

WINGSPAN



Vol. 20, No. 5

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

March 6, 2014



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Current & Former Marines commemorate Battle of Iwo Jima



Members of Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22 await the start of the Feb. 21 ceremony commemorating the 69th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Photo by Capt. Mike Young, MATSG-22

by Capt. Derek Sharp, MATSG-22

“Uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

These words by Adm. Chester A. Nimitz on March 16, 1945, referring to those who fought the month-long Battle of Iwo Jima, remain near and dear to all members of the United States Marine Corps, past and present.

It has special meaning to the members of the “Greatest Generation” who were called to service during World War II.

On Saturday morning, Feb. 22, members of the Corpus Christi community honored 11 Veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Their stories are all different, yet they all bare a shocking similarity; Selflessness.

Sherrill Park was the scenic venue for the stirring ceremony, put on by the Corpus Christi Mayor’s Committee for Veteran’s Affairs and hosted by the Coastal Bend Detachment #430 of the Marine Corps League.

Iwo Jima continued on page 10



Honoring Black History Month



Dancers Mayme Lynne Roberts and Ashley Sanders from the Virtuous Women of Christ and guest speaker Angel Blaine Hazley highlighted the NASCC Black History Month commemoration Feb. 26. Photos by Richard Stewart

Skipper's Column Lessons Learned and to Consider

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

I want to thank everyone involved in our recently completed Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield exercise.

We were successful in accomplishing the goals of the exercise while maintaining normal operations.

And a special thanks to

the people of Defense Logistics Agency – Distribution Corps Christi for allowing us to use their facilities for the active shooter exercise – and for playing roles in the exercise

themselves.

Without going into details, I'll say that the active shooter exercise went very well. Security and other responders did an excellent job and we picked up a few Lessons Learned that will be incorporated in our planning.

Although we hope an active shooter incident never happens, I would encourage everyone to have a discussion in the workplace about what to do if it does. How do you respond? Where do you go? Shelter or run?

There are no universal answers – what is best very much depends on the situation.

But thinking through your options ahead of time helps when you only have seconds to make a decision.

Unless you were directly involved, you probably didn't notice the other parts of the exercise.

That was good from the viewpoint of

keeping essential operations going – but it was not as much of a test of our plans and training as it could have been.

Unlike some previous exercises, we didn't close the NEX or Commissary, didn't restrict parking with barriers, didn't elevate gate security checks to the point where traffic backed up to Oso Bay.

But in a real situation, any or all of those could happen. So again, it's a good idea to think through what you would do.

How do you get to your workspace if parking is restricted?

How do you know who comes to work and who doesn't if the order goes out to close the Air Station to all but essential personnel?

And how do you know when you should come back to work?

Now is the time to have those kinds of discussions – before you need the answers.

Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

The Chaplain's Religious Education Development Operation (CREDO) is a newly arriving program to Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, focused on providing family resiliency programming and "tone of force" military training.

Topics such as suicide prevention, sexual assault awareness, operational stress control, domestic violence, and many others, are taught by Chaplain Department staff to military and civilian employees in an effort to increase awareness and decision making skills.

How do these studies differ from the traditional General Military Training format?

CREDO-led training incorporates a spiritual element into the subject matter – training that highlights moral and ethical standards and considerations into the curriculum.

This approach relies on core values and foundational life principles as the primary

source to help guide individuals in making appropriate decisions in life.

Major life altering decisions are not based on rewards versus punishment, such as, "Will I get in legal trouble if I choose to do (you fill in the blank)?"

Instead, moral and ethical considerations, spiritual and religious foundations, and values are emphasized as crucial to making sound choices and appropriately reacting to life's circumstances.

Please indulge me an opportunity to climb on my Chaplain soapbox for a minute.

We (as a society) have lost our sense of "rightness" in the world.

Morality is spoken of as something that occurs within the context of four church walls and ethics as something being studied as a subject for senior military leaders and philosophers.

Awareness is great, but without a moral compass to help guide our decisions, education

alone on these topics will prove virtually useless.

Contrary to popular belief, there are ethical standards for all to follow and spiritual truths that guide our decisions.

Okay, I'm climbing off my soapbox!

In addition to these trainings, CREDO will soon offer workshops and weekend retreats for personal growth, marriage enrichment, and family resiliency.

I am excited about the response so far and look forward to helping individuals and families prepare for a successful future.

CREDO



Warne

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

The Navy War College recently released one of the greatest resources for anyone studying the Navy's role in the Pacific in World War II: the Nimitz "Gray Book."

Named after the color of its cover, the "book" is 4,000 pages of

Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz' communications that started in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack and ran right up until the closing days of the war.

On Feb. 24, the 129th anniversary of Nimitz' birth, the War College unveiled the complete collection online – where anyone can download and study it.

Ok, I confess to being something of a history geek – it was one of my majors in college.

But if you have any interest in the War in the Pacific, this is really cool.

The collection is a daily record of the combat situation in the Pacific Theater and responses of the Commander in Chief, Pacific, and Pacific Ocean Areas (Nimitz) throughout the War.

Staff-member Capt. James Steele began it on the day Pearl Harbor was attacked and ended it on Aug. 31, 1945, just two days before the formal end of the war.

The actual Gray Book is old and fragile;

How the Pacific War Was Won

almost no researchers have been allowed to work with it for years.

According to the War College's release, the Naval History and Heritage Command's Operational Archives, which possesses the physical collection, provided the expertise and support to the Naval War College effort to publish the high-quality digital version of the documents.

The physical collection consists of 4,030 single-sided pages filling 28 bankers boxes held at the Operational Archives at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

But now it's also eight large PDF files – and they are even searchable!

Just start a download, go get a cup of coffee, and immerse yourself in history.

Head online to:

www.usnwc.edu/graybook

Wingspan

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Wingspan is published every other week by D.J. Young Publishing, 145 Naples, Corpus Christi, Texas 78404, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

The editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. Stories and photos not otherwise attributed are written by the *Wingspan* staff. The address is: Commanding Officer, NAS Corpus Christi, Attn: *Wingspan*, 11001 D St. Suite 143, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78419-5021. All news releases should be sent to the above address.

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

Alaska Army National Guard comes to learn at CCAD



Soldiers from D Company, 1/207th Aviation, Alaska Army National Guard are briefed by Corpus Christi Army Depot's Command Sgt. Maj. Martin Dickinson on

their arrival March 2. They are at CCAD to gain valuable hands-on training from the depot's aircraft maintenance artisans. Photo by Brigitte Rox, CCAD PA

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Help the NMCRS help you - Active Duty Fund Drive going on now

by NASCC Command Master Chief Rick Mathis

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive has started and we need the word to get out to all personnel.

This organization has changed throughout the years and for the better.

Today the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society has helped so many; below are some of the great programs they provide and what they can do for you:

- Financial Assistance and Counseling
- Quick Assist Loan (QAL)
- Education Assistance
- Health Education and Post-Combat Support
- Budget for Baby
- Emergency Travel
- Disaster Relief
- Thrift Shops

I know there are many organizations out there always asking for money, but this program goes back to all the Sailors and Marines who really do need our help.

I, too, came in the Navy, married with two kids and a wife; times were hard as an E-1.

So please let's knock this one out of the park this year and do what you think is right!

Some History about Navy Marine Corps Relief Society:

The Society provides financial assistance and education, as well as other programs and services, to members of the United States



Mathis

Navy and Marine Corps, their eligible family members, widows, and survivors.

The Society also receives and manages donated funds to administer these programs and services.

Our main goal is to help each person who comes to us get support for their immediate needs.

Our long-term mission is to help Sailors and Marines become financially self-sufficient by learning how to better manage their

personal finances and prepare for unplanned expenses.

Serving Sailors and Marines for more than a century

The need for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society was recognized long before it was organized.

Our newly formed nation couldn't afford to provide a benefits package for its armed forces. There were no medical benefits for service families, no retirement annuities or survivors' benefits for families of deceased personnel.

Sailors and Marines would "pass the hat" to collect funds to help their shipmate's widows and orphans.

Meeting the financial needs of widows, orphans, and more

In 1904, several Naval officers, wives of Naval officers, and civilian friends saw the need for more formal and organized assistance.

The Society was incorporated on Jan. 23 of that year.

Initial funding came from the proceeds of the 1903 Army-Navy Football Game held at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In its first year, the Society gave \$9,500 to widows and families of enlisted men. During World War I, military pay days were often delayed. To help cover the gap, the Society began an interest-free loan program for Navy and Marine Corps personnel.



Eventually, this financial assistance expanded to help with other needs, such as medical bills.

Anticipating the personal needs of those serving in the U.S. military during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized a public appeal for support to benefit the military relief associations.

This national fundraising effort helped establish the Society's Reserve Fund in 1942. This fund provides a rainy-day means of support and relief assistance not covered by other revenue streams, especially during catastrophic natural disasters that affect Navy and Marine Corps members and their families.

NMCRS continued on page 9

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May 11th – Mother's Day ... will you have a Special Offer?

May 26th – Will our Readers See your Memorial Day AD?

June 15th – Father's Day ... will you have a Special Offer?

July 4th - Independence Day ... important issue ... will your company be there?

November 11th – Veterans Day ... time to say "Thank You" ...this is important!

Deputy Commandant for Aviation visits MATSG-22

Lt. Gen. Robert E. Schmidle Jr., the Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation, briefs members of Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22 on Feb. 28 on the current status of Marine Corps Aviation and what the future is likely to bring.








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USS Constitution Opens 2014 July 4 Cruise Lottery

from USS Constitution Public Affairs

CHARLESTOWN, Mass. (NNS) -- USS Constitution officially opened the lottery for its 2014 Independence Day turnaround cruise, Feb. 3.

The lottery will select 150 winners from the general public to ride aboard Constitution for its annual Fourth of July cruise in Boston Harbor. This year's cruise is scheduled to be the ship's final Independence Day voyage until 2018, as 'Old Ironsides' is scheduled to enter a Charlestown Navy Yard dry dock availability in early 2015 for restorations and repairs.

The July 4 turnaround cruise celebrates the nation's birthday by firing from Constitution's saluting batteries a 21-gun salute exchange with Fort Independence located on Castle Island. The voyage is about 4.5 miles total and lasts approximately three hours.

Each winner will be allowed to bring one guest. All guests must be between the ages of eight and 70 years old and be physically able to travel up and down steep ladder wells and stand for prolonged periods of time in weather that may consist of high temperatures or rain. Entries must be made by completing the entry form on Constitution's official website and returning it by e-mail or standard mail.

All lottery entries must be received by noon on April 15, with the drawing scheduled for April 30. Lottery entries are limited to one per household, and winners will be notified by e-mail and standard mail.

To download the official 2014 lottery entry form, visit www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution.



USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, actively defended sea lanes against global threats from 1797 to 1855.

Now a featured destination on Boston's Freedom Trail, Constitution and her crew of U.S. Navy Sailors offer community outreach and education about the ship's history and the importance of naval seapower to more than 500,000 visitors each year.

For more news and information on USS Constitution, visit

www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution,
www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial
and
www.navy.mil/local/constitution/.

NFAAS Update Deadline March 31

The next deadline for the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) information update is March 31.

Please make sure your personnel go into the system and update their own and their dependent information.

The reporting period is from Oct. 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014.

As long as personnel update between these dates they will be considered verified for the April 1 report.

Log-In Options: Please make sure personnel are using either the CAC Card log in option or the Username/Password Option.

The personal information log in will NOT allow user to verify their information as current. If they try to update through this log in option they will not reflect in the reports as updated.

Here is a link to the videos the Assessment team has put together: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CNIC91>

There are several videos including a video on "How to update contact information" as well as another video on "How to log in."

This update requirement applies to all Navy personnel, uniformed (active and reserve) and civilian and OCONUS contractors

Per the following:

a. It is required for all military personnel to update and verify contact information and all categories of dependents.

b. It is mandatory for non-bargaining unit civilian employees to update their contact information. However, providing dependents information is voluntary. Failure to provide dependent information may exclude them from receiving potential benefits, if applicable.

c. At this time bargaining unit civilian employees are encouraged to provide their contact and dependent information on a voluntary basis, until union notification and subsequent impact and implementation bargaining takes place

Log in via the below link and update member information under the "MY INFO" TAB "CONTACT INFORMATION" SECTION.

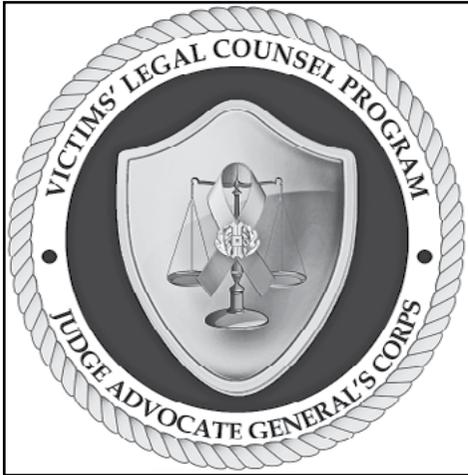
Then update family member information under the "MY INFO" TAB "FAMILY MEMBER INFO" SECTION.

Edit as necessary and click "VERIFY AS CURRENT."

All family members enrolled in the exceptional family member program must be identified as such.

<https://navyfamily.navy.mil>

Victims' Legal Counsel now in Texas



The first judge advocate assigned to the Navy's Victim Legal Counsel Program (VLC Program) in Texas reported to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas in January.

Lt. Candice Albright, JAGC, USN, will provide legal services to eligible victims of sexual assault stationed in Texas, including assistance and advocacy in the investigative and military justice processes.

The Navy is implementing the VLC Program to offer a military attorney to represent and assist victims of sexual assault.

Because Victims' Legal Counsel (VLCs) will form an attorney-client relationship with eligible victims, all communications will be confidential.

VLCs can assist eligible victims with a decision to make a restricted or unrestricted report of sexual assault, represent them in military courts, advocate on their behalf to investigators, commanders, and prosecutors, and provide other legal advice and assistance connected to the sexual assault.

To make an appointment or to speak with the local VLC, contact Lt. Albright directly at (210) 221-3796.

She can also be reached at candice.c.albright.mil@mail.mil or by stopping by her office located in the Joint Base San Antonio SAPR/SHARP building on Fort Sam Houston.

ITT has beach parking tickets and more

Spring Break is almost here! Do you need your 2014 Beach Parking Passes! ITT has them for \$12; stop by today and purchase yours!

ITT also has tickets on sale to the Old Concrete Street Amphitheater's Spring Break on the Coast 2014, featuring: Randy Rogers Band; Kyle Park; Cody Johnson Band; William Clark Green.

March 15 - \$24

Information, Tickets & Tours (ITT) is in building 1757, located inside the ORAC/Marina Office. Ph: 961-3961



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KIDS
 There will be a Mini-Berserkr track available for the younger ones that want to play, get muddy and have fun! This track is 600 yards of smaller Berserkr obstacles! Parent or guardian must be present.

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Proceeds will support the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, a 4 star national non-profit charity. Their mission is to provide full scholarship grants as well as educational and family counseling to the surviving children of special operations personnel who lose their lives in operational or training missions. They also help in financial assistance to severely wounded special operations personnel and their families to be by their side as they begin their recovery.

www.facebook.com/berserkrgames

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Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

As the time change approaches on Sunday, March 9, NASCC Fire & Emergency Services wants to remind everyone to make another change that could save their lives — changing the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Communities' nationwide witness tragic home fire deaths each year.

According to the National Fire protection Association (NFPA), almost two-thirds of home fire deaths in 2005-2009 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead.

Almost one-quarter of the smoke alarm failures was due to dead batteries.

Non-working smoke alarms rob residents of the protective benefits home fire safety devices were designed to provide.

So on March 9, when you change your clocks forward for spring, it's time to change

your batteries.

AND DON'T FORGET...
 All smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month using the test button.

Other smoke alarm tips:
 Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.

An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms (also known as dual sensor alarms) are recommended.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

If you have any further questions about smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors or fire safety in general drop us email at NAS_CC_FD_fireprevention@navy.mil

NMCRS continued from page 4

Helping with the health care needs of Navy and Marine Corps families

By the early 1920s, one of the biggest needs for Society loans and grants was medical expenses for dependents.

At the time, the military only provided health care to active duty service members.

To help with health care needs of spouses and children, the Society hired its first registered nurse in 1922.

She provided in-home nursing assistance and guidance on caring for babies and children.

Today, our visiting nurses still make house calls to answer medical questions and visit newborns.

Expanding assistance for financial and healthcare needs

The Society has expanded its financial assistance programs several times to meet new and growing needs.

In 1964, the Society began an education assistance program.

In the early 1980s, the financial assistance and counseling program was created to help service members better manage their money.

In 2006, the Society expanded the traditional Visiting Nurse Program to include those returning from Iraq with physical injuries and traumatic stress disorders.

The Combat Casualty Assistance Visiting Nurse program provides resources and support to Marines and Sailors who served in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation New Dawn (OND), as well as their loved ones.

Continuing the Legacy

For over a century, the Society has expanded its services and programs to support the changing needs of service members and their families.

Yet our support is still provided by people who care about making life better for Sailors and Marines.

Some things never change.

If you have any questions about Navy Marine Corps Relief Society please see your representative today at your Command.

Capt. Dave Edgecomb, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, opened the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Active Duty Fund Drive Training for Key Volunteers Feb. 19. The Active Duty Fund Drive runs from March 1 to April 30. Edgecomb emphasized the importance of NMCRS and the many programs it offers utilizing the contributions by Sailors for Sailors. Last year's Active Duty Fund Drive enabled NMCRS Corpus Christi to distribute \$164,777 in interest free loans and \$18,356 in grants, and fund programs such as the Budget-4-Baby workshops and Visiting Nurse Programs. In 2013, the Corpus Christi Visiting Nurse was able to visit more than 880 clients, and the Combat Casualty Nurse was able to visit more than 475 clients in just the last six months.

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Remembering Iwo Jima

iwo Jima continued from page 1

Several other local dignitaries, including U.S. Representative Blake Farenthold, 27th District of Texas, were on hand to recognize these heroes.

The Marines and Sailors of MATSG-22 formed three platoons to honor the 11 Veterans, and perhaps to rededicate themselves to the Marine Corps, and service to this great nation.

Col. David Krebs, the Commanding Officer of MATSG-22 and key note speaker, recognized the incredible achievements of the 11 veterans on hand.

Krebs mentioned Nimitz's famous words following the 36-day battle, where 20,000 Marines and Sailors were wounded, and 7,000 U.S. troops, 6,000 of them Marines, lost their lives.

"By their victory, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions and other units of the Fifth Amphibious Corps have made an accounting to their country which only history will be able to value fully," Nimitz said.

"Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue."



Flags were an important part of the Iwo Jima Commemoration. (right) Col. David Krebs addresses veterans and guests.

Photos by Capt. Mike Young, MATSG-22



The iconic photograph by photographer Joe Rosenthal represents far more than the photo itself.

The flag raising provided inspiration to the Marines and Sailors in the battle that all hope had not been lost, and to continue the fight.

Each member of the Marine Corps, from that day on, keeps that image near and dear to their hearts.

The Battle of Iwo Jima was the deadliest battle in United States Marine Corps history. One-third of all United States Marine

Corps fatalities during the Second World War occurred during this operation.

The sacrifice of these men proved vital as the war continued in the Pacific. By World War II's end, more than 2,400 B-29 Super Fortresses carrying 27,000 crew members made unscheduled landings at Iwo Jima, as they pressed the fight towards Mainland Japan.

The toll, in numbers for Japan, was far worse. Of the 20,000 troops who were active in the Iwo Jima operation, only 1,083 survived the battle.

The Marines and Sailors of MATSG-22 were honored to attend this ceremony.

World War II Veterans are passing away at a rate of 850 per day, and it is unclear how much longer these ceremonies will exist with living survivors.

The Battle of Iwo Jima remains legendary in the nation's history, and for the Marine Corps.

As then Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal said, "The raising of the flag on Mt. Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years."



Krebs also spoke about the 27 Medals of Honor that were awarded during this campaign (many of them posthumously), more than any other operation during the war.

He said he believes it was important for the Marines and Sailors of MATSG-22 to experience this ceremony, as it signifies where the Marine Corps has been, and the honor of upholding that tradition lies with active duty Marines today.

The ceremony also included a performance by the Veterans' Band of Corpus Christi, a 21 Gun Salute, and a reenactment by the Corpus Christi Young Marines of the famous "Flag Raising" on Mount Suribachi.



Members of the Young Marines re-enact the flag raising on Mount Suribachi, with the photo edited by Young to give it an 'old' look.

Awards and Achievements

Winging — February 21



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: Deven Bhakta, President of ZIZ Hospitality, 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; Capt. Charles (Chuck) Hollingsworth, Chief of Staff, CNATRA; Capt. Rex Curtin, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: Ensign Eric Aragone; Lt. j.g. Joshua Paul Archer; Lt. j.g. George Robert Bartlett II; Lt. j.g. Steven Eugene Combs JR.; Ensign David Jon Gilson; Lt. Roberto Antonio Jimenez Gomez, Mexican Navy; Ensign Ryan Andrew Johnson; Ensign Andrew Kyle McCleskey; Lt. j.g. Tai Pan; Ensign Branden Michael Roy; Lt. Alfredo Ruiz Lopez, Mexican Navy; Ensign Robert J. Valentich; Lt. j.g. Matthew Robert Wallner.

Farewells for Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth, CNATRA Chief of Staff



With Chief of Staff Capt. Charles 'Chuck' Hollingsworth scheduled to retire March 4, the CNATRA staff gave him a farewell party Feb. 27. Left, Hollingsworth (l.) receives a CNATRA plaque from Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, Chief of Naval Air Training.



Right, Assistant Chief of Staff Capt. Michael Tatsch presents Hollingsworth with a 'Dusty Crophopper' ride on toy from the movie 'Planes.'

Photos by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA

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College accreditation type may affect Sailors' wallets

by Susan D. Henson, Center for Personal and Professional Development Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — Sailors working on completing a degree should ensure their school has the appropriate type of accreditation or it could cost them money later, said Center for Personal and Professional Development education professionals Feb. 24.

"Most students know the school they attend should have some sort of accreditation as a way of ensuring the quality of their education, but they don't understand how important the type of accreditation is in their school selection," said Ernest D'Antonio, director of Navy Voluntary Education at the Center for Personal and Professional Development. "I've seen way too many examples of service members using their tuition assistance or G.I. Bill education benefits to earn a degree at a school whose credits aren't transferrable to or recognized by other schools. And when a Sailor's benefit is spent, it's spent."

According to Raymond Sayre, director of the Navy College Office in San Diego, there are three kinds of accreditation. One is regional, which is granted by an accrediting organization in one of six regions in the United States. "Regional accrediting organizations review educational institutions as a whole," he said. "Schools with regionally accredited programs focus on academic theory for a full range of degrees from accounting to zoology at all educational levels."

National accreditation is another type. Sayre said nationally accredited institutions fill a different educational need than those with regional accreditation. "The real difference is that national accrediting bodies focus on operational/technical skills. These accreditors tend to focus on a particular discipline such as business or technical skills, or distance learning," he said.

The third kind is accreditation for specialized programs and single-purpose organizations. A specialized accreditation is typically granted for a particular section or discipline within a regionally accredited educational institution, such as for a school's law, medical or engineering program.

It's confusing because it's complicated, according to D'Antonio. "The key for Sailors is to understand how accreditation directly relates to their educational goals," he said. "This is part of why Navy College Program education professionals exist — to help Sailors make the best choice for them."

Sayre pointed out that one type of accreditation isn't necessarily better than the others; it is simply contingent on the student's objectives. "It depends on what professional path Sailors are choosing," he said. "If they want a hands-on career in the vocational or technical world such as auto repair, electronics, nuclear technician, etc., they may benefit by choosing a school with national accreditation. If their choice is the academic world — teacher, law, business or doctor, for example — they ought to choose

regional accreditation. Many nationally accredited schools offer advanced vocational or technical education and training programs that are excellent and meet the needs for which they were designed."

A handful of schools have both regional and national accreditation, but Sayre said it isn't common.

Gary Henwood, an educational services specialist at Navy College Office (NCO) Whidbey Island, Wash., said it's important for Sailors to view their school choice in the broader spectrum of their current — and future — educational goals. "When Sailors apply for commissioning programs such as Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program or Seaman-to-Admiral 21, the participating universities and colleges are regionally accredited and may not accept credits from nationally accredited schools."

For this reason, Henwood advises Sailors specifically trying for a commission to ensure they attend an accredited school whose credits are transferrable to other programs since it's up to each school what transfer credits it will accept.

Sailors not applying for a commissioning program should still carefully consider how they're using the Tuition Assistance program to complete classes toward their degree, or it could result in bad news. Henwood gave an example of a Sailor he worked with last year who completed a Bachelor of Science in Business from a nationally accredited school, which he used Navy Tuition Assistance to complete. He then applied to a regionally accredited school's MBA program, but that school didn't honor his bachelor's degree. "Because the Navy only pays for one bachelor's degree, he will have to go back and pay out-of-pocket for a regionally accredited degree program or return to the original school for its MBA, which limits his choices."

While this is one example, there is no steadfast rule. Sayre pointed out that some regionally accredited schools do accept credits earned from a nationally accredited school. "A degree from many nationally accredited schools can make you eligible for a commissioning program, depending on which school you earned your degree from," Sayre said. "Also, a high-tech degree from a nationally accredited school may make you more competitive for employment after completion of military obligation."

The U.S. Department of Education has a College Navigator (<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>) on its website to assist students in evaluating schools in areas such as costs, financial aid access and graduation rates. Navy students have an additional resource — education professionals at Navy College Offices and the Virtual Education Center.

"Degree types are an individual choice," Sayre said.

College continued on page 13



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Consumer Financial Protection Bureau sues for-profit college chain ITT for predatory lending

ITT pushed consumers into high-cost student loans likely to fail

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Feb. 26, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) filed a lawsuit against ITT Educational Services, Inc., accusing the for-profit college chain of predatory student lending.

The CFPB alleges that ITT exploited its students and pushed them into high-cost private student loans that were very likely to end in default. The CFPB is seeking restitution for victims, a civil fine, and an injunction against the company.

“ITT marketed itself as improving consumers’ lives but it was really just improving its bottom line,” said CFPB Director Richard Corday.

“We believe ITT used high-pressure tactics to push many consumers into expensive loans destined to default.

“Today’s action should serve as a warning to the for-profit college industry that we will be vigilant about protecting students against predatory lending tactics.”

Like the mortgage market in the lead-up to the financial crisis, the for-profit college industry may be experiencing misaligned incentives.

These colleges benefit when students take out large amounts of loans, regardless of the students’ long-term success.

The CFPB is concerned that some of these corporations may be employing practices to coax consumers into taking out more federal and private student loans.

This is the Bureau’s first public enforcement action against a company in the for-profit college industry.

ITT Educational Services, Inc. is an Indiana-based for-profit provider of post-secondary technical education.

Tens of thousands of students are enrolled online or at one of ITT’s roughly 150 institutions in nearly 40 states.

ITT’s tuition costs are among the highest in the country in the for-profit industry.

Earning an Associate’s degree at ITT can cost more than \$44,000. Bachelor’s degree

programs can cost \$88,000.

That is significantly higher than the cost of similar degrees at a community college or a public four-year institution.

Most of ITT’s students borrow large sums to pay the high tuition costs and the majority of this money is borrowed from federal student loan programs.

But private student loans also provide critical revenue for ITT. Because most ITT students’ federal aid does not cover the full cost of an ITT program, most students face a “tuition gap” requiring them to find other sources of funding.

The CFPB’s lawsuit alleges that ITT encouraged new students to enroll at ITT by providing them funding for this tuition gap with a zero-interest loan called “Temporary Credit.”

This loan typically had to be paid in full at the end of the student’s first academic year.

But ITT knew from the outset that many students would not be able to repay their Temporary Credit balances or fund their next year’s tuition gap.

The CFPB lawsuit alleges that between July 2011 and December 2011, ITT pushed its students into repaying their Temporary Credit and funding their second-year tuition gaps through high-cost private student loan programs.

Students were left in the dark about the fact that taking out these high-cost loans would be required to continue their studies.

However, ITT’s CEO revealed in investor calls that converting the temporary loans to long-term loans was the company’s “plan all along.”

Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the CFPB has the authority to take action against institutions engaging in unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices.

The complaint against ITT can be found at: http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201402_cfpb_complaint_ITT.pdf

College continued from page 12

“Our job as counselors is to provide information – without opinion – that enables the individual to make educated choices.”

Sayre said Sailors should thoroughly research schools and ask the right questions.

“Any school an individual is going to invest in should be ‘checked out’ to ensure the institution is able to meet the needs and long-term goals of the individual. Impartial, professional counseling and advisement is critical,” he said.

According to D’Antonio, Voluntary Education and Navy College Program professionals are committed to helping Sailors reach their educational and credentialing goals.

“We provide the necessary academic programs that meet the needs of an educated force and provide the needed academic advice and counseling that guides our Sailors toward their life-long learning goals,” he said.

“When we are successful in this mission, we have served the Navy and the Sailor.”

NASCC Navy College Director John Collis says that before becoming financially obligated to any school, talk with your Navy College Office.

Sailors often find a school online that may sound like a wonderful deal only to find out later that it will not meet their future needs.

And sometimes that may be too late.

Contact John at 361-961-3236 if you have questions about accreditation or any other education related issues.



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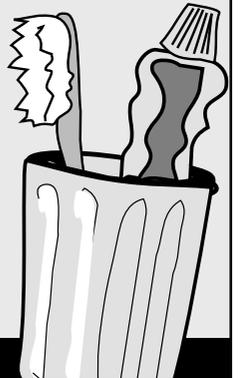
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The Buc Days PRCA Rodeo has reserved 2 Mutton Bustin' spots just for Military Dependents for Military Appreciation Night on Thursday April 24, 2014! The spots will be awarded by drawing names from a cowboy hat on March 21, 2014 at the Catalina Club aboard NASCC at 7:30 pm. Also, come by the Club earlier, at 6:00 pm, and take part in picking the National Anthem Singer for the Opening Night of the Rodeo. It will be a fun family evening! The Club offers a nice food and beverage menu. Signup forms can be downloaded from the Buc Days website at www.bucdays.com, or completed and entered on the spot at the Catalina Club on March 21st. Entries completed before the March 21st event date must be emailed to mrsjamesbaker@yahoo.com by March 19, 2014 in order to be included in the drawing. Mutton Bustin participants must be over the age of five (5) and under 55 lbs. Feel free to email with questions!

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 - Heartworm Prevention (6 months)**
TriHeart Plus < 25lbs - \$25; 26-50lbs - \$30; >50lbs - \$35
 - Flea/Tick Treatment: Follow link for list http://thecatterycc.org/docs/Fleatick_price_list2014.pdf
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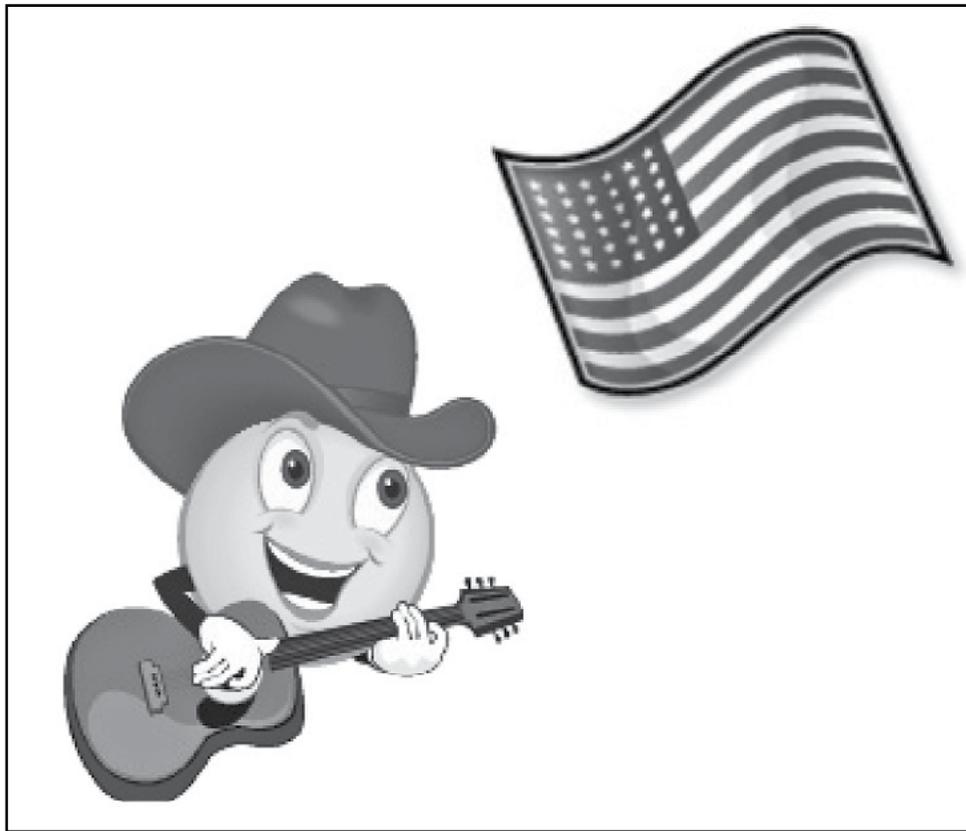
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Tryout for Buc Day's Rodeo Military Appreciation Night



There is still time to sign up to audition to sing the National Anthem at Military Appreciation Night at the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo on April 24.

The competition will be on March 21 at the Catalina Club from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, email mrsjamesbaker@yahoo.com or call 361-446-9031.

Flour Bluff High School Team and NASCC Team for S2S Training

by Mary Jane Garza, NASCC School Liaison Officer

Flour Bluff High School Team and NASCC Corpus Christi Team attended Student to Student Training (S2S) in San Antonio in mid-February.

The Flour Bluff Team consisted of four students and two teacher sponsors: Michael Curtin, Allison Krebs, Joshua Rasche, and Timmy Sutton and teacher sponsors Billie Lashua and Christa Rasche.

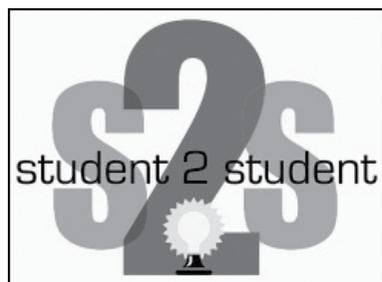
The NASCC Team was comprised of Dr. Mary Jane Garza, NASCC Military School Liaison Officer and Karen Brattland, NASCC Youth Director.

Student 2 Student is the brainchild of the Military Child Education Coalition and was launched in high schools worldwide.

During S2S Training, the students and their advisors learn how to train other students on methods to support students who are transitioning to or from another school.

The focus is student-centered and is student-led, with close supervision.

The training, based on three research modules focuses on: 1) meeting transitioning student needs with immediate peer credibility,



2) positive peer relationships and 3) valued information.

The training eases the tension that military students experience when transitioning from one high school to another. Moving to a new place and adjusting to a new school, new teachers and finding new friends are daunting and scary experiences for most school-age children, especially if the student faces the experience more than once.

Believing that transitioning does not have to be difficult, "just different," S2S or Student-2-Student is a unique student-led, school managed program that confronts the challenges of transition and provides relevant training that gives students the best possible transition experience.

The S2S Trainer, Delanie Wilson and Debra Longley, S2S Site Coordinator, facilitated the two and half day training.

The Flour Bluff High School Team is ready to customize the training specifically for its school site.

All expenses for training and traveling were deferred by the Military Child Coalition.

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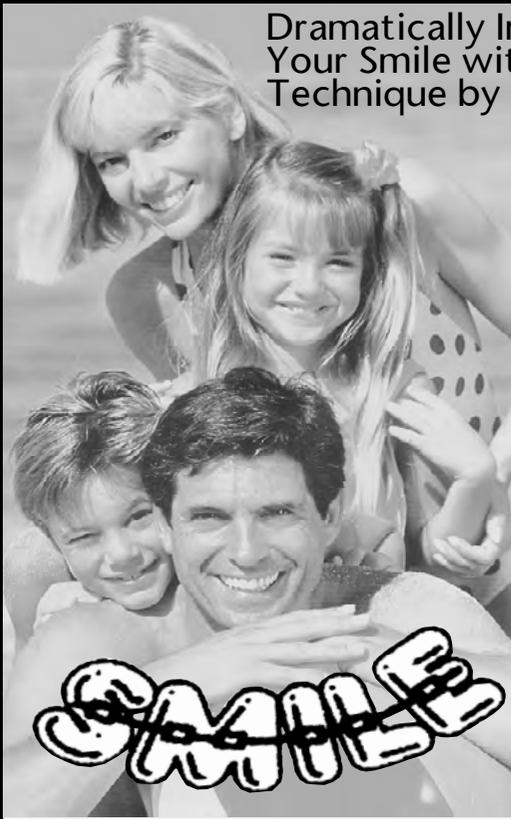
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Flour Bluff students visit Tower



AC2 John Bradley explains air traffic control tower operations to students from Flour Bluff Middle School during their visit Feb. 21. *Photo by Richard Stewart*



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What's Happening

by Tina Konwerski

The Buc Days PRCA Rodeo has reserved 2 Mutton Bustin' spots just for Military Dependents for Military Appreciation Night on Thursday April 24, 2014! The spots will be awarded by drawing names from a cowboy hat on March 21, 2014 at the Catalina Club aboard NASCC at 7:30 pm. Also, come by the Club earlier, at 6:00 pm, and take part in picking the National Anthem Singer for the Opening Night of the Rodeo. It will be a fun family evening! The Club offers a nice food and beverage menu. Signup forms can be downloaded from the Buc Days website at www.buccdays.com, or completed and entered on the spot at the Catalina Club on March 21st. Entries completed before the March 21st event date must be emailed to mrsjamesbaker@yahoo.com by March 19, 2014 in order to be included in the drawing. Mutton Bustin participants must be over the age of five (5) and under 55 lbs. Feel free to email with questions!

City Invites Everyone to 'Walk to Be Well' March Monthly Walk - It's free, easy and fun -Dr. Jennifer Potonia will talk about 5210 - Numbers to Live By in a short five-minute presentation. It is simple way to remember four things that everyone can do to live healthy. With Spring in the air, it's a great time to get outside and enjoy a walk in the park. Bring your buddies or come alone. It's free! You can do it! Monthly walks are hosted at 9am on the second Saturday of each month at the Salinas Park near the pavilion, located at 1354 Airport Road (78405). For more information, please call the Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation.

"Mardi Gras Madness" - Please Join the Golden Triangle Art Association of our Annual Mixer, Thursday, March 6, 2014, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. GOLDEN TRIANGLE ART ASSOCIATION, 1486 Hwy 361, Ingleside, TX (besides the Ingleside VFW)

"St. Patrick's Day Fun for Kids" Janet F. Harte Public Library will offer a fun program for children on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. We will hear a story, make a craft, and enjoy a snack while we celebrate this very "green" holiday! Free and open to the public. For all ages. The library is located at 2629 Waldron Rd. in Flour Bluff. For more information call 937-6579.

Orchid Tea Garden is proud to announce that we are hosting the Texas Tea Ware Ceramics Exhibit during the month of March. The exhibit is in collaboration with the Art Department at A&M University Corpus Christi, and features the work of a dozen young ceramic artists. Many of the pieces will be for sale as well as for exhibit. The Orchid Tea Garden is located at 3751 South Alameda in Doddridge Plaza. Come support the Arts in Corpus!

The Palmer Drug Abuse Program Annual Dinner Gala/Silent Auction March 26th at the Ortiz Center from 6-10pm. BBQ, Live Music, Awards, and a fantastic Silent Auction all in support of our young adult and youth programs. We are pleased and proud to have the culinary skills of the Corpus Christi Mustangs providing a delicious BBQ spread for our welcomed guests.

See Happening, Page 18



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- We thank you for your service and always pray for your safety!
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CASA Volunteers Needed

We are always in need of volunteers but more so now than ever as we push to fulfill our mission of a CASA for every child! Last year we served about 400 children, but there were about 975 children in foster care in the Coastal Bend. There are still over 500 children out there waiting for a CASA volunteer. Join our Family TODAY!

(361) 884-2272 or email diana@interconnect.net

To receive an information packet:
www.casaofthecoastalbend.com

2014 Upcoming Training

March 18th, 19th, 20th, 25th, 26th, 27th 5:30pm to 9:30pm
Apr 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th, 22nd and 23rd 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Last year we served over 400 children in our Nueces, Aransas and San Pat counties. However there were 900 children in Foster Care who needed a CASA.

Our CASA program offers a 24 hour class room training and on-going continuing education classes at no cost to our volunteers. CASA of the Coastal Bend provides them with all the essential materials needed for class room training as well as a full meal. Our volunteer utilize the office as their own and may come in anytime to use the computer, fax, print, make phone calls to include long distance calls when children are placed in other cities. Last year our CASA volunteers drove over 70,000 miles for their CASA kids, and at the federal rate of .565 per mile that equals \$39,560 in donated mileage. Our volunteers also gave their CASA kids 7785 hours of their time which equaled \$155,700 in kind hours at \$20.00 / hr. Unlike all other parties who are involved in the child's life, the CASA volunteer does not get paid at all for his/her services nor does he/she get mileage reimbursement.



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Happening, from Page 17

For your entertainment enjoy dancing to the live music of Five Card Draw and their very popular Country Music. This fundraising event will be a wonderful evening of dining, dancing and music. Table sponsorships are available and individual tickets are \$50. FMI contact PDAP 361-887-8900.

Easter Camping at Labonte Park - **Online Reservations & Payment in advance at www.ccparkandrec.com, now through April 17** for campsites for the week of April 15-20, 2014. Camping Fee of \$25 for up to three days of camping at the park. A second \$25 camping permit may also be purchased allowing for up to three additional days of camping. RV campsites are \$50 for the first three days of camping and \$50 for three additional days. Each campsite includes parking permits for two vehicles. Each additional vehicle will need a \$2.00 per day per vehicle permit to enter the park or a weekend pass purchased upon entry for \$5 per vehicle. Overnight camping is allowed by City ordinance for a maximum of six consecutive days. A day use permit for an individual

Please join us for a Marriage Celebration @ Waldron Rd. Baptist Church on Saturday, March 15th, from 4:30 to 8pm. Pastor Ken de Koning will facilitate using his book "1+1=One". The cost is \$10 a person which includes a catered meal. This will be a fun time for those who are engaged, newlyweds or for couples who have been together for years or decades! Singles are welcome too. The church is located @ 2042 Waldron Rd & the phone # is 361-937-3772. Pastor de Koning's # is 361-779-4210. (Limit of 30 couples.)

The Blue Angels "Wings Over South Texas" Air Show, MAR 29-30, 2014 at NAS

Kingsville - For the latest news on "Wings Over South Texas" 2014, visit the show's web site at <http://www.wost2014.com>

2014 Beach Parking Permits are available for purchase. Beachgoers are encouraged to purchase the parking permit now for months of beach access and enjoyment. Permits are required on most areas of the gulf beaches which are posted on-site. The permits need to be displayed on vehicle windshields. Permits are sold on the beach every week during the summer season, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and year-round at the following locations: Academy Sports store, Stripes stores, Central Cashiering at Corpus Christi City Hall, local H-E-B stores, Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi/ITT Department, Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Centers, Nueces County Padre Balli Park Headquarters Office, and Texas Star (on Padre Island). The permit is \$12. Avoid the \$154 cost of a citation for parking on the beach without a Beach Parking Permit. Proceeds from beach parking permits help maintenance crews keep area beaches clean and maintained. FMI 361-826-4188 or visit www.ccparkandrec.com (click 'Beaches').

Your Non Profit organization's FUND RAISING Event listed here with our compliments. Submit the info at least three weeks in advance of the event to cyoung@dyoungpublishing.com Type exactly as you would like to see it in print. NOT ALL CAPS please. No flyers or pdfs. We will copy and paste the info you submit.

April 4 -5, 2014 Ingleside Round Up Days Festival at N.O. Simmons Park, Ingleside.

See Happening, Page 19



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<http://thecatterycc.org/events/furry-5k>

Pier 99, 2822 North Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78402.
(Pier 99 is located on North Beach next to the USS Lexington.)

Happening, from Page 18

Admission: \$5 after 5pm, before 5pm one canned food, 12 and under get in free. Friday entertainment: Pear Ratz and Kevin Fowler. Saturday entertainment: Faith Monroe, Barley Maul, Los Nuevo Campeones, Ballet Ilusions de Corpus Christi, and Michael Salgado. Hot wing eating contest Saturday at 5pm. Carnival. Parade Saturday @10am. Vendors! VIP available. Call the Chamber 361-776-2906 for more information. Limited availability.

Now through Saturday, March 22 **JOHN E. CONNER MUSEUM EXHIBIT, Kingsville** - **RURAL TEXAS WOMEN AT WORK** The exhibit pays tribute to the rural grandmothers and their families in the middle third of the 20th century. This display is sponsored by Texas A&M University, Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Arts Council of Brazos Valley. It was produced by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information, call 361-593-2810.

FREE and Fun for the Entire Family: Art Center of Corpus Christi - Art Museums & Galleries located at 100 N Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78401
Cross Streets: Between S Shoreline Blvd/Coopers Aly/Coopers Alley L-Head and William St, FMI (361) 884-6406 or artcentercc.org-more info (Closed Mondays) Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

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Padre Island National Seashore has remained an undeveloped wilderness. Visiting the park is very much like traveling back into the past.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS' MARKET - Wednesday evenings - 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Courtyard at The Water Street Village/ Tango Tea Room Courtyard, 404 S. Water Street, Corpus Christi.

Kids Zone - Now you can experience a national park even if you are not able to visit it in person! Sign up today to become a member of a growing group of young people who are interested in the world around them and in becoming involved with their nation's heritage. Kids Zone is packed with fun games and activities about our nation's parks! All you have to do is visit <http://www.nps.gov/kidszone/> to start.

Optimist Club Meetings are held every Wednesday at 12 pm at the Ronald McDonald House - Optimist Clubs around the world are dedicated to "Bringing Out the Best in Kids." Adult volunteers join Optimist Clubs to conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. With their upbeat attitude, members help empower young people to be the best that they can be. Interested in learning more about Optimist Clubs in Corpus Christi may visit the Contact Us on our Website or attend a meeting on Wednesdays at noon at Ronald McDonald House 3402 Ft. Worth Dr. Corpus Christi, TX



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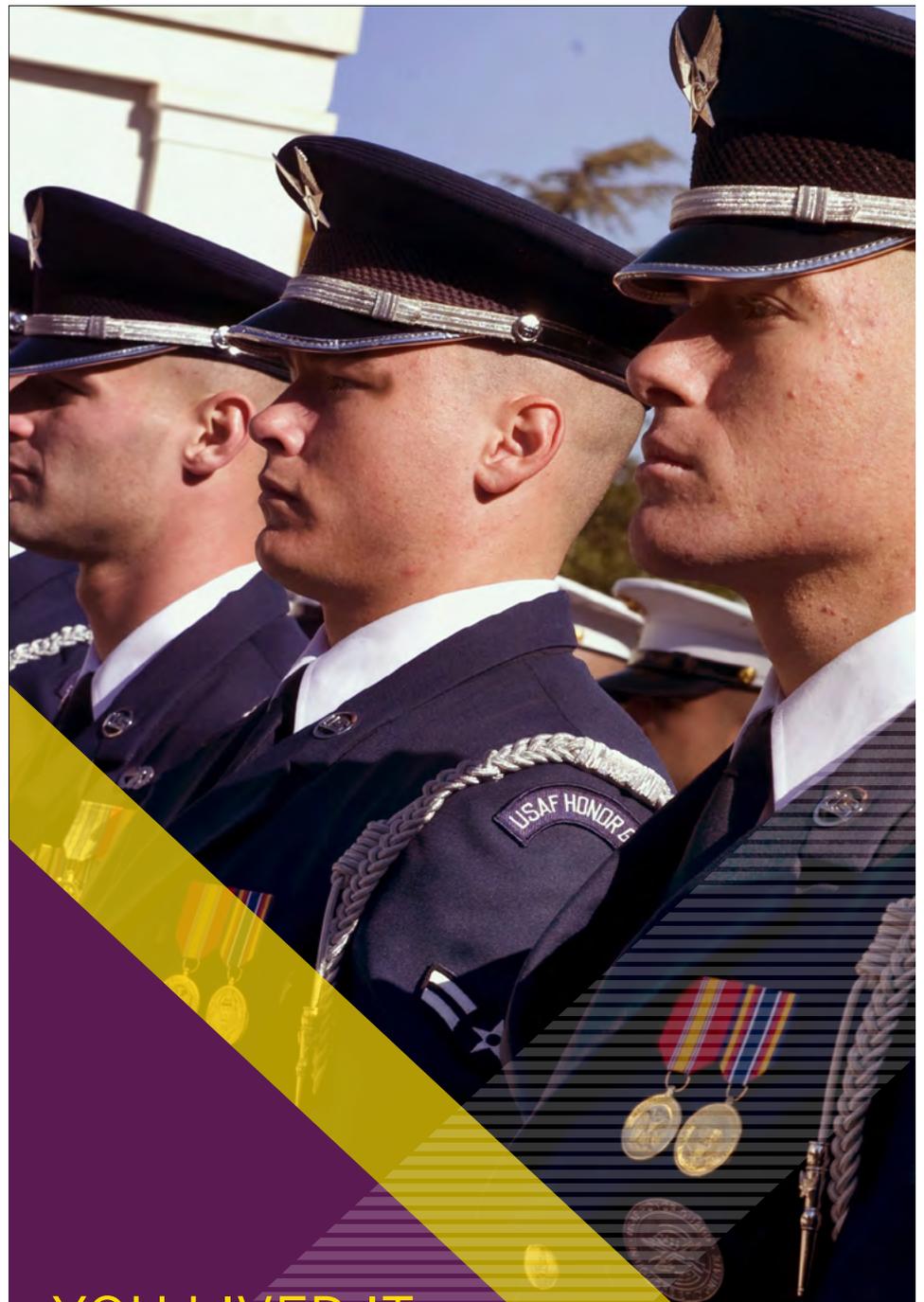
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- 1** Special Discount with your Military I.D. Get \$5 off each ticket! Available at www.ticketmaster.com or ITT Box Office.
- 2** Register to win a Mutton Bustin spot! Two spots have been reserved for 2 lucky military family contestants.
- 3** Need more tickets? Buy tickets at the American Bank Box Office on Thursday, April 24 and receive the best available seats in the house at that time for just \$4 each!
- 4** Rodeo Ticket gets you \$2 off Gate Admission or Wristband at the Buc Days Festival! (any one day)



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