

WINGSPAN



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VT-27 graduates first two T-6B student military aviators

from VT-27

Two recent solo flights and Dec. 5 selection brief marked a milestone for Training Squadron 27 and Training Air Wing Four: graduation of the first students flying the T-6B at NAS Corpus Christi.

Ensigns Alexander Christie and Benjamin Reid began primary flight training on May 13, part of a nine students who were the first class in the T-6B Texan II since it arrived at NAS Corpus Christi in 2012.

They both completed their last flight on Nov. 27, and on Dec. 5 they learned where they would be going for advanced training.

Both got their wish: jets. Christie heads down the road to NAS Kingsville, while Reid is going to NAS Meridian, Miss.

Both will go through advanced jet training on the T-45 Goshawk.

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Cmdr. Jerrod Devine, commanding officer of VT-27, on Dec. 5 briefs Ensign Alexander Christie (left) and Ensign Benjamin Reid on where they will be going for Advanced Pilot Training. Christie and Reid each completed their final solo flight on Nov. 27, making them the first two students to graduate from the T-6B at NASCC.

Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

MATSG-22 wins 2013 Sports Day Competition



Sports Day 2013 had 755 participants in 26 events over a two-day span, Dec. 5-6. the team from MATSG-22 (above) won the overall, with 1,035 total points. Training Air Wing Four came

in second, with 745 points and US Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi took third, with 665 points.
More photos on page 8.

Photo by Laurie Garcia, MWR PA

Skipper's Column Don't Carry on NASCC

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

Over the past few weeks, Navy installations have experienced security related incidents that have raised the interest of both Fleet Forces Command and my Admiral.

The issue is personal weapons – firearms – on the

installation.

We've had three incidents involving

unauthorized weapons on NAS Corpus Christi alone in the last few weeks.

Let me make this clear: Unless authorized, you cannot have personal firearms on the Air Station.

That includes personnel who have a permit or license to carry concealed from Texas or any other state. Those permits do not apply on the federal installation.

This is not a policy unique to NAS Corpus Christi – it's the policy across all Department of Defense installations.

Here's the policy, contained in NASCCINST 8370.1:

All military and civilian personnel are required to declare all weapons and ammunition upon arrival at the Front or Back Gate and are required to register them at the

Base Security Department.

To register a weapon onboard the installation, you will need to declare the weapon to the gate sentry and be escorted to the Base Security Department with the weapon or weapons you wish to register and complete the required forms.

You must keep the printout you will receive on your person when transporting the firearm on and off post, and in the event of security response to your residence.

Privately owned weapons and ammunition may be stored at only three authorized locations onboard the installation: Family Housing, Base Armory and temporarily – on an exception basis – with the Security Department Armory.

Skipper continued on page 7

Chaplain's Message Thrive During the Holidays

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

(This article contains excerpts taken from Chief of Naval Personnel MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Navy Announces New Holiday Stress Navigation Campaign, "Thrive During the Holidays.")

"For many of us, 'the most wonderful time of the year' is as demanding as it is joyous," said Capt. Kurt Scott, Navy resilience chief.

"Our Sailors and families are operating under more stress and uncertainty than ever this year, and planning for the holidays can be overwhelming.

"Our annual campaign will address everything from financial preparations to maintaining diet and fitness goals, so that we can help everyone stay in the holiday spirit and position themselves to thrive in the New Year."

Stresses commonly faced by many during the holidays include planning and time management, budgeting, incorporating physical fitness into busy schedules, healthy eating tips, spirituality and relationship

fitness, and more.

"Our focus is helping Sailors and families proactively identify these sources of stress before things start to pile up on them, so that they can truly enjoy their holidays and do so responsibly," said Scott.

Here are 5 simple strategies and tips for staying healthy and resilient through the holidays:

1. Don't shop hungry! Grocery shopping when you're hungry can lead you to buy those unhealthy foods you crave instead of opting for the healthier choices.

2. During meal times, serve a generous portion of veggies first (fresh and/or cooked), then the main entrée with the sides and keep room for fruit as dessert.

3. At parties or potlucks, savor a bite or two of every food item by making a 'sampler' style plate instead of piling up the plate with just one or two of your favorite items.

4. Don't starve yourself for that large meal later on! Snack on nutrient packed veggies and fruit (fresh, dried, canned, etc.)

throughout the day so that you'll be less likely to overeat during evening meal times.

5. Incorporate a 20 minute walk with your family each evening.

These are strategies that can help you thrive during the holidays and reduce unwanted post-holiday stress.

The "Thrive During the Holidays" campaign will continue through early January 2014.

Releases can be found on Navy Operational Stress Control's blog, www.navynavstress.com, and the Navy Suicide Prevention website, www.suicide.navy.mil.

I would personally like to wish all a very Merry Christmas!



Warne

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

order.

First, the standard set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is the same as the federal EPA: You have to take action if you meet or exceed 15 parts per

billion or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L).

That's not an "OMG" level – it's the level at which a city or other entity, like the base, is required to take corrective actions.

More on that in a moment.

Second, none of the samples the tested high came from base housing – the three came from the Thrift Shop, the AIMD Calibration Lab and CCAD's Cowling Staging Area #6.

All three likely fall under the most common situation for elevated lead in the water: water that sits for extended time in older pipes that may have lead solder or other sources of lead that slowly leach out in the still water.

Regardless, the base now is taking the action required – doubling the number of test sites, with two samplings in 2014, one in

Getting the Lead Out

February and one in August.

They're also looking at additives that can be safely added to drinking water but that slow down corrosion.

Any plumbing installed after 1986 should not have lead solder or more than 8 percent lead content in the pipes and fixtures. Most base housing is newer, so they don't expect to find a problem.

The water supplied to the base by the city is tested annually, and does not contain lead – the evidence is strong that it's coming from water sitting in those older pipes.

But if you are concerned, TCEQ and the EPA agree: Flush your pipes before drawing water for drinking or cooking.

Running the faucet for 15 to 30 seconds effectively flushes lead down the drain and brings you fresh water.

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

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Two new Captains for CNATRA

Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, Chief of Naval Air Training (left) leads (from left to right) Cmdr. Michael Tatsch and Cmdr. Charles Hayden in the oath of office before they were each promoted to captain on Dec. 2.

Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

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Texas Military Preparedness Commissioner visits NASCC



Connie Scott, a commissioner with the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, checks out the newest addition to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire and Emergency Services, an ambulance. Scott toured the Air Station and Corpus Christi Army Depot on Dec. 4. The Texas Military Preparedness Commission, established in 2003, has the goal to preserve, protect, expand, and attract new military missions, assets, and installations to the State of Texas. Additionally, the Commission encourages defense-related businesses to expand or relocate in Texas.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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2013 Captain's Cup Flag Football Winners



Winners of the 2013 Captain's Cup Flag Football Tournament were the 'Fodwalkers' of MATSG-22 (above). Second place went to 'Goodwill Punting' from US Coast Guard, Hanger 41.

Photo by Noel Westerkom

Stay 'fire safe' over the holidays



A dry tree can become engulfed in flames in seconds if exposed to flames. Keep trees watered and away from heat or flames. Photo courtesy NIST

by Mark Weil, Assistant Chief Fire Prevention
 NAS Corpus Christi Fire & Emergency Services wants you to plan ahead to make this Holiday Season a fire-safe one.

By taking a few simple safety precautions will ensure your family and workspace will be safe from fire this Season.

NASCCFD Christmas Safety Tips:

- Regularly check your tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over several weeks' burn faster than fresh, well-watered trees. Remember to keep your tree watered at all times.
- Always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children, and don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles.
- Look for the holographic UL Mark on light strings and electrical decorations. The UL Mark means that UL engineers have tested samples of the product for safety hazards. Green holographic UL Mark = Indoor-only use; Red holographic UL Mark = Indoor and outdoor use
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration - new or old - before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed,

bare or loose wires can cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new, UL-Listed decorations.

- Take down holiday lights after 90 days of use to prevent damage from weather conditions and neighborhood animals.
- Artificial Christmas trees shall be labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being fire retardant.
- Only listed electrical lights and wiring should be used on natural or artificial combustible vegetation, natural or artificial Christmas trees, and other similar decorations.

Please consult our office @ 361-3369 on the use of Natural Christmas Trees in your workspace.

For more information on Holiday Fire Safety: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm.

If you have any further questions about Holiday Decorations or Fire Safety in general drop us email at NAS_CC_FD_fireprevention@navy.mil.

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ROUNDUP BEGINS DECEMBER 1, 2013 & ENDS APRIL 15, 2014

T-6B continued from page 1

"Today was a significant event in our squadron's history, as it validated the extraordinary efforts in the transition from a T-34C training squadron to a T-6B training squadron," said Cmdr. Jerrod Devine, VT-27 commanding officer.

"We still have work to complete, but the graduation of these first two students demonstrates that we remain ready in support of the Chief of Naval Air Training's mission to train the world's finest combat quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost."

VT-27 is the first of the two Primary Training Squadrons within Training Air Wing Four to transition to the T-6B

The T-6B replaces the aging T-34C, a workhorse for nearly 30 years, as the Navy's primary flight training aircraft.

Primary is the first phase of training for student military aviators on their way to becoming naval aviators.

The T-6B is a tandem-seat, turboprop trainer equipped with ejection seats and a significant avionics upgrade from the T-34C.

Although the platform has changed, the

mission remains the same.

Primary flight training is designed to provide student military aviators the basic flight skills necessary to progress to advanced flight training in either rotary wing, strike, or maritime platforms.

The curriculum is designed to take approximately 28 weeks and train student aviators in contact, instrument, navigation, and formation stages of flight.

VT-27 currently has 15 classes with 110 students at various points in their training.

The T-6B advanced avionics suite includes a digital display (glass) cockpit and a Heads-Up-Display.

This cockpit configuration better prepares future naval aviators for the fleet aircraft they will soon fly and demonstrates the evolving nature of aviation technology within the Navy and Marine Corps.

"I'm glad I had the opportunity to be one of the first students in TRAWING Four to fly the T-6," Reid said.

"Flying the T-6 has given me confidence in my abilities and I believe is an advantage over T-34 students due to the fast-paced nature of the aircraft."



Ensign Benjamin Reid (left) and Ensign Alexander Christie with a T-6B Texan II after completing their final solo flight in primary training on Nov. 27.

Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

Skipper continued from page 2

Privately owned firearms and ammunition may not be stored in BEQs, BOQs, Navy Lodge, or any other temporary or transient lodging.

They may not be left unattended in vehicles.

Personnel in PPV housing may store personal firearms providing:

- Each firearm is properly registered with base Security
- Each member of the household (18 years of age or older) has completed DD Form 2760
- The owner must either show documentation certifying completion of a course in firearms safety (for example, a state hunter safety course) or complete one within 90 days of requesting registration of any firearm.
- If the firearm is a handgun, the owner must demonstrate familiarity with the safety features.
- Firearms must be stored in a gun safe or secured by trigger locking devices. Ammunition must be stored separately in a locked container.
- Personnel at the Recreational Vehicle (RV) parks may store their personal weapons within their privately owned RV provided the above provisions are met.

Beginning immediately you can expect to see increased emphasis on this policy, including reminders of the weapons policy via articles and signs, extra vehicle inspections at the front gate, hand-held metal detectors being used on pedestrian traffic and military working dogs inspecting facilities, parking lots and common areas.

Military personnel who fail to comply with this policy are subject to judicial or nonjudicial action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and/or appropriate administrative action.

Civilian personnel who fail to follow these policies may lose their instillation access.

Government employees and civilians who violate this regulation may be subject to prosecution in the United States Magistrate Court, barred from post, referred to civilian authorities, or subject to disciplinary, and administrative action according to appropriate civilian personnel regulations.

Bottom line: Don't do it.

December is Military Appreciation Month at Texas State Aquarium

The Texas State Aquarium is offering half-price admission to all military personnel, both active and veteran, and their families.

For the entire month of December (Dec. 1 – 31), anyone with valid military identification will receive half-price admission for themselves and family members who join them at the Aquarium.

The Aquarium is open throughout the holiday season from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., only closing for Thanksgiving and Christmas Days.

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Sports Day 2013



It was cold, windy and downright nasty outside – but the games of the annual Sports Day competition went on anyway Dec. 4 -5. All but one, at least – the tennis matches were cancelled because of the weather. But the other outdoor sports went on, although the softball players were bundled up in the dugouts like they were in Green Bay on the Tundra. Indoors, no weather, just fun. All in all, 755 people participated in 26 events over the two-day competition.

Photos by Laurie Garcia and Gail Marsh, MWR



Awards and Achievements

Winging — December 6



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain; Cmdr. Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer, VT-31; Cmdr. R. Scott Kramarik, Commanding Officer, VT-35; Lt.Col. Kevin “Chet” Heartwell, USMC, Executive Officer, MATSG-22; Capt. Tom Ford, (Retired) CNATRA; Capt. Rex Curtin, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: Ensign Alex Winfield Bartow; Ensign Harold David Black Jr; Ensign Ryan Olynthus Bush; 1st Lt Jonathan Andre Champagne, USMC; 1st Lt Cheri Pailu Chen, USMC; Capt. Melchizedech James Cunningham, USMC; 1st Lt Jeffrey D. Gibson, USMC; Ensign Joshua Scott Glazier; Ensign Christopher Earl Hodsdon Jr; Lt. j.g. Andrew Scott Holder; 1st Lt Michael Holoman, USMC; 1st Lt Christopher Michael Jaspersen, USMC; 1st Lt Billy Joshua Jones, USMC; Lt. j.g. Thomas Wayne Mountain; Ensign Steven Michael Orians; Lt. j.g. Bernard Vincent Parenteau; Lt. j.g. Micah Lawrence Penley; Lt. j.g. Robert H. Roy; 1st Lt Matthew Stephen Schwakoff, USMC; 1st Lt Curtis Ryan Thiel, USMC; Lt. j.g. Allen James Vohden.

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi frocks Petty Officer Selectees



On Dec. 6, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi held a frocking ceremony for Sailors selected for advancement. To Petty Officer Third Class: ACAN Keith Bayard, MASN Jarrett Covington and ACAN David Supall. To Petty Officer Second Class: AC3 John Bradley, MA3 Michael Contrera, MA3 James Haney,

AC3 John Hawk, AC3 Jonathan Reed, AC3 Marcus Snell, AC3 Jesus Torres and AC3 Erica Victor. To Petty Officer First Class: ET2 Alexander Cardwell, MA2 John Day, ET2 John Galloway, RP2 Laneisha Tilton and MA2 Gregory Wilson.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



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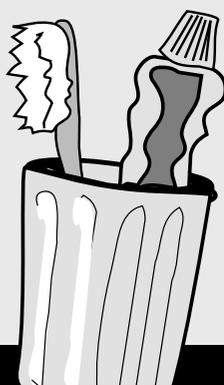
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Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society earns four-star rating from Charity Navigator

from Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Arlington, VA. – Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator.

Since 2002, using data-driven analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a four-star rating.

In 2011, Charity Navigator added a second dimension of Accountability and Transparency (A&T) to its rating methodology, and now reviews 17 governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, providing information on its web site for each of the charities it evaluates.

The A&T metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities have "best practices" that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

"Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's coveted four-star rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities," said Ken Berger, president and CEO, Charity Navigator.

"Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns four stars – a rating that, now, with our new Accountability and Transparency metrics, demands even greater rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness.

"Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's



supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

"It's very important our donors trust that we're using their contributions wisely to provide financial assistance to active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families," said retired Adm. Steve Abbot, president and CEO Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

"Our four-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously."

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on www.charitynavigator.org.

More-detailed information about Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

About Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Since 1904, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has provided financial assistance and education to active duty and retired members of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, their eligible family members and survivors – when in need. Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, the Society is a non-profit, charitable organization that is staffed by nearly 3,700 volunteers, and a small cadre of employees, in offices around the world – ashore and aboard ships.

For more information about the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, please visit www.nmcrrs.org.

NMCRS onboard NASCC

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has both an office and a Thrift Shop on the air Station.

The offices are located on the Fifth Deck of the Naval Health Clinic.

Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. – but because it is mostly volunteers staffing, it's recommended that you call for an appointment at (361) 961-3482.

The Thrift Shop is located in Building 1738, 10133 E Avenue, near the Auto Hobby

Shop past the Gym.

It has a variety of uniforms for military personnel as well as toys, household goods and other donated items.

It is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The mission of the NMCRS is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

RP2 LaNeisha Tilton recognized for volunteer service



RP2 LaNeisha Tilton received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal from Capt. Dave Edgecomb, NAS Corpus Christi commanding officer, on Nov. 14. Tilton was recognized for dedicating more than 450 hours of volunteer time to community service between June 2009 to June 2011 while stationed at Marine Corps Base Okinawa and July 1011 to August 2013 at NAS Corpus Christi. Among her accomplishments, she was a key player and organizer for NAS Corpus Christi's Big Brother and Sister program and in support of the Corpus Christi Food Bank.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

Commissaries to collect, recycle plastic bags

by Jessica Rouse, DeCA public affairs specialist

FORT LEE, Va. – Stateside commissary customers will soon have an easy way to recycle plastic bags: Just bring them on their next trip to the commissary and use the new recycle bins.

All stateside commissaries now have plastic bag recycling bins that customers can use to recycle any plastic bag, not just commissary bags. Overseas commissaries are not participating in the program because the agency does not issue recycling contracts overseas.

"We are an environmentally conscious agency, and this is another step in the right direction as we seek new and innovative ways to become 'greener,'" said Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO.

So what happens to those bags? They will be combined with other plastic waste from the commissaries and shipped to recycling centers for processing.

"Last year, we recycled almost three million pounds of plastic in commissaries,"

said Randy Eller, chief of DeCA's environmental and planning division.

"With this service to our customers, we will recycle even more plastic, keeping it out of landfills."

Commissaries already recycle a lot of waste generated by store operations.

In fiscal year 2013, the agency recycled more than 139 million pounds of cardboard, plastic and paper. It has also diverted almost 13 million pounds of food waste, metal and wood from the waste stream, along with the recycling of one million pounds of organic waste.

The agency's goal is to recycle 80 percent of all recyclable material generated in stores worldwide by the end of fiscal year 2014.

"More and more of our customers are adopting green lifestyles, and they want the retailers they use to do likewise," said Jeu.

"That's what DeCA is working toward; whether it's through recycling or offering our customers earth friendly products, we are doing our part to protect our environment."



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What's Happening

by Tina Konwerski

The Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi cordially invites you to attend an ongoing diabetes awareness series of classes on Wednesday mornings (no class on the 5th Wednesday of the month) from 10:30 to 11:30 am in the Wellness Conference Room on the 1st floor adjacent to the Medical Home Port. This first Thursday of every month will explain "What Diabetes is and is not". The second Thursday of each month and will provide a look into the "Medical Management of Diabetes". The third Thursday of each month and focuses on Nutrition and Exercise to Control Diabetes the. The fourth Thursday of each month covers "Survival Skills to Help Manage Your Diabetes." For more information or to reserve your seat at any of these classes, contact Ignacio Doñez at (361) 961-6029 or ignacio.donez@med.navy.mil

2014 Beach Parking Permits Make Great Holiday Gifts! Stickers are available NOW! Are you thinking about what would make a great holiday gift for several family and friends on your list? How about a \$12 holiday gift that will provide access to the beach for a whole year of recreation or relaxation? Available now at the following locations: Stripes stores, local H-E-B stores, Academy Sports store, Central Cashiering at Corpus Christi City Hall, Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi/ITT Department,

Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Center, Nueces County Padre Balli Park Headquarters Office, and Texas Star (on Padre Island). Permits are required on most areas of the gulf beaches which are posted on-site. The permits need to be displayed on vehicle windshields. For more information, please call 361-826-4188 or visit www.ccparkandrec.com (click 'Beaches'). We invite you to Live. Learn. Play!

Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi cordially invites all beneficiaries to attend our **Diabetes Support Group** every 2nd Thursday of the month (except Holidays) from 2 pm-3 pm in the Wellness Conference Room on the 1st floor adjacent to Medical Home Port. This meeting provides an opportunity to share strategies you have found helpful in living with diabetes and learn from others who are facing the same daily challenges presented by living with diabetes. Modern medicine is adding years to our lives, you can add life to those years by controlling your diabetes instead of letting it control you. Come by and visit with us. For more information or to reserve your seat at any of these classes, contact Ignacio Doñez at (361) 961-6029 or ignacio.donez@med.navy.mil

See Happening, Page 14



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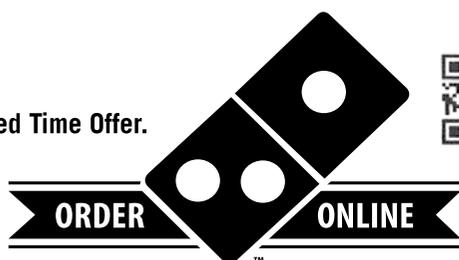
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Happening, from Page 13

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City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission EXTENDED Open Call to Visual Artists for Public Art Project. One artist will be selected to design, create, and install a work of art on the exterior of Fire Station #5, to be constructed at 3105 Leopard Street, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78408. The artist(s) will be selected under the auspices of the City of Corpus Christi Public Art Ordinance and the Policies and Guidelines that it authorizes. Eligibility requirements and the application can be accessed at www.ccparkandrec.com (click "Arts & Culture," then "Open Call to Artists"). **Application Deadline: Artist's letter of interest, resumé, and images/descriptions of work must be hand-delivered by January 7, 2014, or postmarked by December 27, 2013.** For more information, contact Reba George, at the City of Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation Department at 361-826-3460.

Looking for a Special Way to Honor Someone? Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department Launches its Commemorative Tree and Bench Program

Have you ever known someone who meant so much to you and you wanted to do something really special for them—something that is lasting and honors their life in a meaningful way? Perhaps it was a loving parent, a teacher who guided and inspired you or many, or a community mentor who was an active soldier for a cause.

In answer to this question, the Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to launch its Commemorative Tree and Bench Program. Through this program, the donation of trees and benches to its park system can serve to honor someone special in a loving and thoughtful way. It can also commemorate a special occasion like the birth of a child, someone's graduation, public service, an anniversary, milestone birthdays, a marriage, to name a few.

"The addition of these memorial benches and trees in our parks will also enhance the experience for visitors to relax, sit and enjoy the parks more for many generations to come," said Stacie Talbert, Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Assistant Director.

This program will also serve to increase the city's much needed tree canopy. The benefits of trees are many, from providing shade from the hot sun, to

See Happening, Page 15



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Happening, from Page 14

cleaning our air, to providing recreation as a natural world play-station for developing motor skills, to improving property value in neighborhoods, and in some cases providing habitat for a wide variety of birds and other wildlife.

The department invites anyone who wishes to celebrate a special occasion or to remember someone to do so with a park bench or tree in their honor. The department will be happy to work with donors on the selection of options available along with planting and installation. It has many parks throughout the city available for donors to select from for this purpose. A plaque with the name of a loved one can also be made and installed.

To learn more about the program, please visit www.ccparkandrec.com (click 'Parks & Development') or contact Stacie Talbert at 361-826-PLAY (7529), or send an email to StacieT@cctexas.com.

The Texas Coastal Bend Bellydance Association - First Annual Meet & Greet Get-together is 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. FMI, contact Rachel Morris wrendixie@gmail.com.

com
KEDT Food & Wine Classic - Thurs. Jan. 30, 2014, 7-10 PM at The CC Museum of Science & History, 1900 N. Chaparral. This annual fund raising event is for public broadcasting station KEDT. Guests can sample an array of domestic and imported wines from a complimentary Food & Wine Classic wineglass while tasting the culinary creations from South Texas' finest food establishments. Tickets are \$80. 361-855-2213, 1-800-307-5338, www.kedt.org; or at KEDT studio 4455 SPID. Dress code is Sunday best or business attire.

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If you or an eligible family member has honorably served, you may have earned access to the USAA family. And we share the desire to get you into a new home. That's why, you'll benefit from a full range of mortgage options with straightforward, competitive pricing.

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¹ Cash bonus offer limited in some states. Bonus amount is based on sales price of home sold or purchased and cannot exceed \$1,550 per transaction. Bonus is not available in Alaska, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma. In Kansas and Tennessee, a gift card will be issued that is accepted at specific retailers. State regulations in Kansas limit the dollar amounts and the type of incentive. In Oregon, a commission reduction may be available at closing. In New Jersey, a commission credit may be available at closing. Please check with the program coordinator for details. You must be enrolled in the program and be represented at closing by an approved agent with a participating real estate firm in order to qualify for the bonus. Cash bonus not available to sellers in a short-sale transaction. MoversAdvantage is offered by USAA Relocation Services, Inc., a licensed real estate broker and subsidiary of USAA Federal Savings Bank. Program may be unavailable for employer-sponsored relocations. Not available for transactions in Iowa or outside the U.S. This is not a solicitation if you are already represented by a real estate broker. **Obtaining a mortgage from USAA Federal Savings Bank is optional; and not required to utilize the MoversAdvantage Program, and can be acquired from other sources.** Membership eligibility restrictions apply. You must be eligible for USAA auto or property insurance to access USAA Bank products. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or in the National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. Bank products provided by USAA Federal Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2013 USAA. 147558-0813

