



WINGSPAN

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

July 14, 2016

Corpus Christi Sailors meritoriously advanced First time Meritorious Advancement Program available to shore commands

By Fifi Kieschnick
NASCC PAO

Changes to the Meritorious Advance Program gave NAS Corpus Christi commanding officer the opportunity to advance two Sailors.

AC1 Juan Mireles and MA2 Vicacy St John were meritoriously advanced to their current rank on July 1.

This is the first time that MAP has been expanded to include eligible shore commands, pre-commissioning units and Professional Apprenticeship Career Tract Sailors. The increase in MAP quotas and expansion of the program to other eligible stakeholders further empowers COs to recognized sustained superior performance through immediate advancement. The program is intended to give commands the opportunity recognize their best Sailors, advancing them when they are ready for the next level of responsibility.

“Ultimately, all of our advancement policies are aimed at retaining the best quality folks we can retain,” said Vice Adm. Bill Moran, Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Moran added that the recent changes to the program resulted from feedback from the fleet.

This gives greater authority to commands to better shape their workforce and the Navy by developing and rewarding the best talent.

According to CMDMCM Jeffery Tidwell, MAP evolved from the outdated Command Advancement Program that was specifically targeted for sea-going commands. “NASCC



MA2 Vicacy St John and AC1 Juan Mireles were meritoriously advanced July 1 to their current rank. They were selected because they had been holding positions of higher authority and responsibility, and their performance over the last year was above reproach.

was fortunate to get one E-6 quota and one E-5 quota for NASCC Security because of the number of Sailors we have within each of our unit identification codes.

“AC1 Mireles and MA2 St John were chosen because they had been holding positions of higher authority and responsibility, and their

see Advancement on page 6



Red, white & blue

-- page 7



Farewell shipmate

-- page 8



Celebrating diversity

-- page 11



Thresher edges out the competition to finish the Military Cup Challenge first in their class last year.

Navy Regatta sets sail Aug. 6 & 7

Can you picture yourself at the helm of a yacht, sailing into sunny skies, smooth seas and adventures of a lifetime?

You have that chance! ... the first weekend in August, as the annual Navy Regatta sets course.

Plans are underway for the 2016 regatta being held Aug. 6 & 7. It's a weekend of fun, sailing, camaraderie and community partnership.

The annual event began in 1962 and is made possible because of a partnership with the Corpus Christi Yacht Club, Bay Yacht Club and the military. It features a Titanic Cup race and a

see Regatta on page 10

Captain's Column



Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Greetings Team NASCC!

I'm glad to have heard that everyone made it back safe from an enjoyable Independence Day weekend. Celebrating on the 4th of July is a great opportunity to reflect on the foundation of our nation and the values of those who were responsible for securing our freedoms. Every one of you, military and civilian, is an integral part of the great Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Coast Guard, and Homeland Security team we have on this base, and you are all part of the reason

why we still enjoy those freedoms to this day. I appreciate your service!

Unfortunately, not everyone has made it home safe lately. There have been three motor vehicle fatalities in the Navy alone during the summer so far, as well as two more fatalities in the Marine Corps. When your organizational leadership continually talks about the importance of safety issues, they have these types of statistics in mind. Unfortunately, many safety mishaps we hear about, traffic incidents included, could have been avoided. Obey traffic laws, follow safety guidelines, and avoid behavior that impairs your attention such as drunk driving, not getting enough sleep, and distracted driving practices such as texting while driving.

On a lighter note, I'd like to talk about the great support NAS Corpus Christi gets from our local community. I've been in the Navy for 25 years, and there is no better

support for the military than in South Texas, especially right here in the city of Corpus Christi! One example of how the community opens their doors to our Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, and Coast Guardsmen is the Navy Regatta. The generosity of the members of the Corpus Christi Yacht Club and the Bay Yacht Club during this annual event is commendable. I encourage every local military member to sign up and enjoy the festivities which will be held the weekend of Aug. 5-7. In addition, that weekend we will host the next Titanic Cup. The Titanic Cup is a fun event where you can show off your engineering and sailing skills (or lack of) by building your own home-made craft and racing the competition. For more Navy Regatta and Titanic Cup information, contact MMCS Shane Eckhart at 961-3719.

Stay safe out there and enjoy the summer!

Chaplain's Message



Faithful
steward

Lt. Kevin Jackson
Command Chaplain

There are people who have a gift of just getting by in every area of their lives. As a result, they never realize their full potential because they have never applied themselves in a faithful way. The attribute of being faithful is bestowed upon a person who understands the importance of giving every task, assignment and job a full 100 percent effort regardless of the challenges and difficulty.

The concept of being faithful dates back even to the days of the Bible. Specifically in 1 Corinthians 4:2, the Apostle Paul stated to a group of church leaders, "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." After reflecting on this biblical text, it was very evident that Chaplain Stephen Warne is an example of a faithful steward.

Chaplain Warne has demonstrated this attribute throughout his tenure serving the community of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. He has made a significant impact on the lives of active duty personnel, civilians and retirees. Chaplain Warne was a faithful steward of his duties as Protestant Pastor of the Protestant Chapel, Command Chaplain, Voter Registration Officer and Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

Consequently, the fruit of his faithful stewardship includes the countless number of community members in Corpus Christi who have received meals, food and other resources as result of his efforts and partnership with the ministry of Church Without Walls. Additional fruit includes the pride and dedication he displays in providing



Chaplain Stephen Warne, right, visits with Capt. John Kelsey, left, at the recent Independence Day Celebration held at Sunfish Beach on June 30. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

chaplain support to NASCC and the tenant commands. Finally, Chaplain Warne has also demonstrated his faithfulness to his local church at Padre Island Baptist Church.

The Chaplain Corps has been well represented through the faithful service of Chaplain Stephen Warne. The Religious Ministry Team of NASCC would like to take this time to salute Chaplain Stephen Warne and his family on a job well done. We certainly pray God's blessings upon him as he continues to provide effective religious services and programs at his new

duty station.

Fair winds and following seas Chaplain Stephen Warne.

WORSHIP SERVICES ABOARD NASCC:

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Sunday Mass: 9 & 11 a.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

Wingspan

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Capt. Steve Banta
Commanding Officer

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Officer



Wingspan



NASCC Facebook



This paper is published for people like Anthony Gomez who's been working in Public Work's Hazardous Waste Department since June 2015. Gomez is a Corpus Christi native who has served 16 years in and for the U.S. Army, as a soldier and a civilian.

Captain's Cup Racquetball Tournament

July 18 - 21, 2016

- Captain's Cup Singles Racquetball Tournament.
- Deadline to register is July 14, 2016 at 1700 at the E-Street Gym, Bldg. 102.
- Warm ups start at 1630; and play begins at 1700.
- The format will be double elimination.
- Seeding will be determined by draw.



Eligible DoD Civilian Employees are required to pay a \$10.00 Sports Fee.



For more information, please call 961-2401.

News Briefs

Housing available

On-base Public Private Venture housing has a limited number of three and four bedroom homes with move-in dates within the next 30 days.

If you are interested in housing information including prices, sizes and amenities, or to set up an appointment to view a home, call the South Texas Military Housing PPV office at (361) 937-0190. The housing office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information about applying for on-base housing, call the Navy Housing Office at 961-1704, 961-2869 or 961-1702. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FFSC celebrates birthday

The Fleet and Family Support Center is celebrating 37 years of service to the Navy.

July 19, a birthday celebration will be kicked off at noon with light refreshments, followed by an open house from 12:30 to 3 p.m., in their office spaces located on the fifth floor of Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi.

For more information about the celebration or services provided by the FFSC, call 961-2372. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Water Quality Report available

The annual Drinking Water Quality Report for NAS Corpus Christi has been released and is available online at http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_corpus_christi/om/environmental_support/drink-

[ing_water.html](#).

For more information, contact Roni Miller at 961-5357.

Club ceases serving lunch

The Catalina Club is closing daily lunch operations beginning July 15.

The Club will continue to have Wednesday and Friday social hours in the lounge from 3:30 to 7 p.m. A lounge menu will be available to order from during that time. Special events such as comedy shows, Super Bowl Party, etc., will continue to take place at the Club.

The Catalina Club will also continue to be available for command functions, conferences and reception needs.

To make reservations, call 961-2451 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bike safety courses offered

The following motorcycle safety courses are available through the end of July. We are coming to the close of the fiscal year and as of today the contractor has not scheduled courses for August and September. If you have members who require training, recommend enrolling in one of the following. Enroll at www.navy-motorcyclerider.com or for those who use ESAMS, go to My Links, Classroom Schedule and enroll.

Basic Rider Course is available July 16-17, 21-22 and 25-26. Advanced Rider Course will be held July 27. Experienced Rider Course/BRC-2 will be held July 28.

If you have questions about the course content, call the instructor Norm White at (817) 845-6174.

If you have questions about enrollment in a course through the website or ESAMS, call the NASCC Safety Office at 961-2489.

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361-746-4341.**



St. Leo Class of 2016

June 24, 2016

Photo by...
Crazy Martin

St. Leo graduates -- Saint Leo University recently held its annual commencement ceremony on June 24 at NAS Corpus Christi's Protestant Chapel. Five graduates received master's degrees, 25 graduates received bachelor's degrees and 16 graduates received associate degrees. Corpus Christi Chief of Police Mike Markel, a 2010 Saint Leo alumnus, delivered the commencement address. Saint Leo University is located in building 1731. (Courtesy photo)

Back-to-School BRIGADE

Join Operation Homefront for a school supply distribution event!
 Eligible recipients include: Active duty, active guard or reserves, E1-E6 or all ranks of post 9/11 wounded, ill or injured (includes title 32 state orders)

Corpus Christi - August 12, 2016
 Families must pre-register online prior to the event to receive a backpack with school supplies, supplies are LIMITED therefore it is on a first registered, first served basis

Registration Opens on 6 July 2015

Register at Events.OperationHomefront.net



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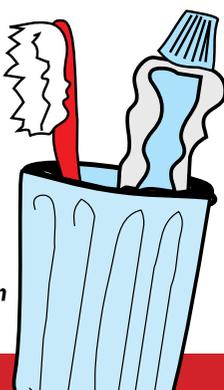
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Bravo Zulu -- In a ceremony at Chief of Naval Air Training headquarters, CS1 (SW) Kiara Mahoney receives her new rank from Rear Adm. Dell Bull as part of the Meritorious Advancement Program. Mahoney was unaware of her promotion until the end of an all-hands call when Bull presented her with a letter of promotion. A native of Houston, Mahoney was one of the few E-5 applicant packets accepted by U.S. Pacific Fleet in recognition of her sustained superior performance. Chief of Naval Air Training, Rear Adm. Dell Bull, right, and AWSC Brandon Horton pin on the 7-year Navy veteran's new rank. (Photo by Richard Stewart, CNATRA)

Advancement from page 1

performance over the last year was above reproach. Their superior sustained performance was and is still evident in everything they do on a daily basis," Tidwell added.

Mireles is an air traffic control facility watch supervisor who has been stationed aboard NAS Corpus Christi for 2.5 years.

The Corpus Christi native says he attributes his selection for MAP to a great deal of hard work, mentorship and a competitive work culture. "I am grateful and honored to be NASCC's selection for immediate promotion," Mireles said.

"AC1 is a leader in everything he touches," said ACCS Robert Lupo. "From learning his rate and passing that knowledge onto his junior Sailors, to taking on challenging collateral duties and improving the process. A humble servant to the Sailors he leads, he is respected by all."

Mireles says that the best part of his job is the people.

"Part of what inspires me to get up and go to work each day is the people I have the privilege of working with. Air traffic control is an exciting and stressful job and it takes a team to accomplish day-to-day operations," he said. "I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with and learn from some of the best controllers in the fleet."

Air Operations Training Chief, ACC David Kendrick, adds that Mireles was nominated for the program partly because of his selection as Junior Sailor of the Year, which proves his sustained superior performance.

"During his time on board," Kendrick said, "he has fully qualified all air traffic control positions and is a facility watch supervisor. He has held collateral duties as president of the Junior Enlisted Association, assistant leading petty officer of the command honor guard team, assistant section leader, divisional career counselor



MA2 Vicacy St John and AC1 Juan Mireles are flanked by CMDCM Jeffery Tidwell and Capt. Steve Banta. The Sailors were meritoriously advanced to their current ranks during an all hands call July 1. This is the first time the program was open to shore commands.

and divisional sponsor coordinator. He has excelled at all of these positions and sets an example for all junior Sailors to follow."

St John has 4 years of U.S. Navy service and been stationed at NASCC for less than 2 years, but has quickly distinguished himself as a Sailor to follow.

"MA2 Vicacy St John was Security Department's choice for the Meritorious Advancement Program because he is a consistent and outstanding performer in his daily duties," said MACS Lewis Thorp, assistant security officer. "He accomplished advance qualifications ahead of his peers as well as training his junior troops and peers alike. MA2 St John was performing as a second class petty officer well before he was selected for the promotion."

"MA2 St John is a motivated and dedicated Sailor," added MAC Samantha Carpenter, of Security's operations division. "As a third class petty officer, he was one of two E-4s who qualified as a watch commander, which is normally stood by a first class petty officer. Additionally, he is taking college classes in his time off, along with volunteering for the Buc Days Rodeo and Boy Scouts of America beautification project. His character, integrity and positive attitude is one for his peers and junior Sailors to emulate."

St John was born and raised in Soufriere, St. Lucia, and says that what he likes best about his job is meeting different people from all walks of life.

Advice to junior Sailors?

"Do the right thing even when no one is

looking," says St John.

Mireles adds, "Have the courage to operate outside of your comfort zone. Put yourself in a situation to learn and keep an open mind. Don't let failure discourage you from achieving!"

According to Fleet Master Chief April Beldo, there are outstanding Sailors serving in some shore centric ratings such as master-at-arms and cyber force.

"Why should they not get the same opportunity because they are doing the hard work also like our Sailors at sea," Beldo stated.

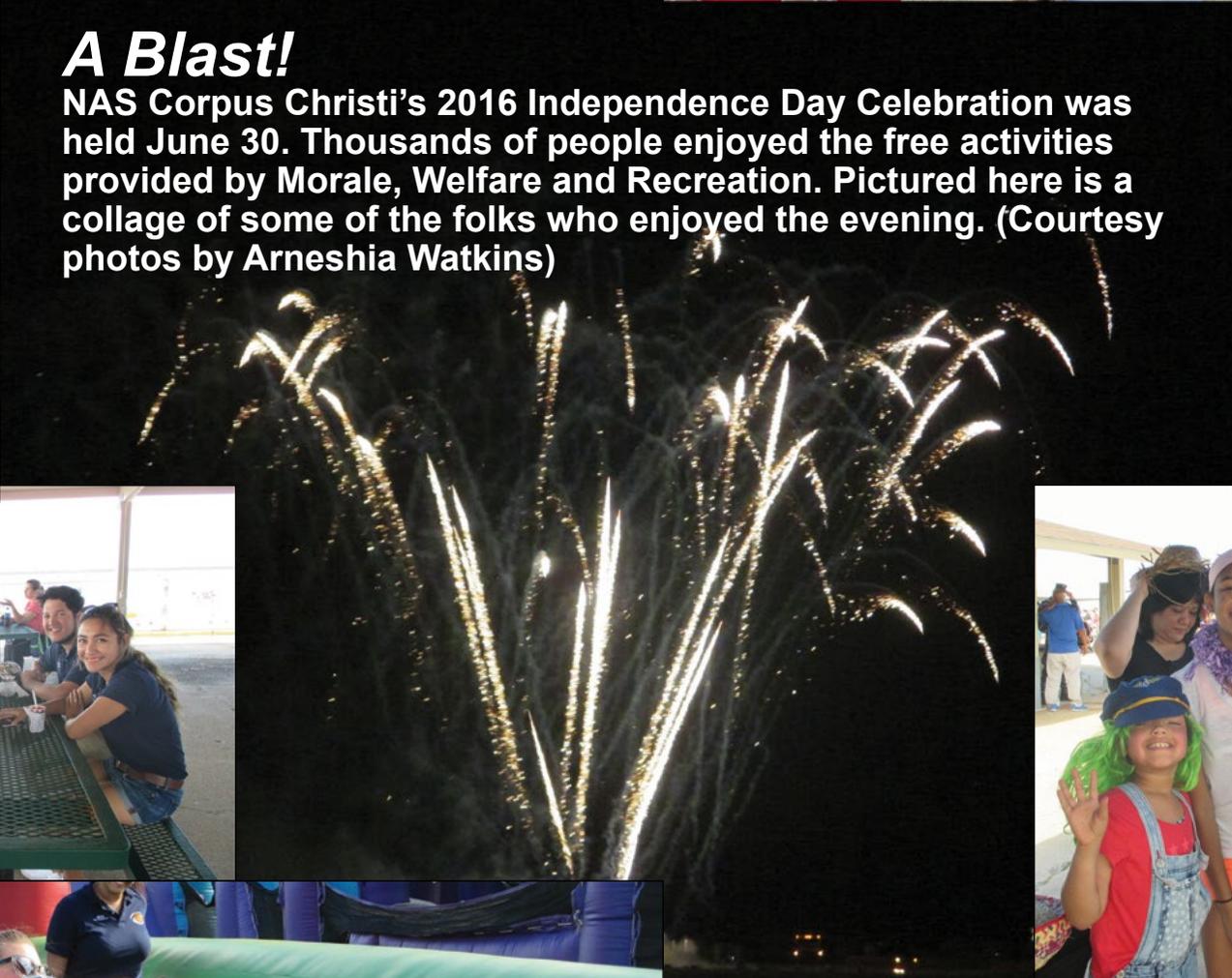
Why not, indeed.

Bravo Zulu Mireles and St John!



A Blast!

NAS Corpus Christi's 2016 Independence Day Celebration was held June 30. Thousands of people enjoyed the free activities provided by Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Pictured here is a collage of some of the folks who enjoyed the evening. (Courtesy photos by Arneshia Watkins)



'Mustang' Long retires from U.S. Navy with 26 years service

Lt. Robert Long retired from the U.S. Navy with 26 years of service during a traditional ceremony held July 1.

Long, a native of Richmond, Va., enlisted in the Navy in 1990. After graduating from Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., he reported on board USS Saratoga (CV 60) as a seaman recruit and deployed to the Red Sea in support of Operation Desert Storm. Following Master-at-Arms "A" School in 1992, he returned to the Saratoga where he was a patrolman, watch commander and command investigator while completing two more deployments.

He also served on board Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va.; USS George Washington (CVN 73); and USS Deyo (DD 989). In 2003, Long was selected for advancement to chief petty officer. He reported to NCIS Security Training Assistance and Assessment Team Atlantic, followed by deploying as an Individual Augmentee to the U.S. Central Command as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge for protective service detail headquartered in Qatar.

Long was commissioned as a Limited Duty Officer in March 2006 and reported on board USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) as the security officer. In 2009, he returned to NCIS STAAT Atlantic as the officer in charge overseeing all ATPF training, assessments and certifications. In January 2011, Long reported on board Navy Expeditionary Combat Command as the branch head for expeditionary training support for Riverine, Maritime Expeditionary Security Force, Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command, Navy Expeditionary Intelligence Command, and Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion.

In January 2013, Long reported to NAS Corpus Christi as the security officer.

Long's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, Navy Achievement Medal, four Good Conduct Medals, and various unit and service awards.

Fair Winds and Following Seas!



Lt. Robert Long, his wife Angela, and their family get piped ashore at the conclusion of Long's retirement ceremony. The Long family plans to stay in Corpus Christi. (Photos by Fifi Kieschnick)



Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer, presents Lt. Robert Long with a Navy Commendation Medal for his stellar service aboard the air station as the security officer the past three years. Right, MAC Samantha Carpenter and Cmdr. Amanda Barber, who served as the guest speaker, present Long with a shadow box documenting his 26 years of U.S. Navy service.



What's Happening?

On-Going

Volunteer opportunities
via Coastal Bend Connection
www.cbvc.org

Wednesdays

Downtown Farmers Market,
5-8 p.m. Art Center, free, growlocalstx.com

Thursdays

Bay Jammin' Concert Series
8-10 p.m. through Aug. 25
Cole Park Amphitheater
Live music.
Free, (361) 826-3417

Fridays

Bay Jammin' Cinema Series
Nightfall through Aug. 19
Cole Park Amphitheater
Family-friendly movies. Free, (361) 827-3417

July 16

Athletics Superhero 5k Fun Run/Walk/Roll
8 a.m. at the Corpus Christi Gym parking lot at 3202 Cabaniss Pkwy.
Dress in superhero active wear. Free.
www.ccparkandrec.com

July 17

Corpus Christi Municipal Band

Performance at Del Mar College

Music Building Amphitheater
Ayers & Kosar.
8:30 p.m., free.
(361) 698-1616 or dirving@delmar.edu.

July 21

Yappy Hour at La Palmera
5:30-7:30 p.m. at Center Court.
Bring your favorite canine. Photo opportunities and learn about local pet services. Free.
www.lapalmera.com

July 23

For the Health of It 5K water run/walk & kids run
8 a.m., Dick Kleberg Park, Kingsville
www.corpusroadrunners.com

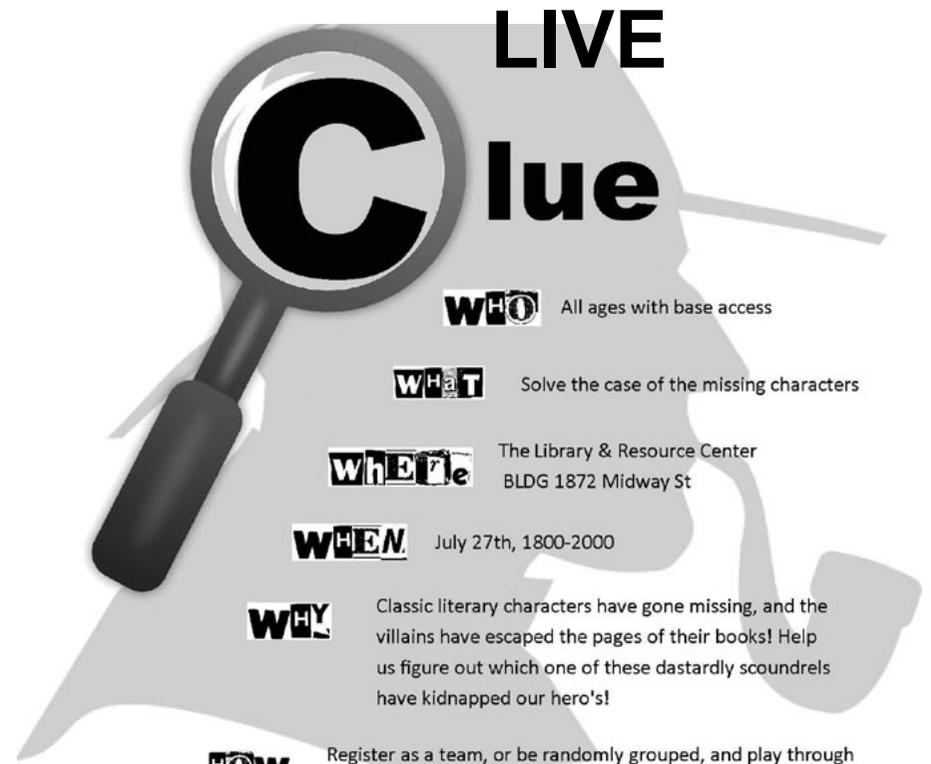
July 30

Scurry 5K run & walk
8 a.m. Cole Park
www.corpusroadrunners.com

July 30

Port Aransas Sand Crab 5K/10K Nighttime Beach Run
Magee Beach Park, Port A, 8:30 p.m.
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If you have or know of an event to list, e-mail nascc-pao@navy.mil.



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Powerlifting Competition

Saturday, August 13, 2016

Weigh-Ins 0900-0945

Pre-Event Meeting 0945

Competition begins at 1000

Active Duty: \$15.00

Reservists, Retired Military & Civilians: \$25.00

Participants that sign up at the Fitness Express will receive a Dri Fit -Shirt.

Registration Deadline , Thursday August 11th @ 1600



The **Wilks Formula** will be used to determine the overall winner of the men's and women's class.

Trophies will be given out to the **2nd** and **3rd** place finishers in each class and a **Champions Belt** will be given to the overall winners.

For more information, call MWR at 961-3164.

Regatta from page 1

Military Challenge.

On Saturday, Aug. 6, CCYC and BYC vessels will race from the yacht club downtown to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi's basin at Sunfish Beach. That afternoon the Titanic Cup will be held. Trophies will be presented during a dinner held at the Catalina Club.

Sunday, Aug. 7, military members will take the helm as the yachts race back to Corpus Christi in the Military Challenge. Trophies will be presented during a pool party at the CCYC.

It's time to register for the Military Challenge, to helm a local yacht for the Sunday's race.

MMCS Shane Eckhart, who is coordinating the Navy's entries for the regatta won an award in last year's Military Challenge at the helm of Thresher. Eckhart said it was his first time sailing and really enjoyed the community event. "It's a great opportunity to spend time with the community, sailing and unwinding together."

And, it's time to start planning for the Titanic Cup. Bragging rights are riding on the line. Last year, NASCC's Admin Team took top honors with their homemade vessel.

Get your crew together, start throwing out ideas and create your anything-that-can-float-but-a-boat. Race day will get here sooner than you think.

Rules?

The vessel you build must float.

It must be powered by "wind."

The craft must be equipped for towing to the starting line.

It must be of unconventional construction – NOT incorporating boats/aircraft or parts of boats/aircraft. Costs for its construction shall not exceed \$75, and should be built by "rational" beings (that's in the rules), the crew, or other volunteers.

The craft must be commanded by an officer or mate capable of maintaining good order and discipline among the crew.

It should be capable of sailing 50 meters downwind without sinking other contesting crafts, and staying afloat at the same time.

There must be one person per floating vessel to compete.

Power-assistant vessels may not assist or impede the racers.

Oh, and if your sailing vessel SINKS, you will be required to retrieve it from the waters.

The final rule for the Titanic Cup is ... HAVE FUN!

Entries will be judged on originality, most devious interpretations of the rules, deportment of the crew, and adherence to the traditional values of mariners.

Judging will be conducted by a committee and the winning military organization will receive a suitable trophy for displaying until the next Regatta, at which time it will be again contested.

For more information or to register for the Military Challenge or Titanic Cup races, contact MMCS Shane Eckhart at 961-3719.

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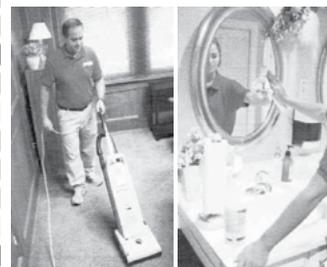
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Color run held supports diversity

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi celebrated diversity with a color run on July 8.

The run was held in support of the Navy's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and transgender Pride Month.

Established by Presidential Proclamation in 2000, LGBT Pride Month is held annually and recognizes the importance of diversity within our society as well as the many achievements of LGBT individuals. This year's theme is celebration, and calls Americans to eliminate prejudice and celebrate our diversity.

"Americans have always worked to fulfill that exceptional promise made at our founding," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. "We have continually broken down artificial barriers to equal opportunity ... Our military forces have followed that same history and made themselves stronger and better and more effective because of it."

Celebrating our differences, as well as our common interests, helps unify and educate us. Through each other's diversity, we become more aware of our own. Not only do we become more aware, we gain a sense of pride for the diversity of our own culture. Understanding people is crucial to personal and community growth.



Pictured above, participants "repose" after the color run. Left, CDC youth take great joy in participating in the event that celebrates diversity. Below, AOC's Robert Newton, of Navy Munitions Command, and his daughter, Delanie Newton, were two of the color run participants July 8. (Photos by RP1 Michael Clayton)



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Upcoming Community Events

Sewing Guild Welcomes New Members

Corpus Christi American Sewing Guild is a group of ladies who's mission statement is: Advancing Sewing as an Art and Life Skill. We are welcoming new members. Membership meets the second Tuesday of every month, 10:00 am-noon, at the Singer Educational Center at 6034 South Padre Island Drive. The neighborhood group meets, 10:00 am - noon, the last Saturday of the month Jan. through October at the Ronald McDonald House at 3402 Fort Worth. Programs and workshops for 2016 can be located on our website: www.asg-corpuschristi.com. Also visit our facebook page at <https://facebook.com/ASGCorpusChristiTX>.

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

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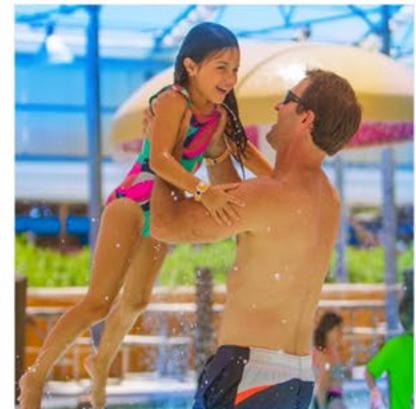
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