpus Christi Army Depot.

Long is a volleyball standout at Flour Bluff High School. She is considered one of the key volleyball players to lead Flour Bluff High School to the co-District 31-4A championship during the 2013 season.

She signed the scholarship Nov. 13.

Long considers herself an academically focused athlete, whose goal is to become a sports medicine physician.

As a military student who arrived at Flour Bluff High School as a junior after the start of the 2011-2012 academic school year, it was an uphill challenge to prove herself on the varsity volleyball team.

Once on the court there was no doubt that she was an asset to the team.

Long is no stranger to hard work and

training is part of the daily regimen.

Her father lettered on the Florida State Football team from 1994-1995 and Long said he is the inspiration and guiding force in her life.

"My family, my mother and father motivate me and always believe that I can achieve," she said.

"Waking up at five in the morning to practice, attending camps, and staying focused on my goal was a family effort."

Long said that, as a military child, the challenges faced include moves, adjusting to new environments, trying to make new friends, and knowing that athletically one is prepared for the team but not readily being given the chance.

"One must never give up and go for that dream no matter what," she said.

"People sometimes are discouragers and not encouragers, but as long as you have a family that believes in your abilities, skills, and opens the doors of opportunities for you, you will succeed."

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NHCCC Awards — November 14



(top) Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, NHCCC commanding officer, presents the Civilian Supervisor of the 3rd quarter, CY13 Award to Valerie Waskow for professional achievement as Medical Records Administrator from July 1, 2013 through Sept. 30, 2013. (center) Bradley presents the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to Hospitalman Cody T. Hutchison. (bottom) Bradley presents the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd Award) to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (Surface Warfare) Lemarc Harris.

Photos by HM2 Jacob L. Welch

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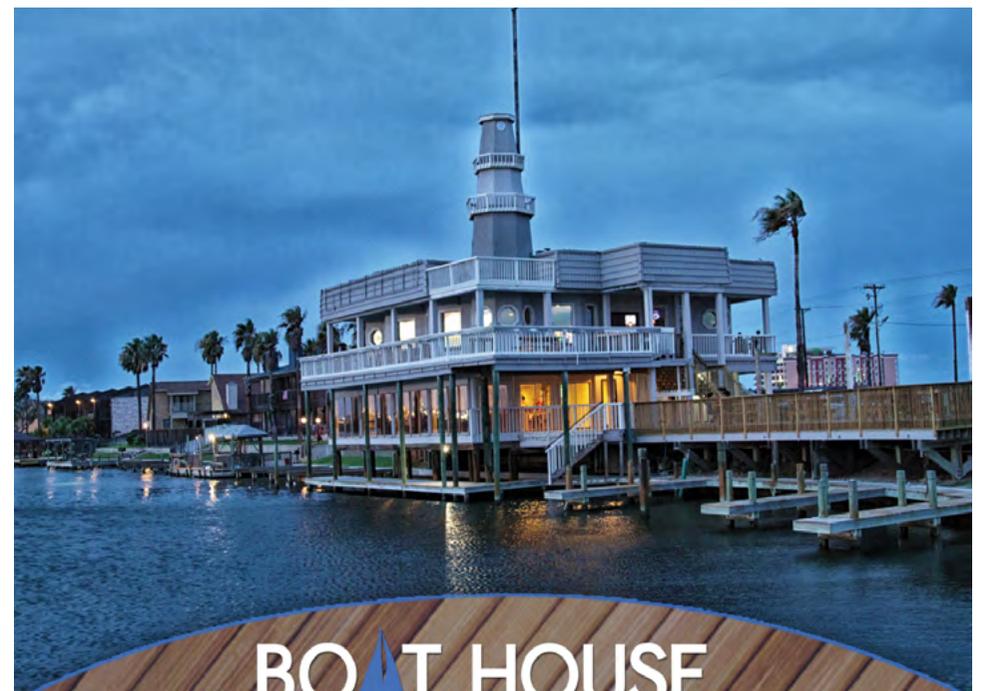
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What's Happening

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2013 - Wear your favorite Christmas hat and join us at our "Candy Kane" dinner, Tuesday, December 3rd, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Miller's Bar-B-Q, 6601 Weber Rd. Come bid on a live auction of great gift items. After dinner, Inspirational speaker Kitty Kane of Arlington, shares her story about the "Crimson Streak that runs straight through the middle of you". Dinner price \$13.50 per person, inclusive. Reservations appreciated by November 29th, but walk-ins are always welcomed! FMI and reservations, call Linda at 779-5038 or Dr. Yvonne at 854-2440. Sponsored by Christian Business and Professional Women's Club of CC.

The Janet F. Harte Public Library will host a **FREE Holiday Party on Friday, December 6, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.** Come dance to some holiday music, create a children's craft, enjoy refreshments, and visit with Santa Claus! Free. Registration is not required. The library is located at 2629 Waldron Rd. in Flour Bluff. For more information call 937-6569.

"Tis Tamales Season" **AT HERITAGE PARK** - The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department's Cultural Services Division invites you to attend one of its **Tamale Cooking Demonstrations** to be held in the Galván House at Heritage Park. **Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 10:30am-noon and Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 1:30pm-3:00pm** Join Sandra Vásquez, inventor of the "Mas Tamales" Masa Spreader, as she demonstrates how to make Tamales more efficiently with the help of a modern gadget. Don't miss this one. Sign up now. Cost is \$8 per person and includes the demonstration, recipes and food samples. **Reservations are requested as seating is limited; call 361-826-3417 to reserve your space.** The Cultural Center is located in the beautifully restored Galván House in Heritage Park at 1581 N. Chaparral.

Corpus Christi 5k Santa Boogie - December 14, 2013, Saturday -- Cost- \$40 (Includes FULL Santa costume, hat beard, jacket, belt & pants.) Price increase on event date. Location- Cole Park, 1526 Ocean Dr., Corpus Christi, Tx 78404 (along the shoreline) Start Time- 8:30 am (Warm up at 7:30am) Registration site- <http://www.athleteguild.com/running/corpus-christi-tx/2013-corpus-christi-5k-santa-boogie> Kick off the holidays with the Corpus Christi 5k Santa Boogie, a family friendly run/walk benefitting The Salvation Army in beautiful downtown Corpus Christi along the shoreline. All registered participants will receive a FULL Santa costume, required to participate in the run/walk (hat, beard, jacket, belt & pants). Adults young & old, children, groups and corporate teams welcomed! Please contact us for Sponsorship opportunities via email at ccsantaboogie@gmail.com Let's BOOGIE Coastal Bend!

H-E-B Tennis Center to Offer Three Tennis Youth Classes During Fall 2013 Registration offered now through December 23, 2013 These are excellent introduction classes to the sport or if your child wants to take it to the next level.

The **Quick Start Youth Tennis Class** is held on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:45pm-4:30pm.** The class will introduce youths ages 5 and older to the sport of tennis. Eye-hand coordination and motor skills will be emphasized in a fun and friendly atmosphere on smaller courts and with slower balls. The registration fee is \$35 for a 5-lesson pass; or \$60 for a 10-lesson pass. You pick your days. Tennis rackets will be provided.

The **10 and Under Tennis Class** is held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30pm-5:30pm.** This is an introduction-to-tennis class for youths ages 10 and under. Groundstrokes

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by Tina Konwerski

and volleys will be emphasized as well as introduction to the serve and lots of fun games. The registration fee is \$45 for a 5-lesson pass; or \$80 for a 10-lesson pass. You pick your days. Tennis rackets will be provided.

The **Junior Team Tennis Class** is held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30pm-6:30pm**. The class is for young aspiring tennis players who want to learn to play the game. It will teach the basics of tennis in a fun atmosphere with games. The registration fee is \$45 for a 5-lesson pass; or \$80 for a 10-lesson pass. You pick your days. Tennis rackets will be provided, if needed.

REGISTRATION for all these classes is open now through December 23, 2013 at H-E-B Tennis Center, 1520 Shely St. For more information, please call 361-834-2231 or 361-882-6013.

Holidays on the Bay Come to Rockport-Fulton for an amazing holiday! Christmas Tour of Homes on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8. Five private homes and two historic venues will be open 1-5 pm. for visitors to enjoy. Docents will dress in historic costume and present the history of each home. **Saturday, December 14, bring the family for an evening of elegance and beauty on the water as boats parade the waters for the Lighted Boat Parade.** Boats will gather in the first canal of Key Allegro (canal nearest entrance from the bay). The parade will run from there through Little bay and back. Shallow draft boats may make a run through the area called the "Ski Basin."

The **Fulton Mansion** will be having the annual **"Caroling at the Mansion"** on Dec. 14 at 6:30pm. This year, the event will be held at the amphitheater and courtyard of the Mansion's history center. It will be decorated and open to the public, with entertainment by the Rockport-Fulton Middle School Choir. Bring a

lawn chair and enjoy the complimentary wassail and gingerbread. **Dec. 21, celebrate Christmas with a Big Boy's Toys outdoor car show** on the Fulton Harbor from 1-4p.m. From 4-8p.m., catch **Dion Pride's Concert** performance in the Paws and Taws Fulton Convention Center. For a complete calendar of Christmas by the Bay activities highlighted events, area information and special offers, visit www.rockport-fulton.org. For more information call (800) 242.0071 or email tourism@1rockport.org

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The **Texas Coastal Bend Bellydance Association** will be having their **First Annual Meet & Greet Get-together on January 11, 2014 from 5-7pm** at Shall We Dance Studio located at 5801 S. Staples (and Burnham). Let your inner diva shine and express itself as we meet new and old friends. Share your ideas and thoughts as we come together to plan for the upcoming year. We have lots of ideas and good news to share with everyone. Join us as we stand united to commit ourselves to making this the best year ever for TCBBA. For more information, contact Rachel Morris at wrendixie@gmail.com



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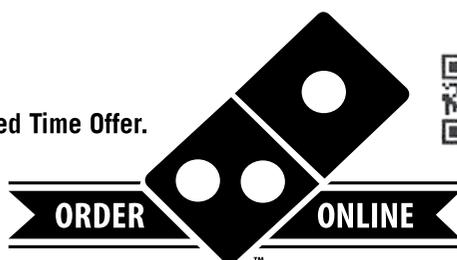
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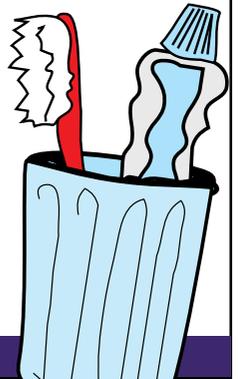
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