

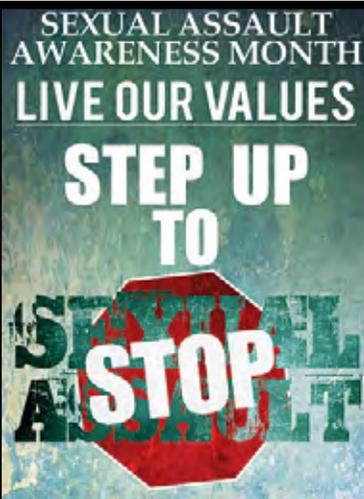
WINGSPAN



Vol. 20, No. 7

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

April 3, 2014



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Spring
Eggstravaganza
April 12

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NAVSUP's
Lt. Uhl Promoted

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Commander, Navy Region Southeast, visits NASCC

Story and photos by Rod Hafemeister

Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, visited NAS Corpus Christi March 23-24, the first leg of a tour of Navy installations in Texas.

The first day, Sunday, was arrival and dinner with the Air Station's commanding officer, Capt. Dave Edgecomb.

Monday began early and was packed: a briefing by Edgecomb, a visit with the Chief of Naval Air Training, tours of various facilities including the Marina and the main Fire Station and a visit to Corpus Christi Army Depot.

Lunch at the Catalina Club with air Station department heads became a classroom, as Williamson talked about the need to stop thinking in stovepipes and recognize that virtually everything involves people and actions from a variety of departments and activities.

His argument is that, if people keep focusing only on their functions and not on the big picture, the continuing budget restrictions

will keep eating away in bits and pieces.

Instead, you can only determine the actual cost of keeping an airfield operating or managing a pier if you include everything and everyone involved.

The afternoon was airfield time, including a visit to the control tower – where the admiral dipped into his maintenance and engineering background to request a demonstration of preventive maintenance on some tower equipment.

That was followed by a visit to a hanger under renovation, which led to another discussion about costs, including who pays for what – NAVFAC, the Air Station, the Training Wing, etc.

From NAS Corpus Christi, Williamson and staff headed to NAS Kingsville for a day, then up to Joint Base San Antonio to tour the Navy operations there.

More photos on page 8



Rear Adm. Rick Williamson examines a preventive maintenance instruction while ET3 Daryl Vincent looks on. Williamson toured NASCC March 23 during a visit to Navy installations in Texas.



Ryan Curtin, the 2014 Navy Military Child of the Year, with his father, Capt. Rex Curtin, commodore of Training Air Wing Four. Ryan and the Military Child of the Year for each of the services will be honored in Washington, D.C. on April 10.

Eagle Scout, Volunteer, Leader Ryan Curtin named 2014 Navy Military Child of the Year

Story and photo by Rod Hafemeister

When the call came, Ryan Curtin said he thought it was for another interview by the Operation Homefront folks.

"I was upstairs and I'd been told to expect a call for some additional questions," he said.

"Then (Operation Homefront Program Manager) June Morse said 'Are your parents around? Why don't you put it on speaker?'"

"That's when I got suspicious. I walked downstairs and my parents were filming it. They knew already."

Rex and Lisa Curtin knew was that Ryan had been selected to represent the Navy as the 2014 Military Child of the Year.

Capt. Rex Curtin is commodore of Training Air Wing Four, overseeing pilot training in two

primary and two advanced training squadrons.

As Dad, he's quietly proud of his son – and started him on the path to the award.

"My dad kind of shoved me – he introduced me to the whole thing," Ryan said.

"He thought it would be a good opportunity for me, so he nominated me – you have to be nominated by somebody you know."

Ryan's resume is impressive. He was "Plank Owner" and President of both the DOD/Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Youth Ambassador Program and the Flour Bluff High School Student-to-Student Program.

He was also recently awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service

Ryan continued on page 14

Skipper's Column

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

I would like to take a moment to talk about parking on the Installation.

I realize that, in many locations, parking can be a real frustration.

I have worked closely with various tenants to make sure that as we plan future

renovations and new construction, we also consider better parking facilities.

Regardless of future improvements, I realize we still have challenges today. And I suspect no matter what we do, whoever

arrives last will always get to park the farthest from their place of work.

Unfortunately, an unacceptable number of people on the installation have decided that instead of accepting this fact and parking in available spaces, they will chose to park in unauthorized locations.

These locations include no parking zones, handicapped zones, designated parking and parking on the grass, to name a few.

This puts an unacceptable burden on my limited security forces, who can be better utilized securing the facility.

So I would like to first ask that everyone abide by our regulations.

I am confident that we have marked all of our spaces appropriately and I would ask that you abide by those markings.

I would also ask that you not park on grass, as this is also a violation.

Our current policy is that we do not ask

Think When You Park

you to attend traffic court for most parking violations, but we do assess points that could result in suspension of your driving privileges.

The problem with this policy is that there is very little deterrent involved for first offenders.

That policy is appropriate as long as the vast majority abide by the regulations; however if the high incidence of parking violations persist I will make traffic court mandatory for all parking violations.

This will ensure that everyone who chooses to violate the traffic regulations on the base loses at least as much time in their day as the Master at Arms who has to write them the ticket.

Those who chose not to attend traffic court will continue to lose their driving privileges on the Installation.

If everyone pays attention to the parking regulations, that won't have to happen.

Chaplain's Message

by Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain

The title may not excite you as much as that next movie you've been waiting to see, but it may cause a bit of anxiety and increased blood pressure.

Although April 15 happens every year and should be no surprise, the weeks and even days preceding are often filled with a blur of activity: trying to find the big purchase receipts, digging through the junk mail drawer in search of statements, and organizing the dining room table with a plethora of various piles of receipts, documents, statements, and "miscellaneous" categories.

I must admit I could make my life so much easier with just a little more organization.

Every year I tell myself, "Next year will be different" and although I have made great improvements over the years in my tax planning and preparation, I still have a way to go.

I decided to re-visit a few practical ideas from prior articles and share them with you.

Designate a shoe box or cleaned-out drawer for your taxes and put every tax related document you can find in it.

Make a checklist of everything you will need in order to file. (Refer to last year's taxes for ideas.)

If you anticipate a refund, make a list of spending priorities and financial goals.

Since making this list should be a positive experience, it might help motivate you to filing your taxes earlier.

Set specific date goals when you will accomplish necessary preparations.

You may be wondering why a chaplain would write about tax preparation instead of some spiritual topic.

Good question!

I have come to realize that every small stress in our lives adds to the complexities of

Tax Day - Coming Soon

how we react in other areas of life.

In other words, do I think that having the stress of filing taxes keeps people from spending time with their children or engaging in some other fulfilling personal activity?

Absolutely!

A final bit of advice: don't procrastinate another day in filing your taxes for this year – and start preparing now for filing next year's taxes.

Happy Tax Day!



Warne

Editor's Corner Flapping Imaginary Butterfly Wings

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

When I read the Skipper's column for this issue, I had an urge to rewrite it in the style of one of those DirecTV commercials.

If you haven't seen them, they start with a basic problem or irritation and proceed to escalate

it through several steps to an ultimate disaster: getting "...body slammed by a lowland gorilla" or the current favorite around my

house, chasing "...imaginary butterflies into something highly illegal."

The commercials are amusing, but they do hit upon a fundamental truism: small things ignored can become big problems.

It's why aviators have checklists, why smart motorcyclists examine their machine before every ride and why, when I was jumping out of airplanes, we spent so much time doing equipment checks before the jump.

But those are all based on the idea of known risks and things you can do to reduce them.

What about the stuff you never thought of?

Long ago, an Army buddy came up with a description that has stuck with me ever since:

"When you open the refrigerator to get some milk and a freight train comes roaring out, you're not likely to have a planned response."

In chaos theory and related fields of study, they like to use the example of butterfly wings flapping in Africa stirring up a wind that ultimately leads to a hurricane.

It's a good reminder that modeling extremely complex systems is limited by the ability – or lack thereof – to determine all the possible variables and their effects.

So what does all this have to do with the Skipper's column?

Well, forget to set your alarm, get up late, rush to work, find no legal parking place and so decide to park illegally....

And you just might find out.

Wingspan

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CCAD Supports Warfighters

Corpus Christi Army Depot Commander Col. Billingsley Garner Pogue III talks helicopter engines with the 1st Armored Division, Combat Aviation Brigade during their visit to the depot on March 24. Known as the 'Iron Eagles' of combat aviation, the 1st AD CAB learned all about the work depot artisans do to keep Army helicopters in the fight.

Photo by Brigitte Rox, CCAD PA

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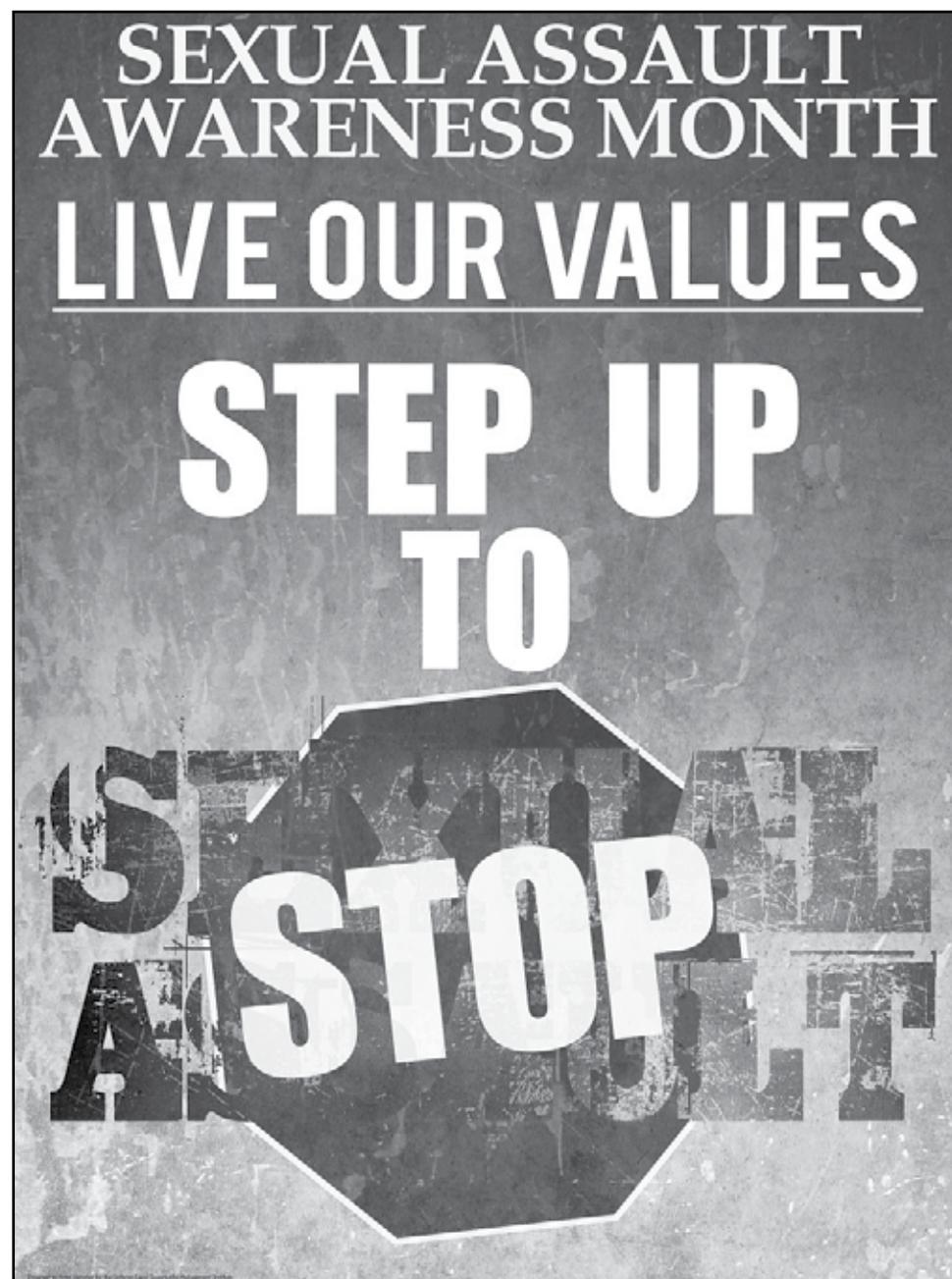
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DEOMI releases 2014 Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Poster



PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, observed each year during the month of April, the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) and the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO), announced original artwork available for download from the DEOMI public website, www.deomi.org and from the SAPRO website, www.sapr.mil.

Nationally, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) commits to raising awareness and promoting the prevention of sexual violence through use of special events and public education.

SAAM provides commands/installations an annual opportunity to highlight Department of Defense (DoD) and Service policies addressing sexual assault prevention and response.

This April, the Department observes the tenth annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month with the theme "Live Our Values: Step Up to

Stop Sexual Assault."

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said, "We need a cultural change where every Service member is treated with dignity and respect, where all allegations of inappropriate behavior are treated with seriousness, where victims' privacy is protected, where bystanders are motivated to intervene, and where offenders know that they will be held accountable by strong and effective systems of justice."

In a Feb. 3 letter to the Services, Jessica L. Wright, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, wrote that "Sexual assault is a crime and can only be stopped when everyone understands we all have a role in combating it.

"Your actions to reinforce standards of behavior and values and to emphasize the importance of social courage will strengthen our culture. "Commanders and leaders at every level must establish a climate of dignity, respect, and trust.

SAAM continued on page 5

'Can I Kiss You?' shows how frank discussion can prevent sexual assaults



Mike Domitrz, executive director of "The Date Safe Project" and author of "May I Kiss You?" discusses relationships, communication and intervention at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi on March 31. The program served as the Air Station's kick-off for April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month. *Photo by Rod Hafemeister*



Capt. Dave Edgecomb, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, signs the proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, accompanied by Pat Kapitan, the Air Station's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. The proclamation states that 'sexual assault is an affront to the core values we support and defend as proud members and civil servants of today's Navy.'

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

SAAM continued from page 4

"We also need a personal commitment from every service member, at every level in our military, to be steadfast participants in creating that culture. Adherence to service values and standards of behavior will reduce the risk and can stop inappropriate behavior.

"The Department does not tolerate, condone, or ignore sexual assault. We must 'Live Our Values' every day, all year long and

'Step Up' by intervening when appropriate, reporting crimes, and supporting victims.

"When we all get involved we will move the Department closer to a culture free of sexual assault."

For extensive information and related tools and links on DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response policy, visit: www.SAPR.mil.

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Honoring Women's History Month



Members of the Multicultural Diversity Committee place a Women's History Month display in the commissary. From left, BM2 Mike Pickle, BMSA Raei Goodwin, BM2 Kenneth Midland and ET3 Daryl Vincent.
Photo by Rod Hafemeister



Capt. Jerome F. Hamel, Chief of Staff to Commander, Naval Reserve Forces Command, presented awards to the following with Cmdr. Reinaldo Morillo, Commanding Officer NOSC Corpus Christi, on March 22. From left: HM2 Uriah Yarbrough, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal; IT1 Ross Tipton, Letter of Appreciation; Hamel; Morillo; BM2 Christian St. Romain, Letter of Appreciation; and LS3 Randy Garcia, Letter of Appreciation.
Photo by MC1 Ruben Perez



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Celebrate the Month of the Military Child
Spring Eggstravaganza
Saturday, April 12, 2014
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At the Park across from the Youth & Teen Center

- Games & Inflatables
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- DJ Entertainment
- Pictures with the Easter Bunny (Please bring your own camera)
- \$2.00 for a Hotdog, Chips & Bottled Water
- Family Events (Please stop by and register at the registration booth.)
- Face Painting
- Prizes, Candy & Egg Hunt

Schedule of Events	
1000	Events Begin/Welcome
1015	Food Service Begins
1030	First Family Competition Begins
1100	Easter Egg Hunt Ages 18 months - 3 Years
1130	Egg Hunt Ages 4 - 6 Years
1200	Egg Hunt Ages 7 - 9 Years
1230	Egg Hunt Ages 10 - 12 Years
1300	Prizes Awarded/Event Ends



For more information please call 961-2355.

Keeping more of your money: Traditional and Roth TSP explained

by Lt. Chao Pan, JAGC, USN

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a defined-contribution plan available to civilian and military employees of the United States government, akin to the 401(k) plans found in the private sector.

TSP recently rolled out a new "Roth" option for civilian and military members.

This article will explain the differences between the Roth TSP and traditional TSP options, and how the TSP interacts with other retirement plans, such as individual retirement arrangements (IRAs).

The fundamental difference between the Roth TSP and the traditional TSP is that contributions to a Roth TSP are taxed as income in the tax year in which the contributions were earned and are generally not taxed upon withdrawal at retirement, while contributions to a traditional TSP are not taxed in the tax year in which the contributions were earned (they are deductible), but are taxed upon withdrawal at retirement.

TRADITIONAL TSP

Let's say Petty Officer Second Class Jones has no dependents and has a taxable of income of \$25,000 per year.

If he contributes \$6,000 to a traditional TSP, he'll only be taxed on \$19,000 of income that year (minus any other deductions and exemptions he's eligible for).

When he withdraws the funds in retirement after age 59½, however, the withdrawals will be considered ordinary income and a tax bill will become due.

He may start making withdrawals before age 59½, but it may be subject to penalties.

ROTH TSP

If PO2 Jones decided to make a Roth TSP contribution, however, he'd make contributions on an after-tax basis.

The \$6,000 he originally set aside for his contribution would be reduced to \$5,100 (the tax man takes out 15 percent since he's in the 15 percent marginal income tax bracket), but when he begins withdrawing at age 59½, he won't get another tax bill.

WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Ultimately, the main reason to prefer one account over another is an investor's marginal tax rate at the time of contribution and at the time of withdrawal (retirement).

If an investor is in a high tax bracket today, he may want to reduce his taxable income through contributions to his traditional TSP.

This is especially true if he expects to be in a lower tax bracket in retirement.

Remember, the higher a taxpayer's income, the higher the marginal tax bracket he'll generally find himself in.

If an investor is young and just starting out his career, however, a Roth TSP may be more tempting.

All else being equal, SN Jones is probably paying less in taxes than PO2 Jones or CPO

TSP continued on page 15

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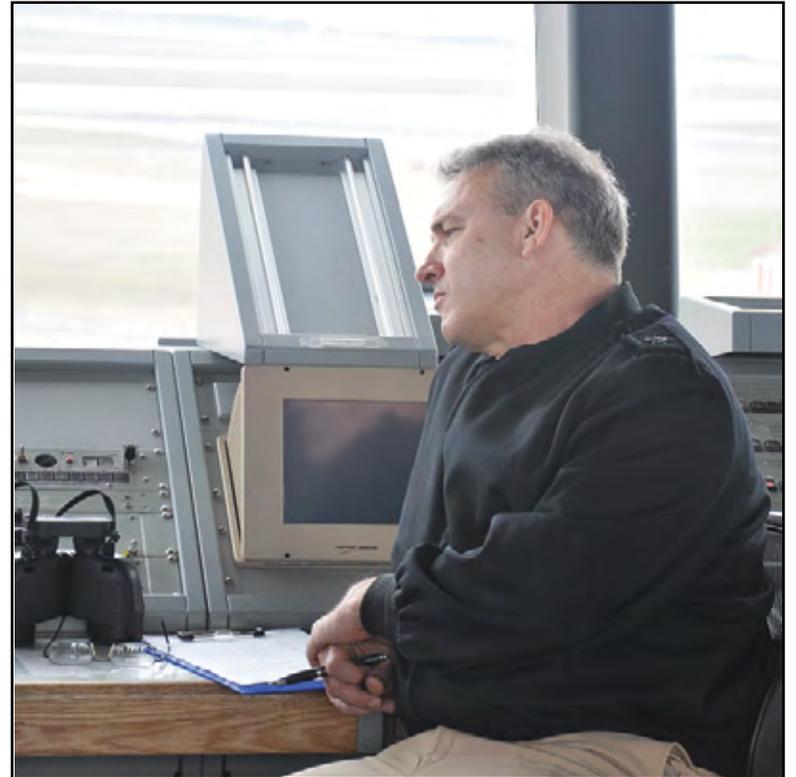
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CNRSE Visits NAS Corpus Christi



(top) Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, observes ET3 Daryl Vincent replace an electrical equipment filter in the air traffic control tower. (right) EMS Battalion Chief Robert Bethea explains various emergency equipment to Williamson and Capt. Chris Kiwas. (bottom left) Williamson points to corrosion from exposure to salt air on one of boat hoists at the Marina's yet-to-be-opened docking slips because of design issues.



Depot Commander Col. Billingsley Garner Pogue III gives Williamson an overview of the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

Photo by Ervey Martinez, CCAD PA

Awards and Achievements

Lieutenant Mike Uhl promoted to Lieutenant Commander



Mike Uhl's son and daughter replace his shoulder boards with lieutenant commander ones, then his wife helps him don his jacket with his new rank. Uhl,

a former enlisted Storekeeper, was promoted April 1 at the Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville Site Corpus Christi.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister

Buc Day's Rodeo National Anthem Sing-off



The Catalina Club became a performance stage March 21, as seven active duty and veteran singers made their bid to sing the National Anthem at the annual Buc Days' Rodeo Military Appreciation Night, to be held April 24. Set up like one of the TV singing competitions, each contestant sang the anthem and a song of

their own choosing. Left, First Runner Up NC1 Steven Comacho, a Navy Recruiter, will be singing at the Buc Days scholarship dinner this month. Right, Air Force veteran Steven King, won the honor of signing at the opening night of the Rodeo.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister



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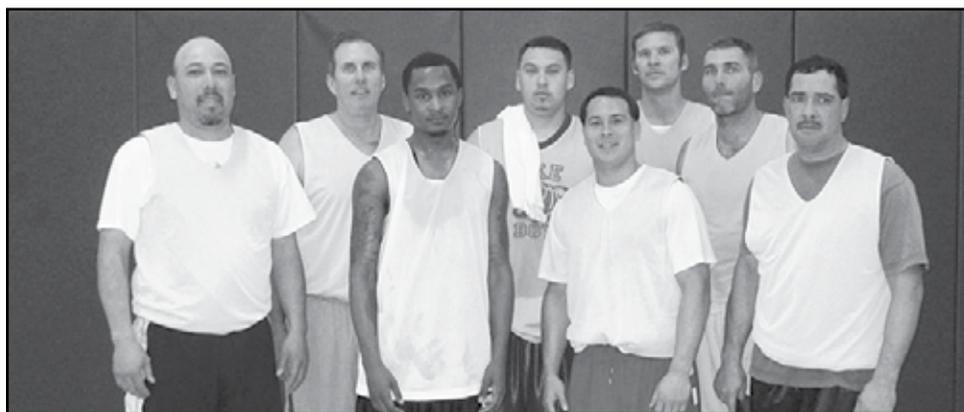
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Photos by Noel Westerkom

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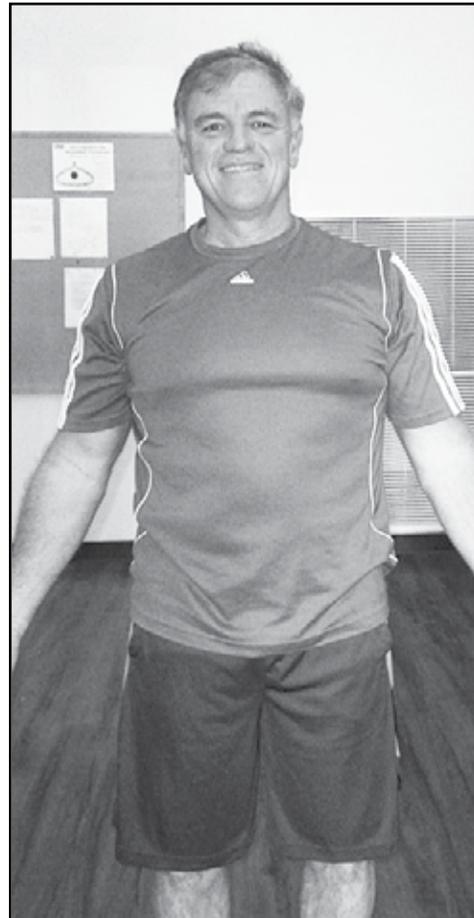
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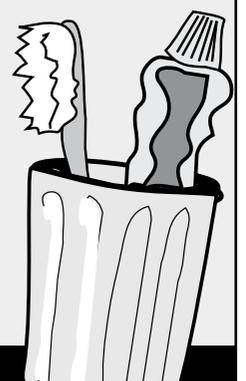
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What's Happening by Tina Konwerski

Easter Egg hunt and Celebration at Janet F. Harte Public Library with FREE Easter Bunny Visit, Egg Hunt and Celebration on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. Kids ages 0-12 are welcome to join us for an Easter egg hunt, story and craft. The Easter Bunny will be here, too, so parents, please be sure to bring your cameras so that you can take photos of your children! Geared for children ages 0-12 but it is open to all and it is free. The library is located at 2629 Waldron Rd. in Flour Bluff. For more information call 937-6569.

Buc Days Rodeo is looking for Active Duty volunteers for Military Appreciation Night, Opening Night, Thursday April 24, 2014. We need 5-8 Uniformed personnel from each branch of service for the opening ceremony and Military Tribute. Volunteers will be standing during opening ceremony or handing out Flags to all attendees when the doors open. After the opening, sit back, and enjoy the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo with your free ticket to the show. Email mrsjamesbaker@yahoo.com or text 361-446-9031 for your spot. These spots will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Check out www.bucdays.com for more info on the Buc Days Rodeo!

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See Happening, Next Page

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Happening, from Previous Page

Show on Saturday, April 26, is getting closer by the minute. There will be a **Dog Show** with fun categories for your pet to enter; best costume, dog that looks like owner, ugliest dog, best dog, and best tricks. Winnie dog race registration from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for all entries. Vendors and live entertainment. Admission to watch the band and look at the cars is FREE. For more information contact Carmel at 361-776-2906 or you can e-mail her at ingchamber1@cablone.net

Submit your 26th Annual HummerBird T-Shirt Design This is a chance to have your artwork seen by thousands. Enter your artwork for the 2014 HummerBird Celebration T-Shirt Design. For art requirements, Hummer Species and Plant Species for the Shirts Artwork or FMI contact: Sandy at the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce: 729-6445 or email tourism@rockport.org. **The deadline for getting your entry to the Chamber office is May 1, 2014.** FMI on the HummerBird Celebration visit: www.rockport-fulton.org

Your Non Profit Organizations FUND Raising Event listed here with our **COMPLIMENTS** on a space available basis. Submit the info at least three weeks before the event. NO pdf's please. Just type a short paragraph ... we will copy and paste. Email to: cyoung@dyoungpublishing.com



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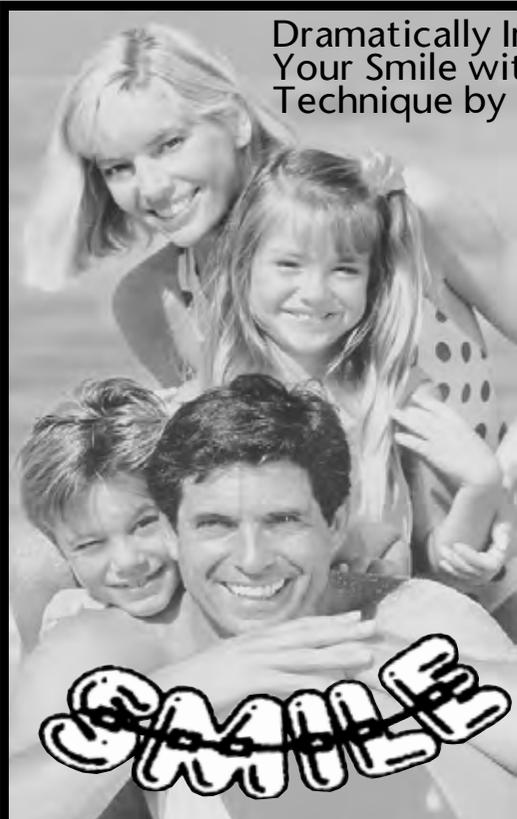
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Ryan continued from page 1

Award (Gold) for amassing more than 500 volunteer hours in a single year, including volunteering with the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society.

Last year, he also completed his Eagle Scout project helping Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22 rehab their new building.

That was followed by major surgery in August to correct a birth defect that was hindering his ability to breathe.

"My chest was sunk in like a crater," he said. "My heart was smashed over into my lung, so I had to get it fixed."

"Fixed" meant inserting a curved metal bar in his chest and expanding his rib cage.

"All your ribs kind of break and it just reforms your whole chest wall," he said.

"They told me it was probably the most painful surgery they do. I would definitely agree – it was pretty terrible. I had to sleep sitting up for about a month, couldn't really walk.

"I was out of everything about two months, out of soccer about four months – which was pretty good, because I was expecting to miss the whole soccer season."

Then, he started moving through the selection process for Military Child of the Year.

This is the sixth year that Operation Homefront has sponsored the Military Child of the Year awards, recognizing "outstanding military children who demonstrate resiliency, leadership, and achievement."

"I saw the statistics of the people who won last year and the year before, and they're really qualified and exceptional kids," Ryan said.

"I thought I would have maybe a small chance. But I never expected to win, really."

About 1,000 military children were nominated; that was whittled down to 35 applicants per military service (including Coast Guard).

Each of them did a phone interview, which further reduced the pool to five per service.

"Then it just kind of went up in my head even more how good the other kids actually were," Ryan said.

"I didn't know what I was up against; I just assumed they were all as qualified as I was. You try not to get your hopes up too much at that point – you never really know what's going to happen."

Then came the call.

"And then I couldn't talk about it until they made the actual announcement," Ryan said.

The recognition has brought some teasing from classmates – and teachers – but Ryan said it was all good.

On April 10, he and the other Military Child of the Year awardees will be honored with a gala celebration.

The awards will be presented by senior leaders of each service branch and the keynote address will be delivered by Bret Michaels, legendary singer-songwriter, entrepreneur, and philanthropist.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, will provide opening remarks.

The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize and a laptop computer.

"I'm excited to go to D.C. and experience everything that they have there," Ryan said. Then he laughed.

"It feels like a burden, almost, being picked over all these kids. I have responsibilities to everyone now.

"But I don't think it's that extreme."

The Curtin family moves to Virginia this summer, and Ryan has already been accepted at a few colleges.

He's looking at majoring in chemistry as a pre-med student.

That could ultimately lead to his joining the Navy as a medical officer.

Ryan has a younger brother, Michael, who is two years behind him but also doing Eagle Scout projects and volunteer work – and could be another good candidate for Military Child of the Year.

"I was just hoping that me getting this doesn't negatively affect his chances," Ryan said, grinning.

"But I think he has just as good a shot at it as I did.

"I think that would be cool – get a little legacy going."

2014 Military Child of the Year Awardees

Air Force
Gage Alan Dabin, 18,
Anchorage, Alaska

Coast Guard
Juanita Lindsay Collins, 17
Clearwater, Fla.

Army
Kenzie Hall, 16
Temecula, Calif.

Marine Corps
Michael-Logan Jordan, 15
Kailua, Hawaii

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For more information, go to **www.OperationHomefront.net**.

TSP continued from page 7

Jones, so SN Jones probably wouldn't get as much benefit from a lower taxable income today.

The Roth TSP is also a good option if an investor believes that tax rates will rise in the future.

Likewise, it's a bad option if an investor believes that tax rates will generally fall in the future.

Based on the above, it is likely that while one option may be better for SN Jones, another may make more sense for Capt. Jones.

MIXING IT UP

If an investor does not know which way tax rates will go, what his tax rate will be in retirement, or anything else about the future, he can invest in both the traditional TSP and the Roth TSP.

For instance, he can invest money in his traditional TSP one year and the next year switch his contributions over to his Roth TSP.

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

For the TSP, contributions can usually only be made as a deduction from current pay.

In total, an individual can only contribute \$17,500 per year into a TSP account for tax year 2013 (\$23,000 if the individual is at least age 50).

This limit generally applies across TSP, 401(k), and 403(b) accounts.

For example, an individual under 50 can contribute \$10,000 towards his Roth TSP and \$7,500 towards his 401(k) in the same tax year (assuming he has a second job that allows it), but cannot contribute \$17,500 towards his Roth TSP and \$17,500 towards his 401(k).

This limit does not include any employer match.

A SMALL NOTE ABOUT IRAS

With all this talk of TSP, it is important to note that there is a difference between the TSP and IRAs.

While both come in traditional and Roth flavors, it is important to keep in mind that these are separate accounts.

The annual contribution limit for an IRAs is currently \$5,500, or \$6,500 if the investor is age 50 or older.

This limit is in addition to the limits above for TSP/401(k)/403(b).

This means that an individual under age 50 can contribute both \$17,500 to his traditional TSP account and an additional \$5,500 to his Roth IRA in the same tax year.

For more information, go to your local legal assistance office or <https://www.tsp.gov/planparticipation/eligibility/traditionalRothContributions.shtml>.

Earth Day Cleanup

In honor of Earth Day and to meet regulatory requirements of the Air Stations' Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, the Annual Basewide Cleanup will be held May 2 from 8 -11 a.m.

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